

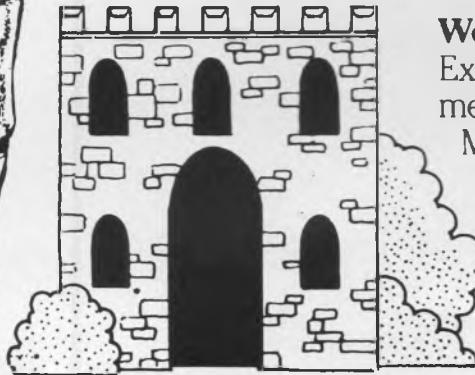
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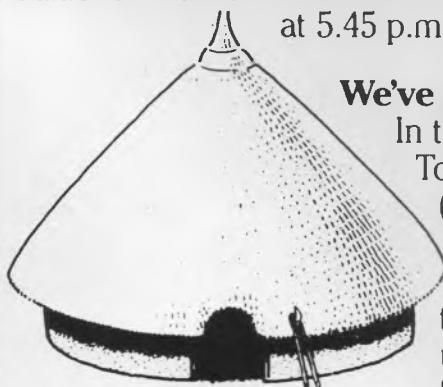
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Published by:
Kinvara Community Council

Editor:
J. W. O'Connell

Editorial Board:
Jimmy O'Connor
Stan MacEoin
John Connolly
Fr. Enda Glynn

Advertising:
Marion Connolly

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Thomas Quinn
Anna Korff
Martin Greene

Cover
Thomas Quinn

Treasurers:
Thomas P. Corless

Management Committee
Canon M. O'Connor
Toddie Byrne
Thomas P. Corless



Editorial

Let's begin with a little fable -

"Once upon a time there was a wonderful and well-loved creature called "Tracht". It first appeared in Kinvara - oh, well over ten years ago now! It was a little smaller then, but when the people of Kinvara saw it, they really took to it. And as "Tracht" was a magical little creature, it was able to split itself into many parts, so that the people of Kinvara were able to take the little creature home and enjoy it! The next year, "Tracht" came back and the people were so delighted to see it, they again brought it home with them. "But then, to everyone's disappointment, "Tracht" did not appear again for many years. The people were sad, for they had become very fond of the creature, who always had interesting things to say, and showed them wonderful pictures. But as the years passed, the people forgot, and went about their lives in the way they always had.

"Then, a few years ago now, rumours began to spread. "Tracht" had been heard from again! It was coming back! "When?", the people cried. "Soon, very soon", a voice told them. And so it was! "Tracht" reappeared, and the people of Kinvara were so delighted they began to sing and dance. They noticed it was a little fatter than it had been, but then, they said, we all get a little heavier as we get older. Once again, the people took their own "Trachts" home with them and enjoyed the stories it told them and the pictures it showed them. Again, the next year, it came back, and again the year after that! People began to feel it would always be with them, each year.

"But then it disappeared again. And people were sad. And then they grew disappointed. And then some began to say, "Maybe we will never see it again, it has been so long now". And others said, more bitterly, "Maybe it does not even exist any longer!"

Well, it does! and here it is! The Editor offers this little tale as an apology for the v-e-r-y l-o-n-g delay since the last issue of Tracht. He would also like to both apologise to our many marvellously supportive advertisers, and thank them for their patience, above and beyond what they should have been asked to show. In particular, he would like to thank Marion Connolly, who managed the almost incredible feat of securing our advertising almost before an article had been submitted for this year's issue.

Tracht '90 contains a wide variety of articles and photographs, from the past and present of our community. And this year we have decided to take seriously for the first time our sub-title "In and Around Kinvara"! We present in this issue an article on two spots in County Clare - Aughnish and New Quay - that have close ties with Kinvara. And Jimmy O'Connor, in his fine article on how we nearly got a railway, ranges as far afield as Ballyvaughan!

But why waste any more time? Here's Tracht '90! Quite a bit later than you or I ever expected it to be...so, let's turn over the page and begin...

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AUGHINISH AND NEW QUAY

A few miles to the west of Kinvara, just over the border of County Clare, is the village of New Quay. And before you leave County Galway, if you turn right for the village of Nogra - the principle village in the Doorus peninsula - and turn left just before reaching it, then continue West as far as the road takes goes, you'll come to a narrow causeway leading to Aughinish Island. It comes as a surprise to many people that Aughinish, which appears to be an extension of the Doorus peninsula, is actually a part of County Clare.

Ireland is a small country, and links between towns and villages, especially in rural areas, are strong and go far back into the past. Such is the case with Kinvara and its County Clare neighbours. The most common link is provided by marriage. And even a brief examination of parish records shows that there has been close contact between Kinvara, Doorus, Aughinish and New Quay for as far back as these records go. Talk to any of the local people - Pat Keane of Aughinish, for example - and you will discover just how extensive these contacts have been over the centuries.

Although, as we will see, there is a special connection between New Quay and Aughinish, for convenience sake we'll begin by taking a look at Aughinish.

1. AUGHINISH

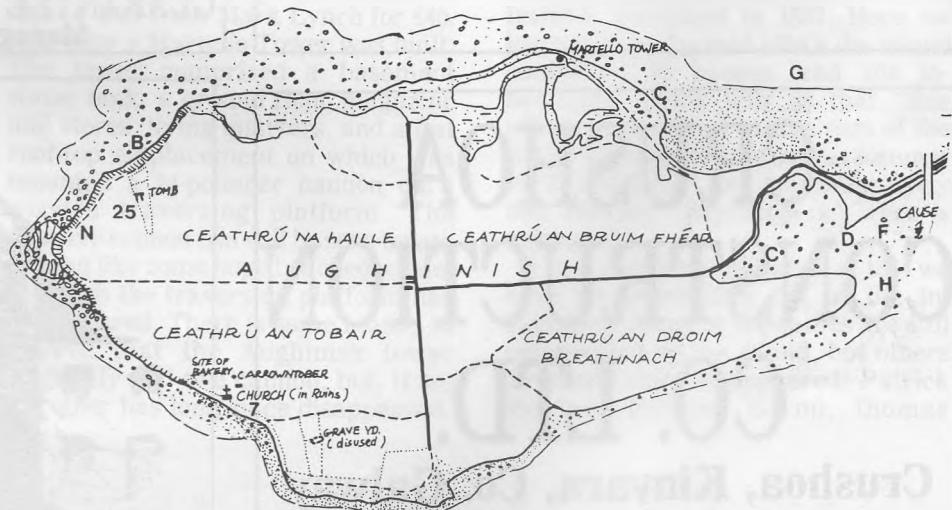
Today Aughinish is small irregularly-shaped island, about 2km from east to west, and approximately 1km at the fullest point north to south. The name "Aughinish" means "Horse Island", though whether this refers to its shape or some older association with horses is impossible to say. The island is neatly divided into four portions or quarters, each taking its name from some feature found in the area. "Ceathru na Aille" (the Quarter of the Cliffs) - the north west portion - is the most elevated part of the island, with impressive cliffs rising to over 70 feet above the sea line. "Ceathru an Tobair" (the Quarter of the Well), in the south west, takes its name from the presence of an old and now disused well - a feature that would have been of great importance in the days before piped water. "Ceathru an Bruim Fhear" (the Quarter of the Skutch Grass), in the north east, probably is named for the good quality of the soil which, at one time, was used for growing potatoes on a large scale. Finally, "Ceathru an Droim Breathnach" (the Quarter of Walsh's Hill), lying in the

south east, is said to take its name from the unhappy fate of a "spailpin" or wandering labourer who was working there and choked on a herring bone. This is the kind of folk etymology met with often in Ireland. As "spailpins" do not go back very far in history, it seems rather unlikely that a whole quarter of this small island would have taken its name from such an incident. "Breathnach" is the Irish for Walsh and while there is no family with the name Walsh associated with

has been suggested by archaeologists that they were built near areas of settlement, so perhaps the earliest people would have lived here.

THE EARLIEST VILLAGE

The next evidence we have for settlement on Aughinish is found in Ceathru an Tobair. The remains of three structures are found clustered near the disused well. The first, and most significant, is a ruined church, about 40 feet by 15 feet, with a door opening in the west end of the south wall. It is difficult to date the church, but the large stones used in its construction would suggest an early date, possibly 11th or 12th century. It is very close to the shore line and it seems likely that erosion and the effects of weather will eventually crumble it even more unless efforts are made to



Aughinish, but this is not to say there may not have been at some time in the past, before records become available to us as evidence.

The earliest evidence for the presence of man on Aughinish comes from the collapsed wedge-tomb in Ceathru na Aille, about 200 yards inland. These structures - there are hundreds spread throughout the Burren and a fine example in Doorus Demesne - date from the Neolithic period, c. 3000 B.C., and were the typical burial places of the people who occupied Ireland before the coming of the Celts. Originally covered with a mound of earth, they would have contained the remains of a number of individuals. It

protect it. About 50 yards to the north east are the foundations of a double cloghaun - a primitive house - with a creep-hole connecting the rooms. And a few yards to the south is a large building, known locally as the "bakehouse, with a very tall chimney. The masonry is rough and it would seem to be much more recent in construction than the other two remains. It has three rooms and fireplaces, with narrow, slit-windows. A large doorway is in the east gable, along with two other doors in the north and south walls. Its nature and function is unknown. To the south east is a Killeen - commonly known as a children's graveyard, although it seems likely

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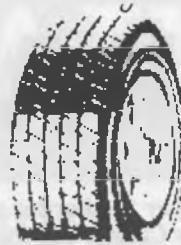
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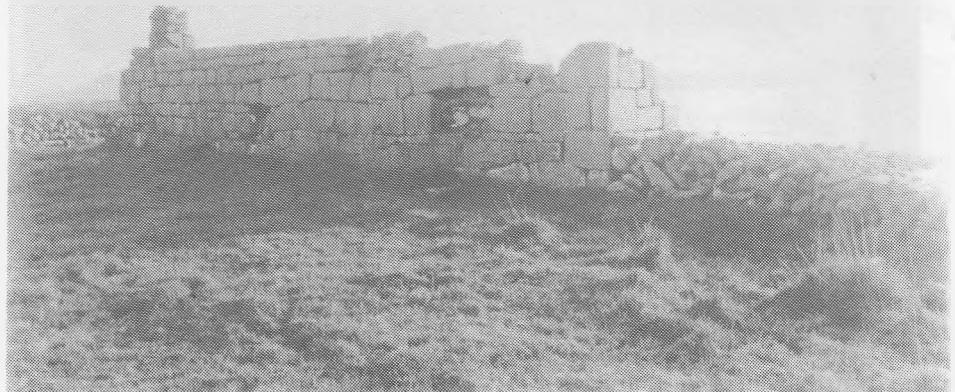
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that adults were also buried here. The presence of these remains ties in with a persistent tradition, passed down by Pat Keane, that this area was the original site of the village of Aughinish.

History is altogether silent on the long centuries during which Aughinish undoubtedly flourished as a small community. We know from the List of Fortifications and Distributions compiled after the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland that the Protestant Bishop of Killaloe held the rents of Aughinish, a fact confirmed by an Indenture made between the Bishop and Marcus Lynch in 1812 which granted the rents of Aughinish to Lynch for the yearly sum of £25 and 6 pence. From a list of Catholic priests compiled in 1704, we learn that the parish priest of Oughtmama and Abbey was Walter Markham, though what exact connection he had with the people of Aughinish is not clear.

The Martello Tower

For a brief moment in the early years of the 19th century Aughinish found itself touched by the great conflict between France and England. About 1810 it looked as if Napoleon might try to launch an invasion of Ireland. To protect exposed coastal areas, the decision was taken by the War Department to erect defensive fortifications, based on a design adapted from a French original. A small round defensive tower at Cape Mortella on the Corsican coast had shown itself to be remarkably effective against an English attack in 1794. These squat, thick-walled towers, known as Martello towers, were built at many places throughout Ireland between 1811 and 1814. Although never us-



Ruins of Medieval Church on Aughinish

ed for the purpose for which they were intended, they stand as reminders of that period of national emergency.

At the north east tip of Aughinish 6 acres of ground were purchased in March 1811 from Mark Lynch for £40. And here a Martello Tower was built. The tower comprised a basement water tank, a ground floor magazine and stores, living quarters, and a flat roof-top emplacement on which was mounted a 24-pounder cannon on a wooden traversing platform. The massive cannon can still be seen today, looking like some huge beached whale, although the traversing platform has disappeared. There is some reason to believe that the Aughinish tower originally had two cannon, but, if so, the other has long since disappeared.

AUGHINISH IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The first detailed account of Aughinish we have comes from Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published in 1837. Here we learn that in the mid-1830's the island contained 46 houses and 304 inhabitants. Lewis tells us that "this village, like others on this part of the coast, is frequented during the summer for sea-bathing", but who these early 19th century "day-trippers" were is unknown!

From Griffith's Valuation of 1854 we have an interesting list of the inhabitants. Many of the names are still represented on the island, but others have long since disappeared: Patrick Moylan, Patrick Glynn, Thomas



Cliffs in Ceathru na hAille, Aughinish



24 Pounder Cannon on Aughinish Martello Tower

McGuinness, Michael Nilan, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Margaret Gallerie, Mary Long, Patrick Kane, Bryan Kinane (possibly Linnane), Mary Kane, John Costello, James McInerney, James Moran, Bartholomew Curtin, James Curtin, Michael Hynes, and Michael Glynn.

From the papers of the Wilson-Lynch Family, the landlords who lived in the now ruined Newtown House in Duras Park, we have some very interesting documentary evidence of the people of Aughinish. Between 1881 and 1882, the English Prime Minister, William Ewart Gladstone, sponsored a series of Land Acts in Parliament to ensure security of tenure for tenants, as well as giving to them the right to seek judicial reduction of rents.

LANDLORD AND TENANT

A description of the agreement between Major Thomas Wilson-Lynch and two of his Aughinish tenants will give a flavour of what these interesting documents involve. The first, between Wilson-Lynch and Bridget Neiland, widow of Thomas Neiland (whose name is scored through, suggesting he had recently died), contains the following information: Bridget Neiland's holding of 21 acres, 3 roods, and 18 perches was valued at £24 in the year 1898. It also tells us that Thomas Neiland built on his holding a dwellinghouse and two barns. Between 1883 and 1886, he rebuilt a carhouse (for a pony and trap or wagon) and two stables. Between 1860 and 1880 he made 300 perches of stone fences, and again, between 1880 and 1897 he built another 200 perches of stone fences. In 1873 he constructed 40 yards of battlements against the encroachment of the sea, and again, in 1896, another 40 yards of battlement were built. The former rent, we learn, was £34/12/4, but on ap-

plication to the Land Commission this was reduced to £24 - no doubt a considerable relief to a recently widowed woman.

The second agreement, between Wilson-Lynch and Bridget McInerney, widow of Pat McInerney, shows the rent being reduced from £29/11/6 to £20/10/0. We are also told that "this tenant took a prize for barley (£2-) at The Royal Dublin Society's Winter Show.

Another, even more fascinating document, from 1901, is written in the hand of Major Thomas Wilson-Lynch. It appears to be an official memo book of the rents of his tenants. But it also contains a more general descriptive account of Aughinish.

"It should be noted that Aughinish tenants have seaweed shore of considerable value and acre which forms part of their rent. A causeway connects Aughinish with the County Galway leading to the market town, Kinvara. The causeway had protection walls, against sea encroachment, built at the expense of the County Clare and County Galway respectively. In 1872 I contributed £40 towards repairs of the causeway.

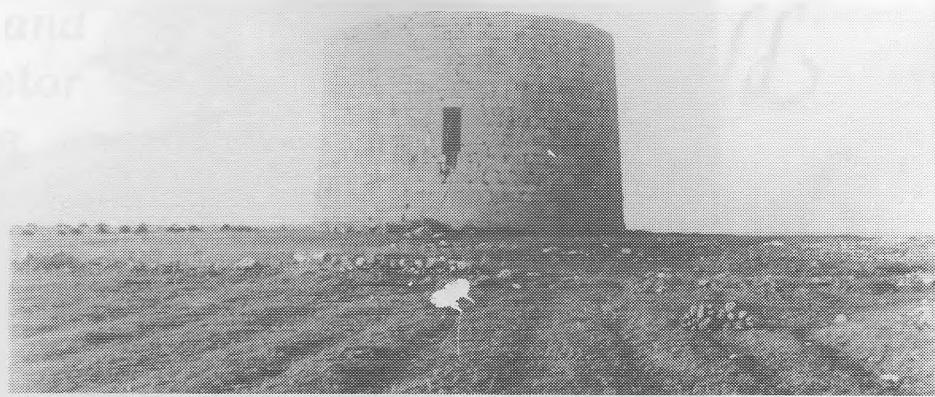
"In 1882 when I inspected every holding at Aughinish I allowed very ful-

ly for outlay on the part of the tenants in clearing their holdings, building protection walls against the tide. I therefore strongly object to the present bogus claims for improvements.

"Barley is extensively grown at Aughinish of the finest quality. At the December show the Royal Dublin Society gave prizes to 3 Aughinish tenants for their barley."

The memo book then goes on to list the tenants in 1901: Michael Shaughnessy, Peter Keane, John Griffin, Thomas Neiland, Pat Moylan, Bartley Glynn, Pat McInerney, James McInerney, Fergus Keane, and John Glynn.

The years since 1901 have witnessed a gradual population decline as Aughinish's isolated position made it less and less attractive for young people to wish to remain on the land. Today, there are only 11 households, a dramatic drop in numbers if we recall the total of 304 inhabitants in the mid-1830's. It is interesting to see how many of the same names are represented today - Costello, Curtin, Glynn, McInerney, Keane, and Shaughnessy. Two names not represented earlier this century are Lambert and Flake. Dirk Flake, from Germany, has a thriving organic farm and he sells his produce widely throughout the North Clare and Galway area. Other enterprising farmers also still take advantage of the excellent soil, and there are grounds for thinking that, with the presence of more young people on the island, the future of Aughinish as a farming community is once again secure. As more and more people re-discover the virtues of rural living, the special charm of Aughinish looks likely to hold young people in an environment that not only can provide them with a good living, but also the equally valuable sustenance that comes from a long-established community with a unique character of its own.



Aughinish Martello Tower

2. NEW QUAY

Directly across from Aughnish, separated by a deep channel about two hundred yards wide, is the harbour and village of New Quay. The village acquired its name only in 1837 when the harbour was constructed, and gradually it took over in importance from the old village of Burrin which lies about 1km to the south. The general name of the district, also the name of a townland not far from New Quay, is Finavarra, name thought to derive from a legendary Fir Bolg chieftain. Although only very approximate, the Finavarra district extends from the bottom of the Corker Road in the east to the slender, tapering point of Rinn townland in the west, at the extreme edge of which stands another Martello Tower, and from the New Quay-Flaggy Shore area in the North, to the Bell Harbour crossroads in the south.

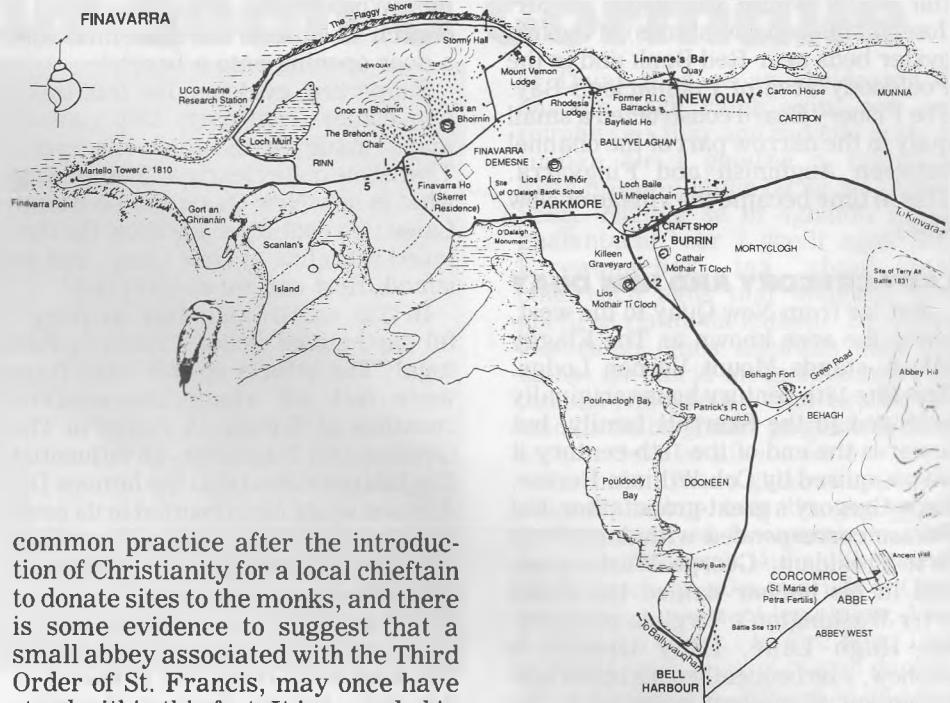
RING-FORTS AND CASTLES

The earliest evidence for human habitation in the area comes from the seven ring-forts found scattered throughout. None are in a very good state of preservation, but nevertheless enough remains to indicate the dimensions of these early farmsteads, their earthen and stone banked fortifications, and even some internal features, most notably, four souterrains - underground chambers used for storing perishable goods and, in times of danger, for protection.

Cathair Mothair Ti Cloch is to the south west of Burrin village. Some have attributed the name to Mortogh O'Brien who fell in the Battle fought at nearby Corcomroe Abbey in 1317. The fort - 160 feet in diameter - has stone ramparts of limestone, and within are traces of a stone house. The souterrain lies in the middle of the fort, but it is now virtually impossible to gain access. An account written in 1851 described two large chambers connected by a low passageway. Not far from this fort is another, Lios Mothair Ti Cloch, which contains another souterrain.

Ballyvelaghan or Lios Paric Mhoir is to the south west of New Quay. It contains a collapsed souterrain, although it is possible to enter a section of it in the middle of the fort. Lios an Bhoirnin overlooks Finavarra Demesne, which also contains a collapsed souterrain. Gort an Ghrianain, in Rine Townland, is nearly levelled, as is another fort on Scanlan's Island.

Beagh Ring Fort is nearly destroyed, although a few walls remain. It was



common practice after the introduction of Christianity for a local chieftain to donate sites to the monks, and there is some evidence to suggest that a small abbey associated with the Third Order of St. Francis, may once have stood within this fort. It is recorded in an old document that Teige O'Daly, a Franciscan from Finavarra, was executed in 1579 at Askeaton. Could he have come from this Foundation?

The family intimately associated with the Finavarra district are the O'Dalaighs, who established a famous Law School, the remains of which can still be seen near the southern shoreline of Finavarra Demesne. today a stone monument stands here, erected in honour of Donncha Mor O'Dalaigh. The so-called Brehon's Chair, also known as St. Denis's chair, is near the summit of Cnoc an Bhoirin (Bourneen Hill), and here, it is said that people came to hear law cases debated and settled. There are still many members of the O'Dalaigh/Daly family in the district today. Daly's Pub in Bellharbour contains an interesting series of wall plaques describing the training carried out in the Law School.

Two fine castles, now ruined, stand along the south western edge of PoulnacloUGH Bay. Caislean Sean Muicinis, at the edge of Mucknish Island, is a typical tower house, standing within a bawn wall, while Caislean Muicinis Nua is a badly ruined tower on the west side of the narrows of PoulnacloUGH Bay. Both probably belonged to the powerful O'Loughlin family, who gave protection to the O'Dalaighs.

CORCOMROE ABBEY

The chief glory of the district is the fine 12th century Cistercian abbey of Corcomroe, known as St. Maria de

Petri Fertilis (St. Mary of the Fertile Rock). This magnificent church, with its fine chancel and nave and bell tower, contains some of the finest examples of native Irish stone carving to be found in Ireland, along with what is probably the only known tomb effigy of a Gaelic chieftain, traditionally identified as Conor na Studaine O'Brien, King of Thomond - the old name for Clare - who died in 1268.

THE SKERRETT FAMILY

In 1652, after the defeat of Galway by the Cromwellians, one branch of the Skerrett family - one of the famous "Tribe" families of Galway - settled in Finavarra, on what was almost certainly O'Dalaigh land, and built a fine mansion, the remains of which still dominate the district. The Skerretts were a Catholic family and they are still remembered for the assistance they provided their tenants during the Great Famine of 1845. At one time the Skerretts owned nearly three thousand acres in Clare, of which the eight-six acre demense of Finavarra House was part. But by the 1880's financial distress led to the dissolution of the estate. The house and demesne passed to the widow of Captain William Skerrett. By the 1920's her nephew, Frank Sampson, who was married to a niece of Lady Gregory, was obliged to sell off the remaining land and the house fell into ruin.

New Quay's rise to prominence was connected with the development by

Mr. Burton Bindon of Corranroo House (on a site where the house of Mr. Joseph Muldoon now stands) of the fine oyster beds near Red Bank and in the Pooldoody area of Poulnaclogh Bay. The Fishery Board constructed a small quay in the narrow part of the channel between Aughinish and Finavarra. This in time became the village of New Quay.

LADY GREGORY AND NEW QUAY

Not far from New Quay to the west, along the area known as The Flaggy Shore, stands Mount Vernon Lodge. This late 18th century house originally belonged to the Skerrett family, but towards the end of the 18th century it was acquired by Col. William Persse, Lady Gregory's great-grandfather. Col Persse corresponded with America's first President, George Washington, and in his honour named the house after Washington's Virginia mansion. Sir Hugh Lane, Lady Gregory's nephew, who bequeathed his important collection of modern painting to the Irish nation, lived here until his death aboard the Lusitania in 1915. After his death, Lady Gregory made it her summer home and here she entertained such literary figures as W.B. Yeats, Edward Martyn, Oliver St. John Gogarty, and George Bernard Shaw.

Today New Quay is a charming village, with an excellent pub run by Brenda Linnane, and here also Red Bank Shellfish, in operation since 1987, makes an important contribution to the economic health of the area.

3. A CLOSER LINK?

We have seen that New Quay and Aughinish lie close to each other geographically. But there is good reason to believe that at one time the link between the island and the mainland was much closer than it is now. The chief evidence for this comes from three sources: tradition, early maps, and the fact that Aughinish is, against all logic, included as part of County Clare and not, if we take the physical link with the Doorus peninsula into account, as part of County Galway.

According to local Aughinish tradition, what is now quite clearly an island was once part of the mainland, that is, part of New Quay. Pat Keane, the oldest man on Aughinish, has preserved the tradition that the original village was not in the middle of the island where it is today, but along the south western coast, where the older buildings we've described were clustered round the old well. To visit

the ruined church is to see the logic of this. Who, we ask, would construct a church so close to the shoreline, with a door opening onto a beach?

Supporting evidence for this tradition comes from early 18th century maps made by English surveyors. They show quite clearly a "bump" atop what is now New Quay, but no island. Later 18th century maps show the flattened shoreline of New Quay, and an island. How can we explain this?

In 1755, on All Saints Day, a powerful earthquake struck Lisbon in Portugal. The effects of this cataclysm were felt all along the western coastline of Europe. A report in The Gentleman's Magazine - an influential English periodical that the famous Dr. Johnson wrote for - reported in its news dispatches for the month of November 1755 that a huge tidal wave had caused wide-spread destruction in Cork. There are no similar Galway reports for the good reason that newspapers of any kind were relatively unknown at this date. But we do know that Corranroo Castle, which stood on the southern edge of what is now Corranroo Bay was destroyed by the shock waves of this earthquake. And an old folk tale, preserved in the Kinvara folklore records, tells the intriguing story of a miller at the now ruined mill at the south edge of Knoggera Bay,

who was said to have prayed to either God or the devil to send him enough water to grind his corn. His unwise prayer was answered, so the story goes, with enough water sweeping in to drown him. An old map of the Rineen/Kinturlough basin, just below the road leading from Nogra Village to John O'Connor's house, carries these words - "Formerly Lawnabeg Now Flooded".

Putting all this evidence together, we would suggest that when the massive effects of the Lisbon earthquake made themselves felt, a tidal wave swept between what is now New Quay and Aughinish, cutting a deep channel, and flooding into what is now Knoggera Bay. It is possible that the sea might already have eroded the land between New Quay and Aughinish, and that the tidal wave simply completed the job.

Of course, without further hard evidence, this suggestion must remain just that - a suggestion. But it would certainly help explain why Aughinish is included in the Barony of Burren as part of County Clare and not, as would make more sense, in the Barony of Kiltartan in County Galway. A mystery! But a fascinating one!

Jeff O'Connell



Interior of Mount Vernon Lodge

An tAthair Seán Ó Gormaile



Tar éis tinneas fada, cailleadh an tAthair Seán Ó Gormaile ar 6 Nollaig 1989. Ba dhuine é a raibh cion agus grá dó ag choille dhuine a chuir aithne air. Fear smaointeach a bhí ann, a raibh suim domhain aige i gcurasai an tsaoil, go hairithe cursai na hEireann. Ach thar aon rud eile bhi cráifeacht aige. Agus is ón gcráifeacht seo a d'eascair an grá mor a bhi aige do dhaoine. Ghráigh sé Dia trina sheirbhís do chlann Dé.

Ba dhuine eisceachtuil é an tAthair Sean. Fear oibre a bhí ann a thóg seisear clainne i dTuaim. Bhi sé pairteach i ngluaiseachtaí politiochta, agus d'fhuiling sé mar go raibh se dilis

da phrionsabail.

Bhi a chlann tógha nuair a maraiodh a chéile go tragoideach i dtimpist bothair. Ansin a d'iompaigh se chun Dé go hiomlan, agus d'ofráil sé é féin do Dhia, le deanamh leis mar ba thoil. Do é tamall de bhlianta roimhe sin bhi sé tromchioiach nuair a badh mac leis i gCeanada. Ar an ocaid sin leis, ghlac se leis an gCros go foighneach. Agus é in aois pinsin, beagnach, thosaigh sé ag staidear don sagartoreacht. Nuair a hoirneadh é chuaign se ag obair ar an misiún sa Breatain Bheag. Is iomai scéal atá cloiste faoina rinne sé ansin. Thóg sé solas Dé do dhaoine a raibh dearmad deanta acú

ar Dhia; thóg sé an creideamh do dhaoine nach raibh suim acú ann roimhe sin; thar aon rud eile scap se suchan De i gcoithe a maintire. Fear misniuil laidir ba ea an tAthair Seán. Tháinig sé in aghaidh breag-ghalantacht, cur i gceill agus frith Eireannachas ina shaol mar chleireach agus mar shagart. Nior gheill se riamh da leitheid. Ba dhuine é a raibh omos domhain aige don duine, go hairid an gnáthduine. Aon duine a shil é féin a chur os cionn an stadais sin ba ghearr go gcuirfeadh an tAthair Seán ar ais ina ait é.

Ba chalma mar a ghlac sé leis an tineas ba abhar báis dó. Ag pointe amhain fuair sa faoiseamh on ailse, agus le creideamh láidir d'fhogair se go hathasch go mba mioruilt é. Chait sé tamall in eineacht lena inion, Aine, a chile is a clann, i bPáirc Mór, Thóg se sonas isteach i saol moran daoine i rith an achar sin. Tháinig se ag coisir na seandoine agus ag cruinnithe. Ba ionteach an fear ag inseacht scéal grinn é agus d'fhanfa go maidin ag éisteach leis.

Searbhontai Dé, fear simplí duine cráifeach, athair spriod-alta a tharraing ar a thaithi mar athair clainne é. Biodh rimead orainn go raibh se de phribhléid againn é bheith mar chara againn.

Tá sé i measc na naomh, i gcuideachta na Maighdine Beannaithe.

S. Mac Eoin

A WORD IN YOUR EAR

A WORD IN YOUR EAR

As Summer 1990 arrives it is hoped to have another booklet added to Kinvara's fine list of published material concerning all aspects of life in the parish.

'A Word In Your Ear — A Taste of Folklore from in and around Kinvara' is an interesting account of life as it was — as seen through the eyes of Kinvara's own people. 'Folk-lore' quite simply means the stories of people, from the mundane accounts of farming and fishing, to the imaginative, witty stories for which the Irish are renowned the world over. The manuscripts, which date back to the 1890's, contain stories of the Famine, of saints and scholars, of tillage and stock-raising, and much more.

Publication was delayed simply because material available in the archives of the Irish Folklore Commission, amounting to some one thousand pages, was only discovered recently. It had not been known that so much material had been collected in areas such as Dúras, Trellick, Carron, Kilrea, Toreen and as far back as Aughinish. Credit for this work goes to the Irish Folklore Commission, to Tomás Ó Catháin, and to all who participated at

the meetings of Scoil Eigse Dúras. As one who gave much of his time then, and continues to do so on behalf of the parish, Stan Mac Eoin deserves special mention, also for his initiative in having this present research undertaken.

As a small sample of Kinvara's folklore we include here an account from Pat Picker, 82, farmer, Carrownamadra, to collector Ciarán Báiréad and translated from the Irish Making Hurleys and Sliotars.

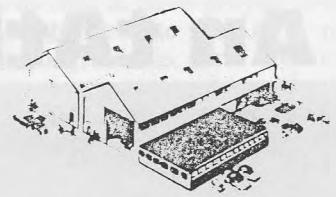
"Sure the people that's there today, what are they but children. There was no beating the old people. Many's the hurley they made themselves. Many's the tree they cut and made a hurley out of it. They used to make them themselves. Many's the hurley Tom Fahy made, God rest him."

You'd get a ball in the shop, and the man who would put theeveens (patches) on shoes, he'd make them a ball. Aw, there was a few of them in the town over there, John Traynor was one of them, and he was hurling himself. Patch Hoban, he was a shoemaker all the time. Jack Traynor would make a ball himself, wasn't he as cracked as anyone at the hurling."

Tomás Ó Fatha, Parkmore.

Caoilte Breatnach.

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"A YEAR OF DRAMA" OR ' A DRAMATIC YEAR'



The Cast of "Our Town"

When I agreed to take on an SES Scheme thanks to the Community Council in November '88, I had no idea that I would be saturating the Kinvara area with six theatrical performances, large and small and on-going drama in the schools. By Christmas, two of the smaller performances had taken place. In Northampton, the older classes staged a nativity play, promenade style. This meant that the action took place on 3 mini stages in 3 corners of the classroom with Mary and Joseph travelling from one to another in search of Bethlehem.

How crowded Bethlehem was that evening.' I still have vivid memories of assisting Mrs. Leech and her charges to hump 12 or 15 pallettes from Murphy's shed next door over to the classroom to be the little raised stages. Intense rehearsals in the girls cloakroom with Elske and Nicola who played Joseph and Mary and how like a Roman tribunes' helmet a hurling helmet can be. The commitment was fierce. They not only knew their own lines, they knew each others and they all mouthed along silently until their

own turn came. The three girls playing angels had little to do to make the transformation, so angelic were they and the whole ensemble was sumptuously and lovingly costumed by Mrs. Leech with some parental help.

Meanwhile, back at the Community Centre, preparations were being completed for Santa's annual visit to Kinvara, and twelve adults who had taken part in acting workshops through the autumn were putting the finishing touches to four fairy tales to which they were giving rather unusual treatment. Dressed only in black, the excitement was to see if they could convince their young audience they really were the various animals, witches or fairies they aimed to be, purely through voice and movement. I believe they succeeded handsomely. Certainly no one was left in any doubt that Ger Connelly really was the big bad wolf, he scared them good and proper. Nor that Marion Connelly was a cat, or Paul White a most amusing cockerel and entirely plausible as a handsome prince.

The main event of the year was 'Our Town' written in the 1930's by the

OUR TOWN

American Thornton Wilder. After the original community play "Manu" undertaken in March '88 I felt that members of what had now formed itself into a drama group would benefit from the experience of performing roles in what has come to be regarded as a modern classic. At the same time, devising "Manu" had shown a preoccupation with and love of small town life and the search for peace. This led me to Wilder's most famous play. The challenge for the actors was formidable. The play was effectively foreign, the use of language unfamiliar and, above all, the script demanded that all props had to be mimed. We decided therefore not to attempt American accents and to adjust the language where necessary "ain't" became isn't, "I declare Frank" became "really Frank" and so on. The result was that there came immediately to the fore so much that is familiar from our own time and place, the friendships, love, marriage, birth, and sadly, death that are commonplace wherever people have a community. In keeping with the adventurous staging of "Manu", we decided to bring the action down into the hall as well as up on stage. The audience entered the town when they entered the hall. The centre aisle was main street, its houses depicted on the walls on either side. Characters came at them from all sides, sat among them, stood on platforms in their midst and made their way up and down Main Street. The production was elaborately costumed, as there was little setting to feast the eye. If the challenge for designer Petra Brentnach had been to her imagination on "Manu", with "Our Town", she faced the discipline of accuracy of period, the play taking place around the turn of the century in New Hampshire. Her task was accomplished with grace and style and a good deal of hard work, on her part and on that of those who worked hard to help her. Much of this effect was the result of a good deal of research as was the work of Caroline McDaid, who as set designer, supplied the fine pictures of the New Hampshire

houses which adorned the walls of the hall. I feared the interest in participating might wane after "Manu", but when the local choir which the play required added their beautiful voices to the cast we had just as big a company as the previous year. The three performances went off smoothly and were well supported. It was when we were invited to Ballyvaughan a month later that the fun began. Firstly, we couldn't get the costumes. The costumier from whom many of them were hired was on holiday. It ended up with myself Petra and Helen McGinley calling a locksmith to illegally remove the lock from the store in Galway, which we then gratefully ransacked! We were forgiven, eventually. Then the T.V. Room in Hylands Hotel which was to be a dressing room became unavailable. The improvised lighting system which Seamus O'Reilly (affectionately known as the "Prince of Darkness") had contrived was acting up ("don't worry if this circuit gets tired, I've got another one").

Bob Francis was suggesting that the actors shouldn't stand for too long on certain parts of the stage he'd built and Diane Reid who was taking over Rosaleen Goodrich's part for the night pronounced that she hadn't actually learned her lines for Act III. She proposed to sit behind Emer O'Donnell, pin her lines to Emer's back and read

them. Strewh! The irony is that by the end of a nerve shattering evening the general view was that this was the best performance so far. Isn't adrenalin an amazing thing.

SCHOOL PLAYS

No wonder they say "you've got to be a tough to tour".

"Hans Andersen Stories" was the culmination of 8 months work with the older classes in the three local national schools. If I thought Ballyvaughan a perilous undertaking. I hadn't reckoned with my one hundred and fourteen charges in this show! Each class did an Andersen tale and 4th class in Kinvara acted as a link. Kids are infuriating to direct. They've no real concept of what they are heading into and can't understand the need for urgency about learning lines and getting voices right. Then suddenly, a couple of days before, it hits them and the dire shambles you've despaired of begins to take shape and they invariably end up exceeding your wildest expectations as they rise to the occasion. Adrenalin again. I was hoarse by the time the dress rehearsal came. All principles of an enlightened educational nature flew out the window as I roamed and shouted at the children of the parish. I think they were mostly quite amused at this spectacle and I'm glad to say we all remained the best of friends, especially because kids

get a huge "high" out of doing a show. Their sense of achievement is great and the 'crack' of the big night itself is mighty. Parents of each participant provided costumes which led to wonderful and colourful combinations. It's a show poor Peter Huban will never forget. Whoever got the part of the Emperor in the "Emperors New Clothes" was bound to be in for a slagging on account of how that story ends. All I could was ensure that the part was played by the biggest pupil in the three schools.

It would be a brave junior that would try slagging big Peter, who acquitted himself admirably in the end.

"COMEDY AT COOLE"

"Comedy at Coole" was first performed during the Cruinniu and involved a smaller cast than previous occasions. The hope was that the tourists would push up the numbers. In the event they merely compensated for the drop in local numbers, what with people away or seasonally busy. As with the Ballyvaughan adventure, the fun started when we took one of the three one-act plays involved (Hyacinth Halvey by Lady Gregory) to the Gregory Home, Coole Park. The old laundry just beside where the big house once stood provided the perfect location, its ruined building matching almost perfectly the setting used in



The Cast of the Conneely Theatrics Production of "Hallowe'en": (L-R): Toddie Byrne, Josie Byrne, Ger Conneely, Aine O'Connell, Don Devaney, Bartley O'Donnell, Bernie Devaney, Marion Connolly.



Some of the large cast of "Hans Anderson Stories"

the Community Centre. It was a little bit of history, we all felt, performing a Lady Gregory play in the place where it is likely she first performed it, eighty two years before. The first performance went beautifully from the first strains of Bartley O'Donnell and Seamus O'Reilly's delicate violin introduction to the final cheers of the audience. It was the second performance in Coole which came unstuck. It rained. Fifteen minutes into the show, it poured! After ten more minutes sheltering and much dithering we decided to finish it as best we could under the trees. Highlight of this was Jeff O'Connell, at the point where he has to chase Victoria Jolly across the stage vanished temporarily from view as he fell foul of a badger hole! Much laughter all round and great playing from the cast.

Despite the year long barrage of theatre the good citizens of Kinvara turned out in large numbers for Seamount's "My Fair Lady". I just gave a few sessions to this one. It was actually directed by a Galway boarder Lorna Gannon. Now Lorna is no ordinary young lady. I remember at the technical rehearsal late one night trying to get attention from the understandably bored and tired cast. "Quiee please" I called, "shut up" roared Lorna, Total silence. Its not many teenagers that can command this kind of respect from their peers. It's a good job she could. With no teacher available to direct the show, it needed someone extraordinary to marshall the troops. It was a fantastic success. Rosalynn Sexton in particular was marvellous. All in all it was quite a year. My thanks go especially to Stan Mac Eoin for making it all possible.

Paul Brennan

The Conneely Theatrics!

Over the last few years, John Conneely and his intrepid company of actors have provided marvellous entertainment each Christmas, with one-act farces. "Halloween" and "Hidden Meanings" were fast paced fun and perfect holiday fare.

Note: As we go to press, preparations are well advanced for the Kinvara Drama Group's summer production of W. B. Yeats "The Only Jealousy of Emer", which will be performed in the open at Coole Park, first performance is on July 14th.



"Hyacinth Halvey" performed in Coole Park Last Summer



Dianne Reid, Jane O'Brien and Philip Sweeney in a scene from "Our Town"



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“The Banks of Waterloo”

The above poem, a photocopy of the original. I came across recently in Limerick. It was written by Tomás Ó Lochlain (Thomas O'Loughlin) from an Charnin, near Lettermullen in Connemara, who worked as a labourer in Crushoa, Kinvara in the early 1920's. It was traditional at that time and even up to the 1940's for men from Connemara to come to places like Kinvara, Athenry, Carraroe, Ballindereen and Clarinbridge seeking work, particularly at harvest time. They were tremendous workers. Those who came to the Kinvara parish used to congregate outside St. Colman's Church on a Sunday, waiting to be hired by local farmers. They felt very much

at home in the then mostly Gaelic speaking rural areas of Kinvara. One of these spalpeens (as they were affectionately known as) was Thomas O'Loughlin.

Thomas's father died when he was very young and so he had to leave school early to help out at home. His teacher, Mr. Torpey, recognised his literary abilities and encouraged him to write poetry. His most famous poem was written while he served a short period in prison in Galway, having been caught in the possession of poitin. In his wanderings in search of work he was composing poems and songs. Many of these, along with stories of the past,

which he learned from other people around the 'hob' at night, were put together by Dr. Eric Mac Phinn, and published from time to time in an Irish publication called "Ar Aghaidh".

"The Banks of Waterloo" tells about his first season in Crushoa, dredging oysters in the renowned oysterbeds, which had been acquired from the landlord. It is a tribute to the man's national feeling that he thanks the men who brought this about. He is full of praise for Sean Hynes (Mrs. Bridget McInerney's father) who gave him his first job as one of the four oarsmen on a dredging boat named the Saturday, and owned by Brian Kilikelly. There were three other boats dredging at the time, St. Bridget, owned by Jimmy Conole's father, the St. Mary and the third — someone may remember or have heard its name. There were six men to each boat, four oarsmen, a dredger and his assistant. Many young men from Kinvara town — Christy Ward, John Joe Conneely, Rory Greene and Patrick Keane to mention but a few — earned their first shillings at dredging.

In the poem he speaks very highly of the crew of the Saturday. Brian Kilikelly was the captain. With him were Rory Greene, Pat McDonagh from Carraroe, Paudge O'Donoghue, one of the O'Hanlons (the Hanlons from Carnamadra came from Crushoa), and Tomás himself. It would appear from the tone of the poem that he was very happy in Crushoa. He helped out in the picking of the potatoes and the cutting of seaweed as well. Shortly before he died in 1965, Jimmy Conole met him and he had many happy memories of his days in Crushoa, where he earned the nickname Bob, probably from his flowing head of hair.

In the last verse he talks about having to repair the 'bag' of the dredge, with the finest thread to be got in Galway from Alexander Moon. Thomas was surely a man who was proud of his work. We should be grateful to him for providing us with this rare literary insight into times in Crushoa in the 1920's.

Toddie Byrne

P.S. My thanks to Jimmy Conole, with whom I discussed the poem and who shed light on the names and the traditional method of dredging.

"THE IRELAND OF MY DREAMS"

It was in 1964 that I first visited Ireland. Having Irish forebears, it has always been an ambition of mine to go back to the land of my roots. I remember my grandmother telling me how her husband's parents came from County Cork, while hers came from Clare. All my teachers at the convent school I attended were Irish nuns, who instilled a love for their homeland in their pupils. Most of my Australian friends had Irish ancestors.

There were so many factors which contributed to my pull towards going to Ireland.

And I was not disappointed. The Ireland of my dreams was Ireland in reality. It was just as I imagined it to be. The friendliness of the people, the magnificent scenery, the leisurely way of life, the soft gentle rain, green everywhere (so different to Australia's colour brown) and most of all the little thatched white washed cottages dotting the countryside. My stay with the Hynes family in their tiny 3 roomed cottage at Kinvara epitomised Ireland for me. These kindly people who took us in when the nearby youth hostel was full, were hosts to remember. After a meal was cooked over an open fire in

the room which was everything except the bedroom we sat by the flickering fire while Pauric recited poetry. It was the memory of that stay at Kinvara which I took back with me to Australia as it was the highlight of my Irish visit.

It was 25 years before I was able to return to Ireland. "Just wait until you see Ireland" I kept telling my husband — the scenery, the people and the lovely cottages everywhere. But I had forgotten that nothing ever remains the same. The changes were hard to accept — the gentle pace of life had become much brisker, the people busier, more commercialism in the tourist spots, no gypsies, more traffic, but most of all I missed all the little white washed thatched cottages which had been

replaced by large, modern farmhouses just like you'd see anywhere else. The Ireland I remembered seemed to have vanished, until our route took us back to Kinvara. Although the old house had fallen into disrepair, this little corner of Ireland remained unchanged. It was exactly the image of Ireland I had been carrying in my mind for 25 years. The green fields, stone walls, Nogra village, but most of all the friendliness of the people, particularly Greta and Sean Hynes, whom we unexpectedly met, who took us into their home and cared for us like long lost relations.

We were sorry our tight schedule left us so little time to spend in such a wonderful place, but we are determined that one day we will return to Ireland and particularly kinvara.

Patricia Spirek,
Redcliff,
West Australia.



Photo of Nora Hynes (1st wife of Pauric) Pauric Hynes, Patricia Spirek

CASTLES AROUND KINVARA

Anyone who drives into Kinvara is immediately struck with the impressive sight of Dun Guaire Castle. It must surely be one of the most beautiful settings for a castle in Ireland. No matter what the season, Dun Guaire has a stern beauty and grace about it that can hardly be matched outside the realms of romance.

But Dun Guaire is only one of a number of such castles that can be found within a few miles of the town. Besides Kinvara's "trademark" castle, there are four other interesting examples scattered throughout the area. In this article I want simply to introduce them, first to Kinvara people who may know of them but not know much about them, and secondly, to help the visitor appreciate the fine quality of these visible traces of our medieval past.

Let's begin by looking at what exactly a castle of this kind is. The word "Castle" is, in fact, a very vague term which can refer to everything from the famous Tower of London to Bunratty, near Shannon Airport. The proper term for structures like Dun Guaire is "tower-house". They were a kind of compromise between the massive, militarily important stone castles of the early Anglo-Norman period - roughly from the 12th to the 14th centuries - and the later mansions, such as the one at Lemeneagh, near Kilfenora, which replaced the earlier, rather forbidding stone towers.

It is estimated that there are about 3,000 tower houses in Ireland. All of them appear to have been built between the early years of the 15th century and the middle of the 17th century, after which the style of building changed. Cromwell's artillery proved to be devastatingly effective against them. And with the final conquest of the country at the end of the 17th century, and the imposition of firm English control, there was no longer any need for such a fortified residence, and those - the native Irish - who would have favoured them were the ultimate losers in the power struggle.

A tower house is basically a fortified gentleman's residence. Although introduced into Ireland by the Normans, they were rapidly adopted by the native Irish. Their design and layout follows a common pattern - a single tower consisting, normally of two vertical divisions. One of these divisions comprises the entrance, the winding stairs, and a number of small chambers; the other consists of several large rooms. Windows tend to be narrow, allowing in little light and designed to exclude anyone trying to breach

the tower defences. A parapeted roof wall is a typical feature, within which a pointed roof allows access to the inner walkway from which the tower could be defended during times of danger.

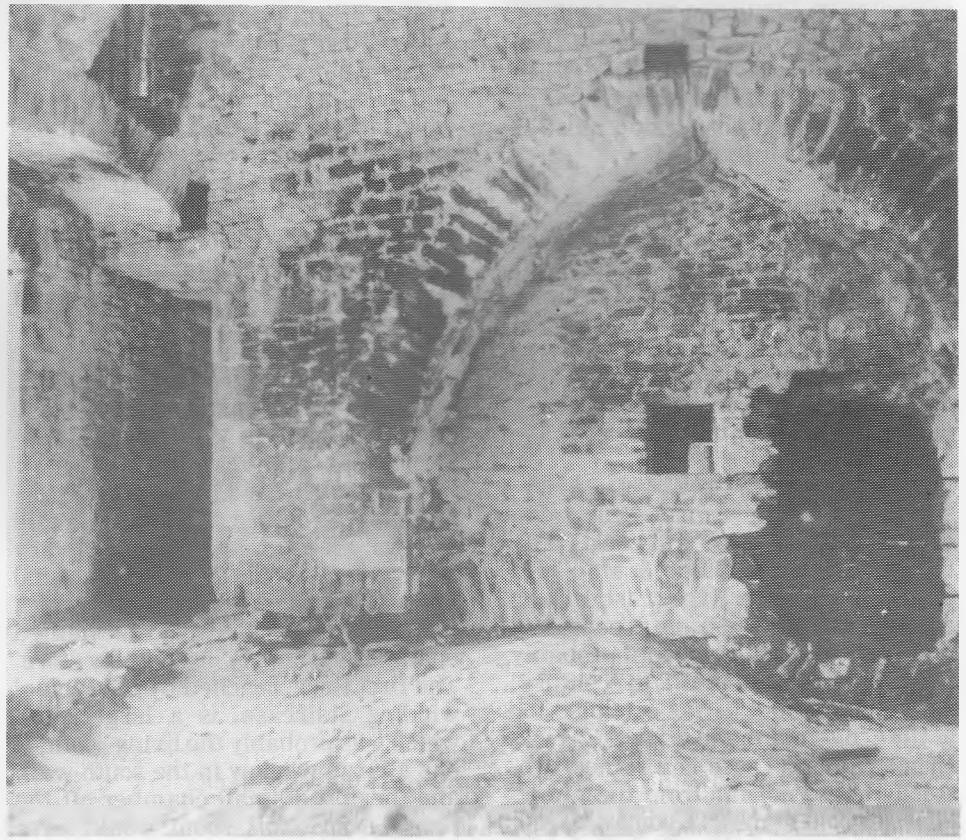
DUN GUAIRE

Dun Guaire appears to have been built about 1520. Although Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland identifies it as having been built by an O'Shaughnessy, this seems most unlikely as the territory associated with this local family lies further to the south, near Gort. Instead, the tradition that states it was built by Owen Murtogh O'Heyne carries more weight. The old name of this part of South Galway is Ui Fiachrach Aidhne, and from Aidhne is derived the family name of Hynes.

Various members of the Hynes family lived at Dun Guaire until the early years of the 17th century. By 1607 the

new owner was Oliver Martyn, of the Galway "Tribe" family, who also had another castle at Tullira near Ardrahan. An interesting old document states that in 1617 Oliver Martyn of Kinvara was granted the right to hold a Saturday market at Kinvara. The Martyns were to continue residing at Dun Guaire until at least 1710. After that year it is likely that the tower was only occasionally occupied. We do know that in 1787 Col. Daly of Raford lived here with his family, but for how long is not known. The next mention of occupation is in 1828 when we learn that a garrison of British soldiers was stationed here.

Probably by the middle of the 19th century, Dun Guaire was unoccupied and falling into ruin. Although Edward Martyn, the playwright and friend of Yeats and Lady Gregory, did what he could to stop further damage, by this time Dun Guaire was roofless, windowless and derelict. In 1924 Martyn sold it to the poet, novelist and wit, Oliver St. John Gogarty. Gogarty made plans to fix the tower up, just as Yeats had done with Thoor Ballylee, the tower near Gort. Although Gogar-



Interior of Lydican Castle

ty's plans were never realised, an interesting footnote is the fact that the gateway into the courtyard was built according to a design made by Yeats, who had been a student of architecture in his early years. In the 1950's Dun Guaire was bought by Christobel, Lady Ampthill, who carried out a tasteful restoration, as well as adding a section onto the south wall of the tower. In 1972 Dun Guaire was acquired by the then Shannon Free Airport Development Committee and opened to the public. Today it is one of the three castles - Bunratty and Aughnanuire are the others - where visitors can sample Irish culture at a medieval banquet.

The tower itself is a handsome, compact structure. The attractiveness of Dun Guaire is added to by the nearly intact encircling wall which shelters a spacious courtyard. Inside, the first two floors - the reception room and the hall used for medieval banquets - preserve much of the feel of a late medieval castle. But the top two floors have been substantially modernized. It comes as something of a shock to visitors to find a bathroom suite in a place as old as Dun Guaire!

The four other tower houses near Kinvara are all in ruins, but despite this, they are very interesting to visit and, using your imagination, they actually give you a better idea of what these places were like than a restored tower like Dun Guaire. Two - Lydican and Drumharsna - are designated National Monuments and belong to the Board of Works. The others are on private land and permission must be obtained to visit them.

CAHERERILLAN CASTLE

Cahererillan Castle, located about 3km south of Kinvara (see "Kinvara - A Ramblers Map & Guide" for directions), was another Hynes tower house. It has six storeys, the usual winding stone staircase, and a "murder hole" over the doorway. It has several well-preserved side chambers.

LYDICAN AND DRUMHARSNA

Lydian Castle (about 6km south east of Kinvara - see "Kiltartan Country - A Ramblers Guide & Map" for directions) is also a Hynes castle which continued to be owned and occupied by members of this family until probably sometime in the mid-17th century. After this period, it was occupied for a time by members of the Galway Lynch family. There is a ruined two-storey house not far from the tower, known on old maps as Lydian Lodge, which was occupied by the Lynches in the 18th century.



Cahererillan Castle (Drawing: Anne Korff)

Lydian is a most impressive place. Apart from a fine spiral staircase, it has a number of side chambers still in a good state of preservation, along with a large room, originally two separate storeys, on the upper level. Nearby are traces of other structures - outbuildings and the like - that would have been used as stables or living quarters. It has a "murder hole" over the entrance, and a large ground floor cellar with the remains of a fireplace.

Drumharsna (about 6km south east of Kinvara - see "Kiltartan Country" for directions) was probably built sometime in the early 16th century. apart from the disappearance of the east gable and the most part of the parapet wall, it stands much as it did 300 years ago. It is an excellent example of the smaller fortified tower houses of the period. It is a simple rectangular structure, with three main storeys, an attic, and five subsidiary storeys in the east part. The ground floor is occupied by the entrance, a "guard" room, and a large vaulted chamber, probably used as a store. The first floor, reached by the typical winding staircase, is a large room which was probably the living room. It has a large window in the south wall, and there is a small chamber off the room. Above this room would have been another, floored with timber, which has now disappeared, used as

sleeping quarters. There is a recessed bed chamber, a fireplace, now blocked up, and another, later fireplace in the north west corner. The roof contained another room, with its own fireplace.

Not much is known about its history. It is known to have been occupied by Shane Ballagh in 1574, but who he was is unknown. It is possible he was a Kilikelly, a branch of the main Hynes family line. When the Frenches, another of the prominent "Tribe" families, were granted land in the Barony of Kiltartan after the Cromwellian Settlement in the Mid-17th century, Drumharsna was occupied by members of this family. From the condition of the remaining plaster-work inside, it is likely it was also occupied into the 18th century. By the 19th century it had passed into the hands of Lord Ashtown - the Trench family of Woodlawn, Co. Galway. In 1920 it was occupied by the British Auxiliaries and it was here that the Loughnane Brothers were taken before they were murdered (see Tracht 1987 - "The Murder of the Loughnane Brothers"). It is now a National Monument in the care of the Board of Works.

CLOGHBALLYMORE

Cloghballymore is located about 1km south of the village of Ballindereen. It is a six-storey tower

house with the unique distinction of having all its wooden floors intact, although they may not be the original ones. There is even evidence of a wine cellar in a small room on the first floor. It contains many interesting features within, including a lovely lancet window on the ground floor, traces of wicker-work stone vaulting on the first floor, and a fine 17th century chimney piece in the top floor. Unfortunately, a large and ungainly boiler has been placed in the top storey, and some holes for pipes and other modifications have been made as a result.

It was the chief residence of the Kilikelly family. In 1585 it was in the possession of Brian Reagh Mac Kilkelly, and in 1619 King James I confirmed its possession by Gerald, son of Shane (could this be Shane Ballagh of Drumharsna?), son of Brian McGillaKelly. In that same year, the tower came into the possession of the Frenches, who held castles at Tyrone - where Tyrone House was later to be built - and Doorus - probably adjoining the old church at Parkmore. The Frenches took over Cloghballymore in 1656 from the Kilkellys, who continued to live in the area and may even have been joined by marriage to the Frenches. Through marriage, the Frenches eventually became related to some of the other "Tribal" families who held land in the area - the Kirwins of Cregg, the Blakes of Corbally, and the Skerretts of Finavarra. One of the family names associated with the Frenches of Cloghballymore is Surna, which comes from Sourna or Sourney - the saint connected with the ruined medieval church at Drumacoo, between Ballindereen and Kilcolgan.

In 1767, Surna French married Marcus Lynch of Barna, a widower whose deceased wife had been Anastace Blake of Ballinafad, and by whom he had had a son, also Marcus. This Marcus Lynch inherited Cloghballymore on the death of his father and it was he who built the large mansion-house that now adjoins the old tower house. Marcus Lynch had a daughter, Anne, who, in 1815, married Maurice Blake of Ballinafad, Co, Mayo. And on Maurice's death in 1851, Anne returned to Cloghballymore. She passed the house onto her son, Llewellyn, who married Mrs. Anne Murray of Northampton House, outside Kinvara. Llewellyn Blake and his wife had no children, and after her death in 1891, he decided to leave Cloghballymore to the Society of African Missions as a base for training priests. Blake died in 1916, and the house was, for many



Drumharsna Castle (Drawing: Anne Korff)

years, operated by the Society. Sometime in the 1950's, it was sold and became for a time a hotel. Today it is a private home for old people.

"MISSING" CASTLES

Three other castles should be mentioned before we conclude. Unfortunately, two of them no longer exist, and the third is only a mysterious ruin. There is good reason to believe that Kinvara originally had two other castles apart from Dun Guaire. The ruins of one of these can still be seen just to the west of Dun Guaire, on a small piece of land, nearly surrounded by water. All that remains is a fragment of a vaulted ground floor room. One theory is that this was an earlier Hynes castle destroyed by attack, and

that some of the stones were used to build Dun Guaire. The other, according to J.P. Hynes (see Tracht - 1987 "Was There A Castle At Ballybrannigan?") stood on the site of De La Maine Lodge, which now overlooks Kinvara Bay. According to one account, this castle was demolished and the stones used to build the first quay at Kinvara. The third castle stood on the edge of Aughnish Bay, west of Kinvara, and was destroyed as a result of Lisbon earthquake in 1755. It was another Hynes castle. Today only a mound of rubble marks the spot.

J.W. O'Connell



Cloghballymore House - Castle at extreme left

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LOOKING BACK ... AND LOOKING FORWARD

CRUINNIU NA mBAD '89 & '90

Kinvara's splendid festival of the Boats proved to be an enormous success last year, with huge numbers of people filling the village for three days. The weather - who can forget the amazing summer we had last year - co-operated wonderfully (someone up there obviously likes us!), and the excellent committee ran a "tight ship", providing much pleasure not only for the people of Kinvara but the many visitors to our town who have helped spread the word about this unique traditional Irish festival.

This year's Festival, which will be held between August 17th and 19th, promises to be another success. Following last year's Guest of Honour, Alan Dukes, T.D., Leader of Fine Gael, this year another politician gets a crack of the whip! This year's guest of honour, who will open the Festival, is newly elected Mayor of Galway Michael D. Higgins, T.D. Michael D. has a great "blast" of Irish and we all look forward to his Kinvara visit!

A new Cruinniu Committee has been recently elected. And before we give their names, we would just like to pay tribute to out-going Chairperson, Marie

O'Shaughnessy, whose tireless efforts on behalf of the Festival helped in no small way to making things run smoothly during the years in which she sat at the helm.

The new Committee Officers are: President: Mike Burke; Chairperson: Don Devaney; Secretary: Declan Connolly; Treasurer: Eileen Connolly; Joint P.R.O.: Thomas Leech and Enda O'Connor. Great news for this year's Festival is that for the first time Cruinniu has managed to find a major sponsor - Murphy's of Cork! Start filling them pints, boy!



Last year's Cruinniu Committee with Festival guests (L-R, Back Row): Tony Moylan, Declan Connolly, Tom Leech, Mike Burke, Don Devaney, Jim Barr. (L-R, Front Row): Thelma Mansfield, Enda O'Connor, Sue Madden, Cllr. Angela Lupton, Marie O'Shaughnessy, Eileen Connolly.



Last year's Guest of Honour, Alan Dukes, T.D., with Ban Ri, Tara Mooney



Caoilte Breathnach with Maura Hickey from Donegal, one of the winners of the singing competition held during last year's Cruinniu

Continued Success to Tráct
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KINVARA

THE GREAT ENCOUNTER

Whenever there is a regatta held in the Carna area, one is always bound to hear stories about the great boats and men of the past. True enough, some of the boats were much bigger than the biggest of the present day hookers. In the second half of the eighteenth century boats from Carna and Rosmuc were trading with France. The McDonoughs and Kings of Ard were trading with French ports and so were the O'Flaherty's of Ard More and the O'Malleys of Rosmuck.

Their boats were fifty-footers and over, but the vast majority of the boats trading turf to Galway, Kinvara and Clare were thirty-five to forty feet in length. The "O'Connell" is a boat often mentioned as the best boat that sailed Galway Bay in her time, but that was in the first half of the nineteenth century. She was forty-six foot over-all and owned by Brian O' Laidhe of Ard.

The French Revolution had a big effect on the trading but the Connemara boats changed their routes and kept trading with Geansa (Guernsey) for some years after. However, it was the Act of Union in 1891 that put the Caidh-Bárs on the trading. The whole country came under the British Parliament then and an import tax was levied on goods from France. Trading was stopped and patrol-boats known as "cutters" were sent to guard the coast. The cutters were designed and built by the best yards in England and were especially built for speed and manned by highly experienced men from the British Naval Forces. They were Masters of the Sea, but were they?

The traders turned to smuggling and got the goods delivered to Merchants in Galway in various ways, often concealed under turf. They sailed by night and met the big sailing ships coming into Galway. In those times the captains of cargo ships could bring goods and carry them on the ships as a deck-load, at their own risk. They could sell this cargo to anyone, but if they brought it into port they would have to pay custom-duty. Therefore the Connemara smugglers would meet the incoming ships anywhere between Slyne Head and the Iathrach, preferably close to Sgeirde. That part of the coast was not charted until 1865 and was known and feared by all seafarers as the "Gates of Hell". Expert local knowledge was needed to manoeuvre a sailing boat through the dangerous shallows and breakers that protected the Carna coast, nine miles to sea, and made Carna a safe haven for smuggling, but it wasn't to be for long. The sassenach was clever. They

always were and they were not to be beaten. Their pride 'Mas masters of the Sea' would not be tumbled, so the cutter took on a local-pilot. A man known and feared for his physical strength. Not alone was he known as the strongest man in Connemara at the time but also in Connaught-Páraic Labhráis Uí Fhlaithearta from Lettermullen.

This was a challenge, little did the Sassenach know that he was dealing with a producer race. The pride of Connemara boat men and boat-builders was suffering now. They were to be taken off the sea in their own area by the Sassenach whose laws they never asked for. Something had to be done about it. Small words in little harbours gathered force. It started as a trickle but turned into a flood. Wherever boat-men drank together it was the Caibidil, who would build the boat? Who would man her? Where

would she operate out of? Who would put up the money? Dominick O'Halloran who had a pub down near the Claddagh in Galway was caught up in this flood of pride. He was chosen to build a boat that would beat the cutter. Carna was chosen as the best area for the operation and she was crewed by two Carna men, a man from Rosmuck and a man from Inishner, so as to have expert local knowledge of the bays in case they would have to run there. By all accounts she was the fastest hooker ever built. There was to be an encounter with the cutter. There had to be, everyone was waiting for it.

Pateen Pheaitse Mac Donnacha R.I.P. told me the story about forty years ago, as we sat above Crumpán Dubh where he was living at the time.

"Maidin Le Breacadh Lae a bhi ann" a dúirt sé. "Bhi a lucht tóigthe ag an Ó Haloran ó shioiteach seoík a bhi ag dul isteach go Gaillimhe. Níor airiodar ariamh i go raibh an cutter chucab anoir. Bhiodar sgathamh siar ó Oileán Iathrach Árainn agus raide crua gaoithe enoir aduaith acub. Thug an t-Ó Halloran a haghaidh isteach ar



The MacDara Cuts majestically through the waters off Kinvara

Chruach na Cara agus lean an cutter i badh ghearr a bhi an Chuttair nach raibh sé a déanamh aon lémh dhi agus chaith sé urchar leis an Ó Halloran agus chàith sé i sruth na stiúrach e. "Tóig nios airde é" aduirt Páraic Labhráis lois an gCaitpín, "agus crochaidh tú den halamadóire é" Níor chhaith. "Fear chomh maith leis agus bád chomh maith lena bhád, ní dhéanfaidh mé é" adeir an caipín sassanach.

Mara dtóigfidh mé le glan fhair-play é ni dheagfaidh mé aohn dochar dá bhád". Seol siad isteach agus mgaoith sin, an mhuraite dhomhain — taobh istigh de Oilean Mhic Dara — agus muair a bhi si ag dul siar an Mhuraite dhomhain bhi an cutter o dheas go maith o charig Manas. Bhios ag Paraic Seamas nach seansaileagh an cutter a theacht an Mhuraite Dhomhain ach go dtiocfadh si isteach taobh thiar de Churach na Cara agus ni dhearnaidh se nuair a bhi si pluchta ar an oilean aige ach an t-O Hallaran e chasadadh sair cuan na h-Airde. An fhad is bhi seisean ag dul soir bhi an cutter ag dul siar taobh amuigh agus chionnigh se pluchta ar an oilean i no gur chas se suas cun na h-airde. Bhi talamh na h-Airde idir e fhein agus i phein nuair a thainig an cutter thimpeall heim a "reithe agus diabhal stopadh a rinne se gur sgaoil se isteach san gCrumpan Dubh annsin thios i ni raibh an ach go raibh a snamh, ar eigin ann. Ni raibh eon bhlos dhi le feiceal ach Carr an Chrainn agus bhi fhion acub nach raibh aon triail ann ghearradar an crann o deck dhi. Bhi si deckail iulug shocraigheadar i san geaoi da dtiocfadh aoinne thart nach raibh tada le feiceal ach bad gan crann.

Thainig an cutter ar an coire i mbeal an Mhasa agus chuaidh an caipín agus foireann i dtir agus amach leothab agus cleamhan stopadh a rinneadar go ndeacheigh siad suas ar chaoran an iolraigh. Bhiodar sgathart ag breatnu thart ar na caenta ach ni raibh an t-O

Hallaran na an crumpan le feiceal arub mar ta se isteach faoi bhun an chunic. Bhailiodar seothab arist agus sheoledar soir agus chuir an t-O Hallaran a lucht amach go sasta.

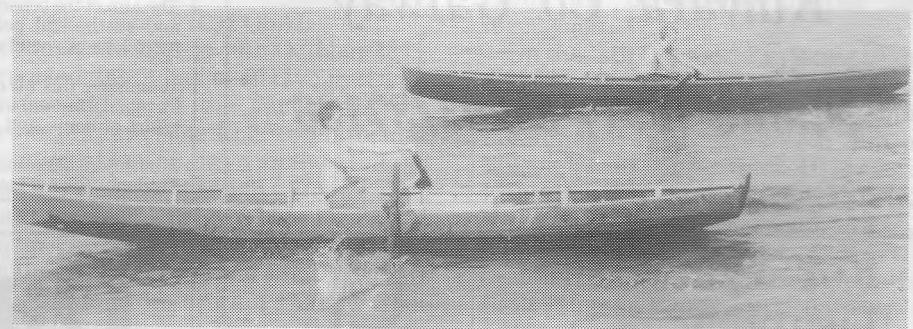
Sin mar bhi. Bhi an chaint Cainte den tsasanach a proud race of people.

Proud of their craftsmanship and proud of their ability in rigging and sailing their boats. It has surfaced so many times over the last few years. The drop of blood is still there.

Eamonn O'Conghaile.



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unanimously adopted.

First: Proposed by Dr. Nally and seconded by William Flatley: — "That as Kinvara is a congested district, where chronic distress exists, we respectfully call upon the Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, Her Majesty's Chief Secretary for Ireland, to take such steps as will help to relieve this sad state of things."

Second: Proposed by Mr. Fergus O'Dea and seconded by John Flatley — "That as we believe the opening up of the district by railway communication, would go far to remedy the existing evil, we ask Mr. Balfour to give practical effect to the resolution lately adopted by the Ballyvaughan Board of Guardians, by the construction of a railway between Oranmore and Ballyvaughan."

Third: Proposed by Thomas Corless and seconded by Hugh Watson "That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland".

A vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to Fr. Maloney for his dignified conduct in the chair and for his goal at all times in promoting the moral and material interests of his parish.

On November 5th 1895 a public meeting was held at Ballyvaughan. The attendance was large and representative of the people of the area and the surrounding district including Major W. Lynch, J. Townsend, Dr. E. Hynes, Fergus O'Dea, Terence Daly, Dr. G. W. McNamara, M. J. Keaven, Patrick R. Gaynor. Mr. John Gregory Martyn J.P. presided. Letters of apology were read from Most Rev. Dr. McCormack, Lord Bishop of Galway, the Marquis of Zetland (former Lord Lieutenant) Mr. William Redmond M.P., and Mr. Horace Plunkett M.P. Sir Peter O'Brien, Chief Justice of Ireland, wrote pledging his support, Major Lynch spoke of the great disadvantages the people in the neighbourhood of Kinvara, which was the best barley growing district west of the Shannon, suffered from want of proper railway accommodation. He had something to do with the company running the steamer in the Summer time from Galway to Ballyvaughan, and he did not think the steamer would clash with the railway or the railway with the steamer. He advocated the establishment of the railway as one interested in the development of the tourist traffic in Ireland. Several resolutions of support were adopted and it was decided to form a committee to wait on the Lord Lieutenant and the



The House at The Square, Ballyvaughan where Thomas Comyn lived.

Chief Secretary to press forward the scheme.

Several speakers supported the project and a number of resolutions were adopted. Rev. Fr. Burke P. P. Ballindereen was considered the most eloquent and prominent speaker by the newspapers. At the conclusion of the meeting a vote of sympathy was passed to the Nally Family, Kinvara, on the unexpected death of Dr. Nally that day. He had been an energetic supporter of the proposed railway and had proposed the main resolution at the Kinvara meeting.

A meeting of the Gort Board of Guardians adopted a resolution of support. This was proposed by J. C. Bagot J. P. and seconded by J. W. Brady Murray J. P.

The association cess-payers for the Barony of Burren also adopted a resolution of support which was proposed by Thomas Kearns and seconded by James O'Brien. Mr. H. V. McNamara, D.L. Ennistymon House, and Mr. Thomas Comyn, Ballyvaughan, Secretary, called upon the County Grand Jury and were well received. Following their presentation a resolution recommending that the Government should construct the line was proposed by Major Wilson Lynch and seconded by Colonel O'Hara. Subsequently the same deputation met the Town Grand Jury when Major Wilson Lynch proposed a similar resolution to that which had been adopted at the County Grand Jury. Mr.

SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

In an editorial the *Vindicator* was most enthusiastic about the project and its progress, saying that the meeting was a decided success and pointing out that a railway would help the oyster and the lobster fisheries. It saw the tons of seaweed scattered along the coast bringing in money to the owners if facilities existed for disposing of it to farmers in inland districts. In its opinion an irresistible case had been made to be laid before the Chief Secretary and had no doubt that one of the most influential deputations would be got together to wait on Mr. Balfour. It saw the proposed line as destined to be a favourite section of the Midland system.

On November 19th a public meeting was arranged at Clarenbridge. The Boys National School (now owned by Clarenbridge Crystal) where the meeting was held was crowded to capacity. Amongst the attendance was Rev. Fr. Burke C.C., Sr. Theobold Burke, Major Wilson Lynch and his son W. Wilson Lynch, John G. Martyn, Thos. Comyn, Edward Townsend C.E., J. Burke, Dr. Kirwan, L. L. Ferdinand, Thos. Kerin, P. Moody, J. Fahey, M. O'Donoghue and J. Sweeney. Letters of apology for inability to attend were read from the Lord Bishop of Galway, C. P. Redington, D. L. Col. O'Hara, W. Redmond M.P. and Rev. Fr. Maloney P. P. Kinvara.



A Railway Station similar to this would have been built in Kinvara.

Ferdinand seconded and it was unanimously adopted.

The Grand juries at the time were drawn from the influential people who were property owners in the city and county and the names are of interest now. The following were members of the City Grand Jury:—

Hon. Martin Morris, Spiddal (Foreman), Richard Blake, Annaghdown, Colonel Llewellyn Blake, Cloughballymore, Henry Palmer, Forster Park, Peter Blake, Bank of Ireland, Joseph R. Richardson, Eglinton Street, George C. Davenport, Ross Hill, Joseph Semple, Nile Lodge, Robert W. Holmes, Rookwood, John J. Kirwan, Ely Place, Thomas McDonogh, Flood Street, Nelson Palmer, The Crescent, Bartholomew Connolly, Mainguard Street, James M. Campbell, High Street, Lewis L. Ferdinand, Eyre Square, John McDougall, Eyre Square, Major J. Wilson Lynch, Renmore, Marcus Lynch, Barna, W. H. Persse, Glenard, W. S. Waithman, Merlin Park, Thomas Blake, Menlo Castle, John Miller, Weir House, William P. Hennessy, Rockbarton.

The County Grand Jury consisted of: Hon Charles Nugent, Flower Hill (Foreman), Sir V. Blake, Menlo Castle, Sir Henry Grattan Bellew, Mountbellew, Colonel J. A. Daly, Raford, Robert Blake, Ballyglunin Park, James McDermott, Renmore, Hyacinth D'Arcy, Newforest, John Cheevers, Killian, Major J. Wilson Lynch, Renmore, Colonel James O'Hara, Lenaboy, Francis J. Graham, Ballinakill, T. Redington Roche,

Ryehill, Charles D. O'Rourke, Clonberne, Ormsby B. Iller, Blindwell, Philip C. Trench, Woodlawn, Richard C. Lynch, Peterborough, James E. Jackson, Lisloughry, E. Shawe Toner, Portumna, Martin Morris, Spiddal, Burton Persse, Belleville, E. Lynch Athy, Renville, Capt. J. Lopdell, Bayview, J. M. E. Lewis, Ballygar.

In September when Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary, visited Lahinch he met a deputation of four — Rev. F. N. Newell P. P. New Quay, Major Wilson Lynch, Belvoir, Mr. H. V. McNamara, and Thomas Comyn, Clerk of the Union, Ballyvaughan. The case for the construction of the line was made, it being pointed out that they did not undertake to afford any local aid. They felt that the County of Clare was already sufficiently if not overtaxed, since certain baronies were contributing towards the railways constructed in the West and South of the county. Mr. Balfour asked why the 1500 to 2000 tons of barley grown in Kinvara was not shipped from there by steamer, but it was pointed out that it was very risky getting it away from the harbour at Kinvara and that sometimes a tug boat was necessary to get them to Galway. Mr. Balfour pointed out that a railway existed at Ardrahan, only 5½ miles from Kinvara, and that the pier at Ballyvaughan could also be used to provide a steamboat service. In conclusion he stated that it would be wrong for him to hold out hope unless they were prepared to contribute money towards the construction of the

railway and were able to get a railway company to work the line. He had the terms of the relative Railway Act, which stated that Treasury grants could only be given to projects within scheduled congested districts and he could not depart from it. It was shown in the Act, which was drawn up after careful considerations, that it was desirable to make a difference between congested districts. These conditions, no doubt, did create a hardship but he had to comply with its terms.

The *Vindicator*, which had given enthusiastic support to the project since its inception, was not too despondent following the deputation. It said that no objection whatever could be taken to Mr. Balfour's reply. As no portion of the district was scheduled as a congested district, the present Act did not apply. Treasury grants, out of the money voted by Parliament in the Light Railways Bill, could only be given to projects for the construction of railways within scheduled districts. The Chief Secretary did not absolutely refuse Government aid. He said if half the amount was raised locally, the Government would favourably consider an application for a grant for the other Moiety. It pointed out that the railway would benefit a large district, probably two or three baronies, and thought that these baronies could guarantee the half required without risk and the projected railway should prove a paying concern. It cited as an example that when the Galway — Clifden line was being constructed, the baronies interested were willing to guarantee an assessment of 6d in the £ but Mr. Balfour, on becoming Chief Secretary, had established the Congested Districts Board and had the railway constructed entirely by government grant. They urged the promoters to go on with the work and give the guarantee, provided they were convinced that the anticipated traffic of the projected line would more than cover the expense of the working of the railway. It had no doubt whatever that the Chief Secretary was determined to do everything in its power to advance the material interests of the country. It took up the suggestion by Major Wilson Lynch that the Act be amended and the districts secheduled as congested. Anyone who had travelled the road and thought over the subject would see that Kinvara and Ballindereen should have been so scheduled. It suggested that Rev. Fr. Maloney P. P. (Kinvara) and the Rev. Fr. Burke P.P. (Ballindereen)



If the plan had been realised, locomotives like this could have been a frequent sight passing through Kinvara.

should take the matter up earnestly and when the Act was amended it had no doubt that these districts would be scheduled. There would then be no difficulty in the way of having the line constructed by a Treasury Grant for the purpose. The Midland railway, would no doubt, under specific arrangements, work the new line. It strongly urged that the subject be not left in abeyance by the promoters. The deputation to Mr. Balfour was by no means discouraging and there was no reason whatever that the project, fraught with such deep interests to wide districts of Clare and Galway, should be abandoned.

LAST EFFORT

In the *Vindicator* of 16th December, 1896, a letter from Thomas Comyn was published together with copies of correspondence he had exchanged with the Chief Secretary as follows:

Ballyvaughan
10th Dec. 1896.

My Dear Sir,
Be good enough to publish in

tomorrow's issue of the *Vindicator* the accompanying correspondence I have had recently with the Chief Secretary on the subject of the proposed Oranmore and Ballyvaughan railway.

You will observe that Mr. Balfour's reply to my letter of the 23rd November last decided the fate of the project. I will only add that if the Chief Secretary were directly acquainted with the circumstances of the district he would not stop to put the people in possession of the machinery by which they can transport to market their agricultural produce nor stay to advance their industrial interests if those can be taken as elements in the development of the resources of the country.

It may be the alarming findings of the Financial Relations Commission may bring no better luck next time. Believe me, my dear sir,

Faithfully yours,
Thomas Comyn

Clerks Office,

23rd Nov. 1896.

Sirs,

I am directed by the promoters of the Oranmore and Ballyvaughan Railway to request your replies to the following queries:—

1. Will you recommend them the same privilege for the construction of this railway, that you have recommended to the promoters of the East Clare Railway (Ennis to Scarriff) viz; half the sum required, for the construction of the line, if we get the two Grand Juries of Clare and Galway to guarantee the other half by Baronial Assessments, and that we get the Directors of the Midland Great Western Railway to make the line, and take over its working.

2. If we succeed in getting part or the entire of the territory between Oranmore and Ballyvaughan scheduled "congested" (and on the whole it ought) will you recommend the entire grant for the construction of the railway, and provided we get the Directors of the Midland Great Western Railway to make it, take it over, and work it.

I may be permitted to say that the projected railway would be a splendid success and would in a very short time prove a paying enterprise, and would unquestionably complete that prestigious Railway System made in the North and West of Ireland by your distinguished brother.

I have the honour to remain,
Your most obedient servant
Thomas Comyn

To Right Honourable Gerard Balfour,
M.P. Chief Secretary, Ireland, The
Castle, Dublin.

Chief Secretary's Offices
Dublin Castle,
2nd December, 1896.

Dear Sir—

With reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo on the subject of the proposals and Ballyvaughan and Oranmore Railway the Chief Secretary desires me to say that he has most carefully considered the proposed line in connection with other schemes which have been submitted to the Government and he regrets he is unable to recommend the Lord Lieutenant to certify it under the provisions of the first section of the Railways (Ireland) Act 1896.

The answer to this question will include the second question in your letter, but the Chief Secretary thinks it may be well to add that it is not possible to schedule a district congested without a special act of parliament.

I am Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
L. C. Dowdall.

Thomas Comyn Esq.
Ballyvaughan.

The *Vindictive* in its editorial on December 16th., referred to the letters between Mr. Comyn and the Chief Secretary, saying that it was now clear that the projected line was outside the provisions of the Railways (Ireland) Act 1896. It referred to the proposed East Clare line which was to serve Scarrif, Feakle, Tulla and other areas, where the Chief Secretary was offering £62,500 for its construction on condition that a similar sum was obtained from the Board of Works on Baronial guarantee. This to mean increased taxation of 3d. in the £, the annual sum to be paid in interest to the Board of Works being £1,200. It saw no reason why a similar arrangement could not be made for the Oranmore — Ballyvaughan line, and urged the

promoters to pursue this. It felt that the area from Kinvara to Clarinbridge should be scheduled 'congested' whereby the ratepayers would be relieved of the additional taxation.

Rev. Fr. Skerritt, (Ballyvaughan), who was doing so much in the interest of the poor fisherman on the coast, was investigating this. He was still confident that the railway would be a splendid success and would in a short time prove a paying enterprise.

END OF THE LINE

The project is not mentioned thereafter and as Mr. Comyn said in his letter to the *Vindictive* its fate had been decided. It must be assumed that the promoters had failed in their efforts to raise the required finance or to have any of the area scheduled 'congested'.

In relation to the latter, it is interesting that to-day almost 100 years afterwards, the "congested" status of the area is still being debated in the political arena, the only difference is that the modern European description for this is "disadvantaged".

The *Vindictive* played a major role throughout the campaign. It reported

in detail from all the meetings held, it offered encouragement all through to the promoters and was always emphasising right up to the end the great benefit and advantage such a facility would bring to the areas concerned.

That the project did not succeed is a matter of regret, and all of us who lived in that hinterland since have been deprived of the great benefits and the memories that the facility would undoubtedly have brought. Would Kinvara have become the centre of manufacturing industry as was envisaged if the line was constructed? Would the oyster beds in the area be developed any more than they are now? What else would it have brought? This is all conjecture now and one can only speculate as to what might have been. Had it been established it is certain that it would have ceased long ago just as the Achill, Clifden, the West Clare and so many other branch lines have. The lovely cut stone station buildings, the bridges, the railway cottages and who knows what else would however be there as reminders.

Jimmy O'Connor

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Sub-Office — Kinvara — Each Wednesday

Tracht is very pleased to present this year a delightful story for children by EMER O'DONNELL. As with all good children's stories - and this one has the simplicity and beauty of the best - it can be read with pleasure by grown-ups too! We hope all of our readers - from the youngest to the oldest - will enjoy it...

THE STORK AND THE RAINBOW

Once upon a time, a long long time ago, the earth was young. And it was beautiful, or so God thought, until he realised that - it was all one colour! The trees and bushes were green and so was the grass. Well, that was fine, he decided. But, the stones were green, so were all the flowers, birds, animals, fish, and even the water. Now, even for God, that was a bit too much green. He wondered what he could do, so he sat and thought...and thought and sat...but no ideas came to him. And all this thinking made him very tired indeed, so very soon his head became heavy and he dropped off to sleep.

Now, while he was asleep, one of God's creature's came to call on him. It was Piraeus the Stork. Piraeus was a tall, green bird, the exact colour green as all the other birds God made. But Piraeus was different in one way. He was far taller than most of his friends. He had long long legs, a long long body and a long long neck. In fact, he was so much taller than his friends that he often had to stoop quite a bit in order to hear what they were saying. That often made his friends laugh because when he did that, he looked like a very peculiar letter "S". Sometimes he laughed too, but other times he felt a little bit tired of being different and so, he called to ask God if he could stop being so tall and lanky. When he saw that God was asleep, he decided to sit outside his house and wait for him to wake up. So, he sat and looked up at the beautiful green sky and watched the green clouds roll by and thought how nice the world was.

Then, a very strange thing happened. It started to rain. What's so strange about that? you might ask. Well, God was so busy making flowers and animals and plants that he forgot to tell them that he had to make rain as well in order to make everything grow. Can you imagine what a fright Piraeus got? When an extra big drop splashed onto his beak he was sure the sky was falling. And worse - God had forgotten to colour the raindrops green, so these splashes had no colour at all! Piraeus jumped up in fright and ran around in circles trying to avoid the splashes. That didn't work. So he flapped his long wings to try to chase them away. But still they fell, splash, splash, more and more of them came tumbling down and

splattered on the lovely green grass and trees.

"Oh dear me, oh dear, dear me!", squawked Piraeus anxiously, "What will I do? What will I do?!"

And all the animals and birds ran and flew as fast as they could under the trees to hide from the splashes.

"Oh dear!", Piraeus cried, "God will be so cross if his sky falls. He might say it's my fault. Oh dear, what will I do?"

And then, Piraeus had an idea.

"I'll tell him. Yes, I'll tell him straight away and then he'll fix it. Oh dear me, yes, I'll do that. I'll do just that!"

But - oh my goodness! - God was still asleep on his throne, snring away under his great white beard. Now, Piraeus didn't want to wake God because he knew God had been working very, very hard.

"Oh, if all his sky falls he will have so much MORE work to do!", thought Piraeus, "Poor God. Oh my goodness!"

And then, Piraeus had another idea.

"I'll fly up into the sky and find out where the splashes are coming from. And then, then I'll cover the hole with my wings until God wakes up and fixes it. Yes, That's what I'll do!"

But Piraeus had a problem. You see, he didn't really know where rain came from. But he was a brave bird, and so, with a great big leap, he stretched his lovely long wings towards the clouds and flew off to find the hole in the sky.

Well, as you can imagine, the closer he flew to the clouds, the wetter poor Piraeus became. But on he flew, higher and higher, climbing all the time until he was but a small, dark green speck way up in the sky. And still he flew upwards into the clouds. And he began to feel their coldness against his wings. And he felt their wetness.

"How strange", thought Piraeus, "How very, very strange. This feels like water, but it's not water at all. What can it be?"

And he was a little frightened, but on he flew, for Piraeus was a brave bird indeed.

All at once he flew above the highest cloud in the sky, and oh my goodness! What a sight met his eyes! There, right above him, was a huge, hot ball! And

worst of all - IT WASN'T GREEN!

Piraeus didn't know what it was. But we know, readers, don't we. Yes, it was the SUN! It sparkled with reds and yellows and oranges and purples - colours that Piraeus had never seen in his whole life. Poor Piraeus thought the something really terrible had happened while God was asleep.

"The whole world is unraveling. I know it is. that hot thing is melting a hole in the God's clouds!", squawked Piraeus.

He was frightened, but he was also very brave. And he wanted to help God because he loved him. So, he opened his wings as wide as he could to block the bright and blinding rays of the huge fiery ball. And what a sight he looked! He was like a very crooked "X" as he danced and wobbled above God's clouds in an effort to protect them...

The great big Sun looked down from the heavens and saw Piraeus. And he smiled on him, for Piraeus looked indeed very funny. And as he smiled, a great big flash of light beamed from the face of the Sun and danced on Piraeus' wings. The light kissed all the drops of water that lay upon them and turned them into jewels of the most beautiful colours. There were red drops, indigo drops, violet drops, orange drops, blue drops, and purple drops.

And Piraeus saw his beautiful green wings glow with these strange and wonderful colours and he was afraid. So afraid, in fact, that he forgot to flap his wings at all. He just stared at himself in amazement.

Well, you can imagine what happened next. Yes, Poor Piraeus began to fall to the ground. But as he fell, the raindrops leapt from his body, laughing and chattering, so delighted were they with their colours. Still, Piraeus continued falling and falling, heading towards God's Earth.

But the winds saw him and rushed to help. They blew him gently to lessen his fall. And as they did so, the grasses beneath held themselves as tall as they dared so as to soften his landing. and so, he fell to Earth cushioned by its softness. As he landed, the rest of the raindrops flew into the air in a sparkle of colours and kissed all the flowers around him.

For a while Piraeus did not move. "Oh dear, I must be hurt. It was such a long way to fall", he thought, so he kept his eyes closed as he felt his long long legs and his long long body with his long long wings. But the soft grass and the gentle winds had saved him and, apart from a few ruffled feathers, Piraeus the Stork was perfect.

Then, as he opened his eyes and looked around, he squawked in horror. "Oh my! Oh my goodness! I've torn God's sky!"

But Piraeus had not torn the sky, he had done something else, something very special. He had made a rainbow! There in the sky, a beautiful many-coloured arch reached across the horizon. It was so amazing and so extraordinarily beautiful that all the animals and all the birds peeped out of their hiding places to gaze at it.

And there was more! The drops Piraeus had carried to the Earth had lit up all the flowers with a blaze of reds and yellows and oranges and, in fact, every other colour in the rainbow, and the flowers turned their faces to the heavens in thanks, so proud were they of their brilliance. And all the animals and birds crept out of their hiding places and shared in their beauty.

But Piraeus did not. Instead, he

covered his eyes with his long long wings and curled himself up as small as he could (which was quite difficult for such a large bird). And he thought sadly, "I've ruined God's Earth. I've torn his sky and spoiled his flowers. How angry he will be, and how sad he will be, now that all his work has been ruined by me!"

And Piraeus wept.

But then, he heard the voice of God calling across the rolling hills. "Where is he? where is Piraeus the Stork? Take me to him!"

The winds carried God in their arms very gently to where Piraeus lay, curled up and trying to hide. And God bent down to be near him, and he spoke to the stork in a kind voice.

"Ah, my noble bird. You came to me because you wished me to change you from what you are. Instead, it is you who have changed my world - and for this, I thank you".

Piraeus could hardly believe his ears! Did God just say "thank you" to him? He slowly uncurled his long long neck and looked at the face of God. And God very gently caught one of Piraeus' tears in his great hand and held it high for the Sun to kiss. And with this kiss the tear too was transformed into a

jewel of the purest white light. This jewel God placed on Piraeus' head. And the whiteness spread over his whole body until he nearly equalled the Sun in brilliance.

Then God spoke again. "Ah Piraeus, for everything there is a reason, Because your heart is brave and true, your love for me has given my sky a rainbow and my green Earth its colours. Stand tall, my friend, and enjoy your new world".

God swept the shy bird into his arms and held him high for all to see. And he called to the Sun, in a voice full of laughter -

"Come, my bright friend, share your colours with us and let us join in your beauty!"

And so, it did.

Emer O'Donnell and her husband Bartley, and their two children, Tommy and Owen live in Doorus. This is one of a number of stories for children she has written recently. She has also written a number of short stories for adults.

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IN OLD KINVARA

KINVARA CEMETERY

Not many outsiders know that between the houses on the main street of Kinvara and the sea is an ancient graveyard and the ruins of an old church. In fact it is at first floor level so that people from their bedrooms can see row after row of headstones.

In November, 1866, the parish priest Father Francis Arthur was not happy that people continue to be buried there; it was overcrowded and a health hazard, yet efforts to close it caused strong local opposition. The public authorities had decided to close it, as a time when Lord Gough was chairman of the Gort Union. The opposition was so great that Fr. Arthur called on Lord Gough at Lough Cutra Castle and asked him to use his influence to have the order rescinded as he said he was sure that political and other disturbances would arise on the enforcement of the order. On November 28th 1866, Lord Gough wrote to the Chief Secretary explaining the case.

The Board of Guardians he wrote thought it was necessary as "the ground reaches up to within six feet of



This very interesting photograph shows Jane Forde, Mick Forde's mother, and Sheila Conneely's grandmother, who lived near where the McInerney's now live, in Kinturla, Doorus.

the second storey of the houses in the principal street." Many had to board up their windows to keep out the effluvia arising from the bodies buried there because the bones and skulls were almost falling in the windows still left open. There was not six inches of earth in any part of the graveyard available for burying coffins, there being nothing but loose stones and the remains of former graves.

Father Arthur told Lord Gough that there were other graveyards and that he had dissuaded most people from using the overcrowded cemetery. Lord Gough however, felt that he should insist on preventing further burials. He was not personally acquainted with the people of the area but he had been informed that ordinary Kinvara people agreed with the closure but that the opposition came from men "of the islands", "an ignorant and wild set of men".

Lord Gough in his letter to the Castle added an interesting little post-script. He said he was told the priest was a very nervous man and had been told that because of his backing of the closure of the cemetery he would not be paid his Christmas dues!

Four more letters reached the Castle in connection with this affair and it seems that the authorities did not insist on the complete closure of the burial place.

Extract from
'Connacht Tribune' 1953

DR. NALLY COMES TO KINVARA

Kinvara Dispensary District:

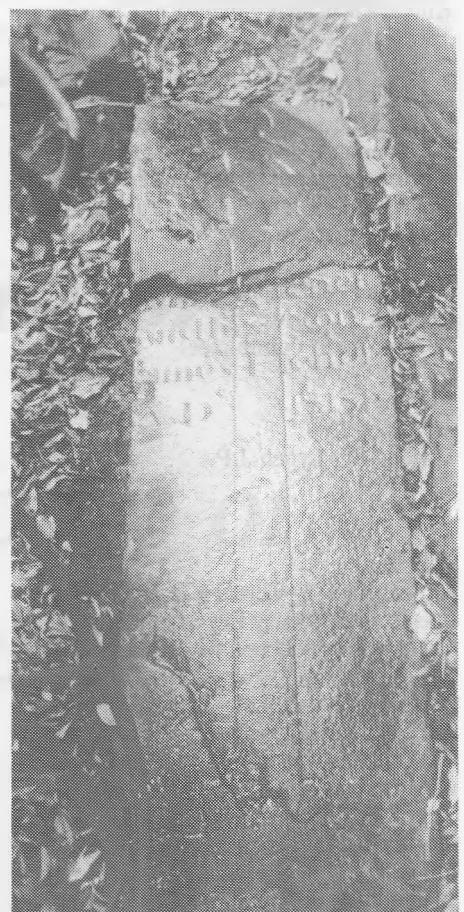
A meeting of the Committee of Management of the Kinvara Dispensary District was held yesterday for the election of Medical Officer in the rooms of Dr. Hynes, retired.

The Chair was occupied by Capt. Llewellyn Blake and the other members present were: Capt. Blakeforster, Arthur Alexander, the Rev. W. Moran, William Flatley, Michael Staunton, John Burke, Owen Sweeney, Henry Flanagan, William Hynes, Pat Curtin, and John Kilkelly. Dr. Brodie, Local Government Inspect-

or, also attended. The only candidate for the office was Dr. William Nally, Medical Officer of the Ardrahan Dispensary District who was proposed by Capt. Blake and seconded by Capt. Blakeforster. Dr. Nally was unanimously elected.

In returning thanks, Dr. Nally said it would ever be his desire to follow in the footsteps of his father-in-law, Dr. Hynes, and expressed the hope that he would become as popular as he (Dr. Hynes) had been. He thanked the Committee of Management on his own behalf and on behalf of Dr. Hynes to whom they could pay no higher compliment than by unanimously electing his son-in-law to the position so long, so creditably, and so successfully held by himself.

From the "Galway Vindicator", July 10th, 1875



One of the medieval graveslabs in St. Coman's Church. It is possible that more such graveslabs lie under the rubble inside the church.

TWO LETTERS FROM THE WILSON-LYNCH PAPERS NOW IN THE U.C.G. LIBRARY

(In May 1899, two Kinvara citizens wrote to John Wilson-Lynch, whose Kinvara residence was at Newtownlynch in Doorus, to ask him to use his influence to help bring tourists to Kinvara. Some things never change!)

Corless's Hotel,
Kinvara
Co. Galway.
30th May, 1899

Major J. Wilson Lynch
Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favour of this morning with cheque for £1 towards Race Fund to hand. I beg to return you my most sincere and grateful thanks for your generous subscription and good wishes for the success of our Races. I am directed by the Race Committee to ask you as a Gentleman who always took a very great interest in the welfare of Kinvara & in your capacity as Chairman of The Galway Bay Steamboat Company to use your very great influence with the Board of Directors in giving Kinvara a share of the summer Sunday excursion traffic. Trusting you will see your way to do something in that direction, for which Kinvara people will feel every grateful, I have the honour to remain

Dear Sir,
Your most obedient,
Thomas P. Corless
(Treas. Race Committee)

Kinvara.
30th May 1899.
Major J.W. Lynch J.P.

Dear Sir,
As secretary to Kinvara Race Committee I beg to acknowledge the receipt of £1 which you have so kindly sent through Mr. Thomas Corless and I am likewise directed by them to return to you their grateful thanks for same. They also desire me to draw your attention to the way in which the people of Kinvara are overlooked by the Board of Directors of The Galway Steamboat Company in the way Sunday excursions in the summer time. They feel confident that the matter need only to be brought under your notice when you will give it your consideration. Having always taken such an interest in the people of Kinvara, they expect you will kind-

ly introduce the matter at the next meeting of the board.

I am Sir,
Your Obt. Serv't,
James Kilkelly.
Hon. Sec.
Race Committee.

rooms of Dr. Hynes, retired.

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From the "Galway Vindicator", July 10th, 1875

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE.... A PROPER SUPPLY 150 YEARS LATER?

In Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, which contained brief accounts of every city, town and village in the country as they were in 1837, the year the two-volume work was published, we find this remark in the entry for Kinvara:

"Fresh water is scarce, but attempts are being made to obtain a larger supply".

As we go to press, Kinvara people - and Doorus people perhaps even more! - will be pleased to see the great activity taking place along the main street as new pipes are laid down, to bring "a larger supply" from the new source at Northampton...even if we've had to wait 150 years for it to happen!

DR. NALLY COMES TO KINVARA

Kinvara Dispensary District:
A meeting of the Committee of Management of the Kinvara Dispensary District was held yesterday for the election of Medical Officer in the

FAMINE RELIEF IN KINVARA

IN 1847

(The following is a letter dealing with subscriptions to Famine Relief in 1847.



This photograph was taken outside Seamount, c. 1930, and shows actress Daphne Carroll (Brennan), mother of Paul Brennan and probably best known to the nation as "Mrs. Doyle" of RTE's Harbour Hotel. Pictured (L-R) are Sr. Cecilia, Emily Carroll (Daphne's mother), Mother Dympna (who was Mother Superior of Seamount and later Gort), Joseph Carroll (Daphne's father), and unidentified nun, Fr. Fahey, P.P. of Kinvara, Mary Turner, Tom Turner. The two little girls in front are Daphne Carroll and Maureen Turner, her cousin.

Readers of Tracht will already know from articles that have appeared in previous years, as well as "Kinvara History: A Family Affair", that the Great Famine had a terrible effect on the area, and led to a dramatic population decline that was only arrested in the last few decades. Caoilte Breathnach's forthcoming book - "A Word In Your Ear" - contains some vivid and powerful folk reminiscences of the Famine in Kinvara and round about.)

To W. Stanley, Esq.
Secretary.

(Note: Stanley was Secretary of the Gort Poor Law Union)

Kinvara,
March 28, 1847

Sir,
I have the honour to forward to you the subscription list of the Kinvara Relief Committee agreeably to the instructions in your circular of the 23rd instant and which I only received this morning in consequence of being absent at the Galway assizes for the last week to which I was summoned and which assizes the Chairman was also obliged to attend as a Grand Juror of this County.

Under these circumstances, May I express a hope that Sir Randolph North will receive our application n the 30th as it would be utterly impossible for us, for the reasons stated above, to have made the application earlier.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant,
Denis Hynes,
Secretary.

(The list of subscribers is given here, with the sums subscribed.)

Robert Gregory, Esq., Coole Park (£25); Miss Gregory, Coole Park (£5); Bartholomew De Basterot & Family,

Duras House (£10); P.M. Lynch, Duras Park (£10); Right Hon, Dr. Ffrench, Gort (£5); Rev. Wm. Arthur, P.P. Kinvara (£5); Denis J. Hynes, M.D., Kinvara (£5); Daniel O'Dea, Duras Mills (£3); Charles Higgins & Family, Normangrove (£3); Martin Linnane, Kinvara (£2); Bartholomew Birmingham, Kinvara (£2); Miss Lafoe, Duras Mills (£1); Lawrence Kelly, Kinvara (£1); Major Burns, Inspecting Officer, Gort (£1); Terence Hynes, Poulnagan (£1); Edward O'Shaughnessy, Kinvara (£1); Patrick Kenedy, Gortnaglough (£1); Bartley Curtin, Rue House (£1).



Tiffey moves in all the right circles! Here she is with author Bryan MacMahon at Cruinniu na mBad.

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

What sort of a place to live in is Kinvara? What has it got to offer that sets it apart from other places. We could answer that it's 'peaceful'. But so, also, are Ballindereen, New Quay and numerous other places. Well it's a beautiful little place. So, also, is Ballyvaughan.

It has many archaeological and historical sites. So has Inis Mór and the Burren.

We could list many other positive attributes, but we'd see, in every case, that we share them with other places. If Kinvara is unique, as we like to think it is, it is only through a combination of its physical attraction and also the determination of its people to build a united, caring and stimulating community.

ATTITUDES

We can adopt a negative attitude and say that 'things never happen' in Kinvara. This would be true if they were not made to happen. In many cases people saw a need and went out and tried to satisfy that need. That is why we have a number of very successful clubs that are the envy of many other communities. These would include the Ladies Hockey Club, the G.A.A., The Swimming Club, the Bridge Club, the Camogie Club, the Youth Centre, the Drama Society and some others.

Dancing and Irish music classes were requested, and after initial difficulty in getting teachers to come to Kinvara, we are now in the position of having a number of them catering for the demand. Adult Education classes were also sought and provided.

This is what community development is all about. Each one of us can contribute our little bit to the process. The alternative is to carp, bicker and criticise from the safety of our negativity. The safest thing in the world is to do nothing. To take action is always a risk. It leaves you open to misrepresentation, criticism and hurt. But it also enables you to grow, and to help others to grow. If you stop growing you are either dead, or you have been transformed into a spineless specimen, which has lost its humanity.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT

Most of the 'popular' organisations in our community provide for the social and/or recreational needs of different age groups. But there are others, which are attempting to improve the

economic climate and to protect our environment. The Community Council spans both areas. The Tidy Towns Committee, the Integrated Rural Development movement and Cruinníu na mBád are trying to strengthen the economic base, while níshaol Beo continually keeps before our eyes the importance of the heritage we possess in the air we breath, the surrounding countryside and our fresh water resources and sea.

Catering for the educational needs of the area is another aspect of development. We are very fortunate in having four excellent schools in the parish for our young people. But education is an on-going process which should go on right through life. Hopefully TRÁCT goes some way in filling the gap. We should be grateful, also to the different people, over the years who have generously shared their skills with others at evening classes.

Pressing for better infrastructure is often a thankless and frustrating job. At the time of writing the pipes for the new water scheme have been delivered and we can look forward to its completion this year. The County Council does not yet accept that there is a need for an improved sewerage system.

I.R.D.

Kinvara has been included in a pilot area for Integrated Rural Development. Basically, this means that communities must come together to formulate a plan for the orderly development of (in our case) the South Galway - East Clare region. At this stage two separate development plans are being drawn up for each of the two disparate areas in the region. Don Devaney is the chairperson of the South Galway group, which comprises three representatives from each of nine parishes.

People will remember that a number of quite well attended meetings were held about a year ago. However, it appears that some people expected 'instant success' and the early momentum died.

The objective of IRD is to help create

jobs and thereby cut down the unemployment and emigration from our parishes. We must take steps to keep our young at home.

T.D.'s and other public representatives can't be expected to do the job for us. They can create the environment in which it can be done, but we must do it ourselves.

I.R.D. must be got to work. It can be connected to the Community Council or it can be set up as an independent organisation in the parish. But whichever way it is organised, it will demand commitment, patience and hard work.

SOCIAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

The Social Employment Schemes have been one of the more imaginative and useful initiatives to emanate from the state in the past number of years. The Community Council employed five people up to the beginning of November and the result of their excellent work is to be seen in the widespread involvement and appreciation in drama, in the pride in our folklore, which will result in the publication of a new book "A Word in your Ear" — The Folklore of Kinvara. Those employed on the scheme concentrated on looking after and improving our Community Centre and grounds, and in the Secretarial Services which were available to all volunteer groups in the parish. Paul Brennan's contribution in the area of drama was outstanding.

The County Council has promised to initiate a Social Employment Scheme to improve our Cemeteries.

It is hoped that a new scheme, sponsored by Fás and the Community Council, will begin in late spring. It will cover a wide area of activity and will make services available to schools and voluntary groups if suitable personnel can be employed.

CONCLUSION

Factors outside our control, such as an upsurge in terrorist activity either in Ireland or abroad, could affect us indirectly here in Kinvara. However, if adverse circumstances do not predominate we can, confidently expect an increase in tourism over the coming years. If we plan now we could create jobs which would provide well-paid employment.

We must ask ourselves what we can do to make Kinvara unique and compellingly attractive. It is only we as a united community that can create such a place.

One idea that might be worth considering is to make Kinvara a centre for the arts. Already we have achieved well deserved acclaim for our drama, music, art and publications. Could this be built upon? Could we erect a beautiful sculpture which reflects our heritage and values at one of the entrances to the village? Could

we have more visual art at different public locations? Could we revive the idea of a Francis A. Fahy weekend or week to explore the literary and folklore wealth of the area. Could we have the vision and imagination to abandon the unsightly plastic signs which have increased in number in the past year? Could the multi-million pound drinks industry be prevailed upon to sponsor some of our excellent artists to create signs which would be aesthetically attractive.

Some might say that these

suggestions, if carried out, would be a prostitution of art. But if carried into effect they would improve the quality of our own lives. We would all become more aware of our environment and heritage. They would no longer be 'museum items' but a developing and vibrant expression of what we are.

Remember the motto we adopted last year — 'Ar Aghaidh le Chéile'. Together there is no limit to what we can achieve.

KINVARA TIDY TOWNS REPORT

The 1989 progress report from Bord Failte on the National Awards, states that Kinvara was well presented overall on adjudication day this year.

Steady progress is being made in tackling problems and improving the appearance of the town. Sustained effort is the key to future success, but there are still a number of items that need attention.

The standard of litter control still falls short of that required. An effort should be made to keep the town completely free of litter.

The overall standard of presentation of buildings is inconsistent, examples of well presented premises include Brogans, O'Shaughnessys, the Old Plaid Shawl, Sayers etc. The problem of derelict buildings is still with us. Progress in achieving the removal of one Neon Sign since last year is commendable. Hopefully this will encourage owners of other buildings with neon signs to take action, they are out of context in Kinvara. Flower displays in the town are commendable.

Similar displays, especially in baskets and boxes in front of commercial premises, would be a big improvement.

Very little progress seems to have been made in improving the standard of presentation of approach roads to the town. With a little help and effort we could increase our marking under this heading by ten to fifteen points.

Houses and gardens at the estate adjacent to the harbour were well presented again this year, some improvement was noted in the standard of presentation of the communal space at this estate.

Overall Kinvara did reasonably well this year, having got 162 marks in the national awards, up two marks on last year, placing Kinvara first in Category B. in the county (there are nine towns in Category B). Kinvara is now placed

fourth in Co. Galway. There were thirty five towns entered from the county. Well done Kinvara!

Paddy Geraghty.

GLÓR na nGAEAL

Chuir Cinn Mhara isteach ar Chomortas Glór na nGael don chéad uair anuraidh. Ritheadh tri-chúmsa Gaeilge agus eagráiodh Comórtas Ambránáiochta ar an Sean-Nós.

Aithniodh go ndarna Cruinnui na nBÁD, An Coirte Comhcheargailte agus Comhairle an phobail iarracht an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, agus gur usáideadh an Ghaeilge san Aifieann agus i ndeasgráthá eaglasta ó am go ham.

An ceart díonn cur isteach ar an gcomórtgas arís? An bhfuil móran, daoine sa phariste ar suin leo ar ghaeilge a chainneáil mar thearga beo? Má tá téidis i dtéargmhail le comhairle an phobail á chur sin in iúl.

MUINTIR NA TIRE

The Community Council is affiliated to Muintir na Tire. This was founded as a dynamic organisation for rural development in the late 1930's by Canon Hayes. In 1949 a branch was established in Kinvara and it has continued, uninterrupted, to the present day.

There are suggestions that something should be done to mark the 40th anniversary of Munitir na Tire in Kinvara. It should be a foretaste of the celebrations which we'll have in ten

years time to mark the Golden Anniversary.

NEW FAMILY

Liam and Anne Connolly and family have returned to live in Killina. Liam has transferred to the Western Development Centre, Teagasc, Athenry, where he is involved in research on economic aspects of Integrated Rural Development.

He spent the last 14 years with the Agricultural Institute in Sandymount Avenue, Dublin as a Senior Research Economist in the Farm Management Division.

SR. CATHERINE SAYS GOODBYE

Sr. Catherine McInerney, a daughter of James and Kate McInerney of Rineen, Doorus, recently completed five years of service in the London parish of Our Lady in Fulham. A large crowd, along with the "Green, White and Country" Band, turned out for the big farewell party. Father Donal spring of the Irish Chaplaincy said Sr. Catherine's work could only be described as "superb" and she would be sorely missed in the parish. She now goes to the Irish Chaplaincy in Holloway Road.



Children watch as John Quinn plants one of the trees presented to Kinvara Community Centre by Noel Lane.



Other Guides & Maps: The Burren – Ballyvaughan,
The Burren – Kilfenora, The Burren – O'Brien Country,
Kiltartan Country – South Galway, Kinvara.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

CAMOGIE

Founded and registered in January 1989

Officers:

Chairperson — Kathleen Curtin
Vice Chairperson — Cathy Tannian
Secretary — Moya MacEoin
Asst. Secretary — Maura Fallon
Treasurer — Rita Huban
Asst Treasurer — Mrs. Quinn
P.R.O. — Mary Quinn
Fielded 5 teams

Under 10 won County Final beat Pearses 1-3 to 1-0 in final.

Under 12 won County final beat Mullagh 0-3 to 0-1.

Under 13 beaten in County Final by 1 point

Under 14 beaten in quarter-final.

Under 16 narrowly beaten in 1st round. From the outset team effort was stressed. No progress would be made if the team played as individuals. All success was due to the combined efforts of the team and to many long hours of training. As this was Kinvara's

first year training was vital for all teams. Many long hours were spent by all the players in the GAA field. This stood to all the teams in the later stages of their matches.

Funds for the club came from a Raffle, a £250 grant from the Minister for Sport and small donations from a number of corporate bodies. The club subsidised team transport in early rounds and supplied a coach for all the county finals.

Trainers for the various teams included Micky McCormack, Ambrose Fahy, Cathy Tannian, Carmel Donoghue and of course the indomitable Kathleen Curtin.

All associated with the club worked hard and deserve the success achieved by the club in its first year. Competitiveness and good sportsmanship were always in evidence.

A bright future looms for Camogie in Kinvara.

SOUTH GALWAY ATHLETIC CLUB

Many from Kinvara were involved in this club, it is felt that the talent of Kinvara has not yet been fully harnessed in the sphere of athletics.

Many young people from Kinvara won medals in the Co. Galway BLE sports. These included Brenda Fallon, Rachel Curtin, Veronica Curtin, John Donoghue, John McGinley, Paul Conneely, Brenda Fahy, Paula Fahy. In the Schools Cross Country Championships Doorus School came 3rd. Team included Veronica and Rachel Curtin, Brenda Fahy, Teresa Hynes, Aisling Corless, Patricia Donoghue and Helena Huban.

Talent is certainly there. Better organisation could advance Athletics more in the Kinvara Region.

HOCKEY IN KINVARA

The club was formed in 1980 and achieved its first success the following



Under-14 Camogie Team (Back Row, L-R): Deirdre Byrne, Helen Leech, Edel Quinn, Sinead McCormick, Patricia MacEoin, Siobhan Moran, Mairead MacEoin, Paula Fahy, Doreen Corless, Ruth Michell - (Front Row, L-R): Aisling Corless, Nicola McCormick, Marguerite Corless, Sharon Tannion, Brenda Fahy, Miriam Callinan. Also pictured is Michael McCormick



Under-12 Camogie Team: (Back Row, L-R): Majella Corless, Esther Lyons, Yvonne Canny, Amanda Quinn, Patricia Donohue, Yolanda Keane, Leach Smith, Rachel Curtin - (Front Row, L-R): Aisling Tannion, Rena MacEoin, Deirdre Callinan, Brenda Fallon, Aine Tannion, Aoife Tannion, Veronica Curtin.

HOCKEY IN SEAMOUNT COLLEGE

Hockey was introduced to Seamount in 1974 when Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart was Principal. The first Hockey Coach in Seamount was Miss Mona Kennedy, and with the advent of Mr. Ger Barrett to the Staff great strides were made. Seamount for many years has participated in all school competitions and were successful many times in the 1980's winning the Blackmore Shield, Griffin Cup and Costello League.

Many represented Connacht School Girls (under 18) including Mary Kilkelly, Siobhan O'Hehir, Marlon Waites, Geraldine Kilkelly, Noeleen Keane, Pauline Staunton and Marie Burke. In 1983 Mary Kilkelly was capped for the Irish International School Girls against England, Scotland and Wales. Marion Waites was capped in the 1980-81 season and Geraldine Kilkelly, Kinvara's brightest Hockey star was capped in 1987.

In the present season Seamount have qualified for the semi finals of the Ward Cup in the New Year. They owe much to the diligence of their Coach and Trainer Geraldine Connors.

year when winning the H'Eoca Hup. Hockey is mainly a winter sport and the season extends from September to April. Fitness is vital as many tournaments are played off in one day with as many as five matches. The present club officers are President — Mrs. Una Murphy Secretary — Miss Noeleen Keane Treasurer — Mrs. Elaine Mahon Equipment Manager — Mrs. Mary Kelly

Captain — Miss Kathleen Staunton Vice Captain — Mrs. Elaine Mahon. The panel for the 1989-90 season is: Julie Kilkelly, Mary Kelly, Theresa Kavanagh, Elaine Mahon, Ann Keane, Noeleen Keane, Pauline Staunton, Kathleen Staunton, Marie Burke, Lorraine McCormack, Fiona McCormack, Deirdre Heffernan, Helen Leech, Zelma Bermingham, Marguerite Corless, Miriam Callinan, Sharon Tannion and Ruth Michael. In 1988-1989 season, Kinvara won the O'Heocha Cup and the Intermediate League. As a result of winning the league, Kinvara represented Connacht in the May Costly Trophy held in

Buncloody, Co. Wexford in April 1989. In the 1987-88 season won the Intermediate Cup and represented Connacht in the White Cup in Wexford. In earlier seasons Club won the Cross Cup Plate (1982) and the City League (1987). Though only a few years in existence the Club has been very successful and has been a must useful addition to the sporting life of Kinvara.

HOCKEY UPDATE

The Kinvara Hockey Team, under its trainer Geraldine Connors, had an eventful and successful year. The Senior B Tam won the Ward Cup, and the A Team reached the final of the Lupton Cup. The team also entered for the Community Games this year.

"QUE SERA, SERA - WHATEVER WILL BE, WILL BE!" - THE STORY OF KINVARA FOOTBALL CLUB

From its origins in 1974, to the formation of Kinvara F.C., through all the ups and downs, names such as Sweeney, O'Dea, Moylan, Gardner, Forde, Finn, Johnston, Sullivan, Corless, Brogan, Tully, Barry, Griffin, Murphy, Byrne, O'Connor (Ballindereen), Mullins and Bond (Ardrahan), and O'Connor (Doorus) are constants. More recently, there have been other names, now, alas, playing with Kilcornan.

Kinvara F.C. had a brief but very successful history -

1979 - Cup Winners

1980 - Cup and League Winners

1980/1/2 - Guaire Cup Winners

1981 Hibernian Cup.

1981 R.U. Schweppes Cup.

On folding, many players joined Kilcornan F.C., and in fact have been the backbone of making this team, under the guidance of Peter Morrissey, one of the most successful in County Galway.

The folding of Kinvara F.C. was a major loss for the town. The ultimate reason for its demise was not having its own base here, a pitch where the players could train and practice, where new blood could be cultured into the side, and, most importantly, where the team could play its matches. Playing all our games in Galway was not an answer, and it proved costly and also worked against the principle of forming any sort of background for the Club.

There's breeding in a turnip - and there's certainly no shortage of breeding in the youth of Kinvara.

Since 1982, Kinvara has fielded an Under 12 team in the Community Games, and every year, to their credit, they conquer any rural opposition they come up against, it is only when they are drawn against a City team that they falter.

Ray Beatty has come on the scene in recent years, running a very successful Youth Club. He has also introduced the young people of the area to 5-a-side tournaments in Gort Community Centre. Ray has been ably assisted by Paddy Warde, Steve Griffin and Pat Collins. Paddy and Steve were in charge of this year's Community Games effort.

The recent Convent Road Tournament run by Paddy Warde was a massive success, culminating in "Nottingham Forest beating "Liverpool". Alas, with all the soccer, our budding young stars are again being transferred out of Kinvara and are playing with Gort F.C., with Paul Conneely playing for Newcastle West.

It's quite simple - Kinvara needs a pitch!

Ireland is not the only country where hurling and football are played. They're played in England, Australia, Scotland, and the U.S.A.. They're international sports.

So is soccer. It's as much an Irish game as a Brazilian, English, or Italian.

NOLTA - BENE IRLANDESE!

COMMUNITY GAMES

A very successful Community Games was held in Kinvara recently. Entries for this year included: Art and Modelling, Draughts, Boys Under 12 Soccer, Under 16 Hockey, Camogie, Athletics, and swimming. The Mother's Race was won by Catherine Kilkelly, and the Father's Race by P.J. O'Connor.

This year's Community Games committee was: Pat Collins (Chairperson); Catherine Kilkelly (Secretary); and Marian Connolly (Treasurer).

CAMOGIE UP-DATE

The under 14 Camogie Team - trained

by Mary Kilkelly-Kelly - won the "Feile na nGael" Cup this year. They also defeated a team from Pearse's Club. Well done!

KINVARA G.A.A.

1989-1990 proved to be a disappointing year for the Senior Hurlers who failed to muster a team for the two concluding group games. The team is now faced with a relegation battle to avoid demotion in 1991. The Junior Hurlers had a great win over Oranmore-Maree and are confident of winning the Cup this year. The Minors will resume championship games when exams are over. They look very promising. We must all wish them well, as the future of the Kinvara Hurling Club really depends on them. It's also been a busy year at Juvenile level, with school and club matches.

Despite the Senior setback this year, the tradition of hurling in Kinvara remains very strong, and there is no question but that the Club will survive and bring honour to Kinvara in the years to come!



In 1982 - ten years before Jack's Lad's beat 'em - Tony Moylan organised a match between a team of visiting Romanian sailors and the Kinvara Soccer Team, representing Ireland. Final Score: Ireland 8 - Romania 1 (no penalties were required!). Pictured are (Back Row, L-R - Romanians are listed as R): Nicky Hardiman (Referee), R, R, Colm Brogan, Noel Murphy, Richard Johnston, R, Tom Barry, Joseph Byrne, L. Barry, J. Sullivan, John Griffin, Sean Forde, R, P. Gill, R. (Front Row, L-R): R, Kevin Corless, R, R, R, I. O'Connor, R, Philip O'Dea, Shane Murphy, R. Holding up the Romanian Flag (now it's got a hole in it!), is another Romanian.

KINVARA SWIMMING CLUB

We can look back on another very successful year. Probably the most significant, was Brenda Mongan's becoming a fully qualified swimming teacher. She is the fourth member of the club, and only the second from Kinvara, to receive this qualification. For the record the other club members who are qualified teachers are Seán Glynn and Rosemary Fahy from Kilbeacanty, and founder member Stan Mac Eoin. Rosemary and Stan have the comparatively rare distinction of being 'advanced teachers', while Stan is one of only two swimming tutors in Connacht (tutors teach and train potential swimming teachers). Unfortunately, Rosemary and Seán are now away from home and can no longer help at club sessions.

We expect at least four more members of our club to become fully qualified teachers next year. At present they possess the preliminary teaching award and the quality of their teaching is of such a standard that it is not envisaged that they will have any difficulty in passing either the practical or the written examinations.

Presently well over 200 people attend club classes held weekly in Kilcornan. These classes cater for beginners, improvers and advanced swimmers, and there are separate sessions for children and adults, as well as a life

saving course. A debt of thanks is due to the instructors for their help, but a special 'thank you' is due to Bridie Giles, Helen O'Connor and John Curley for their consistency and dedication over the last number of years. Without them neither swimming classes or life saving courses could have continued as successfully as they have done.

On the competitive scene we have made our mark, though we neither pretend nor aspire to being a competitive club. Two of our members (Aideen and Brenda Mongan) were part of a three woman team that represented Galway in the National Life Saving Championships. We also took four medals (three silver, one bronze) from the Connacht Speed Novice Championships.

Some people have noticed that the Green Ireland Swim hasn't been held for the past two years. There were two factors which contribute to this. Firstly, it was felt that there was a slight element of risk involved and we didn't feel justified in taking this risk. Secondly, the increased pollution from sewerage in the Quay area has made it unpleasant, and probably unhealthy, to swim there. Unfortunately, the County Council doesn't yet recognise it as a problem. Maybe these two obstacles can be overcome in the years ahead.

The Swimming Club wishes to express its appreciation to the Pool staff and the administrators in Kilcornan Training Centre, and also of Michael O'Donoghue, coach owner. All three have facilitated the club beyond the call of duty over the years. May the coming decade bring them increased success and prosperity.

Kinvara Swimmers

At a social function held last week in Sherry's Hall, Clarenbridge, during the Jimmy Cranny Swim School at Kilcornan Pool, presentations were made to three founder members of Kinvara Swimming Club to mark their 21st year of service to the Club. These three, who'd helped to set up the club in 1969 and who are still active in promoting swimming in the area, are Paddy Geraghty, Stan MacEoin and Mrs. May Monaghan. In accepting the beautiful Kinvara-crafted gifts presented to them the recipients affirmed that the club couldn't have been a success as it was without the dedication of many others over the years. In recent years they noted, outstanding service had been rendered by Bridie Giles and Helen O'Connor, ably assisted by Rose O'Connor and Marian Connolly. Without people of their calibre the club would be unable to continue in existence. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Moya MacEoin.



Stan MacEoin, Paddy Geraghty and May Monaghan were honoured for 21 years service to Kinvara Swimming Club at a surprise reception held recently in Joe Sherry's Pub in Clarenbridge.

SCHOOLS ROUND-UP

Kinvara is well served educationally by many fine schools, ranging from the pre-school playgroup to three National Schools and one second level school - Seamount College. Our children are our future and it is heartening to see them so well provided for in their vital early years.

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

In this school year - 1989-90 - the playgroup is celebrating 10 years of service to the Kinvara community. In that time over 150 children have availed of the playgroup. Two sessions are held daily and inquiries can be made to Tel. 37335, or by calling to the Courthouse, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during term.

Some of the highlights of the past 18 months have included the popular Advent Celebration of candles, Santa's annual visit to Kinvara, Mother's Day Cake Sale, and the Summer outing to Coole Park. Delegates from the playgroup committee have attended the Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association A.G.M. in Dublin recently. The Irish Playgroup Association is itself celebrating 21 years of existence this year. The playgroup also has close ties with the Western Health Board. Each year a speech therapist and child psychologist from the Health Board visit the playgroup to give a talk to parents.

At a function in Paddy Burke's last year, a presentation was made to Aine O'Connell to mark eight years of dedicated service to the playgroup.

DOORUS NATIONAL SCHOOL

Doorus National School is looking ahead with great confidence to the future. There are now 57 children in the school, the highest number for many years. It was felt by the Board of Management and the general body of parents that an amenity room would be a great - and necessary - addition to the school. With this in mind, a tremendous fund-raising effort was undertaken and over £5,000 was raised. The building of the room is now in progress. Great credit is due to all involved for this wonderful co-operative effort.

School projects, such as art competitions, drama with Paul Brennan and tin-whistle playing with Margo McGreeney will now be able to flourish in more spacious surroundings. The room can also serve as a lunch-room and meeting room.

The School hurling team, after a very good season, was beaten in the quarter-final of the championship, but there are some fine hurlers on the team and prospects are good for next season. The girls are still heavily involved in camogie and Veronica Curtin has been selected for the Connacht Competition Schools Team which will play an exhibition game in Croke Park this summer. Congrats to Veronica! Doorus won the County Camogie semi-final against Castle French-the score was 5-3 against 1-0.

NORTHAMPTION NATIONAL SCHOOL

As we go to press Northampton National School is looking forward to their school tour, which will include visits to historical places such as Clonmacnoise. Cultural aspects are well provided for during the year, with Drama

classes with Paul Brennan, Tin Whistle with Margo McGreeney, and Irish Dancing with Celine Hession. The school has also embarked on a tree-growing project with the help of Joe Quilty and CRANN. At present 40 young saplings are growing well.

During the past year a new heating system has been installed and this has provided great comfort for both children and teachers. The school is also being re-decorated under an S.E.S. scheme.

KINVARA

*Kinvara is a little village by the Sea,
And its home to people like you and me.
Into its harbour comes lots of boats
Big, small, anything that floats
It's got a castle centuries old
Where Guaire lived, so the story is told.
In the square the market takes place
Where country meets town, face to face
It's people are friendly, gentle and kind
Nicer people would be hard to find
Its got cages, crafts, community centre
and shops
Everything to make Kinvara the tops.*

Oliver J. Connolly.
Aged 10



Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart pictured with Nora Nolan, Finavarra, and Dr. Evelyn Tully, Galway, at a Past Pupils Reunion at Seamount College

KINVARA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Kinvara National School has been a hive of activity this last year. The school, with approximately 220 pupils on the register, has shared in a whole range of activities, from drama, with Paul Brennan, to Dancing with Celine Hession. Pam Fleming takes art classes with the pupils, and she has taken them for painting, craftwork, and pottery, as well as entering pupils in art competitions, such as The Galway Advertiser Christmas Art Competition.

Classes have taken trips to the Burren, factories in Galway, and to the

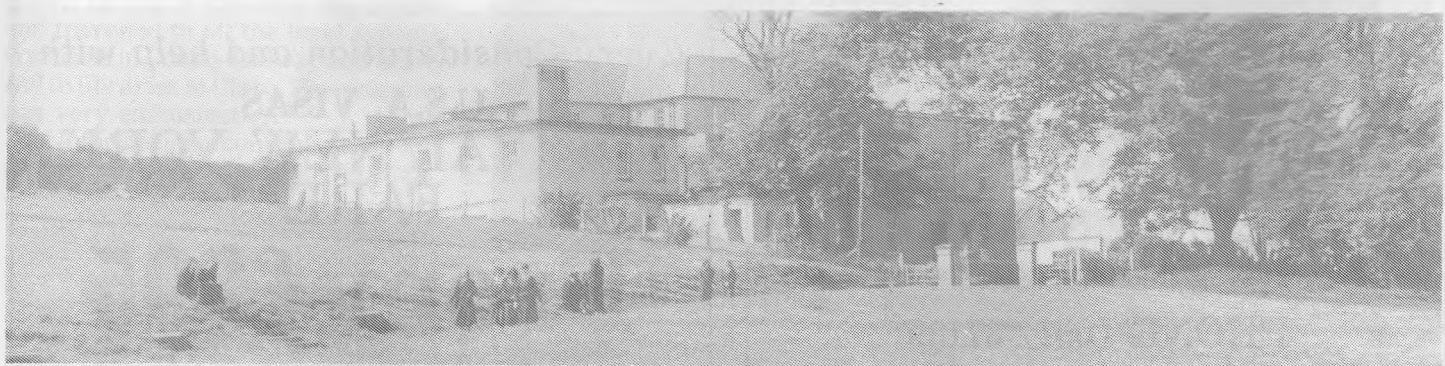
seashore with noted Bird authority, Gordan D'Arcy, where pupils saw the huge whale that was washed ashore in Fanore, Co. Clare. A new addition to the school is an aquarium - the glass provided by P.J. Walsh and the aquatic life supplied by Mick O'Toole. Lobster, eels, fish of various kinds, and shellfish now laze happily in the Kinvara N.S. aquarium!

This year there were 17 pupils for Holy Communion, and 26 pupils for confirmation.

production of "My Fair Lady" staged by the pupils, and the visit of 23 students to Europe, where, accompanied by 4 adults - including party leader, Sheila Conneely, Commerce teacher at Seamount, they visited Strassbourg, Luxemburg and Brussels. The pupils visited the European Parliament where they met with Euro-M.P., Mark Killilea. According to Mrs. Conneely, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and increased their knowledge of the E.C., as well as French.

SEAMOUNT COLLEGE

Two highlights of the past Seamount year were undoubtedly the splendid



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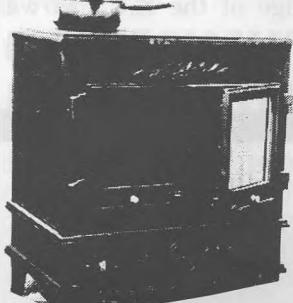
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GROUPS AND CLUBS

IMSHAOL BEO

Kinvara's local environmental group has been very active on the Clean Galway Bay committee. They were very pleased with a decision to establish a secondary treatment sewage plant, although the location of the plant on Mutton Island remains a contentious issue.

Imshaol Beo put together a very comprehensive exhibition on "Pollution and the Consumer". As well as being shown locally in Kinvara, the exhibition travelled to all the local schools, to schools in County Galway and Clare, and to libraries in Clare. The response was very enthusiastic.

For information about the group and its future activities, contact Tel. 37357.

Ballyvaughan, Labane and Ballindereen are also represented.

The club meets each Monday night in the White House, Kinvara. During the past year it travelled to Ennistymon, while Oranmore and Ennis Bridge Clubs have been our guests in Kinvara.

The Christmas Competition is another of the highlights of the year, when festive prizes are won, and other competitions are held during the year.

The club is always happy to welcome new members. We hope to commence classes in the New Year for anybody who might like to learn to play Bridge.



Santa's arrival in the Community Centre last Christmas, organised by the Kinvara Community Playgroup

KINVARA YOUTH CLUB

Kinvara Youth Club is held each Saturday Night from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m.

It caters for children of 5th class N.S. Level and young adults up to Leaving Cert.

Activities provided are — Indoor Soccer, Volley Ball, Basket Ball, Pool,

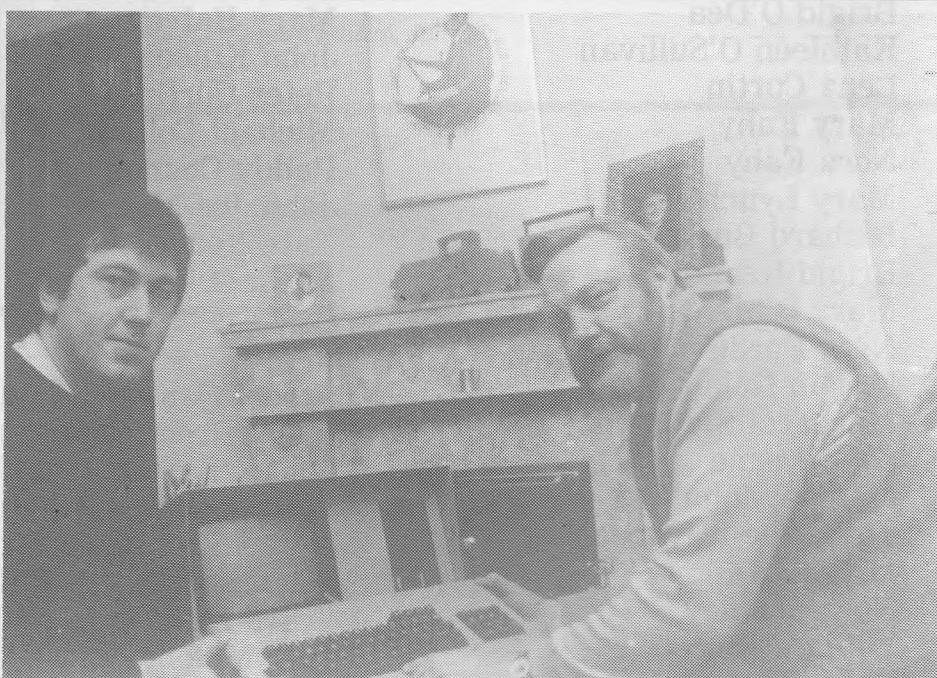
Board Games, Quizes, Charades etc.

There are inter-club competitions held in activities. Group leader is Ray Beatty who is assisted each Saturday night by two parents.

Committee: Chairman Ray Beatty, Secretary, Jean Green, Treasurer Steve Griffin.

BRIDGE CLUB

Kinvara Bridge Club, at the end of its 15th year, has a membership of 30. Although most of the members come from the Kinvara area, New Quay,



American Bill Carson, who has a house in Castle View Park, presents a Word Processor to Bartley O'Donnell, representing Kinvara Community Council.

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TRANSITIONS

NOVEMBER 1988 — JULY 1990

BIRTHS

Shane Gerard Quinn
Colette Catherine Martyn
Mark Gerard Kavanagh
Aideen Christina Murphy
Gerard Stephen Linnane
Aoibhreann Roisin Mahon
Gerard Christopher O'Dea
Eamon Oisin Fennell
Alexander Joseph Costello
Thomas O'Donnell

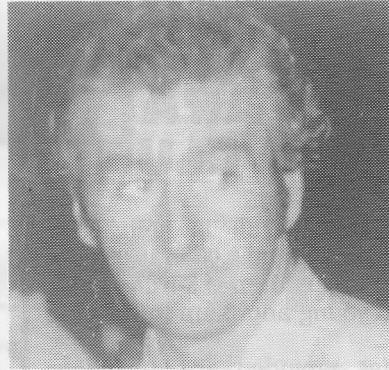
Emma Louise Waites
John Gerard Kavanagh
Declan Patrick Keane
Michael Aloysius O'Connor
Francis John Quinn
Sean Fahy
Noreen Elizabeth Connolly
Lorcan Sean O'Halloran
Conor Patrick McCormick

Christopher David Droney
Mark Christopher Whelan
Laura Marie Connole
Thomas Jake O'Donnell
Shane Mary McCarthy
Padraig Owen Moylan
Mairead Kavanagh
Irene Leech
Jonathan Philip Roche

DEATHS

Matt Quinn
Ellen Morris
Brigid O'Dea
Kathleen O'Sullivan
Lena Curtin
Mary Fahy
Nora Fahy
Mary Lynch
Richard Burke
Brigid Keane
Mary O'Mahoney
Nora Forde
Martin Nolan
Margaret Staunton
John Keane
Michael John Huban
Catherine Kavanagh
Michael Quinn
Nora Mooney
William Kelly
Delia Benton
Kathleen Kilkelly
Maureen Muldoon
Fr. Sean O'Gormaile
Brigid Winkle
Cecilia Flatley
Betty Griffin
Elizabeth Wallace
Mattie Joe Connolly

Ellen Niland
Martin Kelly
Mary Halvey
John Killeen
Peter Curtin
Michael Collins
Paddy Connolly
John Joe Mahon
Kate Keane
Michael Leech



Mattie Joe Connolly

MARRIAGES:

Paschal Campbell and Eleanor Monaghan
Declan Droney and Aoife MacMahon
Michael Barrett and Catherine Kavanagh
Sean Connole and Antoinette Cox
Michael Kavanagh and Patricia O'Sullivan
Michael Garvey and Rita Calvey
Gerard Dempsey and Bernadette McInerney
Donal Moloney and Mary Leech
Frank Fallon and Maureen Healy
Tony Naughton and Cathy Larkin
Liam Boland and Karen Sexton
Al Corless and Mairead Tierney
Patrick McInerney and Ann Madden
Kieran McInerney and Geraldine Picker
Kieran Whelan and Caroline Woods
Sean Forde and Jane Joyce
John Jo Sullivan and Anne Marie McCormick

JUBILEE CERTIFICATES FOR PIONEER ASSOCIATION



Michael Staunton, Trelllick

Congratulations to the nine members of our community who received Golden and Silver Jubilee Certificates from the Pioneer Association!

Left-Right: Mary Quinn, Jimmy Conole, Tina Murphy (Silver), Agnes Moran, John Leech, Miko Connors, Kate McInerney.



Sarah Hynes, Parkmore



Mrs Sheila Conneely with pupils from Seamount College met Euro MP Mark Killilea and John Healy at The European Parliament.

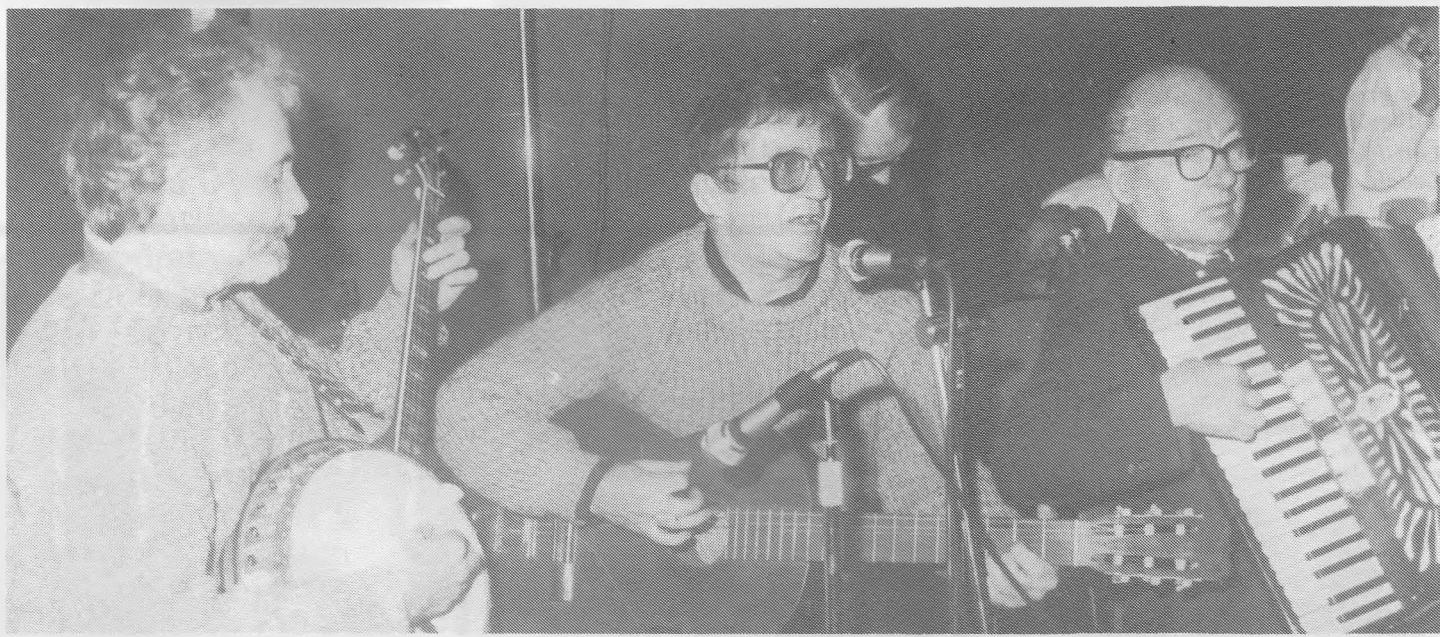
Musicians of Kinvara



Jackie Daley



Declan Sinnott



John Colfer, Fr. Flatley and Kieran Moylan

Michael Staunton

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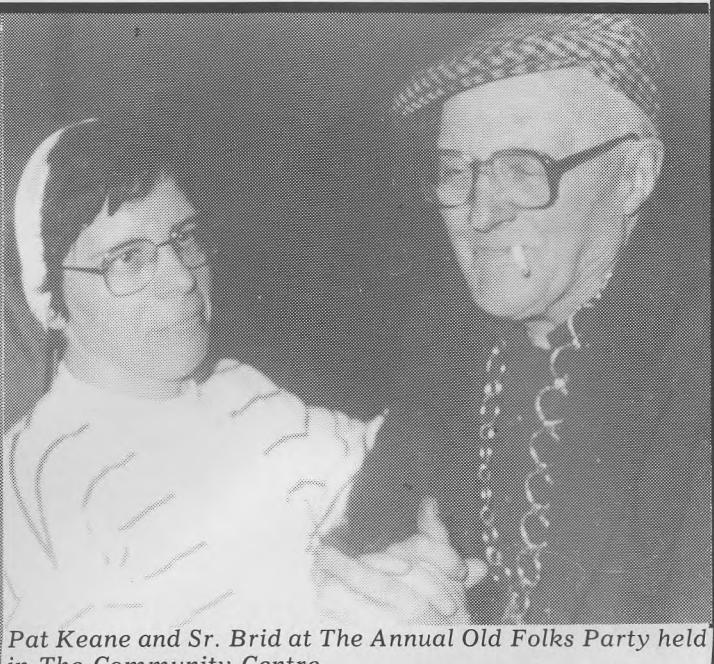
The Forge Garage

On Site Mechanical Services
BRIAN ALLEN
CARTRON, KINVARA
Phone 37386

Kinvara People in Pictures



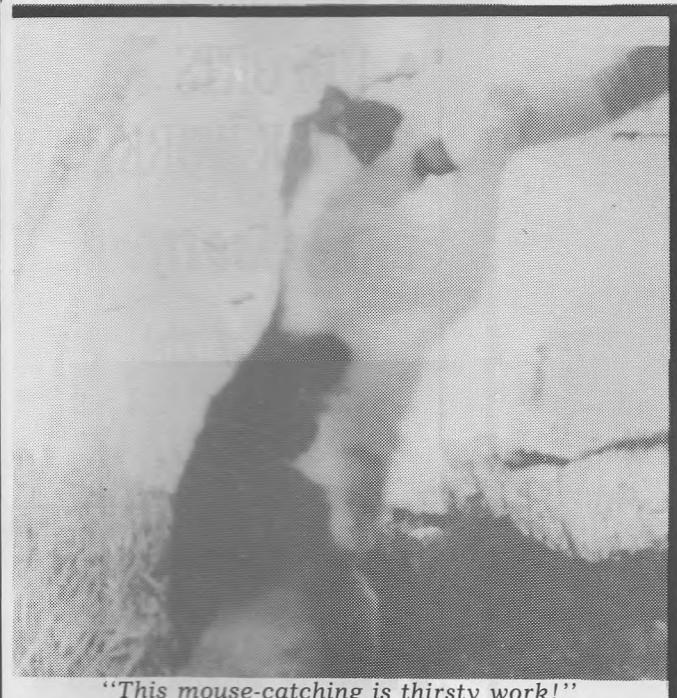
Santa surprises one of his little guests at the Kinvara Playgroup Christmas afternoon in the Community Centre



Pat Keane and Sr. Brid at The Annual Old Folks Party held in The Community Centre.



"Who is this man and what is he doing?"



"This mouse-catching is thirsty work!"



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Kinvara People in Pictures



"Look here! I'm the Director, not you!"



Francis Ryan and Gerry Ryan: "Wait'll you see my castle!"

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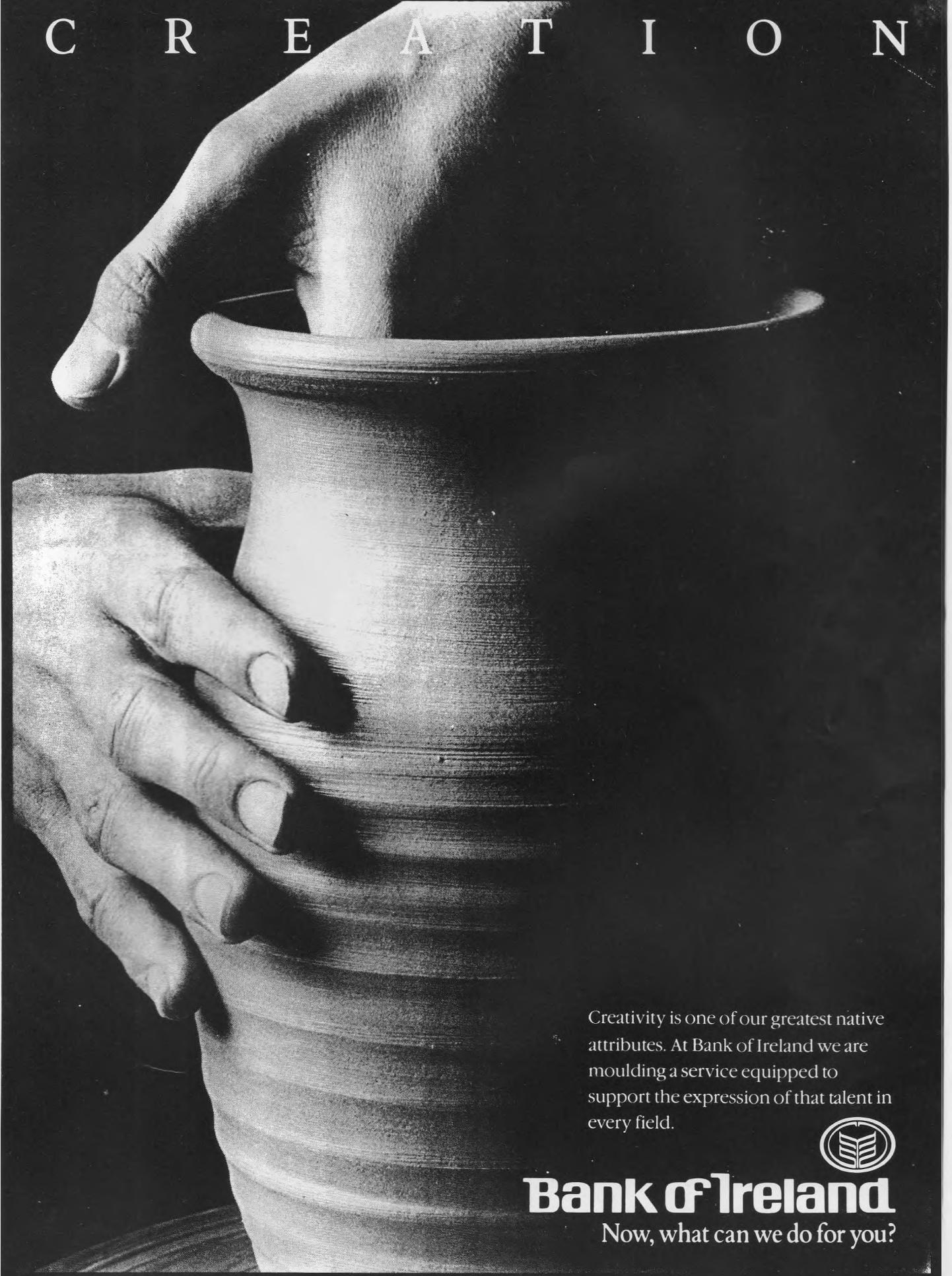
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