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Kinvara's Community Magazine 2003

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25 years of Cruinniú na mBád

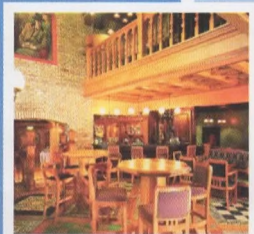
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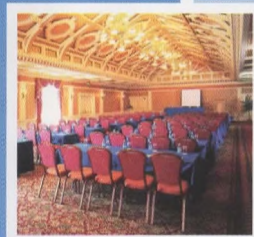
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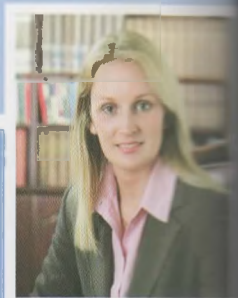
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TRÁCHT IS THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of Kinvara Community Council. We would like to thank our contributors, and the team who volunteered to produce this edition — without them we would not have a magazine. We are also grateful to our advertisers and to our generous benefactor in Holland (see page 20).

Much has changed since the last edition of *Trácht* in 1999. Kinvara is growing fast. This brings many challenges, and the Town Plan consultation process has given people an opportunity to have their say. Plans for a vibrant new Community Centre are underway, and this project deserves full support from the community it is designed to serve. This year, too, we celebrate 25 years of Cruinniú na mBád, and commemorate Kinvara's maritime history.

For the people of Kinvara and Doorus, and indeed for emigrants, *Trácht* acts as a chronicle of life in the parish. For newcomers, it can take some time to become integrated in the community, and *Trácht* helps to welcome them and keep them informed about what is going on. *Trácht* remembers those who

have died and on behalf of the community is grateful to them for their contribution over the years. In short, *Trácht* values the community's endeavours and achievements, and is an important vehicle for making people, whoever they are, feel their efforts are valued.

The Celtic Tiger has come and gone. The more vulnerable within our society should not be the first to suffer due to cutbacks. At present, health and social services leave much to be desired. One also questions the wisdom of officialdom in winding up the community employment schemes. The FÁS schemes had an important social aspect, and brought people together in a positive way to help enhance local services, the community in general, and the Community Centre.

Since the last (Millennium) edition of *Trácht*, we have seen a rapid growth in technology. Yet despite all this technology designed to save us time, we seem to have less and less time. When we phone each other, we have to speak to answering machines. And the day is never long enough for what we want or need to do.

Times indeed have changed, and traditions such as mutual neighbourly help (*comhar na gcomharsan*) are a thing of the past. But Kinvara also has much benefitted in recent years from a thriving voluntary sector within the community. As a result, local community services, sports, art, drama, music, etc. have flourished. These, too, are facing challenges, due to the ever-increasing pressure of time. In re-evaluating our priorities, we help enrich not just ourselves, but the community at large. We are blessed with a beautiful seaside town and have much to be proud of. Together we can help keep it that way. *Go néirí leis an bpobal uilig. Ar aghaidh le chéile!*

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Welcome . . .

. . . from the Community Council

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL is an open democracy, and everyone in the community is very welcome to attend meetings. Contrary to what some people think, Council members are not elected. Only officials are elected, i.e. the chairman, secretary, treasurer and their deputies, and a public relations officer. Coming along to meetings does not mean you have to contribute to the day-to-day business of the Council. You can help in any way you can, and have a say in your own community! The Council meets monthly, on the third Thursday of the month (except August).

NEW CENTRE PLANNED

Since the last edition of *Trácht*, the Community Council has been very busy. The design for a new Community Centre, now complete, has been submitted to Galway Co Council for planning approval.

Over the last 18 months, more than €40,000 was raised for this project. The Auction of Promises attracted a large crowd, and raised over €10,000. The Fun Runs, too, were great craic. Becoming a regular event is the Midsummer Feast — a novel and welcome addition to Kinvara's social calendar, and a major fundraiser. Other more modest events, such as the table quizzes, continue to raise money and provide entertainment. The Community Calendar, another novel idea, featured seasonal drawings of Kinvara by the local schools, and the heritage trail was drawn and designed by the Heritage Committee. We also are grateful to the anonymous donor of the very substantial contribution and to those who joined our Direct Debit scheme (see Page 9). This scheme can have a major impact on the money we need to raise for the new Community Centre, and we welcome people's commitment to making a modest contribution on an ongoing monthly basis.

The Council has continued to lobby hard for a sewage system for the town. We have joined others in taking the Irish government to the European Court owing to the pollution of our bay. This has been a long and frustrating process but we hope that our sustained pressure will eventually bear fruit.

GRANTS

The Community Council successfully applied for two heritage grants in 2001 and 2002. The first was used to investigate the possibility of a community-based Town Plan, and culminated in an exhibition on Kinvara's environment and heritage in September 2001. Last year's grant was used to finance a number of more modest projects.

KINVARA NOW ONLINE

For the past five years, Declan Connolly has single-handedly developed and maintained a genuine asset for the community. Kinvara.Com has grown from a concept to one of the most widely-used community resources in Ireland. Did you know that each week:

- 1,000 people visit Kinvara online to learn about our village and surroundings
- 500 people around the globe get regular mailings updating them about events in Kinvara.

There is no doubt that Declan's website (www.kinvara.com) brings visitors to Kinvara, and it helps our emigrants feel connected to their home town. Visitors to the site can book their accommodation, check local news, places of interest, etc. It acts as the first glimpse people get of our village and community, and as such it provides an excellent face to the outside world.

TOWN PLAN

The Town Plan has been welcomed as a thorough and comprehensive statement of Kinvara's needs for future development. We congratulate everyone who served on the steering committee and who

took on the awesome task of drawing up the plan. The support of the entire community is required for the plan to succeed. The various working groups will now come under the Community Council to help implement all aspects of the plan. These cover a wide range of issues, such as heritage, environment, traffic, business, infrastructure, education arts, crafts, music, the management of the harbour and tourism.

AR AGHAIDH LE CHÉILE

All these groups will welcome new blood. We need everyone with an interest or expertise in any of these areas to participate. It may look forbidding, but if the work is spread around and everyone makes a contribution it will make all the difference, and provide an opportunity for people with similar interests to get together. Most of these committees will have the support of statutory agencies and departments, such as Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, the Heritage Council, Dúchas etc. With this support, the work involved shouldn't be too onerous and could be really interesting! The plan promises not only to make Kinvara a lovely place in which to live and work but also draws the community together.

We would like to thank everyone who helped and contributed to the Council over the past number of years. They are, quite literally, too numerous to mention. Finally and sadly we remember, with appreciation and affection, all our members and friends who have passed away since the last publication.

After 25 years, Kinvara must take Cruinniú na mBád on board, writes Gerry Conneely, one of the founding organisers of this maritime festival.

THE FIRST FÉILE MACDARA in 1976 provided the starting point for a revival of interest in traditional sailing boats that three years later led to the establishment of Cruinniú na mBád. The revival was sparked by a determination of the few remaining traditional boat owners and enthusiasts to profile their craft and skills in such a way that the local community could rightfully take pride in something that was uniquely their own creation. There was an urgency and vitality within the revival movement born out of the near extinction of the craft itself. It was realised, by some, that the sailing craft on the Connemara coast represented the essential repository of engineering, design, craft and aesthetic capabilities which existed within these communities. The boats could not to be compared with the lorries which replaced them. The heroes of Connemara were sailors, as evidenced by Sean Nós singing, poetry and practically the entire literature of the region.

The separation of this culture from its maritime origins and traditions represented another step in the disintegration of Ireland's maritime culture and one as potentially disastrous as the decline of the Irish language.

Revival of traditional craft

From the first Féile MacDara, in 1976, the revival had electrified Connemara. The hooker was immediately accepted as the central motif for the region appearing like a logo on every product and publication. Its profile however was still confined to the bays and inlets of

West Galway and it wasn't until 1979, when the Kinvara Festival began, that the boats became part of the broader national cultural mosaic. While each of the twenty five Cruinniús has its own tale, each in the tradition of the heroic sagas and deserving of a book; that first festival 25 years ago has the unique character of a true original.

By 1979, the vast quay was long since empty. The second world war created fuel shortages which extended the life of the sailing boats. By the mid fifties the trade had disappeared. The last boat to enter Kinvara with turf did so in 1956 and unable to sell her goods, she sailed away, full, never to return.

Fuelling the Revival

It is instructive that there were three people at the first MacDara's festival in Carna in 1976 who would play significant roles in the development of the Cruinniú, Tony Moylan, Michael Brogan and Gerry O'Halloran. Their roles were that of watcher, sailor and organiser respectively. In Carna, Moylan watched boats that had, long ago, sailed into Kinvara Bay with turf, and wondered. It was another three years, however, before the factors were in place in Kinvara to create an event. By 1979 the town had been declining for almost sixty years. It had a similar affinity with the sea as Banagher. Could the village produce an organisational and funding group to develop the event? Would the boats come from Connemara? What were the dangers? Could support be mobilised outside the community? Who would come and how many? Where would they stay? What would they eat? Moylan knew that the key personnel had to be in place before the idea was even mooted.

In 1979, Kinvara's single point of contact with the style and sophistication of the cosmopolitan world was The Castle Singers. The women had attitude, perspective and a canny under-

standing of the tourism industry. They raised the money, did the P.R. and established key connections and supports that have endured to this day.

Attracting the boats to Kinvara

The key to the whole enterprise however was the boats. Travelling to Kinvara represented quite a significant voyage and expense for all concerned. Moylan feared that Kinvara might appear a remote and forbidding to the boatmen as Connemara did to the Kinvara people. It was with some trepidation that he presented himself to Mac Mealla in Carna in this regard. He need not have worried. Kinvara featured prominently in the folklore and songs and was considered a key part of the turf boat tradition. The idea was warmly received and in the course of a conversation, The Star, John, The Hunter, The Morning Star and the American Mór were committed to coming. The idea took hold quickly across all of Connemara and An Mhaighdeán Mhara, An Tonaí and the St. Patrick soon joined the proposed expedition to Kinvara. The boats would definitely come!

Kinvara itself was the third leg in the stool. Would the town participate in the event? Martin O'Grady could remember the turf boats as a child. Martin was exceptionally popular and respected in Kinvara. He had great humour and personality and a lively anarchic nature. He took the proposal to the community council. The town would get behind the event, and it did. People thronged to visit the spectacle. It was an extraordinary success and a cathartic experience for the village. It was the moment that the town found a positive vision of itself. It became more confident because it knew it could deal with the world and could manage even it. From that moment there has been steady growth and modest prosperity.



John Joe Conneely (left) at the first Cruinniú in 1979. Photo: Thomas Quinn

Passing of Time

Twenty five years on, Kinvara has changed enormously. Sadly, most of those who experienced the greatest joy in remembrance at that first Cruinniú have now passed on. The village has been developed to the limits of its infrastructural capacity and faces the challenge of development management. This problem would have seemed ludicrous in 1979. It could be argued however, that while the Cruinniú was the catalyst and impetus for change, the event itself has not kept pace. It seems as if the formula developed over the first few years has been reapplied ever since, largely for the benefit of the publicans.

It is not enough to keep the event going. The Cruinniú must now consider its existence and its role in the current circumstances. As the agent which initiated change the Cruinniú and its legacy must be at the centre of development planning for the town's future. The main legacy of the Cruinniú is that Kinvara is the recognised centre of maritime tradition. The town has a choice

now in whether to formulate a tourism policy within this context or to let development occur on a laissez faire basis. Development will definitely occur, progressively encroaching on the natural beauty and amenities of the area.

Maritime heritage plan needed

The development of a maritime heritage plan as the centre of a sustainable tourism strategy would immediately protect the integrity of the harbour area and the remaining views and seascapes. The protection of the quay is an urgent necessity. Institutional vandalism has removed the distinctive red lamps that John Holland used to light every evening and the pier head, itself, is being undermined structurally and is in need of repair.

The emphasis of the strategy must be on broadening out the impact of the Cruinniú so that it becomes a year-round resource. Given a diverse array of craft in harbour, people will come to see them. They will seek more information, and facilities and services

will evolve organically to meet these needs. Such facilities will be complementary and integrated into development on the harbour.

The underlying assumption is that the requisite service infrastructure, sewerage etc is in place before any such development can begin. The process is slow and incremental as vital development at the centre of a heritage village should be.

The adoption of such a plan by the community and its inclusion in the County Development Plan will ensure that future development initiatives must be consistent with this maritime heritage orientation. This will provide the local community with greater powers in shaping development around local amenities.

Kinvara can preserve and develop its unique selling point, and its maritime heritage. Or it can forget all about it again. Development will continue to occur but it will have no shape or character and very little beauty.

Gerry Conneely

Fleadh na gCuach

FRIDAY MAY 2ND FINALLY ARRIVED and the weeks of preparation that went into organising the Cuckoo Fleadh finally came to fruition. It had been hoped to have the opening on the grassy verge of the pier, but the weather determined otherwise. Fortunately, Liz Murphy of Murphy's Store on the Quay graciously came to the rescue. Killian Kenny, at a moment's notice made sure our glasses were full as the 10th Fleadh na gCuach was launched.

Máire O'Keeffe and Eilish O'Connor provided us with our first tunes of the Fleadh whilst much to the amusement of the tourists, our giant size cuckoo showed us how a real jig is danced as he stepped to the rhythm of the fine music that was played. Eilish gave a few words of thanks to all of our sponsors and introduced the guest of honour, Eugene Lambe. After an entertaining speech, Eugene launched the 10th Cuckoo Fleadh with a beautiful rendition of 'The Cuckoo Hornpipe' on the tin whistle whilst the cuckoo performed his own special dance in true cuckoo style.

On display was the cleverly designed original of this year's amazing poster by local graphic designer, Helen Grant. Made up of 2880 photographs donated from

individuals and from the Thomas Quinn collection, they are shaped in the form of the cuckoo, and leave us with a fantastic record of Kinvara and its community.

The launch was brought to a close by the Curragh Sons with an unaccompanied rendition of their own song 'The Cuckoo Fleadh'. Singing with lovely harmonies they dedicated it to the memory of Jimmy Linnane from Ballyclera, who sadly passed away recently.

Lively streets

The streets soon began to fill with musicians and listeners. Set Dancers skipped to the toe tapping music of Naughton's Wing while listeners found themselves in a dilemma, as in every pub you visited, the quality and passion in the playing was

second to none.
Saturday arrived.
The village was
s t i l l

soaking in the atmosphere of the night before. Instruments were carried preciously to the Local National school where fiddle player, Máire O'Keeffe and flute player, Desi Adams gave workshops, demonstrating and encouraging all those enthusiastic musicians who wish to improve their skills.

In the Community Centre, Children's Drama workshops were hosted by Kinvara Drama Group and the talented Caroline McDaid. As the workshops ended, our intrepid Cuckoo led this troop of budding thespians on a parade through the Village. Passers-by were treated to a colourful array of costumes and entertained with recitations and singing at the market square and on the pier. Staying on the pier that wonderful big bird helped to launch the Heritage Walk, where we were given a history of Kinvara and its places and buildings of interest.

A trip to the singers/songwriters session gave an opportunity to listen and absorb the gifted talent of our local singers and songwriters. Paul Mulligan and Rob Stein hosted the event, with beautiful singing from John Faulkner, Elsa McTaggart and Jim Mc Keige. The music sessions

continued long into the night. Wandering home that evening, listening to the magic of tunes escaping from each public house, you had to wonder could it get any better than this.

*Eilish O'Connor and
Máire O'Keeffe
with 'Marty'
Cuckoo Photo:
Brendan Dunford*



KINVARA'S COMM

More fun on Sunday

Sunday saw the 2nd Annual Cuckoo Fun Run and Sponsored 10k Walk in aid of the Building Fund for the new Community Centre. The Cuckoo, true to form, was on the starting line with his bicycle as his legs were worn out from dancing. Young and old braved the elements as they stretched their legs for the community. The brave cuckoo must have covered five times the distance as he cycled back and forward encouraging us all, as the tiredness began to set in.

The Cuckoo Trophy was presented to the winner of the Fun Run who completed the race in just 34 minutes. Sincere thanks to Seán Murphy Heating and all our other sponsors and helpers. Monday saw many musicians

meet up for impromptu sessions, which continued long into the evening. The Kinvara Writers' Group held their Poets Brunch with many entertaining recitations and excellent musical accompaniment from harpist, Eileen Fleming. Carmel Dempsey, supported by her many fans, successfully launched her new CD 'Out on the Ocean' in the Pier Head.

Another successful year

As the Fleadh came to a close, we were very much aware that we had all been treated to something quite special. The wonderful atmosphere in the village was still felt in the week following the Fleadh. There was great kindness and generosity of spirit between all who attended. Originally an

idea of Tony Moylan's, Fleadh na gCuach has just completed its 10th year. Its success would not be possible, but for the brilliant support the committee received from the publicans, who fund the music sessions. Peter Green of Heineken, together with local businesses, provided the sponsorship, which helps to fund all the other events. Whilst we have a very small committee there are many individuals who donate their free time allowing the fleadh to run smoothly with no hitches. Costs are rising, however, and this year we have introduced a collector's pack of postcards showing the last ten years posters. It is hoped that the sale of these will help raise funds for the festival.

Debbie Browne

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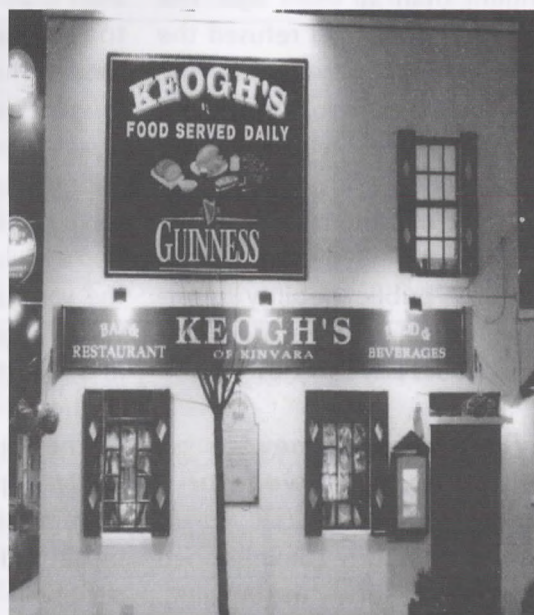
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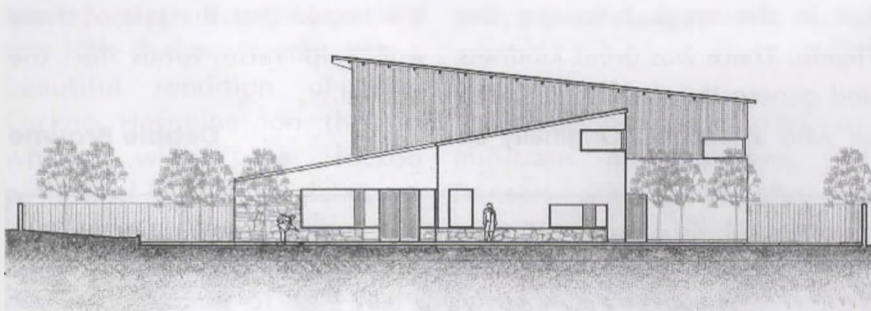
New Community

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, Kinvara Community Council has been drawing up, in consultation with the local community, plans for a new Community Centre. Pending planning permission, the new Community Centre will have a multi-purpose hall, with changing rooms and showers for indoor sport, drama and music. There is also a crèche, café, health centre, library, and offices and rooms for functions, meetings and exhibitions. The facilities are designed with everyone in mind, including young children, teenagers, the disabled and the elderly.

What is the problem with the existing Centre?

Kinvara has a Community Centre due to the foresight and hard work of people in our community in the 1970s and, over the years, it has served us well. However, three years ago it became clear that the

repairs alone would come to €200,000. With this in mind, and the mounting lack of facilities, the concept of a new Community Centre was raised. Following lengthy debate and widespread consultation in 2000, this was thought to be the best option.



roof of the centre needed to be completely replaced, owing, among other things, to current safety standards being far more stringent than 30 years ago. The Chief Fire Officer has refused the Centre a dance license on the grounds that the roof does not comply with the fire regulations. Furthermore, and for similar reasons, it became clear that the Centre might have problems in obtaining public liability insurance. If that were refused, the centre would have to close.

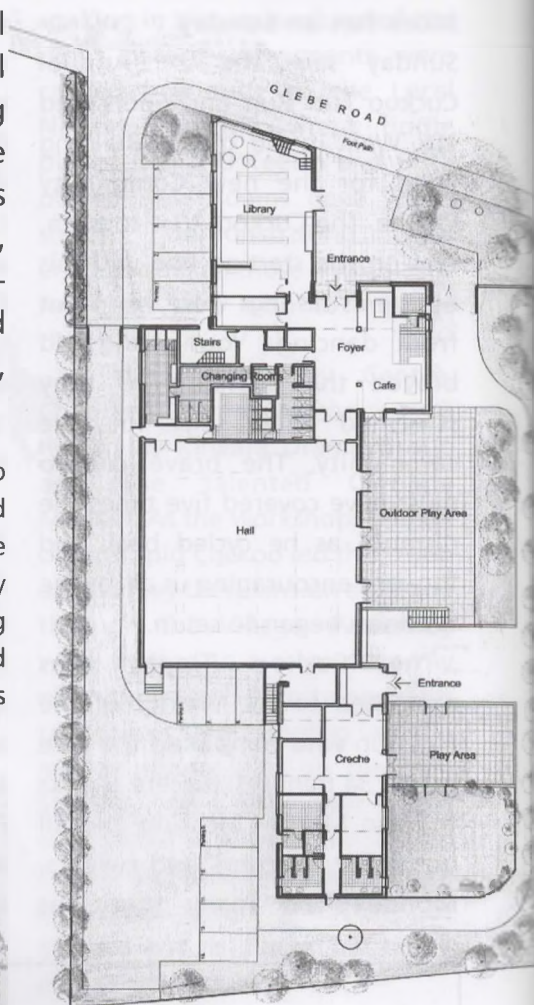
Why do we need a new Centre? Why don't we refurbish the old one?

When the Council commissioned an engineer to survey the building, he estimated that the cost of

Drawing up the Plans

Advice was sought by the Community Council, and based on feedback, a 'design brief' was then drawn up, and submitted it to six architectural firms for tender. The quality and breadth of this brief impressed them all. But it was demanding too. We were asking not only for a centre to serve the community at large but also a building that would provide the various facilities needed by a wide range of local organisations at a cost that was modest!

Elliot Maguire Landers Partnership in Limerick was eventually appointed to design the building. In the autumn of 2002, initial draft sketches were reviewed by the Council, and displayed in the town. User



groups were further consulted before final plans were agreed and submitted to Galway County Council for planning permission.

How much will it cost and where will the money come from?

The 'ballpark' cost of the building is between €1.2 and €1.5 million. This money will be raised from a number of different sources. The library and crèche will be self-financing but the building will require a substantial government grant. Kinvara is a designated 'disadvantaged area' and as such, could attract a grant of between 70%-90% of the building's total cost. At the time of writing the position is unclear because the Community Council cannot apply for grant aid until planning permission has been granted.

In any case we, the local community, will have to raise about €250,000. Over the last two years, fundraising activities such as the 'Auction of Promises', 'Fun Run', 'Mid Summers Feast', 'Table Quizzes', the 'Direct Debit Scheme', and donations have brought in over €40,000. Other events are planned, and ideas and help are welcome!

How Can I help?

By the time you read this we will have almost certainly got planning permission, applied for grants and re-launched the Direct Debit Scheme. This is by far the most effective and painless way of raising money. A donation of as little as €10 a month from every household in the parish would, over 3 years, raise well over 250,000 Euro!

You can join the scheme now and help make Kinvara's new Community Centre a reality by filling in the form below and sending it to your bank. By doing so, you will receive regular updates on how the project is progressing.

Declan Connolly (*Declan was chairman of the Community Council from 2000-2002*)

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You are authorised to set up a Standing Order on my/our account as specified below.
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Commission

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4-71X (R6/96)

**Congratulations to Trácht Magazine
from Winkles of Kinvara**

home of traditional music.

Regular Sessions as follows:

Tuesdays: Singers/Songwriters Night Singers and Songwriters welcome.

Traditional Music Sessions every Friday, Saturday & Sunday night.

Sunday afternoons 5.30 Pop/Rock Session with CEBU

In 2001 and 2002, Kinvara Community Council was the recipient of grants from the Heritage Council. We include below a summary of the significant achievements within the community as a result.

The Making of Kinvara' exhibition, held in September 2001, profiled the town's cultural, architectural and natural heritage, the current state of planning and the pollution of the bay. Thanks to the efforts and talents of Anne Korff, Richard Broad, Liz Murphy, Trisha Venegas, Stewart Cowell, and Frank Sanford for the excellent presentation. The contacts and efforts made behind the scenes attracted the attention of Galway County Council and led to a Community Planning Pilot Project in Kinvara and the creation of the Kinvara Integrated Area Plan. The Heritage Project for 2002 focused on designing a Heritage Trail for Kinvara.

The Kinvara Heritage Trail

Inspired by the efforts and contributions of many people, we completed a very successful project that was multifaceted. The Heritage Trail is a self-guided walking tour that begins at Dunguaire Castle, and takes a circular route along the harbour, sea wall, up the Green Road and then back through the centre of the village. The artist, Frank Sanford, provided the beautiful dimensional map (see below) for use on the brochure. The text was researched, composed and designed by three members of the Heritage Project team, Richard Broad, Liz Murphy, and Anne Korff. See map for further details.

The Heritage Trail also features four creative projects; the mosaic 'Song of the Sea', copper plate etchings of local boats frequently seen in the harbour, a sculpture designed by the Gort Community School Art Class, and the Kinvara Community Notice Board.

Drawing: Frank Sanford.



"Song of the Sea" This mosaic comprises a large outdoor community art project. It was accomplished through the creativity and dedicated effort of a group of Kinvara's youth (Emily Butler, Dearbhla Minogue, and Marian Kenny, Emer Blackwell, Melissa Leete-Scallan and Cormac Fahy) under the direction and guidance of art instructor, Mary Nadon-Nichols. The mosaic is a pictorial representation of themes and aspects important to Kinvara's heritage. Constructed in tile, glass, mirror, and other materials collected by the local school children, the mosaic is a demonstration of the rewards of community involvement and is a beautiful addition to the character of the harbour. The 'Song of the Sea' mosaic depicts a female fiddler rising out of the water, enchanting the fish, seals, and birds with her music. The rolling fields and open sky represents Kinvara's rural landscape. Smaller mosaic panels of swans, sea creatures, and starlings are entwined with a music staff that runs throughout the entire mural. The musical notes are done entirely in mirrored glass and loosely represent the tune "The Dances at Kinvara". Music, the sea, and the fields combine in a mythological fashion as the setting sun sparkles off the mirror and glass tiles.

Copper Plate etchings – This project was coordinated under the guidance of Anne Korff. She organized the text and blueprints of the boats, etched by Cath Taylor, of Mountscribe. Cath teaches copper etching at GMIT. Kinvara has a rich maritime heritage and an active harbour. Additional plates of other traditional sailing craft and other classic sailing boats are planned; suggestions are welcome. We hope this will provide interest and appreciation of the types of boats in Kinvara Bay.

Sculpture on the pier — A sculpture was designed in 2002 by the art and metalwork students of Gort Community School, and completed in 2003. This project was supervised by art teacher, Barbara Slattery, metalwork teacher Martin Killeen and coordinated by Anne Korff of Kinvara. The subject of the sculpture is a boat, representing a hooker emerging from the sea, shaped as Kinvara bay. The materials are copper and steel. The sculpture is due to be mounted on a timber plinth and erected on the pier green.



Students from the Art and Metalwork class (L-R): Ronán Slattery, David McGann, Noel McCormack and Cúinis Lowe Bennett with their teacher, Martin Killeen (centre).

Other Heritage Projects

A number of other heritage projects included the Kinvara Community Notice Board. The Notice Board is posted on what was the weigh house in the town square. It features old photographs of some of the buildings listed on the Heritage Trail brochure, and pictures reflecting how life used to be in Kinvara. Cultural events, Kinvara Community Council notices and useful information about essential services for visitors are posted.

Kinvara Heritage Exhibition

The exhibition was held at St. Joseph's National School on the 7th and 8th of September 2002 for Heritage Week, reflected the effort that all of the students from St. Joseph's, Northampton, and Doorus National Schools contributed to the Heritage Project.

During the spring, I attended each of the schools and did a presentation of the three aspects of heritage (natural, built, and cultural). The children were asked to contribute drawings that would be mounted into books for the Heritage Exhibition and for use in the Kinvara Community Calendar for 2003. Through those visits, I became aware of the impressive work that the schools had already done regarding

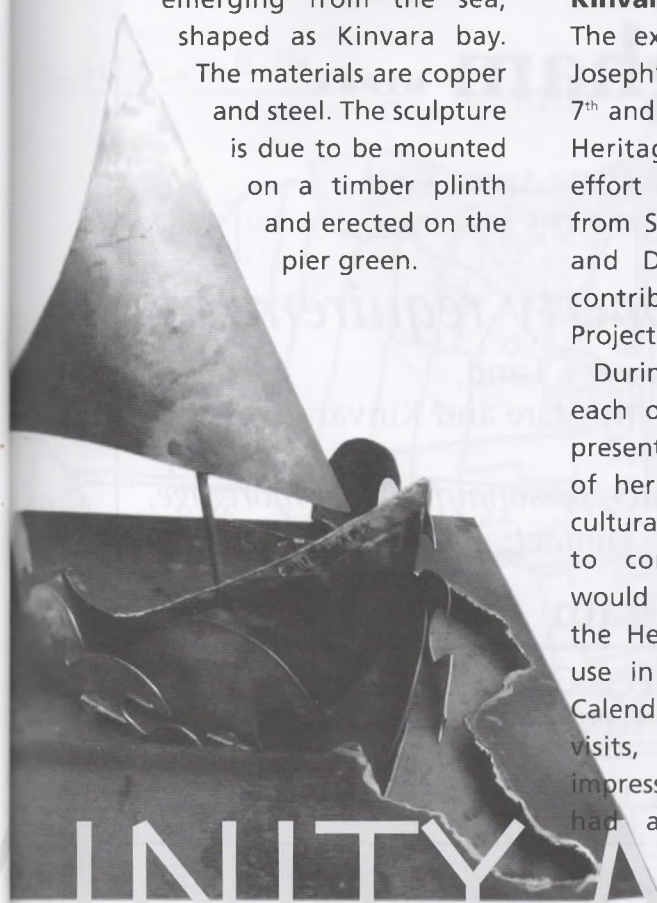
Kinvara's heritage. I requested the opportunity to profile these during our exhibition.

St. Joseph's research project

Students in fifth class of St. Joseph's offered to do a research project for the exhibition. Gordon D'Arcy visited the students through the Heritage in School's scheme. Their research was thorough and impressive and merited publication. Funding was sought. The areas covered included: Kinvara, Today and Yesterday, Kinvara during the Famine, Castles of Kinvara, Churches and Monasteries, Graveyards, Chalices, The Bay, Piers, and Harbours, The Burren Out & About & Under, Public Services in Kinvara and Towns & Stories.

Northampton National School

Northampton won an award for their wonderful Heritage Books in a competition organized by Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann. A selection of these books which include: A Living Language, The Follies, Old Cures, Piseoga (Superstitions), Weather Lore, and the History of Northampton National School. Several other books compiled that were not available included: Francis Fahy, Local Musicians (Pat Keane), Seanfhocail – A collection of Irish Expressions, History of Places of Local Interest and Place Names.



Doorus National School

This school in Doorus allowed us to use their solar tree for the exhibition. The tree was constructed from tree bark mold, leaf rubbings, and a wire framed trunk with solar panel. Photographs outlining their progress added to the demonstration. It was delightful to see children's expressions as they watched their drawings mounted into books. It was an excellent way to include everyone, encourage creativity, and for the community to see Kinvara through the eyes of the children.

The Kinvara Community

Calendar 2003

This was produced by the Kinvara

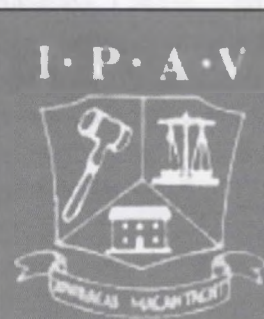
Community Council, as their portion of the contribution to the Heritage Council Grant. We selected 13 drawings that related to the months and included students from all three schools. Brian Wynne, from the Kinvara's Writers Group, composed a pleasant and humorous poem corresponding to each month. Proceeds from the sale of the calendar have been donated to the Community Centre Building Fund.

Other noteworthy aspects

Fourth-year students of Seamount College contributed a young person's perspective on the Town Plan; a sponsored trip took place for interested community members to the Country Life

Museum in Co. Mayo; a Natural Heritage talk was given by Environmental Consultants on native animals, native & non-native species, habitats & legal protection, conservation, graveyard species, developing heritage areas and the benefits of ecological planning. We are grateful to the Heritage Council and Ford Ireland for their financial assistance in helping our community in such a practical and meaningful way. Being intimately involved in both Heritage Projects inspired my belief in the ability to improve our community through collective effort.

Trisha Venegas (*Trish is secretary of the Community Council*)



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Banks and Stones and Every Blooming Thing — A Field-map of Aughinish

Five years ago, I decided to try to compile a map which showed the names of fields and other landmarks in Aughinish. Many field names have gone from living memory. My first challenge was to find a map which showed the field boundaries in the village. Given the advances in map-making in recent years, surprisingly, the most detailed map that I could find was Griffith's Valuation Map from the 1850s. When I compared aerial photography from the 1970's with the Griffith's map, stone walls and other boundaries were almost exactly the same.

Aughinish is divided into four quarters, traditionally thought to be of 52 acres each. The quarters take their names from landmarks in each quarter: the cliffs (Ceathrú na hAille), a well (Ceathrú an Tobar), scutch grass (Ceathrú an Broimfhéar). The naming of the fourth quarter is somewhat more enigmatic. Ceathrú Droim Bhreathnach is said to take its name from a *spailpín* called Breathnach who choked while working in a field in this quarter. Local folklore has it

that he died at 11 a.m., but that his body was left under the wall until the work was done and there was time to move him. Another variation of the story is that he broke his back. Droim/druim can also mean ridge.

Aughinish landmarks

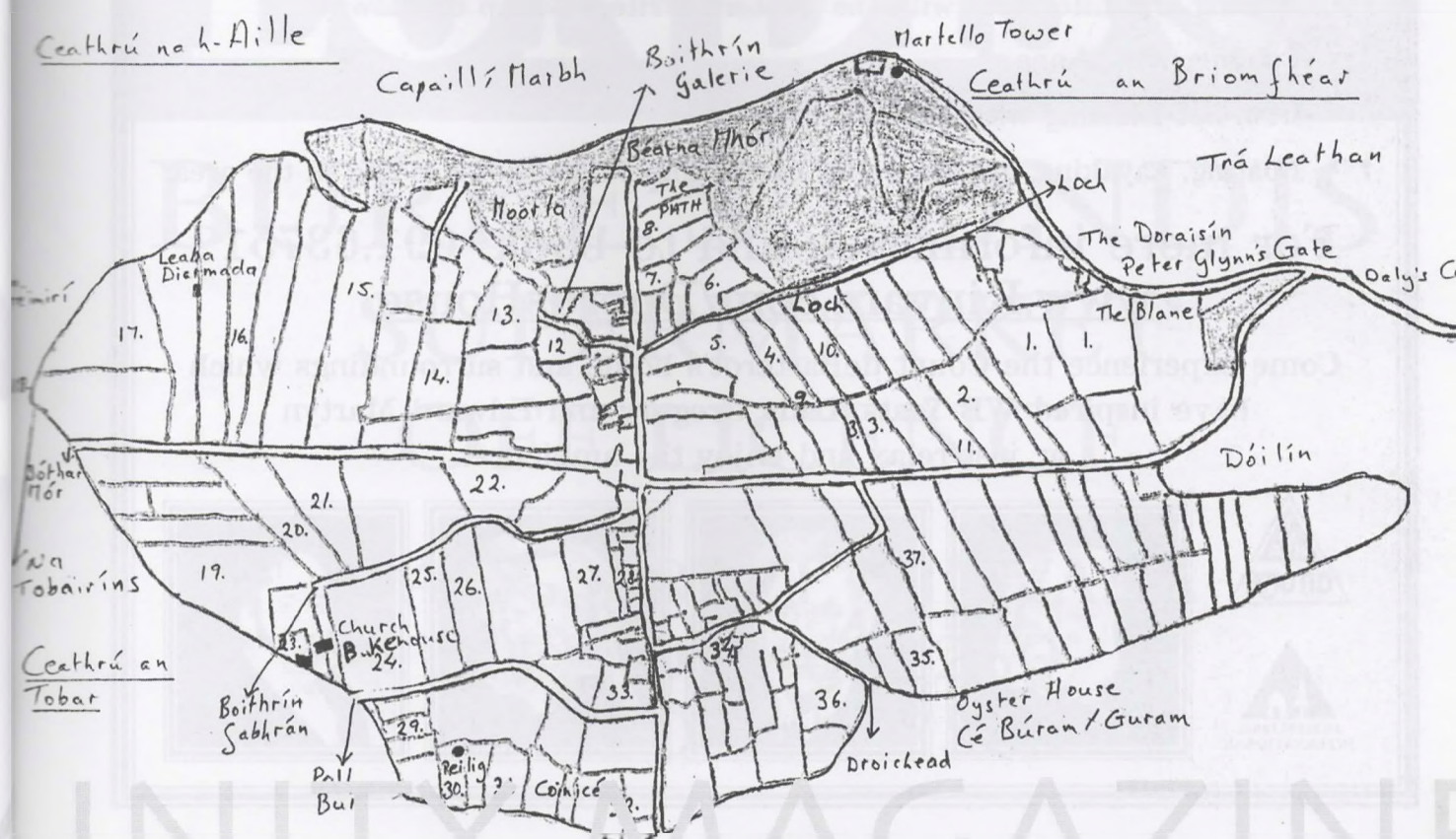
The obvious landmarks in the village are the Martello tower, the old church and its adjoining bakehouse, and the *reilig*, or graveyard. Less obvious, but no less important, are Leaba (or *Nead*) Diarmada, na Dréimí and na Tobairíní. *Leaba Diarmada* is a small megalithic tomb. The name refers to the legend of Diarmuid agus Gráinne; it is said that Diarmuid made a bed of stones to shelter them while they were 'on the run'. *Na Dréimí* are steps cut into the cliffs. When seaweed was used as fertilizer, the people of the village climbed these steps from the shore, carrying the seaweed on their backs. *Na Tobairíní* refer to small holes drilled in the cliff-side, used for collecting water. The origin of many of the names in Aughinish is now lost, and the people who had many of the answers are dead. One name that the people of the village could not explain was *Bóithrin Galerie*, on the north side of the village. A search of Griffith's Valuation, which lists the residents of Aughinish in the 1850's, shows that a 'Widow Galerie' lived in Aughinish. It can be assumed that she brought the name with her to the grave. There are no people of that name in the locality now.

The map is by no means complete, and I take responsibility for all errors, omissions and for the poor cartographic skills! Any additional information or corrections are very welcome. I am very grateful to the people in Aughinish who helped me with this project.

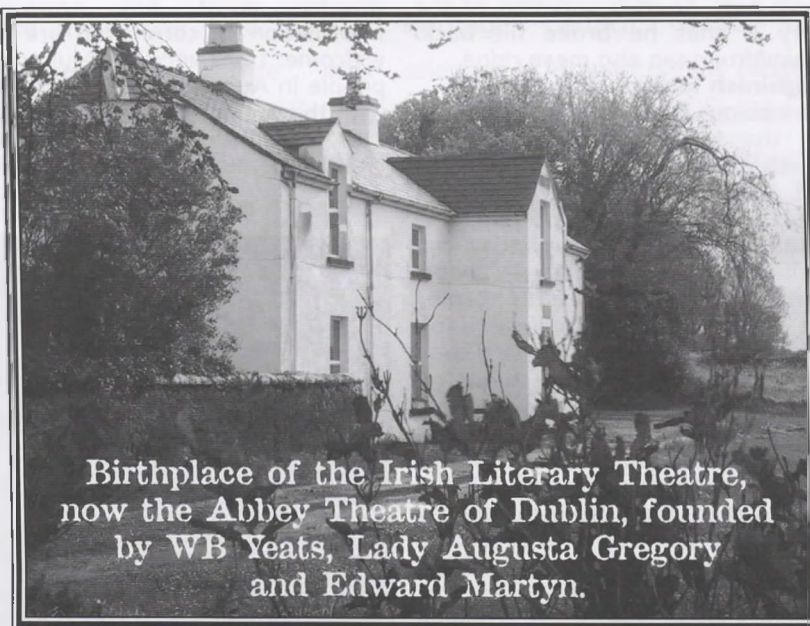
Geraldine Curtin (Geraldine, from Aughinish, is a librarian at NUI, Galway)

KEY

1. Clúinín. 2. Trí Ceathrú.
3. The Gleanns. 4. Leacht.
5. Muirthins. 6. New Gardens.
7. Túr. 8. Cregin. 9. Garraí Pheadaí.
10. Garraí Ísleach. 11. Garraí Fada.
12. Garraí na Gunnailí. 13. Garraí na gCoiníní.
14. The Hat. 15. Garraí na Cúirte.
16. Cloch Éibhear. 17. Tobar na hAille.
18. Na Dréimí.
19. Cliffs. 20. Garraí na Clocha Bána.
21. Garraí na Cúirte. 22. Poll an Amh.
23. Tobar. 24. Kinnanes.
25. The (Irish) Acre. 26. Páirc Mór.
27. Páirc Éamoin. 28. The Marbles.
29. Gáirdín. 30. The Reilig.
31. Páircín na Gé. 32. The Corner Fields.
33. Páircín na gCoiníní. 34. The Old Cabhail.
35. Dá Thóg/Dathóg.
36. Droichead. 37. Garraí fada



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or just relax and enjoy the ambience.



In 1993, a feasibility study, commissioned by Éigse Ltd, Dublin, was conducted for the ESB regarding the former tide-powered corn mill at Corranroo Bay, Doorus. The following article is based on the report, which we received from Toddy Byrne.

THE RUIN IN RINEEN between Corranroo and Aughinish bay in Doorus was originally a water corn mill, and an unusual one at that. Most water mills used rivers or streams to turn their water wheels. Several thousand were built in Ireland during the 19th century, but tidal mills, like this one, were rare.

Water was allowed to flow into Corranroo Bay on the incoming tide but was trapped in the bay as the tide went out. At low tide,

this reservoir of water was flushed into Aughinish bay, turning the water wheel as it went. So the mill was able to operate and grind corn for several hours around low tide. As this occurred twice a day, the mill would have been operational for about 10 hours a day.

This may seem to be a serious limitation but not so, compared to the choices available in Kinvara at the time. Conventional water mills were out of the question because the local rivers and streams flowed underground and windmills were dependent on the vagaries of the weather. So this was an ingenious, predictable and practical way of powering milling, using a natural local resource.

A stone above the entrance reads BB Esq. 1804. This refers to the local landowner Bartholomew de Basterot, and

dates its construction during the Napoleonic wars. No doubt de Basterot thought the investment worthwhile because, at the time, huge profits could be made in growing wheat and exporting flour to England, which had been cut off from the grain markets of continental Europe. In any case, it proved to be a commercial success and was still in operation at the turn of the 20th century.

Waterpower went out of fashion with the invention of the steam and internal combustion engines but this old technology's day has come again. As engineers look for renewable sources of energy, tidal power is back on agenda. There is already a hydro-electric power station operating on exactly the same principles at La Rance in Brittany. Today the mill stands sadly derelict: its history forgotten, its significance ignored. What a pity.

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1 The Irish North



SINCE 1990, I HAD HAD EXPERIENCE of sailing in Norway with Paddy Barry, who had been to West Greenland. Another friend from Knock, Jarlath Cunnane, had vast ocean sailing experience, including a recent Antarctic "Shackleton Expedition". Mount Everest climber, Frank Nugent, had also been on that expedition. Together, we decided to make our North West Passage attempt during 2001. Jarlath would be skipper and Paddy project leader; with Frank, Gearóid O' Riain, as communications expert; Terry Irvine, John Murray, film-maker; Kevin Cronin, accountant to the expedition; and myself as medical officer.

We failed to find a suitable boat for the expedition, so we decided to build one. A 48-footer, specially strengthened aluminium sailing vessel built to a design proven on previous expeditions with its 120HP Perkins engine, shallow draft and retractable centre-board would sleep eight. *Northabout* was built by Jarlath, with technical back-up by Paddy and help from the team and friends in Knock. It was completed in record time, 13 months, ready for our departure on 23rd June 2001. We would arrive in Baffin Bay, North Greenland, as the ice began to break up.

Provisions for the journey

We had taken enough food for eight men for at least 40 weeks,

sufficient to overwinter in the event of getting caught in the ice and the equipment we would need to survive if we lost the boat.

Northabout left Jarlath's shed in Knock to be launched, rigged and vitted three weeks before its departure from Westport. She passed her sea trials with flying colours on the first leg of the journey to Greenland, weathering a storm on the way to Cape Farewell. Jarlath, Frank, Terry, John and I flew to Illulisat, Greenland, to join Paddy and Gearóid for the onward voyage to North Greenland and the NWP.

Our arrival at Illulisat was memorable: 24 hours of blue skies, the biggest glacier in the world calving huge icebergs in

mighty explosions, howling huskies, the smell of fish, seal blubber and dog excrement, a truly surreal experience. We sailed out of Illulisat in wonderful sunshine and heavy ice, northwards inside Disco Island, through the Vaigat (Iceberg Valley) towards Melville Bay, calling into isolated Inuit habitations on the way. The constant noise of the aluminium hull encountering ice floes, and twenty-four hours daylight ensured that we didn't get a lot of sleep.

Beautiful and unspoilt

The Arctic is one of the most naturally beautiful and unspoilt regions in the world. Few people live there, and those who do are remarkable, true survivors. In Greenland, they still hunt seal and whale with harpoon from small kayaks and, in winter, they will often travel with their dog sled team 1,000 miles to find food. Alcohol and other western influences have taken their toll, however, but today, many habitations are taking steps to preserve their way of life. We were amazed when in Kuvlurdsavaq, an elderly Eskimo took my fiddle, and played a reel as his companions danced an Irish set, as well as you'd see anywhere in Clare. Apparently, these dances had been learned from 18th century Irish and Scottish whalers and passed down the generations. And then there was the wildlife, like our first sighting of a polar bear at close quarters, sitting on an iceberg thirty-five miles out to sea.

The Bering Strait

Located 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the NWP is the sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific between Greenland to the

Bering Strait. It has fascinated and confounded adventurers for centuries luring many to their deaths. Franklin's expedition left Greenland never to be seen again. However, there was now no going back.

Log during Wednesday, 8th August: *Lancaster Sound; Ice to port and star-Board ... still in ice; slow progress ... no progress ... drifting in pack-ice ...* We were beset. Was this the end of our expedition? Many thoughts crossed our minds but we kept them to ourselves. Thirty-six hours later, we were moving again; ahead the notorious Peel Sound. At Gjoahaven (pop. 300), we were greeted by a native drum-dancer, the grandson of the explorer Roald Amundsen, and a dead ringer, with his aquiline nose and blue eyes!

From here, the sailing was tough, past the ominously named Starvation Point, Desolate Bay, and Cape Terror. Ashore, we came upon human bones, probably the remains from Franklin's expedition.

Close to the Magnetic North Pole, our compass was useless and the charts of the passage aren't accurate for either position or depth. So navigation is difficult and the combination of wind, ice, fog, shallow water (we went aground quite a few times) made sailing hazardous. On August 23rd, we had cleared the shelter of Victoria and Banks Islands entered the Beaufort Sea where polar pack ice extends to the shores of the Yukon and Alaska. Weather conditions were getting worse, more freezing fog, heavier pack ice and strong winds, and now we had to contend with darkness during the short night. However having a shallow draft paid off — it allowed us to go right into the shore, circumventing the heavier ice.

The final run

At the Point Barrow, there is a small habitation and we were looking forward to a shower, fresh food and some rest. As we approached, the wind blew up from the north and made it too dangerous to anchor or launch

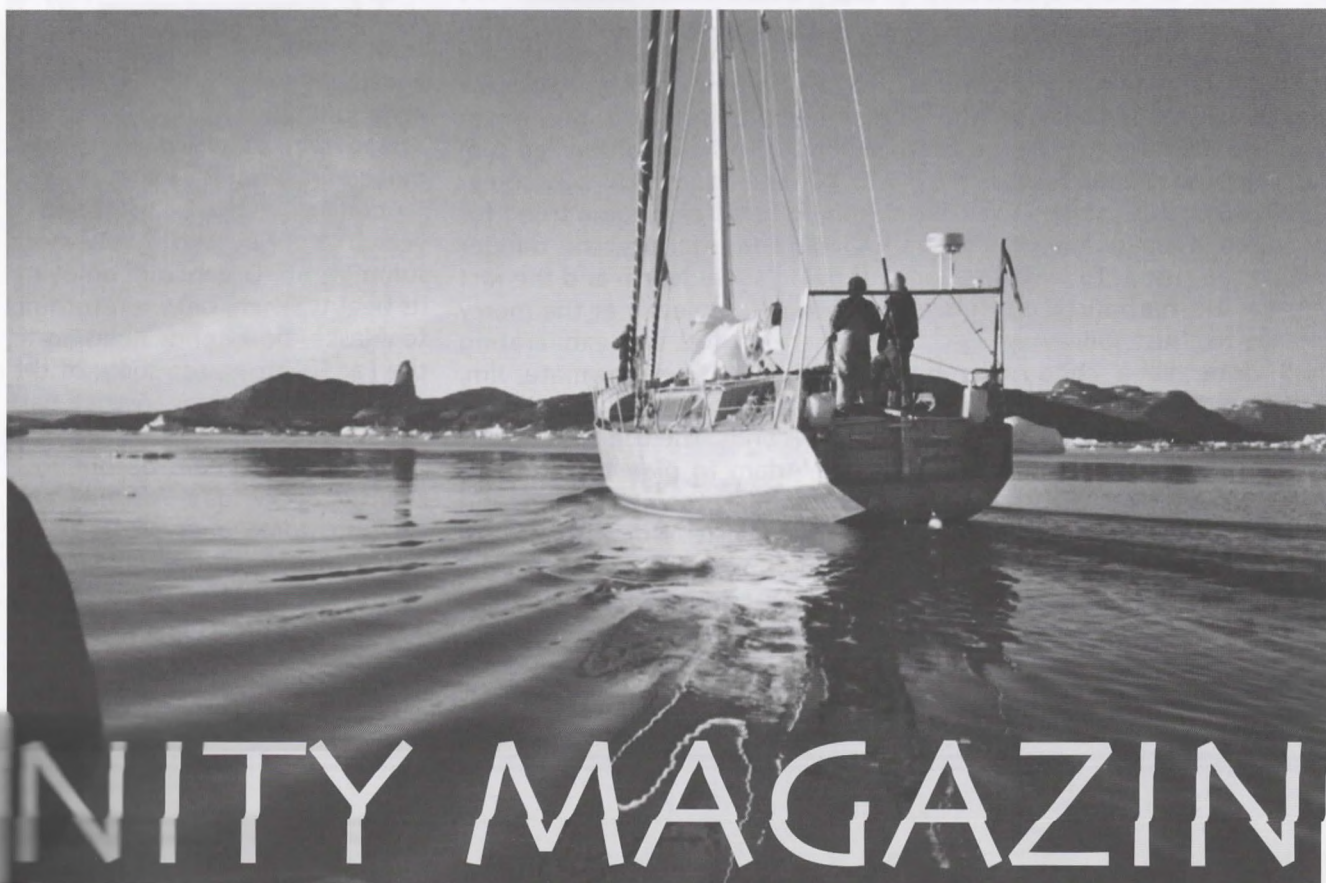
our dinghy. Fifty yards away, people on shore were taking photos of our boat. We had no choice but to push on through the bad weather down the Chukchi Sea into the Bering Strait.

Although we were free of sea ice, this turned out to be a very demanding leg of the expedition. The Bering Strait is notorious for extreme weather. We were driven South by a following gale and huge seas, which extinguished our cooker, leaving us without hot food or heat.

Log of 1st September, 19.35 hrs: *Crossed the Bering Strait. End of the Northwest Passage. A tot (of rum) and cheers all round.*

From Westport to Nome, Alaska, we had covered 6,000 miles. We were the first Irish expedition to attempt and complete the passage and the 5th boat ever to do so in one season. There are seven bars in Nome. We visited them all. For further details, refer to: www.northabout.com

Michael Brogan (*Michael is skipper of the Mac Duach*)



Adam Lalich

Adam Lalich has become a frequent visitor to Kinvara, on his boat *Vamos*. Some months ago, he gave a talk to a packed house on his travels in the Arctic, and his tracking of Free Willie the whale in Iceland. He kindly donated the proceeds to the Kinvara Community Centre Building Fund. Adam was born in Liberia in Africa and grew up in the United States. His father's job led to Adam living in many different places. At 18, his family moved to Homer in Alaska where he lived until he was 40:

I got involved in the commercial fishing industry — fishing for shrimp out of Homer, then off to Kodiak every winter to fish for King crab and Halibut and Black cod through the summer. The last 10 years, strictly in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. I did the King Crab fishery in the Fall, then the Baridi crab fishery and started in January for 4-6 months doing the Opilio fishery (snow crab). This would be way north in the Bering Sea, mostly above the Proof Islands or wherever the Bering Sea ice pack permitted us to get to.

The fishing industry proved a tough relentless business, and it was the desire for a change that led Adam to change focus early in 2000. By this stage he had acquired a small fibreglass hull, which he used to sail around Alaska. He harboured a lifelong dream to "just sail away" as he had done as a child with his father in Nevada. In Olga Bay on Kodiak Island at one stage, Adam realised that the boat was not good enough to withstand the sailing he desired in his heart. He awoke "surrounded by ice" and decided that a Steel boat was the way forward.

He found *Vamos* in France; his much-desired steel boat and now a welcome familiar sight on the

Quay in Kinvara. In 2000 Adam first visited our shores supposedly on his "way home to Alaska". However, his love of traditional music, the lifestyle, and the *craic* and the help of locals including Eugene Lambe and Rainer Krause ensured that his visit was more than a passing one.

The following May I set sail for Iceland. Eugene sailed with me on the 9-day trip. Eugene came back to Ireland and I waited for a friend from Alaska to sail around Iceland. I spent 2½ months going around Iceland, my friend left from Reykjavik and then I continued on my own. I sailed to the Faroe Islands. Another place I really enjoy visiting. Down to Scotland then, where I spent another 2½ months and then back to Ireland in November 2001. I came back to Kinvara, since the people had been so kind to me. The following year, the music was good and I could not think of a better place to hang out for the winter and work on the boat.

Last year, Adam was offered the chance to track Keiko (the Free Willie Whale) off Iceland. This gave him a chance to visit new places and learn more about our mammal friends. Adam tracked this giant whale, who had a VHF tag attached to his dorsal fin, observing the interaction with Keiko and the other whales and following him until he lost track somewhere out into the North Atlantic. This expedition led him to Greenland, which was something of a "dream come true" for Adam. The intensity, the danger of being so far North and the fact of being completely at the mercy of the elements was exhilarating for Adam and his crewmate, Jim, a Scot whom he had met in the Faroe Islands. The trip has encouraged Adam to plan to return to Greenland in the near future and also to visit Norway before returning to his native Alaska.

We departed Greenland at the end of September, as weather can change fast and we had no idea where ice pack was. Jim departed from Isiforied Iceland [NW



Photo: Brendan Dunford

Iceland] in the beginning of Oct to head home, and I sailed back alone around Iceland to the Faroes, then Scotland and arrived in Ireland in mid-December. At this time of year, 'single-handling' is dodging weather systems and a lot of waiting for favourable weather if you can. I came back to Kinvara, having made quite a few friends there over the two years, and I knew I could always find great music. I find it really nice to come to a place where you know folks than where you don't. For myself here I have found kindness from folks that I have not experienced anywhere else, yet most of my adult life I was fishing and out at sea and as a kid we always moved around.

Adam now hopes to spend a year in Norway and a few more summers in Greenland enjoying its beauty. Then, before returning to Alaska, he intends heading to the Far South, to see some of the more remote places in that part of the world.

All this is a dream becoming a reality. Every day is new and exciting, some days are setbacks but at the end of the day I would not trade my life for anything and could not be happier.

Compiled by Suzanne O'Flaherty

MOYLAN MEETS MOYLAN

About the year 1923, my brother Joe was living in Boston, Mass. And stopped in the local pub for a drink after working all day.

After a little while, a man came in and sat on the stool next to him. Both men started a friendly chat. After a few moments, my brother asked him if he was ever in Ireland. Just at that moment, my brother looked in the mirror and exclaimed, "Say, we look alike!"

The other man agreed, then he said "You asked me if I was ever in Ireland, well, I was. You won't believe what happened there. I was arrested, as they thought I was an IRA man by the same name as my own. They took me to Dublin and I was scheduled to be hanged. I wouldn't be here today if the

Knights of Columbus hadn't stated that I was an American citizen and was only visiting Ireland; and at the time of the incident I was accused of, I was in the USA. So they set me free."

My brother then asked him what his name was, and he answered "Joe Moylan". In amazement, Joe said "Well, my friend, you were arrested instead of me! You won't believe this – my name is Joe Moylan, from Tubber, Galway." Both Joes were so surprised at this coincidence that they just hugged each other. Words could never explain the feelings of each man.

Patrick J Moylan Chicago, USA

The above letter was kindly provided for publication in Trácht by Paddy Roseingrave, who lives in Curtane, Tubber.

LETTER FROM AMERICA 2

Kinvara is one of those villages in Ireland which seems to feel good about itself and shares that attitude with its visitors. Jane and I visited on a number of occasions during my tenure as U.S. ambassador and each time we were impressed with its beauty and charm and blessed with true Irish hospitality and friendship. It is a lovely stop which we recommend to our friends when touring the West of Ireland.

Mike Sullivan former American Ambassador to Ireland

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20 Mural moves

What happened to the old murals when the Credit Union office site was demolished? Where did they go? Did we realise then, they still had value after they served their time? Who was the Dutchman who fell in love with the murals, and offered to make a substantial contribution to the community?

In seafaring folklore, we know the Flying Dutchman as a phantom ship. But the Dutchman, who paid a flying visit to Kinvara last year, was no phantom, and for Kinvara, he brought not bad, but good news.

Last summer, Frans Boon was touring in the area with his wife, Gerry. Galway proved too hectic, so they decided to make their way south via Kinvara. Harbours, he said, are always nice places.

We decided to stay the night in Kinvara. Before checking into the B&B, we took a little tour of the village, and down Main Street. Out of the corner of my eye, I spotted some nice paintings on a very old and derelict site. The boy, in particular, touched me in some way. Those melancholic eyes... Soon it would be demolished and end up in the skip. The thought of it made me sad...

Later, in the B&B, Frans' thoughts turned to the old building, and the mural. He returned to the site, to check if the painting was any good after all. Yes, it really was worth the effort, he thought. Across the road, he saw John Burke in Londis, counting the day's takings. No one else was in the shop, so Frans plucked up a bit of courage.

Sir, may I ask you a question? The man nodded yes. Do you know the owner of that building with the old paintings? Again he nodded yes. And I continued in my best English: 'I only want to express my interest in the old paintings, and I'm afraid they threw it away one day...'

Hoping for the best, Frans Boon left his business card with John Burke. On his way down the road, a man in a small Peugeot ('and a fine big nose') pulled up beside him. With the man's strong Irish accent, Frans couldn't make head or tail of what he was saying, but assumed it had to be about the murals. *He told me of a Dutch woman who lived 10 minutes walk from the village. She had painted the mural, and she was the one I should see.*

Up the Gort road, the Dutchman came to the house of Petra

Bhreatnach in Cloonnasee. One minute later, he finds himself sitting inside at the table chatting away in Dutch and English. How would he convince her that he was not some lunatic who had fallen for a peeling mural? That he wasn't exaggerating and that he really wanted to bring this to Holland? Petra had completed this mural some years previously, together with children in Kinvara. It depicted scenes from the shop, Kilkellys, that once stood there in the early 1900s: the Sunlight soap, Coleman's Candy Sticks (made next door), Blind Mice and, of course, the Boy standing in the doorway. When Frans explained what the boy represented to him, it all became clear, and hearts began to melt.

My father was born in 1902; his first mother died in 1904 when he was two years old. Then his father died in 1916. He was only 14 years



old, and had become an orphan. He went to live with his step-mother but he was not happy there. For four years, until he was 18, he helped run his father's shop, which was a small grocery store, like the one in the mural. The boy was 14 years old then, about the same age as the boy in the mural. A cap on his head, and some loose coins in his hand...

One year has now passed, and *The Boy* has found a new home, in the Dutchman's house in the historic city of Utrecht. Frans Boon, the youngest in a family of 15 children, will soon be paying another visit to Kinvara, to collect the rest of the murals. In the meantime, to show his appreciation, Frans offered to do something in return for the community. As it happens, Frans owns a printing business in Utrecht. Little did we expect here



in Kinvara that Frans' big-heartedness would extend to printing *Trácht* for free. The Dutchman's generosity amounts to a substantial contribution that will go in aid of the Community Centre.

Frans himself is delighted with the Kinvara murals that reminded him of his father's boyhood. And so ends this little story, with a happy ending for all concerned.

Caoilte Breatnach



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Michael: 087-2582408



Kinvara and District Credit Union Limited



Telephone 091-637525

E-mail: kinvaracu@eircom.net

Date: 31-05-03

Membership: 1612

Share Capital: €1,947,687

Loans out to Members: €1,219,088

Investments: €781,481

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— *you only pay interest on what you owe.*

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or by calling to the office.

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OPENING HOURS

Kinvara	Monday to Thursday, 10am-1pm
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	Saturday 7.30pm-9pm
Ballindereen	Sunday 11.30am-12.30pm
Ballyvaughan	Thursday 11.00am-12.30pm

Your dealings with us are always treated in the strictest confidence.

We are available to meet you to discuss our services in more detail any time.

Suggestions from members on how we can improve our service to you are always welcome.

Your Local Credit Union

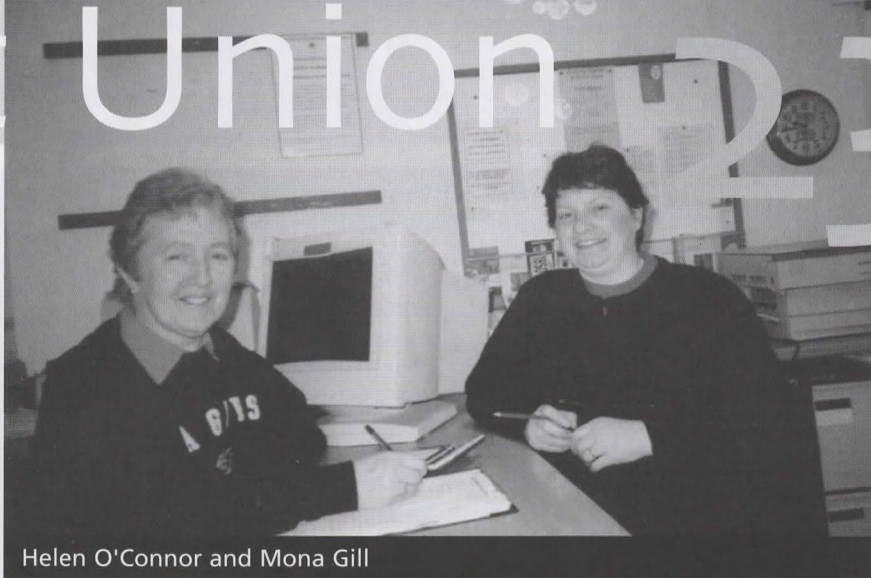
KINVARA & District Credit Union has been providing Credit Union services to the people of Ballyvaughan, Bell Harbour, New Quay in the County of Clare and Doorus, Kinvara, Ballinderreen and Kilcolgan in County Galway since February 1991.

Kinvara Credit Union was born out of an idea discussed at the Kinvara Community Council. Since 1991, almost 2,000 individuals have joined. Savings have now risen to about two million euro, most of which has been loaned out at a very competitive rate of interest to help members improve their homes, educate their children, buy cars, cattle, build slatted sheds and to undertake many more essential projects.

The Credit Union is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Brendan Leech. It currently employs two members of staff, Helen O'Connor and Mona Gill. Previously, the Credit Union in conjunction with FÁS was able to provide one job in the town. Majella Kenna, Ballyvaughan, was employed and she gave great service for 8 years. Majella is now employed as a full-time manager in Ennistymon Credit Union, and we wish her the best of luck there.

New Credit Union office on Main St

By now, most people have noticed the construction of a new Credit Union office on the Main Street of Kinvara, at the site of Kilkelly's shop. This is a fantastic project and before the end of 2003 the town will be proud to show off its new Financial Services Centre. Toddie Byrne and



Helen O'Connor and Mona Gill

others have done Trojan work to bring this project to fruition. Croft Quay Construction are the contractors under the direction of architect, Pádraig Ó Cuimín and engineer, John Britton.

A General Meeting is held each year to give members an opportunity to raise issues of concern and to elect a director. All monies invested are insured and any member with a loan who dies will have the balance of the loan cleared and any savings doubled.

The service is confidential, and the Kinvara office is open 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on

Fridays, and 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays. Service is also available in St. John's Hall, Ballyvaughan on Thursday mornings from 11 to 12.30, and in the Community Centre, Ballinderreen on Sunday mornings from 11.30 to 12.30.

The office in Kinvara can be reached by Telephone or Fax at 091-637525 or by e-mail kinvaracu@eircom.net

Michael Organ, PRO

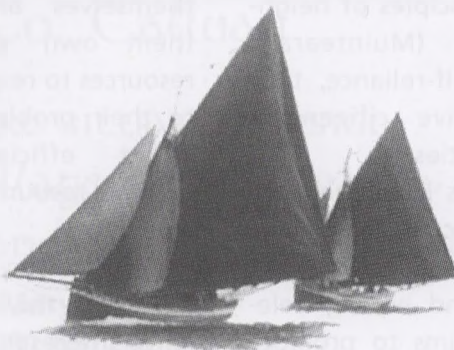
(Congratulations to Michael on his recent retirement. The Community is indebted to him for his work over the years.)

Tígh Uí Conghaile

The Quay, Kinvara, Co. Galway

Tel: (091) 637131

Eileen and Michael Connolly



Muintir na Tíre

MUINTIR NA TÍRE is a national voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting the process of community development. Founded by Canon Hayes in 1937, the organisation aims to enable people in rural and urban communities to become involved in local social, economic, cultural and environmental development. Its basic structure is the democratically elected representative Community Council, and it endeavours to represent the interests of local communities at the different levels of policy-making. It has a national network of over 1,220 Community Councils, Community Alert groups and associated development groups.



Staff and Board members of Muintir na Tíre with Mary Hanafin T.D. at the recent launch of Muintir's ICT Report. Representing Kinvara, Kilian Kenny (top right).

History

When Canon John Hayes founded Muintir na Tíre in 1937, his aim was to break down class antagonisms and conflicts between sectional interests and to replace these with a spirit of neighbourliness and community unity, where common problems might be solved.

Approach

Muintir's approach is based around the "whole community" and its core principles of neighbourliness (Muintearas), self-help and self-reliance, thus supporting active citizenship within communities.

Although times have changed, Muintir's holistic and inclusive view of community development remains solid and equally relevant today. It aims to promote

local effort in partnership with statutory and voluntary bodies, and to improve the social, cultural and economic life of the community, thereby integrating the community with the life of the nation.

Mission Statement

Muintir na Tíre's mission is to serve three functions:

- 1 Animation and Organisation:** actively supporting local communities in organising themselves and developing their own capacities and resources to respond effectively to their problems and needs, whilst efficiently utilising external resources and technical assistance.
- 2 Representation and Advocacy:** compiling the identified problems, interests and viewpoints

of local communities into coherent agendas for action at the appropriate levels of policy and public administration, and representing local communities in advocating desirable actions.

- 3 Monitoring Change and Influencing Policy:** assessing the potential implications of major economic and social forces, and policy trends, for local community development, and seeking to influence, as appropriate, government policy formation and institutional arrangements.

Muintir Na Tíre's Track Record

Since its inception in 1937 Muintir na Tíre has been involved in several major community development projects, pilot studies and research, and in the preparation of policy documents.

For example, Muintir na Tíre has: Promoted the building of Community Halls and Centres throughout the country (since 1939); Encouraged communities to accept the Rural Electrification Scheme (since 1947); Promoted the Credit Union Movement (1961-1971); Promoted Environmental/Heritage Projects (1991); and The National Rural Development Programme (2002).

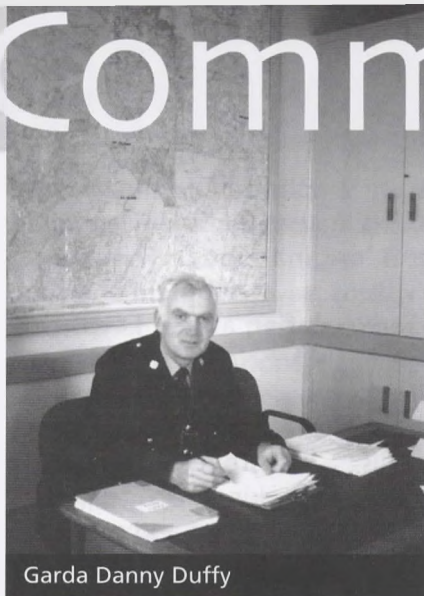
Community Alert

Community Alert aims to make the community a safer place for everyone, including the elderly. The most important element of Community Alert is for local people to become more aware of the need to preserve the quality of life of members of their community, in particular the more vulnerable.

Compiled by Kilian Kenny

(Kilian is Kinvara Community Council delegate to Muintir na Tíre)

Community Alert



Garda Danny Duffy

We hope to be able to provide the items listed below to people over 65 who are living alone, or in households where everyone is over 65. We expect to get a grant which will cover the difference between what the user is asked to pay and the real price, except in the case of smoke alarms which we do not expect to be covered by the grant.

If an eligible person is interested in having any item supplied and fitted (s)he must let a Community Alert person know. The Personal Alarm system consists of a transmitter which is a

pendant worn around the neck and which is activated by pressing it. A person requiring this system must already have a phone. In the event of an emergency, neighbours' phones will be automatically rung and an external bell box with siren and strobe lighting will be activated. There is only one once-off payment, except in the case of persons who require a monitored system (this is a system where the emergency message goes through to an agent who then tries to contact the pendant

holder, her or his neighbour and whatever service is required. The monitoring charge is approximately €50 per annum).

The system (on loan) will be the property of Kinvara Community Alert and the users will be asked to sign a statement acknowledging this.

Users need not pay any contribution now but they must do so before any item can be supplied. *For further information on Kinvara's Community Alert please contact: Garda Danny Duffy. Or Mary O'Shaughnessy Tel: 637431*

PRICE LIST:

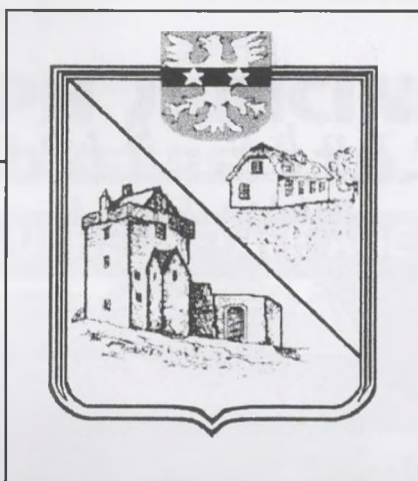
Non-monitored Alarm System
Sensor Light
Smoke Alarms
Door Chains
Door Dead Locks
Door Viewers
Window Lock

Actual Price

€393.62
€101.58
€ 7.62
€ 5.08
€ 25.39
€ 5.08
€ 5.08

User's Contribution

€82.53
€25.39
€ 6.35
€ 1.27
€ 6.35
€ 1.27
€ 1.90

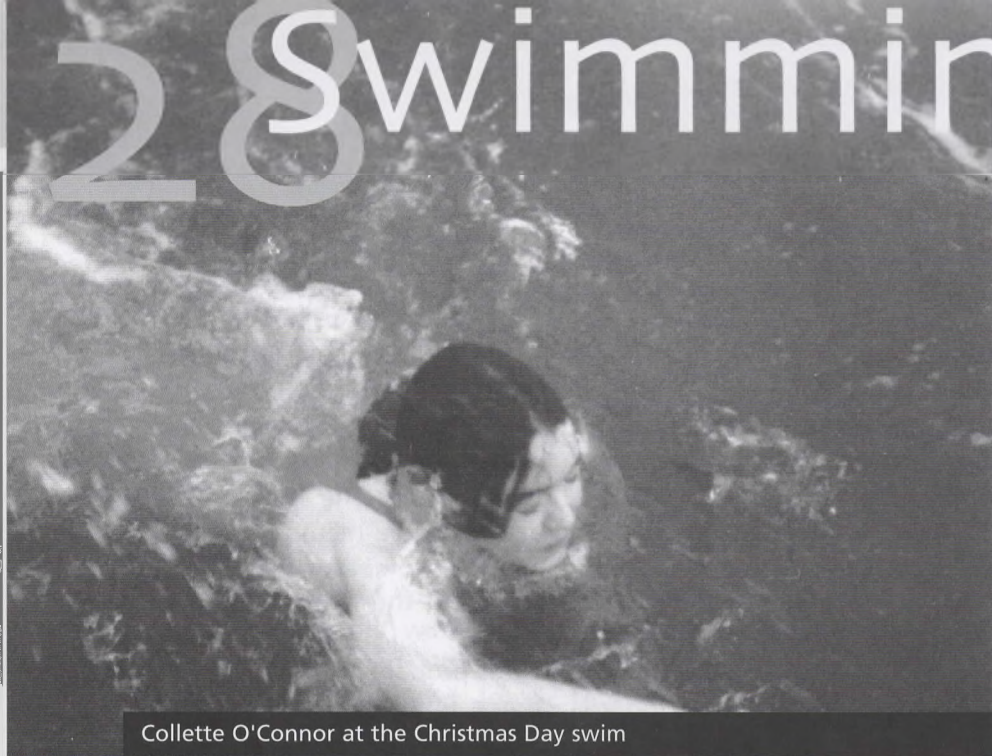


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Jim and Mary Barr
Tel/Fax: 091-637247

28 Swimming and



Collette O'Connor at the Christmas Day swim

SWIMMING AND LIFESAVING

are two different activities but, invariably, there is an overlap in the membership of both groups. Many boys and girls in Kinvara advance from swimming training to lifesaving training when they reach 12 years. We will look at the work of the two groups and consider their potential for developing or extending the scope of their service to the community over the coming years.

The Swimming Club was founded in 1967 through the initiative of the late Paddy Geraghty. Its mission is to teach the essential life skill of swimming to children and adults. It conducts swimming sessions throughout the year for both groups. For the past number of years, children's classes have been held on Saturday mornings and adult classes on Wednesday evenings. The club is affiliated to Swim Ireland.

SWIMMING

Children who attend classes regularly over the years can become

competent in the four main strokes – Front Crawl, Back Crawl, Breaststroke and Butterfly – and in a number of other skills such as treading water, surface diving, sculling, etc. There is an increasing recognition internationally that swimming is an essential life skill, as well as a sport in its own right. It opens the door to participation in other sports, such as surfing, canoeing, sailing, diving, etc. It can be a life-long activity and it has been proven to be the most effective form of exercise.

Over the years other sporting clubs in the locality have been very accommodating in not organising their training sessions when swimming club classes are on. Art, drama and music teachers, also, increasingly recognise that swimming is an essential life skill and are aware of the dilemma for children if they have to choose between their speciality and the essential life skill of swimming. This co-operation down through the years has been appreciated very much by the club.

LIFESAVING

Some years after the Swimming Club was founded, lifesaving classes began in Kinvara. It was not long before some of its members represented Galway in regional and national competitions. The Water Safety group currently trains for two hours every Saturday in Kilcornan Pool and members come not only from Kinvara but also from Gort, Ardrahan, Craughwell, Athenry, Galway City and other places. After four or five years, most of the participants will have reached the standard that will qualify them to become lifeguards on beaches or in swimming pools. Indeed, over the last number of years many of the beach guards in counties Clare and Galway received their training in Kilcornan.

The Water Safety group is affiliated to Irish Water Safety, a semi-state body. At our classes we promote water safety primarily by teaching members the importance of safe practices (not swimming after a meal, never swimming alone, never swimming out to sea, etc.). Also through teaching skills such as reaching and wading rescues, carries, breaks, Basic Life Support (including CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation), etc. Training in the use of defibrillators will probably be added to the programme in the future. A high level of fitness is required and participants must pass tests in Survival swimming.

THE FUTURE

In the 36 years since Kinvara Swimming Club came into existence thousands of people, children and adults, have been taught to swim by its instructors and assistant teachers. Most of these instructors were students either at third level colleges or senior secondary school students in Kinvara or Gort. But the most important element has always been the senior adult instructors, of whom there are three. Students are unlikely to stay in the area. We depend on settled adults, and only one (Rose O'Connor of Mountscribe) has volunteered for training over the last 17 years. Two of the qualified teachers at the present time, Bridie Giles and

Helen O'Connor, were unable to swim as young parents. They helped with the swimming club classes, but they wanted to do more! They attended an Assistant Teachers' training course and advanced from that to a full Teacher's Course. They were assessed on their practical teaching and did a written examination, and passed with flying colours. Ever since, they have been teaching swimming.

Adult swimming instructors

It is now time to pass the baton to new adult swimming instructors. The time is fast approaching when there may be no qualified personnel in Kinvara to teach swimming and lifesaving. People who are resident permanently in

the area are required. There will be an Assistant Swimming Teacher's Course run over two weekends in September, probably 19th – 21st and 26th – 28th September. Over both weekends, there will be about eight hours of practical work at the pool and about 16 hours theory. Interested parents (preferably) should give their names to the Secretary of the Swimming Club, Lorraine Canny, and she will arrange for full details to be dispatched. It is up to ourselves to ensure that swimming remains an activity for all our children. We do not want it to be a privilege confined merely to those who can avail of hotel and leisure centre swimming pools or who can pay for private lessons.

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30 Kinvara

A Vision for Kinvara's Future

Kinvara's town plan is groundbreaking. Drawn up by the local community, it provides a framework for the further development of the town. It is our vision of our future. This is the first time in County Galway that a local community has been consulted in this way and will become the model for how it is done elsewhere.

The Kinvara's Integrated Area Plan has its roots in two related concerns, both local: the pollution of the bay and proposals by developers to build a number of large suburban style estates in and around the town.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1996. a local group, Cairde Cuan Chinn Mhara (CCCM) was set up to lobby for a sewage works. Raw untreated sewage from the town was entering the bay from a foul sewer 50 metres from the pier. This meant that local people could no longer swim there; faecal slicks were observable in the harbour and along the shoreline. In summer, on occasions, the bay stank. Kinvara Bay was a designated shellfish water, but the Department of the Marine had demoted the bay from category A to B in the early 1990s. This meant that shellfish had to be treated before they were fit for human consumption. CCCM commissioned a survey of the bay. It confirmed that the bay was a health hazard, with sewage being retained at the south end of the bay adjacent to the town. Untreated effluent was going into what was in effect a 'lake' 1 km long, ½ km wide and 4 m deep. A sewage treatment plant was urgently needed

1998: Having unsuccessfully lobbied the Council for two years, CCCM announced it would contest the local elections, standing solely on the issue of the

pollution of the bay. The response was immediate. Within weeks, the Council commissioned its own survey of the bay and CCCM assured a sewage plant would be built within two years. **Jan 2000:** CCCM was told that funds were no longer available, and plans for a sewage plant were back on the long finger. Meanwhile, large housing estates were planned in Kinvara thought by many not to be in the town's best interests.

May 2000. A newly-elected Community Council decided to address these issues. It began by supporting objections made by local residents to substantial speculative developments, and CCCM was merged with the Council. It soon became clear that planning decisions were being made with no consideration of their impact on Kinvara's future.

Summer 2000: The Community Council formed a sub-committee on Heritage, Planning and Development. It concluded that an overview was needed, i.e. a vision of how the town should develop. The town's unique character and charm had to be preserved. They successfully applied for a Heritage Council grant to investigate how this might be achieved. Committee members visited a number of towns, such as Doonbeg and Corofin in Clare, where community-led planning had taken place. The idea of a Town Plan drawn up in consultation with

the local community had been born. At a public meeting, attended by local politicians, the state of the bay and the impact of development on the town were discussed. A series of lectures followed on *Creating a vision for Kinvara*, addressed by speakers with experience in rural development. The Council was then approached about the need for a town plan..

September 2000, A public exhibition showed the current state of planning and the pollution of the bay in the context of the town's cultural, social and architectural past. This was the start of a consultative process that would culminate in a development Plan for Kinvara.

November 2001, Galway County Council announced that funding had been secured from the Dept of the Environment to undertake a pilot project on community planning in Kinvara. We, the people of Kinvara, would be asked how we saw the future of our community and draw up a plan to realise it.

March 2002: With professional help from the Tipperary Institute the process began. Everyone living in or around Kinvara was asked to participate. A newsletter was distributed to the entire community explaining how this would be done and inviting them to a series of meetings to air their views.

Next, representatives from the various interest groups within the community were elected at an open meeting to form a steering group, together with Galway County Council staff and councillors, to oversee the development of the plan. Since then, it has met over 20 times. The initial meetings set out terms of reference, how the group would

operate and make decisions by consensus. It was not an easy process, involving people from very different backgrounds and with different concerns and preoccupations. So it took some months for the steering group to become established and cohesive. Meanwhile Kinvara Community Council continued to lobby politicians for a sewage plant. The Department of the Environment told us that, although it gives Galway County Council a block grant for water and sewage, it was the Council's decision how money should be spent. *It was a question of priorities, not money.* The Council had Kinvara 12th on a list of 23 sewage treatment plants to be constructed between 2002 and 2018. This implied that Kinvara wouldn't have a sewage treatment plant before 2011. They said that if wanted it sooner we would need to get special funding from the government. *It was a question of funding not priorities.* We were getting nowhere; a new approach was needed.

June 2002: Kinvara Community Council lodged a formal complaint to the European Commission, claiming that the Irish Government was breaking a number of EU directives in relation to the bay. The bay had become so polluted that it was unsafe for any kind of leisure use, thus breaching the bathing water directive. Secondly, the bay was part of a Special Protection Area, so the SPA directive was being contravened too. Thirdly and crucially, as it turned out, came the shellfish directive. The Irish government had allowed the pollution of a designated shellfish water.

The EU responded within 48 hours. A case was already before

the EU, accusing the Irish government of failing to maintain, countrywide, the quality of Irish shellfish waters, including Kinvara Bay. According to the Irish government, the provision of a sewage plant for Kinvara was 'imminent'. Our submission had shown this to be nonsense. Within weeks, coincidentally or not, engineers were seen in Kinvara dropping probes into the sewer pipes.

The Council had commissioned the design of a sewage treatment system for the town.

Meantime, the steering committee was drawing up a 'vision statement' based on what people had said at the meetings held earlier. This sought to reflect and define the town's aspirations. It was distributed within the community and revised in the light of feedback at meetings in November.

In parallel to creating this 'vision', task groups and co-opted members from outside the steering group, began to research specific topics as diverse as sewage, business, education, farming, heritage, environment, education, tourism, the arts, traffic and parking. Their reports will be published as an appendix to the Town Plan.

2003: By now, the design of a sewage system had been completed. However there has been no indication of when and if this plant is to be built and how it is to be financed. Kinvara's case

will go before the European Court later this summer.

March 2003: A draft of the 'Kinvara Integrated Area Plan' vision statement was referred back to the community for feedback. Every house received a summary of the plan, and the full text was made available in the town. The Community Council reviewed the plan and comments by letter and E-mail were invited.

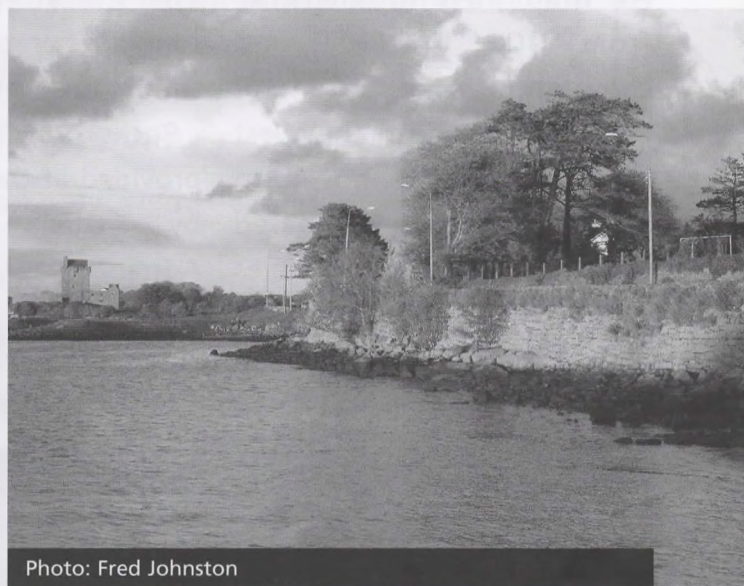


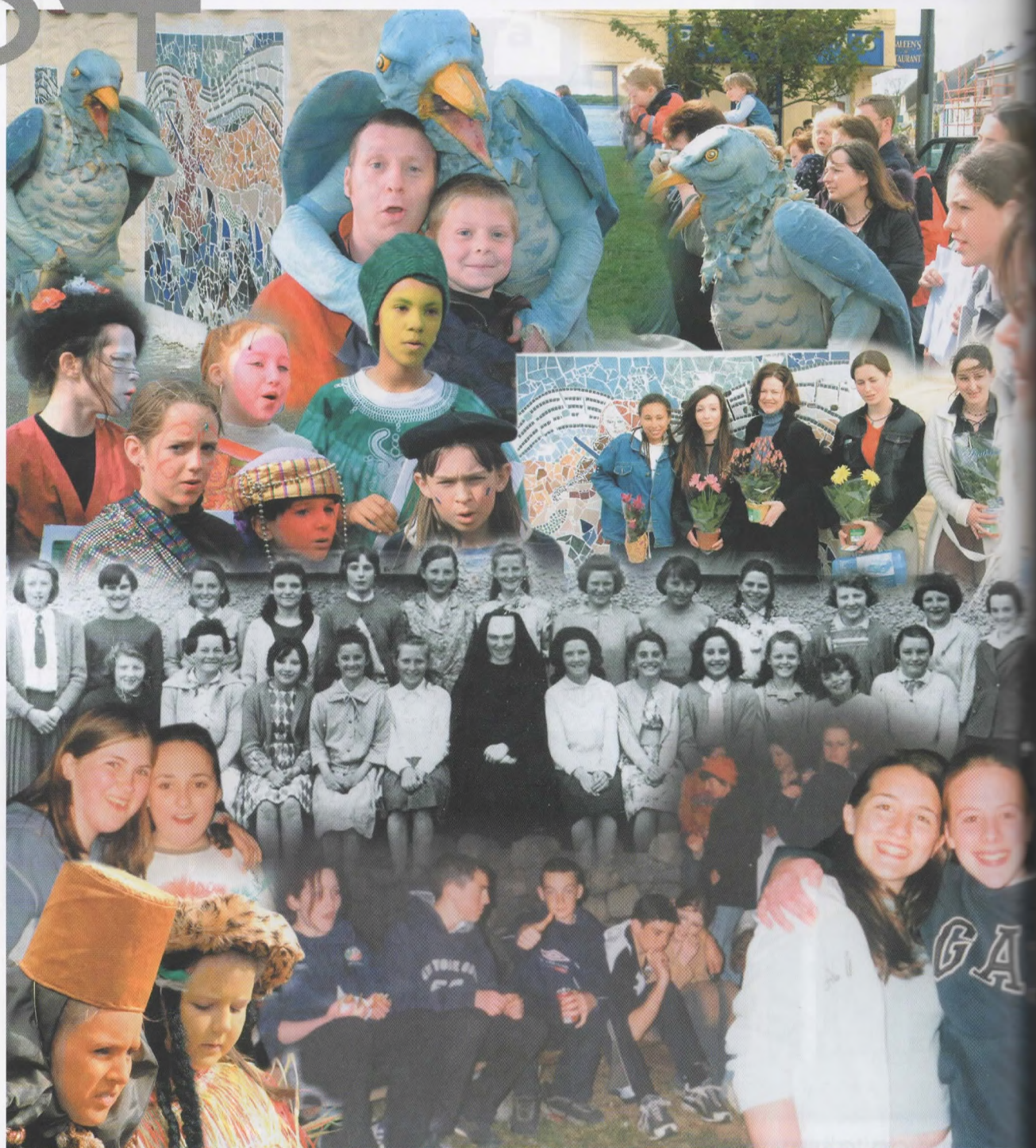
Photo: Fred Johnston

The criticisms, comments and suggestions, overwhelmingly positive, that came back from the community were then integrated into the plan by the steering committee and the final draft has now been submitted to Galway County Council.

THE NEXT STEP

We have defined what we want and how we might get it. To achieve that, it needs not only the input of GCC and other statutory agencies but also a sustained effort from the community. The plan has been acknowledged as an impressive and comprehensive vision of our town's future. We now face the challenge of making that vision a reality.

Richard Broad



KINVARA YOUTH

The Kinvara youth and drama clubs provide an excellent outlet for our talented youth (for drama activities, see page 45). Kinvara Youth Club currently has over 50 members, ranging from 1st to 5th year secondary school students. They meet at 8pm on Saturdays at the Community Centre, and for two hours, members can participate in indoor soccer, basketball, pool, uni-hock, darts and other activities such as board games, card games, charades etc.

During the past year, the Youth Club enjoyed various outings, such as a trip to Terryland Park to watch Galway United play Athlone Town. There were other trips to Galway, too, for activities such as bowling, laser quest, arcade amusements and

games. Not to mention the outing to Traught Beach at the end of last year (photo above).

James Davern and Áine O'Neill represented the Club at a meeting of the National Youth Federation, and voiced their opinions on the facilities they would like to see in Kinvara for teenagers.

This year's committee, who gave generously of their time to run the youth club include: Siobhán Fennel, Marie Walsh, Conor Minogue, Luke McCarthy, Kevin Kinane, Seán Forde and Paul Mulligan. The Community Council is delighted to facilitate the club every Saturday night. Mol an óige, is tiocfaidh sí (praise youth, and it will blossom).



Steven Moylan at the Christmas Day swim.

Paula Fahy, Diploma in Commercial Law in 2003.

Colette Fahy qualified as a solicitor in 2002.

Patricia Brehony (Martin), Mary Kilkelly (Ploughman), Maureen Burke (Dooley), c. 1960.

Nonie Connolly celebrating her 100th birthday.

Tom Leech

Tom Bohanon

Seán Healion at the first Cruinniú in 1979.

Mary & Gerry O'Shaughnessey

Mike Naughton

Martha Kelly

Mattie Nilan

Paddy Kavanagh

Jimmy Linnane R.I.P.

Mikey Flanagan

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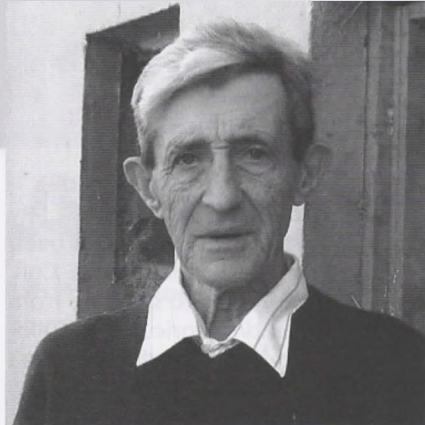
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MARTIN KELLY

I'm about 85 and I was fit all my life – céilí dancing. And I drank a few pints of porter now and again. I don't know exactly where Leagh got its name. There was a Lee came one time from the North of Ireland to Funshin Mór. So maybe that was how the name was got.

Níl Gaeilge ró mhaith agam. Although in this house here, when I was rising up, they used to talk Irish among themselves. When we were learning Irish at school, my father would say 'that will be valuable yet'. He never went to school himself. I have always loved the Irish. I'd be listening to the Connemara men when they used to be coming in here to Bindon dock at the back of Mongan's with turf. That's in Corranroo. Three or four boats used come in there – the Walshes and the Ó Briains, the Ó Ceallaighs. I'm an Ó Ceallaigh myself. The people used say that they were wild but they weren't, they were all right.

The house dances

House dances, nailed boots and this and that. I often lilted for house dances when they couldn't get a musician. I danced between chairs and could do the Polyglide — *Horsey, horsey don't you stop, just keep your legs going flippety flop, tail goes up and your feet go down, cheery up we're homeward bound!* And there was the twig dance, and the barn dance. And I used dance the *Highland Laddie*. You'd sprinkle a cross of flour on the ground. That's the way they used do it the first time ever. We used have the Bellharbour and Ballyvaughan lads here one time. *Any oul hooly over?* they'd say. They were mad for the road. They had concert flutes, concertinas and fiddles. Martin Keane from Ballyvaughan, Joe Meagher and Séan Niland.

There was only a few musicians around here when I was rising up. The Flanagans of Trellick; Michael Joe Flanagan, Lord have mercy on him. He played the melodeon. Back here in Bellharbour I used go to the dances. There was Jim Dronney, always inviting you over to the house dances. And there was 12 or 13 of the Meaghers over there and they were all musicianers — in the house that Séan Tyrell is in now.

Working the land

Long ago, we had the plough and the common harrow for sowing barley, oats and potatoes. And the draught horses for working — very heavy horses. We had to boil turnips and potatoes for them. We were in tillage all our lifetime. Then the beet brought the country up a bit. You earned your bread them times. I was at sows and bonamhs too.

And I worked the wooden plough. There's none of them around now. The common harrow was diamond shaped. There was a great trick of the trade in making one. John Nolan, down here, could do it. There were 25 pins in it. He'd have to bring it to Griffin's forge to mount it. He'd put straps of iron and bolts and drive in the pins.

The young lads, Paddy Joe, Edward and Fergus would be there singing songs in the forge. They were clever young lads. Edward used sing *When the fields are white with daisies, sure I'll return again*. He was a great singer. (At this point Martin gives a rendition of *The Old Plaid Shawl*).

The first Wednesday in March was a big fair day. And if we were taking cattle to Gort we'd start at 2 a.m. in the morning. It would take about four hours walking. The 18th of May was the Sheep Fair. The 15th of September was the 'Ewe Day' - a great day. The 18th of October in Kinvara was a big fair day for cattle, sheep and pigs – everything. And there'd be about 20 boats of turf in there at the time too. And I think it was

the first Tuesday in November was the horse fair. Kinvara was a great place that time.

Johnston's Hall in Kinvara

There used to be dances in Johnston's Hall (Kinvara) one time. I was running it myself. It had no licence in the beginning but the guards were in our favour. The Johnston's were nice people; if it wasn't for that it wouldn't have worked out. It was a big public house one time and a draper's stores.

They got a licence eventually. The priests were preaching against the dances in country houses. The priests were awful those times. We'd run in a hole in the wall if we saw a priest coming up the road. You'd be afraid to talk to them. God almighty. It's not known, all the catechism we learnt! And the Redemptorist Fathers with their venial sins and their mortal sins...Wasn't it awful, frightening poor people with no education?

There was a lot of illiterate people in Ireland long ago. It must have been very sad not to be able to read. Some of them never saw the door of a school. But it was great the way they would put words together even if they were not educated "The feather on the wing and the wing on the bird and the bird and the yolk and the yolk in the egg and the egg in the nest and the nest in the branch and the branch on the tree and the tree in the bog and the Bog down in the Valley O'."

I enjoy the debates on TV, *Questions and Answers* and that programme, *Nationwide*. That's the most one I enjoy. I like to watch the wild animals in Tanzania and the primitive people in those places. They are going through what we went through here in Famine times. But we are a rich country now – there is an awful change in the times.

(In conversation with Eugene Lambe; 27/5/2003.) Martin lives in Leagh North; Burrin, Co Galway.

Frequently Asked

ABOUT THE BAY

Who is responsible for the pollution of the bay?

The government. They have a statutory duty under EU law to protect the quality of coastal waters. In Kinvara's case they have failed to do that and that is why the Community Council has referred the matter to the European Court. It also has a moral responsibility to provide basic utilities such as sewage treatment. That is why we pay taxes.

Why is the bay polluted?

The effluent from the properties in the town centre goes into pipes that run from the National school to Seamount College and as far as the old water tower on the Gort Road. This untreated sewage flows into the bay from a pipe, exposed at low tide, 50 metres from the Pier Head.

How is the pollution measured?

The standard test is the level of *E. coli*, a bacterium in the water. Most *E. coli* originate in the human gut and therefore their presence indicates that the water contains human excrement. Generally *E. coli* are not in themselves dangerous but their presence indicates that other hazardous pathogens (germs) may be present in the water.

How polluted is the bay?

Seriously. Human excrement, turds and faecal slicks can, on occasions, be seen in the water in and around the town. The Community Council monitors the bay on a weekly basis during the summer. Water that contains any *E. coli* at all is unsafe to drink. Water that contains more than 100 *E. coli* per 100 millilitres of water (half a wineglass) is not safe to swim or fall in. Levels above 2,000 are generally regarded as a very serious health hazard. The samples taken by the Community Council average around 500. However they can vary greatly. Samples have been as low as nought and as high as 30,000.

Is the pollution getting worse?

Over the years, yes. On a year to year basis it's difficult to know. Last years figure were not significantly higher than 2001. However that might be due to other factors. The rainfall in summer of 2002 was higher than 2001 and that may have diluted the

pollution. A substantial underground river flows into the bay. The bay may not deteriorate in direct proportion to the amount sewage deposited into it. Because of the way ecological, natural, systems work, there may come a point where the capacity of the bay to deal with the sewage breaks down in which case it will deteriorate rapidly.

Is it safe to eat mussels from the inner bay around the town if they are cooked?

No. They are almost certain to contain *E. coli* levels well in excess of those recommended as safe by the public health authorities.

If we have a sewage plant, how long will it be before the bay is clean?

Probably in weeks rather than months and certainly months rather than years.

Will it then be safe to swim in the bay and eat its mussels?

Yes.

Is the ground water polluted?

Yes. The water flowing into the bay from the underground river has been found to contain low levels of *E. coli*. This is probably due to seepage from septic tanks and/or agricultural buildings in the rivers catchment area between here and Gort.

Is the tap water safe to drink?

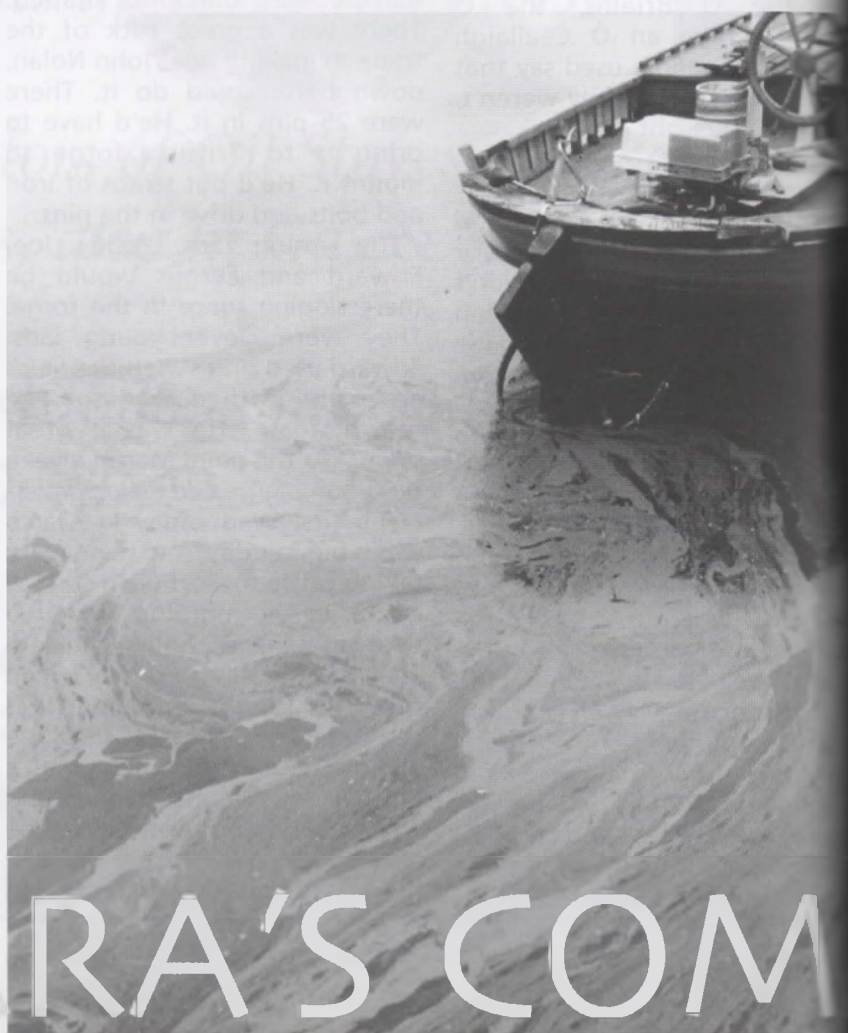
Almost certainly. Adding chlorine disinfects the towns supply. If you are on a group water scheme or using a well which is not being treated you should make sure the water is safe by having it tested.

What is causing the foul smell in the bay occasionally in summer?

We're not sure. It is probably not solely due to the sewage. It could be the result of a process called eutrophication – the over fertilisation of the bay. The sewage and the run off of agricultural fertilisers in the bay encourage the excessive growth of alga, the plants of the sea. When they die back, they decompose and the smell may be related to this.

Richard Brown

Sewage Sub Committee of Kinvara Community Council



KINVARA'S COM

ABOUT THE TOWN PLAN

What area does the Town Plan cover?

About 1 kilometre ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile approx.) from the post office in circumference.

Why is the Plan restricted to around the town?

Due to guidelines from the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The Plan envisages a town where everyone can walk to its centre. When getting involved in this project, Galway County Council, the Tipperary Institute and other experts have followed these recommendations.

So why should people living outside the town care about the Plan?

No town is an island; it services everyone living nearby, both in the town and outside. For example, many of the proposals deal with education, traffic management, job creation, the Arts, in short, everyone in the Kinvara district stands to benefit.

Does the Plan have implications for planning applications?

Yes. The local Planning Authority and An Bord Pleanála (if a planning refusal is appealed) must take the Plan into consideration when assessing applications from the area covered by the Plan. It will not effect planning outside that area.

What does that mean in practice?

New development should not compromise the town's picturesque setting (land and seascape). Building around the shoreline along the Castle Road will need to be particularly sensitive. New buildings in the town should not obstruct existing views from outside the town of the bay and the Burren. New developments should complement the town's existing character in design, density and scale. Housing developments should not exceed 8 houses per acre and no estate should contain more than 15 dwellings. Development and re-development at a high density in the town centre is to be positively encouraged.

Can Galway Council Change the Plan?

Yes. For example, the Plan has to be consistent with the County Plan. However, given that the Council is involved in the pilot project, it is unlikely to change the Plan. When the Council adopts the Plan, modified or not, the public will have another opportunity to make observations and submissions before it is formally adopted.

Does the Plan mean we will get a Sewage Works?

Not necessarily, that is a different battle. However, the Plan cannot be fully implemented until a sewage system is installed. Without it, the development of Kinvara will be compromised.

Is the role of the new Community Centre crucial?

Very much so. Many of the Plan's proposals depend on the facilities it will provide.

Does the Plan make provision for housing local people?

Yes. It points out that more social, rented and affordable housing is required in the town and preference for what there is should be given to local people.

What does the Plan say about education in the town?

All our children should grow up and be educated in the community. So secondary education should be available to boys as well as girls. The community will be consulted about how that might be achieved. For adults a 'lifelong learning environment' will be encouraged, building on the night class programme already available at Seamount College

What does it do for young people?

An action plan will be drawn up to specifically address their needs and they will be involved in developing and running their own facilities and activities.

Does the Plan cater for business and employment opportunities?

Yes. The creation and expansion of existing and new businesses in the town, particularly those traditional to and associated with the area, will be encouraged, as will E businesses. The Plan also makes provision for new premises to house these businesses. Tourism industry is to be further developed by drawing into the town people who currently just visit the castle, by extending the tourist season, by providing specialist niche holidays and promoting "Kinvara" as a brand name.

How will the Plan address Kinvara's traffic problems?

By drawing up a traffic management plan. This will look at possible sites for car parks, recommend traffic calming measures, especially around the town's schools and housing estates, and by improving pedestrian walkways, bearing in mind the needs of parents, young children, and the disabled.

What does the Plan do for the Environment?

It seeks to sustain, protect and improve it. Stone walls and hedges are to be retained, trees planted, the Tidy Towns ethos, recycling and the use of renewable resources is to be encouraged. Provision should be made locally for the disposal of dangerous waste, domestic appliances and building debris.

What about recreation and sports in the area?

Sports facilities will be improved in association with existing sports organisations and the local schools, as an integral part of community development. The limited open public spaces in the town will be retained, and new spaces created and made accessible for everyone, including those with impaired mobility.

Richard Broad

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Richard Broad



John Griffin with Conor Fahy (grandson of FAF), and his son and grandson.

'Original Night' Play A Great Success

The period since the last issue of *Trácht* saw the commissioning of a new play on the life and times of Francis Fahy (1854-1935), the Kinvara-born poet and songwriter who championed the Revival Movement in Victorian London. The play was staged to critical acclaim in Galway's Town Hall Theatre. Audience numbers during the four-night run (in Sept. 2000) exceeded our expectations, and costs were cleared.

The Francis Fahy Society thanked its patrons, supporters and sponsors, including Galway County Council, which grant aided the project. "Hopefully some day the play will be staged in London too, where Irish England would surely value a story of this kind." *The Original Night of Francis Fahy* was co-scripted by Colm Corless and Philip Sweeney (both of Kinvara), and by Galway-based playwright Trish Fitzpatrick. Max Hafler, the director, also wrote a number of scenes in what was to become an innovative, bizarre, amusing and compelling piece of theatre.

To everyone who helped bring our project to a successful conclusion, we say *Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir*. It was an ambitious plan, and would not have succeeded but for the sheer determination of a small group of people who took it upon themselves to see it through. These included Matti Twomey, Hayden Clarke, Máirín Duddy, Mary Seale, and Caoilte Breatnach, who also scripted a number of scenes. Involved at the initial stage also were Kate Thompson and Gerry Conneely. At the première were two grandsons of the poet, Frank and Conor Fahy, together with members of their families, who had travelled from England and Switzerland to attend the performance. Frank Fahy later thanked the organisers. "On behalf of the English 'branch' may I offer you our deep appreciation of the enormous amount of work, time and worry which the project entailed on your part. Please convey my congratulations, gratitude and appreciation (to all the writers, producers and actors), and to all involved in bringing the project to such rich fruition."

NEW ALBUM OF FRANCIS FAHY'S SONGS

Another part of the commemorative project was the launch in Kinvara of a compilation album of Fahy's songs, produced by John Faulkner and Gary Ó Brian. The CD was very well received. The Sunday Tribune wrote: *This is a terrific documentary of a brilliant songwriter. Backing superb, with the sax-string stamp of musicians from At The Racket, and the well-placed male and female voices make the exceptionally pleasant album.* And the reviewer for the Irish Times wrote: *Dolores Keane carries the poignancy of 'I Gave My Heart Away' with aplomb and Tony Small's courtly reading of 'Galway Bay' is inevitably seductive.* Other performers on the first-ever compilation album of Fahy's songs include Eileen Shanley, John Faulkner, Séamus O'Donnell, Brid Dooley, and Sean Tyrell. The album also features local Kinvara singers, Michael Naughton, Paul Mulligan, and Caoilte Breatnach, and the famous song *The Queen of Connemara* is sung by the Connemara tenor, Seosamh Flaithearta. This, too, was a voluntary project, and proceeds will be ploughed back into the community. You can help us clear the costs of this high-quality production by ordering a copy of the CD from the Francis Fahy Society Kinvara, or by email fafsociety@eircom.net.

Ireland & Europe: €16

United Kingdom: GBP £13

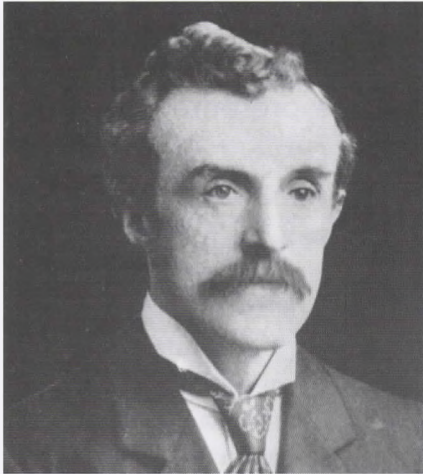
USA: USD \$17

Elsewhere: €16.

Visit our Website:

www.kinvara.com/francisfahy

Reminiscences Speech published in London



In the late 1800s, Fahy devoted his copious energies to promoting the Irish Renaissance, organising classes, meetings and concerts throughout London, in keeping with the motto *Sgar an solas* (spread the light). He was co-founder of the Junior Irish Literary Club, and helped

produce a series of four Song Books, two Reciters, and a *Child's History of Ireland in Rhyme*, which sold at a penny each, and "met with a large sale". At the Club, they organised 'Gaelic Nights' and 'Original Nights', monthly symposia 'strictly confined to original songs, poems, short sketches, etc., from the pens of members'. The children's club spawned the Southwark Irish Literary Club, later the Irish Literary Society, for which Yeats sometimes is erroneously credited as the main founder. W B Yeats, whom Fahy had invited to the Irish Literary Club, described him as "a very brisk cordial neat little man. Seems a king among his own people and what more does any man want."

In his *Reminiscences Speech* (1921) Fahy remembered Yeats as a tall, slight, dreamy-faced young man of 23, who later lectured to us on "Irish Fairy Lore", and really seemed from his manner and voice to have derived his knowledge of the subject from personal experience of the "good people."

This self same *Reminiscences Speech* has now been published in a special edition of the Yeats Annual, No. 15 (London: Palgrave, 2002. Stg £55), with an introduction and annotations by Clare Hutton. A timely reminder of the importance of this all-too-modest poet. In Kinvara, we are currently compiling an archive of Francis Fahy's work.

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Though now these goats roam unfettered, only a generation ago they were a standard and integral component of the small mixed farms that typified the Burren, hence the title 'feral' – animals that were once farmed but now run wild. Often referred to as the 'poor man's cow', the browsing habits of goats meant that they did not compete for grazing with cattle and sheep, surviving on rough vegetation and scrub, which they were often deployed to control. The long association of goats with the Burren is reflected in local place names such as *Aughavinnaun*, the 'valley of the kids', near Bell Harbour.

THE GOAT INDUSTRY

Goats were kept on farms as a source of milk and kid meat, and less so for their pelts, which of course are important for *bodhrán* making. Goat's milk was used for drinking, making cheese and in some cases white butter, and was thought to be an excellent cure for asthma and eczema. Their milk has a high buttermilk content and was commonly used to fatten young calves, the cow's milk thus saved for sale or domestic use.

The Burren hills still carry the physical legacy of this goat farming tradition. In times past,

Anybody who has ever taken time to venture south from Kinvara into the majestic limestone hills of the Burren is likely to have glimpsed at one stage or another some of the feral goats that appear to reign supreme over the rocky kingdom. The dramatic image presented by these shaggy beasts with their long recurvent horns, their pungent odour and their extraordinary dexterity is truly a sight to behold. No better place to see them than in the Burren where one of Europe's largest feral populations is thought to be found – featuring numerous distinct herds containing several thousand individuals.

Goats were usually hand-milked once or twice a day in enclosures called '*cahers*' at a safe distance from the farmhouse (any nearer to which their scavenging presence was actively discouraged), often by the children of the farm. Following kidding, usually early in the New Year, goats and their young were often separated, the kids kept separately in small huts called '*crós*' adjoining the *cahers*. Reared only on their mother's milk, these were referred to as 'milk kids' as opposed to free roaming 'grass kids' that had relatively tougher, stronger-tasting meat. Kid meat was sometimes steeped in buttermilk to lighten the goaty taste, producing a dish that was once closely associated with St Patrick's Day and Easter Sunday dinner.

PROTECTING CATTLE

Another important reason for keeping goats was ostensibly to 'bring luck' to the herd and, from a more practical perspective, to protect cattle from falling over ledges or cliffs in search of ivy or other fodder: the more nimble goat was quick to remove all such temptation. Some vets were once known to recommend the stocking of a goat to remove plants that were linked to diseases relating to cattle. Another interesting custom was

that of running a goat with a flock of sheep in winter so that in heavy snows the goat would lead the flock away from sheltered areas that were prone to drifting. Some people also believed that horses are calmed by the odour from goats, a pungent smell released from glands behind the billies' horns, particularly during the autumn rutting season.

Traditionally, goats were 'humanised' or tamed that they never roamed too far from home and returned willingly for milking each night. Around October many goat herds were released into the uplands to mate with the wild pucks, returning voluntarily to the farm to kid the following January. In other cases, the herds had to be tracked down by the owner after the winter, still intact in their group, and brought home before foxes attacked the newborn kids. In some cases the goat's natural inclination to roam had to be curtailed, to which end a method called 'quigging' was commonly employed. This involved the anchoring of the goats together, using old buck handles as necklaces, linked together by chains. Another system involved using a collar around the goat's neck with a hazel stick protruding on each side to prevent them from jumping walls.

Absence of goats a problem

Many farmers feel that the present-day absence of farmed goats in the Burren is a primary contributory factor to the spread of scrub. Whitehead (1972) notes that some 241,427 goats were exported from Ireland in 1926, but that 'it was not long before the local people began to regret the shortage of goats, for the scrub soon started to spread and became well-nigh impenetrable in parts where the cattle used to graze'. Goats are said to favour holly, ash, young elm, rowan, hazel, willow, and yew, while avoiding birch and oak. They can damage, or even kill, mature trees, particularly ash, through ring barking.

In recent years, the explosive population growth of Burren goat herds, combined with the penalties imposed under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) for damaged stone walls, has effectively put a price on the heads of many Burren feral goats. This highlights the need for an effective management policy for the retention of sustainable populations of these feral herds. Like no other beast, feral goats symbolise the rugged beauty of the Burren, and are an integral, almost emblematic, component of the region's rich heritage and culture.



burrenbeo.com

Brendan Dunford

For more information on all aspects of the Burren's heritage, please visit www.burrenbeo.com. (Brendan's book, *Farming on the Burren* [Teagasc, 2003], was launched recently in Carron.)



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Salt lakes and forgotten plants

The Strange case of Chara cannescens

The Charophytes are an unusual group of quite large fresh water algae. In the standard work on these plants published in 1924 is a list of locations for one of them *Chara cannescens* including this entry 'Galway S.E. small lake near Kinvarra, R.A. Phillips'.

Phillips was a commercial traveller from Cork, who on his travels indulged his interest in botany and this reference dates from around the time of the First World War when he visited Kinvara. Since then, to the best of my knowledge, no one else has seen this plant in the area around the town.

Extremely rare in Ireland

Chara cannescens is extremely rare in Ireland (and even rarer in Britain), found in only six locations in Donegal, Clare, Kerry and Wexford. Its habitat is brackish lakes or lagoons, in themselves such unusual and threatened habitats that the EU protects them. My own interest in this elusive plant began when I was a member of an ecological team

carrying out a survey of lagoons throughout Ireland in 1998. A very surprising number of plants first recorded over a century ago, are being rediscovered by today's botanists. I found a plant on an island in Lough Corrib 100 years after its previous sighting. So there is every reason to hope *Chara cannescens* may still be around in some small lake near Kinvarra referred to by Phillips?

But how near is near? How small is small? And where, within a mile or two of Kinvara, would one find a small lake, let alone one that was brackish? Only when I looked at the Tír Eolas map of Kinvara did the penny drop. In the old Doorus demesne are not one, but five small lakes scarcely bigger than ponds called Lough Sallagh, Lough Namona, Lough Cool, Loughaunnakeagh, Lough Fada and so on without a name close to the walled garden of Doorus house.

Chara cannescens, are you out there?

In the summer of 1998, I carried out a brief survey of these lakes. They were all brackish to one degree or another. Was I getting close? The plants proved that they were lagoons, with the most characteristic lagoonal plant Widgeon grass (*Ruppia* species) present in two lakes. The species I found was *Ruppia cirrhosa*, thought to be very rare on the West Coast of Ireland. Besides the Widgeon grass I found several other plants typical of lagoons, but not, alas, *Chara cannescens*. Not yet, that is.

Lagoons like those in Doorus are karstic lakes that is lakes on limestone with underground drainage, without streams running in or out of them. Salt lakes of any kind are unusual, salt lakes that fill from underground connections to the sea are even rarer. At present, biologists from the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology are studying another karstic salt loch on the east side of Kinvara close to Tarrea. This lake, which rises and falls with the tide, has a high salinity and a very unusual ecology. I suspect that a more detailed study would also show that the Doorus Lochs would prove equally interesting.

As for *Chara cannescens*, perhaps I have misidentified Phillip's small lake near Kinvara and the plant still flourishes in some unmapped pool within sight of Dún Guaire castle awaiting rediscovery.

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Kinvara Drama Group

THE KINVARA DRAMA GROUP was set up in 1998, comprising the Community Arts Officer, Caroline McDaid, plus children and teenagers of the area with back-up support from Marian Connolly, FÁS supervisor, and the late Michael Bamber. Our first production, *The Fantastic Mr Fox* was a great success. Due to this success and with the help of Claire Dufresne, Marty Clare and Natasha Power, the group developed to what is a vibrant and thriving drama group today. We now have seven very committed adult leaders, and over 60 talented teenagers and children from Kinvara and surrounding areas.

The Kinvara Drama group sets the highest standards within our capabilities. We write, produce, and direct all our own work, and make the costumes and sets. We encourage each member, however young, to have an input within the group, thus allowing room for expression, confidence-building and self-esteem, all of which are vital qualities for aspiring actors.

The group is financed by local contributions and fundraising, and our leaders work on an entirely voluntary basis. We thank all the community for coming out and supporting our events each year, the Galway Arts Office for the excellent training they have provided us with, and a special thank you to the Kinvara Community Council for their continuing support over the years. For further information, please contact Eilish Kavanagh at 091-637052, or Caroline McDaid, 087-9007229.

Maria Bligh



The cast of *The Willow Pattern*

KINVARA COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Since the last edition of *Trácht*, Kinvara Community Playgroup has celebrated its 21st birthday. A weekend of celebrations was organised in July 2000 to mark the 21 years of the Playgroup in Kinvara.

The photographic exhibition was of great interest with contributions from parents down the years – Tom Quinn's portfolio and even a selection sent by Hanne Voget from Berlin showing the Playgroup days in 1982. It was great fun to watch the local teenagers and young adults coming to see 'the way we were'.

Kinvara Community Playgroup, which opened its doors in autumn 1979, now runs two sessions daily. Ann Vesey is the Playgroup leader, with Deirdre Flanagan, as assistant leader. The Playgroup is managed by the committee: Susan Burke (Chairperson), Caroline Baker (Secretary), Elva Deegan (Treasurer), Jean Greene (Asst. Treasurer) and parents.

The group is a member of the Irish Playgroups Association and it is recognised and grant-aided by the Western Health Board and the Dept. of Justice, Law & Equality.

Through *Trácht*, the Playgroup would once again like to express its gratitude to the Kinvara Community for all its support down through the years, particularly for our annual fund-raisers – Santa's visit in December and the Cake Sale on Mother's Day.

Any enquiries about Playgroup can be made to Ann at the Courthouse Tel: 091 637688 during term-time or at 091 637335 at other times.

Kinvara Drama Group

THE KINVARA DRAMA GROUP was set up in 1998, comprising the Community Arts Officer, Caroline McDaid, plus children and teenagers of the area with back-up support from Marian Connolly, FÁS supervisor, and the late Michael Bamber. Our first production, *The Fantastic Mr Fox* was a great success. Due to this success and with the help of Claire Dufresne, Marty Clare and Natasha Power, the group developed to what is a vibrant and thriving drama group today. We now have seven very committed adult leaders, and over 60 talented teenagers and children from Kinvara and surrounding areas.

The Kinvara Drama group sets the highest standards within our capabilities. We write, produce, and direct all our own work, and make the costumes and sets. We encourage each member, however young, to have an input within the group, thus allowing room for expression, confidence-building and self-esteem, all of which are vital qualities for aspiring actors.

The group is financed by local contributions and fundraising, and our leaders work on an entirely voluntary basis. We thank all the community for coming out and supporting our events each year, the Galway Arts Office for the excellent training they have provided us with, and a special thank you to the Kinvara Community Council for their continuing support over the years. For further information, please contact Eilish Kavanagh at 091-837052, or Caroline McDaid, 087-9007229.

Maria Bligh

KINVARA COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Since the last edition of *Trácht*, Kinvara Community Playgroup has celebrated its 21st birthday. A weekend of celebrations was organised in July 2000 to mark the 21 years of the Playgroup in Kinvara.

The photographic exhibition was of great interest with contributions from parents down the years – Tom Quinn's portfolio and even a selection sent by Hanne Voget from Berlin showing the Playgroup days in 1982. It was great fun to watch the local teenagers and young adults coming to see 'the way we were'.

Kinvara Community Playgroup, which opened its doors in autumn 1979, now runs two sessions daily. Ann Vesey is the Playgroup leader, with Deirdre Flanagan, as assistant leader. The Playgroup is managed by the committee: Susan Burke (Chairperson), Caroline Baker (Secretary), Elva Deegan (Treasurer), Jean Greene (Asst. Treasurer) and parents.

The group is a member of the Irish Playgroups Association and it is recognised and grant-aided by the Western Health Board and the Dept. of Justice, Law & Equality.

Through *Trácht*, the Playgroup would once again like to express its gratitude to the Kinvara Community for all its support down through the years, particularly for our annual fund-raisers – Santa's visit in December and the Cake Sale on Mother's Day.

Any enquiries about Playgroup can be made to Ann at the Courthouse Tel: 091 637688 during term-time or at 091 637335 at other times.



The cast of *The Willow Pattern*

46 St Joseph's

St Joseph's National School

St. Joseph's National School was founded in 1904. The new extension was opened in 1997. Enrolment has increased since then and as a result, a further extension to the school is at architectural planning stage with the Department of Education and Science.

Today, 170 children between the ages of five to twelve attend the school. We believe that academic subjects should be supported by sports and arts programmes, as well as practice at many of the life skills which the children will need such as environmental awareness and computer literacy. To this end the school endeavours to implement as broad a curriculum as possible.

Hurling, camogie and football teams from the school have won many awards, thanks to the coaching of Mr. Nolan and Ms. Mc Grath, with support from the Kinvara Hurling and Camogie Clubs. The school is also very fortunate to have the services of Debbie Browne, who attends on Fridays to teach basketball to all classes from first class up.

Many of the children attending St. Joseph's are also involved in out-of-school clubs. James Robinson from 6th class was named 'Player of the Year' for the Corinthians Rugby Club, and Luke Forde from 5th class was named 'Clubman of the Year' for Galwegians Rugby Club.

The school acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the many clubs to the lives of the children of the parish and appreciates greatly their support. Pupils in the school regularly take part in events and competitions on a local, county and national level. The Parents' Council is actively involved in organising these and other events, and their support is valued greatly by the teachers.

This year's events included the following:

- A project on water safety and an art competition organised by the Water Safety Council
- The Galway Advertiser Christmas Art competition
- The Credit Union quiz for primary schools
- The Gael Linn *Seachtain na Gaeilge Spraoi Cheist*
- The Kinvara Heritage Calendar Project
- The Kinvara Tidy Towns campaign to keep Kinvara litter free
- Halloween Theme Day
- St. Patrick's 'Green day'
- Choir and Music for St. Colman's Church / Confirmation / Communion
- Busking to raise money for the Special Olympics

Music plays a big part in school life. Practice for the Christmas Carol service started at the end of September, so the children's vocal chords were well in tune by the end of 2002 and the carol service was packed to the rafters!

The New Year brought a number of musical events including a 'Singathon', which was organised by Ms. O'Keeffe, together with 5th and 6th class to raise funds for the Special Olympics. This was a very special event. All the children in the school sang every day for four

weeks before the event and again on the day itself. A number of local and internationally renowned singers who live in the area also took part in the Singathon. These included John Faulkner, Paul Mulligan, Seán Tyrell, John Conneely, Elsa McTaggart, Kilian Kenny, Eugene Lambe, and Caoilte Breatnach. It was a great day. As well as singing their hearts out, the children got to listen to some of the best performers in the country and encountered some very different styles of singing.



Seán Tyrell at the Singathon

And the music and singing for this year hasn't finished yet!!

Anne Feeley (mother of John Feeley in 1st class) ran the New York marathon last September. She donated the money she raised to the school for a very 'Special project', namely a CD with a Christmas theme. It is hoped that some very special people from the world of entertainment will join the pupils of St. Joseph's on this CD. So keep a look out at Christmas time for what will be a great present for all your relations and neighbours!

Finola Murphy
(Principal of St Joseph's)

Busking for the Special Olympics

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2003 took place in Ireland this year. The students of 5th and 6th class in St. Joseph's National School in Kinvara were studying all about the Special Olympics 2003, and we decided to try and play our part in helping to make the games a successful event. We aimed to raise €1,000 to sponsor an athlete and, to do this, we picked a few events. Busking was the first event chosen to raise the money, and we were given permission to do this during the Cuckoo Fleadh. In 5th and 6th class there are a lot of traditional musicians, and when the students arrived back to school after the Easter holidays we brought in our instruments and were joined by some pupils from 3rd and 4th classes.

We practised every day and each day we were sounding more and more professional along with the help of our talented teacher, Máire O'Keeffe. The musicians wanted people to know what we were

busking in aid of, so we made posters with some of the slogans from the Special Olympics like 'Share the Feeling' and collection boxes which were covered in the green and red colours of the Special Olympics. We also designed our own T-shirts using fabric paints.

On the day, the weather wasn't so good but Jackie Tully had organised a gazebo to shelter us from rain. This was given to us by Ailbhe and Eoin Brown. As the people who were participating in the Cuckoo Fleadh Fun Run were arriving home, the musicians were playing tunes and keeping them entertained. We had great support and lots of help from local musicians such as Cath Taylor, Eugene Lambe and Anne Wallace. Jackie Daly, who plays the accordion, also played a few tunes under the gazebo. Some of the parents including Mary Warde and Mary Counihan rattled the collection boxes as did our teacher's sister, Fionnuala and

everyone was very generous. Caoimhe Mac Mahon and Aisling Warde also helped in the collecting. When the crowds died down, we went around to some of the pubs. The most requested tune was *Galway Bay*. When the buskers came out of Connolly's the rain had started to really pour so it was a dash to get across the road and into Greens and Sextons but we made it safely across the road.

When we arrived back at school on Monday we counted the money. We raised €922.64 which was a great start to efforts to sponsor an athlete. The musicians were fiddle players, Louise Wallace, Ruth Carr, Sinead Quinn, Ciara Davern, Louise Donohue, Hazel Counihan, Aoife Warde, Emily Tully, tin whistle players, Elaine Whelan, Irene Leech, Sarah Whelan and accordion player, Katie Greene.

**Katie Greene, Sinéad Quinn
and Ciara Davern
(6th class, St Joseph's)**

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DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

For further information contact Kieran

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News from Northampton School

WATCH OUT FOR the Green flag flying for the first time in a school in South Galway. This is a prestigious world-wide flag presented to the school by An Taisce and the Environment Section of Galway Co. Council in acknowledgement of the huge efforts by the Green Schools Committee, The staff, the School Board, parents and school community in nurturing the three Rs – Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. This has been a long educational journey with a huge emphasis on nurturing and caring for our beautiful natural environment.

The wheelie bin is long gone. All organic waste goes to the composter, our window boxes are bursting with blooms, growing in compost from the composter. We have a school lunch policy where lunches are brought in a lunch box with no unnecessary wrapping. We drink milk instead of fizzy drinks, we recycle all our yogurt cartons, office waste and cardboard. We encourage the birds during the winter and spring by feeding them with bread crusts and sunflower seeds. We even composed our own poems and songs which we sing to the lilting music of Mary O'Shaughnessy! Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Bóthar na nGabhar

Each year the 6th class pupils organise a cake sale and fun fair to raise funds to send a goat to a famine stricken family in Africa. This year, our goat 'Meg' is going with a flock of chickens – such was the success of the cake sale. Some money has also gone to Chernobyl Foundation so that a young child of eleven can have a four week stay in the Burren in July and we even sent some cash

to The Irish Heart Foundation in Galway. Well done to Éadaoin, Deirbhile, Laura, Christine, Rachel, Aisling, Billy, Danny, Finn and all their helpers for another successful Bóthar na nGabhar Cake Sale. When you leave us in June you will be sadly missed. Beannacht Dé leis an naonúr agaibh sna meanscoileanna.



Write A Book

Colleen Callanan (age 9) was the recipient of a merit award for her book in Irish from the Educational Centre in Galway.

First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communicants on 14 June this year were Niamh Connolly, Jenny Kinnane, Lauren Moloney, Róisín and Eanna Linnane, Shane Linnane, Fearghus Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Tadhg Reynolds, Robert Wolfe and Oliver Casciani.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Our Confirmicants, who on the 5th June were confirmed by His Lordship Bishop McLoughlin were Rachel O'Donohue, Laura Keane, Billy Kinnane, Christine Kelly and Aisling Wolfe.

Best Copy Book

Galway Bay F.M. presented Christine Kelly with a computer for the school and a music centre

for herself for having the best copy book in the listenership of the radio. Comhghairdeachas!

€1000 Prize

Northampton National School also won the prize for Connaught in the Comhaltas Ceolteoirí 50th Anniversary Competition.

On the themes of local studies, heritage and folklore, the school, under Ann Costelloe, submitted a

well-researched and presented project and received their award from Gearóid Mac An Ultaigh from C.C.E.

Students and past pupils who have researched the project were in attendance for the prize giving. Included in the photograph are: Front L-R – Daniel Maloney, Niall Bermingham, Seán Bermingham, Dervila Kelly, Rachel Bermingham. Middle L-R – Finn Graham, Billy Kinnane, Rachel O'Donohue, Christine Kelly, Éadaoin Duddy-Clarke, Laura Keane, and Dearbhile Duddy-Clarke. 3rd Row L-R – Bridget Kelly (Principal), Sandra O'Donohue, Danny Warwick, Róisín Linnane, Emer Bermingham, Anne Costelloe (Teacher), and Gearóid Mac An Ultaigh (C.C.E.) Back Row L-R – Conor Keane, Stephen McCormack, Cian Connolly, Noel McCormack, Muiris Francis, Eoin Kinnane, Shane Connolly.

Bridget Kelly (Principal)



Northampton Class of 1966: *Front Row:* Timmy McInerney, Edmond Hogan, Joseph Hogan. *2nd Row:* Rose Glynn, Patricia Murphy, Christina Murphy, Martha Linnane, Linda Bermingham, Michael John Keane, Carmel McCormack, Phyllis Donoghue, Mary Linnane, Agatha McCormack, Catherine Keane. *3rd Row:* Anne McInerney, John Francis Gill, Gerry Keane, Bal Vesey, Vivian Greene, Noreen Gill, Maura Keane, Bernadeen Quinn, Marie Burke, John Linnane, Rita McInerney, Eileen Linnane, Phyllis Linnane, Chrissie Glynn, Kathleen Hayes, Carmel Hayes. *4th Row:* Richard Glynn, Joseph McCormack, Eamon Bermingham. *5th Row:* Teresa Linnane, Anne McTigue, Catherine Murphy, Sally Linnane, Lilly Murphy, Anne Murphy, Ber McInerney, ? McInerney, Cathy Vesey, John Hogan, Ger McCormack. *6th Row:* Michael McCormack, John Connolly, Mattie Donoghue, Bertie Linnane, Fr. Mulkerrins, Anne Donlon, Tom Donlon, Francis Greene, Tony Donoghue, Noel Bermingham.



Doorus Montessori Class of 2003: *Back row L-R:* Breda McCarthy, Niamh Keane, Iseult Leahy, Gráinne Long, Odhrán Kenae, Fiachra Donovan, Caoimhe O'Donoghue/Morgan, Brendan De la Ruella. *Middle Row L-R:* Billy Buckley, Ava O'Connor/Rourke, Rebecca O'Connor, Muireann Leahy, Hannah McDonnell, Tomás O'Donoghue, Olivia McGann, Cian Mahon. *Front Row L-R:* John McHugh, Finbar Marchant, Seán Tynan, Stephen Hynes.

DOORUS MONTESSORI

school was established in Sept. 2001 and is managed by a voluntary committee in conjunction with the Montessori leader. It is located at Doorus National School, and operates on the National School calendar, Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon.

Funding is in place for a separate building next to the school in 2004. A class of 20 will "graduate" this year and we have 20 provisionally booked in for 2004. We intend to operate a second sessional service once our new building has been opened. We hold a fundraiser in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Montessori leader, Siobhán Gohery at 087-2793573.

Doorús — My School

by Clare Kavanagh

MY SCHOOL IS SITUATED in Doorús, Kinvara, Co. Galway. My school's name is Scoil Chiaráin Naofa. There are 53 children on roll, 9 in Jnr. Infants, 6 in Snr. Infants, 5 in first class and 10 in second class. I am in the senior room and there are 22 children from 3rd to 6th classes.

Attached to our school, we have a Montessori class and there are 20 children attending from 2 and a half years to 4 years of age. At school we study hard! We have 3 computers in our classroom plus a laptop. Each class takes its turn to edit/publish and print out a monthly newsletter. This year we enjoyed great success in Quizzes, an Essay competition, an Art Competition and Olympic Handball, Camogie and Hurling

Competition. The Girls' Camogie team won their Mini 7 Competition and qualified for the County finals. The Hurling Team has now qualified for the 2nd round in the schools' competition.

SCIENCE PROJECT

For the past two years, we have participated in a Fionn Science project. Schools have been chosen to pilot this project, and last year we built a Solar Tree and experimented with the power of Solar Energy. This year we are studying seaweed, its nutritional properties for our garden and own bodies and its dyeing capabilities. This project is recorded on camera, edited on our lap-top and forwarded in D.V.D to the Educational Centre

in Galway. All projects are displayed on a website-so please visit and view our work on www.irishscience.com.

The teachers in my school are Ms. Tarpey, who teaches at Snr. Level, Ms. O'Riordan who teaches the Jnr. Level, Hella Hünicke who teaches us German, as we are involved in piloting Modern Languages in our school. Ms. Colfer, Miss Cannon and Miss Fleming also attend to special classes weekly, and Katherina Bakker comes weekly to teach us music from around the world. Next year, we have enough children to welcome a third assistant teacher on board, and we are awaiting a prefab to accommodate this new class.

A Christmas Surprise

by Dympna and Gerard

ONE CHRISTMAS EVE, many years ago, I heard a knock at the door. I opened it and there stood three elves. They had a message for me. To my surprise, it was a letter from Santa saying I was an exceptionally good girl and that I would get to ride in his sleigh. I was astonished and gobsmacked. "Thank you very much", I said and I asked where was the sleigh. They told me it was on the roof. I ran into the shed and got a ladder and climbed aboard the sleigh in front of the bags of presents. Santa said "How are you?" "I am fine" I said. "What about you?" "I am a bit tired", he said "And the poor elves are wrecked. Would you mind helping me and the elves deliver the presents." Six hours later we were on our last house which was in Doorús, Co. Galway. I was sore and sooty after being up and down all

those chimneys but I was also extremely happy because I had such a special night.



Mo Theach

Ta me i mo chónaí i nGaoithe. Cónaím i mbungalo. Tá seomra folctha, seomra suí, seomra chodladh, seomra teaghlaigh agus cistin i mo theach. Tá dath bán agus glas ar mo theach. Tógadh é sa bhliain 1982. Sa phictiúr, an geimhreadh atá ann. Tá sneachta sa gháirdín. Tá díon an tí clúdaithe le sneachta bán. Nach bhfuil mo theach go hálainn???

Dympna and Gerard attend
Doorús National School



My Dog Lyra

THIS IS MY DOG, Lyra. She is a Labrador. In this picture, she is a few weeks old. This picture was taken in my back garden. Lyra is very playful and is always getting into mischief. For instance, she was chasing my two-year-old cousin and he was frightened. I had to pick her up and watch her. She loves chewing socks and anything she gets into. She also likes to get into my bed and cuddle up.

Micheál Sell

Introducing Kinvara Brownies

Maybe you've seen the Brownies around town in their yellow sweatshirts – promoting recycling, weeding flowerbeds, picking up litter, or even selling baked goods at their first annual cake sale. The Kinvara Brownie unit was officially launched in December, 2002, when 24 girls from St. Joseph's, Doorus, and Northampton schools made their Brownie Promise at a special ceremony in Kinvara Community Centre attended by family, friends, and members of the community.

Since then, the Kinvara Brownies have participated in a number of projects and outings, including:

- Learning about recycling and hosting a Recycling Awareness Event in the Community Centre;
- Holding their first big fundraising bakesale, from which they made a contribution of €100 to the Kinvara Community Centre;
- Cleaning up litter and weeding community flowerbeds in Kinvara village;
- Visiting Turoe Pet Farm at Christmastime, and joining a sister Brownie unit in Renmore for a special Halloween meeting; and
- Attending a special meeting devoted to first aid and emergency services.

Brownies are members of the Irish Girl Guides, and each Kinvara Brownie follows the Brownie motto, "Lend a hand!", by offering help at home, at school, at church, and in her community. Games and fun activities are an important part of every Brownie task – the four Kinvara Brownie leaders aim to expand horizons, helping the girls learn more about themselves and their world through a wide range of different, enjoyable outings and projects.



Learning to face challenges

At weekly meetings, each Kinvara Brownie works to earn an annual badge by accomplishing challenges that help her learn more about safety, health, nature, friendship, and the international Guiding world. Additionally, Brownies can work on individual interest badges related to such topics as music, sport, culture, craft, cooking, or computers. Always, the most important aspect of earning the badges is to have fun.

The Kinvara Brownie leaders are very proud of all the Brownies and what they have achieved this year. We are looking forward to another great year next year, and particularly to the launch of a new Kinvara Guide unit, for girls

"graduating" from the Brownie level and moving up to the next Irish Girl Guides level. We would especially like to thank the Brownie teachers and principals, members of the Kinvara Community Council, and all our terrific Brownie parents for their great support of our first year.

So keep an eye out in Kinvara for bright yellow sweatshirts and those Brownie smiles. You never know where they'll turn up!

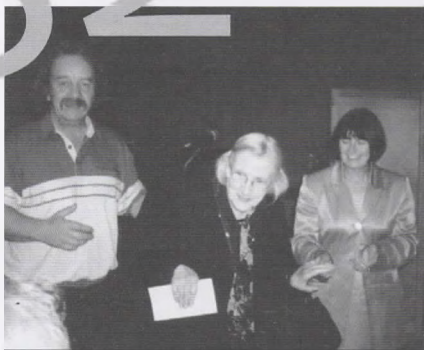
Girls aged 6 to 10 are welcome to join the Brownies. Girls aged 10 to 16 years can join the Guides. For more info about Kinvara Brownies, please phone Robin McArdle at (091) 637067. For more info about Kinvara Guides, please phone Catherine Cronin at (091) 638299.

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Máirtín Jaimsie, Eibhlín Bean Uí Chuaig, Aine Uí Chonaill

AN T-AMHRÁN BEO

has been an integral part of the Cruinniú na mBád weekend since 1988. It has provided a platform for the finest traditional singing in both Irish and English. For many years it was run as a competition. The list of prize-winners down through the years reads like a 'Who's Who' of the finest traditional singers. Among the names are Josie Shéain Jeaic, Sarah & Norah Ghriallais, Treasa Ní Cheannebháin, Máire Bríd Uí Niadh, Mairéad Ní Fhlatharta, Nan Tom Taimín, Máirtín Pheait Ó Cualáin, John Flanagan and many other fine singers.

The late Pat Keane and Eibhlín Bn. Uí Chuaig featured among the prize winners on many occasions. In tribute to Pat Keane, the Pat Keane trophy was awarded to the best local singer in the last few years of the competition. That trophy was won by Caoilte Breatnach ('97), Kilian Kenny ('98) and Paul Mulligan ('99).

For the last three years, the event has been presented in concert format. Máirtín Jaimsie continues to act as *Fear an Tí* bringing his own special brand of warmth and enthusiasm to the evening. The informal sessions held in the small room of the Community Centre after the competition or concert are hugely enjoyable with song after song being offered by those present to a deeply appreciative audience. Tea and Maureen Heffernan's treacle cake plus a sup of Heineken adds a lot to the occasion.

If you enjoy that oldest of art forms – unaccompanied singing – make sure to be a part of An t-Amhrán Beo during the Cruinniú weekend.

Aine Uí Chonaill



© Roinn Bhéaloideas Éireann / Department of Irish Folklore, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath 4.

New Book on Beagh

The old man in the photo, Séamus Ó Riagáin, lived in Townranny, in the parish of Beagh, Tubber. In the 1930s, John Flanagan (also of Beagh) collected over 3,000 pages of local history and lore in this part of Co Galway. Flanagan's work for the Irish Folklore Commission was predominantly in the Irish language. This important body of work has now been made accessible to the wider public in English by Caoilte Breatnach of

Kinvara. The book, *Memories in Time — Folklore of Beithe: 1800-2000* is published by Beagh IRD, and provides a unique insight into the lives and stories of a rural community. In addition to the excellent archive photographs, such as the above photo taken in 1937 by Séamus Ó Duillearga of the Irish Folklore Commission, the book also contains photos from the Dorothea Lange collection of the 1950s.

Twinning with Locoal-Mendon

Visitors to the Community Centre in Kinvara can see in the entrance hall, the framed 'Accord of Friendship' - a testament to Kinvara's recent social history when the first friendships were forged with our Twin Town - Locoal-Mendon, Brittany.

Town Twinning came about over 50 years ago when it was designed to 'forge closer links between the citizens of Europe and to generate greater mutual understanding and tolerance of others'. Since then, emphasis has been placed on the cultural, tourist, social and economic exchanges in the interest of the communities involved.

The hand of friendship was extended to Kinvara by the people of Locoal-Mendon in 1983 during their quest to find a Twin Town. The Community Council here researched the idea locally and recommended that an initial 'courtship' be established between the two towns with a view to their Twinning.

BRETON VISIT IN 1980s

In 1984 M. & Mme. Le Buhe and Dr & Mme. Kerambraun visited Kinvara and presented delightful examples of their Breton culture to our community. "They showed slides of Locoal-Mendon to a large audience in Kinvara Community Centre and also gave exhibitions of their singing and dancing," recalled John Flatley in *Trácht* 1987.

Locoal-Mendon lies 30 km from Lorient in western Brittany. The criteria for matching towns with similar profiles - geographical location, structural features, population size, shared histories, linguistic connections, occupa-



Roy Blackburn, Annie Huchet, Paddy Geraghty RIP, Stan Mac Eoin & Kathleen Kenny (1997).

tions etc. - would appear to have been well considered. Like Kinvara, Locoal-Mendon was less than 20 miles from the 'main' town (Lorient); the 'twins' were similar in size and population, had a common Celtic heritage and relied largely on farming and oyster fishing.

TWINNING PROJECT

A flurry of visits ensued between the two communities over the next two years and there was huge enthusiasm for the Twinning project - 48 Bretons came to Kinvara in 1986. Today there are many among us in Kinvara, New Quay, Belharbour and Ballindereen who fondly remember this and the return visit in 1987 to Brittany culminating in the signing of the 'Accord' by Canon Michael O'Connor (President of Kinvara Community Council) and M. Serge Le Guogec (Mayor of Locoal-Mendon).

Students and adults have since continued the liaison, and life-long friendships have been made - I accompanied a group of students there in 1995, and the following year about 30 Bretons were welcomed to Kinvara. Small 'family' holidays have been independently arranged. However, in

recent times a few attempts to organise community visits have floundered.

THE HUMAN INTEREST

Anyone having experienced any aspect of a Twinning visit

will probably describe mixed feelings of anxiety and anticipation for the success of the project. However, they'd also agree that once hosts meet visitors, the human interest takes over. After a while, language presents no barrier. There is interaction at all levels, friendships are made, ideas exchanged and cultures and traditions learned.

The opportunity to travel abroad is available to most these days, whereas in the 1980's these Twinning visits provided a unique means for many to cultivate language studies and to promote tourism. Nevertheless, the average European tourist of today is unlikely to experience the 'day-to-day living' style of communication and camaraderie that a Twinning visit provides.

While they would readily admit to the same prevailing lethargy we've developed in Kinvara - I know our friends in Locoal-Mendon would respond positively and hospitably if we were to propose a 'revival tour'...

Kathleen Kenny

Róisín O'Connor wins Galway People of the Year

Kinvara has seen its fair share of Sporting Greats over the years, and its sportsmen and women have received many accolades at local, county and national level. This year, Róisín O'Connor (18) from Leeha received a Rehab Galway People of the Year Special Achievement Award.

Róisín is the youngest daughter of Mary and P.J. O'Connor, and studied at Seamount College, where her love and skills for sport were encouraged and fostered. Róisín has won a host of county titles as well as inspiring her local camogie team to an intermediate title and winning senior status. She has also led the Galway U-14 team to All-Ireland success in 1998. Aged just 13, she was a prominent member of the Galway minor camogie teams in 1998 and 1999. However, despite losses in those years, she captained the minor team to All-Ireland success in 2000.

Róisín made her senior Galway debut at 16 and currently holds an astonishing eight county medals. However Róisín's talents are not confined to camogie. She is a talented hockey player, having started playing in Seamount College, Kinvara. Aged 16, she won her place on the Connacht inter-provincial team and made history when she became the first player from Connacht to captain an Irish U-18 hockey team, but appendicitis stopped her from progressing to the Irish U-21 hockey team. Four weeks after surgery, she led her country in five international matches against Spain, Holland, France, Portugal and Belgium.

Róisín also represented Galway in the javelin at the Mosney Community Games and also received acclaim for her skills in basketball. However, if you think she is merely an outdoors girl, think again, as she has won county titles in draughts, and also



received a Bronze and Silver An Gaisce Award. As captain of the Irish U-18 hockey team, Róisín was an honoured guest at Áras an Uachtaráin, when President McAleese held a reception for Ireland's top young sports stars recently.

Having competed at the highest level in hockey, camogie, basketball and the javelin, Róisín has brought honour to her school, her parish of Kinvara, her county and her country.

Suzanne O'Flaherty

Hockey team wins again!



Back row, L-R: Mary Mooney, Helena Huban, Marguerite Corless, Nicola McCormack, Orla McCormack, Laura Murphy, Noeleen Hanen. Front, L-R: Loraine Mahon, Rachel Curtin, Aoife Tannion (Capt.), Aisling Tannion, Helen Leech, Maggie Martin, Colette Gill.

For the third consecutive year, Kinvara Ladies Hockey Team has won the Connacht Junior Cup. Under their captain, Aoife Tannian, the team beat Knocknacarra in the final and will go forward

representing Connacht in the Irish Junior Hockey Cup Championship this autumn. The Kinvara club was first formed in 1979 by Ger Barrett of Galway, while still a teacher at Seamount College. Since then, the club has won the Ó hEocha Cup, (a two-day tournament) six times, the Connacht Junior Cup seven times and the Connacht Junior League eight times. Quite an achievement for a team with no training facilities in Kinvara! Many of our talented players come from the area, such as the Kilkelly sisters Mary and Geraldine who have played for Ireland and Róisín O'Connor, Leeha, who captained the Irish under 18s this year. This year, Emma Kilkelly (another sister), played for Connacht in under 18s, and Colette Gill in the under 16s. We wish continued success to Kinvara Ladies Hockey especially for the Irish Cup this year and events well into the future. Also, in the realisation of their dream to have a hockey pitch, before long, in Kinvara!

Elaine Mahon

Achievements 55

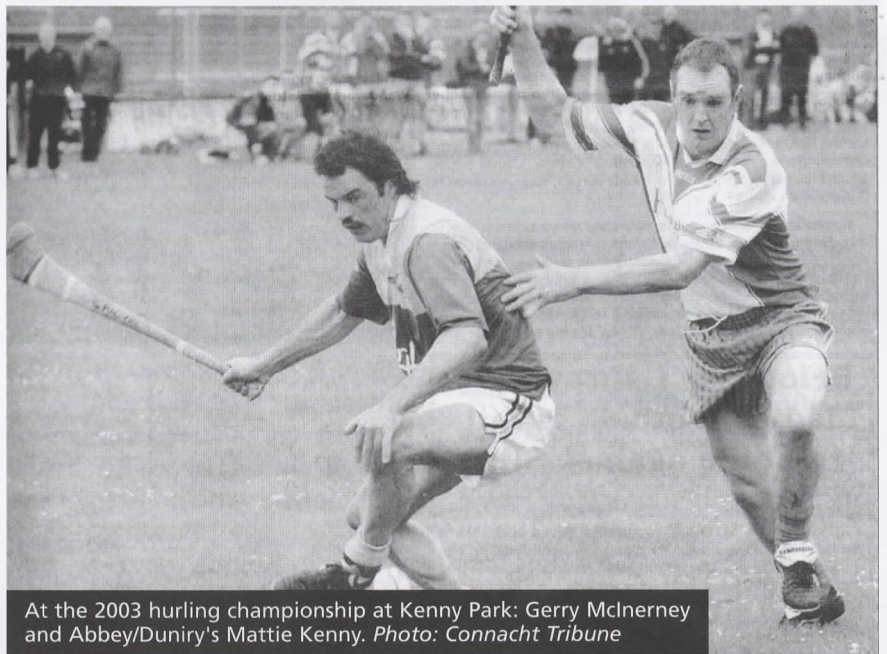
Kinvara GAA

Developing with the community

Kinvara has always been a stronghold for hurling and many club members have gone on to represent Kinvara and their county at the highest level nationally. Names like Colm Corless and Mick Curtin are well known for their past exploits. In latter years, Gerry McNerney (*right*) has represented the club on the county team with honour and has gained his own place in local hurling folklore. Currently, Shane Kavanagh represents the club at this level.

KINVARA STALWARTS

Since the start of the 21st century, our club senior hurling team have represented us well, putting in determined efforts to maintain the club at senior level within the county. This has been an important factor in keeping the huge interest alive in hurling in the area. In 2003, the senior hurling team had its best season for several years, putting back to back wins against Beagh and Abbey Duniry. Indeed, they were extremely unlucky not to have reached the final championship stages, as they were just pipped by Loughrea for that slot in a pulsating match at the end of May. Players like Peter Huban, Colm Burke, Gerry Huban, David Huban, and Dara Smith now backbone a team that are ready to fight for county championship success in 2004. Football was introduced as a sport at Junior level in the late 1990s and has been very successful during this period, with promotion to a higher grade being achieved twice in four years.



At the 2003 hurling championship at Kenny Park: Gerry McNerney and Abbey/Duniry's Mattie Kenny. Photo: Connacht Tribune

BUILDING ON SUCCESSES

Since 1999, the club has won two major titles, at County U16 level (B champions 1999) and at Community Games 2000. Kinvara were National Gold Medal winners at U13 level. Added to this are several appearances in finals. Further titles have been won at primary school level, (Doorús/ Northampton in 7-a-side football, St. Josephs in 11-a-side hurling) The interest and leadership of the teachers in each of the 3 schools in the parish has helped significantly to improve the games profile and they must be commended for their efforts.

Other initiatives such as the introduction of Indoor Hurling in the Community Centre (run by Anthony Byrne and Michael Bermingham) has proved an immediate success. This, combined with coaching skills training for hurling coaches, will ultimately increase the level of skills delivered.

NEW DRESSING ROOMS

In 2001, a plan was drawn up to develop our dressing-room facilities, fully supported by the club membership. A team of people, led by club stalwarts, Joe Mitchell and Toddie Byrne, are about to deliver a state-of-the-art dressing room section in July 2003. The cost of the project came to about €140,000, and was funded in part through the Government Sports' Incentive Scheme (€60,000). The balance will be raised by the club itself through various fundraising efforts over the coming years. It is recognised that this only forms Phase 1 of a project to deliver pitch and dressing room facilities that will meet the demands of a young growing population in the popular location that Kinvara is. Without doubt, Gaelic Games will flourish to form a major part of the cultural interests of the whole community into the future.

Joe Mahon (*Joe is secretary of Kinvara GAA Club*)

56 Our Sporting Community Games

The Community Games started in Galway in 1971 and in Kinvara in 1976. Each year at the local sports, each event winner goes on to represent Kinvara at the Co. Finals. Children from over 50 areas within the county participate in the games. Winners go on to Provincial finals for team events. The All-Ireland Finals are held over 3 weekends in Mosney, one in May and two in August. Up to 200 children represent Galway at each weekend.

ALL-IRELAND MEDALS

In 1997, Geraldine Kilkelly, Leeha North, won Gold in the U8 100 mts in the Athletic County Finals, and went on to win a Bronze medal in Mosney. Geraldine has returned to Mosney many times (Camogie and Hockey), both as a trainer and a referee. Sharon Kavanagh, Trellick, won All-Ireland Gold for the Long Puck U14. and Sinéad Keane, Carrownamaddra won Silver in the 800 mts.

At the end of each year, The Best Female athlete is presented with the Quilty Cup, and the Best

Male Athlete with The Kinvara I.F.A. Cup, based on the highest level of participation achieved. Other medal winners include Camogie, Hockey, Hurling and Relay teams. We have also participated in the Project Section and in the U14 Quiz with Caroline Connolly and Belinda McInerney, Kinvara West, Aidan Kilkelly, Leeha North and Alan Connolly, Gortaboy coming 6th of 64 teams.

Kinvara continues to support Community Games, and Catherine Kilkelly has been an enthusiastic and dedicated Area Secretary for a long number of years. She has been an active participant and many-time winner of the Mothers' Race. Catherine Kilkelly and Marian Connolly are the current County Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

The games took place on Monday 5th May at Kinvara GAA Pitch. Winners went on to represent their local area at the County Finals, held this year in Ballinderreen on June 7-8. This was the first time the finals were changed to Ballinderreen, and people were very pleased with the

facilities there. Kinvara did not have any gold medal winners this year, but many did well, winning their heats and semi-finals. P. J. Kelly, Doorus, won a Silver medal in his final. Many people have helped organise and train children since Community Games started in Kinvara. Their voluntary contribution in time and expertise is much appreciated.

Catherine Kilkelly and Marian Connolly would like to acknowledge the support of the following: Kinvara GAA for the use of the pitch, Michael Tully for preparing the track and organising the starts, Jason Huban, Michael Smith, Lawrence Greene and Róisín Callanan who acted as finishers, Carmel, Jack and Louise O'Donoghue for organising the Long Jump, Emma Kilkelly for organising the Long Puck, Staff from St. Joseph's National School, Kinvara, St. Kieran's National School, Doorus, and St. Bridget's National School, Northampton for their help with names and all who supported our recent fund raising Church Gate Collection.

Marian Connolly

Kinvara Community Games Results 2003

100 mts Boys U 10	1. Cathal Slattery	2. Jacob Carr	3. Jason O Connor
100 mts Girls U 10	1. Nicola Mahon	2. Emily Tully	3. Majella Greene.
80 mts Boys U 8	1. P.J. Kelly	2. Paddy Reid	3. Ronan Kilkelly.
80 mts Girls U 8	1. Ellen Buckley	2. Enya Morgan	3. Aislinn Marchant
100 mts Boys U 12	1. Conor McCormack	2. Seán Bermingham	3. Jimmy Dunne.
100 mts Girls U 12	1. Claire Whelan	2. Rachel Bermingham	3. Georgina Forde.
60 mts Boys U 8	1. P. J. Kelly	2. Ronan Kilkelly	3. Paddy Reid.
60 mts Girls U 8	1. Emma Flaherty	2. Ellen Buckley	3. Tori O Rourke.
100 mts Boys U 14	1. Billy Kinnane	2. Shane O Sullivan	3. Mark Whelan.
100 mts Girls U 14	1. Sinéad Quinn	2. Elaine Whelan	3. Ruth Carr.
600 mts Boys U 12	1. Seán Bermingham	2. Jimmy Dunne	3. Gerard Kelly
600 mts Girls U 12	1. Louise O'Donoghue	2. Georgina Forde	3. Claire Whelan
200mts Boys U 10	1. Cathal Slattery	2. Jacob Carr	3. David Burke
200mts Girls U 10	1. Nicola Mahon	2. Jenny Kinnane	3. Emily Tully.
800 mts Boys U 14	1. Shane O'Sullivan	2. Mark Whelan	3. Declan Nash.
800 mts Girls U 14	1. Elaine Whelan	2. Máiréad Kavanagh	3. Kate O'Donohue
60 mts Boys U 6	1. James Rodgers	2. Gary Kilkelly	3. Joey Tully.
60 mts Girls U 6	1. Nina Casconi Comer	2. Nessa Larrissy	3. Laura Donnelly
100 mts Boys U 16	1. Michael Smith	2. Laurence Greene.	
100 mts Girls U 16	1. Kathleen McInerney	2. Lorraine Mahon	3. Deborah Counihan
1500 mts Girls U 16	1. Kathleen McInerney	2. Lorraine Mahon	3. Deborah Counihan
Mums' Race	1. Caroline Whelan	2. Bernie Nilan	3. Patricia Kavanagh
Dads' Race	1. Michael Tully	2. Aidan Donnelly	
Girls Long Puck U 14	1. Elaine Kavanagh	2. Noreen Connolly	3. Shona McCarthy.
Long Puck Boys U 12	1. Conor McInerney	2. Niall Bermingham	3. Micheál Kavanagh
Long Jump Boys U 14	1. Michael O'Connor	2. James Robinson	3. Shane O'Sullivan
Long Jump Girls U 14	1. Stephanie Dufresne	2. Shona McCarthy	3. Kate O'Donoghue
Shot Putt Girls U 14	1. Noreen Connolly	2. Laura Doherty	3. Elaine Kavanagh

Kinvara Karate Club

Loosely translated Karate (or *karate-do*) means empty hand. It is an effective system of self-defence that originated from the Japanese Island of Okinawa. However, Karate is more than just a form of fighting. The ultimate aim of karate training is to focus on the development of the human character as a whole being, rather than on winning over losing.

In our club we teach the children firstly to be able to defend themselves mentally i.e. develop the confidence and assertiveness to say "no" and secondly, to speak up for themselves and others. So, alongside teaching our members the basic techniques needed for self-defence, we aim to teach them the ABC



life skills - Attitude, Behaviour and Character.

We hold our club in the Community Centre on a Friday evening. The 5 to 8 year-olds come between 6.30 and 7.30. The emphasis for this group is on fun! Anyone over 9 years comes from 7.30 to 8.30. Every month there

will be classes in street self-defence, where students learn practical techniques to help deal with difficult situations e.g. bullies, attackers.

For more information about the club contact Daniel Reynolds at (091) 638100.



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Co. Galway

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They have served

The Community Council remembers with pride its members and ex-members who passed to their reward since the last issue of Trácht magazine. They include Paddy Kelly of Cappamore, Tom Mahon of Geeha, Tommy Corless of Kinvara, Michael and Mary McInerney of Leeha North. The five of them shared some outstanding qualities, as Stan Mac Eoin recalls below.

Their friendliness and hospitality were of a kind and a quality that is fast disappearing. Their deep Christian faith displayed itself in their values, actions and formal worship of their Creator. Their commitment to the improvement of community life showed itself in their reliability, generosity with their time and finance and the co-operative spirit in which they carried out their undertakings. Each of them had the strongest family commitment imaginable. They shared with their spouses the rearing of wonderful families. Their children have good reason to remember them with pride.

Ní bheidh a leith'idí arís ann.



Mary and Michael McInerney

Seeing Michael and Mary McInerney together on any occasion, one knew they were in love. They met in the 1960s at a dance in Labane Hall, and their love for one another radiated to all around them.

One always came away feeling better for having met Mary. Her cheerfulness and friendliness were infectious. Even in the past few years she never lost her happy disposition,

and bore her great suffering with tremendous fortitude. That she could do so is a testament to her trust in God and her acceptance of His will.

Mary's life was one of selfless devotion to others. The oldest girl in a family of five children, Mary was only in 4th class in Primary School, when her mother became ill. She looked after the home, and helped run the farm. She loved the farm and actively helped Michael on the land when she came to Leeha North. Soon after her 19th birthday, her mother died.

Her greatest quality was that she always put other people first. This was seen in her devotion to her family, in the way she worked for her community organising and running Sales of Work, Fashion Shows, 'Siamsas' and other fund-raising activities for the building and maintenance of the Community Centre. She was a truly great person.

Michael was the eldest of nine children. He lived and farmed in Leeha North all his life. His gentle, friendly nature was complementary to Mary's more outgoing personality. To know him was to like and admire the man. He was well-informed and progressive in his farming methods. He was an active member of the IFA and took part in many of its campaigns to safeguard and improve the livelihood of the farming community.

Michael was an active member of the Community Council and, prior to its establishment, the Kinvara guild of Muintir na Tíre. Those with whom he worked will never forget his courteousness and dedicated service.

Michael's sudden death came as a shock to his family and friends. Within a month, Mary had died. They were inseparable in life. Somehow, it seems fitting that their final separation should have been a short one.

Michael McInerney, born 5th July 1926; died 18th March 2003.

Mary McInerney, born 7th March 1945; died 27th April 2003



Thomas P. Corless

Tommy was born on January 15th, 1917 in a thatched cottage, on the site what is now Keogh's pub. One of 13 children, Tommy attended the Boys' National School in Kinvara, and then the Oblate school in Belcamp, Dublin.

At one stage, Tommy contemplated devoting his life to the church as an Oblate priest. He changed his mind, however, and committed himself to the church as a lay person instead. He returned to Kinvara, and took care of his mother, to whom he was very devoted.

Tommy worked as an agent for New Ireland Assurance, and his talent was soon recognised by the company. On promotion, he had to move to Athlone. While there, his brother, Fr. Joe, a Holy Ghost Father, composed music for a Mass and Tommy was directed to the organist in the Franciscan Church who could play it for him. A loving relationship developed between the organist, Florence, and Tommy, and they were married on September 24th 1951.

Their elder daughter, Breda, was born two years later and their second daughter, Fiona, was born in Cork some years after Tommy had been transferred there. He was later promoted to Divisional Manager in Dublin, a post which he held on his transfer in 1975 to Galway. He and Florrie also ran a very successful and popular pub in what is now Conoles. In 1981, Tommy retired from the assurance business and devoted his energy to his Kinvara enterprise, to church affairs and to community development.

His God and his Church were both of paramount importance to Tommy. He was the greatest support imaginable to a succession of priests in the parish. Tom Donnellan, Kieran Moylan and himself became the first Ministers of the Eucharist consecrated for Kinvara. He was extremely proud of the honour.

Tommy immersed himself in the work of the Community Council. He was elected Chairperson on a number of occasions and, at the time of his death, was its President. He negotiated with the bishop for the site on which the Community Centre stands. He brought dignity and gravitas to occasions such as the visit of the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan (see picture), the centenary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Kinvara, the formal twinning ceremonies in Locoal Mendon and Kinvara, and the annual Corpus Christi procession. He was enthusiastic and hard-working in all he did, and expected the same level of commitment from others.

Tommy was great company too. He was a loyal friend to many and he had a keen sense of humour and a wealth of historical knowledge. His standards in all areas of his life were of the highest order. He was noted for the time and energy that he gave to the Conquer Cancer campaign and to the Alzheimer Foundation. He bore his final illness bravely and it was notable how he tried to minimise the inconvenience to his loved ones, relations and friends. Even in his final days Tommy was thinking of others.

Thomas P. Corless, born 15th January 1917, died 24th January 2003



Paddy Kelly

Paddy was born in 1948 in Cappamore. The oldest of five children, Paddy moved to Dublin in 1967 to work as a bus conductor. It was there he met his wife, Agnes.

Their two eldest daughters, Karen and Lisa, were born in Dublin, and Tara and Sonia were born after their return to Kinvara in 1979.

Before leaving Dublin, Paddy worked as a postman and, on transferring to Galway, he remained working for Posts and Telegraph (later to become Eircom). Paddy threw himself into community life, becoming an active member of Fianna Fáil, the Community Council and the GAA. He contributed his time and energy generously to working on a number of Community Council projects, and for a number of years was Honorary Treasurer of the Twinning subcommittee.

However, the promotion of hurling at all levels was Paddy's main interest. He trained many under age teams, and was elected Chairman of the hurling club. At county level, he was elected Honorary Treasurer and held the position up to the time of his death. John McIntyre of the Connacht Tribune said that Paddy brought a rare efficiency to this demanding role. Board Secretary, Phelim Murphy, noted that Paddy was very efficient and a great organiser.

Paddy was a cheerful, quiet person who had a great way with people. For a man who achieved so much in his working life and in his voluntary activities, he was remarkably unassuming, yet always cheerful and friendly. Paddy was a devoted husband and father, and a friend to everyone.

Paddy Kelly, born 26th January 1948; died 26th March 2000.

Tom Mahon

Tom Mahon, born in 1912, was the sixth child in a family of 10. He spent all his years in Geeha, both as a young boy and a farmer. He met his beloved Kathleen at a dance in Labane and they married in 1954 and had two children, Thomas and Mary.

Tom was a 'people person'. He loved meeting people, making them feel welcome, cheering them up with his wit and wide store of knowledge. He wanted his community to be a better one for people, young and old, to live in.

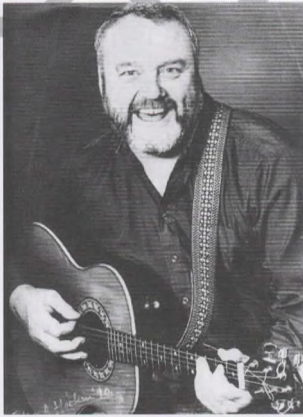


Tom was a driving force in the Dooras water scheme project. He took an active part in the Kinvara guild of Muintir na Tíre, and helped to establish the Community Council. Along with Kathleen, he worked to get the Community Centre built and in ensuring the debt was cleared. He generously provided his barn for Woodwork classes, conducted by Raymond Monaghan, for the people of Dooras.

Tom was also an avid bridge player and with Kathleen, was one of the founder members of the Kinvara Bridge Club, in later years becoming its President. He thoroughly enjoyed his card playing and his infectious good spirits ensured that his playing partners did also.

Tom was committed to his faith, and to the land on which he earned his livelihood. He loved the land. He valued all the good things in his heritage, the knowledge of the seashore, the changes in the season, the Irish language, and local folklore. He had high standards in all he did and expected the same from others.

Tom Mahon, born 15th October 1912; died 30th December 2000



Bill was a Ranger

Bill was a ranger. He rode the range on the back of a buckskin banjo
He loved the muleskin music and could sing like a lark in the morning
And croak like a corby at dusk.
Bill was a Gorbals Gallus bloke that never lost the edge.

He could trot you a line and call in the chips when ever he wanted.
A tough customer and tough on customers.
He could run rings and go for the shots
But he always gave a sucker an even break.
Bill would never let you down.

Bill was a ranger. He ranged the world
From single ends to showbands,
Whiskey in his wellies and he gave it away by the bootfull.

Bill expected all geezers to be as tough as him.
I saw him drink and drink but I never saw him drunk.
Only a Gallus Glasgow bloke can do that.

Bill rode the range ower the hale strammash.
Bill was a ranger, not a Texas ranger,
Not a Glasgow ranger, not a home home on the range ranger,
But all of them and none of them
He rode the range ower the hale strammash.

He rode the range in sixties Caddies, and fifties Pontiacs,
And he knew each grub screw in the transmissions of both.

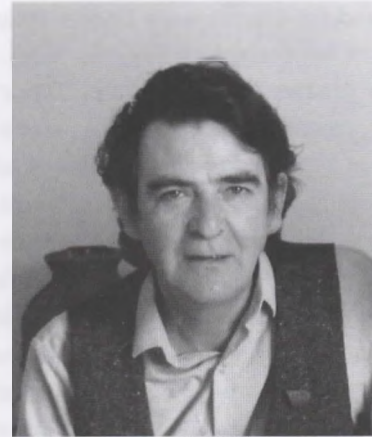
Bill was a ranger. He boiled the tatties and sliced the haggis and neeps
With a finer cut than any.
He didnay gie me the Glengarry but I can see it on him noo
And him reciting "The ode to a Mousie" Pal.

Bill was Buffalo Bill and Bill was Kit Carson and better than both
those cowboys,
He could get a bead on anything that moved before they'd had their
breakfast.

Bill is a ranger. He rides the range with Cochise and Sittingbull,
Geronimo and Red Cloud.
He rides with their Palominos from Maryhill to Wounded Knee,
From Fort Worth to Gallowgate.

Bill rides the range,
All ower the hale strammash.
Bill is a ranger.

© John Faulkner (Kinvara, 2002. In memory of Bill Carson)



O Star, O Angel

Nameless star, angel whose name I've
forgotten,
Tiny diamond winking through
The slowly herded clouds,
You should know that today,
After you have vanished and left the sun,
The sway of heaven - today we bury
A man in the cold winter earth.

This man left sons to carry his coffin,
And a wife to carry his memory,
And friends to mourn his wise laughter:
Each is diminished by his departure.

His body's mutiny
Was his undoing —
And was it not strange to die
On such a birthday ?
On God's nativity
He embarked for the dark land:
O angel, guide him across the river.

Today we bury a man,
In the cold winter earth.
Nameless star, angel whose name I've
forgotten,
Mark the place where he lies,
For he is kin to you —
A scattering of stardust,
A spark of your majesty.

Nameless star, angel whose name I've
forgotten,
O light against the darkness
As we are,
As we are.
As he was.
And as he shall be, a candle
Lit by love, fed by memory:
A light to dispel the darkness.

O nameless star,
O angel whose name I have forgotten,
Name him.
Remember him.

Jeff O'Connell. December, 2000
(In memory of Paul Coady)

Marty Fallon – A man with a great heart

As Trácht prepared to go to press, news came in of Marty Fallon's untimely passing. One of his customers who attended the funeral on 14 June kindly sent us these few words about Marty.

He was always there in the shop with the white coat, the fine head of hair and a permanent expression of wry good humour the length of his face. "Will you go up to Marty's?", you'd be told. The shop had a name. It wasn't a company name or an acronym or a pseudonym; it was a person's name. It was Marty Fallon's. His personality and affability ran through each transaction.

Between the sugar, the butter and the sliced loaf he would lean forward with an air of exaggerated confidentiality and comment on the latest drama doing the rounds. His humour was subtle, good natured and incisive but never mocking or deprecating. Shopping in Martys was a civilised social encounter. Each transaction came with a laugh thrown in, for free, and maybe a story to take away for retelling.

Marty could combine a traditional easygoing personability with an astute business sense. This combination of the old and the new was at the core of his

success as a business man.

Marty Fallon was buried today. As Kinvara lay bathed in summer sunshine, lush greenery and lively birdsong, Marty made his last journey, to Mount Cross. Marty will be missed. He will be missed for his humour and intelligence. He will be missed for his kindness and helpfulness. He will be missed by his family, of course, but he will also be missed, surely, by an extensive group of friends and neighbours who were happy to be his customers. Another chapter has closed. The town has lost another character and is much the poorer for his passing.

Miko Fahy of Nogra – a great man for the yarn

Miko had the gift of the gab and a great rural sense of humour; a combination of charm and a keen nose for enterprise. Below is an edited extract of an interview with Miko some years ago. His grandfather had started the business in the late 1800s and, when the grandparents died, Miko's father returned from America after 12 years away.

It was easy living in them days. There was no expenses; a gallon of oil would do you for about 12 months. He married my mother then. She was a great business woman and she built up the business until I came along. She didn't educate me at all, only National School education. But I suppose, in them days, you know, it seems that if you had a bit of an asset for a son, that was enough for him.

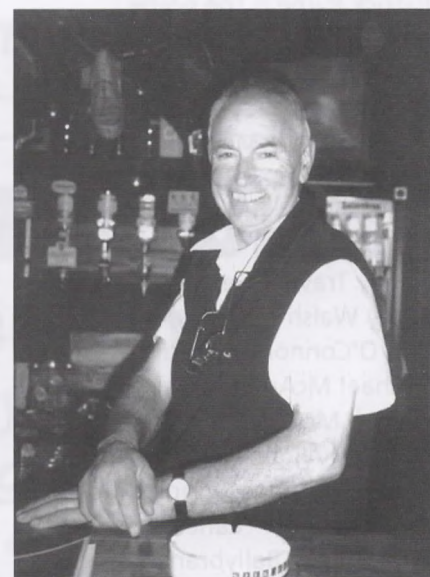
I went out to America in 1959. I was three months in it and I learned as much in those three months as if I'd been to the Uni of Galway. I was in Stamford, about 60 miles from New York City. The brother told me all about hire-purchase. We know nothing about it here, like. Ha ha. Do you know, like, I was below on the shore cutting seaweed and doing things backwards and didn't know what I was looking for. Come-day, go-day, God send Sunday.

Building up the business

I came home in November, 1960. By 1961, I had a telephone in and I was a dealer in hire-purchase. I had an agency from Pie Ireland for televisions. I had an agency from Balmoral Furniture Company for furniture; the Crescent Furniture Company from Cork, for bedding; Reidy's of Galway. I had more agencies; but I had no need to build a store because I had the stuff sold before they touched down at all.

Their own food

Anybody beside the sea, they mightn't be rich but they had a cash flow. In them days, around here, they'd be selling carrageen. If it wasn't carrageen, it would be oysters. And if it wasn't oysters, 'twould be a *bitteen* of wool or a bag of potatoes or something. The old cash flow was always coming. I used to buy oysters in Maree years ago for Redbank. The lobster used to be down there in Parkmore. You'll get winkles and you'll get different fish, do you know. In April time, after an April shower, you'd get what they call *sceanna mhara* (razor shells). You get them in banks. They'd never be short of food, you know.



And, you know, they were self-supportive then, in them days, you see. They had their own wheat to grind for their own bread. All they had to buy was a bit of white flour, sugar, tea. They'd their own milk, their own butter. They'd a pig: They'd their own meat. And they'd their own potatoes.

From:

'Come here I want you - Pat Keane and his Times' published by Kinvara Community Council in 1996.

BIRTHS**2000:**

Saileóg Droney – Moy Rd.

Niamh Ann Kavanagh –
Mountscribe

Rachel Helebert – Dunguaire West

Jack Burke – Dunguaire

Rachel Byrne – Cloonasee

Amy Helebert – Knockaculleen

Simon Whelan – Carnamadra

Dylan Flaherty/Kelly – Parkmore

Leah O'Connor – Newtownlynch

Sarah Sheehan – Lough Curragh

2001:

Roisín Quinn – Crushoa

Michael Donnelly – Carnamadra

Amber O'Connor – Doorus

Abigail Ryan – Cartron

David Whelan – Carnamadra

Damian McHugh – Mountscribe

Laura Whelan – Carnamadra

Jake Comyn – Nogra

Blaithín Breathnach – Trelick

Patrick Byrne – The Glebe

Amy Diviney – Cappamore

Ruairí McSweeney – Knockaculleen

Deirbhile Heavey – Arvough

Ella Costello – Moy Rd.

Conail Larrissey – Moy

Brendan Linnane – Dunguaire
West

Danny Travis – Geeha

Molly Walsh – Moy Rd

Erin O'Connor – Nogra

Michael McArdle – Arvough

Abigail McArdle – Arvough

Dónal Mulligan – Dooras Mill

Ciarán Donohue – Cappamore

Aideen Forde – Caheravoneen

Dean Ivers – Ballybranagan

2002:

Michael Corless – Mountscribe

Cian Morgan – Moy Rd.

Gavin O'Leary – Arvough

Oran Frawley – Moy

T J Buckley – Tawnah West

Anna Kidd – Crushoa

Barry Britton – Mountscribe

Meadbh Hayes/Kelly – Trelick

Eoin O'Connor – Cloonasee

Sarah Linnane – Cartron

Oisín O'Connor-Roche –

Newtownlynch

Jack O'Connor – Newtownlynch

Dylan Marchant – Knockaculleen

Hazel McAndrew – Arvough

Clara Curtin – Geeha

Martin Kavanagh – Mountscribe

Aoife Mullarkey – Arvough

Nathan Murray – Funchin

Adam Donnelly – Carnamadra

Kevin McHugh – Mountscribe

Niall Kelly/Flaherty – Parkmore

Aidan Bermingham – Kinvara

Jake Byrne – Cartron

2003:

Darragh Helebert – Dunguaire
West

Tadgh Heavey – Arvough

Orlaith Quinn – Crushoa

Mai Sheehan – Lough Curragh

Evan Diviney – Cappamore

Conor O'Dwyer – Cartron

Gemma Lascor – Newtown

Tom Kidd – Crushoa

MARRIAGES**2000:**

Conal Harkin – Pauline Staunton

John Goaley – Sinéad McCormack

Colm Kelly – Colette O'Connor

Patrick Mulligan – Máire O'Keeffe

2001:

David Prendergast – Zelma
Bermingham

Noel Heenan – Noeleen Keane

Kevin Malone – Olive Forde

Derek Wallace – Regina Fahy

Brian Cullinan – Martina
McInerney

Matthew Randall – Julia Waites

2002:

Shane Murphy – Catherine Power

Peter McDonagh – Maureen
Flaherty

Eoin Hughes – Jocelyn Doyle

Ciaran Cunningham – Pauline
Kilkelly

Aidan Mannion – Edel Leech

Christopher Flean – Deirdre Byrne

Michael O'Halloran – Michelle
O'Brien

Micheál Cahill – Olivia Quinn

Deirdre Heffernan – Eamon
Mongan

Martha Deely – Aidan Fahy

DEATHS**2000:**

Al O'Dea – Tuam

Paddy Killkelly – Convent Park

Kathleen Moylan – Crushoa

Maria Forde – Killina

Paddy Kelly – Cappamore

Michael Bamber – Mountscribe

Ann Conole – Crushoa

Paddy Kilkelly – Crushoa

Michael John Staunton – Trelick

Thomas St. George – Kinvara

John Finnegan – Cloonasee

John Joe O'Dea – Kinvara

Annette Barry – Kinvara

Michael Farrell – Nogra

Canon Michael O'Connor

John O'Connor – Leeha

Canon Christy Walsh

Mary Kilkelly – Convent Park

Peter Mahon – Cartron

Jimmy Considine – Moy

Paul Coady – Convent Park

2001:

Seán O'Hehir – Convent Rd.

Joseph Bugg – Dunguaire

Rosaleen Goodrich – Mountscribe

Francis Lees – Cartron

Peter Brann – Mountscribe

James Conole – Crushoa

Michael Burke – Killina

Michael Hynes – Funchin

Tom Burke – Moy

Tom Mahon – Geeha

Gerry Forde – Parkmore

Bridie Corless – Kinvara

2002:

Mary Flaherty – Normangrove

Michael Kelly – Newline

Pat McCooke – Mountscribe

Margaret Flaherty – Cappamore

Margaret McInerney – The Mill

Patrick Keane – Carnamadra

Seán McInerney – Funchin

Miko Fahy – Nogra

Enda Brogan – Kinvara

Maureen Quinn – Caheravoneen

Michael Staunton – Dunguaire

Bridie Kilkelly – Crushoa

Jimmy Linnane – Ballycleara

2003:

Thomas Corless – Kinvara

Michael McInerney – Leeha

Mary McInerney – Leeha

Breda Mara – Kinvara

Marty Fallon – Kinvara

*Records supplied by Father Frank
Larkin and Father Edward Casey.*

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Kinvara and Ballyvaughan.***

MENU

Mussels • Lobsters

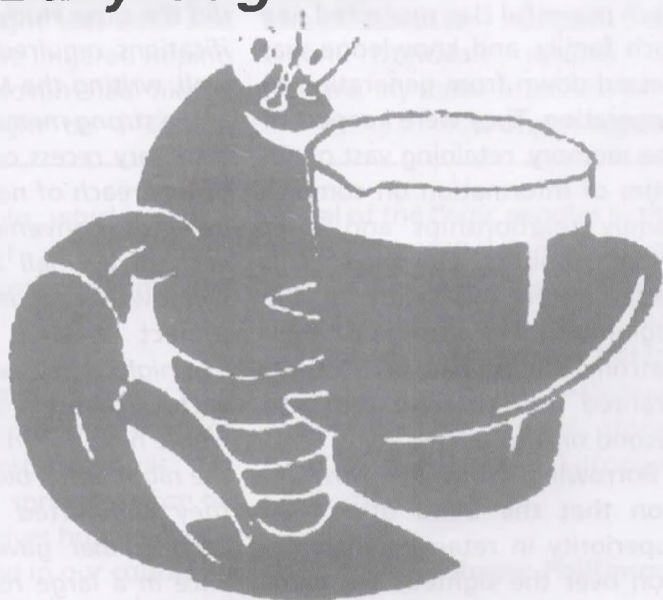
Smoked Salmon

Crab Claws

Seafood Platter

Clams • Scallops

Oysters



64 Trácht

The Ó Dálaigh Bards of Finavarra



Kinvara Writers' Group gathering at Finavarra.

LONG BEFORE THESE DAYS OF universal education, even before those times when the Christian Church became a major source of learning through its monasteries and seminaries, education in the old Gaelic society was the preserve of a handful of families.

These Bardic families, most notably the Ó Dálaigh, O'Higgins, MacNamee, Mac a Bháird, Egan and O'Mulconry held the knowledge for the whole Gaelic speaking world, and were indispensable to the Kings, Princes and influential lords of clans. Each powerful clan protected one such family, and knowledge was passed down from generation to generation. They were keepers of the memory, retaining vast quantities of information on complex family relationships and inter tribal disputes. On their skills rested often the safety of the region and the prestige of their patron. The ancient Brehon law granted protection to the bard second only to a king.

Borrowing from the observation that the blind often had superiority in retaining information over the sighted, the bards incorporated an artificial blind-

ness into their training, making their students lie all day in darkened rooms while they worked the memory. In this way they trained their minds to effortlessly store family trees up to 13 or more generations back in time, along with epic poems, music, and the history of their times.

Eye-witness account

From an eye-witness account of a Bardic School in 1722, we read: *"The school was open only to such as were descended of poets. From Michaelmas until 25th March did the close study last. The qualifications required were reading well, writing the Mother Tongue, and a strong memory. The Place is a solitary recess or a garden out of any reach of noise. A low hut, beds at convenient distances, each in a small apartment. No windows to let in the day. The subject having been given overnight, they worked it apart each by himself on his bed the whole next day in the dark, till in the night lights being brought in, they committed it to writing. Each scholar gave his performance in a large room where the Masters waited. The Action and*

Pronunciation of the Poem was performed in a concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music. The Poet himself said nothing, but directed. The Bards had the composition from him, got it well by heart, pronounced it orderly keeping even pace with a Harp, no other musical instrument being allowed." (Marquis of Clanricarde)

Most renowned of these Bardic families were the O'Dalaighs in this area, hereditary bards to O'Loughlins and O'Briens, Lords of Burren and Thomand. Their Bardic School was located at Finavarra, near New Quay in County Clare, where there is a monument on the shore to Donagh Mór O'Daly, who died in 1244. His ringfort can be seen in nearby Parkmore townland. From the 13th to the end of the 16th century, they produced bards in every generation, some of whom are buried in nearby Corcomroe Abbey.

"I pray to Patrick of the Palace of Stars and the noble saints of Éire, Gráinne, whose love burns me, Colum Cille, Ciarán...

May it be a shield for me, this poem to the dead, those great hosts, to my friends among them, my ancestors, my teachers.

I pray too to the Prophet who will give heaven to all who learn off what I compose, may he bring to heaven every man who recites it " (Donagh Mór O'Daly)

Demise of the Bardic schools

It was recorded in 1415 that Chief Justice Farnival ordered a raid on their property from Dublin to stem the satire they produced. In 1514 the annals state, that *"Teige, son of Donagh, son of Teige, son of Carrol O Daly of*

Corcomroe, a Professor of Poetry who kept a house of general hospitality, died a Finagh Bheara and was buried in the abbey at Corcomroe".

Under the tide of foreign conquest, the bardic schools had neither peace nor prosperity to flourish. In 1579, Teige O'Daly of Finavarra, a Franciscan Friar was arrested at the Convent of Askeaton and executed in the town.

The Inchiquin Manuscript of 1612 records that 'Donough, son of Loughlin Rua O'Daly of Finavara "in consideration of six pounds of pure crowned stamped money of England" conveyed to Anthony Lynch, son of James Lynch, son of Ambrose Lynch of Galway, the estate of Finnavaara held by O'Daly from the Earl of Thomand' - thus closing the mouth of a long-heard voice in the land.

Raifteirí an file

The nearest example of the ancient bard to our own times was the celebrated blind poet, Raftery, who lived in extreme poverty at the end of the Gaelic speaking era. He died just before the onset of the Great Famine of 1845-50, but his works were successfully collected from popular memory more than 50 years after his death, by Douglas Hyde and others. Augusta, Lady Gregory, of Coole Park who kept her 'school' of poets around her in the early years of the 20th century is our nearest equivalent to the patrons of old. In Yeats' lines; -

*'They came like swallows and like swallows went,
And yet a woman's powerful character
Could keep a swallow to its first intent;
And half a dozen in formation there,*



Bridie Giles, Donovan and Patricia Martin.

DONOVAN

Wednesday 7th May, Pier Head 10 pm.

I walked into a wall of backs. Over shoulders I strained to catch a glimpse of the tousled head of Donovan. The sound of his voice transported me back almost 40 years to sunny afternoons spent in friends' bedsits in Belfast - drinking coffee, gossiping and planning our night's activities.

He sounded just as I remembered, and looked as he had done on 'Top of the Pops' all those years ago. He finished singing at the microphone and there was a lull. A lot of people decided the night was over and left satisfied. We lingered hoping for more. Donovan had hinted that there might be a session

later. We were not disappointed. He came and sat down in our midst. Did we look keener and more enthusiastic than anybody else? Probably.

He sat in a window seat, his guitar almost on my knee, and sang 'Josie' to me. He sang through his repertoire and I feel that he enjoyed singing just as much as we enjoyed listening.

It was a memorable night. There was a song lurking in the recess of my memory which did not surface till the morning after... 'Jennifer Juniper'. So when Donovan returns to Kinvara, my name is Jennifer!

Doreen Wynne

*That seemed to whirl upon a
compass point
Found certainty upon the
dreaming air,'.....*

That these famous figures who helped to found our modern state drank inspiration at this ancient bardic spring cannot be doubted, and gives hope of continuity to a strand in our culture so ancient it may well pre-date the

arrival of the Celtic peoples in this island. The O'Dalaighs believed they were Milesians, colonists from Miletus in Asia Minor that flourished 500 years before Greece and Sparta, contemporary with Homer and the epic stories that birthed our European Civilization.

Roger Phillimore

The Dog

A Short Story by Kate Thompson

When he first started to walk that way from school, he was afraid of the dog. He crossed over the street and walked close up against the high wall of the cemetery, afraid to even look in case he saw a weakness appearing in the chain-link fence. The barking and snarling made him feel like a trespasser in someone else's daylight world.

That autumn he never stopped there to kick about for conkers under the trees which leant out into the street, away from the graveyard. Other boys did; he saw the white abandoned flesh of their gathering and the heavy sticks they had thrown up into the branches, but he never saw them. He never met anyone on that road. Only the dog, always there, following him along the length of its garden fence, barking.

On the day that he was first picked for the school rugby team, he realised that it did not become him to cross over the street. The dog was in its own territory and he was in his. He walked, whistling, along the middle of the pavement, just feet from the fence. The dog reacted dramatically. It barked hysterically, turned on its own tail, and threw itself against the wire. The boy faltered, found himself balanced on the curb stones, and recovered. After that, he never walked along the graveyard side again.

The people who owned that house didn't show themselves. It was always the same there, curtains open, light coming through from the front windows, the same plants on the sills. But there was never a head in motion behind them, or the sound of a radio or a closing door. Someone tended the garden, and someone fed the dog, but they did not leave out their lawnmower or their empty tins. Never a football or a deck-chair. All he knew about them was that they had something they needed to protect. That was why they had bought that awful German dog and built that terrible fence.

And it must have taken some building. It ran around the three open sides of the garden, six feet high, solid as the concrete posts that supported it. It ran without a break except for where it became a gate of the same wire, built on to a strong wooden frame, padlocked top and bottom. Day by day the boy crept nearer, until he had inspected every link and every bolt. Then a new delight entered into his life. He began to tease the dog. His journey home as far as the graveyard became a treasure hunt. He collected sticks, stones, drink cans, discarded newspapers, anything he could carry. When he reached the garden he would set his satchel down against the wall and stand in the middle of the street with his armoury at his feet. Then he would throw his collection, one at a time, at the dog, exhilarated by its frantic barking and by its impotence. No-one ever passed by. No-one ever came out of the house. The boy came to forget that it was even a possibility. There was nothing in the world except for him and the dog, a boy and a craven, bellowing beast.

And if, at night, he dreamt that it burst through the metal links and pursued him through his terror to the refuge of wakefulness, it only made him feel all the more unassailable by day, alone in the empty street. And if he fell behind in school and was hounded by his parents and his teachers, then there was compensation in the deterioration of the dog's condition. It was growing thin and its coat was becoming dull. It was as obsessed by the game as he was.

Until the day that it came to an

end. The boy had had his fun, he stood with a stick in his hand, his last-missile of the afternoon, ready to throw. The dog, in lunatic passion, hurled itself for the thousandth time at the wire gate, and the frame gave way. There was a crack, the wire bulged, and the dog tumbled head over heels and landed on the pavement. It paused in bewilderment for a split second, then came on. The boy's legs were frozen by shock, but his arm moved without his volition. He threw the stick hard and fast, and his aim was good. But the dog rose to meet it, snatched it from mid-air. It splintered between the powerful jaws and the fragments scattered. Still the boy could not move, and he knew that even if he could, there was nowhere to go. The fence was gone. It was just him and the dog, advancing towards him with all the pent-up energy of months of torment.

All at once his limbs came alive. He spun round and began to run towards the graveyard wall. He could hear the quick breath of the dog right behind him, but somehow the jaws did not close on his heel. The wall was in front of him and he jumped, got his fingers on the slimy top, scrabbled with his toes. It was hopeless. He was whining, crying, he clung and scrabbled uselessly, then slid backwards into a cowering heap on the pavement.

Behind him the dog was still there. He could hear it panting. Slowly he turned, towards the open jaws, the lolling tongue, inches from his face. For a moment they faced each other, then the dog moved backwards on to its haunches and sprang at him with a bark. He shrank away, ready for the worst, but still the teeth did not connect with his flesh. Instead they took up the broken remnant of the stick he had thrown, and laid it carefully beside his grazed knees. The dog backed off and waited, all wagging tail and eagerness to play.

Kate Thompson, who lives in Moy, was winner of the Bisto Book of the Year Award for children's books in 2002, and joint-winner in 2003.

Lovely Kinvara

On Ireland's rugged coast out in the West
 A little piece of heaven came to rest
 It nestle's in the palm of Galway bay
 This little town so rich from yesterday
 A jewel in its collar to the South
 With Aran's fortified island's at its mouth
 Beneath the porous Burren, peaceful there
 On rocky shores beneath the hills of Clare
 There lies Kinvara, hidden from the sea
 That slips in gently round its cosy quay
 Dungaure stands on duty on its shore
 And guard's its harbour as in days of yore
 When Guaire ruled and over all held sway
 His Brother Colman taught them how to pray
 When ships came sailing up its tidal bay
 To trade their goods from places far away
 From Connemara, turf like precious gold
 Its mountain wool, protection from the cold
 The ocean's harvest landed on its quay
 From fishing boats returning from the sea
 In famine's darkest day's the people came
 And fled their homes' to England's greatest shame
 On coffin ships that sailed forth from the pier
 To stay at home became their greatest fear
 And bitter tears were mingled with the cries
 Of tortured families piteous goodbye's
 But darkest famine days they came and went
 And England's power was well and truly spent
 And dreams of freedom, now reality
 A nation grew for all the world to see
 And now Kinvara lies as though in wait
 To welcome ships returning up her strait
 Her sons and daughters coming home to stay
 To celebrate a long awaited day
 May love and peace reach far our from her shore
 A treasured place for all for evermore.

David J Hogan

**IMPROVING THE WORLD,
OUR WORLD**

LET US IMPROVE THE WORLD,
 OUR WORLD.
 LET US GROOVE,
 MOVE
 INTO
 NEW
 SPACES OF MIND.
 PROGRESS TOWARDS
 POSITIVITY.
 LET US IMPROVE THE WORLD,
 OUR WORLD.
 LET US GROOVE
 MOVE
 INTO
 NEW
 SPACES OF MIND.
 IMPROVING THE WORLD
 OUR WORLD,
 BY IMPROVING
 OURSELVES.
 MOVING INTO
 NEW
 SPACES OF MIND
 BY "BECOMING"
 AN
 INNER
 WINNER

Joe Staunton

**WHEN THE EARTH
 SMILES
 FLOWERS BLOOM,
 AS HUMANS
 GIVE EACH OTHER
 RHYMES AND REAZENS
 AND LOTS OF ROOM.
 Joe Staunton**

**Low Tide
At The Turn of The Year**

Glistening, and newly exposed
 The mud smooths
 Into the distance,
 Veined all the way
 By trickling streams,
 With every fold of its
 Vast brown lubricity
 Dabbed and explored
 By hurrying hordes of birds.
 On themargins
 The seaweed lies
 In abundant bunches,
 Each frond fringed
 With edging frost,
 Table decorations
 For a single heron
 Patiently poised,
 Tensioned,
 Yet statue still,
 Stiffly reflected
 In the receding water.
 So still these pools
 That a solitary
 Paddling Duck
 Seems reluctant to disturb
 This midwinter mirror,
 By diving and rippling
 Such perfect stillness.

Brian Wynne

Night Vision

If you go down
 To the sea tonight
 And find that the clouds
 Have gathered;
 Conspired
 To take the moon hostage,
 What will you make
 Of a pewter-grey sea,
 Whose dimpling skin
 Holds the drabest of lights
 Which leaves you bewildered;
 Wanting to know
 Whether it comes from above
 Or below.

Where, now, is your soul map?
 Which way is your way?
 Can you last through the darkness
 Until the new day?

If you go down
 To the sea tonight
 And find that the clouds
 Have retreated,
 Revealing a perfectly circular
 Hole in the sky,
 If pure light floods through it,
 Reflects from
 The sea's million mirrors
 And lends you a path
 Which,
 Wherever you stand,
 Begins right at your feet,

Can you capture its imprint
 And hold it in mind
 When the spilled bleach of daylight
 Renders you blind?

Kate Thompson; Kinvara 1998

Kinvara Writers' Group

The group was formed some five years ago by Fred Johnston, the Galway-based novelist and poet, and head of The Western Writers' Centre. We meet on Wednesday evenings, at 9.30 in the back room at Connollys on the Quay. Everyone with an interest in writing is welcome to these meetings, where we read and discuss work in progress, such as poems and short stories.

In 2000 we published an anthology of our work. The

group also participates in the Fleadh na gCuach festival in May and in the Cruinniú in August, where we run the poetry readings. We also celebrate the continuation of the Bardic tradition of the poets in this area over a weekend in March, by visiting the Ó Dálaigh monument in Finnavara and by holding workshops. We propose to publish another group-funded anthology in 2003.

Brian Wynne (Secretary)

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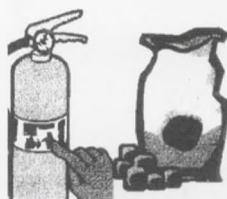
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