

# TRÁCT

Kinvara's Community Magazine 2006

€8



Looking for the perfect venue for your Wedding Day?



The  
LADY GREGORY  
HOTEL

Why not try the  
Lady Gregory Hotel.

Now taking bookings  
for 2007, 2008 & 2009

Limited Availability  
for 2006

With Our Compliments

- Traditional Red Carpet Welcome.
- Champagne for the Bridal Party on arrival.
- Tea, Coffee and Sherry for your Guests on arrival.
- Complimentary Function Room Hire.
- Personalised Souvenir Table Menus.
- Fresh Floral Decorations and Linen Napkins on each Table.
- Use of Cake Stand.
- Specially Engraved gift as a souvenir.
- Overnight accommodation in our Bridal Suite.
- Champagne Breakfast next morning, served to your Suite.
- Changing Room for the Bridal Party on request.
- Special overnight rates for your guests. (Limited Availability).
- Free Ample Car Parking.



The Gregory Suite

for perfect weddings...

"Wedding Bells" a possibility for Mid Week?  
(Monday - Wednesday) inclusive

...If so book your Special Day and also avail of these additional  
with our compliments

1. Complimentary Traditional Piper
2. Additional Complimentary Parent Accommodation Suite
3. 10 Guest Rooms at Special Discount Rate
4. Complimentary Toast of Drinks for Top Table
5. 10 Complimentary Bottles of Hotel House Wine during Wedding Meal
6. Complimentary Anniversary Dinner at the Lady Gregory Hotel for Bride and Groom

Please contact the Banqueting Manager for:

- information – 091-632333 phone
- availability – 091-632332 fax

Your Special Day



Our Banqueting Team are on hand to assist in any way, and confidently promise you a successful day.

Savour the Moments



Our Kiltartan Reading Room, the ideal location for intimate and family photographs.

Culinary Delights



An extensive choice of menus from our award winning chefs offers excellent food to match the elegant setting of your special occasion.



Luxury Accommodation

Above conditions based on number of 100 adults or more

Ennis Road, Gort, Galway, Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0) 91 632333 Fax: +353 (0) 91 632332

Email: sales@ladygregoryhotel.ie Web: www.ladygregoryhotel.ie



## Contents

Editor  
**Caoilte Breatnach**

Assistant Editor  
**Richard Broad**

Editorial Team  
**Brendan Dunford**  
**Kathleen Kenny**  
**Martin Ryan**  
**Matti Twomey**  
**Paul Tierney**  
**Richard Broad**  
**Roger Phillimore**  
**Stan Mac Eoin**

Advertising  
**Jim Fennell**

Layout and typesetting  
**Johan Hofsteenge**

Published by:  
**Kinvara**  
**Community Council**  
**Kinvara, Co Galway**  
tracht@kinvara.com

Printed by:  
**Clódóirí Lurgan**  
Tel 593251

Front cover photos by:  
**Kim Rigney** (centre) and **Ger Ryan**  
Back cover photo  
**Ger Ryan**

Some views expressed in Trácht Magazine may not necessarily reflect the views of Kinvara Community Council. Kinvara Community Council accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in this magazine.

Editorial Page	2
Community Centre Refurbishment	3
Kinvara needs a united voice	3
Newcomers to Kinvara	4
Kinvara aids Tsunami victims	6
Third World projects	7
Letter from America	11
Town Plan	12
Credit Union News	13
Cruinniú na mBád	13
Phil Moylan: Memories of Winkles	14
Robert Cresswell remembers Kinvara 1956	16
Blacksmith Tommy Griffin	18
Frank Lee	19
Lady Ampthill of Dungaigue Castle	20
St Coman's Church restoration project	22
Genealogy	23
Doorus House and Orchard Project	25
Seapark House	26
Playground for Kinvara	27
Pride of Place award	28
Fun Run	28
New Burren Initiatives	29
Kinvara Bay: Something consumed is something gone	30
Sewage Treatment Plant	31
Kinvara Bay pollution	31
Swimming and Lifesaving	32
Brownies	37
Bridge Club	37
Kinvara Community Drama Groups	37
Kinvara Bay Sailing Club	39
Mercy Sisters: The Nuns come to Town	40
Mercy Sisters-Seamount	41
Schools: Kinvara, Doorus, Northampton	42
Notable Arts	45
Kinvara's Young Folklore Collectors of 1937	46
Short Story competition	49
Kinvara Golf Society	49
Profile: Kate Thompson	50
Kinvara Community Children's Centre	50
Kinvara Table Tennis Club	50
Profile: Máire O'Keefe	51
Community Games	52
GAA Scrapbook	53
Tír Eolas 21 years in publishing	54
Sailing: Fánaí	55
Sailing: Northabout	56
Arrival of Garda Síochána in Kinvara	57
POEMS PAGE	58
Afghanistan Diary	60
Holy Land	62
Obituaries	63
Transitions	67
Broadband	68

## Ar aghaidh le chéile

**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 whose help there would be no magazine. Likewise, many thanks to our advertisers and retail outlets for their continued support . Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

As we go to press we note the plight of many thousands of Irishmen and women in the US who are hoping to regularise their residency in America. Similarly, we note the arrival of many newcomers to our shores, including Kinvara, and we are appreciative of their reasons for coming here. A journey to another country is the beginning of another, inward journey, and we hope that newcomers here will fare as well as the Irish have in England, America and elsewhere.

In a sense, *Trácht* magazine is a chronicle of our times here in Kinvara. The articles we publish provide a record of ongoing events in the parish, of a community reflecting on its life in terms of its past and present, and looking to its future prospects. This

year's magazine reflects a thriving community conscious of its place in the world.

The Irish economy has boomed in recent years, and so has Kinvara's. With the rise in wealth comes the challenge to our values and our priorities. Nationally, our health service is a huge issue which still remains to be resolved. Locally, in Kinvara, we still have no sewage treatment plant, and we struggle to keep our Community Centre open. Development land is worth a fortune, so try to find a site for a children's playground! Affordable housing is a growing problem, and we hope for better facilities for our young and old people. In an age of affluence, must social priorities be marginalised

because of market pressures?

And yet we do find a generosity of spirit in abundance when it is called for, as shown, for example by the Tsunami appeal last year in Kinvara. Whether helping out in sport, education, recreation and community work at home and abroad, the Kinvara community has been more than generous. We all have a contribution to make and we owe it to future generations to make this a fine place to live in, in every sense.

As we go to press we lament the recent passing of Toddie Byrne, a man who embodied the true spirit of voluntary work, whose life was devoted to serving his community. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



## Community Centre Update

AS WE GO TO PRESS, the roof on the Community Centre is being replaced. This, and other work including the provision of new fire doors, improved ventilation and upgrading the wiring mean that the Centre will be secure and its future assured into the next decade.

Galway Rural Development provided a grant of €25,000, a sum of €30,000 came from the building fund, and a Credit Union loan was secured. A number of fund raising events are being planned to pay off this loan of around €35,000.

### RENOVATION

This is the first stage in the refurbishment of the Community Centre. The second phase will include the strengthening the walls, dry-lining the interior, new toilets and improved disabled access. The Community Council hopes to finance half the cost of this from grants. It is hoped to have the Centre open again before the summer.

### What happened to the New Community Centre?

The original proposal to build a new Centre proved too expensive. When the project was conceived, we were informed that up to 90% funding would be available. However by 2004 when the plans were finally ready such grants were no longer available. Inevitably, building costs had risen.

A feasibility study commissioned by the Community Council concluded that the maximum funding in grants (excluding the crèche) was only €300,000. With building costs at over €2 million, the project was considered a non-runner.

A decision was then taken at the Community Council to refurbish the existing building and to pursue the crèche as a separate project. Unfortunately, the architect's bill of over €30,000 for work already done seriously depleted the building fund. The Community Council is very grateful to all who contributed to the Building Fund and can assure them



that all funds will be put to good use. Many thanks also to everyone involved in organising fundraisers and other efforts. We are grateful to Joe Byrne and John Britton for their help in designing and supervising the construction of the new roof and to Jim Fennell who secured the financing. We are grateful to Pádraig Burke for his donation of €6,000 to the building fund and for a very generous bequest of €10,000 from the late Mary Kate Brenn.

**Richard Broad**

## Kinvara needs a united voice

IT SEEMS THAT THE PACE OF LIFE has speeded up and the easygoing, traditional way of village life has been overtaken by global, commercial and material concerns. People speak of not having enough time — the stress and demands of today's busy lifestyle.

Yet whenever there is a bereavement or tragedy, we see the instant, compassionate response of neighbours and friends. Everyone downs tools, without hesitation, and extends themselves to be of help and comfort in any way they can. The members of our community can always be counted upon to lend a helping hand, to be there for each other in times of need.

### Our compassion

This ability to extend ourselves shows that we have not lost contact with what is really important, and our preoccupations fade into insignificance when called upon to

extend ourselves for our friends and neighbours.

The most powerful  
weapon on earth is  
the human soul on fire.  
Ferdinand Foch

The global tendency is to highlight the differences and fragmentation of the world. We seem to be obsessed with worldly opinion. If we look closely, our own back yard, too, contains the disharmony we see in the world. While we might feel powerless to fix the pain and suffering in the world, we are in a perfect position to assist our own community, and develop a community spirit and unity which does not need tragedy to unite.

Enthusiasm for a united purpose might be a good motivation, actively cultivating a unified community vision. Instead of waiting for others

to lead, let's initiate and share our highest ideals of community living.

### Making a difference

Kinvara needs a united voice to be heard in the places that will make a difference for our community. United, we can focus on our common goals,

We are made wise, not by  
the recollection of our past,  
but, by the responsibility  
for our future.

George Bernard Shaw

with enthusiasm and the good of all members of our growing community in our minds and hearts. We can extend ourselves beyond the outward differences that have divided us for generations, and show that we are willing to work together for a worthy purpose.

**Maeve O'Toole**

## Recent newcomers to Kinvara

IF YOU TAKE A SPIN around the village centre and visit any shop or pub, you are bound to meet all kinds of nationalities. One Saturday, over little more than one hour, we met the following people, from all parts of the world. All very interesting with many things to say about their impressions of Kinvara.



Jean Hernandez

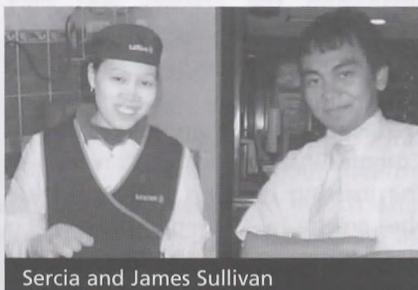
First, we spoke to **Jean Hernandez** from Mindoro, Philippines. Jean came to Ireland in 2003 and worked in Supermacs in Athenry. She arrived in Kinvara in March 2005 to work in Londis and is very glad she did. The conditions in Londis are much better, she says. Although she sometimes gets homesick and misses her family a little, she loves living in Ireland and finds the pay good.



Elsa Fernandez

**Elsa Fernandez** comes from Luzon, in the Philippines. She first moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, seeking better pay before coming to Kinvara in 2002. Kuala Lumpur is a big city and very, very different to Kinvara. Elsa says that Kuala Lumpur was "full of pleasures" very fast and buzzing. Kinvara was a big change but she

wouldn't change it for anything. She is very happy here, working in Londis, where she makes more money than she was doing in Malaysia. Her dream would be to win the Lotto and buy a house in Kinvara and settle down here permanently. She goes home every year. She actually likes the Irish weather as the Philippines can get very hot. The thing she misses the most is the food: rice and fresh fish.



Sercia and James Sullivan

**Sercia Sullivan** is from Mindenau, Philippines. She is three years in Kinvara, also working in Londis. She is married to **James Sullivan** (no, he is not Irish, even with a name like that!). James is from Manilla and has been working in Keoghs for the past year.



Rosilene Chaveiro

From further afield is **Rosilene** (Rosa – pronounced Hosa) **Chaveiro** from Jaiara Anapolis, a big city, she says, in Brazil. Rosa works in Fallon's. She has been in Ireland for four years, first working in Galway city before discovering Fallon's in Kinvara. She

gets homesick but manages to go home every year. She would love to stay in Ireland and says of Maura Fallon: "She is like my mother."



Jacques Cocollos

Closer to home is **Jacques Cocollos** from Paris who has been in Kinvara since 1998, working first in the Merriman Hotel and for the past few years in Mac Mahon's hardware. He says he fell in love "with Kinvara and in Kinvara." Of his arrival in Kinvara, he says that people gave him a great reception for the first three months and then when they found out he was staying they changed. Then, after those difficulties, things were fine again and it was like "I was adopted and I had become part of the furniture." What he misses most about Paris is good food and good wine. He is sad that Ireland has changed so much and so fast. When he came in 1998 there were wild places but now it's becoming like continental Europe. As Jacques puts it "Ireland is looking like a concrete yard." Still when all is said and done, he likes it here and would not move back to Paris.

There are many more nationalities in Kinvara apart from the few newcomers we refer to above. We understand that in this small community, there are Polish nationals, Sri Lankans, Belgians, Israelis, Germans, Americans, Cubans, Dutch people and many more. Kinvara is indeed becoming very cosmopolitan.

## Newcomer JOHN PRINE



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN PRINE on receiving a Grammy award this year. *Fair & Square* spent 13 weeks at the top of the US Americana radio charts and earned him the artist of the year awards last September. The self-produced album is a beautifully mellow collection of love songs, humour, and social commentary: classic John Prine. On the cover is a photograph (by Nutan) of John walking the New Line with his Guitar. John and his wife Fiona chose Kinvara as their "Irish Home" and it was the inspiration for the song *My Darling Home Town*. They spend as much time as they can here with their two boys Jack and Tommy.

John's music career took off in 1971 when Steve Goodman took Kris Kristofferson to hear him play at a Chicago club called the Earl Of Oldtown. Prine went from being a local singer/songwriter to national fame, lavished with praise from critics around the country. Throughout Prine's major label migrations, which would eventually cover eight albums and two companies, he continued refining his voice and attracting fans who closely identified with his emotive sharpshooting.

"It's a great feeling when you put something in a song and other

people say that's exactly how they feel. That's the most gratifying thing about songwriting for me: it's always been a real outlet for me – being able to put those feelings down".

Among the songs that Prine wrote during this period were such classics as *Please Don't Bury Me*, *Fish And Whistle*, and *Souvenirs*; and there were also the more humorous offerings which proved that Prine could find the irony in it all: *Dear Abby*, *Sabu Visits The Twin Cities*, *Illegal Smile*, even *Christmas In Prison*.

After moving to Nashville, his first independent release in 1984,

*Aimless Love*, was followed in 1986 by the Grammy nominated album *German Afternoons*, and the 1988 Grammy-nominated *John Prine Live*. He later won a Grammy for 1991's *The Missing Years*, which featured Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty, and consequently became one of his best selling albums. In 1995, he released *Lost Dogs & Mixed Blessings*, followed in 1997 by *Live On Tour*. 1999 saw the release of the Grammy-nominated *In Spite Of Ourselves*, featuring duets with Lucinda Williams, Trisha Yearwood Melba Montgomery, Emmylou Harris, Dolores Keane, Patty Loveless, Connie Smith and Fiona Prine.

If you are lucky you may wander into Mary Green's some evening and find John sitting around a table with friends, singing *That's The Way The World Goes 'Round* . . . small world!

**Paul Mulligan**



## Kinvara helps Tsunami victims

EARLY IN JANUARY 2005, following on from the devastating Tsunami that hit many countries of the South East Asia Region, the people of Kinvara embarked on a very worthy fundraising campaign. A number of events were organised to help the cause with a large number of volunteers contributing their time to help. There was a series of concerts in the Community Centre, with all musicians providing their services free of charge. There was also much rattling of buckets on the market square and donation buckets placed in shops and pubs prompted a great response locally. Many events were organised by the younger members of the community through their schools or local Scouts and Brownies. The local GAA made a significant donation

through their fundraising activities. A number of donations were provided directly to the local credit Union account. In total over €12,000 was raised by the community. The funds were donated to Goal to help their work in Sri Lanka and the Andaman

Islands. Many thanks to everyone who helped and contributed including anyone we may have forgotten to mention. Your help eased the suffering of many in these communities.

**Hayden O'Connell**

## Kinvara Xmas Cards raise €1,200 for local good causes

GER RYAN PHOTOGRAPHY would like to thank the shops in Kinvara for supporting the sale of the Kinvara Christmas Cards during the last two years; especially John Burke at Londis, Niall Fallon at Costcutter, Mac Mahon's supermarket, Liz Murphy at Murphy Store and Carmel Ryan at the Post Office. The cards raised €1,200 for two local causes. A cheque for €600 will be presented to the Kinvara Community Council for the Community Centre fund, and a cheque for €600 will be presented to the Kinvara Childcare Committee who are looking to develop a childcare centre in Kinvara.

a does it's bit

# Kinvara children help Comoros Islands

SUHA IRELAND would like to sincerely thank all those who have continuously supported our work in the Comoros Islands especially the children of Kinvara National School. The Cuckoo Dunk takes place on Monday, May 1st.

Malaria is the number one killer in the world today. The Comoros Islands are one of the poorest regions in the world where educational facilities are poor and school attendance is low. We are a voluntary organisation whose aims are to raise awareness and prevent infection of Malaria in children under 5. We hope to see every child



under 5 in the Comoros Islands enrolled and actively attending school. Every child will have a quality mosquito net and a visible knowledge of disease prevention. We also bring practical items to the schools, such as First-Aid kits and mosquito nets. SUHA Ireland has given over 3,000 nets to school children with your help. 100% of all monies raised buys nets and helps save the lives of these children. Go raibh maith agaibh. Thank you, and Marahaba mingi!

More information SUHA Ireland, Claregalway, Co. Galway. Tel: 087 930 4233. [www.suhaireland.com](http://www.suhaireland.com)

**Triona Griffin**

## KEOGH'S *Bar & Restaurant*

**MAIN STREET, KINVARA, CO. GALWAY**

Welcome to Kinvara and to Keogh's where we have taken the best of traditional Irish foods and prepared a menu to appeal to all contemporary tastes.

**Breakfast 10.00am - 12.00**

**Lunch from 12.30**

**Dinner 6.00pm - 10.00pm**

**Bar Food all day until 10.00pm**

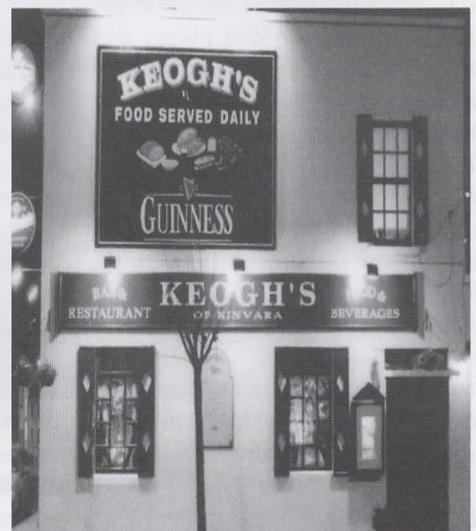
*Ideal venue for confirmation, Communion & Christening*

*Lunches & Dinners*

*Beer Garden available for Bouncy Castle*

**Phone 091-637145. Fax 091-637028.**

**[keoghsbar@eircom.net](mailto:keoghsbar@eircom.net)**



Winners of the  
**BIM Seafood Circle**  
*Pub Lunch Award 2004*

# Not Just a School Learning from India



HAVING REACHED RETIREMENT after a very fulfilling teaching and management career in education, I looked forward to going places and doing 'new' things. The experience that made the greatest and most lasting impression on me and my wife, Moya, was the time we spent in India in November/December 2005.

When we emerged from the airport, about 20 young men and boys descended on us wanting to carry our bags, and begging. Even when we were in the taxi and moving away their hands were outstretched through the window and we were concerned for their safety.

## Culture Shock

The journey into Sealdah was a real culture shock. All the cars, buses and taxis appeared old and battered. The exhaust fumes were terrible.

Traffic policemen, who stood at intersections, but who seemed to have no control over the traffic, wore handkerchiefs around their mouth and nose, as did some of the better-dressed pedestrians. The overall impression was one of chaos and pollution. We had never seen so many people before. Slum huts were built on every available space; people were lying on the footpaths; stalls and small workshops were set up along the streets; emaciated cows wandered on the busy roads oblivious to the chaos around them; the waterways were stinking, there was litter everywhere. We wondered if we could survive in this environment.

Sealdah Convent was a haven of tranquility and harmony. We were given strong sweet tea, bread, a hard boiled egg and a banana, and we

were then brought to our economy hotel nearby, where we stayed for €3.50 per night!

We soon got used to life in Calcutta, a city of 18m inhabitants, 5m of whom live in complete destitution – no shelter, no social welfare, no income or very low wages. An electrician earns €1 a day; a plumber does a little better getting about €1.20! A visit to a doctor costs less than €2, but that is two days' pay for a tradesman.

## A true vocation

Sr. Cyril, from Bray in County Wicklow, is 69 years old. Six weeks after she joined the Loreto Sisters at 18 years of age, she was sent to India – a three-month journey by boat. Her work has been recognised by the Indian government and by the United Nations. She has inspired many others in India, Africa, South

America to initiate similar projects for the poor.

Sr. Cyril decided in 1979 that 50% of the places in her school would be reserved for poor children. In 1985 she started her 'Rainbow Children' project where orphans, street children and other 'at risk' children were brought into the school and given accommodation, food, clothing and medical care. At present, they number about 300.

#### Other Projects

The children who are helped in Sealdah are imbued with a spirit of service to the poor, from whom they themselves have come.

- Every week pupils from the Loreto School go out to Sealdah railway station and into the streets to help the destitute elderly. They distribute food, clothes and medicine and, above all, spend time talking to the old people. The project is called FOKE, Friends of Kolkata Elderly. A residential home for a small number of

destitute elderly women has now been established.

- Childline is run by the older girls in the school. If they get a phone call at any time of the day or night from a child who is in distress, for any reason, in any part of the city, they can go with one of the caretakers in the school and have the child back within 45 minutes.
- There is much Hidden Domestic Child Labour in Kolkata. The students seek out such children and try to get the 'employer' to allow the child to spend an hour a week with them. Sometimes the child opts to stay in the Loreto School.
- The Shikalaya Prokalpa (or Barefoot Teacher) Programme extends the benefits of education as far as possible. Young people who might have reached the equivalent of our Junior Cert are given one month's intensive training in Sealdah. They are then sent out to teach in villages and slum districts. Over 26,000 children have been helped so far.

We worked mainly with the Rainbow Children and the Barefoot Teacher projects. We also spent five days in Assam, an hour's plane journey from Kolkata. This was a huge contrast – clear skies, cooler, beautiful scenery. We spent each day helping highly-committed teachers to perfect their English. Their new school was to open on 24 January, intended as a model of good teaching and support for other schools. The dedication was amazing. They were building a big technical school as well, which is scheduled to open later in 2006.

We were impressed by a visit we paid to the apartment of six students, originally Rainbow children - three Hindu, two Muslim and one Christian. In their flat they had one shrine incorporating sacred aspects of each of their religions.

When we were leaving Kolkata nothing seemed quite as bad as it did when we first arrived. We will return.

**Stan Mac Eoin**

# Doorus House Youth Hostel

Open All Year  
All ages welcome

A traditional hostel just  
6km from Kinvara village

Great location for groups

Walk to Traught Beach

Enjoy the tranquil setting  
overlooking Kinvara Bay  
and The Burren

Weekend courses



For more information:

**091.637512**

[doorushouse@kinvara.com](mailto:doorushouse@kinvara.com)



# MACMAHON OIL

Your Local Distributor



## KINVARA

Phone: (091) 637317 / (091) 638126

Micheal: 087 2582408

Shawn: 087 2604264

Best Prices and Prompt Delivery

# Letter from America



KINVARA WAS FOR ME a happy accident. A trip to Ireland in July 2002 was a 60th birthday present from my wife of thirty-seven years. Astonishingly enough, I would only be the second descendant of my four Irish-born paternal great-grandparents to make the trip back home. As many in the huge Irish Diaspora, I have no precise idea where any of those ancestors came from. The West always seemed the most attractive part of the Country, so we decided to start the visit in Galway City. We landed at Shannon just after dawn and headed for Galway City. The City, early in the morning, had not quite the allure we sought, so we headed for the countryside. The Rough Guide (which we subsequently discovered had a photo of the Café on the Quay on its cover) had a short but favorable description of Kinvara, so Kinvara it was.

Arriving in Kinvara, it was clear that we had made the right decision.

All that remained was to find lodging for the night. And there on the Main Street was Fallon's B&B. Maura Fallon, as charming and gracious a person as anyone could hope to meet in this life, provided us with rooms for the night. The night stretched to a week, and we reluctantly departed so that we could spend a meager two days exploring Kerry.

That one visit has expanded to six by the time you read this. And much has come to pass in Kinvara. We were much saddened to learn that we could only know Marty Fallon through his fine, loving family. Rosaleen's has gone, and Winkle's seems destined to follow. Old Tim no longer lords it over the traffic passing Tully's on the Main Street. There has been a dismaying proliferation of McManor Houses on all of the roads into and out of Kinvara. And with that looms the spectre of Kinvara's being engulfed in the Galway urban

sprawl, becoming a mere bedroom community to the City, and the fear that if the town caters exclusively to the Galwegian invaders, it could lose its unique character entirely. Bigger, alas, is not always better.

I try to document the Kinvara of the present with my pictures, inspired, in part, by *Kinvara: A Seaport Town on Galway Bay*. It would please me to know that, long after I am dead, some future historian might make use of some of my pictures to show what Kinvara and its people were like way back in the early 21st Century.

Kinvara is that happiest combination of great company, breathtaking scenery and fine music, just to mention a few of its qualities. May it never suffer too much change.

Sláinte.

FF

# 12 Trácht

## Town Plan a poor exercise in local democracy?

THE KINVARA INTEGRATED AREA PLAN (IAP), drawn up by the local community, was launched in the Community Centre in March 2004 at a meeting of nearly 300 people, the largest in Kinvara's living memory. This ground-breaking pilot project to involve local people in the planning process took two years to draw up and involved consultation with the entire community on four separate occasions. It formed the basis for Galway County Council's statutory Kinvara Local Area plan (LAP) published some 18 months later.

Drawing up the plan had brought together people with very different perspectives and backgrounds and clarified the planning issues surrounding Kinvara's future development. New social networks were set up, bringing the community closer together and useful contacts made, particularly with the County Council.

The Council's plan incorporated much of what was in the community's plan, particularly its detailed and specific suggestions. So, in that sense, the project was successful. However there were important omissions, an unexpected proposal to build a second 'main' street for the town and a fundamental difference over the pace at which Kinvara should develop.

### Three basic concerns

The Community's document had three basic concerns. Firstly, the development of the town should be measured and sustainable – residential development should be matched by the services and infrastructure needed to support it. This was encapsulated in the provision 'that the town should not more than double in 10 years' to which, locally, there was no dissent. Secondly, the overriding priority should be the development of a town centre, and thirdly, the provision of sewage treatment, already urgent, was absolutely crucial to the town's further development.

However, this overview was not reflected in the Council's plan. It zoned 135 acres for residential development, far exceeding the IAP recommendations. The Council's elected representatives increased this by 15 acres, making enough to

quintuple Kinvara's population.

Planners normally expect two fifths of zoned land to be actually developed. So they were planning for an increase of 200% - double what the community thought appropriate and manageable. Furthermore, in Kinvara's case, such is the demand for development land now fetching upwards of a million euro an acre that this figure of 'two fifths' is almost certainly an underestimate. Nor were there provisions to phase and thus control the pace of this development. In theory, all 150 acres could be developed immediately.

### Co Council ignoring local plan?

Kinvara's growth may now be dictated by what developers think profitable rather than what is appropriate for the town's coherent and sustainable development. Ireland is full of communities blighted because of this.

The proposal to construct a second main street came out of the blue. The community's plan made only one passing reference to this as something that might be considered in the future. Recent land sales suggest it will be constructed soon. That will undoubtedly divert investment away from the town centre. Furthermore, the Council's plan prohibits new buildings there from connecting to the foul sewer system, making its development even more problematic. So this priority is doubly compromised.

In the community's plan, different views were accommodated and most people reasonably happy. The LAP's consultation period was brief and there were only two ways to influence it. One was lobbying local councillors, largely used by landowners wanting more land to be zoned. Some were successful. The other was to make written submissions. The Community Council and others re-submitted proposals in the community's plan ignored by the Council and raised the above concerns. There were also specific and, in some cases, compelling objections. Seamount school pointed out, for example, that a proposal (not one of community's) for a drop-off point for the school was on land they owned and had earmarked for additional classrooms. Inexplicably,

virtually all of these submissions were waved aside. We only learnt of this rejection on the day the plan was discussed by the Co Council.

### Kinvara needs to be convinced

Crucially, the Council's plan had no plan of action or priorities, and consequently, it has done little to implement it. Kinvara, for its part, is doing a lot. The development of a community crèche, the provision of broadband, plans for a children's playground and a drop-in centre for teenagers are just a few examples. But a year on, not a single improvement or initiative for which the Council is responsible has resulted from the plan.

The IAP was an important attempt of national significance to give a community's aspirations statutory authority. So its core concerns should have been accommodated. The LAP includes imaginative and constructive proposals, many taken from the IAP. So the detail is there but a coherent strategy but the measures needed to implement it are not. There is no date for the construction of a sewage works, no context or planning provisions with which to manage Kinvara's growth effectively and no programme to implement its key proposals. Overall, the Council's plan leaves us to be convinced that the aspirations expressed in the IAP, the vision that Kinvara has for itself, will be achieved.

That said, however, Kinvara is better off with the plan than without it. It provides a context for the ongoing discussion on how to make Kinvara an even better place. Many of its provisions set high standards for developers and make it easier to effectively object to crass or inappropriate development. Nor is this the end off the matter. The Council will review its plan in 2011 and the community will reconsider theirs in 2013. However disappointing the outcome, we were at least asked what we wanted for our town and, as such, that is a long overdue start to democratising the planning process.

**Ger Ryan (Secretary) Liz Murphy and Richard Broad (members of the Steering Committee of the Kinvara Integrated Area Plan)**



# Your Local Credit Union

KINVARA & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION began offering its services from the local Community Centre in 1991. The arrival of the Credit Union in Kinvara was supported at the time by Stan MacEoin, Toddie Byrne, Marian Connolly, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Paddy Kavanagh and Don Devanny. I had just come to live in the neighbouring parish of Ballinderreen. Having heard, at Mass, about the possibility of the establishment of a Credit Union I decided to go along to a public meeting in Kinvara. I was made very welcome and was later elected its first chairman, which I consider a great honour.

There is no doubt that the arrival of the Credit Union to the locality is of great benefit to the local community,

and the provision of a modern office in the town centre is a clear manifestation of the success of this venture. This office was officially opened on Sunday 18 April 2004 by the President of the Irish League of Credit Unions, John O'Regan and blessed jointly by the Parish Priest, Fr. Larkin and the local Church of Ireland representative Rev. O'Sullivan. The office is staffed by two full-time staff, Mona Gill and Helen O'Connor and also by Maureen Heffernan on a part-time basis. Some members also assist from time to time on a voluntary basis.

### Success follows success

The success of the Credit Union can be seen from the fact that in excess of 2,500 residents of the area from Ballyvaughan to Clarenbridge have become members and have a combined savings in excess of EUR 4m. These savings are lent out to members at very competitive interest rates plus free insurance, and special rates for community groups and

members who request secured loans (loans of less than or equal to their shares/savings).

The office opens at 9.30 am six days each week: Mondays and Saturdays it closes at 1pm. The office is open on Fridays until 7pm and until 4pm Tuesday to Thursday. Service is also provided in St John's Hall, Ballyvaughan on Thursdays from 11am, to 12.30pm. The Credit Union movement in general is a very successful organisation and deserves your support. If you are not already a member I would encourage you to join immediately. Kinvara Credit Union can be contacted by phone or fax at 637525 or by e-mail at [kanddcu@eircom.net](mailto:kanddcu@eircom.net).

In conclusion I would like to thank the 2,500 members for their support and also anyone who helped in any way and in particular those who are sadly no longer with us. Ar Aghaidh le Chéile!

**Michael Organ, Chairman**

## Cruinniú na mBád

THROUGH THE GENEROUS sponsorship of Cityjet and our other patrons, we hope to secure Cruinniú na mBád as the flagship of Ireland's traditional sailing festivals. In 2003, we had our 25th anniversary, with a weekend of sailing that included not alone the sailing tradition of the turfboats, but also the recently-revived Mackerel Boats and Towelsail Yawls of West Cork, Bantry Longboats, Wexford Cots, Achill Yawls, Donegal Drontheims, a couple of traditional boats from the Continent, as well as our Kinvara-based Manx Nobby [Vervine Blossom], Scottish Zulu [Fairy Queen], and Bob Francis' Cornish Bawley. We hope to have these boats back at all future festivals, which will ensure Cruinniú na mBád's unique reputation as a national and international event.

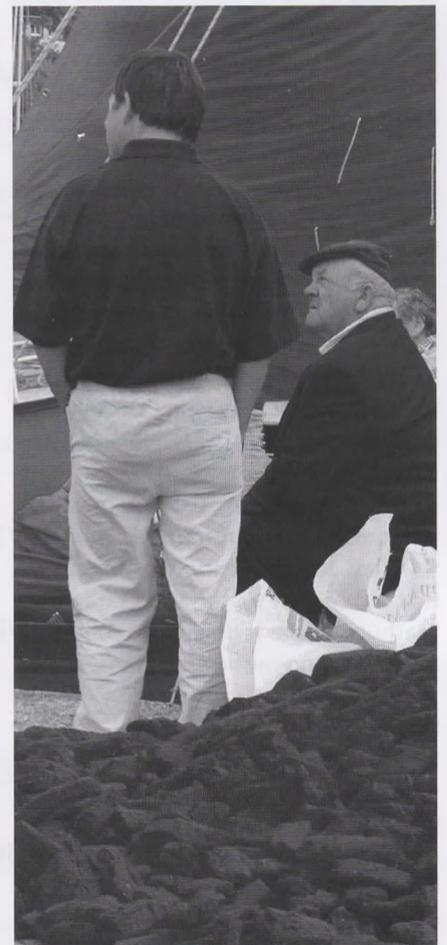
The recent construction of currachs around Kinvara has inspired the revival of currach racing in the Bay, and the very active Heron racing fleet will ensure a continued supply of

enthusiastic and competitive crews.

This year, it is intended to start the 28th Cruinniú na mBád on Wednesday 16th of August and continue through to Sunday the 20th. Many boat owners, especially those who travel long distances to attend the Festival have suggested that confining the festival to effectively two and a half day weekend is too short.

In September 2004, one of Cruinniú's greatest friends, Johnny Bailey, passed away. For many years, with his family, he had carried turf across the Bay to the people of Kinvara, in the family boat, *An Capall*. Every year, for our festival, he loaded turf into the Capal at Sruthán Pier for the Turf Race destined for Kinvara. Every year, that same turf was delivered to the pier by Tommy Corless from Dunguaire, another good and loyal friend, who sadly passed away recently. Ar dheis de go raibh a n-anamacha dílis.

**Michael Brogan**



# Phil Moylan: Memories of Winkles 1988-2005



I CAME TO KINVARA from Inverin in 1976. I was married to Tony Moylan. We settled in a house in Dungaigue, beside the vet. Winkles was then run by Ciarán and Tiffy Moylan. Tiffy had inherited the pub from her parents, Rose and Bal Winkle. They had acquired Winkles in 1914, having moved back from America. Rose and Bal operated Winkles as a pub and seed store. When Tiffy inherited the place from her parents she was working as a teacher in Doorus. At that time, teachers were not allowed to live in a pub. To get around this Winkles became a hotel! Music was already in the place then as Ciarán was very fond of it and used to sing himself. He was a popular man and also acted in plays staged in Johnston's Hall, Labane and others. His daughter Roisin (Tony's sister) was a beautiful singer as well and used to perform in the Castle and also sing in the church, pantomimes and of course in impromptu sessions in Winkles. Johnny Leary, the box player was a frequent visitor and Ciarán Mac Mathúna made regular trips collecting and recording music and songs.

### Running Winkles

In 1988, Tiffy retired and Tony took over the pub and we continued to run it as a hotel and pub until 1994. Our children, Sinéad and Ciarán were 9 and 8 respectively. I remember clearly my first day behind the bar. I had never pulled a pint in my life. I felt like I was on stage.

Weeshie (Aloysius) Corless came over to wish me luck and said "All you need is one night..!" My very first customers were Paul Coady and Séamus O'Reilly. Tony decided to stay with the trad. We started regular Saturday night and Sunday morning sessions. The musicians would normally be put upstairs for the night and then come down for breakfast in the morning and join in the Sunday morning session. I had to choose who could stay in the hotel on Saturday nights because often sessions would go on all night. We had some memorable sessions and soon acquired a reputation. People used to come in at midnight from Galway after sessions there. We were forever having trouble with the guards. The best night ever was a session in 1989. It was during the Cooley weekend in Gort. The Sunday morning session started with Sharon Shannon and Seán Smyth. They were soon joined by Jackie Daly, Niamh Parsons, Dolores and Seán Keane and many others. Everyone came down from Gort for it. We started at 12 noon and we finished at 6am on Monday morning! The place was jam-packed and yet you could still hear a pin drop when someone sang. I have visions still of making endless plates of sandwiches for the musicians to keep them going. We eventually ran out of all drink in the house!

### Start of the Cruinniú

Winkles is associated with the two festivals in Kinvara. In 1979, Tony, fresh back from attending Féile Mhic Dara in

Carna, had ideas of reviving the maritime traditions between Connemara and Kinvara. The last turf boats to Kinvara had been in the '50s. He spent our savings of £700 to buy turf in Connemara and then had some job persuading the boatmen in Connemara to fill their boats and bring it to Kinvara. However, many had tears in their eyes that August evening when they saw the hookers coming in. The turf was sold by auction and we made our money back that year! After that a committee was set up and a few events apart from the races took place: greasy pole, tug of war and horseshoe-throwing competitions. Bob Quinn made a film of the turf-cutting in Connemara, the sail over and the races and the film was shown in Kinvara. I remember putting up the boatmen in a big shed we had at the back of the house in Dungaigue. We borrowed bunk beds from Mylotte's Hostel in Carna and Sheamie Mylotte who had this huge 50 foot boat, the Julia T brought it over for us. We set them up in the shed at the back, very quickly renamed "St. Anthony's Ward"!

### Fleadh na gCuach

The Cuckoo Fleadh was started in much more recent times. In 1994, Ireland got a new bank holiday – May Day. It was decided that this would be the ideal date for the Fleadh. Tony together with the first committee ( Séadna Toibin, Peter Bermingham and Cathal Connolly among others) got the pubs to back it and Heineken to sponsor it. As we had a lot of contact with musicians already it was a huge success.

In 1991, we leased the place to Frankie Gavin. Things were slumped at that time. We had contemplated selling up but felt a high profile might turn it around. It didn't work. The most worrying time for me however, was the renovation in 1993. Staf Van Velthoven did the plans. He did a brilliant job. We had to knock down some supporting walls to extend the bar. We also put down a wooden floor for set dancing. Winkles were closed for one year and I started a job in the VEC in Galway. In 1995 I started running the place on my own, keeping the day job and opening at nights and weekend. I continued with the trad and started the set dancing-



Seán O' Neill and Michael Naughton were the musicians and Miles O'Kane gave the classes.

**Many musicians played in Winkles**  
I've seen many musicians in my time in Winkles and not all trad. John Conneely's band *Aravnik* got their first gig there. The singer/songwriters night was an idea from America and was started by Stuart Cowell and Rob Stein. It started off electric and then went acoustic. The pub has seen old-timey,

blues, rock, everything.

Looking back, the customers that stand out in my memory are: Mike Naughton (Curranroo), Mattie Whelan and Pateen Keane and the musicians: Ollie Diviney, Jackie Daly, Charlie Harris, Des Mulkere, Sharon Shannon and Seán Smyth.

Closing the place last summer was hard. I took 8 years mulling over it. None of the children were interested in continuing the business. Although I became personally very attached to

the place I suspect Tony will be more affected by this decision as it was his family home. I felt however that I was going out on a high note and it was the right time. During my years in Winkles I experienced lovely sentiments and felt the respect of much of the community. Winkles is now known worldwide for its music and set dancing and I feel great regret that it may not continue as a pub.

**In conversation with Matti Twomey**



## Richard Larkin & Co. Ltd. M.I.P.A.V.

ESTATE AGENT ■ AUCTIONEER ■ VALUER

MAIN STREET  
CLARENBRIDGE  
CO. GALWAY

Phone 091 796964  
Fax 091 776829  
Mobile 087 2522085

Website [www.richardlarkinauctioneers.com](http://www.richardlarkinauctioneers.com)  
E-mail [rlarkin@oceanfree.net](mailto:rlarkin@oceanfree.net)



INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL  
AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

Residential Properties and Sites in Clarenbridge, Oranmore, Kilcolgan, Craughwell, Ballindereen, Kinvara, Ardrahan and surrounding areas.

Selling Agents for Global Tenerife Properties.

Please give us a call for further information or to view any of our properties.

Check our website: [www.richardlarkinauctioneers.com](http://www.richardlarkinauctioneers.com) for all our properties

Richard – (087) 2522085 or Fenella – (086) 2684690

# 16 Trácht

## Robert Cresswell remembers Kinvara, 1956

*In 1956, Robert Cresswell spent a year doing an anthropological study in Kinvara. He was born in New York in 1922, later moving to Philadelphia. He came to Europe with the US army and arrived in Paris after D-Day 1944. He remained in France, and after obtaining a degree in Ethnology he joined the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris. His research was done in French; he taught in the Sorbonne, and his study, Une communauté rurale de l'Irlande, was published in 1969. It examines the social and cultural structures here in the 1950s, and from a European perspective his work paints a clear and striking picture of the distinctly traditional Irish life in sharp contrast with the modern rural life in Europe.*



### Arriving in Kinvara

In 1956 I spent a little more than a year in Kinvara doing anthropological research. Part of that time, from April to September, if my memory serves me correctly, I lived in a small cottage in Cloonnasee with my wife and two-year-old son, Alan. The rest of the time I stayed in Winkle's hotel. I will remember that first night I spent at the hotel having just arrived from Paris with enough baggage for a year's stay in the parish. After a long two-day trip, which is what it took in those days by train, boat, and bus, I was finally comfortably ensconced by the fire in the hotel's dining room with

the two other guests, Dr. O'Malley and a rural engineer, and Kieran Moylan, one of the parish's three teachers. Mrs. Moylan asked me if I would like my tea. Thinking that we would doubtless be having supper soon, I said, no thanks. Whereupon the two guests sat up to their tea, Kieran went off to get his and I was left alone by the fire. I had just learned that the evening meal in Éire was called tea. Wishing to cause no trouble or embarrassment to anyone I said nothing. Very much later on I learned that I had thus acquired a certain aura of saintliness for having "fasted" that Saturday evening.

But first, perhaps a few words about anthropological research. Anthropology is the study of man in all his dimensions: as a member of society, as a producer of foods and services, as a parent and spouse, as a participant in whatever system of beliefs and spirituality is prevalent in his environment. In a word, this type of study is all about links and relations between facts, beliefs and people. I came to Éire for a variety of personal and professional reasons, among them a conviction that although there is a wealth of literature about Éire and Irish countrymen – Crohan comes to mind, or Robin Fox or again Arensburg and Kimball for County Clare – there is little about the down to earth day-to-day technological activities.

### Living and working in Kinvara

One of the traits of anthropological research is the principle that unless you live yourself with the people whose lives you are trying to record, and take part as far as you can in their daily activities, you cannot really get to understand what it all means. Since one of the main thrusts of my study was the role of technology in the life of the parish, I tried to learn a little about each and every skill. I thatched roofs. This experience led me to correct a notice in the exhibit of Irish thatching in the museum in Dublin which said, if my memory is not at fault, that a thatching hammer is used to flatten the straw. I helped shear sheep with hand-held shears — I think my best time was around 20 minutes, three or four times the going rate – with

hand-held shears, I washed sheep in the sea beneath the walls of Dungory castle, I ploughed many a field — and caught many a knock when the sock hit a stone— and often that with two horses not of the same size. I also spent many an hour in the smithy taking my turn at the bellows. In a word, I tried to do personally what every farmer had to do so as to be able to write with a minimum of knowledge about the technological, economic and social problems each one of them had to confront. Among other things I found I had to take a good look at some of the preconceptions I was carrying around in my baggage. For example I had to redefine "traditional". I discovered that the Irish farmer using the most traditional methods of growing crops, raising sheep and cattle, wearing homespun clothes, cooking on a turf fire, was well aware of the world around him. He knew which way the Australian wool market was jumping, and would put aside his wool to wait for a more favourable price. Of course the ups and downs of the wool market could play havoc with a small farmer who has neither the room to stock wool nor the cash reserves to be able to hold off selling his wool until the prices come right again.

#### Generosity of Kinvara people

I have many memories of my year in the parish, the calm of the Irish countryside, and how I would ride home at night after visiting, on the dirt roads where my bicycle lamp would give me maybe a second's warning of the large stone looming up under my front wheel. I remember thinking how pleasant it was to ride in the darkness without a care in the world, save maybe an odd thought for the black hand I was told would reach out from behind a wall on the Kinvara-Gort road to snatch me away. Also, running at full speed through the fields alongside a road, trying to leap the walls without knocking them all down, in a usually unsuccessful effort to get ahead of the cow I had let get past me.

I think I owe it to the many persons who gave so generously of their time and patience to answer

my interminable questions to sketch out some of the conclusions I came to in this work. The first general conclusion to which I came was that the boundaries of the social group centred about Kinvara only partly correspond to the institutional frontiers. The economic unit goes out to the west past Ballyvaughan and to the east to the Gort-Galway road. In a certain sense the south-western boundaries are of a geographical nature, the eastern ones are sociological. As for the groups inside the parish itself, there was, until the First World War, a certain tendency for the parish to be divided along a north-south line, the road from Kinvara to Gort. For instance, of the some 396 marriages that took place between 1868 and 1917, only 14% had the bride crossing that road.

#### Decline in population

Of course, the fact that stands out above all the others is the loss of population. Between 1841, the last census before the Famine, and 1956 (the year I spent in the parish) the population went from 7,751 to 1,531. No society in the world can lose 80% of its population in 115 years and not undergo deep social changes. Before

coming to Kinvara I knew that Éire as a whole had lost 56% of its people in that period of time, but I did not expect to learn about 80%. Among other things such a loss destroys the very fabric of a society where kin plays the important role it did in traditional Irish life. No longer was it easy to call on a cousin or an uncle to cross half the parish with his loy to join the workgroup of kin relations helping to make a lazy bed. They were deceased or had emigrated. And this at a time of other great changes: the increased use of the swing plough, the diverse land Acts which froze the boundaries of the fields and created a nation of farmer-owners, and the continuing exodus of the rural population to the cities, to England, to the USA. However my stay in Kinvara convinced me, as I maintain in the last paragraph of my book, that the Irish having overcome the Fir Bolg and the Normans, the Cromwellian Puritans and the Penal Laws, and the Famine and the absentee landlords, will among many other things, transport into the computerized industrialized world of tomorrow the poetry and the imagination of the Celtic soul. This may seem little; I think it is of fundamental importance for the future.

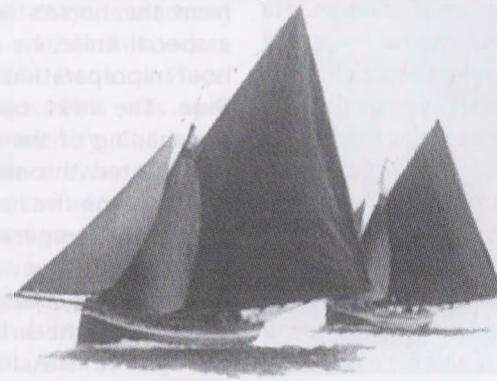
**Robert Cresswell**

## Tigh Uí Conghaile

The Quay, Kinvara, Co. Galway

Tel: (091) 637131

Cathal and Olga Connolly



## Memories of Tommy Griffin; Blacksmith, 1942

*The Griffin brothers, Mattie and Tommy, great-grand uncles of John Griffin, were blacksmiths in Kinvara, who moved to Galway in the 1940s. Tommy had a forge at the junction of Abbeygate St. and Market St. and Tommy's forge was in Frenchville Lane, near the railway station. During the war years, with very little petrol, horsepower was much in demand, and the horse worked hard, so much so that the story is told (in jest) of the following vacancy: Man wanted – horse dead. Tommy Griffin was described as a huge, muscular man. He once exchanged blows with an unbeatable champion Galway fighter, and knocked him flat in seconds. As a child, Brendan Geoghegan of Galway, found a welcome in Tommy Griffin's forge:*



**Connolly's Forge Kinvara; c. 1920.** L-R: Paddy Connolly, Richie Burke, Mattie Regan, (?), John McCormack, Brigid Staunton, John MacMaho. Courtesy of Paddy Connolly.

Mr Griffin, known to one and all as *Lá Garbh* ('bad old day') was a very patient and kind man to us as children. He allowed us to come into his forge and watch while he worked at shoeing the horses. Mr Griffin allowed us children to operate the bellows for the fire, as required by him.

I recall seeing him all dressed up for Sunday Mass, a beautiful navy blue suit. He wore a cap, a shock of black curls appearing under the peak of his cap. He had two daughters and his brother Fergus was his assistant.

### Shoeing the horse

First he removed the worn shoe from the horse's hoof. Then using a special knife, he pared down the hoof in preparation for fitting a new shoe. The next operation entailed the shaping of the new horse shoe. He inserted this shoe into the fire area, but the fire had to re-ignite to the desired temperature necessary to re-shape this shoe to suit the horse's hoof. This shoe was then applied to the hoof to check for size and then replaced in the fire. A plume of

acid smelling smoke arose from the horse's hoof on making contact with this shoe.

After a few moments, he placed the shoe on the anvil to adjust its shape to fit the particular hoof. Then the nails were hammered into the slots on the shoe and piercing the outer edges of the hoof. Where the nails protruded, Mr Griffin broke off these pieces with a large pincers. To complete the operation he used a large file to clean up the hoof.

## Frank Lee

*Frank Lee lived for many years in Kinvara. He lodged with Jack and Mary Burke in Cartron for a time in the 1990s and died in a nursing home. He had been writing his memoirs, an extract of which we include here.*



I FIRST KNEW THE LIGHT OF DAY in a Staff Cottage at the rear of Stoneleigh Abbey in Warwickshire, in 1908. Next year we moved to Abbey House, Ashow near Kenilworth. My parents, myself and two elder sisters lived there from 1909 till 1936. My youngest sister, Joan, was born in the front bedroom there in 1910.

This was all part of the estate of Francis Dudley, Lord Feigh. He must have owned a few thousand acres in this part of the county. We kept a few ducks at this time, there was a stream flowing through the orchard so they had somewhere to enjoy themselves.

When I was a boy I used to go bird-nesting. I won't mention blackbirds' and thrushes nests because they were the most common. I found a yellow-hammer's nest in a small blackthorn bush as it flew off the nest when I walked near it. One day I killed a nuthatch with an airgun. I was very sorry about it afterwards as it is a rare bird. It is the only one I ever saw, likewise I only ever saw one kingfisher.

My father was a great cricketer in his day and my mother took us all to Stoneleigh Abbey to see the Cricket Club. The game was played in the parkland in the forefront of the Abbey and must have been one of the last before the outbreak of the First World War.

We all used to go for a walk on Sunday. After the outbreak in August 1914, there was a gathering of Soldiers on Motorbikes at a junction near our home, which they made their H.Q. There were a few Cavalry about too and I saw them watering their horses.

There was a Zeppelin raid on Coventry about this time. We saw the searchlights working, throwing great shafts of light in the sky and heard the guns going off. I think they must have brought one down, as a schoolmate of mine brought a small piece of it which his father had found next day.

"His shoes are cracking, for the lack of blacking, and his baggy little trousers they want mending, before we send him to the Dardanelles."

1916 was the year conscription was introduced. All men over 18 years of age must join up. Kitchener, the Minister of War, had said that he wanted a million men.

So 1917 came and went and still no sign of victory. Steel helmets were introduced for the soldiers at the front to avoid the shrapnel. I remember an uncle of mine coming straight from the front with his rifle and gas mask and helmet and knocking at the front door at 5 a.m. My Mother knew immediately who it was. "That's Jack," she said, so we all got up and sat down to breakfast with a ration of home-cured bacon and a cup of tea. Off to school then.

I took my first public examination in 1925, the school was a centre for this and it was held in the gymnasium. I passed with credits in English and Drawing. As I was leaving home for the first time, my father handed me his gold watch and chain, a wedding present from my mother. In London, we called at no.14 Bedford Place, off Russell Square. This was very convenient as University College is only a short distance away. So after saying goodbye at the entrance gate, I heard my first lecture there.

I met my future wife Eileen in the summer of 1939, the year war was declared. She came from Chepstow on the Bristol Channel so I got to

know that town a little. Her parents, both Irish, Mr and Mrs John Power lived there on property owned by the War Office.

When the northern part of Germany came under British occupation in 1945, two British officers on patrol near the Danish border spotted a man who they thought might be Lord Haw-Haw. He had committed treason by making pro-Hitler broadcasts. Right enough, it was the man himself and they arrested him. He was charged with the offence before a military court and found guilty, brought back to England and shot. Years later, his remains were disinterred and finally laid to rest in his native Connemara.

Near the Burren in Co. Clare I had bought a house. I spent a long time working on a farm near Kinvara doing the usual farm work in the daytime and boiling potatoes for the pigs in the evening as late as midnight or even to 1 a.m., up at cockcrow next day.



Photo: Robert Cresswell; 1956.

## Childhood memories of Lady Ampthill

IT HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO, this exotic looking woman towering over me. Lady Ampthill's hair was covered with a turquoise turban type affair and as she read my palm, a low hanging pendant made from seashells swung from side to side like a large pendulum. My fortune teller said I would live to a great age, and marry at least twice, apparently the second time in my sixties!



She arrived in our house on numerous occasions; her arrival usually heralded by requests for a bath, food, and sometimes both. Occasionally she arrived to see my Dad who was a local G.P. in Athenry. I can only imagine that this was not an easy relationship. If proof were needed a mutual friend told me recently that Lady Ampthill arrived at her house one day, shouting "that little viper Rozario says I have double vision and he won't let me drive"!!

However, she was always extremely kind to me. I didn't realise how fortunate I was.

Christobel Hart was born in 1895 in England. After her father's death, her mother moved Christobel and her sister to Paris. Christobel dabbled in art, and

developed a passion for dancing.

During World War 1 she carried out factory work, marrying John Russell in 1918. His family however had hoped their son would marry royalty. They considered their daughter-in-law rather "fast" who, to their dismay, opened a dress shop in Mayfair in 1920. To be "in trade" was unacceptable at the time for a family with connections to the Royal family.

After a surprise pregnancy in 1922, which Lady Ampthill claimed arose after "injudicious use" of a sponge in a bath that her husband had just vacated, there followed a divorce and trial which changed British law forever. The trial had ended inconclusively. However, the racy details were deemed to be too much for public consumption and

in 1926 the Judicial Proceedings Act became law and still applies today, restricting reporting of English divorce cases solely to the facts given in the judgment and not to the actual evidence itself. In 1935 on the death of his father, John Russell became Lord Ampthill and Christobel, still legally his wife, became Lady Ampthill. She then divorced him, becoming known as Christobel Lady Ampthill.

After the Second World War, Lady Ampthill relocated to Ireland. She bought Dungaie Castle, Kinvara, which she set about renovating. As it was inhabitable, she first stayed in Glynns Hotel before moving to Kilcolgan. Mrs. A, the restorer of Kilcolgan Castle, arrived home one afternoon in 1962. Outside was a large piece of cardboard daubed in blue paint, it read "Called you were out - wish to stay C.A." Christobel moved in, but not before renegotiating the fee requested, this was the first of many skirmishes.

Mrs. A worked hard in her new guesthouse but since the arrival of Lady Ampthill she became curious about the fact that she had no other guests. Lady Ampthill used to insist on eating in the kitchen and one evening as dinner was being prepared they both heard a car drive up to the castle. Mrs. A was about to go out to greet what she hoped would be potential clients when Lady Ampthill said "No, Eleanor, you are busy cooking, I'll go." Luckily Mrs. A followed her outside and heard her say with authority, "Oh no, I'm afraid there is no room at all here, she is fully booked"! Wishing to remain an only guest, Lady Ampthill had been sending much needed clients away. Thinking quickly, Mrs. A said "Christobel don't you remember I told you about that cancellation" and welcomed the new

guests. However, as the evening wore on, Lady Ampthill's hostility grew. Finally unable to contain herself any longer, she asked this elderly couple how long they had been married. The wife replied 37 years to which Lady Ampthill scoffed and said how dreadful. The wife rallied briefly and said they had been a very happy 37 years and her husband agreed. Christobel retorted "Oh, imagine waking up every morning for 37 years and looking at that revolting face on the pillow next to you." Needless to say the new guests checked out the very next morning and Christobel went back to being a solitary guest with the attention that guaranteed!!

After nine long months Lady Ampthill moved into Dungaire Castle, however she still kept her horse at Kilcolgan Castle. On a dark, wet, windy evening in February Mrs A was nursing a bad flu. She was alone in the kitchen making a medicinal hot whiskey, when a bony white hand reached up out of the darkness and rapped on the kitchen window. It was Lady Ampthill. She came in

announcing that her horse box had a puncture. She said she couldn't wait for Mattie Byrne in Oranmore to fix it as she would miss a days hunting on Sunday with Molly O'Rourke. "You must fix it," she said. Mrs. A explained how ill she was feeling but Lady Ampthill would not let it rest. To get some peace Mrs. A decided the simplest thing would be to change the tyre for her and send her on her way. Mrs. A strode across the field quickly with Lady Ampthill trotting along behind. In exasperation Mrs. A called back over her shoulder "I'm only a doormat for you Christobel" The gusting wind carried the reply "Oh no dear Eleanor you're my red carpet!"

Hunting while riding side-saddle was a large part of Lady Ampthill's life, and by becoming joint Master with the Clare Harriers she ensured that when in England she could hunt without incurring the normal fees. Aged 78 she rode around Australia. Shortly before her death, Lady Ampthill moved to a cottage near Craughwell with her faithful hound,

Bronze. She passed away in 1976. She always stated she wished for her body to be given to the hounds of the Clare Harriers. She was buried in England.

*My short and happy day is done,  
The long and dreary night comes on;  
And at my door the Pale Horse stands,  
To carry me to unknown lands.*  
(The Stirrup Cup, John Hay)

**Annie Rozario**



Lady Ampthill

**Ger Ryan Photography**

**VISTEK**  
Blending Vision with Technology

Pictures are available to buy from:

- Murphy Store
- Post Office
- Postscript
- Pier Head Restaurant

Web: [www.vistek.ie](http://www.vistek.ie) Email: [Ger@Vistek.ie](mailto:Ger@Vistek.ie)  
Phone: 087 653 7898 / 091 637 000

*Treat yourself to a touch of traditional Irish luxury*

*A unique body wrap for improved health and wellbeing*

Phone: +353(0)91 637761  
[www.seaweedtreatment.com](http://www.seaweedtreatment.com)

## Heritage Project: Saint Coman's Church and Graveyard



A HERITAGE PROJECT commenced in 2004 to preserve Saint Coman's Church and graveyard. This is an extremely interesting and complex site. Many facets of its modern manifestation remain unexplained, such as lack of public access and the almost complete absence of historical information.

Situated in the very heart of the town, it is almost completely hidden from view. Walking into the town along the Castle Road, its ivy-covered gable can be seen in the trees above the two-storey terrace of houses at the quay. The church was probably built in the 15th or 16th century. In his Ordnance Survey letters dating from 1839 the Irish scholar John O' Donovan writes:

"The old church of the parish is situated in the fast improving little seaport town of Kinvara. It is in very good preservation but certainly not more than 500 years old as anyone can see from the form of the windows. It is very probable that it occupies the site of an earlier church as it is dedicated to Saint Coman who is said to be one of the early Irish saints."

The building may have been handed over to the Church of Ireland during the Reformation in the latter half of the 16th century, as many Catholic churches were at the time, though we have no record of this. It would no longer have been used for Catholic

worship during the Penal Laws, passed in 1695. By the late 18th century it was already in ruins, as we know from the writings of Daniel Augustus Beauford, who visited this area in 1788. He described it as "a ruined church (not marked on any map)".

The graveyard seems to have continued to be the burial place for the Catholic as well as Protestant families of the town. The family names on the gravestones, many of which are still legible, include Burke, Cavanagh, Connole, Corless, Fahy, Fallon, Hynes, Kelly, Larkin, Linnane, Nestor, Staunton, Ward and Winkel, among others. In 1985 two gravestones were uncovered inside the walls of the church. These were dated by experts to be as early as the 13th or 14th century. A photograph of these along with a photograph of the church, taken in 1910, can be seen in Kinvara, a Seaport Town on Galway Bay published by Tír Eolas in 1997. It is likely that other ancient gravestones lie nearby under the soil that has accumulated over the years.

In 2004, with a grant from the Heritage Council, we commissioned a conservation report for the site and a drawing survey of the building was begun. In 2005 the drawing survey was completed and we began a clean-up of the graveyard. Many horizontal gravestones covered with ground ivy have been uncovered by a

small band of dedicated volunteers. Another grant was secured from the Heritage Council for this project for 2006. The next stage is to clear out all the rubbish and soil accumulated over the years inside the church walls, and to uncover the gravestones within. This work will be monitored by an archaeologist and we will need many volunteers to lend a hand. If you would like to help us with the work or have any queries about the project, please contact myself on 637613 or Anne on 637452.

**Marian Coady**

**Extract from Jeff O'Connell's article on Kinvara's Hidden Church in Trácht 1995/96:**

In November of 1866 Kinvara's graveyard was the focus of correspondence between Fr. Francis Arthur and Lord Gough. Lord Gough, chairman of the Gort Poor Law Union, informed the authorities that, because the still-functioning cemetery was a serious health hazard, it should be closed.

Fr. Arthur paid a personal call on Lord Gough at his home of Lough Cutra Castle, south of Gort, and told him that unless the order banning further burials was rescinded, he predicted there would be serious disturbances.

The report by the Board of Guardians of Gort Union described how 'the ground reaches up to within six feet of the second storey of the houses on the principal street. Many had to board their windows to keep out the effluvia arising from the bodies buried there because the bones and skulls were almost falling in the windows still left open. There is not six inches of soil in any part of the graveyard available for burying coffins, there being nothing but loose stones and the remains of former graves.'

Nonetheless, Fr. Arthur knew his parishioners and urged that the order be rescinded. Eventually a compromise was worked out and the authorities did not insist the graveyard be completely closed.

# The Branches of the Uí Fhiachrach Aidhne

UÍ FHIACHRACH AIDHNE, the tuath in which the parish of Kinvara is situated, was divided into a number of cinéil (tribes) which themselves were divided into a number of septs or clans. These clans or septs first emerge around the 10th and 11th Centuries with the emergence of hereditary surnames. Many of these septs are obscure; often only the surname survives. The only septs to survive up until the end of the 1600s as recognisable clans or septs were the O'Heynes, O'Clearys, Mac Kilkellys and O'Shaughnessys.

- **Ó Cléirigh** – anglicised (O) Cleary/ Clery, Clarke. The first Kings of Aidhne to adopt a hereditary surname. They lost their position as Kings of the tuath in the 11th century and at the end of the 13th century they were driven out of the territory. One branch eventually ended up as poets and historians to the O'Donnells of Tír Chonaill! This branch, who resided at the castle of Kilbarron near Ballyshannon, were the chief compilers of the Annals of the Four Masters and other important works.
- **Ó hEidhin** – anglicised (O) Heyne, Hynes, Hines. A branch of the O'Clearys, from whom they seized the title of King of Aidhne in the early 11th century. After the Anglo-Norman invasion of Connacht, the territory held by O'Heynes was largely confined to Coill Ua bhFiachrach, i.e. the modern parish of Kinvara.
- **Mac Giolla Cheallaigh** – anglicised (Mac) Kilkelly, sometimes Kelly as is the case around Oughterard. Chiefs of Cinéal (n) Guaire by which name their territory, the parish of Ballinderreen, was known. They were also a branch of the O'Clearys.
- **Ó Seachnasaigh** – anglicised (O) Shaughnessy (O) Shannessy. Chiefs of Cinéal (n) Aedha na hEchtghe which covered the old parishes of Kiltartan, Kilmacduagh, Beagh and Kilbeacanty. They originally only held western Cinéal (n) Aedha / Kinelea.
- **Ó Cathail** – anglicised (O) Cahill. Chiefs of eastern Cinéal (n) Aedha na hEchtghe and sometimes of the whole district of Kinelea. Like the O'Shaughnessys, they were descended from Aedh who may have been a son of King Guaire Aidhneach.
- **Ó Maghna** – anglicised (?) – Chiefs of Cinéal (n) Guaire before the Kilkellys. They were also chiefs of the Caonraighe Áird Aidhne.
- **Ó Catháin** – anglicised (O) Keane. Chiefs of Cinéal (n) Ianna, which was a branch of the Cinéal (n) Guaire. Ó Catháin was also chief of Cinéal Setna.
- **Ó Mocháin (Ó Macháin)** – anglicised Mahon, Maughan, Vaughan. A branch of the Cinéal (n) Ianna.
- **Ó hDíreachtaigh** – anglicised Heraghty, Heraty. Also a branch of the Cinéal (n) Ianna.
- **Ó Marcacháin** – anglicised Markahan, Markham, Ryder. A branch of the Cinéal (n) Ianna.
- **Mac Fhiachrach (Mac Fhiacra)** – anglicised MacKeighry, Mac Keaghery, (Mac) Keary (Largely absorbed by the name Carey) Chiefs of the Óga Beathra which were possibly located in Doorus. The Óga Beathra are believed to have originated in the district of Ealla which is an area near Mallow/ Maigh Ealla, Co. Cork.
- **Ó Duibhghiolla** – anglicised Divilly, Diffely, Deely. Chiefs of Cinéal (g) Cinghamhna which is said to have been located near Kinvara.
- **Mac Conghaola** – anglicised Mac Neela – often changed to MacNeely.
- **Mac Conghamhna** – anglicised Gaffney, Caulfield.
- **Ó Ceadaigh** – anglicised Keady.
- **Ó hAirmheadhaigh** – anglicised Harvey.
- **Ó Scannláin** – anglicised Scanlan, Scanlon.
- **Ó Dubhagáin** – anglicised Duggan, Dugan.
- **Ó Cathmbogha** – anglicised Coffey.
- **Ó Comhaltáin** – anglicised Coulтан, Colтан.

**Murphy Store.**  
 'Irish Arts, Crafts & Gifts from the Sea'

*Best coffee you'll ever taste!*

The Quay, Kinvara, County Galway. Tel: 091 637760. [www.murphystore.com](http://www.murphystore.com)

**Colm Ó Seachnasaigh**



**COLM FARRELL  
AUCTIONEERS**



**Northampton, Kinvara, Co. Galway**

This impressive house is set in stunning location just off the main Kiltartan/Kinvara road, on a quiet cul de sac. This property is located c. 2 miles from the village of Kinvara and is situated on a 1.33 acre site. This site also hosts a garage. The property extends to c. 300 sq m (3,230 sq ft) and accommodation includes porch, entrance hallway, sitting room, living room, kitchen, dining room, utility, hotpress, w.c., office, 5 bedrooms (2 ensuite) and the main bathroom  
**Price on Application**



**Tawnagh West, Tierneevin, Gort, Co. Galway**

This fantastic property stands on a 0.5 acre site in the peaceful and serene area of Tierneevin. It is situated in close proximity to Gort Golf Course. Stunning views of the Burren Mountains can be enjoyed from this property. The dwelling extends to c. 200 sq m (2,150 sq ft) and accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining area, utility, shower room, study, 4 bedroom (1 ensuite), hotpress and bedroom.  
**Price Region: €355,000**



**Sliabh Carran, Ennis Rd., Gort, Co. Galway**

Excellent designed three bedroomed semi detached house located in the new development of Sliabh Carran just off the N18, short stroll to The Lady Gregory Hotel. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining area, utility, w.c., 3 bedrooms and a bathroom.  
**Price Region: €210,000**



**48 Gort Na Ri, Gort, Co. Galway**

4 bedroomed detached dwelling short stroll to Gort town centre in a high profile location in the bustling town of Gort in the new development of Gort Na Ri which fronts onto the golf course road. Acc (1323 sq ft) and includes: Hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, utility, w.c., 4 spacious bedrooms (1 ensuite) and main bathroom. Own garden space also  
**Price Region: €280,000**



**Aughinish, Kinvara, Co. Galway**

This cosy property is set on a c. 0.5 acre site which overlooks Galway Bay. It is located in an area of serenity and natural beauty. Aughinish is located c. 4.5 miles from Kinvara and holds a sense of complete tranquillity. Accommodation in this property includes entrance hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining area, 4 bedroom (2 ensuite) and the main bathroom. Also contained on site is a utility shed to the rear of the house.  
**Price Region: €450,000**



**Coole, Gort, Co. Galway**

This stunning dormer is set in an excellent location under 1 mile of the N18, the main Galway/Limerick route. The house has been built and finished to a very high standard. It stands on a c. 0.5 acre site with ample parking for 5/6 cars. Accommodation in this property extends to c. 186 sq m (2000 sq ft) and includes entrance hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining area, utility, w.c., conservatory, a bathroom, a shower room and 5 bedrooms (2 ensuite). A detached garage is also contained on site  
**Price Region: €360,000**



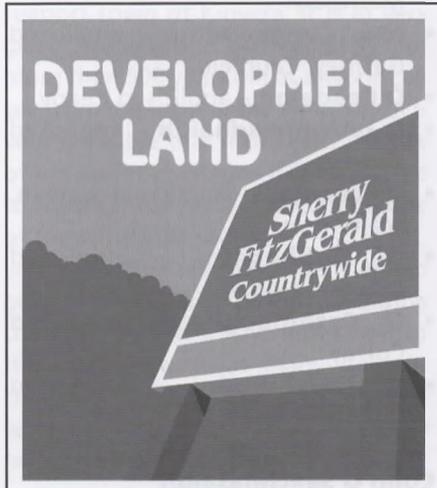
**Curtaun, Gort, Co. Galway**

This newly constructed dormer style house stands on c. 0.5 acres with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. Accommodation in this dwelling extends to c. 193 sq m (2,077 sq ft) includes an entrance hallway, sitting room, kitchen/dining area, conservatory, utility, w.c., office/study, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite) and main bathroom  
**Price Region: €315,000**



**LAND FOR SALE**

- 11 acres approx. in Hollymount, Peterswell
  - Subject to PP for one dwelling
  - Elevated with stunning views
- Asking Price: €145,000**



**DEVELOPMENT LAND FOR SALE**

- 2.6 ACRES** in Kilbeacanty village with development potential
  - 2.6 ACRES** in Cartron, Kinvara- Zoned Residential
  - 7.0 ACRES** in Ballyvaughan Village- Zoned Other Settlement
  - DEVELOPMENT SITE** in Ballyhugh with FPP\* for 7 dwellings
  - DEVELOPMENT SITE** in Kilbeacanty with FPP for 8 detached dwellings
  - 0.6 ACRES** in Gort town with prime development potential - Zoned Residential
- Contact our office for details**



Rental properties, 2 bedroomed apartments, 3 & 4 bed houses in Gort and surrounding areas also in Kilcolgan residential houses available **TO LET**  
2 Bed house in Kinvara village to Let- Furnished, adjacent to shops etc.,  
**PICK UP YOUR FREE 'CITY & COUNTRY MAGAZINE' IN OUR OFFICE TODAY, WHICH INCLUDES PROPERTY IN COUNTY GALWAY & NATIONWIDE**

# Doorus House Youth Hostel



THE FIRST TIME Brent and Melissa Bishop drove through Kinvara in 1997 they knew this was a place for them. It was two more years until their dream of moving to Ireland from America was realised and it took a further two and half years to make their way to Kinvara.

Doorus House Youth Hostel has been a labour of love for Brent and Melissa Bishop. Sharing that with people in the community, as well as the 23,000 guests who have stayed at the hostel since they took over four and half years ago, has generated rebirth of the physical structure and the attractiveness of the hostel as a place to stay and feel at home.

By inviting musicians to play at the hostel, hosting neighbourhood picnics, opening up the walled garden to the fabulous work of the local Doorus Orchard Project volunteers and having classes taught in painting, basket weaving and craftmaking by area teachers are ways we have tried to become involved with the community.

## **Cosy, comfortable place**

Kinvara has warmly reciprocated. Guests who stay at the hostel notice this. When walkers get a lift from a local or a fabulous evening of music and fun is shared in the warm atmosphere of the village pubs as well as the hostel itself which offers a cosy, comfortable place to sit in front of an open turf fire.

These experiences are shared with other holidaymakers when guests move on to other parts of Ireland on their own travels, which accounts for the steady increase in numbers over the last five years. Structural and other improvements to the hostel are ongoing in order to provide a better service for the guests.

This beautifully situated historic old house overlooks Kinvara bay, the Burren and is just a few minutes walk to Tracht Beach. Doorus House is open every day of the year and is part of An Oige and the 5,000 strong International Youth Hostel Association. Brent and Melissa can be reached on 091.637512 or Doorushouse@Kinvara.com

**Brent and Melissa Bishop**

## Doorus Orchard Restoration Project

DOORUS HOUSE, near Tracht Beach, was built by Florimond de Basterot in 1866. It is now a hostel. Two years ago, I got chatting to the Hostel's managers, Brent and Melissa, and we decided between us to try and make something out of the walled garden of about half an acre. We found paths under the grass made of stones and gravel, and seven large original trees remain. A Beauty of Bath and a Lady Sudley, both dessert apples, two Doyenne du Comice Pears, which would once have been trained along the East facing wall, a fig, and two Brambly apple trees, all of which are still fruiting after 100 years a growing.

The Irish Seed Savers, based in Scariff, Co. Clare, have gathered over 100 different old Irish apple varieties in Ireland. Four growing sites have been selected in Ireland, and here in Kinvara we'll have the west of Ireland orchard. The land is in trust to An Oige,

a charity, and therefore safe from sale or commercial development.

The experienced group involved in planting up of this orchard include Lynn O'Keeffe and husband Nicola Lascar, Anna Jeffrey-Gibson, Amanda Brown, Donal Keegan, Roger Phillimore, and Sinead Macken who has also been organising fundraising.

### **Heritage Council awards grant**

In 2005, we secured a local heritage grant from the Heritage Council of Ireland for infrastructural work, and we will have 80 or so trees plus bush fruits.

We ran an Art competition in all three primary schools in Kinvara and the 14 winners got to sponsor and plant a tree in March 2005. The art work was brilliant and the kids all turned up on the day at the hostel, to plant their trees and see their art work displayed.

We soon realised we could spend the grant of EUR 5,000 three times over as the project got going. We decided to plant plums and apricots and peaches on the south facing wall, to have as wide a selection of fruits as possible in the Irish climate, erect picnic tables, plant flowers etc. Thanks to everyone who supported our tree-sponsorship scheme (€25 per tree); 70 trees were sponsored. We will have another 10 plums etc. and soft fruits to sponsor soon.

By the time this article appears, the garden will all be planted and blossoming. This orchard could be a real asset for Kinvara. Old Irish fruit varieties are part of our heritage. One of the varieties we have is called the Ballyvaughan Seedling, what better apple to grow in Kinvara? For more information, or if you'd like to sponsor a tree or lend a hand, please phone Lynn on 091-638099.

# Seapark House

SEAPARK HOUSE is the ruined two-storey house located in the townland of Ballyclerry overlooking an inlet of Kinvara Bay and known locally, as Foy's House, though the origin of that name is unclear. It appears in the 1st edition O.S. map within a demesne bordering the townland of Cartron and Dungory East. The 1821 Tithe list names H. E. Donelan for Dungory and Griffith's Valuation lists Edmond Donnellan as the proprietor of 132 acres in the townland of Dungory East. The townland of Ballyclerry was part of the extensive St. George estate, so presumably H.E. Donelan rented the land on which the house stood from the landlord of Tyrone House.

In the 1820s, Captain James Lewin, who had married Nicola French St. George in 1819, lived in Seapark House. He was the eldest son of James Lewin of Oaklands, Co. Antrim. Nicola was the daughter of Christopher French St. George and Rebecca Clyne, a Roman Catholic, with whom he lived though apparently never married, after the death of his wife, Anne.

Captain Lewin and his wife had at least four children: Margaret, Robert, Catherine and James St. George, a soldier who died in India in 1849. The Ardahan Church of Ireland register, in which the baptisms of the first three children are listed, gives the address of the parents as Lisheenaprehane, Kinvara. This name has disappeared today. However, Larkin's 1819 map of Kinvara shows it as identical with what the 1st edition

O.S. map calls Seapark House.

So who built the house and when? There is not enough evidence to answer these questions with certainty. But I would suggest that it was Edmund Donelan. As his sister, Annabella (Donelan) French died in 1776, the house could have been built sometime before then. Annabella's son, Patrick, was given as his second name Donelan. Her nephew, H.E. Donelan, is clearly the person identified in the 1821 Tithe list. In Griffith's Valuation of Rateable Property c. 1854, Edmund Donelan - this would be H.E. Donelan's son who is shown, as we have noted above, as owning 132 acres in Dungory East.

It is unlikely that the Donelans who had property in Hillswood Co. Galway resided on a permanent basis at Seapark House, although they certainly must have used the house occasionally, and the connection with Kinvara was certainly important. Edmond Hyacinth Donelan is buried at Bushy Park, in Galway; the inscription on his tombstone reads (in part): In the Most Holy Name of Jesus / Pray for the Soul of / E.H. Donelan Esq. / of Hillsbrook and Kinvarra / Co. Galway / Who died April 21st 1873.

How do we explain the presence of Captain Lewin and his wife at Seapark House or Lisheenaprehane which was probably a local name, referring to a ring fort in the area? My suggestion is as follows: Edmond Donelan, the brother of Arabella French, built Seapark House, probably on land leased

from St. George of Tyrone. His eldest son, Hyacinth Edward Donelan, is the person listed in the 1826 tithe list for Dungory. Edmond died in 1819 and was buried in Forthill Cemetery, the low hill overlooking the docks area of Galway City. I think it quite probable that he, as an elderly man, lived at Seapark House while his son and heir, Hyacinth Edward and his wife resided at Hillswood and after his death, Captain Lewin and his wife settled in the now vacant house, where they continued to live until 1829, and possibly later.

Edmund Donelan's ownership of Carrownamadra is interesting because it explains how in 1895 it came into the possession of Hyacinth Golding, who was the son of Richard and Margaret (Donelan) Golding. Edmund H. Donelan's marriage was without issue, and so the property passed to his nephew, Hyacinth Golding.

Seapark House was probably let out to tenants, such as Captain and Mrs Lewin, most of the time, as the house in Hillswood, was the regular family residence. In 1848, H.E. Donelan donated Seapark House for use as a temporary fever hospital during the Famine. Local Folklore tells of the many deaths that occurred here and, not surprisingly, when the Famine was over and the fever hospital closed, no one wanted to rent a house with such grim associations and it fell into decay.

John Flatley of Kinvara refurbished the house a number of years ago, hoping to make it a home for his widowed mother. However, the old associations lingered and Mrs Flatley never lived there. Now, roofless and derelict, weeds, bushes and a few stunted trees choke the abandoned rooms and hallways and this abandoned ruin awaits the inevitable visit of the bulldozer.

**Jeff O'Connell**

The O'Donelans were one of the most ancient Irish families, tracing their descent from Cahal, second son of Morough Molathan, king of Connacht (d. 701), whose eldest son was the founder of O'Connor-Don. Cahal was the father of Arligeal, king of Connacht, a descendant of whom, c. 936, built a castle at Ballydonelan.

Col. Melaghlin O'Donelan, who was wounded at the Battle of Aughrim, was the father of John O'Donelan. His wife was Mary, the daughter of Charles Daly

of Calla; four sons and four daughters survived out of a much larger family. The eldest daughter, Mable, or Annabelle (as it appears on the French tomb in Duras), was the wife of James French. Her sister, Frances, was the wife of Oliver Martyn of Tulira. Malachy, the eldest son, married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Power Daly of Dunsandle; their children were Mable, who married William Burke of Ballydugan; John, who married Mable, the daughter of Matthew Hoare; and Anne, who married Col. Denis Daly of Raford, nephew of

the Earl of Clanrickarde. The third son, Edmond, married Margaret Hozier of Holliwel, Co. Galway; their eldest son was Hyacinth Edward, who married Honoria Meakle of Cunandoe. They had three children: Edmond Hyacinth, married to Maria-Theresa Clarke of Larch Hill, Co. Galway, Margaret, who married Richard Golding of Shrule, Co. Mayo, and Belinda, a nun of the Presentation Convent in Galway City. Rebecca's youngest sister, Nicola, married Theobald Butler of Seamount House, Kinvara.

# Playground wanted for Kinvara children



KINVARA PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE  
*making space for kinvara's kids*



THE KINVARA PLAYGROUND Committee continues to search for a site in Kinvara that would be suitable for 4-12 year olds. To date, no landowner we have approached has been able to donate or lease a site that could be used as a playground.

We have now approached Galway County Council in their role as providers of safe public play areas for children. We have asked them to consider making safe the site by the bottle banks - but admittedly, there are a number of obstacles.

In the meantime we believe that the County Council should be doing more to encourage developers

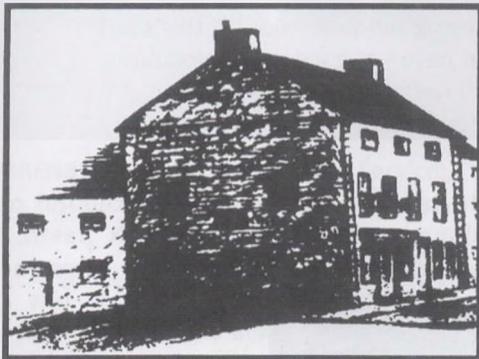
to incorporate public spaces into their developments – spaces that can be enjoyed by all members of the community. While planning is granted for more houses and businesses, who is ensuring that amenities for the community are provided? As traffic on our roads increases it is more dangerous to let our children play outside. Do we want our children to play in isolation, each in their own back gardens? The Kinvara Playground Committee wants a safe place for children to play together.

We have been collecting signatures from the children and

adults of Kinvara to send to the County Manager, asking the County Council to provide a safe play space for both the children of Kinvara and those visiting. Thank you to those who have signed. We will continue to keep a high profile – the voices of Kinvara's children must be heard!

For more information, see our webpage: [www.vistek.ie/kinvaraplay](http://www.vistek.ie/kinvaraplay).

Can you help us? Developers, landowners and businesses – Kinvara's children need your help! You can email us: [kinvaraplay@eircom.net](mailto:kinvaraplay@eircom.net) or you can talk to any of the committee members in confidence: call Ruth Maddison on 087 6319334 for further details.



## The Ould Plaid Shawl

Public House

Main Street

Kinvara

Co. Galway

Tel: (091) 637400

Market Hall,  
GORT, Co. Galway.  
Tel.: 091 631866

PROPRIETOR: PATRICIA Kilkelly

Streams  
Beauty Rooms

## Something Consumed is Something Gone

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID that Irish towns turn their backs on water. The Suck creeps through Ballinasloe unnoticed. Portumna stands aloof from the once pristine waters of Lough Derg. Who can even name the stream that flows through Tuam. Where is the great spring that gave its name to Oranmore? The Innagh surges through Ennistymon but the houses of the town crowd around the visitor as if to prevent him seeing the most vibrant water in county Clare.



BUT KINVARA IS DIFFERENT, we tell each other, it is somewhere special. It clusters around its harbour and looks up its long bay, pier on the left, castle on the right, and no mystery about its name, Cinn Mhara: the head of the sea. The name is the town. Or so we like to think and haven't we got Cruinniú na mBád, ocean-going yachts and báid mhóra at anchor and even a new fleet of heron dinghies to give substance to our feelings. Boats, music and prosperity, the essence of the town or perhaps the essence of our self-delusion?

### Wild resources mismanaged

Increasing prosperity of the town has been matched by the steadily declining welfare of its bay. There was a time when children used to dive from the town pier to collect white plates lying on the seabed, now the water is too murky. Swimming races from pier to castle were once a feature of Kinvara summers. Too many infections caused by raw sewage discharge has put paid to that enjoyment. Up to 15 years ago, there was a fine oyster bed at Crushua; oyster disease has now destroyed it and too much pollution makes eating shellfish from the inner bay more

akin to gambling than to dining. We are caught in a modern dilemma: increasing consumption matched by a collapsing environment. In a very real sense, we are consuming Kinvara Bay. Something consumed is something gone and not coming back.

This dreary pattern is all too well known to ecology. First the wild resources are mismanaged or over-exploited; the carelessly introduced Bonamia disease has put paid to Kinvara's native oysters. By now, the bay has lost its most tangible assets, its shellfish stocks, its clean water and its capacity to produce safe food. Its remaining less tangible but very real qualities are now on the block. Increasing population with no investment in sewage treatment leads to increased pollution, making the bay unsafe for swimming or small boat racing.

### Very foolish bargain

The bay's final asset, its physical beauty and wildlife is then compromised by endless attempts to realize the value of bayside property by unrestricted building and development. The final logical step, nearly reached in the case of Dublin Bay, would be

to infill the shallower parts as a way of increasing building land or for constructing a by-pass! And by then, a by pass would be a Godsend to Burren-bound tourists anxious to avoid the sheer boredom of yet another half suburb of Galway City strung out around Galway Bay.

Throughout this sequence our natural resources (free wealth) are degraded in exchange for money saved or money gained. An understandable bargain, you might think, in a part of the world where money was a very scarce commodity barely a generation ago. But it is a very foolish bargain in our own time: living on your capital is rarely anything else. Precisely the same trade-off is underway around the world, from the Three Gorges Dam in central China to the squandered fish stocks of the Canadian Grand Banks, and the dried out bed of the Colorado river. We are blowing our natural inheritance, our natural capital, and imagine we are creating wealth when all we are really creating is man-made squalor. A squalor in which future generations must live, unless we leave them something better.

Ultimately that is the reason why Cairde Cuan Chinn Mhara want a clean and beautiful Kinvara Bay. If we cannot reverse environmental degradation in our own community, then the outlook for poorer, less-fortunate parts of the world is grim. Clean water, abundant fish stocks, successful shellfish production, varied wildlife, safe swimming, a busy harbour, lots of visitors, a beautiful town – these constitute the distinctive wealth of Kinvara. This wealth, our wealth, can only be assured if we value the Bay itself. If the Bay is allowed to degrade further our own impoverishment is assured.

Kilian Roden

# Sewage treatment plant promised



IT NOW LOOKS as if Kinvara may get a sewage treatment plant by 2008/9. However since the scheme has continually been pushed back by the government over the past decade, nothing should be taken for granted and the pressure on politicians both local and national needs to be unremitting.

The Kinvara Sewage scheme was included in Galway County Council's Water Services Investment programme for 2004/6, announced in 2003, with financing apparently in place. However, the County Council plans for the scheme went to the Department of the Environment for approval in February 2003 and are still there three years later. Some minor changes were requested and accommodated by the Council in June last year, and further clarifications sought in February 2006.

The Department offers no

explanation for these delays and takes months to reply to correspondence. The Government ignored the EU ruling in September 2003 that it should 'establish the pollution-reduction programmes' for Kinvara bay. A first warning for failing to comply was issued in 2004. A second warning is imminent, after which the Government will be fined.

Sewage treatment is a basic utility that no community should be without. People in Kinvara are angry at the hold-up, wondering whether it is due to administrative incompetence or wilful neglect. The government remains culpable, and is seemingly indifferent to the risks to our health, the impact on our tourist industry, the constraints on Kinvara's development etc.

A petition calling for immediate action attracted almost a thousand signatures and the pressure group,

Cairde Cuan Chinn Mhara, has been reformed. The group held a successful public awareness day in January. The 'Loo Launch' also attracted much interest. Both the Community Council and CCCM are strenuously lobbying politicians to get Kinvara included in a provision that allows for the fast-tracking of small sewage schemes without being continually referred back by the Ministry. This could bring the Kinvara scheme forward by a year.

But don't hold your breath. Keep badgering the politicians and, meanwhile, don't let your kids fall in the bay.

**Richard Broad**

## Pollution of the bay

- 70,000 gallons day of untreated effluent goes into the bay every day from a pipe, exposed at low tide, 70 metres from the Pier Head.
- It is unsafe to swim in water with pollution levels above 100. Those above 2,000 are considered a serious public health hazard. Levels in the tens of thousands have been recorded in the bay adjacent to the town.
- Kinvara bay is a designated shellfish water area but is so polluted that the Department of the Marine has ruled that its shellfish are unfit to eat.

The bay is long and narrow, so sewage does not wash out to sea. It remains beside the town, being dumped into what is, in effect, a lake one kilometre long, half a kilometre wide with a mean depth of a metre.

Turds and faecal slicks foul boats in the bay and can be seen in the harbour and along the shoreline around the town. In summer the stench can be bad enough to empty restaurants and pubs adjacent to the harbour.

So Kinvara's greatest natural asset is blighted. It cannot be developed for tourism, prosper as a harbour or be safely used as a recreational facility.

The cost of providing sewerage treatment for Kinvara is €2.8 million.

## What can we do to protect the Bay?

REMEMBER, what goes down your plughole goes into the bay. Toxic waste in an already polluted bay could create a dangerous ecological cocktail. Very unpleasant bugs indeed have turned up in similarly polluted coastal waters in America and Scotland.

So use eco-friendly soaps and detergents where possible and don't put anything down the sink or toilet such as bleach, paint, oil, and pesticides. This applies to people with septic tanks too, as the presence of these chemicals in the tank reduces its ability to break down the waste and it may leech into the bay anyway.

### Washing Clothes

Avoid detergents containing phosphates. They will fertilise the algae.

Use biodegradable washing powders. You can also add 4oz/125g of baking soda to soften the water and reduce the amount of powder you use.

### Disinfectants

Some commercial disinfectants and toilet cleaners contain ammonia, chloride, formaldehyde and other chemicals harmful to the environment. Those using oxygen or hydrogen peroxide are marginally safer.

### Drain Cleaning

Before using highly toxic chemicals, try a plunger. If that fails pour 6oz/200g of salt and 6oz/200 g of baking soda down the sink followed by a pint of boiling water. Leave over night and then flush with water. To prevent

blockages use a mixture of 2oz/60g of salt with the same amount of baking soda and 1oz/35g of cream of tartar. Pour down the sink followed by jugs of hot and cold water.

### Steam cleaners

These machines clean carpets, floors, windows and worktops effectively without using any chemicals at all.

### Keep Rubbish Out of the Bay

How long do things take to degrade in sea water? It takes 2 months for a cardboard box, a year for a biodegradable nappy (450 years for an ordinary one!), 2 years for plywood, 50 years for a Styrofoam cup, 400 years for an aluminium can and 450 years for a plastic bottle.

**In anger at the continuing delays in providing Kinvara with a Sewage Plant, a lavatory bowl was ceremoniously left floating on a raft in the harbour during a Day of Protest in January. The large crowd heard speeches outlining the current situation, and the Children's Drama group, dressed in protective clothing, performed a song composed for the occasion:**

*Umpa Lumpa Dumaty doo,  
Kinvara Bay is covered in poo  
Minister, Minister what will you do.  
Our lovely bay is a horrible stew*

*Minister, Minister where will we swim  
Mum and Dad won't let us in  
Ecoli faeces, horrible pong  
Tourists they don't stay for long.*

*If this were happening in Dublin 4  
You'd be knocking at our door  
Wildlife dies and shellfish choke  
We're being fed a load of smoke.*



The Day of Protest was organised by Cairde Cuan Chinn Mara (Friends of Kinvara Bay). The group was reformed after learning that plans for the scheme had been awaiting approval in the Department of the Environment for nearly three years.

Photo: Gery Ryan

# Swimming and Lifesaving



HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN have learned to swim since 1969, thanks to Kinvara Swimming Club. As a result, many can now enjoy scuba diving, sailing, kayaking, surfing and other aquatic sports. Members and past-members of the club have saved people from drowning on beaches in Galway, Clare and further afield. Others have become swimming coaches and pool or beach lifeguards. Approximately 60 children are taught swimming on Saturdays by fully-qualified instructors, assisted by Level 1 teachers. No less than six instructors, usually more, are at the pool every week.

### Training of teachers

For the past number of years instructors have been trained to Level 1 standard in Kinvara and Kilcornan, over six weekends. Parents who completed the course over the past two years: Rose O'Connor, Chris Kearns, Michael Tully, Patricia Kavanagh, Bernie Niland, John Conneely, Maeve O'Toole, Sandra Harvey. They have given reliable and excellent service in promoting swimming, assisted by student instructors who may only be free to help when living at home and not facing exams. This year, Michelle Mulleady and Nicola Lascar qualified as Level 1 teachers, along with ten students. It is committed young parents like Nicola and Michelle on whom the club relies. Classes are open to every child in our community. We believe that every child has the right to learn to swim. Any parent who cannot afford the fees should speak in confidence to the treasurer, chairman or chief instructor.

### Roll of Honour

Bridie Corless and Helen O'Connor are two instructors who deserve special appreciation for their work over the

past 25 years. When they settled down as young parents in Kinvara, neither could swim. They attended swimming classes for adults run by the club and then went on to become fully-qualified instructors; they still give of their time on Saturdays, even though their families are grown up. Helen has become a lifesaving instructor also, and is now a lifesaving examiner.

### Christmas Day Swim

Last Christmas hundreds turned up in Trácht for the Christmas Day Swim, the big social event of the year. The club raised €3,400 for the relief of victims of the Kashmir earthquake and for promoting swimming. Safety Officer on the day was John Forde of Toureen, whose father is John Joe Forde, originally from Crushoa. It is hoped to streamline the organisation in future years, as it has become such a big community event.

### Lifesaving classes

Eligible swimmers aged 12 or over can join the lifesaving classes held on Saturday afternoons, 5.00 to 7.00. Half of the class is for learning theory, safety and basic life support (artificial respiration and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and the other half in the pool, building up stamina, learning survival techniques and lifesaving approaches, breaks and carries. At present over 50 candidates attend lifesaving classes every week, organised by Rose O'Connor of Mountscribe.

While the name of the group is *Kinvara Water Safety*, members come from far and wide – Galway city, Claregalway, Clarenbridge, Athenry, Loughrea, Ardahan, Craughwell, Gort and other places. The local examiners are John Curley and Colin O'Loan of Clarenbridge and Helen O'Connor, bringing the total number of examiners in County Galway to six. One of the present trainee instructors, Jennifer O'Neill, was on the County Galway women's lifesaving team which was placed sixth in the national lifesaving championships (out of 12 teams) in Donegal last year. As with the swimming, lifesaving classes are conducted by dedicated voluntary instructors. Pool time is free, thanks to the Brothers of Charity, their generous contribution towards helping reduce the number of drowning fatalities every year (about 150).

### Beach Lifeguards

On Sundays, between September and February last, a group of six underwent training at Traught Beach and at Crushoa Pier. They swam long distances, used rescue boards and surf-skis (a cross between a canoe and a surf board) and rescued simulated victims using can-buoys, rescue tubes and sometimes without rescue equipment. Some exercises were timed, e.g. running 400 metres and then swimming a further 200 metres to rescue a casualty. At the end of the course they were subjected to a rigorous test in the sea. The brave and determined lifesavers were Colm Conole (Crushoa), Aoife Burke (Caheravoneen), Geraldine and Cathriona Howley (Ardahan), John Forde (Toureen) and Séamus Treacy (Craughwell). Their instructor was Rory Divilly of Newtown, Ballindereen. Since then, they have undergone further gruelling pool training, received certification in Occupational First Aid and have completed written tests in safety on beaches.

**Stan Mac Eoin**

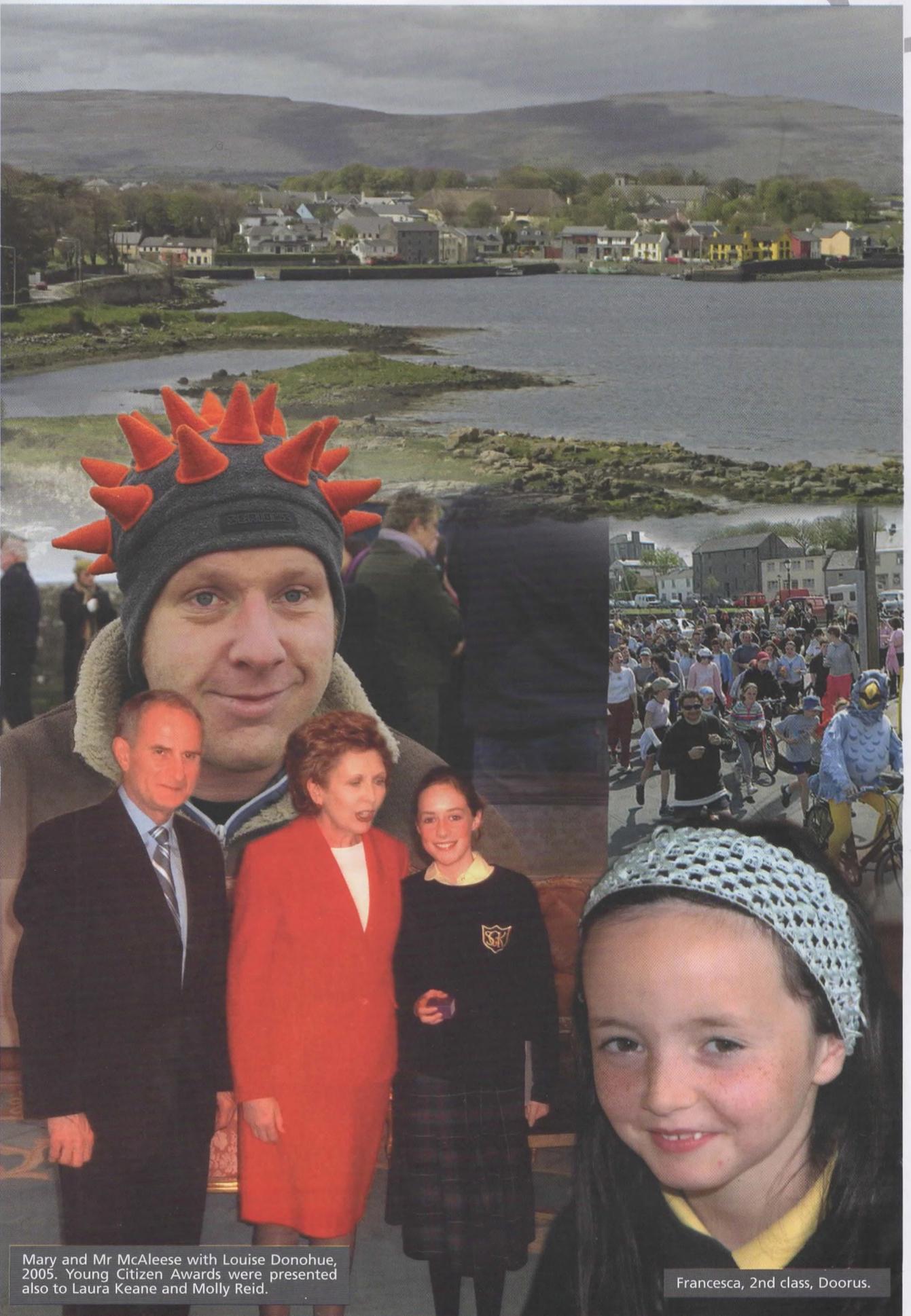
Water safety is everyone's concern. Safety on the beach, safety in boats, well-maintained rescue equipment in strategic positions, are the concerns of us all. Do your bit to reduce the number of drownings. Be safety conscious. Report any stolen or damaged ring buoys. Look up the website of Irish Water Safety, [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie)



Community Games Hockey under-16 team representing Kinvara in 2005.

Kinvara Social Services Committee members at the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party held in Jan 2006.

Avril McHugh and Darragh McCarthy: awarded Students of the Year, Doorus



Mary and Mr McAleese with Louise Donohue, 2005. Young Citizen Awards were presented also to Laura Keane and Molly Reid.

Francesca, 2nd class, Doorus.

# KINVARA PHARMACY

Now Stocking Full  
Range of Burren  
Perfumery

- *Prescriptions* ● *O.T.C.*
- *Medicines* ● *Photography*
- *Passport Photos* ● *Cosmetics*
- *Organic Wholefoods*
- *Blood Pressure Monitors*
- *Burt's Bees*
- *Full Range of Neal's Yard Remedies*

NEW ON SITE  
DIGITAL PRINTING SERVICE

**Telephone**  
**(091) 637397.**

**Fax**

**(091) 638197.**

**OPENING HOURS**  
**Monday - Saturday**  
**9.30 am - 6.00 pm**

# Neylon McGinty

GRANARY HALL  
58 LOWER DOMINICK STREET  
GALWAY

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
**REGISTERED AUDITORS**  
**FINANCIAL AND TAX ADVISERS**

Seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge

Telephone: 091 563139  
e-mail: [info@neylonmcginty.ie](mailto:info@neylonmcginty.ie)

# Kinvara Bay Sailing Club



KINVARA IS BLESSED WITH A BAY of about two miles in length, running predominantly north-south. With the prevailing westerly winds, the Kinvara Bay Sailing Club (KBSC) find it well suited for dinghy sailing. Although most of the shore is lined by jagged limestone, safe haven can be had at The Quay, Crushua, Tarrea, and Parkmore.

Founded in 2004, the Club has just completed its second season, boasting 25

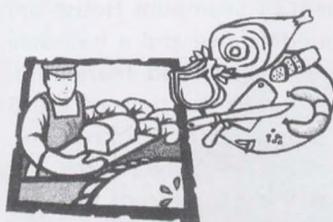
Heron dinghies, a few Mirrors, a GP 14 and about 90 members. We may not have been here long but the KBSC now has more Heron-class dinghies sailing than any other club in the world. The 2005 Spring, Summer, Autumn and Frostbite series were comprised of 4-6 races each. The fleet typically ranges between 7-18 boats for any given event.

Three trophy races were held in 2005. The Tully Cup (May) and Bellharbour Trophy (July) were won by Sarah and

Hamish Rodger while Vanessa and Mark Hugaard took the Connolly Cup. Races were also held during the Bank Holiday weekends in conjunction with Kinvara's two music festivals in May and August. The throngs of visitors to the village are finding the races to be particularly enjoyable to watch as they stroll the quay or knock back a pint. Besides the racing and the recreational sailing this year, the club organized a week of sail training including man-over-board and capsizing drills.

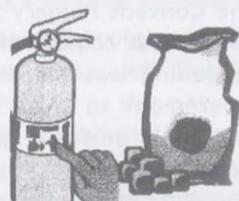
Although the brave were still sailing into December, the season was effectively culminated after the Stephen's Day Race, when activities are wound down. Around Paddy's Day most of us venture out again. This year's calendar of events promises to be just as strong and hopefully the club will organize more junior events and sail training. The club is open to all – whether you own a dinghy or not. To learn more about us, visit [www.KBSC.info](http://www.KBSC.info).

**Chris Dufresne**



# MacMahons of Kinvara Centra Foodmarket

**091-637169**  
*In-Store Bakery*  
*Fresh Meat*  
*Hot Deli*



# Esso Petrolstation

*Gas*  
*Coal*  
*Briquettes*



# The Nuns come to town



THE DEDICATION OF St. Joseph's Church and the blessing of the Convent took place on Sunday April 28th 1878. Kinvara was in festive mood; boats in the harbour were decked with flags, the town was looking its best, and an estimated 4,000 people watched the splendid bands of St. Patrick's Temperance Society and the Gort Total Abstinence Society, as they paraded through the street wearing uniform caps of the national colours and green sashes; Mr Guilfoyle of Galway had chartered the steamer, The City of the Tribes and had invited over 300 people to make the crossing from Galway to "Old Kinvara Quay". This great sense of occasion heralded the coming of the Sisters of Mercy nuns from Gort Convent to Kinvara.

Their foundress, Catherine McAuley, believed in the power of education to bring "new life, hope and freedom to all". Convents had already been established in Gort (1857) and in Ennistymon (1871). In 1878, the Sisters began their long and fruitful apostolate in Kinvara, thanks to the generosity of William Murray,

Esq., of Northampton who made £4,000 available for the building and endowment of the Convent, and to Captain Blake-Foster who donated three acres of land.

## School opens

The Sisters were appointed to the school on July 8th 1878. Their work in the school was greatly appreciated. Extra-curricular activities included music, art and crafts. Payment for music lessons was not a problem.

The people of Kinvara valued the prayer life and lifestyle of the Sisters. A very close bond grew between St. Joseph's Convent and the people of the parish over the years. Prayers were requested for the sick, for family needs, for the safety of animals, the saving of the hay and the turf; scapulars and miraculous medals were sought for those emigrating to foreign lands. The Sisters in turn were well-cared for by the shopkeepers, farmers and fishermen, enjoying from time to time nice fresh eggs, a leg of lamb, country butter, fresh fish, a bag of carraigín and often, at Christmas, a fine fat goose.

St. Joseph's Convent opened a small boarding school about 1926. In 1973, it was closed and the Sisters transferred to Seamount College. The primary school continues to flourish in a modern, well-equipped building.

## Seamount House donated

Around September 12th 1921, the Sisters heard the good news that Mrs Elisabeth Nally wished to make a gift to them of Seamount House and its surrounding five and a half acres of land. Mrs Nally had feared for the house during the time of the Black and Tans and the outbreak of the Civil War. The Sisters were advised to put this magnificent property to some use at once. Various projects were discussed. It was decided to begin a small school in association with the Convent Primary School in Kinvara. Almost coincidentally with this happening was the decision of the government to close down all local hospitals and workhouses in the 26 counties. Gort lost its hospital. Three Sisters of Mercy were employed in the hospital at the time. They received £300 each on terminating

their services there, and this was duly invested in Seamount. Furniture and all the necessary equipment for the Chapel and kitchen were transferred from the Convent in Gort Workhouse to Seamount. The first refurbishment and extension carried out (1923-24) cost £1686.18.2. To meet the cost, the Sisters borrowed £500 from the National Bank, donated the £900 which the Sisters had received on finishing in Gort Workhouse and paid the remainder from the funds of St. Joseph's, Kinvara.

In 1925, after Departmental inspection, it was proposed that the school should be registered officially under the Department of Education, Secondary Branch. Money was very scarce and the Sisters were somewhat hesitant, but trusting in God's Providence, they took up the challenge.

**College takes in boarders**

Late in the school year 1925-26 it was decided to provide accommodation for boarders. The Secondary School

became known as Seamount College. The name Seamount has been retained in grateful remembrance of our generous donor, Mrs Elisabeth Nally. It is worth noting that in 1925, there was no Secondary School for girls nearer to Kinvara than Galway to the north, Loughrea to the east and Ennis to the south.

Numbers increased and further extensions were added in 1929-30. In 1931, Seamount had its own electric plant installed. The assistance at the time of the new P.P. of Kinvara, Canon Fahy, is always remembered with gratitude. The school joined the E.S.B. at its coming to Kinvara in 1941.

By September 1938 the three-storey building was complete. Mr Ralph Byrne, Suffolk St., was the architect and Mr Owen Larkin, Ballinasloe the builder. The total cost of the building was approximately £22,000. Savings from school capitation, local fundraising and £8,500 borrowed from the bank helped to defray

expenses.

The people of Kinvara were justly proud of their Secondary School and supported the Sisters in every way they could through difficult times in the late sixties and early seventies when threatened with closure.

The story of the growth of education in Kinvara in association with the Sisters of Mercy is a great human story of generosity, sacrifices, co-operation, appreciation and a lot of hard work. It is the story of an entire community working together to build a future for themselves and their children.

There are memorable times and times of hardship and difficulty, but we always move together as a people of faith, believing in a God Who, in the words of Venerable Catherine McAuley, is leading us to "new life, hope and freedom for all". It is a wonderful privilege for us, Sisters of Mercy, to be part of the story of education in Kinvara.

Sr Máire Crowe

**Seamount: "A flower growing on a rock"**

*In the Francis A Fahy archives, we come across a letter headed 'Kinvara', from which the following extract. It appeared at Christmastime (possibly in an American newspaper, around 1911). The author, who may have grown up in Kinvara himself, appeals to readers to send donations in support of the convent in Kinvara.*



Francis Fahy and his fiancé, Agnes Duff; 1890.

"The depopulation of the countryside by emigration has left but few to support the two or three stores that still remain. A Sabbath stillness is the dominant feature of the place. But one object of general interest can invite attention of even the most friendly visitor. It is the little convent

on the hill above the town. Many years ago Mother Aloysius, one of the most heroic of the Irish Sisters of Mercy, then Reverend Mother of the Convent in Gort, came to this spot, which seemed forsaken alike by God and man, and founded a little convent to minister to the spiritual and educational needs of the place.

How the community managed to exist can only be explained on the ground that it enjoyed a special measure of Divine Providence. There it still stands shedding its benign influence on the children, the aged and the sick. Seven Sisters, faring as scantily as the poorest, fight a hard battle against overwhelming odds. Lately the last source of revenue to the town, a barley market which used to be held there, has ceased because of the dissolution of the firm which used to buy the grain. The Sisters alone have the enterprise and courage to project some venture which will save the small community from utter destitution. They have not yet been able to decide what form the industry will take and their scanty resources are almost exhausted. They

have not only to teach, but in the majority of cases: feed the children who come to them for education.

There are many worthy and needy cases which claim our help in Ireland but there is hardly one which makes a more pathetic appeal than the needs of the little convent at Kinvara, which a recent visitor compared to a "flower growing on a rock." The coming of Christmas inclines Christian hearts everywhere to an outpouring of charity, and prompts one of the readers of the paper to send out this little appeal to his fellow-exiles for a measure of help, however small, to help the Sisters in their emergency. Commissioner John J. Murphy, who has visited the convent and who knows the facts, will gladly receive and forward any contribution which may be sent to him at THE IRISH-AMERICAN office, 185 Madison avenue, New York. A good deed is its own adequate reward, but in addition the grateful prayers of the Sisters and their little flock will be offered for the givers."

Caoilte Breatnach

# 42 Trácht

## Kinvara National School



THE EXTENSION to the St Joseph's National School was opened in November 2005. From September 2006, an area within the new extension will be used as a Pre-School/Breakfast Club, in addition to an After-School /Homework Club. The current enrolment of Kinvara N.S. is 179 pupils and the school has seven classroom teachers, a Resource Teacher, a Learning Support Teacher, a Shared Learning Support teacher, two Special Needs Assistants and a secretary.

### Commitment of staff and parents

Staff at the school are committed and dedicated to the education of every pupil in the school, all of whom are recognised as unique and special individuals. The school enjoys the support of the parents, the community, clubs and sporting agencies in encouraging the children to be active and to participate in activities on offer in the community. The local Drama Club, GAA, Swimming Club and I.R.F.U. offer their expertise for which the school is grateful.

Hurling and camóige-training take place during school hours for junior pupils and after school for senior pupils participating in the schools competitions. On Fridays, with the help of parents, the senior pupils also take part in rugby, basketball, handball and soccer training and skills development. A chess club has recently been established and is proving very popular.

### Cross-curricular activities

The school was presented with their second green flag recently at a presentation in Dublin. The musical development of each pupil is enhanced through participation in the school choir. As well as singing at Mass once a month, the choir sings at the ceremony of confirmation, communion and the

annual school pageant at Christmas. Pupils who play musical instruments are actively encouraged to use their musical talents regularly to further enhance the wonderful work of the choir. Art and Craftwork are also important in school and the pupils often take part in competitions throughout the county.

Drama features strongly and St Joseph's has been represented at all levels of the Féile Drámaíochta. Is comórtas lán-Ghaelach é an Féile seo, agus tríd páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí mar seo, árdáitear meas na bpáistí ar an teanga agus ar an gcultúr i gcoitinne. All of these cross-curricular activities help to boost greatly the cognitive, affective, aesthetic, spiritual and moral dimensions of each pupil's development in Kinvara National School.

### Junior Infants 2005-2006

Róisín Quinn; Conor Francis; Patrick Byrne; Nicole Ward; Lily Breslin; Luke Conors; Darren Kilkelly; James Killeen; Muireann Fordham; Karim Mullery; Michael Donnelly; Abaigeal Ryan; Ronan Gaughan; Keelan O Flaherty; David Whelan; Lara Fitzpatrick; Simon Whelan.

# CASEY

## AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS & ESTATE AGENTS

### *The Coastal Property Specialists!*

Thinking of selling your property?

*Contact our Kinvara Office*

*for a free and confidential consultation.*

Kinvara 091 638237

Lisdoonvarna 065 7074273

[www.casey-property.com](http://www.casey-property.com)

[www.myhome.ie](http://www.myhome.ie)

KINVARA'S COMMUNITY

## Northampton National School



IN NORTHAMPTON N.S. are having a brilliant year so far. In October we took a trip to Carnmore Airport. We saw a fire engine in action and how the luggage security system worked. We had a great day. After our mid-term break we went to see the Seamount play 'Grease'. It was very good and I would have liked to have seen it a second time. Just before the Christmas holidays we had our concert. We played fiddles, tin whistles and percussion instruments. We did a funny sketch called 'Northampton News' too. We

also recited poems and sang carols. The junior classes with Mrs. Costelloe excellently performed their Nativity play and the hilarious 'Elves on Strike'.

This year we have a coach called Gavin Carey coming to teach us the skills of hurling. We also have another coach, Peter Wolfe, coming to teach us rugby and Mr. McDonagh organises games for us every lunchtime. We have a lot of matches in hurling, camogie and football lined up ahead of this year so hopefully luck will come our way.

We had a Credit Union Quiz in February. Two teams from Northampton came second in the two age groups and also in the Credit Union Art Competitions. We had two people from Northampton winning: Roisín Linnane, 5th Class, and Kate Kennedy from Senior Infants.

In March, we went to see a play in the Town Hall Theatre called 'The Biggest Adventure in the World'. We're entering an Internet project this year called Art Exchange, where

we share our digital photographs on a website with many schools across Europe under the topics of 'Time and Place' and 'Routes and Routes'. We are using a programme called Photoshop Elements to change the photos in artistic ways.

The Write a Book project is now in full swing in the school. We hope that children in other schools will enjoy our books and we look forward to reading theirs. Later on this year we will be having pottery lessons from Catherina Kennedy; it should be great fun. Also people from a heritage group are coming to show us an exhibition of old-style instruments and we still have the school tour, a nature trail and a special science week to look forward to after that.

**Niamh Connolly, 5th Class**

### Junior Infants 2005-2006

Amy McGourty; Sarah O'Malley;  
Rachel Helebert; Sarah Sheehan;  
Aisling Fahy

# Padraig McInerney Insurance

Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: (091) 632300 Fax: (091) 632322

### For all your **INSURANCE** needs as follows:

- Motor Vehicles and Family Home cover
- Farm: Home, Outbuildings, Livestock & Public Liability
- Pensions for the Self Employed
- Life Assurance and Serious Illness
- Business: Shops, Offices, Surgeries etc.
- Employers and Public Liability
- Holiday Homes and Thatched Cottages

Offices also at

7 Tivoli Terrace, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. Tel: (065) 7074600.

Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: (091) 850200.

Padraig McInerney trading as Padraig McInerney Insurance is regulated by the Financial Regulator as a Multi Agency Intermediary.

# LONDIS



## BURKE'S LONDIS SUPERMARKET OFF LICENCE

MAIN STREET, KINVARA

TEL: 091-637250

FAX: 091-637508

### *Kinvara and District Credit Union Ltd.*

- Kinvara and District Credit Union Ltd. is a community based banking service
- We are a non profit-making co-operative – run by members for members.
- We encourage savings and provide loans at the lowest possible interest rates.
- We are available for advice and options on personal finance and related issues.
- Dividends are shared equally between members. The more members we have the more there is to share.
- Currently we have in excess of 2,200 members, and would welcome many more from our growing community.

*Current members opinions of the services provided by Kinvara and District Credit Union: We are a Valuable and Essential Community Service • Professional • Convenient • Accommodating • Flexible • Reliable • Understanding • Discreet • Efficient • A Pleasure to do business with.*

We are committed to providing an effective, supportive and caring service to our community



#### **Kinvara and District Credit Union Limited**

Main Street, Kinvara.

Tel:091-637525 / 637856

E-mail: kanddcu@eircom.net

#### **OPENING HOURS**

##### **Kinvara:**

Mon. 9.30am - 1.00pm  
Tues. 9.30am - 4.00pm  
Wed. 9.30am - 4.00pm  
Thur. 9.30am - 4.00pm  
Fri. 9.30am - 7.00pm  
Sat. 10.00am - 1.00pm

##### **Ballyvaughan:**

Thur.11.00am - 12.30pm

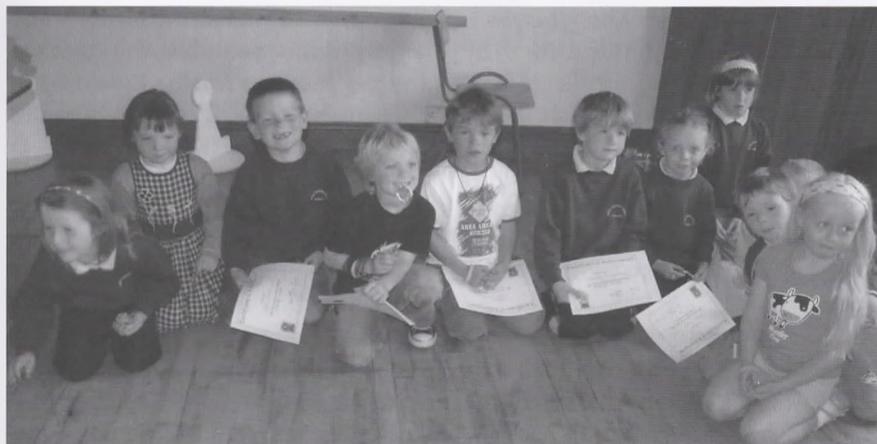
##### **Closed for Lunch:**

1.00pm - 1.30pm:

Tues. Wed. Thurs.

Friday : 1.00pm - 2.00pm:

## Doorus National School



### Junior Infants 2005-2006

Hannah Donnellan; Maeve de Courcy McDonald; Ailbhe McGann; Kate Ann Bermingham; Ruan Sweeney; Oisín Purdy; Oisín Donnelly-White; Jake Comyn; Michelle O'Reilly; Leah O'Connor; Dylan Kelly.

THIS YEAR, between the children attending the Montessori and the after-school service, the total attendance of children in Scoil Chiaráin's Educational Facility is over 100 daily! Doorus Montessori which is attached to the main school opened officially on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2005. We have four permanent teachers on the staff. Pupils were involved in many activities during the past year. The school participated in a very enjoyable 10-week swimming programme, fulfilling the new curriculum activity of aquatic and physical education. In the final gala, the children gave a display and competed for medals and certificates of achievement.

### Sports heroes

The Boys Football Team proudly emerged as winners of the Football Blitz held in Gort in November 2005. Not to be outdone the Girls Football team got involved in a similar blitz in February 2006 and displayed amazing skills and team spirit.

The Girls' Camogie Team are in training and aim to add another county title to the two they took in 2004 and 2005. Boys' hurling is in progress throughout the year. A coach attends the school weekly developing the children's skills and of course the children also form an integral part of the under-10 and 12 parish teams of Kinvara! Olympic handball also proved to be a very popular sport this year.

During the wet weather indoor games including snakes and ladders, draughts and chess helped to occupy their thoughts and energies. The skills acquired during those wet days led to the children travelling to other locations and also hosting chess tournaments. These tournaments were coordinated by Paddy Donavan, one of the parents, whose dedication and help was greatly appreciated.

### Green flag award

In the summer of 2005 the school was awarded the Green Flag. The pupils' attention and care of the school grounds and environs is to be complimented. Daffodils and shrubs adorn the grounds, thanks to the pupils and staff.

The pupils were also involved in quiz competitions: the Credit Union quiz, Library quiz and Spraoicheist Gaelach. A team, including Odran Donavan, Fionn Carney and Sharon O'Hara emerged as winners of the Spraoicheist Seachtain na Gaeilge Quiz.

Finally, the children have been taking part in a local history programme under the guidance of Zena Hctor. They have visited local areas of interest including St. Ciarán's Bed and dolmen in the Burren. In June after a local study for the Fionn Science project, pupils compiled a report on the tidal mills of Doorus. This was entered into the Irish Independent Local Heritage Awards and the school received a DVD player.

## New Traditional Arts Production Company launched in Kinvara

MIKE CONSIDINE AND SANDRA RESTREPO are starting Kinvara's first independent arts production company specialising in the traditional arts. Sandra is a freelance Television Director and Mike is a freelance event, music and project manager. They have worked on events from the Rolling Stones Tours to the Lord of the Rings Films in New Zealand.

Kinvara is the perfect backdrop for the traditional arts projects being undertaken by Noteable Arts which will include educational seminars, traditional arts projects, affordable

websites, arts consultancy and television projects.

Mike is no stranger to Kinvara as his mother Nora Considine (nee Mogan) was born in Gortskeagh, Moy Road, and his parents lived in the Moy Road until 2003. He returned from New Zealand in 2005. Sandra has been coming to Kinvara for the past seven years from the U.S. before settling here in 2003. During this time she has made many close friends

in Kinvara and loves being close to the Burren. They will use their experience to bring the spotlight down on traditional music and arts in the region. They would love to hear from anyone who has project ideas based on local people, events and the traditional arts.

[www.noteablearts.ie](http://www.noteablearts.ie)

Email: [info@noteablearts.ie](mailto:info@noteablearts.ie)

**noteableARTS**

creating the space for the traditional arts to flourish  
[www.noteablearts.ie](http://www.noteablearts.ie)

## Kinvara's Young Folklore Collectors of 1937

IN 1937 AND 1938, over a period of eighteen months, nearly one hundred thousand Irish children from five thousand primary schools were sent out with copy-books and pencils to collect folklore from older members of their communities. The results, commonly referred to as the 'Schools' Scheme', run to nearly 500,000 manuscript pages, and collectively represented the biggest folklore collecting scheme in the world to date. 'Scéim na Scol', or the Schools' Scheme, was the brainchild of Seamus Ó Duilearga and Sean Ó Súilleabháin of the Irish Folklore Commission. Ó Duilearga was influenced by similar schemes in northern Europe, especially Estonia. At local level, the scheme was co-ordinated by National School teachers. They were issued with a circular by the Department of Education which gave the following instructions;

'Material collected by the pupils may be entered in their school jotters and the compositions

written in their copybooks... These...should be transcribed by selected pupils into the official Manuscript Books which were issued to all National Schools in March, 1934. All Manuscript Books...should be forwarded to this office at the end of the current school year- June 1938...'

However, as well as the manuscripts books, many of the original copybooks used by the pupils were sent. The young scholars of county Galway alone were responsible for collecting 35,100 pages of 'pisreogaí', songs, riddles, customs, beliefs, prayers, proverbs, cures and recipes.

In the Kinvara area Cill Éinne (Killina), Northhampton, Clochar na Trócaire (Mercy Convent), Cinn Mhara Buachaillí (Kinvara Boys) and Dubhros (Duras) schools are all represented. The collection for Duras is in Irish, while those of the other schools are in both Irish and English. The standard

and range of material collected was largely dependent on the teacher and the teachers for the Kinvara and district schools were as follows; Máire C. Ní Ghriobhtha (Killina), Tomás Ó Domhnalláin (Northhampton), Siur M. Bernadette (Mercy Convent), S. P. Ó Maoldúin (Kinvara Boys) and Seán Ó Mearacháin (Duras).

### Hidden Treasure

Some of the material collected is unique to the area, but many of the stories are repeated from school to school and even within schools. There are stories of hidden treasure to be found in Kinvara, Mountscribe and Carraig an Droighneáin. Interestingly, while most stories tell of buried gold, the treasure in Crissey Ryan's story, collected from Mary Bermingham, is books, involving a man who 'Once upon a time' lived about four miles from Kinvara

'One day he heard about books that had been hidden in the old church yard. So this day he came over and went to the spot where the books were hidden. They were hidden under a stone. It was the Danes who hid them. When they were going away out of the country, they hid these books under a stone and they had not the chance to come back again and take them. The man who was looking for the books under the stone did not get them because there were so many stones in it he could not find the right one. Not long after that he saw a large eagle standing on one of the rocks. The man went over to where the eagle stood. When the eagle saw the man approaching he asked him what he wanted. The man said that he was in search of some books which he believed to be hidden under one of the rocks... 'I will tell you where they are' said an eagle. 'They are hidden under yonder rock'. The man thanked the eagle and proceeded to where the eagle had guided him. He [..] a slab from the mouth of the rock and it was there he found the treasure that had been hidden'



### Convent of Mercy, Kinvara, 16th November 1949

**Front Row (L to R):** Mary Quinn, Ann Nolan, Nell Fahy, Kathleen Nolan, Peggy Kilkelly, Maura Byrne, Frank Finn, Paddy Curtin, Frank Nolan, Tom McCormack.

**2nd Row (L to R):** Joe Corless, Breda Brogan, Mary Moylan, Philomena Halvey, Julia McMahon, Mary O'Sullivan, Maureen Forde, Maureen Linnane, Mary Lynch, Desmond Leech, Francis Keane.

**3rd Row (L to R):** Gertie Linnane, Christina Forde, Frances Keane, Bridie Whelan, Ann Kavanagh, Ann O'Loughlin, Michael McMahon, Phonsie Flatley, Pat Connell, Agnes Curtin, Gerry Brogan, Tomás Flatley, John Fahy.

**Back Row (L to R):** Mary Quinn, Kathleen Naughton, Lily McCormack, Patsy Halvey, Kathleen Quinn, Mary Connell, Kathleen Kilkelly, Roisín Moylan, Phil Burke, Bridie Forde.

### Festival Customs

Customs associated with festivals and feast-days are also a common feature. Mary O'Leary from the convent school collected these 'Festival Customs' from Patrick O'Leary

At night fall on Saint Brigid's eve the man of each house brings in a bundle of rushes and with these each member of the family begins to weave "Crois Brighde" as it is called. A garment belonging to each member of the family is collected and these garments are placed on the door-step at bed-time on Saint Brigid's night.

On Saint Martin's day the usual custom is to kill a cock. When the cock is killed the blood is sprinkled on the four walls of each house. This custom is performed to keep evil and bad luck out of the houses... On Easter Sunday people eat more eggs than usual and when breakfast is finished

they string the egg-shells and they tie them to the ceiling. They leave them there until Easter Sunday comes again'

### Killina Cures

These old cures and healing customs were collected by the pupils of Killina school

Asses' milk for 'consumption' (taken fasting)

Carry 3 small potatoes in your pocket for rheumatism or for toothache

Ferrets 'leavings' cure for measles  
Foxe's tongue to take out a thorn  
Goose grease as an embrocation for stiff knees or joints

Rub snail on corn-hang up on tree seven days. Repeat if corn is not cured

Rub gold wedding on sty in the eye

Boiled garlic juice for rheumatism

Perhaps the most interesting cure from Killina is this one

For constant 'splitting' headache the people here (Killina) get their heads 'measured' by Pat Linane Cappacashen or by Pat Joynt Poulataggle, to cure them. They do it with a piece of twine. They say certain prayers about the Blessed Trinity when they do this cure

*Some of the children who were the collectors were Micheál Ó Fathaigh and Margaret Cavanagh (Killina), Peggie Regan, Crissey Ryan, Michael Leech, Maighréad Ní Seacneasaigh, Mary Leary and Kathleen Fallon (Kinvara), and Nóra Ní Cuinn, Úna Ní Faoláin, Brigid Ní Fathaigh and Máire Ní Ghloinn (Dúras). Microfilm copies of the collection may be consulted by prior arrangement at the county library headquarters, Island House, tel. 091-562471.*

Geraldine Curtin

## ERA JOSEPH J. MCINERNEY (AUCTIONEERS) LTD

Your house could be worth a lot more than you think

For A Free No Commitment Valuation On Your House Or Property Simply Contact Austin

*It's the little things we do.*



Always There For You



Austin McNerney MIAVI

15 Years Selling In Kinvara and the Burren region

### FOR SALE

Viewing by Appointment



091-631078



Joe McNerney FIAVI  
45 years est. & still going strong

Part Of The ERA World Realty Team With 5000 ERA Offices Across The Globe



Another Happy Customer

Approved Valuers For Most Financial Institutions & Bank Of Ireland 100% Mortgages

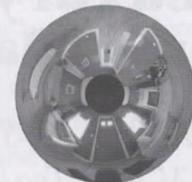


### SOLD



Always There For You

Advertise Locally, Nationally & Internationally With ERA McNerney Auctioneers



Virtual Tours Included In Fee

Contact Austin For Details Of Foreign Investment & Holiday Property In Over 10 Different Countries



Ireland's Largest Web Portal



Competitive Mortgage Rates From Irish Nationwide Building Society



Ireland's Largest Professional Body Of Estates Agents

[www.mcinerneyproperty.com](http://www.mcinerneyproperty.com)

# FALLON'S SUPERMARKETS

Kinvara, Co. Galway, 091-637483  
Corofin, Co. Clare, 065-6837149

Top Quality Beef  
*Produced on our own farm*

Fine Wines  
*Choose from Kinvara's  
largest wine selection*



## Costcutter

*Around the Corner - Around the Country!*

## Fallon's Bed & Breakfast

**Luxury  
Accommodation**

*All Rooms En-Suite  
with TV and Tea/Coffee  
making facilities.*

**Open All Year Round**

Phone 091-638088/637483

[www.kinvara.com/fallons](http://www.kinvara.com/fallons)



## No Place like Home

*Burrenbeo sponsored a short-story competition for the fourth-year students of Seamount College under the broad theme of Kinvara and its environs. From a range of quality entries (see [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)) the winning piece, selected by an independent panel, came from Louise Flaherty. Congratulations to Louise and to all who took part, with special thanks to their English teacher Ms. Kavanagh for all her hard work, as reflected in the high standard of the competition entries received.*



THE BRAVE, YOUNG, swallow soared majestically over the rugged landscape of the Burren. He took in the smells and sounds he had so dearly missed. He knew birds of his kind needed to migrate in winter, but still it upset him each year when he abandoned his own place. With a feeling of ecstasy he watched his shadow cast over the clints and grikes of the limestone pavement. Only now could he appreciate the true beauty of the Burren.

He longed to return to his family after hours scavenging for food. His daydream was suddenly interrupted when he caught the staring eyes of death in the corner of his eye. A swift, warrior like hawk, most likely a stray from the north, was darting towards him like an arrow. There was no time. The swallow ducked to his left and just felt the tip of the hawk's outstretched wing brush against his side. Instinctively he turned around and raced forward at full speed. The hawk had been left behind,

disorientated from the collision.

The swallow heaved a sigh of relief as he glanced back revelling at the menacing hawk. The sharp hawk caught his eye and again thrust forward to catch his prey. Luckily a distance had developed between the two so the swallow had a fighting chance. He soared ahead with all the strength he could muster, desperately searching for sanctuary. As he flew over Kinvara he remembered his old hiding place. He was so close. He had to continue despite his aching limbs. Thinking of his family huddled waiting patiently for his return gave him a spurt of energy.

He glided down through the main street of Kinvara, noticing the people's heads turn as he passed. He suddenly felt a strong sense of self belief. He looked ahead and was instantly captivated by the outline of Dunguaire castle against the red, evening sky. This majestic sight sent him racing like a bullet leaving the now exhausted, frustrated hawk in

his wake. He landed quite clumsily on the roof of the ancient monument and scrambled through the crack he had first found three years ago.

Just as he caught his breath a high-pitched squawk vibrated the floor from outside.

The hawk wasn't ready to give up just yet. He too needed a means to survive.

The swallow stood frozen, he had lost control of his body. He was hungry and delirious from the long chase. The hawk's beak was now protruding through the crack. The swallow knew his time was up. He peered out the glass window to his left and studied the carefree tourists on the quay below. They were going for boat rides, sitting on the benches bathed in the cool, evening sunlight and just relaxing from the usual bustle of life. The swallow took a deep breath and turned to face the grimacing hawk who had made his way into the castle.

**Louise Flaherty**

### Kinvara Golf Society

At their AGM held recently in Sexton's Bar, Society Captain Tom Barry thanked everyone for their support at all the outings, including both members and sponsors, and his fellow committee members – Joe Byrne (President), Gerry Ryan (Secretary), Sue Madden (Treasurer), Josie Collins (PRO) and Niall O'Shaughnessy (Handicap Secretary). Outings during 2005 were held in Gort, Connemara, Ballinrobe, Shannon, Belmullet and Bodyke. Golfer of the year 2005

was Niall O'Shaughnessy, while Joe Keane won the Sexton Cup Matchplay. Congratulations were extended to Sue Madden on her ladies captaincy of Gort Golf Club 2005, and to her husband, John Madden, on his captaincy of Gort Golf Club 2006.

Winners of the Christmas 3-Ball Scramble were a team consisting of Brian O'Driscoll, Tom Barry and Sue Madden, and this hugely enjoyable outgoing was co-sponsored by Fallons Spar, Kinvara. Incoming committee members for 2006 were elected as

follows: President – Des Leech, Captain – Kevin Sexton Jnr, Secretary – Gerry Ryan, Treasurers – Paul Dalton and Paddy, PRO – Garret Byrne, Handicap Secretaries – Niall O'Shaughnessy and Joe Keane.

Fixtures and sponsors for 2006 are currently being finalized. Outings will be held in Roscommon, Oughterard, Gort, Woodstock, Claremorris and Ballinasloe. For further information please contact Kevin Sexton at 087-2421707, or visit our website, at [www.vistek.ie](http://www.vistek.ie).

**Joe Byrne**

# Kate Thompson;

Winner, Whitbread Children's Book Award 2006



I AM ORIGINALLY from Yorkshire and have lived in a lot of places around the world. I lived in Inagh, County Clare and came to Kinvara in 1994. I had been to Kinvara on previous occasions for the Cruinniú and had quite liked it.

Then I moved to Moy in 1999 and have been here ever since. I am very comfortable here and I have good friends in the area. I suppose although I had written books before moving to Kinvara, most of my books were published whilst I lived here. Since 2002 I have been getting awards for the books in Ireland. I have won the Irish Bisto Award three times: for *The Beguilers* in 2002, *The Alchemist's Apprentice* in 2003 and *Annan Water* in 2005.

*The New Policeman* is the only book that I have set in a real place. I enjoyed writing it. It started out of the fundraiser for the Community Centre in Kinvara. There was an Auction of Promises, and I was asked if I could give a promise to put someone's name in my next book. Anne Korff was the successful bidder. Once I started writing, the whole thing took off. It was a lot of fun with the music and the story. Séadna Tobin and

Mary Green (Murray) are also in the book. I don't think I have offended anyone in Kinvara in the book. If I have no one has told me – yet!

The book has had an amazing reception. It won the Guardian's Children Book Prize: an award from my own country, a first for me. The icing on the cake, however, was winning the Whitbread Children's Book Award in January. It has been a flurry of interviews on the radio (Radio 5 live) and television (BBC north) and I came within a hair's breadth of winning the overall Whitbread prize, as the press reported! I was also beginning to get used to the media thing and began enjoying it for the first time.

Now I am back in Kinvara getting back to normal, trying to do some work. My friends had a party for me in Green's pub. It was a great homecoming and I felt very appreciated. I couldn't wait to play the fiddle. I am not quite as mad into it as I used to be but I still love it. It is hard to find time for all the things I do. I have a quirky take on this 'time' thing in *The New Policeman*. You can be busy all the time and allow yourself to be in a driven condition but I think it is also a state of mind.

Time is our responsibility. It is important to prioritise and make time for the things you want to do. Kinvara is changing so fast as is the rest of Ireland. In just a short space of time

the pace of the town has changed. It does make one feel unsettled.

I am not sure if Kinvara is my home. I have lived here longer than I have lived anywhere else and I love it here in so many ways. I am really attached to the landscape. I have the Burren all around me. I used to go up the Burren regularly for long walks but I have got out of the habit.

Since the girls have grown up and moved away I have no routine. They were eight and ten when I moved to Kinvara. I suppose I kind of miss the old school runs and the routine it brought. It takes a bit of getting used to. I also miss the regular contacts it brought with friends and neighbours outside the school gate. I am kept busy though. At the moment I am involved in organising the music for the audio recording of *The New Policeman*. I have to get some musicians to do it and I have to learn some of the tunes from the book myself! I also have to finish another book before the summer. In July, I am leaving for Australia for six months. I will be based in Melbourne but I intend to take some long train journeys. I have never been to Australia and that is something I am really looking forward to. And then I will be back in Kinvara in December...

In conversation with  
**Matti Twomey**

## KINVARA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

THE KINVARA TABLE TENNIS CLUB was set up in October 2005. Meeting on Thursday evenings at 9pm, the sport has proved very popular with a lot of existing and former players. Currently with 2 tables, the club hopes to add further tables as membership increases. So if you have a good forehand smash or would simply like to learn how to play contact, Una Jordan on 065 7078237.

## Kinvara Community Children's Centre

KINVARA COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE COMMITTEE was established in June 2004 in collaboration with the Community Council to investigate the possibility of establishing a childcare facility for residents of Kinvara. We meet each Tuesday in the Merriman Hotel at 8:30pm.

There is a great need for a childcare facility in Kinvara, and we are offering a service to children from 3 months to 12 years. A site for the facility has now been found, planning permission was granted late 2005, and it will be located next to the Community Centre. We also

applied for a capital funding grant from the Department of Justice, and are awaiting a decision in mid-2006.

A great need has been identified in the area for before and after school care. Our committee met with the board of management of St Joseph's National school and the Galway city and county childcare committee. A room in the school has been made available to us to set up an out of school care programme, hopefully to commence in September 2006. Should you have any queries about the group or would like to join we can be contacted on 087 9507681 or 091 637542.

## Scenes from a life: Máire O'Keefe, Fiddler



### Tralee, Kerry

I WAS BORN IN TRALEE, County Kerry. My mother was a teacher and when I started school I used to sit in the corridor, swinging my legs – waiting for her, because she didn't finish until half past three whereas I'd be finished at one. This lovely nun, Sister Kevin, took pity on me, basically. She taught music in the school and she used to take me into her little music room – which was like Aladdin's Cave to me. There was a piano and she used to let me thump away on it at first. I think she discovered I had a good ear and eventually she started teaching me to play. Nearly every afternoon was spent in that room, with the piano – we didn't have a piano at home for years. She got me into doing the music exams – which I eventually hated.

Nobody played music at home, although my mother was a Begley! We used to go back to my aunt's house, west of Dingle on Sunday afternoons. They never had an instrument but there were plenty of sets danced! My uncle-in-law used to play the comb and paper – like a kazoo. That was where the draw of traditional music started, I suppose.

### Scoil Éigse, Bun crana

When I was about thirteen, I refused to take the piano exams any more. I started to play piano, by ear, with the local Comhaltas group which was organised by Máire Griffin and her husband, Paddy. It was there I started to play the fiddle. The aim was always

to get through the county and Munster fleadh – not for the sake of the All-Ireland but for the Scoil Éigse, which was where you met all your friends from round the country. I remember being there in Bun crana in 1976. All we fiddlers wanted to do was play everything on the latest Bothy Band Album (skipping the songs of course). One day, our teacher, Paddy Glackin, took us all in a bus to hear John Doherty. As we walked through a bar to the pool room at the back, I noticed a little old man wearing a cap, filling his pipe at the bar. We all sat down on the floor and waited for this famous fiddler to appear. In walked the old man in the cap.... I can still remember the hairs on the back of my neck standing up as he started to talk and then to play... You just knew you were present at a special moment in time....

### Marino, Dublin

I was in teacher training college in Marino. The Christian Brothers ran the college and one of them, Brother Cassidy, was teaching in Ardscoil Ris, down the road. He formed a Comhaltas branch and brought in older musicians and singers from all over north Dublin: John Naughton the concertina player from Feakle, Joe Broderick the Kerry singer, Pearl O'Shaughnessy, Dinny O'Brien, Vincy Crehan... Of course, there was no drink!

I was still playing my original £30 fiddle. One day I was shown a room full of abandoned instruments in the college – fiddles, cellos, a double bass and more, all flung in a heap. Apparently there had been an orchestra in the college way, way back and the instruments had been dumped at some stage and completely forgotten about. He had just rediscovered them. He told me to take whichever one I wanted on one condition – I had to leave my own fiddle in its place! It was a gorgeous fiddle – especially after Rab Cherry did some work on it a few years later. Rab later built a new fiddle for me – the one I play now. My younger sister Aoife still plays the Brothers' one. When she was very young, I used to play to her to keep her quiet – doesn't work with my son Dónal!

### Australia

I took a career break in 1992 and went to Australia for a year. The Sydney Irish musicians had a scheme that subsidised you in return for teaching and playing some sessions. They were starved for Irish music in Australia at the time. Once they knew you were in the country, you would get invited to festivals, workshops... I remember opening a drawer in my room and seeing five or six plane tickets, thinking "Where am I going next?!" Eventually I knew it was time to come back from Australia – I had a shocking phone bill! I missed home too much...

### Kinvara

I started playing regularly in Kinvara with Jackie Daly. Then I was asked to give a fiddle class in town. The first night I was to teach, the tide was so high I was afraid to go into town, so I cancelled! When I eventually went in the following week, there was a huge gang of people, most of whom I didn't know. It was a great introduction to the community for me. We had great crack... and I ended up staying in town since.

Kinvara has everything – there's no question about that. Dancing, music, singing... it's all here. So many musicians, at so many levels. It's a huge social thing. All the sessions. For me, the bottom line about music is that it HAS to be a social thing. I love the music; it's a language, it's a form of communication. You can sit down with people without a word of a common language between you – and communicate.

Kinvara has become such a hub, even since I came here. It's become totally accepted to be able to play music – whether or not you're brilliant at it. You can play it and enjoy it any night of the week, any time of the year. You can go into any pub in Kinvara and sit down to play music – and they will be more than happy to have it. It's a magical space.... I have no fears or worries about the tradition. No matter what influences come into it, the tradition itself will choose what it wants...

### In conversation with Martin Ryan

# Kinvara Community Games

THE COMMUNITY GAMES idea first came to prominence in Dublin in 1967, when Joe Connolly organised a group of adults to help him deal with the problem of lack of leisure-time activities for young people. Galway Community Games started in 1976 and Kinvara is one of 46 areas affiliated. Children from the Kinvara area take part in many team and individual events and our local athletic Sports Day is always popular. Each year, the best boy and girl athlete are presented with cups to recognise their achievement. The cups were originally donated by the Quilty Family and Kinvara IFA.

Events take place at the pitch on the Moy Road and we appreciate the support of Kinvara GAA for facilitating us. The athletic County finals have taken place in Ballinderreen for the past few years and it is a very secure and confined area for competitors and their families. Children can also take part in other events such

as music, dance, art, choir, culture corner, table quiz and projects.

Children must be under age on 31st July to enter events and volunteers are always in demand to help with activities. Last year, having just won the International Festival Queen of Ireland title, Emma travelled the next day to Mosney to referee the National Camogie Finals

South Galway is represented on the Galway committee by Catherine Kilkelly and Marian Connolly, both from Kinvara (treasurer and assistant treasurer), Ashling Murray who teaches at St. Joseph's National School, Kinvara is Child Officer, Gerry Mannion, Labane, is Development Officer and Eamonn Mannion is Youth Officer.

If you would like more information or have an interest or expertise in a particular sport or you would like to help organise an activity please contact the Secretary, Catherine Kilkelly at 065 - 7078058.

**Marian Connolly**



*P.J. Kelly, Knockaculleen, Doorus, representing Galway at the National All Ireland Community Games Athletic Finals 2005 in Mosney. Pictured with his sister, his Mother, Helen and Galway officials Marian Connolly and Catherine Kilkelly.*

## PROPERTY PARTNERS

## Michael unningham

WWW.PROPERTYPARTNERS.IE



*Auctioneer, Valuer & Estate Agent*  
Market Hall, Church St, Gort, Co. Galway



### FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS IN SOUTH GALWAY/ NORTH CLARE!

Agency Manager Permanent TSB  
Investments & Mortgages  
Life Pensions

*Michael Cunningham is a tied Insurance agent of the Irish Life Assurance Plc, and Central Bank is the Financial Regulator.*

Tel: 091 631 291

Fax 091 631895

Email: [info@galwayproperty.com](mailto:info@galwayproperty.com)

Website: [www.galwayproperty.com](http://www.galwayproperty.com)

*MyHome.ie*

permanent tsb

# A Scrapbook History of Kinvara GAA

- Do you remember that Under-12 hurling title win in 1983?
- The most famous County Intermediate Hurling Title in 1966?
- Or when "Killina lads were too powerful"?
- What's that story behind Kinvara's four different jersey colours in the past 50 years?

**Speedy Kinvara Shock  
Fancied Oranmore Men**



THESE AND MANY MORE MEMORIES were compiled by the late Toddie Byrne, in his extensive and wide-reaching history of the GAA in Kinvara. In 2001, Toddie began compiling the complete history of Kinvara GAA. A lot of his work involved visits to the County Library and Connacht Tribune in Galway, spending days trying to find information and articles about Kinvara GAA. From there, the kitchen table at home became his work station. Evenings were spent compiling, writing letters, and checking other local books and GAA magazines. Before he died in April, Toddie had put the finishing touches to the records for 2005, right up to the AGM reports for the Senior, Juveniles and Camogie Clubs. Most of the book is now ready for print, and is due to be published later this year.

What is unusual about Toddie's book is that it takes the form of a scrapbook. Original newspaper cutting, photographs, minutes of meetings, etc. are original copies. The book begins with the formation of Killoveragh GAA Club in 1889, which brought together the men of Kinvara and Dooras. The club later changed its name to Kinvara GAA Club. From there we come across stories, memories,

articles and newspaper reports on all aspects of the club. Information on earlier years of the book proved difficult to source, but there is still enough to tell us about who were the main players in Kinvara GAA in the early 1900s. Only in the 1950s do more records become available, with references to South Board Hurling and Football titles being won.

The first photograph of a Kinvara Hurling Team is the 1952 South Board Junior Hurling Champions. The '60s main highlight was the winning of the County Intermediate Hurling title in 1966, beating Oranmore in the county final. The '70s will always be remembered for the Kinvara Senior hurling team reaching the County Final for the first time, in 1979. Unfortunately they were defeated by a great Castlegar team, backboned by the Connolly brothers. The 1980s onwards provide the bulk of the book, as more records and reports were available then. Also, cameras were a bit more popular, so photographs are included of nearly every team that won a final in the last thirty years. An important lesson from Toddie's research is the importance of keeping records and taking photographs of

games, as a lot of information from the early years to the late seventies was lost and forgotten.

This book will prove a fascinating read to anyone connected with Kinvara GAA. It is hoped that anyone who ever caught a hurl for Kinvara or kicked a football will be mentioned or even surprisingly appear in a team photo (one photo from a 1986 Junior Hurling team comes to mind, with a few lads from Moy and Boher Bui). The book will also be of interest to other clubs in the county, and there must be at least one match report for every club that have hurled against the "unpredictable seasiders"! Indeed South Galway clubs will enjoy it more, as up until 1975 most match reports are from the South Board Championships – where the rivalry at times provided heated match reports!

The book will be available locally, and Toddie would have been proud to have seen his major work published. For more information or sales queries on the book, please contact Garret Byrne at 087-9513442, or any committee member of the Kinvara GAA club itself.

**Garret Byrne**

# Tír Eolas in Doorus: Over 21 years in publishing

ANNE KORFF first came to Kinvara in 1965, when she stayed at Doorus Hostel. On another visit in 1978, while walking the northern shoreline from Trácht, she noticed a steeple (Doorus Church) and went to investigate. Crossing the field, she came across the old house (Elly McCooke's birthplace), which later she bought from the Curtins. She moved to Newtownlynch, Doorus in 1980.

Tír Eolas started publishing maps and books in 1985 and is now recognised as one of the foremost quality publishers in Ireland. The company produces books, guides and maps that combine text and illustration to an exceptionally high standard, with information on Irish history, archaeology, landscape, culture and tradition.

Tír Eolas can be translated as "knowledge of the land". The company has published seven Guides and Maps,

covering the Burren, South Galway, Kinvara, Medieval Galway and Loch Corrib. They give detailed information on the archaeological and historical sites, the birds, animals and flowers to be seen and the natural features found in the area covered by each map, covering the Burren and South Galway.

### Tír Eolas Guides and Maps

Ballyvaughan, Kilfenora, O'Brien Country, Medieval Galway, Corrib Country, Kinvara, and Kiltartan.

### Tír Eolas Books

*Alive, Alive-O, the shellfish and shellfisheries of Ireland*, by Noël P. Wilkins, 2004.

*The Shores of Connemara*, by Séamus Mac an Iomaire, translated by Pádraic de Bhaldraithe, 2000.

*A Burren Journal*, by Sarah Poyntz, 2000.

*The Book of the Burren*, edited by Jeff O'Connell and Anne Korff, 1991.

*The Book of Aran*, edited by John Waddell, Jeff O'Connell and Anne Korff, 1994. *Kinvara, a Seaport Town on Galway Bay*, written by Caoilte Breatnach and compiled by Anne Korff, 1997.

*Women of Ireland*, by Kit and Cyril Ó Céirín, 1996.

*The Shannon Floodlands*, by Stephen Heery, 1993.

*Not a Word of a Lie*, by Bridie Quinn-Conroy, 1993.

### New publication

Anne Korff's latest book, written by Gordon D'Arcy, celebrates the Burren wall in photographs, illustrations and quotations, and informs about social and natural history, from the earliest prehistoric examples to the most modern, indicating how different styles may be attributed to specific periods of construction.

For further information, contact Tír Eolas, Tel/Fax: 091 637452 or visit: [www.tireolas.com](http://www.tireolas.com)

# PIER HEAD Bar & Restaurant

The Quay, Kinvara, Co. Galway, Ireland. +353-91-638188

*Situated in the picturesque seaport village of Kinvara, the Pier Head, as the name suggests, can be found on the pier.*

*The location offers stunning views of both Kinvara Bay and the nearby Dungaire Castle.*

*The restaurant offers a full a-la-carte menu.*

*While specialising in locally caught sea food, all tastes are catered for!*

# Voyage Of Fánaí 2004/2005

The following is a short extract of from the ship's log of Fánaí's visit to Sal, off the African coast. Built and sailed by Eugene Lambe, who sailed across the Atlantic, setting out on 25 August 2004. Route: Galway-Corunna-Lisbon-Faro-Madeira-Canaries – Cape Verdes- Tobago (Caribbean)- Grenada- St. Lucia-Guadeloupe-Les Saintes-Nevis-St.Maarten-Azores-Dingle-Galway (31<sup>st</sup> July 2005). Total distance: approx. 9,000 miles.



## Thursday 10th February / Saturday 5th March 2005 Isla do Sal, Cape Verdes.

After 7 days at sea we dropped anchor off Palmeira, 800 miles south of the Canaries.

The place looks like Africa, the nearest point of 'the dark continent' being only 300 miles to the east. It feels so very different from the Canaries. We had a walk around the town and then back to Fánaí for a well-earned rest.

Like the Canaries and Madeira, the Cape Verde islands are volcanic in origin. They were 'discovered' by the Portuguese in the 15th century, fought over by Spain and Portugal in the 16th century and became a clearing-house for slavery from Africa. Felling of trees, lack of rainfall and overgrazing in the early years of colonisation resulted in an arid landscape. Repeated droughts over the last 200 years caused at least 100,000 deaths and, as was the case with our own Famine, the Colonial power of Portugal did little to alleviate the suffering.

### Swimming and sharks

The Cape Verdes eventually got their independence from Portugal in 1975. It is now an independent Republic, struggling to keep afloat. The official language is Portuguese but the natives speak Creole.

Here in Palmeria, the main Port in Sal (built by the Russians), we swim from the boat. Sharks, (including the Great White and the Hammerhead) are common but we were assured that they do not attack during the day. They also say that because Cabo Verdeans do not eat sharks they do not eat Cabo Verdeans. We can only hope that the sharks remember this fact and that they don't find out that neither of us is Cabo Verdean.

We were told that there were only four shark accidents over the last 10 years. Two involved divers, one of whom had freshly shot fish on a belt around his waist. The other was a German who was diving near one of the deserted islands (Ilheu Branco). He swam into an area where fishermen were cleaning fish and got mixed into the shark's dinner. Two other accidents involved the illegal use of dynamite for fishing. After the blast a fisherman was scooping the stunned fish out of the water from his boat when a shark took him overboard by the arm.

### Free outboard engines

There are 5 species of lobster in these islands. The locals used to fish them by jumping into the sea with a large rock to bring them to the bottom. There were so many casualties that this is now illegal and they are caught with pots.

Most of the fishing is done from small open boats with outboard motors. About 20 years ago the Japanese gave the islanders free outboards but since they are so poor they have never been replaced. This sometimes has tragic results. In recent years, two boats that went out fishing overnight had engine failure and in both cases they drifted out to sea. The NE trade winds carried them both to the southwest but very slowly. One took three months to reach Brazil and all the crew lived. Another boat with a father and son was blown offshore and the father died one week before the boat reached the Brazilian coast. There is one old local who will not give up his sails for an outboard and I think he is a wise man.

Rusting remains of machinery lie everywhere and the remnants of an overhead cable car system that was used to transport the salt from the crater is very much in evidence. A string of barges and a small tug boat lie on a railway rusting like ghosts from a bygone era. After almost one month in the Cape Verdes I stocked up with provisions for the Atlantic crossing to Tobago in the Caribbean 2,300 miles away.

### Returning home

In July 2005, as we made our return journey, we had fair winds for the first few days with runs of up to 126 miles. But the wind soon came against us and for the last six days, we had constant headwinds and had to motor sail to keep our course. Our alternative was to tack into Biscay or towards Newfoundland and neither of those choices appealed to either of us. After 13 days at sea, most of which were grey-skied and damp, we dropped anchor in Dingle bay, rowed the dinghy ashore, had a walk around the town and said hello once again to the Emerald Isle.

**Eugene Lambe**

# 56 Northeast Passage

ON JUNE 23RD 2001, Northabout departed Clew Bay fully laden with 3 years' supplies for the North West Passage. It was to be the 13th boat to make the passage and the first against prevailing winds and currents. Northabout, designed for Polar exploration, was built of strong aluminium by Jarlath Cunnane in Knock in only 13 months prior to our departure to the ice-clogged waters that separate the Atlantic from the Pacific ocean.

We over-wintered the boat in Nome, Alaska, in Sept 2001 with the intention of bringing her home to Westport through a 12,000-mile voyage through the Siberian and Russian Arctic. In 1913, the Karluk failed to make the passage and Russia's own Valerian Albanov saved, Shackleton-like, his crew when their ship, the St. Anna, was crushed by ice in the Kara sea in 1912.

My brother Colm, a fluent Russian speaker living in Moscow joined the team and by January 2004 we were sailing north up the Bearing Strait into the ice. The Siberian winter of 2003/2004 was unusually mild and mild winters are usually followed by severe summers. So we met ice much earlier than expected in the Chukchi Sea. As we advanced through leads, making 50 miles on some days and none on others, we called to the few habitations along the coast. It was here in Siberia that the notorious Soviet prison camps, the gulags were established.

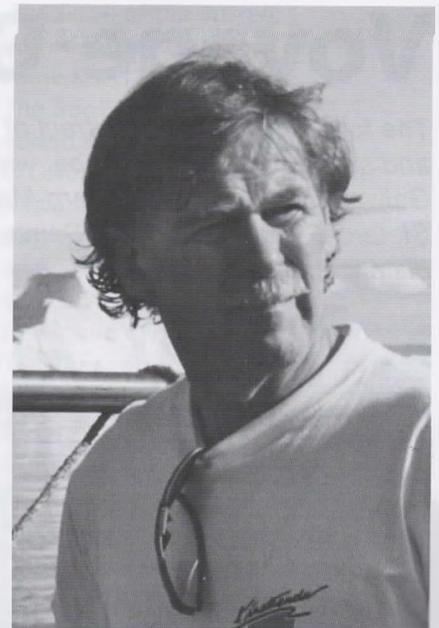
No one we met had ever seen a sailing boat; few had met foreigners and most were reluctant to talk. However, our secret weapon was music. With myself on the fiddle, Jarlath on the harmonica, Paddy Barry, Rory Casey, cameraman Garry Finnegan on guitars, and Kevin Cronin on the bodhrán, we played to break down barriers wherever we went. The people are a mix of Eskimos and Russians; many were left behind after the prison camps were shut down. These proud and resourceful people survive in Siberia where winter temperatures fall to minus 60 degrees.

We met Sasha, a Russian meteorologist, out hunting. He took us to Dalstroi, an infamous prison camp, where 40,000 people, forced to work in the local gold and zinc mines, died. As the first westerners to see the camp, collapsed watchtowers and barbed wire was a grim reminder of a cruel political system.

As we travelled west, the ice worsened and a thick fog, common in the Arctic, lasted for days and on the East Siberian Sea we were trapped in the ice. Two miles away a Russian cargo ship was waiting for an icebreaker to get her through to the Khatanga River. When it didn't turn up, the captain decided to force a way out. Realising that we could be trapped for the winter we decided to follow in her wake. Her propellers threw back huge lumps of ice, like depth charges against our hull and we started taking water. But the Northabout survived and we made repairs the next day.

In Tiksi we met a Dutch sailor on his yacht, Campina on his second year making the same voyage as us. We decided it would be safer for the two boats stay together but the Campina had engine problems and fell behind. We still had the most difficult 500 miles of our journey ahead past the most northerly point of the Eurasian Continent, Cape Cheleuskin. In these latitudes, what passes for summer can change to winter in a matter of hours and 150 miles southeast of Cape Cheleuskin, we encountered very heavy pack ice.

For eleven days we waited, hoping for a lead to open and allow us into the Kara Sea. The temperature dropped to minus 10 degrees. That, and curious polar bears, stopped us leaving the cabin. The sea around us started to freeze and we were in danger of becoming trapped in the ice for the winter. We got a radio call from Campina crushed between two icebergs and in serious trouble. Ordered by the Russians to go to her assistance, we towed her through heavy ice, 35 miles south, where she was lifted onto the deck of a passing ship. Her attempt at the Northeast Passage was over.



*We over-wintered Northabout in a village on the Khatanga River and returned to Ireland.*

The Siberian winter of 04/05 was very cold so we expected that the ice conditions would be better when, in August, Northabout, with the same crew, sailed into the Laptev Sea again heading for Cape Cheleuskin. With luck, we should be able to get through to the Kara Sea.

By mid-August we had rounded the Cape, only to find polar ice blocking our path. For two days we tried to find a lead through, when a north-westerly storm was forecasted. Our only chance of shelter was Sun Bay, in Bolshevik Island, 30 miles away. Surrounded by ice on all sides, we eventually broke through, and 12 hours later were in Sun Bay.

On the fourth day as the storm abated, we got news of a nuclear icebreaker 15 miles away, escorting a ship into the Kara Sea. Soon we were following in her wake into clearer water, through to the Barents Sea. We had left the ice behind but now sailed into the teeth of gale after gale on the last 1,000 miles to Murmansk where we celebrated the first ever westward circumnavigation of the Arctic.

For a more details see visit our website: [www.northabout.com](http://www.northabout.com). A documentary on our voyage will be broadcast on RTE later this year.

**Dr. Michael Brogan**

# Arrival of Garda Síochána in Kinvara

*In 1923, the Parish Priest in Kinvara, Canon Fahey, wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs stressing the urgency of the provision of a Civic Guard Station for Kinvara:*

"As Parish Priest of Kinvarra, I wish to put before your Department the need of establishing in this town a strong body of Civic Guards. The old barrack which was used by the R.I.C. and wrecked during the Black & Tan regime could easily be restored so as to house them. The Coast line from Oranmore to Ballyvaughan, a distance of about 25 miles, is entirely unprotected, and Poteen in large quantities is constantly brought ashore from Connemara to the ruin of the people who are so freely supplied with it. People who are considered "respectable" are known to be Poteen merchants on a large scale, wholesale distributors in fact. In this town there are 15 licensed houses & no supervision whatsoever except an occasional visit at day time from a Civic Guard Station in Ardrahan, distant about 6 miles by road – an exceedingly bad, dirty one. A few of these houses are open publically up to 11 o'clock at night. Some others close the shop but continue the sale of drink behind closed doors. Those who observe the licensing laws are thus handicapped owing to the facilities enjoyed and employed by the rest.

There have been a number of raids for money in the locality and several other annoyances which the parties who suffered have to put up with owing to there being no local quarters to report to. The biggest & chief grievance is however the Poteen traffic.

The old R.I.C. barrack was able to house 9 men. It is in a most convenient position for supervision. The owner of the barrack was an elderly respectable lady named Mrs. Nally. After the destruction of the barrack she sold the site & the ruins to a local person, named Michal Hanlon for sum of £30. She has been allowed £700 towards rebuilding, but is in a difficulty having parted with the site. If the place was taken over by the Government it would be easy, I think, to arrange with Mrs. Nally and Michael Hanlon. There is no other site available which would be so convenient for supervision.

My motive in writing is for the peace and moral good of the district. I have no personal interest in Mrs. Nally or Michael Hanlon & provided there be a good body

of Guards established in the place I am satisfied.

I hope this letter will meet with consideration and remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. Canon Fahey P.P."

## A Garda station for Kinvara

The prompt reply from the 'RÚNAIDHE' in the Ministry said that "the proposed establishment of the Garda Síochána provides for a station at Kinvarra, Co. Galway. The difficulty at the moment is the securing of suitable accommodation there. It is hoped however that suitable quarters may become available in the near future when a unit of the Garda will be sent to occupy Kinvarra."

The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána reported that the Chief Superintendent at Galway was in favour of a permanent premises at Kinvara. Attempts to secure the old R.I.C. station (where Sexton's lounge is now) failed. The old schoolhouse, owned by the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland was rented as a temporary barrack.

A letter from the Commissioner's Office pointed out that the premises would suit the purpose when properly repaired. They would not, however, contain married quarters and the fresh water supply would be half a mile from the station. There was no lock-up on the premises nor any out-office that could be used for this purpose. However, there was a garden containing 10 perches attached to the house and a cell could be erected on a portion of it.

## Barracks in Kinvara, 1924

The Barracks was officially opened on 28 Feb 1924, and the premises occupied by a sergeant and four guards. Correspondence between the Chief Superintendent and the Deputy Commissioner however shows dissatisfaction with the arrangements. The main concern was the sleeping accommodation. It was separate from the station proper and accessible only by a stone stairway on the outside of the building. Alterations were to be carried out to windows and doors, and the exterior rendering was in urgent need of repair. The building was considered utterly unsuitable for the purpose of a police station. Improvements were carried out by the Board of Works, making it more habitable.

The first Gardai had very uncomfortable conditions. The Sergeant's office and bedroom combined was approached by a ladder from the kitchen, until a stairways was installed in the early 30s. An interesting statistic shows that 60% of the parish spoke Irish in 1926

Sgt. John McLoughlin and his wife, Rose, had the building converted into a very comfortable living quarters. In the small kitchen, many mini-meetings were held in organising events for the Carnivals in the 60s and 70s and making arrangements for the opening of the new GAA pitch.

## Toddie Byrne (R.I.P.)

*This article was compiled from documents researched by Bill Dooley as part of his contribution to Kinvara Community Council's Social Employment Scheme in the 90s.*

## Gardaí in Kinvara since the Formation of the Force

1924	Martin Egan; Peter Reilly;	1940	John Gleeson
	Patrick O'Hare; Hugh Maguire	1941	Martin Loftus
1925	Thomas P.Cummins	1945	Pat Howard
1926	William Doherty	1946	Dominick Keighan; John Healy;
1927	Thomas Kerins;		John Murphy
	Michael Spillane	1951	Michael McCabe
1929	Martin Horkan	1952	Thomas McDonagh
1930	Thomas Brennan;	1955	Francis Allen; John McLoughlin
	Peter Mc Teigue	1962	Patrick Kelliher
1932	James Rafferty	1964	Michael Cunningham
1933	John Waters	1965	Patrick Walsh; John Weir
1935	Francis Mc Hugh; Eugene	1978	Desmond McAuley;
	Kearns		Daniel Peter Duffy
1936	Patrick Ryan; Henry Ryan	1987	Patrick Collins
1937	Pat Byrne; Hugh McCabe	1995	John Gormally
1938	John Nolan	1999	Ernie White; John Nilan
1939	Michael Brogan; Edmond Stack	2000	Pat Fahy

## Walking with Michael

While walking with Michael on New Year's Eve,  
 Despite roaring traffic our thoughts we made weave  
 When we paused for a moment to view the sea  
 When a whisper of wind came, momentarily,  
 To darken the surface, and suspend the reflection  
 Of a heron ahunting avoiding detection.  
 While a hundred or more plumed plovers on wing  
 Landed to face what their futures might bring.  
 Silent witness, perhaps, as another year ends,  
 To the fate of such wildlife, and destiny's trends.  
 Preserved, as they were, from the rush and the strife  
 By the slimmest of barriers to their frontier on life.  
 That delicate balance between nature and man,  
 Personified there in our all peaceful scan.  
 A cormorant, then, vied for submarine space,  
 With the sleekest of otters, indefinable grace.  
 Each avoiding the other, they were content,  
 In their own, their only environment.  
 Goldeneye ducks paddled proudly in pairs,  
 Whilst snipe and redshank made the mud margins theirs.  
 They all seemed unaware, as a mute swan unfurling,  
 Preened into its ballet on the smooth tide's turning.  
 All this in a few seconds' pause in the middle of day,  
 Over Kinvara's walled seafront, above Galway Bay.  
 All the beauty of nature preserved in this place  
 Surely needs more than just a few years grace.

**Brian Wynne**



## Amen (The dark night of the soul)

And yet again the awakening terror of  
 that unwelcome dawning consciousness as it  
 Invades the sanctuary of your anesthetised mind  
 You struggle towards the light of life above your head  
 Dragging the demons of your past behind you  
 Bursting through, you savage the air that once did bathe  
 your soul  
 Oh Christ, why must this life go on  
 Lying, spent upon the shore  
 Drenched in the sweat of guilt  
 A pathetic voice you recognise as your own  
 Damns your very soul and torments you  
 with the never ending cries of  
 Why, Oh Why, Oh Why  
 No pity do I feel for you  
 You failed, and failed again  
 A life that promised much  
 Full of love and opportunity  
 You threw it all away  
 Talents wasted, sweet apples tasted  
 Pleasures were your goal  
 You shook off the clinging arms of loved ones  
 And scorched your way through their burning lives  
 And the fires you started took hold of you  
 and destroyed the great man inside  
 Gone was the will to fight the fight  
 Gone was the love of God given life  
 Now all you sought was peace  
 And peace had long since fled  
 Not even God to turn to now  
 For God knows that promises from you  
 Mean nought, and yet you pray

"Dear Jesus, help me. help me  
 Just get me through today  
 Tomorrow I will try again  
 Just take this pain away  
 You sit there looking down on me  
 Sad look upon Your face  
 Just put Your Arms around me, please,  
 And take me from this place  
 The love for life which once I felt  
 That strength to see me through  
 I lost somewhere alongthe way  
 My only hope is You  
 If dying has to be my lot  
 Before I rise again  
 Then gladly I will come to You  
 Amen, Amen, Amen".

**David J Hogan**

*Photo: Mike Considine*

## About The Unwordly Non-wordy Philosopher

He sezz "nothing"  
Just lives in space,  
With "nothing" on his mind,  
With fine fun on his face,  
In his being is gracious grace.

He is 'simple and quiet'  
Is deeply into "reality's clear  
Clean light.  
His soft sincerity  
Is not just now and then,  
It is happily in harmony  
With the 'now'  
In the mellow manner  
Of zen.

The non - wordy  
Unwordly philosopher  
Sezz "nothing" all day,  
Just does the just thing,  
And goes on his way.  
So if you meet him,  
Just smile or nod,  
He likes it that way  
The peaceful philosopher  
Who is elegantly eccentric  
And openly odd.  
All day and all nite  
He sez "nothing"  
(But) to the infinite  
He does softly, sweetly.  
Silently, and sincerely sing.  
**Joe Staunton**

## To Peter St George

When she took the boat back then  
Who'd ever understand  
How land is really worthless  
in the end.

Sprung from rock and driven womb  
A sapling frail  
Clings to the rock  
In hopes to find  
Solid ground.

**Caolte Breatnach**

## Corcomroe Abbey

my soul skims  
along the strand  
along the ancient stones  
and sacred bones  
that rest in Corcomroe

my soul knows  
to follow the moon  
that hangs in a lapis sky  
where it tries  
to keep the winds at bay  
and keep the storms away

my soul dreams  
of a sacred space  
of a place  
where spirits foretold  
of the light between

the living and the dead  
of sacred words kept unsaid  
until revealed  
in the mind's eye  
and the land is healed  
beneath a lapis sky

**Alex Venegas**

## Down at Cush

She hovers to the East  
just above Slieve Aughty.  
Her yellow Van Gogh  
smile shimmers on Aughinish Bay.  
He is regal in the West  
creeping Roundstone Hill,  
tossing a velvet cloak over the  
Martello  
at the causeway down at Cush.

I stand where the full tide  
laps gently by both shores.  
Right hand caresses  
the Moon Goddess's tresses.  
Left hand stretches  
for the Sun God's crimson stream  
on the causeway down at Cush.

He kisses the horizon  
and bids us both goodnight.  
She swells in full reflection  
of His glorious light.  
Colours blend and kindle  
an amber glow in my heart,  
at the full moon in Leo  
on the causeway down at Cush.

**Jean Folan**

## Lapwings

A swarm of lapwings Swept over  
the lake  
And wheeled in a brief indecision  
Until the sun caught them  
And turned them  
To glittering splinters of gold  
And dropped them  
All over the shore.

**Kate Thompson**

## Amores Perdidos

Los amores perdidos en tu amor  
Pradera mia cerro dorado  
Monte dorado que alla se fue  
Bordeando el rio de la indolencia  
Y sin la cupula de la inocencia  
Mezcle mi amor contra corriente  
Corriente fuerte que me envolvia  
Pero saciandome hasta mi eje  
Placer cambiapor rebeldia  
Y rebeldia cambia por pasiones  
Corri sin rumbo alguno  
Como la brisa de norte a sur  
De este a oeste  
Desvaneci, me hice fuerte  
Cruce montanas, rios, lagos  
amor vino, amor se fue  
Amor rogue, amor llore  
Amor mendigue, amor implore  
Me fui, me esfume  
Entre volcanes, praderas  
Entre los mares  
Amor paso con mascara azul  
**R Mercedes Varona Pereira**

### (Translation)

*Former loves are lost in your love  
My meadow, my golden hillside.  
Golden woodlands now gone from me  
Winding along the river of indolence  
With no dome of innocence above,  
Swept along against the current  
A stronger current that takes hold of me  
Pleasing me to my very core  
Pleasure turns to innocence  
Love turns to insurgency  
Rebellion turns to passion  
I ran, aimless  
As a breeze from North to South  
East to West  
I faded away, I came back strong  
I crossed mountains, rivers and lakes,  
Love came and love went  
I asked for love and I implored for love  
Until there was nothing left of me  
Amidst volcanoes, meadows  
In the depth of the oceans  
Love, behind a blue mask, passed me by.*  
**Translation Lorna Shaughnessy**

# 60 Trácht

## Afghanistan Diary 1880



*Extracts from the diary of Henry Francis Brooke, of County Fermanagh, my great-great-grandfather, from 1880 during the 2nd Afghan War.*

### **2nd April**

Almost nothing required by the European troops are to be got in Afghanistan, which renders a war such as we are now engaged in a fearfully difficult and expensive matter. Transport animals are in thousands - camels, horses, bullocks, ponies and donkeys. Beside these, some 3,000 cavalry and artillery horses and about 1000 horses, the properties of officers, to be fed every day.

### **11th April**

Into Quetta. Houses after the English fashion have sprung up. The Civil Authorities, of course, say the people like our Administration, but I doubt it, as they are a very independent lot, and prefer, I think, injustice and oppression from their own people than justice and order after an English pattern.

The Chief Administrator is a great supporter of pushing forward our frontier into Afghanistan and interfering in the internal arrangements of that country. I think we have gone much too far in that direction.

### **22nd April**

In the distance, the grey mud walls of Kandahar. In many shops cheap Birmingham and Manchester goods are exposed for sale. We cannot go into shops, as the people have a nasty trick of watching till a person is

busy looking then coming up quickly and stabbing one in the back. Fine handsome men. No women are ever seen, except very old ones, and even they generally wear the Yashmak or veil. Lieutenant Willis of the Artillery was murdered in broad daylight by a Ghazi. The Ghazis are fanatical Mohammedans who bind themselves by vows to kill one or more of the infidels (that is us) and thereby earn a positive certainty of going straight to heaven. They are perfectly indifferent as to whether they lose their own lives in the attempt. Real Ghazis never use fire-arms, only swords or long Afghan knives and always try for a personal hand-to-hand encounter. Everyone carries loaded revolvers. The soldiers have to fix their bayonets and altogether we live in a regular state of siege.

### **Sun 25th April**

Service in the open. The men are formed up three sides of a square - a pile of drums acts as reading desk and pulpit. Everyone is fully armed ready for business at a moment's notice.

### **26th May**

Another attempt by a Ghazi to earn Martyrdom. He was brought in a prisoner. He said he had sold his cow to buy a sword and was very sorry he had not killed the infidel. He was handed over for immediate

execution and he accepted his fate with the most perfect coolness.

### **7th June**

The last idea the Ghazis have taken up is to send quite young boys to make the attack as naturally men hesitate to deal out summary justice, even in self defense, on a child.

### **11th June**

The heat is very much greater these last few days. On one occasion 124 (F) in the shade.

### **30th June**

Ayoub Khan has, it is said, about 10 times a larger force than we have. It is thought by the Political People he will endeavour to come to terms with us, put in his claim for the Amirship and say he does not want to fight. The Viceroy has ordered up another complete Brigade from the reserves.

### **5th July**

Infantry Brigade marched this morning. For the extra Ammunition alone, there were 250 ponies and bullocks.

### **11th July**

Endeavouring to make Citadel safe. General Stewart set his face against any Military Precautions, 'as the people were friendly to us'. The whole position is, strictly speaking, untenable.

**13th July**

Much excitement in the city, and the merchant, jewellers etc. are hiding and burying their property, which means they don't believe in our power to defend the city.

**15th July**

News arrived from the Wali. The whole of his army left him taking with them the battery of guns our Government had been so idiotic to give him. As there is a large number of evilly-disposed men in the city we moved two 40-pounder guns in position to shell the city. The great objection to returning fire in a street, it is always the unfortunate children and women who suffer, and not the men who deserve it.

**28th July**

Was woke at 1.30am. Information of the total annihilation of General Burrows' force. A great battle had been fought the previous day; after holding out for 5 hours under a terrible fire the whole force had been broken up and taken

to flight. Both Generals were said to be dead. Enough to shock the stoutest hearts and nerves. As we left camp we began to meet fugitives, a more terrible sight I never witnessed. All organization and discipline gone, each man, European or native, careful of nothing but getting into safety. Since 4pm the previous day marching with a cruel enemy on all sides, shooting and stabbing every man who, too wearied to drag on, sat down for a moment's rest. In the whole distance of 50 miles, they had found water only twice. I have never seen the retreat of a panic stricken military force before. This retreat excelled in terror any than I ever read of. Each inch of the road, until they met my little force, had to be fought for against a set of blood thirsty savages, sooner than fall in whose hands, several men shot themselves.

Almost last of all came poor Burrows himself, who completely broke down when he saw me and could not say a word. I made him get off his horse and take a little whiskey

and soon he was more composed. At 7pm I followed the last of the force into the citadel and shut the gates. And so began a fresh act of this extremely painful drama.

**3rd Aug**

My birthday; 44 today. I could not help thinking much of all the dear ones at home, and feeling sure I would not be forgotten on this day especially. I have a camp bed up on the walls. No one undresses, and sleep is taken in small snatches.

*The diary ends on 11 Aug. On 16 August, Henry Francis Brooke was killed in the attack on Deh Kojah. On 25th August his body was recovered and buried under a peepal tree. On 31st August Sir F. Roberts marched into Kandahar and raised the siege. In 1881, the British Army left Afghanistan never to return until the present time when there are again British and Irish forces in that country.*

**Roger Philimore**

## COLM MACEOIN & CO S O L I C I T O R S

Main Street, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 776384 Fax: 091 776385 Email: info@cmaceoinsolrs.ie



*"For a Complete Legal Service"*



- CONVEYANCING • PERSONAL INJURIES • CRIMINAL LAW •
- WILLS AND PROBATE • FAMILY LAW • EMPLOYMENT LAW •

**COLM MACEOIN B.A.**

# Sojourn in The Land of the Bible

HAVING LIVED ALL MY LIFE in this country, it was nice to get the opportunity to spend a few months in Jerusalem in the Spring of 2001. I was part of a class of about 60 people from many different countries all over the world. We took a course in the study of the Bible and this included field trips to various biblical places of interest especially those mentioned in the scriptures.

Israel is a fairly small country now – about the size of Munster. The Sinai is part of Egypt and so a day's journey would take you to anywhere within the country. A troubled country it is as we know from the news. One very noticeable thing was the number of young army personnel. They were everywhere in droves around Jerusalem, on the streets, on the buses and most of them carried guns. Only very rarely did we see them called into action, but their presence was a deterrent, I'm sure. The cost of running such an army must be a huge financial burden on the sate of Israel.

In Jerusalem, the Holy City, there are two cities, really, the old and the new. The new is like any modern city, shops, office blocks and lots of traffic. The old city is the interesting place and this is where we lived. It is a walled city built on a hill. There is no traffic in most of it for nearly all the streets are stepped in cobblestone and they are very narrow. Just walk around and admire the many, many shops and stalls. The study of the various kinds of dress, expressions and behaviour is an occupation in itself. If you shop there you had better know the value of things. Even the most wary get fooled. We were told not to buy anything for at least two weeks.

## Way of the Cross

In the cellar of the house where

we lived was the 'Lithostrotos' which is mentioned in Scripture. This was on the Via Dolorosa – Way of Sorrows – which ultimately led up the hill to Calvary. You would see groups following the way of the Cross, especially on Fridays, for the different stations are marked along the route ending with the Holy Sepulchre. It was thronged during Holy Week, especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The procession with palm branches on Palm Sunday from the Mount of Olives was a most memorable experience – much chanting, singing and waving of branches. The donkey seemed oblivious of it all.

Another memorable experience was the walk on Holy Thursday evening from Gethsemane to the accepted site of the house of Caiphas - the High Priest at the time of the arrest of Jesus. This is also the traditional site of the denial of Peter (Mark14:72). In the crypt of this church are the ancient caves where it is said Christ spent the night before being brought to Pontius Pilate.

## An embracing city

Jerusalem has a lure about it. The walls of the old city enclose without dominating, limit but do not define. The impression of strength is an illusion, for the city is not a fortress and its walls are not a barrier but a kind of veil. The visitor is drawn towards it, challenged and finally embraced. There are seven distinct gates on the Old City wall, each bearing a particular name: St. Stephen's; Herod's; Damascus; New; Jaffa; Sion; Dung Gate. The three great religions of the world converge within the Old City walls – Christian, Muslim and Jewish.

There are four quarters within the Old City: Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Armenian, but there is no difficulty in

travelling from one area to another. One other place of special interest located within the Jewish quarter is the Western Wall or Wailing Wall as it was once known. It is, in fact, the remaining piece of wall of the first temple which was destroyed by the Romans. It is a sacred place for the Jews where they pray bobbing the head and upper body down and up in repeated motion, lamenting the passing of the temple. They come there in droves, some wearing prayer shawls but nearly all bearing the distinctive Jewish look with long locks and little small caps. There is a strict segregation of the sexes at the wall. It is quite amusing and entertaining to watch their antics as they gather in large numbers every evening, but especially on Fridays – the eve of the Sabbath.

## Much to offer

Israel has many interesting places for the tourist. The district known as Gallilee in the North is the most fertile and attractive region of Israel. They cultivate the fruits there, mainly grapes, oranges and olives. They grow a lot of vegetables and corn also. Olive Oil is one of their greatest exports. The Sea of Gallilee is probably the greatest tourist attraction after Jerusalem. The fish there are called Peter fish and we know why. They are lovely to eat in fact. The lake is surrounded on the North and East by elevated land that affords stunning views. Indeed the Golan Heights are surrounding it and we remember when our troops were on peace-keeping duty there.

If you live in a Muslim country, expect to be awoken at day break for the first call to prayer. We tried various methods ranging from ear plugs to cotton wool, but all to no avail. Total deafness would be the only way out.

**Fr. Frank Larkin**

## Elly McCooke:

### Last of Kinvara's native Irish speakers



Photo: Veronica Nicholson

ELLY MC COOKE'S death is an historic milestone in the history of Kinvara. She was the last native Irish speaker in the parish but, happily for her community, she passed on a wealth of songs, proverbs, prayers and riddles in our native language. She composed 'agallaimh beirte' (dramatic dialogues) with the late Pádraig Mac Conmara of Erris in Co. Mayo, who lived in Mountscribe, and they performed them to acclaim in venues in Conamara. Eibhlín absorbed the values, depth and wisdom of her heritage. Yet she never advanced in school beyond the primary level. Her knowledge, deep Christianity and genuine interest in others have humbled many 'better-educated' people who have met her.

In more recent times she participated in concerts hosted during Cruinniú na mBád festivals by An t-Amhrán Beo. Two years ago, Professor Joe Watson of U.C.D. launched a collection of her songs and stories compiled by Caoilte Breatnach. But she will be remembered, above everything else, for her kindness to friends and strangers alike, for her pride in her heritage, for her Christian values and for the joyful sharing of her wisdom, knowledge and creativity.

And she was a patriotic woman, devoted and loyal to De Valera and

his political party. Her patriotism sprung from a genuine love of her country and her heritage and had nothing to do with the hope of rewards which some others hope to gain from 'involvement'. Such cynicism was something Eibhlín could not abide or understand.

Elly often recited the following beautiful (pre-journey) prayers. 'Paidir roimh Aistear' she called each of them.

In ainm an Athar le bua,  
Agus an Mhic a d'fhulaing an phian,  
Muire agus a Mac  
Go raibh liom ar mo thriall

Cuirfidh mise mo mhúinín agus mo dhóchas as Mac Dé,  
As na trí Aspail Aingli órtha;  
Is mó sin agus is cumhachtaí i gCathair na Glóire;

Ag iarraidh ar Dhia agus an Mhaighdean Ghlórmhar  
Mé a chumhdach, mé a choimeád agus mé a shábháil,  
Agus mé a thabhairt slán,  
Gach uile bóthar agus bealach dá ngabhfaidh mé.

Ar dhúirt Eibhlín na paidreacha sin sul ar cailleadh í ar 29 Nollaig na bliana seo caite? Is ag Dia amháin atá a fhios sin. Ach bheadh na paidreacha sin, agus paidreacha eile, ag dul trína ceann an fhaid is bhí ciall agus réasún aici. 'Sé is dóichí go raibh sí ullmhaithe don turas do na Flaithis le tamall fada sular tharraing sí a hanáil deiridh.

#### A wealth of proverbs and lore

Recalling Eibhlín's 'seanfhocla', prayers, songs and stories gives us an insight into the mind, spirituality and values of a profound and simple, wise and trusting, generous and loving, patriotic, unique individual. The Jansenism and Puritanism which afflicted many Catholics from the nineteenth century and throughout much of the last century was not to be found in her, as evidenced in some of her more ribald songs. Against that was a philosophical outlook on life evidenced in sayings such as the following:-

Is iomaí buachaill, lúfar láidir,  
A chaitheadh claí, sconsa nó bearna,  
'Bheadh ag siúl an tsráid tráthnóna  
Agus a bheadh ag dul faoin bhfód lá arnamhárach.

(There are many strong athletic boys who would jump a wall, a hedge or a gap, who would be found walking on the road in the afternoon and who would be dead the following day.)

Galar agus trí fichead  
'Tá ós cionn an peacach,  
Ó rugadh é go dté sé i dtalamh;  
Agus níl fhios cé'n ceann acu a thabharfas chun an reilg é.

(Every sinner will experience sixty one illnesses, and no one knows which one of them will be responsible for his going to the grave).

An té nár mhúin Dia ná an duine,  
múinfidh an saol é.

(The person who will not be led by God or man, will learn the lesson from life).

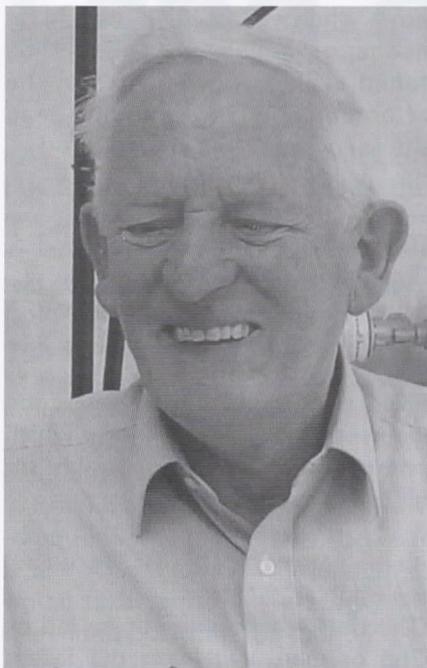
Ní rachaidh an fial go hifreann go rachaidh grian go grinneal.

(Ere a generous person goes to hell, the sun will sink to the floor of the sea).

The Scoil Éigse in Doorus in which Elly participated until the early 1970s came together to exchange their stories, recall their shared history, remind one another of the songs, proverbs and customs which were once an integral part of life in this area. We remember these custodians of our language and heritage with pride:- Micheál Ó Cuinn (mar aon le Nóra agus Bridie), Seán Mac Gloinn, Micheal Ó Maoldomhnaigh, Caitlín Ní Fhearghail, Peadar Ó Mocháin, Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin, Pádraig Ó hEidhin, Pádraig Ó Cuaigh, Pádraig Ó Conchubhair, Máirtín Ó Maonaigh, Liam Ó Caomhánaigh, Tomás Ó Lionnáin, Micheál Ó Lionnáin. Go gcúití Dia a saothar leo uilg.

Eibhlín's death has left our community much poorer for her passing. But we can gain inspiration from her life, her idealism and her love and warmth for others, especially, but not only, her family.

# Toddie Byrne



TODDIE BYRNE, who passed away on April 6th was a friend to everyone, a benefactor of many worthwhile causes, a wise counsellor, and a committed community worker. His community, in all its aspects, was his life. He was, above all, a man who loved his family and who, with Gráinne, raised his children to have the same spirit of service and friendship to others which imbued his life.

Toddie trained as a teacher and after a brief spell in County Mayo, he was appointed principal of Killomorón National School. He was an active member of Kinvara G.A.A. and the local guild of Muintir na Tíre. He worked tirelessly with others to raise funds to buy and develop the land on which Faiche Pádraig, the Kinvara hurling pitch, now stands. The annual marquee dancing carnival was the main fundraiser and this entailed working at least three nights a week at many different tasks to ensure its success.

An accomplished hurler, Toddie's greatest satisfaction was in promoting the game, at all levels. He held many positions in Kinvara Hurling Club and at county level, and became president of the County Board in 2005.

## Tireless worker

At a time of widespread emigration and unemployment, a Handcraft Cooperative was formed in Kinvara. Toddie took a risk in leaving his permanent teaching position to be its full-time manager. It soon proved an outstanding success, becoming a sizeable export business in knitted garments, crystal and other handcrafts, and in supplying other enterprises. It supplied fertilisers and seeds to the farming community, opened a boatyard where boats were built and repaired and a building unit was also established. After a period, Toddie returned to his chosen profession and succeeded the late Kieran Moylan as principal of Doorus National School.

Toddie's vision extended beyond his immediate community, and he stood as a candidate for Galway County Council. He succeeded on his first attempt, and became its first Fine Gael chairman in 1980. Diligent and wise in his judgments, he was highly thought of by members of all political parties. He served on many committees, including the County Galway Vocational Education Committee, which he chaired for a number of years. He was also chairman of the Board of Management of Gort Community School and always was available to its principal and Board to help in whatever way he could. For the past few years he was chairman of Mervue N.S. Board of Management.

Toddie stood for the Dáil on a number of occasions but the geographical location militated against him. He was successful, however, in being elected to Seanad Éireann on two occasions, on the Labour panel.

## Commitment to community

Toddie will be remembered, above all, for his total and committed involvement in many areas of community life in Kinvara. He was active in the Community Council and

worked hard to have the Community Centre built in 1979. He helped with Community Games, Tidy Towns, Social Services and many other projects. He promoted swimming through his sponsorship of the Green Island Swim. He also supported Cruinniú na mBád and was its treasurer for a number of years.

He delighted audiences in the Community Centre with his many roles in dramas and concerts. His sense of community is summed up in a line which he had in the most celebrated play created and produced in Kinvara, *Manu – The Ballad of Kilmarrach*: "You're one of us now, Miss. No more strangers now."

## Credit Union

Toddie became a major driving force in the development of the local credit union, established in 1992 by Kinvara Community Council. As treasurer he helped lay the foundation for its impressive growth. He resigned in 2004 but continued as an active member of the Credit Committee, serving right up to a week before his death.

Toddie's love of the history and heritage of his community is evident from the various articles he submitted over the years for *Trácht* magazine. It is regrettable that he did not live to see the publication of his major work on the history of Kinvara G.A.A. Due out later this year, it will give satisfaction and happiness to many.

An avid gardener, Toddie took a justifiable pride in his beautiful garden. He will also be missed in Tully's, where he regaled all with his banter or with a rendition of such songs as *The Ould Plaid Shawl*. He was a good listener, a great friend. He could be a formidable adversary but never held a grudge. The mark of a truly great man. None realise this more than his loving wife Gráinne, his six sons, two daughters and his 10 grandchildren. *Criostaí amach is amach ab ea é. I measc na naomh go raibh sé.*

# Mikey Flanagan



MIKE FLANAGAN of Ballyclera village passed away on 1 October 2004 to the great loss of his beloved niece Mamie Linnane and other relatives and friends. Everyone knew him and wherever he came, he drew a crowd who enjoyed his good nature, yarns and songs. His door was always open for the chat and he could discuss farming, politics and other issues with the best. Liz Forde who grew up near Mikey fondly remembers "how his mind was as busy as his generous hands were in giving

the lovingly grown produce of his garden. He was born and bred in Ballyclera, the son of Mary Joyce and James Flanagan. He had two brothers, John and Patrick, and a sister Mary Kate; all predeceased him. The following poem explores the fondness we all had for Mikey Joe and his many talents including his love for singing.

Michael Joseph Flanagan born 4<sup>th</sup> May 1921, "gone to the headland" on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

## Hearth and Home

(for Mikey Flanagan)

Every time I see a log fire this Fall in Michigan,  
I see your face Mikey Flanagan and we're back  
beside the hearth in Ballyclera where you brought me in.  
"We never got the range in," you explain,  
as though the range was just a recent fashion.  
The fire was on the floor where it had always been,  
harmonious with the old ways and practical too.  
"I like to put big branches on, it saves the saw blade."

Over here I measure every lit hearth  
against that cheery Ballyclera blaze.  
I wonder why it's you I grieve so far away?  
Didn't we send you off just nicely in the cold October  
rain?  
A throng of friendly neighbours, niece and cousins.  
Wasn't there even music at the grave?  
A soft air on the flute and a farewell song  
for a man who loved to sing himself.  
Though we didn't brave the soaking I admit.  
"We'll not see their like again"- truly spoken  
by Frank the parish priest in the Gaelic tongue.  
Somehow that was not enough.  
I seem to have you with me on this trip.

It must be the story that you told that day  
of your brother Patrick's card one Christmastime  
sent from Southampton and sailing for New York.  
That was the last you heard of him,  
save some sketchy news that filtered back,  
some injury sustained while driving.  
How he fared, how long he lived,  
you never knew, but reckoned he'd be gone by now.  
Curiosity to know his fate must oftentimes have crossed  
your mind.

And how you know we're here I cannot guess.  
I avoided calling up those last few weeks.  
"Brave Injun" that you were,

I knew you'd see the summer out.  
But there might not have been much to laugh about  
and you were a man that liked to laugh.  
Still I feel your presence everywhere,  
so take a peep at where your brother might have come  
and see if you did not have the better share.

The farm in the village with its garden  
for the cabbage and the spuds, the cattle,  
and the little hills covered with thorn,  
and spread with rock flowers and white bloom in the spring.  
And never one day the same as the last.  
The singing in the bars  
and the walk home to bed at all hours  
until the road got busy only in the last few years.  
The friendships old and new,  
and no time wasted on quarrels.  
The farming life, the single life,  
it didn't suit them all, but it suited you  
I see again the door thrown open wide,  
the welcome shouted when you heard the step  
upon the threshold "Come in, come in".  
Those magic words that kept you sane  
and kept the world's traffic to your door.

Where Patrick's days were ended,  
none of us now know.  
Could be here on Irish Row, Roscommon County  
beside Lake Michigan,  
where the South Ausable river winds through stunted pine,  
where winter has a five month frozen spell,  
and no horizon's ever seen.  
Enough to know that you had the better deal.  
Through these shared eyes we prove the test.  
Rest now old Mikey, I'll warm the memory  
at every hearth aflame.

**Roger Phillimore**

# 66 Trácht

## Donough Forde



**D O N O U G H FORDE** is remembered as a great vet who was committed in an extraordinary way to helping the farmers of the area. His courtesy and

kindness left a lasting impression on all he met. He endeared himself to everyone – his clients, their families, the company he met when socialising.

Donough was born in Braide, Ballymena, County Antrim, one of a family of five children whose parents were highly thought of as teachers by both the Protestant and Catholic communities. His secondary schooling was at St. Malachy's College, Belfast. He studied

veterinary medicine at U.C.D., as did his bother, Liam, who pre-deceased him. While there, Donough won a county club championship medal with Clann na nGael and came to the attention of the Dublin senior football selectors. After playing for a year with the Dubs he was called upon by his native county. He won a county championship medal there, also, with Éire Óg, and for the following four years he gave sterling county service, and he was on the last Antrim team to win the Ulster championship, in 1951. He was to win another provincial title when he was selected on the Galway intermediate hurling team which won the Munster championship in 1962, but which lost out narrowly in the all-Ireland final. For Kinvara, he played both hurling and football with distinction. He also played with Fr. Griffin's senior football team in Galway city.

Donough excelled at every sport in which he participated. He was intervarsity middleweight boxing champion for two years running and in 1949 he was the Irish Decathlon Champion. Following his qualification in 1951, Donough worked in England, Achill, Loughrea and Gort, before setting up his own practice in Kinvara. He was the first vet to be based in Kinvara and the farming community quickly adopted him as their own. His care and advice, given at all hours of the day and night, contributed in no small way to the improvement of animal welfare and standards. He retired in 1998.

A remarkable man, Donough was a great vet, convivial company, a devoted husband, a loving father. He is missed by his loving wife, Phyllis, by his sons, Seán and Donough, his daughters, Róisín and Siobhán and by his many admiring grandchildren.

## Sr. Laurence Treacy

**WIDESPREAD SHOCK AND SORROW** followed the unexpected death of Sr. Laurence. She had spent her whole life as a teacher and principal in Kinvara and she became a fully integrated and committed person in the wider community.

Born in 1929, she was reared on a farm in Scariff, with her two sisters and three brothers and was sent as a boarder to St. Joseph's Secondary School in Gort. On completing her Leaving Certificate she joined the Mercy Sisters. Some years later she



received her teacher training in Sion Hill Training College, Dublin. On qualifying as a teacher she was sent to Seamount where she spent her entire career. During the last 10 years of her life (in 'retirement'!) she was as committed as ever to education, to the Mercy ethos and success of Seamount College and to her work on its Board of Management. Her total commitment was evident in her teaching, in her management and in her perfectionism in all work, including cooking, sweeping, or washing and cleaning.

Sr. Laurence saw three generations go through Seamount. She knew all the pupils and their parents by name. She was considered strict but fair and always approachable.

She was good company and enjoyed a well-told story or a joke. She got great satisfaction from her embroidery, tapestry, cooking, gardening and art. She was an avid fan of the Clare hurling team and she enjoyed traveling to matches in Limerick, Thurles and Dublin. The first pages she read in the 'Clare

Champion' every week were the sports pages!

Sr. Laurence did not confine herself to the convent and education. She was a very active member of the community, involved in various committees and projects. She was active on the Community Council and gave great help in raising funds to build the Community Centre in the late 'seventies. She visited people in their homes and gave moral and practical support to families in difficulties. After retirement she visited the nursing home in Cloughballymore about three times a week, where she knew all the residents by name.

Kinvara and other communities throughout Ireland have been rehabilitated, educated and enriched by having religious such as the Mercy Sisters. The lifelong and dedicated commitment of persons such as Sr. Laurence Treacy should never be forgotten. May she and all the Mercy sisters who served in Kinvara know eternal thanks in Heaven and in the community they faithfully served.

# Tommy Corless, Dunguaire



ANYONE who ever met Tommy was impressed by his quiet wit, sense of humour, his friendliness and determination to help. When one got to know him

better his sense of duty, shown in his punctuality and reliability, allied to his commitment to his religious observance, proved there was a depth and strength in his character which is not common in society.

He was born in 1935, the eldest of eight children, two of whom

died in childhood. His father was Thomas Corless of Mountscribe and his mother was Mary Burns, an Irish speaker from Glenina. The family lived in the village of Dunguaire.

When he left school, Tommy worked as a helper to Tom Quinn, a haulier in Kilcolgan, and after some years, began driving the truck. After his employer died, 30 years ago, he bought his own lorry. Until last year, he served his community through carrying seaweed to Conamara and Kilrush, bringing turf to Kinvara, cattle to and from the marts in Gort and other places and carrying various other commodities, including builders' sand, cement blocks, potatoes, etc. Tommy was well-

known for his careful driving and his courtesy on the road.

He married Nora Lyons of Toureen and they had four children, Edward, Kevin, Doreen, and Majella and he was the proud grandfather of Kilian who is said to bear a remarkable resemblance to him. He was a great friend and neighbour. He enjoyed visiting and he brought happiness and good humour into every house he entered.

Tommy was diagnosed as having lung cancer about a year and a half ago. He accepted his condition in a truly Christian manner and he was an outstanding support to friends and acquaintances visited with the same disease. He died on 27th January 2006, and may he rest in peace.

## Deaths:

### 2003

*March*

Michael McNerney

*April*

Mary McNerney

*May*

Breda Mara

*June*

Marty Fallon

*July*

Peggy Nolan

*September*

Mary Kate Brann

Paddy O'Loughlin

Mattie Quinn

Martin Brann

Kathleen

O'Donoghue

*October*

Danny Fordham

John Leech

*November*

Peter Callanan

Martin Linnane

David Callanan

*December*

Thomas Ryan

### 2004

*January*

Kathleen Farrell

Frank Fahy

Ellen Fahy

*February*

Agnes O'Connor

Bridget Quinn

*April*

James Ralph

Norah Bligh

*May*

Estie Sexton

*July*

Martin Kelly

Peter St George

Gerry Donohue

Paddy Flatley

*August*

Jim Hehir

Michael Mahon

*November*

Ambrose McNulty

*October*

Michael Flanagan

*December*

Tom Bohannon

### 2005

*January*

Raymond Monahan

Johnny Sullivan

*February*

John Paul O'Connor

*March*

Angela Callanan

*April*

Paddy Fallon

*May*

Desmond O'Moore

*August*

Sr. Laurence Treacy

*September*

Patrick Halvey

Sean Kelly

*October*

Elisabeth Connolly

*December*

Evelyn McCooke

### 2006

*January*

Tommy Corless

*February*

Michael O'Loughlin

*March*

Donagh Forde

Patrick Mulkerrins

Jim Kelly

Peter Fahy

*April*

Toddie Byrne

## Marriages:

### 2003

*March*

Thomas Webb &

Margaret Sullivan

Kevin Corless &

Caroline Finnegan

*June*

Brian Crossan &

Sharon Tannian

*July*

Kevin Lynam &

Mary J Huban

*August*

Roy Bermingham &

Mary T Assheton

Patrick Huban &

Nicola McCormack

Patrick Conole &

Margaret Quinn

Cilian Roden &

Sabine Springer

*September*

Alan Summers &

Michelle McShane

*October*

Hilary Mulvey &

Kevin Sexton

Philip Arcova &

Karin Conroy

*November*

Michael Kilkelly &

Lisa Kelly

*December*

Richard Cocollas &

Catherine Forde

Gerard O'Donoghue

& Sinead Morgan

### 2004

*February*

Paul Tierney &

Clare Moroney

*April*

David Noone & Edel

Quinn

James O'Grady &

Brid Linnane

Michael Roughan &

Deborah Fahy

*May*

Paul Gunning &

Helen Grant

*June*

Dermot Tynan &

Lara O'Connell

*July*

Kieran Cullinane &

Aileen Forde

Graham Martin &

Aideen Blackwell

Ronald Knott &

Patricia Norton

*August*

Patrick Roberts &

Tara Stynes

**Marriages:**

Cont.

**2004**

September

Paul Brennan & Karina Finn

October

Sandor Pomp & Emer Mary Forde  
Paul Moran & Deirdre Burke  
Dermot Burke & Felicity O'Shea  
Donal Keegan & Amanda Browne

November

Stephen Kennedy & Sheila Fallon

**2005**

January

John Connolly & Pamela Yosh

April

Paul Canning & Josephine Vesey  
Garret Grogan & Rina Keane

July

Niall Jordan & Anna Marie Hynes

August

Kevin Killoran & Cliona Murphy

September

David McGuinness & Niamh Murphy

John Mara & Clare Murphy

October

David Huban & Brid Keane

Michael English & Paula Monaghan

November

Stephen Higgins & Marie Keane

**2006**

February

Peter Parsons & Ann McCormack

**Births:**

**2002**

April

Isabelle Tierney

**2003**

January

Eoin Madden  
Catherine Maddison

Conor O'Dwyer  
Ivan Donnelly-White

March

Gemma Lascarr

April

Evan Deveney  
Aoibhín Twomey

June

Lucy Fitzpatrick

August

Cathal Fordham

September

Niamh Fahy

Caoimhe Fahy

October

Stephen Mahon

December

Alannah Monaghan

**2004**

January

Oisín Ivers

March

Senan Thomas  
O'Connor Dunford

Ella O'Donoghue

May

Holly & Harry Byrne

July

Tara Forde

August

Lorna Bermingham

September

Cara Mongan

October

Liam Maddison

Ethan Sexton

November

Fiona Byrne

Rebecca Monaghan

Niall O'Donoghue

December

Andrea O'Leary

Killian Thomas

Corless

**2005**

January

Cathal Mongan

February

Oisín Cahill  
Jacob Lascarr

Lainey O'Flaherty

March

Mia Conneely

May

Jamie Gunning

June

Lorcan Heavey

April

Rebecca Patterson

July

Kate Madden

Jason Meyler

August

Rhiannon Dalton

Zoe Rodgers

September

Sadhbh Breathnach

November

Cormac Ivers

December

Lara Kilkelly

**2006**

January

Grace Bermingham

February

Osgar Colmán

O'Connor Dunford

March

Ellen Bermingham

# Broadband in Kinvara

BROADBAND has the potential to benefit many areas of our lives both at work and at home. A fast, 'always-on' internet connection provides real advantages, and the internet offers a wide range of opportunities for local communities to support themselves.

Broadband makes the Internet a more satisfying experience, with less waiting and more surfing. Broadband services have the potential to enhance productivity, competitiveness and open new markets. For example, broadband enables delivery of new/ telephone calls (using voice-over-internet-protocol - VOIP) and video on demand services.

## Broadband in Kinvara - Kinvara Group Broadband Society

The Kinvara area had been trying to secure broadband Internet access for a number of years with no real success. Whilst Galway is now spoilt for choice in terms of wholesale bandwidth, it

is not economically viable for any of the wholesale providers to attempt to connect rural communities to their network. The telephony infrastructure does not lend itself to DSL, given the wired distance from the local exchange and the distributed geography of the area. Alternative options such as satellite broadband have met with little success due to the high costs involved and the problems of latency, which makes virtual private networks and voice over IP unusable.

Tired of waiting for a service provider to facilitate broadband in the area, a local group undertook to create a network locally under the Government Group Broadband scheme. This was achieved by creating a co-operative society which utilises technologies such as WiFi to link members' homes and businesses in the area. The Society was formed after an expression of interest towards the end of 2004

following a number of public meetings to gauge local interest. The society's first AGM was held in June 2005 with 49 registered members. The Kinvara Group Broadband Society have utilised wholesale, commercial IP networks using licensed fixed radio access technology in nearby Galway to link to the community-based network for distribution to our subscribers. A significant percentage of the members intend to work from home so latency was a concern in choosing backhaul.

As the infrastructure is still being established, membership is now closed to facilitate connectivity of existing members. Support and maintenance are all carried out on a voluntary basis - this obviously impacts on the speed at which the network can be rolled out, as do the difficulties associated with deploying any new technology.

As this network is entirely owned and supported by co-op members its destiny is controlled locally. For any further information visit [www.kgbb.net](http://www.kgbb.net)

**Enda Morgan**

  
merriman



## **THE QUILTY ROOM RESTAURANT**

**Serves excellent fresh fare every evening, catering for  
small & large parties for all occasions**

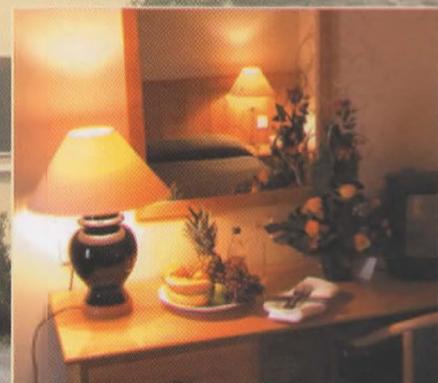
## **M'ASAL BEAG DUBH BAR**

**Bar Food Daily 12.00 - 8.00pm**

**Let us "entertain you" every weekend**

**The best of Local & visiting musicians & singers provide a festival of  
lively entertainment every weekend at the M'Asal Beag Dubh Bar**

**YOUR LOCAL - YOUR CHOICE**



## **THE MERRIMAN INN AND RESTAURANT**

**Kinvara, Co. Galway**

**Phone: 091 638222 - Fax: 091 637686**

**Email: [merrimanhotel@eircom.net](mailto:merrimanhotel@eircom.net)**

**32 En-suite Bedrooms of Comfort and Style**



## Pride of Place award

KINVARA WAS RUNNER-UP in the Co-operation Ireland's Pride of Place Awards in 2005. These awards recognise efforts by communities to create civic pride in their area. Ninety towns and villages from the Republic and Northern Ireland, nominated by their local authority, took part in the competition. Kinvara's award in the small towns category reflected the activities and progress made in Kinvara over the preceding three years.

The judges were given a formal presentation in the boardroom of the Credit Union and then taken on a walk of the village, meeting key people involved in the projects along the way.

Aspects which influenced their decision were community involvement in the new Credit Union building, the restoration of St Coleman's parish church, plans to renovate the Community Centre and to provide crèche facilities. Each judge received samples of local publications and was informed about locally-organised festivals such as the Fleadh in May and Cruinniú in August.

Heritage and art projects included the Town Map and Walking Guide, children's folklore books, the mosaic artwork at the quay, boat information plaques on the pier and the sculpted sailing boat. An overview of the ongoing archaeological work on St Coman's Church and graveyard was also presented.

The schools exhibition and green flags were impressive in creating environmental awareness.

New local initiatives include the provision of a community-based wireless broadband for the town. The Kinvara Bay Sailing Club founded to teach young people to sail also captured the spirit of community. The effort made by the community in creating the Town Plan with County Galway Council was a key factor in presenting a vision of the community's aspiration for the future. This award is a great honour for the town and reflects the huge amount of work done not just by the Community Council, but by a wide range of local people in a number of different projects over the past three years.

**Liz Murphy**

## KINVARA'S FUN RUN

A cuckoo on a bicycle – all the rest on foot  
A motley crowd you might well say, to see them on the route.  
The May weekend is now well known for Kinvara's Music Fest  
The Fleadh's the place to hear great tunes - but Sunday's not for rest!  
Get up, get out! Your runners on – young or not so young.  
At 12 o'clock, sign in to say you'll take part in the 'run'

The children have collected – many adults too –  
Monies paid or promised so the 'Centre' can be good as new.  
The weather makes no difference – better not too hot –  
The run goes on as usual – rain gear on or not!  
Smiling faces, an eager crowd, enthusiastic talk.  
Not feeling fit? No problem, if you can't run – then walk!

Ready now, kids at the front, give everyone a chance!  
Fire the gun, away they go, not a second glance.  
The route's the same – leave the Pier, circumnavigate the town  
10K's the distance, uphill first, some flat and some 'run down'  
A scenic route, it really is - you'll enjoy this lovely place  
As you gather speed or take your time and find your ideal pace.

Encouraging men and women, you'll see along the route.  
Some water will be offered and a juicy wedge of fruit.  
The cuckoo on the bicycle will inevitably appear.  
As you make your way around the course, he'll be bringing up the rear.

Nearly there now, there's the castle coming into view.  
You've done so well, it won't be long – another mile or two.  
The water's on your right now, Seamount on your left.  
No regrets, it's a good cause and you have done your best.

The finishing line is there ahead, who's winner for this year?  
The trophy looks so good to have – the Castle in miniature.  
A lovely souvenir to keep till next year's day of fun.  
But taking part's the important thing  
Enjoy Kinvara's FUN RUN!

**Kathleen Kenny**



L to R: Ronan Keane and Glenn Campbell

# New Burren initiatives

Kinvara is a town with many traits to commend itself to the resident and visitor alike: its music, its culture, its people, its seaside location, and not least its proximity to the internationally renowned Burren region, which provides the town with such a spectacular and intriguing backdrop. While acting as one of the primary entry points to the region for Burren visitors, and one of the main business and shopping centres for Burren residents, Kinvara's association with the Burren remains understated. Two recent initiatives are working to bridge this gap.



THE BURRENBEO PROJECT opened its Burren resource centre and café in Main Street, Kinvara in August 2005. The centre showcases Burren products and services, and offers people – locals and visitors alike – a unique insight into the Burren. It also supports Burrenbeo's key activities of providing information and educational services for the Burren, building on the huge success of its website [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)

## Farming for Conservation

Another new project, 'BurrenLIFE - Farming for Conservation in the Burren' has begun operation from Carron village, a few miles south of Kinvara. Underway since early 2005, the 5-year, EU-funded project is a unique partnership between Burren farmers and agricultural and environmental specialists (Teagasc and the National Parks and Wildlife

Service), aimed at protecting the habitats of the Burren and supporting the farm families who play such a key role in their conservation.

The bread and butter work of the four-member BurrenLIFE project team involves working closely with a number of Burren farmers, exploring ways of refining their farm systems (grazing and feeding regimes) to help protect the habitats on their farms. The impacts of these modified farming practices are closely monitored to determine how they impact not just on the habitats, but on the farmers' time and finances. Other project actions include educational, marketing and promotional initiatives.

The project has generated a lot of interest nationally because of its approach of working hand in hand with farmers, building on their knowledge and ideas rather

than having the audacity to tell them what to do and how to do it. The project also shuns the strictly 'academic' approach in favour of more practically-focussed work. It encourages flexibility of approach, the key to diversity. In an age of regulation and designation, this amounts to a simple, practical, yet innovative approach.

## Agriculture still a key industry

In spite of recent changes, agriculture remains one of the key industries in the hinterland of Kinvara. It is at the very heart of the culture of the Burren, and we now know that it also plays a key role in sustaining the heritage of the area. This is not to mention farming's traditional role in food production – the area is famed for the quality of its beef and lamb – an important resource at a time when avian flu, BSE and the proliferation of GMOs increase public demands for improved 'food security'.

Unfortunately, in the opinion of many experts, the future for our farming industry is bleak. We need to recognise what it is we stand to lose – socially, culturally, and economically – and work to create a sustainable future for our farmers. The rich and diverse habitats and heritage of the Burren provides a unique opportunity in this regard: the BurrenLIFE project hopes to provide the key to unlocking this potential so that the farmers of the Burren and their heritage will be there for the generations of Kinvara residents and visitors to come. More information at [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)

**Brendan Dunford**