

# ΤΡÁĆΤ



Kinvara's Community Magazine 2015

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# EDITORIAL

2008 seems like such a long time ago. A lot of events have occurred locally since then. The last edition of Tracht had a cover which pictured the protests on Seamount College's imminent closure and we are all now happily living the dream that was subsequently realised in the reversal of that closure decision.

Tracht 2015 is a fresh compilation of reviews and updates from local clubs, groups and societies which are the lifeblood of any community coupled with updates on issues that are still present since the last edition. It also contains a fresh mix of short stories and poetry to reflect on the literary skills that abound in Kinvara. The contribution from the local schools in particular shows the talent that exists and bodes well for the future. To those who provided us articles from afar, we thank you. These give a viewpoint from outside local boundaries and happily reflect well on those of us that dwell in Kinvara. The photos of the various events held in the last year portray the vibrancy that exists in our community.

The team would like to thank all those who took the time to submit articles and photos for this edition. It is hoped that the digitalisation of this magazine will make it a lot easier to generate more frequent updates going forward. We are lucky to have a team of people locally who are able to bring their expertise in proof reading, graphic design, editing and many other areas all of which show in the end product.

The team would also like to thank Kinvara Community Council for their assistance in the promotion of the magazine throughout the community. It isn't now that these productions are important. It is in twenty years' time when we look back that the joy of what was going on around us now can again be experienced.

Ar aghaidh le chèile

***Enda Mongan (on behalf of the Editorial team)***

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

# FOREWORD

On behalf of Kinvara Community Council, welcome to the first digital issue of the renowned Tracht Magazine. This is a very exciting development as there are many advantages with this format such as no printing costs, ease of distribution, no overruns but most particularly, a source for the Kinvara diaspora to keep abreast of events back home. I would like to thank all the contributors, the editorial committee and especially Enda Mongan for his suggestion to go digital and his enthusiasm for the magazine.

Since the last publication, some people have left Kinvara to pursue their careers further afield and we wish them well in everything they do. Sadly, others have passed away leaving an indelible mark that Kinvara is all the better for.

Kinvara has a long and fascinating history; it is steeped in folklore, music and art and we are especially blessed with breath-taking scenery that is enriched by the people that call it home. Tracht Magazine serves as an opportunity to record and remind us of this.

In the next edition a special article will be compiled on the 1916 Easter Rising, paying particular attention to the Kinvara area. Should anyone have material they would like to include, please email Eilish Kavanagh at [eilish.kav@gmail.com](mailto:eilish.kav@gmail.com).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.



*John Mulleady*  
*Chairman, Kinvara Community Council*

TRÁCHT  
2015

## SEAMOUNT COLLEGE KINVARA

### *How quickly time moves on....*

The current cohort of 380 students are barely aware of the turbulent years and the tremendous efforts that were made to save their school. All through the time of the campaign to save Seamount College the emphasis within the school remained on teaching and learning, ensuring that each child got every chance to be the best that they can be. This emphasis remains and is now offered to the girls and the boys of Kinvara and South Galway.

Often in life it is when we are about to lose something that we realise its value. The announcement of the imminent closure of Seamount College brought with it a massive out-pouring of support for maintaining our local school. This support organised itself into a pro-active campaign which set out its aim and followed through cementing in place the future of second level education in Kinvara. The RESCU campaign left no-one in doubt about the need for a second level facility in the area.



The Sisters of Mercy's decision to leave Kinvara remained resolute and in order to keep the school open and in compliance with the Education Act, a new Patron was needed. Thankfully, the Bishop of Galway agreed to take on the Trusteeship of Seamount College as a Diocesan school and we've never looked back!

The convent building closed in February 2010 when the three remaining sisters, Sr. Berchmans, Sr.

Caoimhín and Sr. Pius, R.I.P. left Seamount College ending a long association and a legacy of service. We miss them dearly.

To cater for our growing school population and to continue as a provider of educational service, investment was needed to increase accommodation and improve facilities. The convent building was a major addition but needed remodelling and renovation. We had relied heavily on our local political representatives to keep Seamount College open and now again we needed their help to fund the necessary changes and additions. We were not let down, and the political will shown to the advancement of education in this area of South Galway has been encouraging from all political parties.

Over €1 million has been invested in the school in the past five years and we have achieved major refurbishment. Our young people now learn in a new science lab, technical graphics room, computer lab, music room and in new general classrooms. The former building has been upgraded and a new toilet block has been constructed.



Over the summer of 2015 work began on the development of two training pitches on school grounds as well as a running track and a ball wall. We look forward to using the new pitch in spring 2016. This development makes full use of the school grounds as well as giving suitable training space to the wide variety of sports enjoyed by our students.

The work is ongoing and the Board of Management work hard to make improvements every year. Our schools are dynamic places which need to be maintained and enhanced both structurally and technically. More accommodation will be needed to cater for the large numbers presently attending our national schools.

All that we do in Seamount College we do in the spirit of being a Catholic school and in compliance with our mission statement: 'to provide with the support of parents, a holistic, Christian education in a caring and respectful environment where

teaching and learning lead to the development of the full potential of each individual in the school community'.

Any school is only as good as the teachers who teach in it. Our teachers are dedicated and professional and continually upskill themselves to give an excellent service to those they teach. Our students remember how we make them feel much more than what we teach them and we work hard to get to know the person so that they leave us well prepared for the world with an inner self worth and confidence.

We are deeply thankful to all in our local community for their continued support. We are blessed to be working and learning in this beautiful part of the world. Time will move on for all of us here too but what will continue will be the strong tradition of educational excellence associated with Kinvara.

Maighr ad Mhic Dhomhnaill

Samhain 2015



## ALL IRELAND JUNIOR C CHAMPIONS 2012



**Front Row (L-R)** Eimear Costello, Eve Moloney, Sinéad Keane, Sarah Kearney, Cliona Kealy, Allannah Donohue, Jenny O' Dea, Keelin O' Grady, Elaine Kennedy, Carrie Dolan, Tara Bermingham, Ciara Keane, Avril McHugh

**Back Row (L-R)** Anna Whelan, Ciara Drony, Ciara Helebert, Siobhán Connolly, Eleanor Stafford, Ciara Murphy, Eva Dolan, Kaley Comyn, Simone Hanbury, Katie McMahon, Clíodhna Walsh, Emma Helebert, Lisa Casserly, Megan Carr (Captain), Niamh Murphy, Siobhán Quirke, Nicole Brennan

## ALL IRELAND JUNIOR B CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2015



**Front Row (L-R)** Méabh de Courcy MacDonnell, Leah O' Connor, Saoirse Bourke, Amy McGourty, Sinéad Keane, Amy Helebert, Carrie Dolan (Captain), Ciara Keane, Néamh Keane, Georgina McDonagh, Kristine Shiels

**Middle Row (L-R)** Fionán Cuddy, Michaela Austin, Lisa Killoran, Maria Quinn, Brohwyn Brennan, Ruth Foy, Hazel Lane, Fiona Ryan, Rachel Helebert, Ciara Molloy, Maria Tarpey, Muireann Fordham, Róisín Callanan

**Back Row (L-R)** Maighréad Mhic Dhomhnaill, Muireann Faherty, Grace Finnerty, Megan Molloy, Ciara Drony, Leanne Helebert, Tara Bermingham, Eve Moloney, Dearbhaile Walshe, Ciara Helebert, Louise Finnerty, Allannah Glynn, Maria Lynch

**Missing from photo:** Áine Kilkelly

## FIRST YEAR FAI CUP ALL IRELAND FINALISTS 2015



**Back Row (Left to Right):** Oran Frawley, Conail Larrisey, Brendan Linnane, Tom Brennan, Dónal Mulligan and Eoghan Hanley.

**Middle Row (Left to Right):** Lorna Creaven (coach), Cian Morgan, Cáelán Flynn, Dean Ivers, Joey Droney, Barry Britton, Ciarán Mellick and Maighrhead Mhic Domhnaill (Principal).

**Front Row (Left to Right):** Tuan O'Malley, Daire Murphy, Michael Corless, Ruairí MacSweeney (Captain), Jack Bourke, Danny Travis and Dónal Keely



# KINVARA SEWERAGE

By Joe Byrne

As a young graduate Civil Engineer back in 1986, I was employed in the Sanitary Services Section of Galway County Council. I spent some days in Kinvara doing a survey on the existing Kinvara Sewerage scheme manholes, as plans were then afoot to provide a new scheme which would treat the effluent rather than discharging in to the sea. I remember fondly the attendance by local Council men, Joe Keane and Bill Sullivan. At that stage, the effects of waste discharge in to the harbour was beginning to tell. I suppose ten years previous and to this day the community of Kinvara have made every effort, including the infamous mooring of a loo out on the bay, to convince Government after Government to address our sewerage problem.

Now, twenty nine years on from my time as a young Engineer, tenders have been returned and on 6th November 2015 the contract was signed with Response Engineering to deliver the Waste Water Treatment Plant aspect of the project. It is expected that the Network project will be signed before the end of November 2015.

I look forward to a clean harbour and as was in my childhood, children and adults alike using the natural facility for water sports like swimming and sailing. For those of my vintage and older reared in Kinvara, the Quay area was a very integral part of our youth. Who forgets the annual swimming galas, the diving for dishes (you could see clearly the sea bed), the greasy pole and the Green Island Swim? Of course the seagulls will have to find another source of 'food' and that will be welcome. The new sewage treatment plant will bring to an end the long suffering and at times fruitless protests of the Kinvara people to rid our beautiful harbour of raw effluent.

## THEY SAY IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SOLVE A PROBLEM.

Since 1986, the population of Kinvara has grown at thankfully a controlled rate. St. Joseph's National School had 165 students back then and today it is bursting at the seams with over 330 pupils. Seamount College is now a very successful co-ed secondary school heading towards four hundred students. There are over two hundred people employed in our village through education, retail and many very successful small to medium sized businesses. Houses are at a premium and we have a potentially thriving tourism sector – yet another good reason why we need a treatment system – so that we don't display raw sewage to our visitors on the Wild Atlantic Way.

## SO WHAT WILL THE NEW SCHEME INVOLVE?

In summary, it consists of a Scheme to provide Kinvara with a new Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), a new treated effluent outfall to Kinvara Bay at Ballybrannagan, installation of new sewers to convey the waste water to the WWTP and to undertake rehabilitation works on the existing sewers, primarily along Main Street.



## NEW WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ( WWTP)

- Construction of new WWTP with marine outfall to sea, located at Ballybrannagan.
- The WWT Plant is designed to cater for population equivalent of 1300 with additional capacity during peak summer tourist season.
- At this juncture one must thank the cooperation of the residents and landowners in Ballybrannagan, who embraced the compulsory purchase order process and ensured there would be no further delay.

## COLLECTION NETWORK

- Nine hundred linear metres of gravity sewer from the Gort Road, along the Quay to the WWTP location (note that additional funding has been secured to connect the estates of Cuan an Oirr, Bothar na Mias, Dungaíre Haven, Ard Ui Mhuilinn and Nuns Orchard. This work may be tendered separately).
- Major rehabilitation of existing sewers.
- Change of some of existing combined sewers in the Quay area to surface water sewers.

- Overlay of all road network where new network is laid (primarily the Quay area towards Delamaine Lodge).

## PROGRAMME

- Commence on site early 2016 with completion of the WWTP early 2017. The Network contract will work in tandem with same.

## COST

- In the region of €5m

So after forty years of protesting, making representations and many failed promises, we look forward to a clean harbour with clear water where perhaps we can, as we did in our childhood, watch sea creatures like crabs, eels, pollock and even the odd salmon that used come in for the fresh underground water. The days of the Kinvara Swimming Gala, greasy pole contest and the diving for saucers might return to their former glory.

Finally, on completion of the sewerage network we can then proceed to rehabilitate our footpaths and roads, including carrying out safety measures to address children's and adults' concerns like crossing our busy Main Street, not to mention providing universal access for all people with disabilities.



## WAS DOORUS AN ISLAND?

*By Rodger Philimore, Cilian Roden and Sabine Springer*

From earliest times, Doorus seems to have been a separate community and parish from Kinvara, its neighbour to the south east, even back to the time when each district had a resident saint; Breacan of Doorus and Colman of Kinvara. There is a strong local tradition that this distinction was based on a geographical reality that in fact, Doorus was once an island. This tradition is explored by Korff and O'Connell (1985) who pointed out that a French marine chart from the late 17th century shows Doorus as an island called "Isle de Borin", while the much later Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of 1837, explicitly stated that at least part of Doorus was "a small fertile island close to the shore". Yet the present day resident or visitor who drives from Trácht Beach to Kinvara has no awareness of a sea crossing as part of their journey. How is this clash between tradition and experience to be explained?

Korff and O'Connell suggested an explanation: the road from Knockgarra to Trácht travels across a stone embankment with Bridge Lough to the west and Kinvara Bay to the east, which Lewis reported was built by a Mr. French, the local landlord, in order to reclaim land from the sea. The tower at the north end of the causeway was a windmill used to pump out water from behind the embankment or dyke. Two hundred years ago, the townland of Tawnagh West was little Holland!

So the documentary evidence for a sea inlet, now partially drained, is strong but is there further evidence to be examined? There are other maps available but none of these depict Doorus as an island. Doorus in the 17th century Down Survey map is joined to the mainland but a much greater westward extension of Kinvara Bay occurs than is seen today. This large western inlet is also found

on Mackenzie's 1776 chart of Galway Bay (Gosling 2009). By 1819 however, the existing road running over the embankment appears on William Larkin's map. Finally, the first edition of the Ordnance Survey circa 1838 shows the modern road and notes that the windmill is "in ruins". So even before the famine, Mr. French's alterations resulted in the landscape we now know.

Of course, field evidence that can be tested is even more valuable than documents reporting the observations of those who lived before us – but is any available? Surprisingly, the answer is yes. In recent years, magnificent colour satellite images of the earth have become freely available on the internet. Those published by Microsoft's Bing have extraordinary detail and when one examines those of modern Doorus (made as recently as 2013), one immediately sees a shadowy pattern of channels and creeks underlying the present day farmland. When one compares their serpentine patterns to present day salt marsh, the similarity is striking; the ghost of the former inlet drained by Mr. French sometime in the early 19th century appears to live on in modern satellite images.

The pattern might be very suggestive but can one prove these old channels are former sea inlets? Salt marsh, such as is seen at the east end of Aughinish Bay or around Tawin, forms in a distinctive manner; at high water fine sediment, mainly mud settles out and gradually, at a rate of millimetres per year, builds new ground. Stones or gravel are never carried in suspension so these deposits will always be stone free – in complete contrast to the normal glacial deposits of the Irish land surface; i.e. deep stone-free mud is a marker for former seabed. With this idea in mind, we sampled the soil of these creeks. In the field, we were struck by how obvious they remain to this day, often being one or more metres deeper than the surrounding land. Soil samples confirmed that the deposit flooring



# THE STOLEN PUMP

by *Thomas Quinn*

When the people of Crushoa were tenants of the landlord who lived down in Prospect the only drinking water available to them was drawn from the same source as that available to the landlord. A hole cut through the rock went straight down to a spring and close by, another angled and stepped cut gave access to the cold black water. The well, Cower, was situated outside the estate wall but was quite a distance from the surrounding villages and paths and boreens led to it from those villages.

Livestock were better catered for as many hollows had loughs fed by underground streams, though these could also be tidally affected.

A well beside one particular lough had onetime been enclosed by a high wall and had steps leading down to the water but its source was seasonally affected and it tended to practically dry up in the summer.

In an effort to maintain a continuous supply, a pump was sunk down at the end of the village and close to the old well and lough. The cylindrical rocks from the drilling decorated many of the village lawns and buckets of water were daily drawn to all of the village's homes. The pump stood on a slightly raised concrete platform and was enclosed by a concrete wall not much wider than a horse-car. The walls of the enclosure were scraped by axles as horses were backed in so that barrels on the car could be filled.

This water would be taken out to stock in fields rather than for house use or maybe taken for spraying spuds. Children mainly carried the water home from the pump for domestic use and was then used sparingly for making tea and for drinking; rainwater and well-water could be used for most other tasks. As the pump was located down at the end of the village, some cycled for their water and would return home with one hand on the handlebar while the other hand carried a big galvanised bucket full of water. They would lean slightly to one side in order to counter the weight of the bucket and would cruise up the

road like a small sailboat in a light breeze. Some water carriers would walk with two buckets filled to the brim and hope to arrive with at least one bucket-full from the two. Narrow children would endeavour not to let the rim of the buckets hit the sides of their knees while trying to keep cold splashes out of their sandals. Their paths were always marked by two rows of little black splash marks on the white sandy road. Strictly speaking, the pump may not actually have been intended just for our village's use as the house across the road from it was located in the grandly-named townland of Doorus Demesne. It was probably intended for the use of all of the adjoining villages as well as ours, even for people who lived beyond the turn in the road below the pump where our world ended. But it was our pump and indeed the people of our village would start a war over much less.

Every bit of local news was heard below at the pump and the hatred for the chore was tempered by the prospect of gossip. But in every house and every day was to be heard the phrase: 'the water's gone,' and always followed by: 'why me, I got it yesterday.' But someone always went; no water, no tea.

Many houses had tanks filled from the roof's rainwater which would quickly become stagnant, however that wouldn't stop the man of the house from making tea with it in the morning if he found the pump-water bucket empty; and he wouldn't tell the family either. Fathers saw water as water; 'ye are lucky to have it,' and would happily make tea from the same water that the horse drank from. No-one ever worried about the water that the cows drank and giving them clean water was considered a waste. Cows would walk out into the Lough, drink their fill, stand a while, foul the water before lazily turning around to come in, all the time churning up the muddy bottom. As they would leave another's cows would arrive for more of the same. Sometimes great battles would occur in the water if a few herds arrived together and if their minders were delayed talking. Cows would drink white sandy rain run-off from the roadside but not if the road was tarred even though it looked cleaner.

When summer came and other sources dried up, the pump was expected to keep supplying but the extra demand would lead to what was known locally as rusty water. Whether the colour was caused by the pipes or if the water itself had turned brown no one knew but the pump would creak and clank before the brown liquid was grudgingly delivered in a trickle into the hanging bucket. If the pumper were to rest for a second the water would return to the centre of the earth and the whole process would have to be repeated. From time to time, in high summer, the water could turn salty and sometimes, but not often, it would dry up altogether. When it dried up it was back to the wells which often nearly went dry but, strangely, never dried up completely. Pre emptying the pump's failing by its noise, a man who lived next to the well would clean it with an old shirt knowing that it would soon be depended on by everyone for their tea-water. At this stage the water in the well would be so low that a bucket would have to be filled with a saucepan. The well down in Cower had a china cup left there for times like these.

In due course pipes carried water into Crushoa and into Doorus, into every house and field; clean water for animals as well as people. Later meters measured usage but those who remembered what it was like to live in a porous limestone landscape

didn't mind paying. When troughs were put in fields spurs connected to spurs carried the water in a maze of buried pipes across the landscape which caused many a headache for the metre installers.

An early morning phone call from a neighbour in Wales asked if it was true; was the pump gone? I admitted that I didn't know and would check; it was there the last time I passed. Cycling down I found that it was indeed missing, it had clearly been taken. The rusted base was still there, a hole into the ground at its centre of the same circumference as those long cylindrical rocks that decorated lawns around the village. There were flecks of paint on the ground, purple and faded yellow, the Kinvara colours, but no pump. The old axle scrape marks were blending into the crumbling concrete side walls with nothing anymore to enclose. It had stood as a monument to other times, harsh maybe but not remembered as harsh, and now it was gone, stolen in the night by thieves who only saw value in its weight and not in what it had meant to so many. Gone was its spiked-helmet top, its long curved arm, its grooved sides, the bucket holder on its spout, its tall thin one-armed familiar profile which had stood there for generations. So many times its arm had been raised to urge the water of life for so many from deep in the earth and now it was gone.



# CRUINNIÚ NA MBÁD 2015

*By Michael Brogan, Chairman*

For the first time since Cruinniú na mBád began in 1979 one of the oldest turfboats, An Capall, owned by the Bailey family, was unable to attend because of a family bereavement. However, Darragh Bailey, the present skipper was there in Connemara to organise the boats for the traditional turf race from Sruthan to Parkmore. Such is the loyalty that the hooker families of Connemara have towards Kinvara and Cruinniú na mBád. That loyalty is based on over 150 years of trading turf to Kinvara and returning to Connemara with all kinds of cargo – and an occasional marriage often ensued.

## CALADH NA SCEICHE (BUSH HARBOUR)

Around 1880, with another famine threatening, the British Government agreed to fund the building of piers along the west coast for ‘the relief of distress in Ireland’. They offered to fund 75% of the cost provided locals raised the remaining 25% – a huge amount of money to expect from a population still reeling from the Great Famine of the 1840’s. The Government of Canada, prompted by influential Irish migrants at the time and “in a gesture of great generosity” stepped in to put up the 25% on behalf of the locals on the grounds that the “work would be commenced within a period of three months”.

Parkmore Pier, or Bush Quay as it is referred to on the admiralty chart, was built with these funds. The plaque on the end or east side of the Pier reads simply 1881, with no reference to the source of its funding, which seems to have been lost in the mist of history. Interestingly, the three oldest

surviving Hookers, An Capall, the Tonai, and the Maighdean Mhara were bringing turf to Kinvara for years before 1881 when Parkmore Pier was actually built.

It was suggested that a plaque should be erected to inform people and commemorate this benevolent deed. It was fitting that the Canadian Ambassador, Kevin Vickers, whose own ancestors emigrated to New Brunswick in Canada before the Famine, unveiled the stone plaque during Cruinniú which stated simply ‘This Pier was built with funds gifted by the people and Government of Canada’. Twenty nine piers were built from Donegal to Baltimore under this scheme.





## IASCAIRE PHEIGIN

Cruinniú na mBád has a habit of coming up with surprises and this year it was another plaque of a different type, a headstone. Sailing to Cruinniú, the hooker Nora diverted to Inis Meáin to collect a headstone destined for Parkmore cemetery.

The stone, which was landed on Kinvara pier with the turf, had a beautifully carved inscription, Beachla O Fatharta, (Iascaire Pheigin), Inis Meáin, 1875 - 1893. The eighteen year old Beaclai went missing while fishing off rocks on Inis Mean and some time later a body was found washed up on Tracht beach. Not having any way of knowing who he was, the locals buried him in the nearby Parkmore cemetery. It must have been obvious that he was from the Aran Islands by the style of clothes he wore. These were sent back to Aran and his family later identified him by the pattern of his stockings. In October last, some of his descendants returned to erect the headstone on his grave (which is just inside the gate of the cemetery), one hundred and twenty two years after his death. Beaclai was given a final and dignified farewell. What is also interesting about this tragedy is that the playwright John Millington Synge wrote his famous play "Riders to the Sea", first performed in 1904, based on a very similar story.



## ANTHONY MOYLAN

When Tony persuaded the Bádóiri to return to Kinvara for the first Cruinniú in 1979, no one knew whether it was a once off event or if it would be repeated. It was not anticipated that Cruinniú na mBád would turn out to be the biggest and most important maritime festival in Ireland, with significant international coverage also. Cruinniú na mBád is the only hooker regatta to hold a turf race, during which the hookers must carry their old calico sails. Tony's plan was that by continuing to use these old home made cotton sails, the art of traditional sail making and 'barking', (i.e. treating the cotton with a special formula of Stockholm tar, butter etc) would be kept alive. This is just one example of Tony's way of thinking which has led to the success of Cruinniú na mBád.



It is a testament to the different committees down through the thirty seven years of the festival that Cruinniú na mBád has not alone survived, but flourished. These turfboats, which return to Kinvara every August, are the same original old hookers that traded turf and other cargo around Galway Bay for over 150 years and many have remained in the same families for more than five generations.

Down the years, we have had many notable and famous people officiating at Cruinniú but we took particular pride in 2014 when our own Maire Whelan, the Attorney General, did the honours.

We are lucky and thankful to have a small but efficient committee and we hope to publicise the date for our AGM in spring 2016. We would

appeal to anyone or group for logistical help on the weekend. We are especially thankful to all our sponsors, the boat owners and crews, and all other local businesses, clubs and individuals who help out on the weekend, but especially Fáilte Ireland and Galway County Council.

Cruinniú na mBád is not just a festival, but is a living part of the heritage of Kinvara which was almost lost forever, were it not for the foresight and passion of Tony Moylan.

***Cruinniú na mBád 2016 takes place on 19, 20 and 21st August***



# PROFILE

## FR. DAVID CRIBBEN

In June 2014 Kinvara welcomed our new parish priest, Fr. David Cribben. Fr. David, as he likes to be known, has in this short time made himself a popular and central figure in our community and looks to continue the fine work of previous parish priests.

Fr. David is originally from Renmore in Galway, before his family moved to Claregalway at a young age. Secondary school was attended in Moneenageisha, where outside interests of cross-county running, athletics and drama developed. He was useful in all the above, winning county and provincial medal in the athletics.

In 1987 he joined the missionary Society of St. Columban at Dalgan. Study followed at Maynooth where Fr. David attained a B.A., after which he spent two years at Kimmage Manor studying Theology. Fr. David's first post was to the Philippines, where he spent two years on the island of Mindanao. It was a great experience, dealing with a warm and generous people, surrounding by sometimes harsh weather and other difficulties. A quick return to Kimmage Manor was again followed by another three years in the Philippines.

On his return to Ireland, Fr David went across the border to the Banner county where he was located in Lisdoonvarna for three years, followed by a year in Knocknacarra, Galway.

After that, he was appointed Chaplain at University College Hospital Galway. Here he served for nine years dealing with the sick and their families. He left a huge impression there, was well liked and we know is well missed also.

But his departure from UCHG has become Kinvara's and our neighbouring parish of Ballinderreen's gain. Fr. David has really connected with all ages in our community. He has a very welcoming personality and anyone who meets him really feels at ease and at comfort. His mass sermons are very popular and he has a great rapport with the younger generation, especially those who make their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We have been blessed in Kinvara to have been sent many great priests down through the years, and we are delighted that this time it is no different!



# “AUTUMNAL RAMBLES AROUND NEW QUAY”

*An Extract from “The Galway Vindicator” (c.1843)*

During 1842 and 1843, and just before the famine, a series of articles by Thomas Cooke appeared in the Galway Vindicator under the heading “Autumnal Rambles Around New Quay”. This is an edited version of the article about Kinvara.....

*Within a long recess there lies a bay  
An island shades it from the rolling sea  
And forms a point secure for boats to ride.*

Such is the geographical position of the harbour of Kinvarra, situate on the south east extremity of the bay of Galway. The entrance to Kinvarra bay is a moderately narrow one, lying between Durus head land on the west and, a point of Drumacoe parish on the east. Opposite to the mouth of this narrow channel is Eddy Island, which forms a natural breakwater protecting the little Delta of a bay within, from the rough seas that are occasionally reverberated from off the southern face of Kilcolgan point.

The village of Kinvarra is built on a gentle acclivity at the bottom of the bay bearing the same name. The appellation seems to be derived from the Irish Ceann, the end or limit and Mara, of the sea.

This village is about five miles distant from New Quay and is situate in the Barony Kiltarton. Fairs are held here on the 18th of May, and the 17th of October. This little town is the property of Mr Gregory, of Coole, and has been much improved of late years. Many good houses have been erected – an excellent quay, wall and pier built, and some good shops have been opened. Among the latter is an Apothecary’s establishment, kept by Dr. Hynes where the infirm are supplied, on moderate terms, with medicine, and all meet with that attention and humanity, which is ever grateful to the invalid.

There are several streets here, and the population is much employed in traffic. The market, is principally, remarkable for the sale of corn, bought up to be exported from hence. Adjoining the Quay are temporary stocks, on which a superior class of sea boats are built. Beef and other provisions are regularly sent from hence to New Quay.

Kinvarra was granted by the Crown on the 16th of June 1681, at a rent of £1 03 3d, by the name of Kinvarra and along with Durus, and many neighbouring lands, to Col. Cary Dillon O’Flaherty, who in the Ogygia spells the name Kinnmbeara, says that it was the Belgians who gave it that name.

The most remarkable object within the town is the old church and burial place. It is particularly worthy of the antiquary’s especial notice, that the gable-end of the ruinous ecclesiastical edifice presents a round aperture apparently designed for a clock. In the burial ground, surrounding the ancient house of worship, there are some comical monumental inscriptions to be met with. On one tomb-stone is the pious couplet.

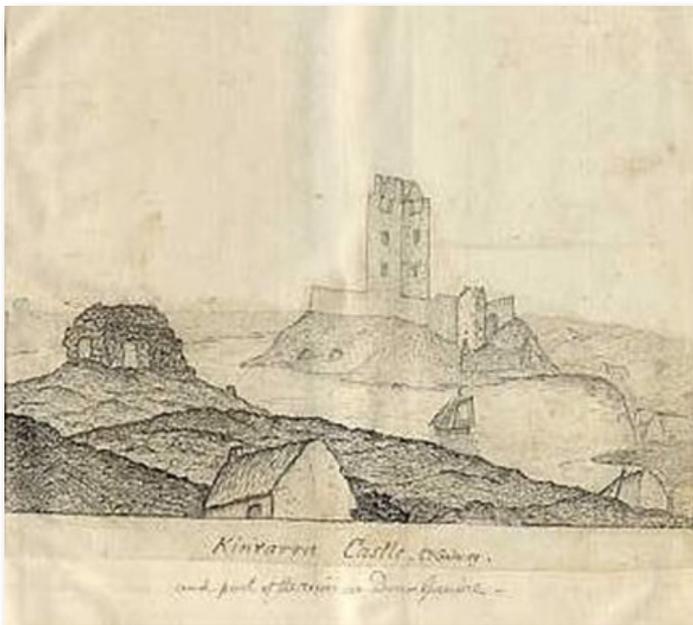
*“James O’Farrell lies under this stone: Pray for him  
Christians — to sin he was prone.”*

Next in order after the Church, the Castle demands attention. It is a square building in the fashion of Queen Elizabeth’s reign, and several stories in height, standing some distance outside the town upon a small elevated peninsula, surrounded by the sea, with the exception of one low narrow isthmus, that connects it with the main land. A strong and high wall built along the verge of the declivity encloses the court yard, or bawn.

The outer gateway is large, and has an embattled wall with embrasures overhead. It is flanked on the right by a small quadrangular bastion, or tower, which commands it on two sides. In the side of the tower, just mentioned, there are set in the masonry some large stones, perforated with round holes of five to six inches in diameter, apparently intended for the muzzles of small ordinance.

The castle of Kinvarra was until very recently, used as a barrack by a military detachment quartered here. The walls circumscribing the bawn have been shattered in two of the angles, apparently from the fire of artillery from a sod battery in the direction of Tubbermacduach. The platform of this ancient battery is still visible, and on it are placed at intervals some very large rocks, which, in all probability, served as shelter to the gunners against the fire matchlocks or other small arms from the castle.

Near the castle already described, but separated from it however by an inlet of the sea, are the ruins of another yet more ancient castle, denominated Dun Guariagh, which signifies "Guairé's Stronghold". Kinvarra is said to be one the fortresses of Guaire who was the king of Hyfiacras in Connaught about the beginning of the seventh century. King Guaire is reported by historians to have been a man of an extraordinary, great disposition for performing acts of charity; yet even he is accounted as amongst fallen sinners.



Northampton Pre-school and After-school Services opened its doors to the community on the 1st September 2008 with funding provided through the National Development Plan. Over the years Parental involvement and support have been key to keeping the service running. The Preschool service is also an integrated part of a very welcoming and progressive Primary School. Since its inception over 150 children have graduated. The aim of the Pre-school Service is to facilitate the development of confident competent learners that are ready to transition to Primary School. The play-based curriculum links very well into the national curriculum structure (Aistear).

A rainbow of possibilities is what each child is and we look forward to being here for many more years to come.

For any further information on the preschool or its services please email

[childcarenorthampton@gmail.com](mailto:childcarenorthampton@gmail.com)



# KINVARA CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

It is a crisp, clear Autumn morning in Kinvara and as we wade through a carpet of freshly spent, crimson Sycamore leaves that crunch beneath our feet, our little ones babble excitedly about the day ahead.

One chats busily about what she will say at "news time" while the other keeps his eye out for his playmates and the sand box.

As we round the corner where the bay laps gently at the Pier and the sun peeps from behind Dungaíre Castle, I am reminded how lucky I am to live in such a spectacular part of the world.

Lucky however doesn't begin to describe how incredibly fortunate I am to have a world-class children's facility at my doorstep, where the modern facilities are bright and energising, the highly trained staff always welcoming and cheery and where the learning outcomes give children the best possible start to their education they could hope for.

Yet only six years ago this inspiring facility didn't exist. Thanks to the hard work, commitment and tenacity of the local community, today Kinvara's families can benefit from the flexible, child centred services of the Kinvara Community Children's Centre (KCCC).



# BUILDING THE DREAM

Prior to the KCCC, a small playgroup operated at the former Court House on Court House Road. As the community grew, so did the need for a service with greater capacity.

In June 2004 a meeting was hosted by representatives of the Kinvara Community Council to establish a working group of interested parents to facilitate the development of a community crèche.

A detailed needs analysis was carried out which identified a need for a broad range of flexible childcare services, both sessional and full day care, for children aged between 3 months and 12 years.

A number of proposals for the construction of a centre were considered. While one proposal looked at incorporating the service with a new community centre, a feasibility study found this was cost prohibitive due to the lack of available grants. The study did reveal however that if land was made available, government grants would cover the cost of constructing a new building. With a small parcel of land remaining on the Community Centre site, the community's dream of a fully-fledged children's centre for Kinvara now had real potential.

An active sub-committee of the Community Council, known as the Kinvara Community Children's Centre Committee, was established and began the lengthy process of applying for funding under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme.



While awaiting a decision on funding, the Committee facilitated the opening of an Out of School Care Service based in a temporary location in St. Joseph's National School. The service opened in October 2006 and catered for up to 40 children of school-going age.

One of the founding committee members Deidre Barrow says the much needed local support for mothers returning to work, and the opportunity for continuity of childhood friendships and care were among the key drivers for a community childcare facility.

"We worked really hard to get the project off the ground for the best part of five years but we made lifelong friendships and are really proud to have created a legacy for the community."

## DREAMS TO REALITY

After years of in-depth research, think tanks and planning and an incredible amount of hard work, in October 2006, €1.4 million in funding was awarded for the construction of a purpose built, state-of-the-art children's centre. The service, now officially known as the Kinvara Community Children's Centre, opened its doors on 1 July 2009.

The excitement was palpable; in this small, west coast village parents were thrown a lifeline in terms of child care and support. Their children could now enjoy a cutting-edge facility close to home that would rival any of the city-based best.



Today, the centre caters for 200 children — currently supporting a total of 136 local families. It remains part of the Kinvara Community Council Limited, streamlining grant application processes and acknowledging the facility as a community asset.

The KCCC team, led by Manager Edelle Collins, number 27 in total, comprising 18 full time, 4 part time and 5 relief staff.

As a not-for-profit community children's centre, parents can avail of reduced rates through the (CCS) community childcare subvention scheme and (TEC) Training and Employment Childcare Scheme, in addition to the ECCE Free preschool year scheme which is available at both community and private child care centres. As a community centre designed to meet the needs of the local community, the KCCC aims to be as flexible as possible to accommodate the needs of parents. The Centre has adapted and expanded its services since its inception, with an additional Montessori session in the afternoon, two morning preschool services and an expanded afterschool service in both the community centre and the national school.

At the core of the KCCC's philosophy is a child-centred service dedicated to enhancing development, health and well-being through play. The centre follows the Aistear Early Childhood Curriculum Framework for children from birth to six years old which is based on four themes (Well-Being, Identity and Belonging, Exploring and



Thinking and Communicating) that are embedded in the curriculum to enhance each child's feelings of being valued and respected within the centre and the community. The children experience a wide variety of activities including sand and water play, construction play, a home corner, a library corner, visits from the local Garda, and excursions to the Post Office, Burren Sanctuary and the arts theatre. Centre staff source as much natural material as possible for their activities including real life utensils in for the home corners, treasure basket filled with feathers, stones and shells for babies (of large enough size so they are not a swallow hazard) and tables and tree stumps in the outdoor play area. Even meal times provide a culinary experience second to none. With a dedicated chef who prepares fresh, nutritious meals on site daily, children enjoy a wide range of tastes and flavours from creamy coconut and beef with rice to chicken with bacon, leeks and pasta.

It is however, without question, the attitude of the Centre's Manager and team that really sets

it apart; with cheery dispositions that transcend even the most hair-raising of mess and spine-tingling squeals that are amplified in their tens, they are at all times the most competent, self-assured and incredibly caring educators worthy of the ultimate in praise and gratitude. All highly trained to include FETAC levels at 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the national qualifications framework, the KCCC team also participates in regular ongoing training workshops about Aistear to keep up to date.

Penned gratitude is the very least this incredibly fortunate parent can offer on behalf of all those parents, current and past, who have benefited from the comfort of the KCCC when we leave our little ones at the door and wish them well for their day.

On behalf of an extremely grateful KCCC parent cohort, thank you to the Community Council and the original KCCC Committee for your initiative, foresight and support of a service which has become an invaluable and irreplaceable part of our lives.





Thank you to Edelle Collins, Manager of the KCCC, who, just like any other CEO, governs a multitude of responsibilities from staffing and scheduling, finance and fund raising, health and safety, curriculum development and learning — the list goes on and on. Edelle goes above and beyond her remit to ensure the KCCC is the very best it can be. And last but not least, the KCCC team, who love, educate and care for our most precious assets,



who fill their bellies, wipe their tears, applaud their achievements and educate them with skills that provide the strongest of foundations for their lives ahead. Without you we wouldn't have the confidence to get on with our day, knowing our little ones are happy and safe in your care.

To learn more about the KCCC please visit and Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kinvaracc/>



**Founding Committee:**

Back row (l to r): Clare McGinty-Ryan, Deirdre Barrow, Phil Burke, Freda Keane, Cheryl Hudson-Meehan, Niamh Quinn, Ann Heavey, Joanne Pierson-Kidd.

Front row (l to r): Mary Bermingham, Caitriona Lawless, Anita McGonagle, Claire Shields, Josephine Byrne, Deirdre O'Shaughnessy. Absent from photo: Mona O'Donoghue.

# THE CREDIT UNION IN KINVARA

For twenty three years Kinvara and District Credit Union (KDCU) served the people of Kinvara and the surrounding parishes. It was managed and directed by volunteers elected to the Board at an AGM, with the last AGM being held on 4th March 2015.

The time had come for change. We are now in a new legislative and regulatory environment which significantly increases workload and costs. Stringent regulation from the Central Bank, especially following the passing of the Credit Union and Co-operation with Overseas Regulators Act 2012, made the survival of a small credit union well nigh untenable. This was because of the many new costly appointments that had to be made – Risk Manager, Compliance Officer, Internal Auditor, etc. as well as the external auditor.

Also, as was outlined at the AGM in 2015, the recession affected the KDCU's balance sheet. A small number of loan defaulters impacted negatively on the income of the credit union so that it could not, for three years, pay any dividend. However, members' savings were always secure and Kinvara never had to avail of rescue funds, as did a small number of other credit unions and notably, the banks. In fact, at its last AGM, KDCU paid a dividend to its members.

While KDCU directors and staff had qualifications in Credit Union Studies from Certificate to Master's degree level, the time demands on directors for engaging

in education, training and continuous professional development became so onerous and time-consuming that it was increasingly difficult to recruit suitable candidates for election to the Board of Directors and to the Board Oversight Committee. Succession became an insurmountable problem. A new way of ensuring the continuation of credit union services in the area had to be investigated.

Meetings were held with a number of other credit unions with a view to arranging a viable merger. After much discussion and consideration it was agreed that Athenry Credit Union was the preferred partner. The Board of Directors from Athenry agreed to the request for an amalgamation and the process was initiated.

On the 31st March 2015, Kinvara and District Credit Union ceased to exist. However, credit union services were improved by the amalgamation, with the same friendly staff of Mona Gill, Helen O'Connor, Maureen Heffernan and Anne Kelly continuing to offer a great service. Bigger loans were made available at a lower rate of 8% and student loans were cheaper. An unprecedented loan rate of 2% was, and is, available on secured loans. Large loans became available to community groups at a special rate and higher dividends will be paid to shareholders. Over the coming year, enhanced services to members will be introduced including a 24-hour ATM, electronic banking and debit cards.

As part of the merger agreement, KDCU was granted a seat on the Board of Directors of Athenry Credit Union. However, this can only

be done for one year as the following AGM has to elect all the directors. It will be important, therefore, that members from the Kinvara area attend future AGMs in Athenry to ensure continued representation on the Board of Directors. A free bus will be provided to transport Kinvara members to the AGM in Athenry.

The ethos has not changed. Your credit union is now a bigger one, but it remains a non-profit making co-operative. Any surplus is used for the benefit of members, either

through paying a dividend, offering more services (such as access to an ATM), or giving a rebate on interest paid. It will continue to sponsor the Toddie Byrne Scholarship, the best Community Games Athlete Award and other schemes to promote a better community.

Thanks to the many dedicated people from Kinvara, New Quay, Ballyvaughan and Ballindereen who selflessly served on the Board of Directors and Board Oversight Committee of KDCU Limited. They have served their communities well.



**CREDIT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SUPERVISORS**

**BACK ROW L-R:** Cormac Liddy, Cillian Kenny

**MIDDLE ROW:** Niall Byrne, Stan MacEoin, Catherine Sides, Mary Ni Eochaigh, Carmel McInerney

**FRONT ROW:** Sheila Conneely, Michael Organ, Thomas Mahon, Madeline Mahon, Paddy Kavanagh

**MISSING FROM PHOTO:** Martin Coen and Eamon McTigue

## DROMORE WOODS

Ten thousand trunks and silent stems  
Lichened limbs whiskered green,  
Others tall and tangle clad in ivy,  
Flow upwards as in a stream.

Crumbled walls made soft in with moss,  
Upholstered stones now velvet green.  
An uncut moquette to rival anything  
That finest furnishings have seen.

Leading through the nets of bracken,  
Shine the fluted waters of the loch,  
Where rigid reeds waver in a breeze  
And reflective ripples mimic the sky.

An ancient castle towers the bank,  
Like an old man balanced on his stick,  
His eyes now empty hollows of time  
Still glare defiant across the water.

Autumn now dominates the lofty canopy,  
Tinting its death red yellow and gold,  
And like coins cascading from a treasury,  
Loosened by wind into a showery fold.

They just escape the arms of a little girl,  
Who hopes to have her wish granted  
If she can catch one before it grounds,  
To join the ever rustling animated carpet.

*Brian Wynne. Aug 2009.*

## THE WALKERS OF THE BURREN

Boots scuffle on your rocky stairs  
As we stumble on aloft.  
Past daedled deep blue gentian joy  
Celebrating Spring at last.

Deep clefted in your rocky levels,  
The stunted shrubs and trees,  
Air their wind-pruned parasols,  
Gnarled with the centuries.

Where the cranesbill's mauven trumpet  
Give the bees their sound of Summer,  
Too soon, alas, its blood beak beckons  
To Autumns early runner.

The seasons change, and the quickening wind,  
Calls in the western gales,  
And the Burren turns its sterner face  
As another Winter hails.

Then only memory remains,  
No butterflies bob the senses,  
Or weave the air into rival knots,  
Nor dew on leaf condenses.

But still there's beauty to be seen,  
In lichen, berry, and mosses,  
With views supreme, where the wind is clean  
Where the whins and the heather tosses.

Cahers and fortresses, burial mounds,  
Mighty dolmens mute,  
Megalithic tombs abound,  
Ancient signs of mankind's root.

The Burren's demesne is a mighty span,  
And it's there for all to see.  
It's ours to wander, ours to enjoy,  
For all walkers eternally.

*Brian Wynne*

## CATHERINE KILKELLY

When people talk about camogie, hurling or Community Games in Kinvara, one name that always comes up is that of Catherine Kilkelly. For many years she has been involved in promoting sport in our community and is as committed today as the first day she held a hurley as part of the sport loving Huban family. Together with her husband Mattie Kilkelly (RIP), Catherine has eight children – Martin, Mary, Geraldine, Michael, Declan, Niall, Aidan and Emma and is grandmother to twenty one grandchildren.

As parents with a young family, Catherine and Mattie enjoyed attending sports days and gymkhanas most summer weekends in South Galway and North Clare. They were known to frequently win the mothers and fathers races at these events, except for one day in Ballyvaughan when Mattie, attired in his Sunday suit, was winning well but then slipped on newly deposited cow dung and slid right out of the race! Catherine particularly remembers a race for couples they entered. However, Mattie was unable to partake on the day due to an injury so she asked her neighbour, Mike Naughton, to take his place. Despite Mike's slow start, Catherine passed all the others and finished with a fast sprint and they claimed the first prize of an alarm clock on the day.

As her children became interested in playing hurling and camogie, Catherine became involved at club level in Kinvara and held many different officer positions over the years. She was often seen transporting young players to matches around the county. Distance was never a problem and she often attended matches in three different parishes on one day! She is always on the side-line recording the scores and giving her opinion on decisions, whether or not she agrees with them. Many of her children and grandchildren have played for their school, club, college, county and at international level (in hockey) and she has always been there to support them. She takes great pride in their achievements and can recall scores, venues and the referee of matches she attended.

In recognition of her dedication and commitment, she currently holds the honorary position of President with Kinvara Juvenile Hurling Club along with Michael

Sullivan and she is also Vice President of the Galway County Camogie Board.

Catherine started the Community Games in Kinvara with the late Toddie Byrne and in 1977 her daughter, Geraldine, won the first community games medal to come to Kinvara. Down the years many Kinvara individuals and teams including hockey, camogie, hurling and running relays, have won National Final medals. Kinvara participants going to National Finals are always turned out well with new kit and gear bags. Many fundraising events are needed to make this possible and Catherine is a dedicated fundraiser, giving generously of her time sourcing raffle prizes, sponsorship and doing church gate collections.

Catherine is the county coordinator for the Community Games camogie and hurling events. She is the Galway County Manager at the National Finals, now held in the Athlone Institute of Technology on two weekends in August. She has held the position of Galway County Treasurer for many years and under her guidance all is accountable and transparent. Through her attention to detail with all affiliated areas, she has ensured that county finances are in a healthy position.

Catherine will always volunteer to help with community events including sporting activities, church gate collections, cleaning the local church, fundraising, etc. She is a community gem with many facets and as the saying goes... **'if you want something done ask a busy woman'**, and no better woman than Catherine Kilkelly.



# RNLI FUNDRAISING



# 10 reasons to Shop Local in Kinvara

- 1 It keeps and creates **employment**
- 2 Every €10 spent locally generates €24 of benefit to **local community**
- 3 Unique local businesses create character and adds to the overall **satisfaction of living in Kinvara**
- 4 **Repeat business** is the lifeline of a local business, so after sales service is better.
- 5 Locally owned business **donate** to local charities, schools, creches and community project
- 6 **Less travelling**, so it protects the environment, but saves you on **fuel, wear and tear** on your car and **your time!**
- 7 There is a wide variety of **high quality goods available** in Kinvara at competitive prices
- 8 Local business **needs your support** in order to survive, especially during the winter season
- 9 Shopping local creates a **community spirit** and an atmosphere of **loyalty and pride** in our village
- 10 Invest in Kinvara and you invest in **your families' future.** We all want shops and services in Kinvara and jobs for our young people

Shop local to keep Kinvara a special place to live and bring up your family!

Like us for more special offers  [www.facebook.com/kinvarashoplocal](http://www.facebook.com/kinvarashoplocal)

## SEAMOUNT GOES BACK TO THE 80'S

By Anna Sheehan

Unfortunately we did not find a flying DeLorean and travel back to the days when Wham! was top of the charts and the Atari was cutting edge technology. But, the Transition Year class of Seamount College – decked out in our finest denim jackets and leg warmers – took a metaphorical trip back to the most iconic decade.

Every year Seamount College puts on a spectacular musical and this year's production of *Back to the 80's*, written by Neil Goodman, was no easy task. Having to channel our best Cyndi Lauper and Michael Jackson impressions, we covered some of the most famous songs ever written. From Video Killed the Radio Star to Footloose, we really had our work cut out for us.

The show, which took place on Thursday the 12th and Friday the 13th of November, tells the story of the graduating class of William Ocean High. The story is narrated by Corey Palmer, now in his 30's, as he looks back at final year of school. The then 17-year-old Corey is besotted with his next-door neighbour, Tiffany Houston. However, Tiffany only has eyes for Michael Feldman, captain of the football team, movie star looks... everything Corey and his friends could only dream of being.

The year commences with Class President Elections where Michael steals Corey's election speech and he becomes President. During the year, several new students arrive at the school including Eileen, whose life becomes a nightmare when Michael and his gang start to send her fake love letters. Meanwhile, the teachers are having issues of their own. Mr Cocker, in a relationship with the English teacher, Miss Branigan, confiscates an old swimsuit catalogue from a student, only to discover that his girlfriend is the centrefold.

Drowning in Star Wars, high-energy dance routines, copious amounts of blue eye-shadow, crimped hair and the obligatory 80's party scene the show was definitely a blast from the past.



## A FIELD ON THE BURREN

There is a steep-sloped field, not far from here,  
Which cleaves the shelving rocks of Burren, clear  
From distant view, a verdant slope, a river of green,  
Flowing, broad and wide, through Nature's rocky scene.  
Through a secret glade, where nodding bluebells hide,  
Shared by violets until cranesbills then reside.  
Close cropped and stubbly, by sheep and cattle,  
Their hoofprints sunken in, reflecting now the battle  
Of centuries, when men strove and worked each day,  
Uprooting rocks and rubble to cart and clear the way,  
Of countless, countless stones rolled down to build  
Walls and valley roads, with rifts and hollows filled.  
The now smoothed slope ascends full twenty acres,  
Which challenges the feet of walkers who, as takers  
Of such a struggle, are rewarded at the summit,  
By the panoramic round of beauty viewing from it.  
The silver sea to North, but South, East and West  
Displays an unspoiled landscape superlative, the best.  
A sheep track leads along a topmost loose-stoned wall,  
Where tufts of heather twine, and ravens croaking call  
To other minor summits, extending more the view,  
Until your very soul emits a sigh of joy, as new  
Vistas greet at every turn of eye, whilst underfoot,  
Painted ladies matching Peacocks take to air and fly.  
You can pause at the cairn and add yourself a stone,  
Breathing deep aromas, one may, perhaps reflect alone,  
That the green field first ascended was, in part, a plan,  
To provide a magic carpet linking God with man.

*Brian Wynne*

## ALONG THE GREEN ROAD

Along the green road I was walking alone,  
Where men seeking bread once hewed the stone.  
Until soon by the way an opening was reached,  
A gap where their drystone wall was breached.  
Two time polished uprights opened a way,  
To the wide Burren landscape and inviting survey.  
A primrose path beckons, for those who ensue,  
By ascending the rocks to reach summit and view.  
The segmented steps test the eye for to gauge,  
By conforming the feet to ascend each new stage,  
Of the upward struggle, and this calculation,  
Constantly rewarded by renewed celebration.  
For reaching each height expands a new view,  
Which stirs on the spirit with vigour anew.  
The long ranging hills of far Connemara,  
Combine with the ocean to add to the drama.  
The fresh pure wind seems to whisper to me,  
That I am akin to the things that I see.  
Somehow related to rocks, ridges and crannies,  
In a way undetermined but real and uncanny.  
The last few steps then the summit to scan,  
I hear the hills in the wind cry 'you are our man'.  
And with each aging step I know this is true,  
I need this wilderness my soul to renew.

*Brian Wynne, October 2007.*

# HATBAGS, LEDGERS AND GERMAN BACKPACKERS

By *Deirdre Johnston*

My father blinded himself in one eye when he was six. He was sitting on the crooked tiles of the kitchen floor trying to open his shoelace with a dinner fork when whap. Straight into his eye. Red lights and stars. Oh Jesus Mary and Joseph, the child is blinded.

My grandmother took my father by train to the eye surgeon in Dublin. It was Easter week 1916, the rebels had taken the city center, the GPO was in flames, and the city in an uproar. They spent the night stranded on the railway tracks outside the city. He lost his right eye, and the delay almost caused him to lose the left as well. I learned this for the first time two nights before he died in nineteen seventy-eight, of cancer, in a hospital bed in Galway where I was a medical student. I never heard the rest of the story: how he got through the burning war zone to the hospital, what happened along the way. There were no buses running, or hackneys. At that moment in the history of Dublin, every effort of the citizenry was being spent in furthering the rebellion, quelling it, looting, or surviving. But he made it, and came home to a different Ireland. For the rest of his life he kept a glass eye in a jar beside his bed every night, and always slept with the light on.

By the time I was born, the family business had long since folded. Ireland was free of England's oppression and firmly in the grip of De Valera's. By mid-twentieth century, all that remained of the business and farm were 20 acres of rocky land and a big emporium of dusty counters, empty bottles, several bales of oil-lamp wicks, my grandmother's old silk and velvet purple dress crumbling on a hanger in the attic, and about a thousand hatbags. The bags proclaimed: Men's Suits 9/6. Millinery, skirtings, mantles, trimmings, oil cloths. Johnstons was 'The Leading House.' A Call Solicited.

Daddy gave the hatbags to everyone he met, as a souvenir, after marveling at the price of the clothes for the millionth time. We've tucks of them, he said. We had tucks of lamp wicks too. They weren't much good for anything until my mother dressed Sean Nolan as a Baluba for the fancy dress parade on the quay in 1961. Sean ran up and down the street, his face covered with boot polish, the lamp wicks around his ankles and wrists, and a bit of an old fake leopardskin coat around his middle, yelling "Ingo Bingo Bongo I'm a Baluba from the Congo!" He won first prize. We had tucks of mahogany curtain rails; my father recycled them as rollers for moving the empty safe in the nineteen-forties when he dismantled the shop, to replace it with a dancehall, and make a fortune. We stayed poor.

A few photographs of aunts and cousins survive from the years between the Easter Rising and the nineteen-fifties. At family gatherings we try to piece together the names and identities in the old black and white, folded, scratched, and dog-eared prints. That's Ena. That's Mary. Hadn't she lovely hair? That's one of the Shaughnessy's. Now who's that...it must be Joe Paul. Aunty Claire with her high cheekbones and movie star eyes smiles from several. On either side of Aunty Claire, there's Mary with the lovely hair and Ena with the expression modeled on that of her saint-du-jour. She loved "The Little Flower", Saint Theresa. She and Claire become nurses, and Aunt Mary married Uncle Graham, from Staffordshire. He owned a factory there that made cast iron manhole covers, which I'm sure must be made in China now.



Having lived in England for decades, the three sisters visited together one summer when I was fifteen. They arrived with a chauffeur, called Dermot. My beautiful Aunt Claire's mystique grew with the glamour of having a chauffeur. My friends and I commandeered the car and the willing Dermot when the aunts were asleep. All the teenagers in the village (about six of us) were there. A local character, Gerry, who popped up everywhere, materialized in the middle of the back seat. Gerry was able to recite from memory the entire commentary by Michael O'Hehir, in Michael O'Hehir's own voice, of any hurling match played in Ireland over the previous ten years. We sat in the dark car looking out at the waves, the windows steaming up, listening to Gerry's nasal recitation of Galway's last triumph over Mayo in the All-Ireland final. Just like American teenagers. Although Gerry doing Michael O'Hehir while the lashing rain outside and the fog on the windshield gradually obliterated the view of the waves probably wasn't quite the same thing as watching a drive-in movie and eating hotdogs.

In the 1960s we opened the doors to young travellers passing through to accommodate the overflow from the youth hostel in Doorus. The house filled with the sounds and languages of all the countries of Europe, the twangs of Americans, Canadians, and Australians, the smells of all their foods and soaps, and constant music banged enthusiastically out of acoustic guitars. Mostly it was Irish folk music sung with German accents, and we became very familiar with "The Wild Rover" and "Whiskey in the Jar," neither of which I can hear without it playing in my head in a German accent, though Phil Lynott's and Thin Lizzy's 70's riffs on the latter helped soften my earworm version's teutonic edge.

In the attic one time I was home, we found the shop ledgers from the years 1893 to 1931. The early years, documented in a neat copperplate, attested to a thriving business. The handwriting changed somewhere around 1907. The entries thin out in subsequent years until there are only three or four entries a year in the late twenties. Letters stuffed

among the stained and dog-eared pages include one chronicling a correspondence between my grandfather and a Garda officer named Leach. The address is the Garda barracks at Headford. Consecutive polite letters from Garda Leach, dated 1929 through 1931, offer apologies to my grandfather for being unable to pay his outstanding account of two pounds three shillings and elevenpence. Garda Leach assures my grandfather that he will pay as soon as he is able. The last in the series is a letter from my grandfather's solicitor containing a charge against Garda Leach that my grandfather must sign in order to pursue Garda Leach's payment through the courts. The order remains in place between the pages, unsigned. I suspect my grandmother initiated the lawsuit, and my grandfather let it die in the pages of the half-empty ledger.



The celtic tiger roared in during the nineties, but it barely disturbed the slightly funky air of the old house. There was speculation that the place should make way for condominiums needed by the new Ireland, but true to form, it missed the boom. This time just as well, as the economy that came to a florid and giddy peak in the late nineteen-nineties took a nosedive and the country plunged into a familiar economic slump. Familiar to my generation anyway. There was something oddly reassuring about this.

*Deirdre Johnston*

# KINVARA TIDY TOWNS

In 2015, Kinvara was awarded the Tidy Town's prize for the most improved town of its size in County Galway. This was very encouraging and the €500 award will be very useful to help further the project. There has been a Tidy Towns group active in Kinvara for many years and even though the group did not enter the National Competition every year we have continued to pick litter and plant and weed the flower beds in the town. Three years ago, a new group of volunteers came together and decided to enter the Tidy Towns competition again after a break of eleven years and this has been done every year since 2013.

The role of Tidy Towns has been broadened in the last number of years. Entering the competition now involves drawing up plans that will improve local residential and green areas as well as planning the management of waste sustainably, protecting our wildlife and improving biodiversity locally. In order to meet all these requirements we have been working with many different local groups such as the Youth Club, Seamount Transition Year students and the Dolmen Group. We will be continuing to develop more projects and welcome the help of all local voluntary and statutory groups in their implementation.

Galway County Council has helped through their Environment Section and greatly assisted locally by the Area Engineer. We have also been fortunate to have the assistance of Tus employees through Galway Rural Development, but most of the day-to-day work has been done by our teams of volunteer gardeners and litter pickers.

Ongoing, we will be displaying our plans locally so that all members of the local community can have a look at what ideas we are pursuing and can give us feedback and, hopefully, help. The results and Judges' feedback on all the villages and towns in Ireland, including our own, going back to the late 1950s can be studied online on [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie)

We would love to have more volunteers helping out. Have a look below at what we do and see if there is any aspect that interests you or any area that you may have expertise in. You can contact us through the Community Council Office manager on [commcenkinvara@gmail.com](mailto:commcenkinvara@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page, K3 Kinvara Three Year Plan and give us any suggestions you may have.

## KINVARA TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS PROJECTS:

- We collect litter every Tuesday & Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. — 10 a.m. but volunteers may do this at any time that suits them. We have also organised litter collections in conjunction with St. Josephs National School and the Beaver Scouts, including a beach clean-up at the beginning of spring
- During the summer of 2014 we stripped the railings and chains along by the Pier. We returned them to their original red colour using rust proof paint
- We painted the boundary wall going into Convent Garden
- Cleaned the Mosaic mural on the slipway
- Planted and maintained the flower beds on the main approach roads into Kinvara and three flower Pots on the quay. The Farmers Market sponsored five planters, four for Market Square and one at the Information Sign. These were made, planted and maintained by our volunteers
- Planted trees and flower beds in the old graveyard opposite the community centre
- Cleaned all the signs in the town. This was done by one of our volunteers using a power washer
- We removed old posters, signs and cable ties from all the poles, trees and poster boards around the village
- Weeded the Quay wall and kerbs

- As part of a Tidy Towns project, the Foroige Youth Club planted an old boat with flowers, sea shells and stones located on the Ballyvaughan approach road
- Supported and partly funded by Tidy Towns, the Dolmen Special Needs group have built a garden at the sea wall near Castleview Estate. Kerbing has been laid by Galway County Council that allows wheelchair access and there is now seating from which you can admire the view over Kinvara Bay
- The area in front of the bottle-bank has been developed as a wildlife garden. It was planted with native shrubs and over 1,000 bulbs including bluebells, daffodils and alliums in autumn 2014, mentored by a local Horticulturist Lynn O'Keefe. It will be maintained like a meadow to encourage insect life including bees and butterflies. We have christened it Hollytree Garden
- We are working with Galway County Council to provide a pathway and lighting along the road beside it to make it safer for the public
- Kinvara Children's Centre is involved in planting bluebells, daffodils and crocus' around the Children's Centre and Community Centre
- Tidy Towns and the County Galway Biodiversity Officer invited local naturalist Gordon Darcy to give a talk on the birds that can be seen in the bay during a walk around it. This was a great success and very well attended
- We are encouraging our insect diversity by leaving deadwood in the central island at Hollytree Garden
- We cleared the undergrowth along Courthouse Lane.
- Since there wasn't enough room on the approach road from Gort for a flower bed, we asked Tyre Aware to put planted containers of flowers there which were made from recycled tyres
- Green flags have been awarded to both schools



# KINVARA TOWN TWINNING

By Mary Uí Eochaidh & Carol Buckley

Kinvara is twinned with Locoal-Mendon in Brittany and both towns have enjoyed several exchange visits between the two communities over the past thirty years.

In April 2015, Kinvara hosted thirty four Breton visitors for a fun filled weekend that began with a welcome reception in the community centre. A buffet meal was enjoyed by the visitors and local host families, with music provided by Eugene Lambe. During the weekend, visits to Hazel Mountain Chocolate factory, Dungaigue Castle and the Burren Nature Sanctuary were organised and thanks is due to each of these businesses for their support. Evening entertainment over the weekend included a night of music & fun in Fahys of Nogra with the Geata Bán boys and a BBQ in Doorus Orchard with music from Frank Hall and John Martin

who were joined by our Breton friends. Gifts of a framed poster of the Kinvara Heritage Trail and a book on the Locoal-Mendon area were exchanged. The proceeds from a fundraiser earlier in the year were used to pay for music, venues, food and wine during this visit.

In 2014, nineteen people from Kinvara went to Locoal-Mendon on the thirtieth anniversary of the towns twinning. We flew in to Poitiers, four cars were hired and the adventure began! It took almost four hours to reach Locoal-Mendon, where our hosts were waiting for us with the Seamount Transition Year girls who had arrived there the week before. As usual, there was food and wine, homemade cider and a wonderful welcome. The weekend continued with a formal reception by the Mayor with Irish music provided by Anette, Paddy, Mait and Maeve, and then the fabulous FEST-NOZ (Breton dancing). On the final day of the visit, the Mayor planted a tree and in his speech he hoped that our children would



play under it in another thirty years. Maeve Cairney spoke for the Kinvara contingent, reiterating our hopes for the twinning to continue and presented the Mayor with a Ger Ryan original photograph. In turn, we were presented with a piece of Breton ceramic art.

In May 2013, Kinvara hosted twenty five visitors from Locoal-Mendon. The weekend kicked off with a reception in the community centre where Breton themed posters painted by local national school children were on display. Food for the buffet meal was kindly donated by Kinvara Smoked Salmon, the Burren Smokehouse and the Tide Full In, with home baking provided by the hosts. A concert celebrating both Breton and Irish music was held on the Saturday night that ended with Breton dancing around the



*In early summer of Transition Year at Seamount, myself and a group of seven other girls went on a French exchange to Locoal-Mendon. We stayed for two weeks; the first week we went sightseeing, swimming at the beach, visiting the town of Auray, shopping, bowling and to a few parties. During the second week we attended Benjamin Franklin Lycee, the local high school. It was such an unforgettable experience and it thoroughly improved our standard with the French language.*

*All the families were so welcoming and friendly and we still keep in contact with them. I would really recommend this cultural immersion program to anyone with a love of travel and languages.*

*Clarice Silke*

community centre with everyone joining in! The visit ended with an enjoyable evening in Doorus Orchard and a wooden sculpture of a Galway Hooker was presented to our guests as a memento of their trip.

In May 2013 and 2014, a group of students from Seamount Transition Year spent two weeks in Locoal-Mendon and greatly enjoyed their experiences. Kinvara hosted students from Locoal-Mendon in October of those same years, cementing friendships between those families for years to come.

A return visit to Locoal-Mendon is currently being planned for 2016. New members of the Kinvara Town Twinning Committee are always welcome. Please email [kinvaratwinning@gmail.com](mailto:kinvaratwinning@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would be interested in getting involved.



*In May 2013 myself, Siobhán Connolly, Alana O'Sullivan, Laura Brady and Niamh Keely visited Locoal-Mendon for two weeks. We stayed with local families and went to school.*

*The families brought us on trips all around the area, showing us local tourist attractions and the beautiful towns of the region. We also had a lovely night at a crêperie. Our French skills benefited immensely and we have all kept in touch with the families we stayed with. I know that we will have them as friends for life.*

*Aidhne Ní Eochaidh*

# ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE 2015



## KINVARA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The objective of the Kinvara Community Council is to promote the social, cultural and economic life of Kinvara. Since its inception in the 1950's, the Council has worked to provide services and facilities to the community such as the Kinvara Community Centre and the Kinvara Children's Centre, while also encouraging and assisting other groups to do the same.

The Council provides a forum where issues of public importance can be discussed to achieve a general consensus. Depending on its nature, the Council will then raise an issue with the appropriate government or other agency. It has, for example, lobbied for the new sewage works for nearly two decades. In pursuing Kinvara's best interests, the council works closely with Joe Byrne, our local councillor, and the Kinvara Community Council is grateful for his ongoing support.

Council officers are elected volunteers and the Council meet every third Wednesday of each month (except August) at 8:30 p.m. in the community centre. Meetings are open to anyone who lives or works in the Kinvara area.

Any person who wants to raise an issue that affects Kinvara, or has suggestions how its life and facilities can be improved, is urged to bring these issues to the attention of the Council where they will be pursued through the appropriate channels. Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to get involved.

## KINVARA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Kinvara Community Centre was built completely by voluntary local labour in the 1970's. Over the last decade, it has been extended and completely refurbished. This was done in two stages at a cost of quarter of a million euro and without calling on the local community to fundraise. The majority of the funds (€165,000) came from a successful grant application to Galway Rural Development.

The centre can be booked by local voluntary groups at €15 per hour for the hall and €10 per hour for the committee room; the rates for commercial users are higher at €18 and €12 per hour respectively. For concerts, plays, dances and fund raising events the standard charge is €100. Due to increased use of the hall and good management, these fees have not been increased since 2002.

## KINVARA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Kinvara Children's Centre was built by the Kinvara Community Council with the help of a government grant and is run as part of the Council's business. It is managed by a committee of parents whose children use the centre, along with elected officials of the Council.

## AFFILIATED GROUPS

Many local organisations are affiliated with the Council. These include the Badminton Club, Youth Club, Youth Film Club and the Mother and Baby group. Kinvara Area Music (KAM), Tidy Towns, Kinvara Area Visual Arts (KAVA), Kinvara Famers Market, Doorus Garden Project and Cruinniú na mBád are among its other affiliates.

These groups are covered by Council insurance, which saves them money, and groups can apply for grants using the Council's name and charity number which greatly adds to their credibility and chance of success. Given notice, the Council can also provide insurance and assistance for one off events including those not held in its buildings.

Anyone wishing to set up a new group or organisation can also be covered. The Council can help with any bureaucracy involved, such as registration and grant applications – of which it has considerable experience – and it may also have useful and relevant contacts for the new group.

# KINVARA COMPANY 1916 EXHIBITION

## Kinvara Company 1916

1. Burke, (Jack) John, Cahermore.	11. Hanbury, Pat, Dunguaire.	20. Kilkelly, Michael, Doorus.	28. Picker, (Jim) James, Cahernamaddra and Kinvara West.
2. Burke, Paddy, the Square.	12. Hanbury, John, Dunguaire.	21. Kilkelly, (Mickela) Michael, Tawnagh and Doorus Demesne.	29. Quinn, Patrick, Tawnagh.
3. Burke, (Coisín) Patrick, Loughcurra.	13. Hanlon, David, Loughcurra.	22. Kilkelly, Padraig, Tawnagh and Doorus Demesne.	30. Quinn, William, Caherawoneen.
4. Burke, Peter, Cahermore.	14. Hanlon, Michael, Crushoa.	23. Kilkelly, Joseph, Tawnagh and Doorus Demesne.	31. Reidy, John J, Tawnagh and Doorus Demesne.
5. Callinan, John, Loughcurra.	15. Higgins, Mary, Ardrahan.	24. Kilkelly, (Mhicil) Tommie, Crushua.	32. Reidy, (Tommie) Thomas, Tawnagh and Doorus Demesne.
6. Connolly, John, Gortaboy.	16. Hynes, (Martin) Martin, the Glebe, Kinvara.	25. Leech, Stephen, Loughcurra.	33. Staunton, (Mick) Michael, Cloonasee.
7. Davenport, (Séamus) James; Kinvara town, near Quay.	17. Hynes, (Mikie) Michael, Dunguaire.	26. McCormack, Edward, Kinvara.	34. Whelan, (Jim) James, Mountscribe and later Tawnagh.
8. Fahy, John, Caherawoneen.	18. Keane, Michael, Ballyclera.	27. McInerney, (Tom) Thomas, Cahermore.	35. Whelan, (Sean/Jack) John, Doorus.
9. Fahy, PJ, Kinvara.	19. Kilkelly, (Sean Wally) John, Crushoa.		
10. Glynn, John, Neptune Vale, Doorus.			

'I am in this all the way, let's get something in place for them'! That was the sentiment and the determination expressed by Eddie Forde in an endeavour to remember and commemorate a group of men who participated in the effort of the Galway Rising of 1916. A sentiment felt by everyone involved in the exhibition project, John Conneely, Thomas Quinn and Eilish Kavanagh. Consequently, an idea began, not only to create awareness but also to gather any vital pieces of local knowledge that would put together the jigsaw of that time. This took on the form of an exhibition during National Heritage Week 2015. Held in Kinvara Community Centre, the event brought visitors from all areas of the country. Equally, and in some way more importantly, the local community embraced this collection and added their valuable stories and artefacts.



Who were these men? According to some witness statements, there were at least forty men involved. Fr. John William O'Meehan, the local curate, actively recruited those who he felt were able and willing and he also provided uniform hats to some. These hats, in some way unified and strengthened their resolve in what they were about to face. None of them were fully aware of what was happening in Dublin; they had only been told to attend mass and confession on Easter Sunday dressed in uniform (hats) and prepare to drill. Afterwards, they learned of what was afoot. O'Meehan had long been involved since his days in

Maynooth with the leaders in Dublin and had been advocating a branch of Irish Volunteers in Galway. Mary Leech, his sister, felt 'that was the reason Liam Mellows was sent'<sup>1</sup>. In any event, it is clear that O'Meehan was a very prominent leader during this time and for some years after.

To uncover the role that Kinvara played during this time, is exactly the premise this small community group started from. Therefore, the initial search for some sort of order to their movements began with Volunteer accounts through witness statements and pension applications, all online now and freely accessible. What follows is the chronology of events as written by John Conneely for the exhibition:

## BACKGROUND

The formation of the Ulster Volunteers in 1912 to oppose Prime Minister Asquith's Home Rule Bill for Ireland led to the founding of the Irish Volunteers in November 1913 to support the bill.

Both groups set about importing arms in support of their aims.

June 1914 there were 25 companies of the Irish Volunteers in Co. Galway with 2000 members in total.

By July 1914, this had increased to 54 companies with a total of 5000 members.

The intention was that weapons would be imported from Germany to arm these volunteers.

## 1916 IN KINVARA

The weapons for the Volunteers did not arrive.

The German ship Aud carrying 20,000 rifles, ten machine guns and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition was captured by the British Navy.

Because of this, Eoin Mc Neill cancelled the plans for the Rising on Easter Sunday 1916.

The Kinvara Company, as a result, did not mobilise on Sunday and did not know of the Rising in Dublin.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Leech BMH, WS, No. 1,034.

## FIRST SHOTS FIRED IN KINVARA

1am on Tuesday morning Liam Mellows sent Padraig Fahy, Tom O'Dea and Martin (Sonny) Morrissey to inform Fr O'Meehan that the Rising had begun in Dublin and that he should mobilise the Kinvara Company.

These men came by car to Fr. O'Meehan's house in the town (Delamain Lodge), but when he left the car Padraig Fahy was arrested by the R.I.C. The others drove away but shots fired by the R.I.C. penetrated the car.

By Wednesday, no news of the Rising had yet reached Kinvara. Late on Wednesday, Fr. O'Meehan ordered the volunteers to mobilise in Clonasee. Fr. O'Meehan informed the company of the Rising in Dublin and that very soon they would be involved in the fight. He also told them that it was likely that some of them would die. He gave each man in the company the opportunity of leaving if he wished and that nobody would think badly of him. No one left.

The company then marched into the town and collected shotguns and ammunition. Mr Johnson, the hardware merchant, handed over all the guns and ammunition in his shop.

## NORTHAMPTON

The company then went to get weapons from the Brady-Murray house in Northampton. A cycle patrol of R.I.C from Gort confronted them. After an exchange of shots, the R.I.C. mounted their bicycles and retreated to Gort.

Captain Burke ordered the company to march in the direction of Moyode to join up with the volunteers from Clarinbridge, Oranmore and Athenry but a dispatch handed to Captain Burke instructed the company to return to Kinvara.

No orders for mobilisation were issued on Thursday and many of the volunteers returned home. They learned that the Rising was over in Dublin.

## ARRESTS OF VOLUNTEERS

Members of the company were brought to Richmond barracks in Dublin. Some were released within a week. Others were released in June or July 1916.

Shipped to various prisons in England, eventually all brought together in Frongoch Camp in Wales which ironically became a centre for revolutionary discussion and paved the way for the War of Independence, which began in 1919.

The above timeline, coupled with photographs provided by Thomas Quinn and artefacts sourced by Eddie Forde, began to piece together the jigsaw and clearly showed that these men may not have known the extended details of the Rising but they were certainly prepared to fight and even die for the cause if necessary. Thankfully, on this occasion none of them did.



As stated earlier, an important part of this exhibition was to essentially cast a net out into the community in order to find out as much about these men during and after the Rising as possible. Whilst the investigation continues, this goal progressed in

several ways, through family and friends, internet search, books and knocking on doors. Regrettably, some of the above names continue to elude whilst others such as William Quinn, Caherawoneen, have revealed a long and full life. Many of the families who attended and communicated with the exhibition group wish to see the men's efforts in the Rebellion commemorated and recognised.

At a short meeting for family and friends held on the last day of the exhibition it was decided to hold another exhibition in 2016. The intention is to display any new information, erect a commemorative piece with an appropriate inscription somewhere fitting and hold a reception for any family and friends that would like to lay a wreath. The date for this will be confirmed sometime in 2016.

If anyone has any information on the above names or any other relevant information, please contact Eilish Kavanagh on 091 637052 or email [eilish.kav@gmail.com](mailto:eilish.kav@gmail.com).

*Eilish Kavanagh, John Conneely, Thomas Quinn and Eddie Forde.*



# AN SCOIL ÉIGSE AGUS SEANCHAIS I nDUBHROS

Idir na blianta 1963 agus 1976 tionóladh cruinnithe go rialta i dtithe cónaithe i nDubhros ina pléadh seanchas na háite agus ina spreagadh baill chun amhrain agus agallaimh beirte a chumadh. Ba chainteoirí Gaeilge dúchasacha na baill go léir. Ba ó Dhubhros na baill uilg, taobh amuigh de thriúr — Úna Bean Uí Chonchubhair, ón Spidéal ó dhúchas, a phós Pádraig Ó Conchubhair i dTrácht; Pádraic Mac Conmara, ó Iorras, uncail le Peig Corless, bean Mattie Corless ó Mhóinín na Scríbe, agus Annie Bean Phádraig Uí Eidhin, arbh ó Leitir Calaidh í ó thuas. Tionóladh na cruinnithe i dteach Mhichíl Uí Chuinn agus ina dhiaidh sin i dteach Pádraig Uí Eidhin, an dá theach ar an gCnagaire. Múinteoir Gaeilge ó Ghairmscoil Ghort Inse Guaire a thugadh na baill le chéile agus rinne sé taifeadadh ar chuid mór den chaint. Thagadh an Monsignor Eric Mac Fhinn, D.D., sagart de chuid deoise Chluain Fearta agus ollamh le hOideachas i gColáiste Ollscoile na Gaillimhe, ó am go chéile agus chuirte fíorchaoin fáilte roimhe i gcónaí, mar ba dhuine séimh, cneasta é a raibh cion mór aige ar na daoine agus ar a gcultúr.

Seo na baill eile a bhfuil seanchas uathu sa 'Leabhar Mór' — Caitlín Ní Fhearghail, Micheál Ó Cuinn, Peadar Ó Mocháin, Eibhlín Bean Uí Chuaigh, Páraic Ó Súilleabháin, Nóra Bean Uí Nualláin (iníon le Micheál Ó Cuinn), Pádraig Ó hEidhin, Úna Bean Uí Chonchubhair, Páraic Mac Conmara, Pádraig Ó Cuaigh, Seán Mac Gloinn, Liam Ó Caomhánaigh, Tomás Ó Lionnáin. D'fhreastalaíodh daoine eile ar chruinnithe ó am go ham, ar nós Tomás Ó Maonaigh, Micheál Ó Lionnáin, Máirín Ní Chuaigh, agus Máirtín Ó Gloinn, agus chuiridís go mór le seanchas agus caint na hoíche.

Thagadh déagóirí a raibh suim acu sa nGaeilge ag na cruinnithe corruair. Ina measc bhí Réamonn Ó Seachnasaigh ó Eachinis, Áine Ni Riain agus Deirdre Nic Eoin ó Chinn Mhara agus Criostóir Ó Maoldomhnaigh ó Thrácht. Tá saothar leosan sa Leabhar Ceapadóireachts chomh maith.

Seo leans sliochtanna ón 'Leabhar Mór na Ceapadóireachta':-

Nuair a labhrann an chuach ar chrann gan duilliúr,  
Díol do bhó agus ceannaigh arbhar.

I nganfhiós don dlí is fearr a bheith ann.

Bíonn a chiall féin ag an amadán.

Níl a fhios ach mar is dona is fearr.

Cuairt gearr ar theach do charad,

Agus é sin féin a dhéanamh go hannamh

Ní rachaidh fial go hlfreann, go rachaidh grian go grinneall (Eibhlín Bean Uí Chuaigh)

Is fearr a bheith díomhaoineach ná droch-ghnóthach.

*Fiche bliain ag teacht;*

*Fiche bliain ag stad;*

*Fiche bliain ag meath;*

*Fiche bliain gur cuma thú ann nó as.*

*(Nóra Bean Uí Nualláin)*

*Ní mheileann an muileann leis an uisce atá thart.  
(Peadar Ó Mocháin).*

*Anna a bhí ar mháthair Mhuire,*

*Muire a bhí ar mháthair Chríost,*

*Saint Elizabeth a bhí ar mháthair Eoin Baiste.*

*An triur seo agaibhse i gcolpa mo leaba*

*Idir muid agus tromluí go maidin. Amen (Paidir in aghaidh tromlui ag Eibhlín Bean Uí Chuaigh)*

*Sin é mo scéal-sa anois. Níl a fhios agam an fíor nó bréag é. Más bréag é is bréagadóir an fear a d'inis domsa é. (Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin, tar éis dó scéal a rá)*

Tá a lán ábhar eile sa leabhar idir scéalta, ainmneacha garrantaí, ainmneacha oileán agus cladach, paidreacha, pisreogaí, cleasanna tórraimh, ainmneacha fiailí, amhráin, mallachtaí, tomhaiseanna, agallaimh beirte, etc.

Is gearr ó cailleadh an Ghaeilge mar theanga dhúchais i gceantar Cinn Mhara, go háirithe i nDubhros. Leis an ábhar atá sa Leabhar Mór, agus an t-ábhar a bailíodh don Choimisiún Béaloideas agus ó pháistí scoile san triochaidí san aois seo caite, tá neart ábhar le leabhar mór nua a scríobh faoi sheanchas ár sinnsear sa cheantar seo.



**Fridays, 10am to 2pm, April to October**

Kinvara Farmers' Market has been running since 2008. For the first three years we operated from the beautiful secluded garden behind Johnston's Hall. However, even visitors who came looking for the market were having difficulty finding us and many people found the narrow entrance intimidating. Gradually, the garden proved too secluded and it was decided to seek a new and more visible site. Market Square seemed the obvious choice and after much hard work by some of our intrepid members we discovered we could apply for a road closure. The Market Square market was seen as a great success, as evidenced by the amount of public support it received.

However, the shortcoming of a road closure is that it is a process intended for one-off events and all and any objections are taken into account. After the first year operating from Market Square we encountered an objection to the road closure. Each year seemed to bring more obstacles and more objections. It culminated in 2015 when we were effectively denied the road closure and informed

that we were only allowed to trade in Market Square for six more weeks until mid-May. After yet another exhausting campaign we secured a road closure for the top (south) end of Sraid Locoal Mendon, also known as Courthouse Road. This site has proved just as popular with traders, local people and passing tourists alike.

However, it seems we are again in no man's land for 2016. Galway County Council is, we are told, in favour of the Market taking place on Courthouse Road. But the long awaited sewage works are imminent and at time of going to print the Council are concerned to reserve Courthouse Road for possible traffic diversions. Wherever we are, the market site for 2016 and beyond must be a sustainable one. That means it must be highly visible and easily accessible. Hidden away in someone's garden, however atmospheric, or in a car park on the edge of the village, is not a viable option.

Kinvara Farmers Market is 36 small businesses, 27 of whom live within twelve miles of Kinvara. It is well run and is an exceptional community facility for Kinvara. But it is not just about the 36 livelihoods. It is about the high quality local produce available there. It is about a place people can come to meet their neighbours and friends. And it's about the live music provided by our local musicians – be it trad, jazz, rock, old timey or more trad. Weather permitting, it is about where people, local and visiting, can linger a while.

**Save our market – talk to your local TD or councillor.  
Keep Kinvara Market in the heart of Kinvara.**



# A MEMOIR OF OUR EXPERIENCES OF KINVARA

*By Tom O'Hare*

Penny and I backed into Kinvara in 1990. A friend had asked if we'd like to take a week's vacation in Ireland, and we agreed. His law partner had been one of the original partners in building a house on Castlevew, owned by 12 American friends and partners.

We knew next to nothing about my dad's family, or Ireland, and I was shocked by the feeling of homecoming that swept over me as I stepped off the plane at Shannon. As we made the turn toward the village, at Dungalire, we were again surprised by the pastel colors of the buildings along the Quay. The view of the harbor and the village from our home for a week was enchanting, and so different from our little New England farm.

We had a wonderful vacation, and two years later, repeated the experience. Upon returning home from that second trip, we purchased a share in the Kinvara partnership, and quickly decided it was the best investment we'd ever made. It wasn't that the property was appreciating in value, but because we could share the experience with our friends and family.

We became friends with Bill and Mary Carson, and Bill introduced me to musician friends both here, and in Kinvara. He had that special talent which attracted some of the best musicians known to play with him, and I am forever grateful to have been a small part of that group. I still enjoy sitting in on sessions at Mary Green's, Sexton's, or Connolly's, although we miss the Ould Plaid Shawl and Winkles. We are particularly pleased to know that Kinvara continues to attract wonderful traditional musicians and artists.

We've seen Kinvara grow and change over a couple of decades. Some changes we've applauded, and some, lamented. We are still appalled at the lack of a sewage treatment facility, and hope that its construction will become a reality. But as the world's economy has waxed and waned, the people of Kinvara have remained open and welcoming to us transients.

We've made good friends in the community, and continue to meet folks who always have stories to tell. In the States, it seems that we don't take the time to tell those stories, or appreciate those of others. That is perhaps what I've enjoyed most about spending some time in Ireland. It's where I learned "never to let the truth stand in the way of a good story."

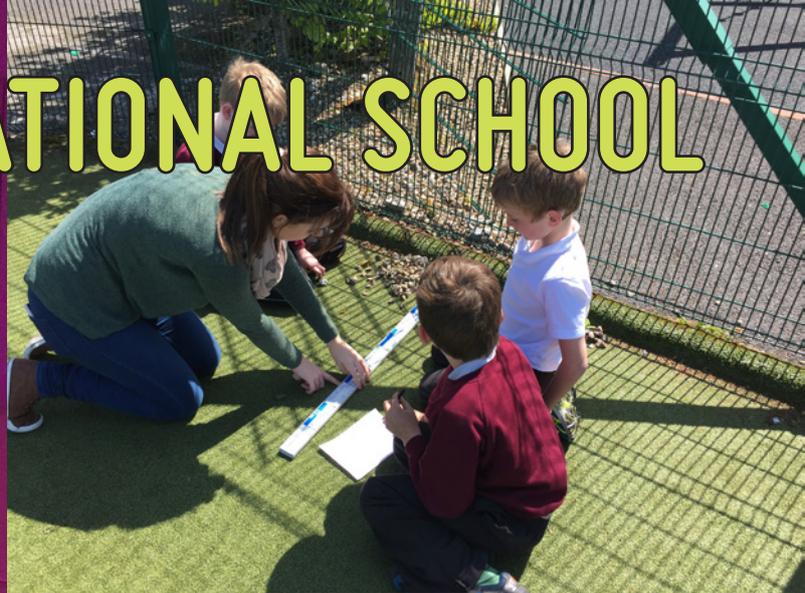
We've also discovered family near the Ennis area, which has meant more to me than I can describe. We even found a painting of my cousin's (Debi O'Hehir) in the Russell Gallery. Both she and another cousin, Siobhan Forde, have ties to Kinvara, so it has even more meaning for me.

So, Kinvara will always beckon me homeward.



*Our favourite photo of Dungalire Castle*

# ST. JOSEPHS NATIONAL SCHOOL





## IF YOU FEEL LIKE SINGING..... JOIN THE QUAY SINGERS

The Quay Singers have been meeting in Kinvara every Wednesday evening for several years. This community choir is open to all ages and abilities and is all about the joy of singing, socialising and having fun.

Under the very able direction of choir director Anette Jorgensen, it has a repertoire to suit all tastes, ranging from Mozart to the Beatles and including classical, pop, jazz, swing, gospel and folk.

The group sings at a whole range of different events including weddings, parties, memorial services, church concerts, the Kinvara Christmas market, flashmobs, table quizzes and at the annual lighting of Kinvara's Christmas tree. Keyboard accompaniment for the choir is provided by Pete Brazier of 'The Sheds' and 'Baile an Salsa' fame. Over the years the choir has collaborated with other choirs such as the Lismorahaun Singers (Clare), Coole Voices (Gort) and Swedish choir 'Aquarellen' (Gothenberg).

Singing in a choir is a life-affirming uplifting activity that benefits your mental and physical health. New members will always be made very welcome and no auditions are necessary. Just turn up on Wednesday evening at 8.30 at the Pastoral Centre Kinvara, next to St. Josephs Church, or phone Anette at 087 6974322.



## JUST IN PASSING

*Thomas Quinn*

The dead all gathered 'round me  
As I walked back from the tide  
They wanted me to hear their tales,  
For me to hear them from their side  
They'd kept their secrets for so long  
It was burning them inside

They said 'we've learned a lot  
We didn't know before we died  
We'd distorted all the tales we told  
We would've been more truthful but for pride  
Produce your pen and paper now  
And the truth we will provide'

I must admit to fear at first  
But I put my fear aside  
They all seemed so familiar  
And behaved so dignified  
'Of course I'll write your words' I said  
And ye all can be my guide

They said they'd wronged but were wronged too  
(Some clearly were annoyed)  
They talked of hardship, hurt, and pain  
Soon they had me on their side  
Out poured their long-kept secrets  
All the facts they verified

Then they let me take some photographs  
(I guessed they wouldn't bide)  
No one might believe my words  
But pictures never lied;

Then like a flash their humour changed  
They said 'you must keep all this a-hide'

'Our secrets you must keep' they warned  
And I'm sure I could have tried  
'Forget it all, it's all untrue  
We just made it up' they lied  
When I left to go they followed me  
But they couldn't match my stride

# THIS ROCK

*Thomas Quinn*

Had I thrown this rock into the sea  
The leacht would not have missed it,  
But would the hand that placed it there  
No longer have existed?

The stones all gathered here by hand  
To this spot where they still lay  
To clear an island field of rocks  
In Kinvara's rocky bay.

Whose were the hands that picked the stones  
What were the thoughts they thought  
Did they own the land they worked upon  
Or was their labour bought?

No effort spared – its value cheap,  
So as not to waste the ground  
The rocks too big to move were left,  
More piled atop and built around.

Did a crowd one time all gather here  
From Crushoa's nearby village  
And work all day to help a friend  
Clear his field of rocks for tillage?

Women may have worked here too  
They would often help their man;  
Out here they'd get no special deal  
Just another pair of hands

Perhaps a younger boy or girl  
While pretending to be strong  
Would weak from famine's hunger fall  
As they bore their load along

A child could have sat upon these rocks  
And deprive himself of sleep  
To reduce a mounting parent's debt  
And mind the landlord's sheep.

Did withered hands that gathered stones  
Use the gathered stones as beads  
And move silent lips in silent prayer  
For other people's needs?

Or maybe it was just a labourer  
Who worked from morn 'till night  
A victim of a law that said  
'No land, no food, no right'

Long dead and long forgotten  
Whoever piled them there  
Those leachts of stones the only proof  
That they were ever here

An island field they cleared of stones  
The stones they heaped in piles  
The leachts now stand as monuments  
To their forgotten lives.

There is of course another view  
One we tend not to consider  
That far from pain in summer fields  
They picked the stones for pleasure  
To have worked where summer hares  
Chased cloud shadows on a hill  
Might a reality-defying feeling make  
That may be somewhere with them still.

# N67 ROAD STRAIGHTENING

## *The Current Situation, by John Mulleady*

A few years back, a public meeting was held in the Kinvara Community Centre with Deputy Ciaran Cannon in attendance to listen to the issues the community had with the then proposed re-alignment of the N67 between Kinvara and Ballinderreen. At this meeting, a number of very pertinent questions were raised, such as:

- What was the intended completion date?
- Was the reported completion cost justified in the middle of a recession?
- Could the road not be resurfaced similar to that of the then just completed section between Kinvara and Ballyvaughan?
- Was the road respecting the heritage sites along the route?

It was decided that Deputy Cannon would raise these issues with Frank Gilmore, the Director of Services, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services. On June 28th 2012, Deputy Cannon received a reply from the Director of Services which was very disappointing, with the questions raised being largely ignored.

A number of meetings were held with other public representatives but with little progress until Colm Keaveney TD arranged a meeting with the NRA. Prior to this meeting, Kinvara Community Council put together a small working group to prepare a submission to highlight the issues with the re-alignment plan. The meeting with the NRA was held on October 2nd 2012 and this submission was presented. It was agreed at the meeting that the NRA engineer would review the issues raised.

In early 2014 a revised plan was published with some minor changes to the design. As part of the planning process, observations and objection were invited by Galway County Council and Kinvara Community Council submitted an observation on the April 9th 2014. In June 2014, at a Galway County Council meeting Cllr. Joe Byrne, with support from Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, raised a motion for Galway County Council to engage with the local community over concerns they had with the revised design. The director of services agreed to a further meeting which was held in July and from which we await the outcome and an oral hearing with An Bord Pleanála was due to take place this November to hear objections from landowners who made submissions.

This is the current situation.



# KINVARA CODERDOJO

The Kinvara CoderDojo is now in its third year. We offer four different streams – beginner and intermediate programming using Scratch, advance programming using Python language, and Minecraft projects.

**What is CoderDojo?** CoderDojo is a global movement of free, volunteer led, community based programming clubs for young people. It's about encouraging creativity and having fun in a relaxed, social environment. It is not just about coding. It is about learning to express your creativity in a computer literate environment. So, CoderDojo is about learning computer literacy, structural thinking to express a creative idea, computer art work and above all else having fun together and collaborating with other students to create something new and exciting.

Every year, some of our young coders enter the ICS annual Scratch competition. In the last two years, three of our coders have qualified for the finals held at Dublin Castle during Tech Week and we're proud to acknowledge that we recently had a national winner in the 5/6th year category.

**Scratch** is a programming language and an online community where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation with people from all over the world. As children create with Scratch, they learn to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically — essential skills for life in the 21st century.

**Python** has made programming far easier and versatile for a new generation of programmers. Python has a gentle learning curve while still being a serious language used by programmers professionally.

**Minecraft** Projects, new to Kinvara CoderDojo, is a team building session. We have setup our own Minecraft server where teams build various projects with St Joseph NS being our first project.

**Kinvara CoderDojo sessions are run every Saturday (aligned with the school schedule) at St. Joseph National School from 4–6:30pm. Anyone aged 7–17 is welcome to join in at any time during the year.**



Contact us @ [coderdojok@gmail.com](mailto:coderdojok@gmail.com)

Kinvara CoderDojo: <https://kinvaracoderdojo.wordpress.com/>

CoderDojo Website: <https://coderdojo.com/>



# KEVIN SEXTON

## THE SPORTSMAN'S SPORTSMAN

*A Memoir by John Conneely*

Kevin was thirteen years older than me and when I played on the Juvenile team in 1958 he was the inspirational figure for all the young hurlers in the club. The stories about his performances were legendary and we all wanted to be Kevin Sexton. He played his first competitive match for Kinvara as a sixteen year old in 1939 and his last inter-club match was in 1978. Few men have played for their club for thirty nine years!

I describe him as a sportsman's sportsman because he was admired not only for his prowess as a hurler but also for his attitude to the game. During the 1940's and 1950's when Kevin was at the peak of his power, the skilled hurler was often a target for the kind of attention that would be a sending off offence today. Yet, everyone agrees that he never struck a nasty or foul blow. He played hurling as it should have been played, with skill and athleticism. For this, he was always admired.

During an interview with him shortly before his death, Kevin named the best Kinvara hurlers that he had seen play in his youth. Included in his list were Colm and Weeshie Corless, Tom Doyle, Paddy Birmingham and Robert Forde – who he described as the club's most skilful player. When asked what was the best Kinvara team he had played on Kevin named the Intermediate team of 1966, who won the first Intermediate County Final for the parish. I was privileged to play on this team with him and my longest lasting memory of the match is that of Kevin and Enda Muldoon dominating the mid-field. He always believed there was no weak link in that team.

In 1978 I was captain of the team that won the County Junior Final against Castlegar and Kevin was still a stalwart of the team. He was now playing at corner-forward and although some of the speed was gone the skill was still there. His enthusiasm for the game of hurling never dimmed and I remember he was the first

man out on the field for training and the last man to leave at night.

His time in St. Flannan's college in Ennis taught him the importance of developing the skills of the game. He brought this focus on skills to all our training sessions. Although he admired the speed and tactics of modern hurling, he regretted the passing of the overhead doubling on the ball which was an important skill in his day.

Kevin's prowess as a sportsman was not confined to hurling. In St. Flannan's, he won a Munster College's football medal and he played on Galway football teams with John Donnellan, Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell. If he had been living in another part of the county he might have been in the three-in-a-row team of the 1960's.

Kevin played in a local football competition in 1984 to celebrate the centenary of the GAA and it was to be his last match. Afterwards, his bar, Sextons, was the focus for hurlers attending matches in Kinvara. Passionate discussion and humorous banter were the order of the day. Kevin's passing removed one of the great links with the club's past, but left us with memories of an inspirational figure that played hurling with the skills and the attitudes of the sportsman extraordinaire!





# REMEMBERING

## DR. FRANCIS FAHY GREENE

### (1900–1972)

By Yvonne Greene



Older generations may recall with fondness the days when doctors made house calls, day or night, and looked after each member of the family. Longtime Kinvara residents probably remember one doctor in particular – the beloved Dr. Francis Greene.

Born in 1900, Francis was the youngest of five children and grew up in Greene’s Hotel (a.k.a “The Old Plaid Shawl” and now the “Tide Full Inn” restaurant). His father was Thomas Pappy Greene (1863–1958) and his mother was Nora Fahy Greene (? –1938). Her first cousin was poet and playwright Francis A. Fahy, who was born in the hotel in 1854. Francis Greene along with Dermot, the poet’s son, and Muintir Na Tíre erected a plaque in 1967 in memory of the poet. The plaque is located on the wall of the Tide Full Inn.

Francis’s oldest sibling, also named Francis, died tragically as a young boy in the kitchen after his long shirt caught fire when lighting the pipes of the men waiting for the corn to be crushed. As there were no parish records available for the time, his date of birth is unknown. Francis’s other siblings were twins P.J (1893–1959) and Rita or ‘Missie’ (1893–1977), and John (1898–1980).

Francis attended primary school in Northampton and secondary school at Mungret College, Limerick for four years. Those were tumultuous times as the Black and Tans carried out such terrible crimes, most-notably the murder of the Loughnane brothers. As many of the roads were blocked then, Francis was very determined and cycled on many occasions to Mungret in Limerick.

He launched his medical career a little later in life, qualifying at the age of 32, after first working in sales at Moons in Galway. He told his brother P.J (a GP in Loughrea) that he too wanted to be a doctor like him. P.J advised him “Amach you will have to study in order to succeed.” With that in mind, Francis attended UCG, taking a year off to help finance his medical education by repairing bags for barley with his brother John. After qualifying from UCG, he obtained his L.M degree in Obstetrics in Dublin and gained experience in Medicine and Surgery in UCHG for another year. His first dispensary was Rathmullen, Co.Donegal, followed by Letterfrack, Co.Galway, with locum positions in Loughrea.

A very kind, serious and diligent man, he counted Pa Holland as his bosom pal in his younger years. Other friends included John Jo Conneely and Richie Burke. They enjoyed many chats down in the kitchen with John and Missie. Francis also enjoyed shooting with Sean Murphy and boating in Kinvara.

When it came to establishing his own practice, Francis was advised that he would not make a living in Kinvara in those days. However, his emotional ties to his hometown were unbreakable and make a living he did; delivering babies, providing end-of-life care and everything in between for 26 years in Kinvara, from approximately 1945–1970.

He cut a dapper figure then as he went on calls in his red Opel car, doctor’s bag in hand, which currently enjoys pride of place in his daughter’s home. Francis had the same tailor in Moons of Galway for his yearly fittings.

In 1954, he married Gertrude (Gerry) Joyce, a theatre nurse from Claregalway who he met in Galway. They had four children Dr. Francis (R.I.P), Mary, Dr. Vivian

(R.I.P) and Yvonne. They lived in the house next to the dispensary (named "Gleneala" then meaning valley of the swans). It was built in 1910 from the stones of a Protestant church at the back of what was then John Peter O'Grady's (now "The Merriman Hotel"). Francis declined to buy the house for £500 then and instead chose to build the current Greene home upon retirement in Dunguaire.

Dr. Paddy Greene, one of his nephews (born in Loughrea), who is retired in Dublin, expressed his own love of Kinvara through his videos of Kinvara's older residents in the 1980's. The videos were recently converted into DVD format. Paddy spent his youth in Kinvara, before becoming a doctor and moving to the United States. A very special thanks to Paddy for providing invaluable details for this article.

Local residents featured on the DVD, Maisie Mc Cormack and Mary Helebert, said "if it wasn't for Francis Greene, we'd be dead and buried long ago".



*Dr. Francis Greene as a graduate medical doctor*

Dr. Francis Greene died on December 17th 1972. As a monument to his life and work, a seat was installed by his family in 2014 on the quay overlooking the bay. It is a tribute to Dr. Greene's love of Kinvara, the town and its people.



*The seat dedicated to the memory of Dr. Greene at the Quay, Kinvara*

# KINVARA HERITAGE TRAIL

*By Ger Ryan and Richard Broad*

The Kinvara Heritage Trail is a pamphlet that is available on line and is also distributed free in Kinvara. It takes visitors on a short leisurely walk around town and describes Kinvara in the context of its older buildings and some of its fascinating history. It is designed to consolidate Kinvara's position as a major tourist attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way. The pamphlet was produced by Kinvara Community Council's Heritage sub-Committee and it was funded by a quiz night organised by the Kinvara Business Network that raised over €1,000 for the project.

The trail is based on a pamphlet produced by a heritage group more than a decade ago when they put on an exhibition about the development of the town. However, it was too expensive to distribute free and too modest to charge for. Since then, new technology has dramatically reduced printing costs enabling us to revive the idea.

Using the original pamphlet as a basis and drawing on the knowledge of older members of the community, we produced a new, revised text. A limited edition, illustrated by a mix of old and new photographs of the buildings featured in the trail, was then printed. This was distributed around the community asking for comments.

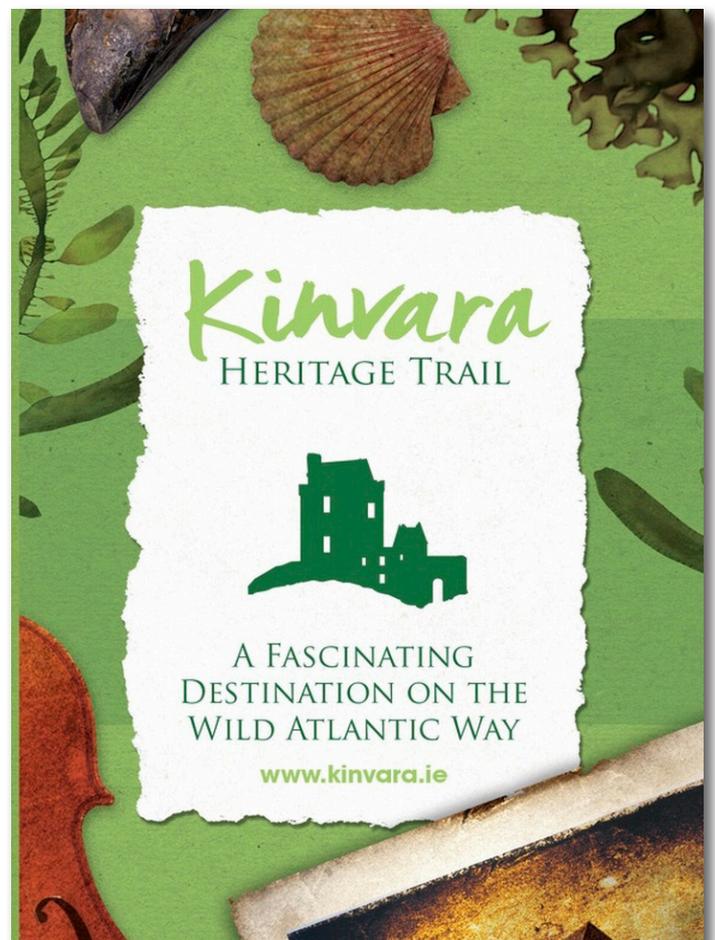
We got a very good and valuable response. These ranged from punctuation and historical accuracy to overall look. We were able to accommodate nearly all of these comments and it improved the pamphlet no end. We think this is and why things like this should be done and as we produce and update successive editions we will be including any new suggestions made since it has been available to the wider public (any comments to [rbroad@eircom.net](mailto:rbroad@eircom.net)). This will further improve it and hopefully, by involving the wider community, promote a continuing and growing interest in Kinvara's past.

We have a lot of people to thank. Too many to mention by name but among them is our designer Susan Meaney who added real class to our preliminary

design. Frank Stanford for the use of his lovely impressionistic map of Kinvara and Patricia Timmons for her sketch of what the Claddagh might have looked like 100 years ago.

We were of course standing on the shoulders of others. People like Thomas Quinn who has collected and taken photographs of Kinvara over the decades and Caoilte Breatnach who saved and put on the public record the photographs taken by Thomas Cresswell in the 1950's. Others, like Jeff O'Connor and Anne Korff, have tirelessly researched and told us what was happening in and around Kinvara over the centuries.

Most important of all is Anne and Caoilte's book, *Kinvara, A Seaport Town on Galway Bay*. Published in 1997, this book brought together much of Kinvara's folklore set alongside early photographs of the town and placed them in the context of the town's historical development. Judged by the highest academic standards, this is a distinguished and authoritative history – something that very few, if any, small towns in Ireland are privileged to have.



# PAUL CONNEELY 1977 — 2013

On October 18th 2015 there was a big turnout in Kinvara for a soccer tournament in memory of Paul Conneely. Six teams, all over 35's, battled away for four hours. Dara Smith's team won the tournament outright beating the Kinvara West team led by Felim Mac Eoin in the final. This event was organised by Kinvara United Soccer Club and was a great tribute to Paul.

On the previous Sunday, October 11th, the second annual soccer tournament in memory of Paul was held in Revere, Boston. Two players representing Kinvara, Julian Conneely and Peter Giles, travelled to Boston to play alongside John McGinley from San Francisco and Simon Greene and others from New York. Included in this Kinvara team was Dan Blander of Marblehead, a frequent visitor to Kinvara and a great friend of Paul's. The Kinvara shirts looked very well on the team representing Kinvara! Lots of teams participated and matches were played from 10am to 6pm. This Boston event was organised by the staff of the Druid Bar, Cambridge, where Paul worked. Well done to Mikey Crawford, M.J. Quelly and John Blake in particular.

Paul was born and reared in Kinvara West. He was sports mad and won lots of medals and trophies from an early age. Hurling and running medals were won up to age eleven but from age ten to seventeen playing soccer was his consuming interest. Newcastle soccer team in Galway that he played with won many



of their matches, so that brought him more medals and trophies. When he moved to Boston he set up an indoor soccer team there and hence the soccer tournament in his memory.

*Paul's wife Hailey, his parents John and Sheila, brothers Mark, John, sister Karen and his Aunt Teresa much appreciate these tributes to Paul.*



# THE NATURE OF KINVARA

## *By Kinvara Tidy Towns*

Kinvara has an extraordinarily rich natural heritage. To the south west is the awesome landscape of limestone rock, with its unique flora, its wildlife, caves and prehistoric sites of such unique importance that it is a proposed World Heritage Site. To the north is Kinvara Bay and to the north west, the shores of Inner Galway Bay. This is a world of sea and beach, salt lakes and lagoons, mud banks and salt marsh, where its shoreline supports a great variety of water birds.

## COASTAL KINVARA

Kinvara benefits enormously from its coastal location and a range of interesting and important habitats and species are accessible from the centre of the village. Along the coast there are a wide variety of marine habitats. At low tide can be seen the seaweed-covered rocks, shingle and gravel shores. At the end of the breen leading down to Ballybranagan on the western side of the bay, is a typical upper salt marsh with most of the plants associated with them. Elsewhere there are mud banks, shingle and gravel banks and a sandy beach at Tracht, best visited at low tide when you might see locals digging for clams.

Traditionally seaweed has been harvested in Kinvara. It used to be brought ashore as a 'climin', a raft of seaweed punted ashore by men using poles. At one time the trade in seaweed was an important part of Kinvara's economy, sold for use in the manufacture of perfume, cosmetics and medicine but it was and is mainly used as a fertiliser. Used as mulch, it is rich not only in nitrogen but in the trace elements that all plants need. After storms when it is tossed up along the shore, locals collect it to use on their gardens. The waters around Kinvara Bay are also important for shellfish aquaculture.

Lagoons are saltwater ponds or lakes that are separated from the sea by some form of barrier

such as a wall or gravel bank. They may also be fed by streams and groundwater so they may range from brackish to very saline water. They are special habitats as they support specialised plants such as widgeon grass and animals such as molluscs, worms and crustaceans that can survive in such an environment. There are several of these coastal lagoons around Kinvara Bay, especially in Doorus and Aughinish.

The coastline all around Kinvara Bay from Oranmore to Ballyvaughan is designated under European legislation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds. This is an area of huge ornithological importance. Here you can find breeding colonies of Cormorants, the Sandwich and Common Terns, as well as the presence of the Red Throated, Black Throated and Great Northern divers, golden plovers and Bar Tailed Godwits. Terns and the common gull are regulars around the inner bay. Other visitors include lapwing, mallard, heron, Brent goose, shelduck and dunlin. Eelgrass, eaten by a wide variety of marine birds, is also plentiful around the bay and is one of the reasons for their presence.

Mute Swans nest along the shore and are a common sight around the harbour. Near to Dungalra Castle, there are breeding otters and seals that find sanctuary on the small islands in the bay and can sometimes be seen from or in and around the pier.

## KINVARA VILLAGE AND COUNTRYSIDE

Inland from the coast there is a different world and another story to be told. Due to the karst limestone bedrock of the region, much of the freshwater actually moves underground, emerging in places in temporary rivers and lakes. Kinvara Bay is an estuary fed by an underground river. You can see some of the waters of this river running into the bay under the road bridge 300 yards east of Dungalra Castle, and at low tide, coming through the harbour walls in the town centre. But most of

it goes up into the bay emerging like culverts under water. This river makes the inner part of Kinvara Bay brackish, supporting an unusual combination of water plants and creatures.

Further inland between Kinvara and Gort, there are a number of turloughs. These habitats are unique to the west of Ireland. Turloughs are karstic lakes fed by groundwater which rises to the surface through swallow holes when the water table rises. They are seasonal in nature, dry in summer and flooded after heavy rain in autumn and winter. There is a large turlough at Caherglassaun about 5km south east of Kinvara, which is home to some rare plants such as mudwort, northern yellow-cress and fen violet. It is also an important site for birds such as whooper swan and lapwing. Unusually, the water levels fluctuate up to 30cm during the day, influenced by the tide at Kinvara. Behind the square in Kinvara there is another unusual turlough feature, a lake that fills up daily as the river water is forced above ground by the rising tide.

On the walls, piers and jetties there is red and white Valerian, notably along the wall at the bottom of Seamount College on the main road coming into the town. Elsewhere, there is false oats grass, Herb Robert and the occasional sycamore that has lodged itself in walls where the rendering has gone. Protected to some degree from the prevailing westerly winds, the town is surprisingly rich in trees. These include beech, ash, sycamore, alder, willow and hawthorn.

On the outskirts of the town, there are substantial areas of scrub and hazel amidst outcrops of limestone rock and alongside areas only occasionally grazed by cattle and horses. Here in the undergrowth are found devils bit scabious, wild marjoram, lady's bedstraw, potentilla, wild garlic and even the occasional spotted orchid. Some endangered and protected plants can be found too including the small white and the purple orchid, saltmarsh grass, pennyroyal, mudwort, round-leaved wintergreen and the oyster plant. Like many wild flowers, most of these plants have evolved and adapted over the

millennia to find their niche on nature's scant and depleted soils. So they like nutrient-poor habitats and aren't found and don't grow on rich or fertilised land where they are unable to compete with larger, greedier and more robust plants.

Around Kinvara, on cultivated land, there are animals such as rabbits, foxes and stoats. There have even been sightings adjacent to the town of pine martens, now a threatened and endangered species across Europe. Utilising the caves and old buildings in the area are bats, including the pipistrelle and lesser horseshoe. Among the butterflies, the common blue is widespread and seen too is the rarer dingy skipper. The latter lays its eggs on bird's foot trefoil growing on local dry grasslands and is only found in the mid-west of Ireland.

In the town and countryside around Kinvara there are regular sightings of birds such as redshank, woodcock, magpie, grebe and curlew along with common garden birds. There are two large colonies of rooks; one in the trees above the ruins of St Coman's Church behind Connolly's pub and the other around Seamount College.

Many of the habitats described above are either on private land, or involve crossing it, and are not accessible to the public. However, much of what is described above can be seen on two public walks south of the town, about three miles up the Moy road and across the New Line. One leads to St Coman's cave and a ruined chapel at the foot of Eagle's Rock, one of the Burren's most dramatic locations. The other is a walk of about 30 minutes across a typical Burren landscape as it weaves its way through hazel scrub and across the limestone pavement and rough pasture, grazed only in winter. There is an explanatory notice at the beginning of the walk and it is discretely sign-posted. About a mile up the Gort Road at Cloonasee, there is the Burren Nature Sanctuary, an interpretive centre for the flora and fauna of the Burren with an exhibition, nature walks and limestone rock garden.

## THE BURREN

Travelling out of the town towards the Burren, the vegetation changes. The fields adjacent to the town gradually give way to areas of scrub, rough pasture and open limestone pavement.

In some places, the fields envelop these wild island habitats and as you approach the Burren proper they open out into tracts of pavement, moraine and patches of poorer, native grasses. It is in these areas where much of Ireland's wild flora, orchids, burnet rose gentians, dog daisies, violets, heather and Bloody Cranesbill can be seen, including some very rare plants such as Bearberry, Dropwort, Mountain Avens and Maidenhair fern. In this rich refuge for wildlife, hares are abundant and lizards slither off sun-baked rocks. Stonechats, snipe, pheasant and the now scarce Yellowhammer grace the sky, while clambering across the rocks are wild goats and if you look carefully there are the unmistakable signs of the presence of the shy and elusive Pine Marten.

Nothing on the Burren is unique. But the Burren is. Known as 'The Fertile Rock', the Burren supports over 600 species of flowering plants. What makes the flora of the Burren truly unique is the assemblages of plants occurring here that should not normally be found growing together in the wild. Mountain Avens and Spring Gentians, at home in sub-arctic and alpine habitats, grow alongside Mediterranean species such as the Dense Flowered Orchid and Maidenhair Fern. These plants of very different origins arrived in the Burren as the ice ages came and receded. Found side by side are acid-loving and lime-loving plants. Flowers like the bloody cranesbill thrive on the thin, limy soils of the pavement, while acid-loving plants like heathers, grow in the acidic humus that collects in the grikes. It is this climatic and geological history, alongside the unusual combination of habitats, that makes the flora of the Burren unique and a paradise for botanists.

This flora is also dependant on the farming system in the Burren known as 'winterage'. Acting like a

storage heater, the limestone absorbs the heat of summer and slowly releases it through the winter months. This makes its mountain terrain warmer and more productive in the winter than the surrounding area. So traditionally in the Burren, cattle are put out to graze on the hills in the Burren for the winter months. As a result, by the spring, the vegetation is cropped back, allowing the small flowers so typical of the Burren to prosper in late April/early May. Without this grazing, the competition from the larger, more vigorous plants and grasses would swamp the small flowers and eventually would turn to scrub.

All in all then, Kinvara is uniquely rich in natural history. Placed between the rock of the Burren and the waters of Galway Bay, it enjoys the flora and fauna of both one of the most unique places on earth and the rich coastal variety of habitats, with not just unusual, rare and interesting plants but also attracting a wide diversity of animals and, especially, birds.



# KINVARA ... YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST TIME

*Patrick Hynes, Newport Beach, California*

My love affair with Kinvara began on July 17th 1969, when I drove my rented Mini Minor down the crest and came upon Dunguaire on my right, with the village waiting in the background. At that time, the water in the bay cut off the castle from the shore and two swans glided in between. As Patrick Hynes from South Australia I should have known there was some ancient connection to Kinvara. I even recalled that an uncle near Adelaide had named his farm Kinvara. Though I did not stop that first time and hurriedly pressed on for the tourist spots further south, I never forgot the tiny seaport town.

Fast forward twenty eight years to 1997... this trip had Kinvara as my destination and my Hynes roots as the goal. My first encounter was with the warm and welcoming Maura Fallon, who found a place for me in her new B & B above the family Spar on Main Street. The freshly painted attic (later known as the Patrick Hynes Room) overlooked the thatched roof of the recently opened Merriman Hotel. In no time I became accepted as a Hynes visitor from America. I got to know Marty, one of the nicest men I've ever met, and all the Fallons — Brenda, Sheila, Martina, Brid and later, Anthony, Oliver and Niall.

On that first visit my days were filled with meeting locals and wandering around the village. Besides a few random Hynes meet ups — like running into old Patrick Hynes at Sextons — I got very little research done. Back again in California, I began planning my next visit ... then the next. I came every year for ten years. Each time I would see new faces, make new friends, watch new businesses open and others close. I really felt part of the community, if only for a few weeks each year. I even brought friends to experience it all. The original plan to find my great grandfather's birthplace had become almost an afterthought.

It was the people of Kinvara who I looked forward to seeing. If I close my eyes I can picture them now ... Roger and Helen (he wrote a poem about me), Nonie Mae in her kitchen at Windermere, Rose (Hynes) O'Connor who showed me the Mass Rock, brothers Paddy and Michael Hynes of Leeha, Frank Naughton who helped me find my convict ancestor, Packy O'Flaherty and his sweet family

at Killina, Michael Burke opening the new Pier Head and an empire, Mary at Greenes – the coziest pub on earth, Mrs. Brogan selling lollies to the school kids from Seamount, Elizabeth Murphy excited about her new Store, the last dance at Winkles, Brian and Doreen Wynne (and Dorine) who loved the village, Father Larkin always in a hurry ... and all the other friendly folk who make Kinvara such a special place.

It's 2015 now and I am long overdue a visit. I can't wait to see what has changed ... and what has stayed the same.



*Patrick Hynes with Maura Fallon*



*Patrick Hynes with Packy O'Flaherty of Killina and his grand children, Patrick, Sarah and Mary.*

## KINVARA COMMUNITY GAMES GROWING SUCCESS IN 2015

2015 has been a very successful year for the Community Games in Kinvara. There was huge interest in the various sporting and cultural activities, a few new sports were included and there were many successes at county and province levels.

The annual Sports Day was held on the 4th May at the GAA pitch. There were great numbers in attendance to participate and to cheer them on. Many thanks too to the many volunteers who provided essential support for the events on the day. The day began by showcasing a new event for Kinvara — cycling! This was followed by running, long jump, long puck, shot putt and ball throw.

Cycling u12 — 2nd in Galway	Joe Meares
Cycling u14 — 3rd in Galway	Conor Burke
Shot Putt — 1st in Galway	Michael Cahill
Running 100m u10 — 2nd in Galway	Sinead Mongan
Running 200m u10 — 3rd in Galway	Ellen Bermingham
Swim freestyle u8 — 1st in Galway	Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Swim freestyle u12 — 2nd in Galway	Jamie Gunning
Tabletennis u13 — 2nd in Connacht	Sean Costello
	Joe Meares
	Aodhan O'Hanrahan
	Tadhg Heavey
Draughts u12 — 1st in Galway	Jason Meyler
	Evan O'Connell
	Ethan Sexton
	Shona Mullarkey
	Eimear Keane
Draughts u10 — 1st in Galway	Gabriel Gorman
	Thomas Byrne
	Brianna Meyler
	Katie Meyler
	Gearoid Huban
Art u12 — 3rd in Galway	Oisin Ivers
Art u14 — 3rd in Galway	Hugh Gately
Handwriting u10 — 2nd in Galway	Sunny Fahy
Handwriting u12 — 2nd in Galway	Cathal Mongan

The sports day also provided the current Kinvara Community Games committee with the ideal opportunity to honour the many years of hard work given by Catherine Kilkelly, Marian Connolly and Pat Collins.

A few weeks later, we all braved the atrocious weather conditions in Ballinderreen for the track and field county finals. We had many excellent performances over the two days and earned medals in cycling, running and shot putt.

There were also successes in swimming, art and handwriting. Our table tennis and draughts teams went on to compete at the Connacht finals in Sligo, while Michael and Hugh went on to represent Kinvara at the national finals which were held in Athlone in August 2015.

We would like to thank the many enthusiastic athletes and participants who enjoyed the chance to have some fun, compete and maybe even represent Kinvara. Thanks to the parents who made sure their kids got to the events and stayed on to show support. We had so many wonderful volunteers who helped to run training sessions and the sports day. Thanks to everyone who donated at the church gate collection. Thanks to Kinvara GAA and St Joseph's National School for letting us use their facilities. Finally, many thanks to Kinvara Credit Union for their financial support and their ongoing sponsorship of the annual prize for the most successful athletes at the county competition.

We hope that 2016 will be even more successful, that you will all get involved (our first meeting to plan for 2016 will be in January) and that the kids will really enjoy being part of a fun community initiative.

See us on Facebook — “[Kinvara Community Games 2015](#)”

**Alan O'Connell, Mike Cahill, Julian Conneely and Hilary Sexton**

**Kinvara Community Games Committee**  
[kinvaracommunitygames@gmail.com](mailto:kinvaracommunitygames@gmail.com)



*Presentation to Marian Connolly, Catherine Kilkelly and Pat Collins*



*Track and Field County Finals, Ballinderreen — July 2015*



*Cycling Event County Finals, Ballinderreen — July 2015*



*Tabletennis team*



*Track and Field County Finals, Ballinderreen — July 2015*



# HAPPY DAYS AT NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

*By Kate, Alannah, Clodagh, Shaun, and Ruarí*

Northampton N.S. is a very welcoming school. It is situated two miles from Kinvara on the Gort road. We have a very successful Pre-school and After-school service above the school, which is run by Jennifer Mongan. We have 83 students this year and 15 Pre-school children. The staff here are always nice and kind-hearted. We have loads of fun at school and have amazing friends from all classes.

Even though we are quite a small school, we take part in every project and sport we can! Last year, we had a hockey and soccer blitz, as well as the boys getting to a Gaelic county final! As for projects, we have received six green flags and are working on our seventh. We think of ways to use less paper and electricity. We learn what's happening to our environment and how we can help it. We have dramatically reduced waste and by doing that, we are helping the environment! We didn't get those green flags for nothing! We are also participating in a project focused on the years 1912-1922. It's really interesting to find out about your families past during that time.

Every year, each classroom does a Christmas Play! All of our families, friends and relatives come to see them! Also, last year we entered our first debating competition. It's really thinking of points for your topic. Unfortunately, our debating team got knocked out after a few rounds. But, they got lovely trophies as a reward! We plan to enter another team this year.

We love to help different charities. Every year, we hold a cake sale to help Bóthar. Other charities we help are:

- Amnesty International
- Trócaire
- Dyslexia Ireland
- Team Hope Shoebox Appeal
- Irish Aid

The Shoebox Appeal was probably our favourite one to do! We all made an effort to make the shoe boxes the best they could be. It was really fun to see all of the cool Christmas wrapping paper on the boxes!!!

We also have our own school garden. There are lots of vegetables and wild flowers. We also built our own willow dome!

For the First Holy Communion, we have our own school choir. It's from 3rd — 6th class. The Communion is on the 14th of May this year. Hopefully, it all goes well. Overall, we are very happy to be in Northampton NS.

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



# NORTHAMPTON NATIONAL SCHOOL ERASMUS WELL-BEING DAY

Children from Northampton National School in Kinvara took part in a Well-being Day on November 20th. With the support of funds from the European Erasmus Plus programme, children were able to experience activities delivered by experts in key areas of well-being and mindfulness.

Catherina O Sullivan's work allowed children to explore well-being through art and creative expression. Alan Daly, a vastly experienced physio with Galway Hurling and Connaught Rugby, delivered lively and interesting sessions on exercise and nutrition. Thomas Baker from Yerman's Puppets fascinated the children while exploring other forms of emotional expression in an often hilarious but thought-provoking manner. Fr. David Cribben explored the idea of mindfulness and well-being with the children with a view to their spiritual awareness. Frances Forde from Jigsaw, in a very informative session with the older children, explored the services available in the future to cater for their physical and mental well-being.

Visiting teachers involved in the project from Poland, Portugal, Spain and Belgium mingled in the school during the day getting to know the children and swapping ideas with a view to implementing similar programmes in their own schools. Local TD Ciaran Cannon called in to lend his support to the project and commented on "the importance of the rural school in maintaining communities and most specifically the immense difference these types of programmes can make to the mental and physical well-being of these communities into the future."

Principal, Shane Mc Donagh commented that staff was "delighted with the positivity the day has brought to our school community and looking forward to further developing the project with our European partners over the next two years as part of the Erasmus Plus initiative. We shouldn't wait until they are teenagers to tackle the issues. Building a strong foundation for physical and mental well-being in the early years ingrains good practices in their lifestyles."

Some websites receiving special mention during the project were [www.beingmindful.ie](http://www.beingmindful.ie), [www.headstrong.ie/jigsaw](http://www.headstrong.ie/jigsaw) and you can follow the progress of the project through links on [www.northamptonns.ie](http://www.northamptonns.ie).



*4th/5th class pupils with teachers from Northampton NS, visiting teachers from Poland, Portugal, Spain and Belgium, and local TD Ciaran Cannon*

# SCOIL CHIARÁIN NAOFA – DUBHRAS

Nestled in the picturesque peninsula of Doorus, Kinvarra, Scoil Chiaráin has witnessed many changes during the past years. With increasing enrolment numbers, a new spacious extension was built comprising of two new classrooms, a library, entrance area and modified school hall, all fully-equipped and offering modern smartboard, internet and digital learning facilities. Every child has access to a laptop and iPads are used in all classes. Children are taught how to use digital learning as a resource to augment, present and research their learning. Scratch is taught in the senior classes. In June of this year, a Scratch presentation was used to link with children in Zambia and inform them about our Burren Countryside as part of our 'Burren Beo' Project.

Doorus N.S is a vibrant and welcoming faculty. Attached to Scoil Chiaráin is our Doorus Community Montessori/Preschool, which not only provides preschool education to our pre-schoolers but also provides to our school community early bird and afterschool services from 8am to 6pm daily. Our enclosed infant playground ensures that our infants can play in a safe environment and our modern basketball courts and playground facilities enable our energetic boys and girls to involve themselves in a variety of sporting activities daily during Sos-time and in fulfilling the objectives of the School Physical Educational Programme.

Scoil Chiaráin has amazing support from its school community of parents and guardians. The Doorus Parent's Council meet monthly and provide valuable support in daily school activity. The Montessori Committee supports its Montessori staff and assists in the provision of services such as afterschool and early bird services. Scoil Chiaráin's hardworking Board of Management toil endlessly in ensuring that all policies, finances and issues that may arise are dealt with successfully.

Scoil Chiarain is a daily bustle of activity as students stroll into their classrooms where they daily master the learning objectives of the Primary School Curriculum but also engage themselves in extra-curricular activities and areas of learning. The school enjoyed many successful highs during the past year, too numerous to put on paper. But there were many special times which have etched unforgettable memories.

## VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC

In the area of Visual Arts and Music, Scoil Chiaráin became involved in the Peace Proms for the first time last year. Together with schools from the Galway area we performed a repertoire of euphonious songs



*Peace Prom Preparation 2014*

with the accompaniment of a Symphony Orchestra. It was a memorable experience for all involved in its musical performance and in its message of peace. Students enter many local and national art and craft competitions throughout the school year often enjoying the success of winning. The local Credit Union, Kinvarra Christmas Stocking Decoration Award, and Tesco Art Competitions provide us with ample opportunity to display our artistic skills.

Every October, the children design Christmas Cards. Amazing cards are produced by the children and printed.

In September this year, Mia Noone (1st Class) received a memorable signed hurley for winning 'Our Local GAA Future Club Poster Design'.

Our 5th and 6th class applied for participation in 'The Artists in Residence Scheme'. We were delighted to be accepted and eagerly followed the professional guidance of our Local Artist in Residence — Chris Banahan. Chris outlined an interesting programme. It was September 2015 and the Galway Hurling Teams were preparing for an All-Ireland win in the Hurling Senior and Minor County Finals. As a memento of the occasion Chris guided us on the key techniques in painting portraits. Each child was then invited to take in one of their hurleys where in class we sanded them down, primed them and painted a self-portrait on one side of the 'bos' and a scenic painting on the other side. Again a unique experience for all involved and valuable memories of Galway Hurling 2015.



Check out the steps on how the 'hurley portraits' were completed on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/144877333>

## SPORT

Sport in Scoil Chiaráin is a vital part of our daily activity. Scoil Chiaráin encourages all of our students to maintain a healthy lifestyle. At 10.30am each day, children down tools and munch on part of their '5-a-day' during 'Fruit break'. This year as part of obair bhaile and daily class work the children involve themselves in a 15-20 minute vigorous activity as advised on the 'Laya Diary' programme in which the school is partaking. If the day is too wet, students dance to the beat on

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com) as part of our active lifestyle in our classrooms!!

Participation in Sporting Competitions especially in the Senior Classes provides students with the opportunity to challenge themselves in a competitive environment, meet other students from different schools and demonstrate individual and team skill. Students participate in Hurling, Football, Camogie, Soccer and the Galway Olympic Handball Under 11, Under 13 and Mixed under 12 Competition Leagues. Sporting highlights included our winning of the County Football 7-a-side in Annaghdown in June, and winning the Division C Final for the past two years in the Gort Garda Tournament. Not having achieved County winning status (yet!!) in Olympic Handball Competitions, we have been very close and have emerged as runners up in the Final round twice last year. Maybe 2015 will be our lucky year!! Friendly matches are encouraged also and during nice warm days in June we invite local Football challenges including our meeting with New Quay N.S in the Burren Cup and The Ballymana Corn which have been organised annually for the past eight years.

Our Sports Day is an integral part of our school year with many days put in to preparing before the Olympic Challenges begin. Our trip to Petersburg for the past two years has given our students the taste of outdoor adventure; gorge-jumping, hill-walking and orienteering challenges. This year we hope to apply for our Active School Award.

## GREEN FLAG

Not forgetting our environment, we are aiming for our fifth green flag this school year, which encompasses the theme of 'Bio-diversity'. This flag integrates all of our previous awards including energy awareness, recycling, respect for our environment, walking to school and water conservation. Since its installation, our bicycle ramp has been fully booked up with our cyclists to school during our Indian Summer weather this year. As part of our biodiversity, combined with enhancing our already established projects, a bug hotel has been installed where we will observe the interaction of life and environment and our school garden will be developed and enhanced.

## OUR SCHOOL GARDEN

Just before our Indian Summer left us, rang 3/4/5/6 tidied up our school grounds, planted Spring bulbs and dug out our School Garden. What a return on our Spring sowing and garden produce we had!! In total – 54 potatoes, 66 carrots, 2 heads of spinach, brussels sprouts, beetroot, some peas and parsley was quarried out! We decided to donate our head of cabbage to our biodiversity–studied caterpillars, who we observe daily, munching their way through its juicy leaves. All of our produce was washed, chopped and made into delicious soup in a large cauldron on our newly–purchased oven. What a wonderful feast we had of tasty hot vegetable soup and some of us added the ‘x– factor’ to our lunch–time sandwich by dipping it into the soup..Mmm!! Check out the pictures on

<http://www.doorusns.ie>. What a garden!!

## OUR ROSE GARDEN

Sadly we lost one of our valuable staff members — Ms Rose Beatty. Rose taught in the Montessori school and looked after her young students with such love, care, and devotion. She made an everlasting imprint on the children whom she taught with her dangling festive earrings and jovial spirit. In front of our Montessori playground we now have our ‘Rose Garden’. There we have planted a rose which blooms throughout the year and an ‘angel of light’ which keeps Rose as part of daily life in Scoil Chiaráin.

## GIVE A LITTLE!!

54 boxes were filled for Team Hope this year and embarked on their journey to children in designated parts of our world; a true testament to the generosity of our school community. Last year 5th/6th class organised a Spellathon and 50 Euro was collected. We sent our amalgamated earnings to ‘Bóthar’. They purchased a goat on our behalf and sent a picture and update on her arrival in Africa. Farming families can now benefit from her produce and her offspring is passed onto a neighbouring family. A worthwhile cause.

## LITERACY

Literacy is an important part of daily learning in Scoil Chiarain. Our library and reading areas are a hive of activity. Twice weekly we D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read) with our reading buddies. Write–a Book is an annual task in our school–diary.

## DEBATING

For the past two years we have entered into the ‘Sr. M De Lourdes Debating Competition’. 16 schools from the Galway area are involved in the arduous challenge of debating a chosen topic in front of an audience. We were nervous in our first year but as debates and success mounted up, our confidence grew. In our first year we reached the quarter finals. In February of this year we went that little further and were narrowly beaten in the Semi–Finals.

As debating workshops begin for this school year, fingers crossed 2015 could be our lucky year!!

## OUR SCHOOL SHORE

Our school shore is part of who we are. Termly, we plod to the seashore with buckets in hand and carefully explore what our seashore has to offer on our ‘Seashore Safari’. We bring home some specimens and fill our School Aquarium. Daily, we care for our visitors, write up a diary and observe the lifestyles and habits of our water friends. From March to June, we were one of the lucky schools who were chosen to be part of the Eco–Burren project. During a 10 week session we studied the geology, history, culture and life of the Burren. In June we set off on a fieldtrip and spent a magical day amid the flora and fauna of The Burren Landscape.

Thus busy times in Scoil Chiaráin! We look forward to the year ahead as we sail for another year on the adventurous seas of erudition...

# KINVARA YOUTH PROJECT AND FILM CLUB

The Kinvara Youth Project or the Kinvara Youth Café, had its inception in late 2009. Its roots began when a number of people met by chance. Over the course of a casual conversation, the people contemplated the lack of a suitable space for teenagers to gather and meet. The very well-managed Youth Club offered a secure setting in the Community Centre for local teens. However, this club catered for teens in the junior age group. Once teens were finished 3rd year, they did not have a space in which to casually drop in and meet. Over the next few months, several of the people who had met initially, came together to create a plan for securing a space and place for older teens in Kinvara. Shortly afterwards, the group identified a suitable building; the old Courthouse.

This dynamic group put together a very comprehensive proposal and secured the building for the coming years. They campaigned rigorously and were granted funding by the AIB and the VEC to completely upgrade and fit out the Courthouse for purpose. Soon a newly transformed Courthouse emerged, complete with pool table, dart boards, flat screen T.V. and the requisite IKEA couches. The teenagers started to arrive! A volunteer body of mainly local parents worked with the volunteer committee to provide a welcoming, secure and convivial space. The addition of three successive Tús community workers helped to provide consistency and structure to the running of the café. Over the last five years, over 231 teenagers from all walks of life in Kinvara have dropped in and availed of the space.

Last year, the committee noticed that the need for a drop-in space had changed; teenagers were actively engaged in other pursuits and their own hobbies. They seemed less interested in wanting a drop-in space. Following consultation with other youth group organisations, and consultation with a group of teenagers, a decision was made to have

a specific focus, reflecting current interests and so, the Kinvara Youth Film Club evolved from the Kinvara Youth Project.

A small group of teenagers are now meeting regularly, since Autumn, to either watch films or to learn the art of film-making with the help of a talented, locally-based film-maker, Johnny White. The club is in its early days of inception and is finding its feet, however the teenagers attending, are motivated and inspirational. They are currently writing their first script for a short film which shows the tension arising when characters are confined in a small space.

Kinvara is well located to host a youth film club, given the myriad of people who work professionally in film and are willing to share their expertise. A series of specialist workshops is being organised on a variety of themes including, stunts, costume design, film production, as well as the core skills of writing scripts, storyboarding, filming and editing. The club continues to meet in the Courthouse, courtesy of KAVA, which is transforming the space into a visual art centre.

We'd love you to join our journey in establishing Kinvara Youth Film Club permanently, no matter who you are – a teenager, volunteer or somebody with skills or an interest in film-making who is interested in contributing.

Contact Lorraine 087-2248338, Orla 086-8414987 or email us at [kinvarayouthfilmclub1@gmail.com](mailto:kinvarayouthfilmclub1@gmail.com)

# DOORUS ORCHARD COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

by Lynn O’Keeffe-Lascar

I have managed Doorus Orchard Community Garden since the very beginning. It started when Roger Phillimore told me about an underutilized walled garden that was attached to the youth hostel near Traught back in 2004. I approached the then manager Brent Bishop about having the use of the walled garden and was given free rein to create a garden. So, I advertised locally for anyone interested in community gardening to get in touch and several people did. All those there in the beginning have remained involved and more have joined this long standing community project.

With generous funding from the Heritage Council (those were the days!!) the orchard was planted up with a collection of heritage Irish apple trees and other fruits such as damsons, mulberry, medlar, pear and cherry, along with a wide range of soft fruit, a picnic area, tool shed etc.



Over the years we added a biodiversity garden, two polytunnels, a pizza gazebo with clay pizza oven, a blueberry bed, a large pergola, a workshop space and we were half way through constructing an accessible garden for the Dolmen Centre in Kinvara when unfortunately all works stopped.

In May of 2015, An Oige, a registered charity to whom the building was donated by the Ebrill family in the 1960s, put the building up for sale and gave us three weeks notice to leave. Members of our committee went to Dublin to negotiate access for the season as we had crops in the ground, but the CEO would not agree. So, as with so many things in Ireland, we turned to a solicitor. Letters went back and forth from our solicitor to their solicitor and continue to do so at the time of writing. Basically, we had a right to access to harvest our crops until November 30th 2015, which we enjoyed doing and brought in a great crop of apples for Kinvara Farmer’s market. On one day alone we had fifteen varieties for tastings and sale.

Sadly, by the time you read this article the garden will be closed and as it stands we are busy putting the garden to bed. We hope that when the sale goes through the new owner will be more amenable than An Oige and we will once again have a thriving community garden for all to enjoy.



I do think that the journey was at least as important as the destination, and highlights for me at the orchard were the hugely successful CE Scheme we had with Flora working at the garden for over three years. The place never looked so well as when Flora was there. She became a very knowledgeable and capable gardener and is missed. We were filmed for television three times and each was interesting – for the TG4 Cul4 children's programme, for Gearrai Glas and only last year for Nationwide. But the best day of all had to be the Harvest Picnic we held in September 2014 to celebrate ten years. With over four hundred local people in attendance and so much help and support from the community – from the provision of a car park to the food stalls, musicians, garden games, toilets, artists, photography, stewards it was truly a very special day. The sun shone and I think just about everyone had a great time.

So thanks to everyone who sponsored a tree, joined the committee, bought an apple or a plant, volunteered or just came to visit!! We are on pause and hope to be back. Keep an eye on our facebook page, [Doorús Orchard](#), or email us on [doorusorchard@gmail.com](mailto:doorusorchard@gmail.com)



# BURREN NATURE SANCTUARY

*Interpretive Centre for the natural history of the Burren*

**By Mary Bermingham**

The Burren Nature Sanctuary (BNS) was designed as a sustainable, ethical business with the mission statement '*to be a world class facility to interpret the natural history of the Burren*'.

BNS first opened its doors on the 1st May 2013 and during 2014 it welcomed over 20,000 visitors to the centre. Since opening, it has received many awards, including:

- **Tourism and Arts** category of the SCCUL Enterprise Awards (December 2014)
- Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark awards for **Visitor Interpretation** and **Leave No Trace** (2014)
- The Eden award for **European Destination of Excellence in Gastronomy** as part of the Burren Food Trail (2015)
- In 2016 the centre will be named **Gateway Site** to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark

## *The story so far...*

The idea for the BNS came from a love of the fabulous local natural history and from going on holiday to relations in Cornwall where there are so many great visitor experiences to enjoy – from Rick Stein's restaurants to adventure parks and the huge success of The Eden Project. Eventually, the idea for the centre was forced into fruition by the collapse of the celtic tiger and the realisation that our special little farm at Cloonasee, just one kilometre from Kinvara village, is an ideal site for a visitor centre to interpret the flora and fauna of the Burren – a facility which was badly needed in the Geopark. The farm showcases five different Burren natural habitats, all untouched by fertilisers or pesticides. It also has a unique fresh water tidal turlough that disappears (all 3 acres of it!) every eleven hours.



After gaining planning permission, we approached Galway Rural Development who backed the project wholeheartedly and awarded the maximum funding of €200,000 (the application took a full year and fills an entire archive box). Although this was a great grant to receive, to get the project to a stage where it would meet visitors' expectations took a huge amount of creativity and hard work from everyone involved and there has been a steep learning curve since the beginning.

A realistic three year plan was essential for the success of the project and so in the first year we concentrated on families. This was a conscious decision to encourage the community to make use of the centre and the family discount scheme was launched to help keep visits affordable. BNS has had many great reviews by families on day trips and the Tuesday morning parent and toddler group is a great place to relax or socialize with other local young families.



In year two we began the education project with the introduction of primary school tours. In 2014 one thousand children completed the **Leave No Trace** school tour with 1,200 more completing the programme in 2015. A Transition Year course, **Cycles of Nature**, funded by Galway Co Council under the Agenda 21 initiative, is being offered free to Seamount College students this year and other secondary school courses are also being developed. The Dublin Institute of Technology is currently using BNS as their study case for sustainable tourism and further third level education will be introduced in 2017.

Year three really completed the visitor package with the building of the exciting Burren Bubble project. This dome shaped conservatory contains the National Collection of Burren Flora, which is being developed with support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The exhibit also slots into the educational and sustainability brief as a place to study the fabulous diversity of the Burren, so tourists and students leave the centre educated as to how to visit the rest of the Geopark without damaging the fragile limestone pavement and flora.

BNS currently provides six permanent jobs to local people and up to twenty seasonal jobs, We use local products wherever possible, take local



students and people with special needs on work experience and support local causes through events and sponsorship. We introduced our local schools initiative in October this year offering free entry during the school day to local primary schools for nature study. As the fairies in the fairy woodland have become quite wealthy with people making wishes, we are planning to open the **Fairy Wishing Well Fund** in 2016 in Kinvara Credit Union and this fund will be available to local families of children with special needs to help with respite costs. We support local business by hosting the Burren Enterprise Centre meetings and events and host the local Active Retirement Group weekly meetings.

BNS has come a long way in the last three years and needs all the support it can during this difficult start-up phase — let's support each other and shop local! Visit the Burren Nature Sanctuary – a magical place. Any questions, comments or suggestions please email [info@bns.ie](mailto:info@bns.ie) or for information on events and membership please visit [www.bns.ie](http://www.bns.ie)

#lovekinvara !

Burren Nature Sanctuary

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

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## TONY MOYLAN: 1948–2015

by M. Brogan

At Cruinniú na mBád 1984, Tony Moylan was referee for the Gleoiteog race on the Saturday. His good friend and one of the most respected of the old Bádóiri, Pat Jennings, was skippering the Gleoiteog Naomh Anna, when he crossed the starting line before the gun. Tony ordered him back to restart his race again, but not used to being challenged by referees, Pat carried on racing and crossed the finish line first. Pat had agreed previously to skipper Tony's newly built MacDara in the Hooker race next day, and he wasn't too impressed with Tony when he went to collect the Gleoiteog trophy, only to find that he was disqualified. Tony had to find another skipper for MacDara for Sunday's Hooker race. Even though he put himself at a disadvantage, when it came to a matter of principle, Tony was a man not willing to yield.

Like many of his generation reared in Kinvara of the '50s and '60s, Tony had fond memories of the old boats bringing turf into the Pier to be sold to the highest bidder.

Years later, he had what many saw as a romantic fantasy, the idea that the Hookers should once again sail into Kinvara loaded with turf and carrying their old calico sails, after an absence of twenty years.

He had a great affection for the Irish language and made a point of learning and speaking it whenever the opportunity arose. In the 1970's, with the revival of interest in the Galway Hooker, Tony travelled around Connemara, as on a mission, getting to know the owners of what remained of the turf boats.

All the old boats at this point had been left unused and often rotting around the piers of Connemara and in those lean years few could see them being restored. He was regarded by many as trying to achieve the impossible. However, he proved his



Photo by Thomas Quinn

critics wrong when he persuaded the key Hooker families to restore their boats and calico sails and bring turf from Connemara to Kinvara by sea once again, for the first Cruinniú na mBád in 1979. The rest is history.

Tony rarely conformed to convention and his powers of alternative thinking and his persistence with his ideas led to some great achievements to the benefit of his community. His life was multifaceted, colourful and far too productive to cover in this short account.

He exported lobster and urchins to France in the 1970's, managed hurling and soccer teams, ran Winkles Bar (where musicians more used to performing in the world's concert halls could be seen playing with the locals) and his was the energy behind the building of the Hookers MacDara and Truelight .

Fleadh na gCuach, held on the newly announced Bank Holiday weekend of Bealtaine in 1994, was another of his great and lasting inspirations. His collaboration with artists such as Joe Boske and Tom Quinn led to some of the finest posters and publications of any festival.

To many, his greatest achievement was in bringing people together through his creativity, and especially the links he revived between his beloved Kinvara and Connemara. Tony had a way of forming an individual relationship with people, and we can all have a quiet smile to ourselves with our own fond memories of particular moments spent in his company.

Apart from Cruinniú na mBád, Kinvara has its own fleet of Hookers and Gleoiteoga, and when you next see the tan sails through the misty haze in the Bay, think of Tony because it was he who made it happen.

Sadly, too early, Tony passed away on the 13th June 2015 after a prolonged illness borne with great dignity. Following his wishes, his ashes were spread from the deck of MacDuach in the sea at MacDara's Island, Golam Head and finally in Kinvara Bay during Cruinniú na mBád.

His input and involvement in the life of Kinvara and further afield has left a legacy for generations to come. He will be missed by all who knew him, but above all by Sinéad, Ciarán, Phil and his sisters Roisín and Mary.

*Ni beidh leithéid Antoine ann arís.*



# STORIES FROM 1982

## A WINDOW INTO KINVARA'S PAST

by Eilish Kavanagh and Richard Broad

*Stories from 1982* is a film by Paddy Greene that was produced and edited by Ger Ryan. Compiled from material shot in Kinvara thirty three years ago, it premiered in the Kinvara community centre on Saturday 2nd of April 2015 to an audience of over a hundred people.

The film is an important record of what Kinvara was like in the latter part of the twentieth century. Older viewers from the community will see some familiar, but now sadly departed, faces such as John Joe Conneely, Gerry Ryan, Thomas Leech and Richie Burke. The fifty two minute film is broken down into sections that tell the tales of The Handy Pint, Boat Building, The Troubles and Pension Day along with the history of the Claddagh, Kinvara's long-standing connection with Connemara and Sráid a' Phúca. Music for the film is by Mary Shannon, who also played on the night of the premier.

Paddy Greene shot the original material with the help of Thomas Leech, using what was then brand new video equipment. Paddy had returned from America, where he was living, to film his adopted hometown over a period of three weeks. Over the years, he tried to interest both the Irish Film Board and RTE in the footage, but without success. At a fortuitous meeting with Paddy at a party, Ger Ryan of the newly formed Kinvara Folklore Digital Archive saw its potential and took up the challenge to produce and edit the footage. He had the fourteen hours of original video transferred to a digital format and then set about the challenging and demanding task of editing it into this fascinating window into Kinvara's past.

Paddy, who now lives in Dublin, was present at the launch of the film where a special and limited

edition DVD of the film was on sale. This limited edition, which was signed by Paddy, sold out within half an hour. To meet this demand, a second, slightly longer edition is now available from the Kinvara Folklore Digital Archive. This exciting project was the first production of the Archive which was set up in February 2015 by Ger Ryan, Eilish Kavanagh and Richard Broad. Their second production was a tribute to Anthony Moylan which was presented to him, sadly, just before he died.

The money raised from the sales of the DVD has been used to purchase digital cameras and other equipment by Kinvara Folklore Digital Archive. This will be used to record interviews about Kinvara's past with older members of the community — memories that once gone, would be lost forever. The Archive also plan to film life as it is in Kinvara today as a legacy for future generations.

At the launch of *Stories from 1982*, Marie Mannion, Galway County Council heritage officer, congratulated Paddy Greene and Ger Ryan and urged everyone in Kinvara to support and contribute to the Archive. She commented that it is important for people to be aware of and enjoy their history and folklore and crucial that it was preserved for future generations.

For further information about the Kinvara Folklore Digital Archive, contact Eilish on (087) 2778184 or Richard on (087) 7628867. Alternatively, visit [kinvara.ie/folklore](http://kinvara.ie/folklore)



First Showing of "Kinvara folklore - Stories from 1982"  
a film by Paddy Greene, Produced by Ger Ryan  
Sat 11th October 2014



# THE LANGUAGE OF LIES

## *A short story by Barbara McKeon*

The house Peadar Mooney lived in had an unkempt look that reflected its occupant; an ageing man with no wife to establish order in his life. Joanne drove up the side of the house and around the back, and parked the car in what once was a farmyard. She was in a bad mood, really annoyed with herself that she had let her husband talk her into doing this. Talk her into cleaning Peadar Mooney's house.

'He's an old man, he's not able to look after himself properly,' her husband Jimmy had pleaded on Peadar's behalf.

'He's not old, he's just plain lazy,' Joanne had retorted. 'If you feel so sorry for him, why don't you go clean his house for him?'

Jimmy gave her one of his you-must-be-kidding looks. He had been on at Joanne for days to do this kind act; some relative was coming to visit Peadar and frankly the place was in a terrible state.

'I can't stand the man, you know that, Jimmy. He's rude and obnoxious. And the lies he tells!'

'That's only when he has a few drinks taken. He's a lonely old man, Joanne; the pub is his only social life. There's no harm in him. The stories he tells, well they're not lies exactly, they're how he imagines things to be.'

Joanne got out of the car and opened the back door with the key she'd been given. Peadar was out, down in the pub as usual at that time of the day. And that suited Joanne for she had no desire to spend any time in his company, listening to him droning on the greatest blather of nonsense. She recalled the previous weekend when she and Jimmy were in one of the village pubs watching rugby international on the telly with other locals, and Peadar had been his usual annoying self. Because no-one was paying him any attention, they were all far more interested in what Ronan O'Gara was doing in Twickenham he kept standing in front of the TV asking what the score was. Because of this they had

missed a really fantastic try. Everyone roared at Peadar to move himself pronto, and at this Peadar gave a loud cackling laugh and moved away; satisfied that he now had everyone's attention.

The house wasn't as bad as she had feared. It was far worse. Floors hadn't been swept or washed in god knows how long; every window was grimy and laced with fly-ridden cobwebs; bedding that hadn't seen a washing machine since Methuselah was a boy. As she toured the small house Joanne's foul mood intensified.

She pulled on rubber gloves and got stuck into the arduous job of cleaning, methodically moving through the rooms with her artillery of cleaning agents, dusting, washing, polishing. On the mantelpiece in the living room was a photograph of a young girl in school uniform. It was just a loose photo, not in a frame. Joanne wondered who she was; Peadar's daughter? But he wasn't married, as far as she knew.

Peadar Mooney didn't come from the locality. He had moved into this house three or four years back, renting it from the O'Reillys who had advertised it in the provincial paper. Peadar arrived from Limerick city by taxi, taken one look at the place which was going at a cheap rent on account of its somewhat dishevelled condition, and moved in next day. Casual enquiries as to his origins or what he worked at before retiring, as he presumably was retired, were met with a barrage of stories that were obviously total fabrications. Why he had to embellish reality with the wildest cock and bull stories no-one could fathom. Everyone laughed at what he tried to pass off as truth, it being a great source of entertainment that each story was more ludicrous than the last. These included being a US marine fighting in Vietnam, a trained CIA agent, some dodgy real estate dealings in Texas, and knowing every influential person from Moyross to Capitol Hill. All such information was only alluded to in the most covert terms, as though his life depended on it not being repeated.

All that was known for sure was that he came from Limerick city and had spent years as a young man in America, where it was not entirely unlikely that he had been in the US army. There was mention of a brother that had gone State-side too who Peadar claimed was a doctor in Boston or Philadelphia or some such place. Was he the relative coming to visit? When that question was put to Peadar, he replied coyly, 'Oh it might be, or it might not be.'

Joanne studied the photograph of the young girl looking for any signs of family resemblance. Finding none she replaced the picture and carried on. In other rooms, on shelves, on window ledges, scattered carelessly on tables and sideboards, she came across personal items: a photo of Peadar as a young man, some woman in a swimsuit, young men in US army uniforms but Peadar wasn't among them. Letters, bills, documents lay strewn about the place, none of which she read but merely tidied into neat bundles.

As she worked on cleaning and tidying, inadvertently uncovering glimpses into a life that itself was as shrouded as the dust laden furniture, Joanne began to feel a kind of humanity emerging. Beneath the cloak of dirt and grime a clean, habitable home was surfacing; and in this home a human being lived who for reasons of his own dressed his life in fantasy. Peadar's desire to be thought of as important led him to fabricate stories, so he'd be considered a person of consequence. Instead he was regarded as a fool, to be laughed at for his warped imagination.

'So who's your visitor?' she asked aloud in the empty house. 'Who is the relative coming to stay with you?' She bent down to switch on the vacuum cleaner again, when a thought struck her. Why do people tell lies? Because they don't want others to know the truth about them. And what is it that Peadar doesn't want people to know about him? Has he got some great secret he wants to keep hidden? She picked up the picture of the school girl and looked at the back to see was there a name or anything. There was nothing; the girl could be anyone's child, or even just a photo he'd found that someone had thrown out. For the first time Joanne

actually felt pity for Peadar. Then she knew instantly why his lies were so necessary, for him to avoid exactly what she had discovered — that she pitied him.

'You're a lonely old man, Peadar,' said Joanne aloud, addressing the empty house. 'And lies are the language of the lonely.'

The following Saturday afternoon, Joanne and Jimmy again were watching a televised rugby match with friends in the local. Peadar was there too, quietly supping a pint on his own. He had thanked Joanne profusely for the great job she'd done on cleaning his house. He wanted to pay her for the work, but she wouldn't hear of it, saying only that the comfort of his visitor was reward enough, adding that wasn't his visitor expected shortly. 'Oh, any day now,' he replied, 'any day now.' Joanne rolled her eyes to heaven behind his back. Nevertheless, it saddened her that the man couldn't sit down with everyone else and enjoy the match and the accompanying banter. It was as if seeing other people enjoying themselves was an affront to him. What was it that made him deliberately ostracise himself. Whatever the reason, it went way back and had now become his way of life.

Peadar Mooney was quickly forgotten as all attention focused on the rugby. It was a superb game; France had been leading by three points but O'Driscoll just scored a brilliant try and O'Gara was about to convert. The crowd in the pub roared and cheered, urging Ireland on, every single one of them leaping to their feet as the oval ball sailed over the bar to put Ireland ahead, and ultimately winning the match.

When the game was over the six o'clock news came on. The headline story was about a plane crash that had happened in Washington DC in which many of the crew and passengers had been killed. People commented on the tragedy as the TV screen showed fire fighters dousing the flames, but the joy of the victory at Lansdowne Road was foremost in their minds.

Peadar Mooney stood up from his seat at the bar and went to stand directly in front of the television, totally absorbed by the plane that had crashed on a domestic flight between New York and Washington. Joanne

watched him staring at the TV, then saw him take out his mobile phone. That mobile phone was his one concession to modern technology which he needed to call taxis. She then watched him go outside, presumably to have a smoke. Jimmy handed her a glass of white wine, and she dismissed Peadar from her thoughts and returned to the gregarious post-match analysis.

Maybe fifteen or twenty minutes later Joanne noticed Peadar resume his place at the bar. He was ashen faced, and to her horror she saw he was crying. Nudging Jimmy to follow her, she went over to Peadar and asked him what the matter was. The old man turned his grief-stricken face to her and emitted the most heart-broken sound she'd ever heard come from a human being. The whole pub went quiet. Everyone turned towards the howling man. Joanne put her arm around him, asking him soothingly to tell her what had happened. The old man's wracking sobs echoed in the silence that had descended. His shaking hand reached out for his pint and he took a long drink. It seemed to calm him. He took a deep breath and turned his face to Joanne. Everyone waited for the words that struggled to emerge from him.

'My brother was on that plane, the one that crashed in Washington. He was flying to New York to get the Aer Lingus flight to Shannon. He was to arrive tomorrow morning to come and stay with me.' Peadar's anguished wail tore out of him again. He beat his fist on the counter top in unison with his keening. 'I rang his son in Washington a few minutes ago. He told me his dad was on that flight, and that he'd just got the news from the airline that Billy ... that Billy....' Peadar's words trailed off into a piteous wail.

Suddenly there was a burst of laughter from one of the lads. 'Well, that's the best one yet!' he roared. 'I tell ye, Peadar, you've surpassed yourself today. That's your best story yet.' In an instant everyone was laughing. The pub was in uproar laughing. Even Jimmy was in knots. But Joanne didn't join in. She didn't know if the story was true or not. It was possible for Peadar to have made the phone call. It was just possible that the brother who was supposed to be visiting him was on

the plane that had crashed, and been killed. But it was equally possible that it was a total fantasy.

Peadar's bewildered face glared around at everyone laughing at him. He started shouting at them, berating them for laughing at his dead brother. And they shouting back at him that he was only telling a pack of lies.

'You believe me, don't you Joanne,' he said pleading with her.

'Of course I believe you,' she replied, fixing him with a smile. 'Come on now, we'll take you home.'

'I don't want to go home. I'll be all right. I'll go up to the hotel and have a quiet drink in the bar there, away from these gombeens.'

'Well, if that's what you want, Peadar. She watched Peadar make his way through the jeering crowd, and disappear outside.

'You don't really believe him, love, do you?' Jimmy asked.

'No I don't. I think he made the whole thing up on the spur of the moment, seeing the plane crash on the television. It was a great way of explaining how his brother or anyone else wouldn't be turning up to visit him. He needs his lies, Jimmy. He needs his lies to stay alive.'

'I think that was one lie too many,' said Jimmy sadly.

The next day Peadar Mooney used his mobile phone to call a taxi. He was driven to Limerick city, and was dropped off with two battered suitcases at a B&B. On calling to the house to collect the rent, the O'Reillys found the money owed left on the kitchen table, and practically all Peadar Mooney's meagre belongings gone. He never returned to the village to collect what was left.

The photograph on the mantelpiece remained where it was, gathering dust.

**The End.**



South Galway Juvenile A.C. celebrates another successful year, thanks to the dedication and hard work of its young members and coaches. The 150 members train twice weekly at the astro pitch in Ballinderreen and the ethos of the club encourages members to achieve their true potential. Participation is also important and excellent results are regularly achieved at competitions.

The Club's 12 experienced coaches regularly attend training on the latest techniques and sports science. Training covers Track events such as sprinting, middle distance, hurdles and relay and Field events such as shot-putt, turbo javelin, and long jump. Recently, training was conducted at the Athlone International Arena where members were introduced to the High Jump and this was thoroughly enjoyed.

The club is managed by an executive chaired by Caitriona Lawless, Clare Dalton (Secretary), Declan Derrane (Treasurer), Siobhan Kelleher, Valerie Byrne, Pat Burke, Edel Leech, Brian Maloney and Frank Power. This year the club won medals in all competitions, with the highest level of 6 national medals for track team events.

Training in Ballinderreen Astro Pitch – Wednesday 6 to 7pm (under 10s) and 7 to 8pm (11+) and Sunday 12noon to 1:15pm for everyone.

**For further details, contact  
Clare Dalton (086) 8575957 or visit  
[www.sgacjuvenile.wordpress.com](http://www.sgacjuvenile.wordpress.com).**



## KINVARA PARISH YOUTH CHOIR

The Kinvara Parish Youth Choir was set up in March 2015 following a request from some Secondary School pupils for an option to actively take part in the music liturgy of the Parish. The group consists of approximately 15 members ranging in age from 10 to 17, with the common denominator being a love for singing and music. The choir is led by local vocalist Maeve Cairney.

We practice every Wednesday in the Parish Centre at St. Joseph's Church from 7p.m. to 8 p.m. We usually sing at one Parish mass per month and are accompanied by members of the choir playing guitar and keyboard. All members of the choir get to have their say in the choice of songs and the atmosphere is one of fun and enjoyment. Vocal techniques and breathing exercises are built into each practice. One member said, "If you are shy at singing you feel better in the choir because you are singing in a group".



The choir is open to boys and girls from Fourth class to Leaving Certificate and new members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Maeve Cairney at (087)6685775.

# KINVARA ACTIVE RETIREMENT

A public meeting in 2009 was held to discuss the possibility of creating a branch of Active Retirement Ireland in Kinvara. The attendance was such that a large number of attendees were in favour of the idea and the first meeting took place some days later. Cormac Liddy was the first Chairperson and meetings were held on the third Tuesday of every month.

With more than 500 groups throughout the country the aim of Active Retirement Ireland is to bring people together for meetings and outings. Emphasis is given to activity and, weather permitting, members frequently take part in a walk, which is entirely optional with regard to distance covered. After each meeting many members join together for a bite to eat and again this is entirely optional but the highlight each year is the Christmas dinner.

Cormac Liddy was followed as Chairperson by Mary Purcell who played a major role in advancing the aims of the organisation. Mary planned and organised many outings to various parts of the country and during her term, a memorable trip to Derry was one of the highlights.

The present Chairperson is Eilish Bermingham and she is strongly of the belief that more people would benefit from being a member. Eilish recently led more than 20 members on a three night visit to Killarney where a great time was had by all. In its short history, the Kinvara members have also visited Belfast, Westport, Killarney, Knock, Dublin, Limerick and, of course, have also visited many local attractions such as the Burren Perfumery, the Burren Nature Sanctuary and so on.

Honorary Treasurer of the group is Maureen Heffernan and Eileen Fawle is Honorary Secretary, after taking up the role from Cormac Liddy who was Secretary under the chairmanship of Mary Purcell.

Membership is open to men and women aged from 50 upwards. New members are always welcome and anyone anxious to join should contact any of the officers. Membership costs €20 per year and this covers insurance in case of accident. For all those who like to meet for a chat or wish to go on various tours, extending from day trips to three nights away, now is the ideal time to join. There are more than 20 members at present and men especially are encouraged to join.



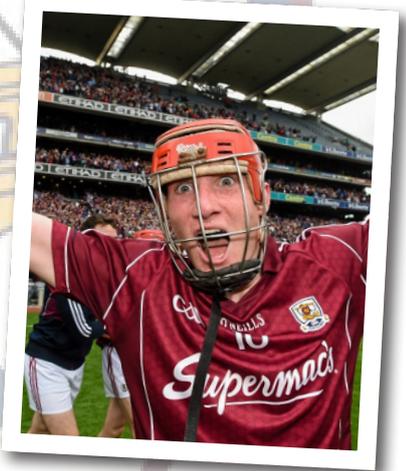
# EMMA KILKELLY PLAYER PROFILE

1. Favourite Film?  
*The Shawshank Redemption*
2. Favourite Meal?  
*Steak dinner in The Pier Head*
3. Who would your ideal date be?  
*Henry Shefflin – to talk cruciates!!!*
4. Toughest opponent?  
*Elaine Burke, a plague to any forward*
5. Name 3 things you would bring with you on a deserted island?  
*Phone, shades and teabags*
6. Childhood hero?  
*Sharon Glynn*
7. Favourite band?  
*The Coronas*
8. Favourite actor?  
*Morgan Freeman*
9. Greatest influence on your GAA career?  
*My parents and family and also my first coach, Moya MacEoin, at St. Josephs NS*
10. Greatest sporting achievement?  
*Senior All-Ireland win in 2013*



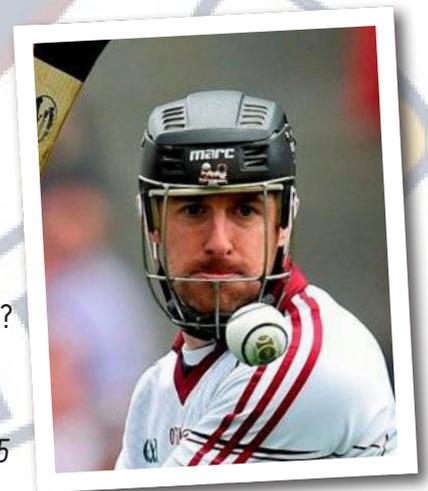
# CONOR WHELAN PLAYER PROFILE

1. Favourite Film?  
*Straight Outta Compton.*
2. Favourite Meal?  
*Caroline's home cooked bacon.*
3. Who would your ideal date be?  
*Rihanna*
4. Toughest opponent?  
*Padraig Mannion*
5. Name 3 things you would bring with you on a deserted island?  
*My hurl, phone and hurling ball.*
6. Childhood hero?  
*DJ Carey.*
7. Favourite band?  
*Westlife.*
8. Favourite actor?  
*Pierce Brosnan.*
9. Greatest influence on your GAA career?  
*My parents.*
10. Greatest sporting achievement?  
*Playing senior inter-county for Galway*



# COLM CALLANAN PLAYER PROFILE

1. Favourite Film?  
*Goodfellas*
2. Favourite Meal?  
*Steak in the Pier Head*
3. Who would your ideal date be?  
*My wife of course!*
4. Toughest opponent?  
*TJ Reid or Eddie Brennan*
5. Name 3 things you would bring with you on a deserted island?  
*Hurl, sliotar and flares*
6. Childhood hero?  
*DJ Carey.*
7. Favourite band?  
*2 Socks and a Toothbrush*
8. Favourite actor?  
*Morgan Freeman*
9. Greatest influence on your GAA career?  
*My parents and John Hardiman*
10. Greatest sporting achievement?  
*All-Ireland Finalist and All-Star 2015*



## KINVARA DARKNESS INTO LIGHT, A YOUNG MUSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

By James Kavanagh

Kinvara's first Darkness into Light was an extremely successful 5km walk/run event that took place on May 9th 2015 to raise awareness and funds for the work Pieta House does in the prevention of suicide. It was an honour for the Kinvara Quintet to be asked to play for the event. When originally I was told the time was 4:30 am, I thought it was a crazy idea. However, when I discussed the possibility with my fellow musicians we felt it was a unique opportunity that could be great fun too! As I walked into the village on that still spring morning, the yellow army of people descending on the village from every corner took me aback and my excitement grew.

We were greeted with the sight of a beautifully illuminated stage where we played for roughly an hour for the hordes of runners and walkers passing. We began to play our set of tunes and the first gang of runners passed by and to my amazement soon a huge amount of people passed our stage. With over 1,200 participants in total, the charity walkers just kept coming for minutes on end. The atmosphere on a brisk early summer morning was magical and there was an incredible sense of community around. The time flew by watching all the people support the great cause that is Pieta House's Darkness into Light. My group, The Kinvara Quintet, were treated incredibly well throughout the event and if asked to perform again at this event, I would say yes in a heartbeat.

Kinvara's Darkness Into Light will return in 2016. See Facebook under Darkness into Light Kinvara or visit <http://dil.pieta.ie/> for more information.

### ABOUT PIETA HOUSE AND DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

In 2009, the Phoenix Park saw the first of the yellow t-shirt clad people assembling at an unthinkable hour. There were about 400 people that fateful morning, all huddled together in the blackness and the cold, standing behind the starting line. Who would have guessed that seven years on, the little event we call Darkness Into Light would be the symbol of hope, the celebration of life that it is today?

With close to 80,000 participants last year, how could it get any bigger? But it has, and is now celebrated in 80 venues in Ireland and much further afield. Darkness Into Light is the flagship fundraising and awareness event for Pieta House, and without everyone's support they could not have helped so many people in suicidal distress and engaging in self-harm over the last nine years. Pieta House has nearly 180 staff and welcome nearly 18,000 people into nine centres up and down the country since first opened their doors nine years ago.

No one should walk alone.



# KINVARA AREA MUSIC TEN YEARS ON

by Frank Hall

Originally founded in 2006, Kinvara Area Music (KAM) has changed name, activities and structure over time and now moves into its tenth year as mainly a concert-producing community group under the umbrella of the Kinvara Community Council. It was just after the closing of Winkles pub (a premier music venue in the West of Ireland and a famous Kinvara spot) that three musicians – Paul Mulligan, John Martin and I – discussed over a pint what to do after the loss. The result of that chat was a general meeting of musicians in the area, and Kinvara Area Music Collective kicked off. In the first year the organisation instituted a Mardi Gras celebration, put out a CD of local musicians, installed acoustic panels to improve the sound at the Community Centre, and produced local concerts in several venues.



KAM Collective began as a registered company with thoughts for the future ranging from a Kinvara performing arts venue to a musicians union. This was still in the heady days of the economic boom. Over time, however, the 'Collective' was dropped as well as the limited company structure, and the focus became the development of a venue and a series of good listening concerts – concerts that could showcase local musicians as well as bring in good music of

various kinds to Kinvara. Non-musicians and music lovers of all sorts were invited to be part of KAM as it broadened out its reach. Johnston's Hostel became Johnston's Hall under the care and attention of Maeve Johnston and we found the hall to be cosy, intimate, as well as acoustically excellent and so produced concerts there until 2014 when it became unavailable.

Spring of 2016 will see KAM host our 100th concert, the ninth Mardi Gras celebration, several workshops, musical puppet shows, one-man theatrical shows and well over eighty music concerts, including several Blackboard Venues open to all performers. The year 2015 has seen the migration of concerts to the newly developed GiG Room at the community centre. With the help of many volunteers, Kinvara Community Council and Galway County Arts Council, KAM developed The GiG Room – a curtained-off, professionally lighted and quiet venue within the community centre. Although it requires more volunteer effort to produce concerts with this set up, the space itself has proven to be an excellent room for intimate concerts.



Sometime around 2009, KAM hosted a one-day retreat for local musicians and music lovers to discuss an appropriate vision and mission for the organisation. The resulting statement of aim or vision was 'a lively, diverse and inclusive music scene in Kinvara'. Luckily, we already had a lively music scene in Kinvara and it continues to be a major feature of Kinvara's profile in the country. Still, it was important to acknowledge these aspects of our values, especially diversity and inclusion. The statement regarding how we were to accomplish this was 'to maintain a lively and creative forum to support and help develop musical activities

in Kinvara'. This has been the work of the concert committee, this year including Josephine Boland, Pascal Bradley, Caoilte Breatnach, Eilish O'Connor, Janet Sutton, and myself – though many others have served before. We work with a larger group of volunteers to produce concerts and assist or cooperate with others in musical activity in the village. For example, KAM concerts have become an outlet for special performances of teens from the Open Mic in Kinvara. And they have never failed to impress.

Volunteers are the life blood of KAM. Many, many people in the broader community have helped in a myriad of ways, from serving on the committee to setting up the stage before or stacking chairs after, a concert. As we approach our tenth year and look back, many are those who have helped carry the ball and more are always welcome. KAM maintains a web, facebook, twitter, email, and text presence. Access to all is available through [www.kinvaramusic.com](http://www.kinvaramusic.com) where you can see posters for gigs going back to 2007! KAM membership (€10/year) and volunteering is for anyone, including you, dear reader, who shares the view that the joy of great music in an intimate, quiet setting, live and in real time on a Saturday night in the best little village in the West is something precious and worth the effort.



## KINVARA FORÓIGE YOUTH CLUB

by Kathleen Gaughan

Since 2007, Kinvara Youth Club has been held in the Kinvara community centre on Friday nights from 8 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. for local teenagers attending secondary school. The aim of the club is to provide a safe and friendly environment for teenagers to socialise with their friends, perhaps make new friends and hopefully to have fun!

As a member of the national youth organisation, Foróige, we are able to attend inter-club events throughout the year such as quiz nights, sports days and discos. We also arrange our own events such as movie nights, Zumba nights, cyber bullying awareness talks and even the odd Ceili dance night! Kinvara Youth Club encourages community involvement as much as possible and we now have our own Foróige boat which is maintained by club members. Our members have also assisted with marshaling for the annual Cuckoo Fun Run for the last two years and we have further plans for the coming months to promote community involvement for the teenagers of Kinvara.

The general success of the club is very much dependent on the number of adult leaders involved. If you are interested in becoming a leader please contact us on (085) 845 8484.

**Kinvara Foróige Youth Club Committee**



## NEW PITCH DEVELOPMENT FOR KINVARA GAA

In 1961 when Kinvara GAA opened its current pitch the Club had approximately eighty playing members and only six teams. Fast forward just over fifty years and the Club now has a total of 400 playing members and twenty eight different teams. Not only that, but our pitch is the home pitch for hurling, football and camogie for over 800 local primary and secondary school pupils. From this increased demand grew the necessity for a new second pitch.



Back in 2013, the Club purchased over five acres of adjacent land from the Tully family. This land is of a type known locally as rock or cregg and consists of huge boulders, deep hollows and a small bit of green here and there — basically, you would get lost in it!

Development of the land started in 2014, with site clearance and enabling works. This provided a clear picture of what work would be involved and how much base, subsoil, topsoil and sand would be needed.

In 2015, the project was put up for tender and contracts were signed with Michael Boland Contractors from Clare. In August, machinery arrived and the contractor began building up the ground with all the necessary layers. Grass seeds were sown in early October and it was to much delight that the first green shoots appeared after just two weeks. Also built at this time by local stonemasons (working for Brian Murphy Contracting) was a superb wall boundary that is quite unique and a sight to be seen.

Phase 1 of the new development will be finished in January 2016 and along with the new pitch there will be a new running and walking track along the perimeter wall. This will provide safe walking facilities for the local community as it is well known how dangerous the roads can be. Recently completed was a new footpath from the pitch gate to the top of the Moy Road. Kinvara GAA contributed €5,000 towards this and the Club thank both the local neighbours and Galway County Council for their cooperation.



The Club were fortunate to receive a Sports Capital Grant towards the pitch redevelopment which helps towards the costs, but much more is needed. We are lucky to have a supportive membership base and community and we thank them all for their support to date. Phase 1 has a total target cost of €330,000 with €210,000 coming from club fundraising and grants. The balance of funds of €120,000 for Phase 1 is being financed with a Credit Union loan. Phase 2 and 3 which include floodlights, an Astroturf pitch and a ball wall has a budget of €190,000, but these will have to be put on hold until further funds are raised.

For further information on the project background, progress photos and updates as well as details on how you can contribute please visit our website on [www.kinvaragaa.ie](http://www.kinvaragaa.ie)

# KINVARA UNITED F.C.

## RAPID GROWTH IN SOCCER CLUB

Some of the annual highlights in the Kinvara United year are the St. Patrick's Day parade in Kinvara where everyone shows their pride in their club and community, the annual club cycle run by Johnny O'Dea, some of our juvenile teams getting the opportunity to play in Deacy Park (Terryland, Galway), regular bus trips to the Aviva stadium to support our national team and our club calendar proudly on display in homes and businesses around the community.



Kinvara United FC (KUFC) has grown rapidly from one adult and one juvenile team in 2007 to over fourteen teams in 2015, competing at all levels from under 7's to under 18's and at last count there were 426 registered players. The club has grown under the guidance of Chairperson Ger Ryan and the various committees elected each year by the members. KUFC have had good success on the field, something that all sporting groups need, winning a number of trophies and gaining promotion across



the full spectrum of boys, girls, ladies and men's teams. Kinvara United also started a masters league in Galway in 2013 which has been hugely successful and gives an opportunity to over 160 men over the age of thirty five to play soccer again with their friends during the summer months.



The club is indebted to Anthony Connolly for allowing the use of his field as a home venue since 2008 and to Mike O'Brien for such great turf care and pro-active maintenance. Many clubs from around the county and further afield compliment the facilities when they come to Kinvara.

The Club's busiest night is generally Monday evening during September or October in Connolly Park. It is a mixture of pure buzz and excitement with up to 110 children playing at the same time, from under 6's that are affectionately known as the ducks because of how they all follow the ball, to the under 7's, 8's, 9's and under 10's.

The club has recently honored deceased past members of the club, with the Chris Heaney Clubman of the Year awarded to Liam Carroll in 2014 and separate memorial five-a-side tournaments for Enda Donoghue and Paul Conneely.



Clubman Declan Mooney has helped raise the profile of rural clubs by serving as secretary on the Galway FA committee and helping introduce reforms and good practices for the benefit of all players in Galway.



The FAI has rolled out a national player development plan that is fully endorsed by Galway and district league and all clubs, including Kinvara United FC. This plan has proven to be a great success. The FAI have stepped up the availability of their certified coaching courses around the country and this gives all coaches access to book times and venues that suits them.



The annual KUFC cycle needs special mention. The first cycle was by two lads, Johnny O'Dea and Brian Kirwin, cycling on their own to raise badly needed funds at the time. Since then it has been a regular event and doubles as a social stay over, with cycles in recent years to Westport, Castlebar, Kilkee and Clifden.



The club is confident that it will find a permanent site so it can develop facilities for the benefit of all the players, now and for the future. This work is being led by the four club trustees Ger Ryan, Kevin Sexton, Alan Mooney and John Madden.

Further details of the club can be found on the website [www.KinvaraUnited.com](http://www.KinvaraUnited.com) or [www.facebook.com/KinvaraUnited](https://www.facebook.com/KinvaraUnited)





# Kinvara Bay Sailing Club

Kinvara Bay Sailing Club (KBSC) originally came about back in 2004 after a winter project by a few families in the area to build Heron dinghy's grew into something much bigger. By 2005, there was a healthy fleet of twenty five herons in Kinvara and sailors interested in racing them. KBSC was born. The original club wanted to encourage the development of sailing and associated skills in Kinvara and the surrounding areas and enjoyed a number of years of regular sailing and racing on Kinvara Bay. However, fast forward a number of years toward the end of the decade and KBSC suffered a decline in activity and unfortunately went dormant for a few years.



Then, three years ago in 2012, a small group of sailing enthusiasts got together to set about reviving KBSC. What started as a small group in

2012 has now grown back into a vibrant dinghy sailing club with over fifty families as members and numbers growing all the time. The club aims to not have any barriers to entry for members by keeping subscription fees low and maintaining a small fleet of boats for new members to learn how to sail. However, the club is run entirely by volunteer work and members are expected be present during sessions if they have a junior family member sailing and also help with the club duty rota.

2015 was a great season of growth and activity for KBSC. Having operated from Crushoa pier in 2013 & 2014, the club started sailing out of Parkmore pier this year. This gave members better options on tides and more space for parking and manoeuvring boats. Through the generosity of the Brogan family in giving us access to a field, we were also able to offer members a boat park for convenience in storing boats close to the water.



We officially kicked off 2015 with a registration night in February in the Community Centre and also around this time one of KBSC's committee members, Gerry Dillion, designed a new logo for the club that was put to good use in our first St. Patricks Day parade appearance in March. In April, we held a table quiz in Keoghs, the profit from which was used to fund the purchase of a new club safety boat — necessary for the growing numbers on the water.

Shortly after that we had an information evening for new members in the Community Centre and before we knew it we were ready for our first

shakedown sail on April 30th. After a few small repairs and improvements to equipment we headed to Parkmore for our first supervised sail for all members on May 8th. We also introduced Wednesday evening Club sailing this season, aimed at more experienced sailors as there is only one safety boat on the water and no assistance with rigging or sailing. Just some healthy competition getting around the marks!

Later on in the summer, the club were lucky enough to be invited to join the Bádóiri at Parkmore on the Saturday afternoon of Crinniú na mBád. After some food & entertainment, twenty KBSC members took to the water to accompany the big boats in to Kinvara for the official start of the festival. The club had eight boats on the water — a very special sail and a season highlight for many. We also got our annual Island Eddy trip going at the end of August with roughly twenty members making it out to the Island for a picnic and a lovely sail back to Parkmore afterwards.

In September, sixteen of our sailors were invited to crew on Joie de Vie – one of the keel boats that took honours at WIORA earlier this year. It was a memorable sail on a beautiful Galway Bay evening and a great opportunity for our junior members



to experience some big boat sailing with everyone getting a chance to take the helm at some stage.

We closed out our on the water sessions on September 23rd with a great evening of sailing at Parkmore with the young fellas teaching the old lads a trick or two about how to stay in their boats! An enjoyable way to end a great season.

To finish out the year we held a Junior Laying Up Supper in the Burren Nature Sanctuary in October and had our Club Laying Up Supper upstairs in the Pier Head in November having held our AGM a few days prior.

For more information check out Kinvara Bay Sailing Club on Facebook or visit our website <http://kbsc.info>



# SHAWN MAC MAHON

Shawn MacMahon is remembered by his many past-pupils and staff in St. Joseph's National School Kinvara, as a dedicated teacher who was committed totally to his profession. He was strict, but fair, and his interaction with his pupils extended beyond the school curriculum to include discussions on current affairs, working in the school garden and introducing pupils to the mysteries of bee-keeping. His love of local history and folklore was passed on to many.

He recognised the need for extra rooms in St. Josephs and following representations on his part and with the support of parents and management, the first extension to the school was built. He showed leadership qualities in his promotion of collegiality among his staff and in his support for them in their teaching.

He was born on the 22nd April 1934, the first child of Mikey and Ethel Mac Mahon. His father was a native of Tulla, County Clare and his mother was from a Protestant Scottish family, Douglas, who had moved to Tulla. The mixed marriage was not acceptable to either family so the couple eloped and eventually settled in Kinvara with Mikey's uncle, John. Shawn had three brothers and three sisters.

Ethel and Mikey saw a business opportunity in Kinvara and they opened a shop and petrol pump at their house opposite St. Joseph's Church. Their business acumen passed to Shawn and when he took over the business in 1972 he developed the first supermarket in Kinvara and extended the business to include a hardware shop with farm feeds and supplies.

Joe Muldoon was Shawn's teacher and Principal in national school, from where he was awarded a scholarship to St. Mary's College in Galway. However, he completed his secondary education

in St Joseph's Patrician College Galway (The Bish) and was then offered a place in St. Patrick's Training College in Dublin, though he had, for a short time, ambitions to become an airline pilot.

Successfully completing his third level education he was unable to find a teaching job in the depressed Ireland of the 1950s. Like thousands of others he sought work in England and working up through the ranks, became a Distribution Manager for a gravel company in London. Some years later he was told of a vacancy in Carron National School, for which he successfully applied. However, his acceptance of the job was not an easy choice to make — it meant a reduction in his weekly pay from £12.10 to £5 a week!

After moving back to Ireland, he had reason to spend a time in the Regional Hospital Galway (now UCHG), where one of his nurses happened to be Judy O'Connor. Upon meeting again soon after in the Seapoint Ballroom they fell in love and married in September 1958. The job in Carron came with a house which, though it was a very basic building with no mod cons, saved them the hassle and expense of looking for a house or building a new one. He attended carpentry classes and with his new skills converted the attic space in his new house into extra bedrooms.

Shawn enthusiastically embraced his new position and he became very involved in community life. His home had visitors many evenings of the week and he is remembered as a promising footballer with Michael Cusacks GAA club. He also played his part in fundraising for the fine playing field in Belharbour.

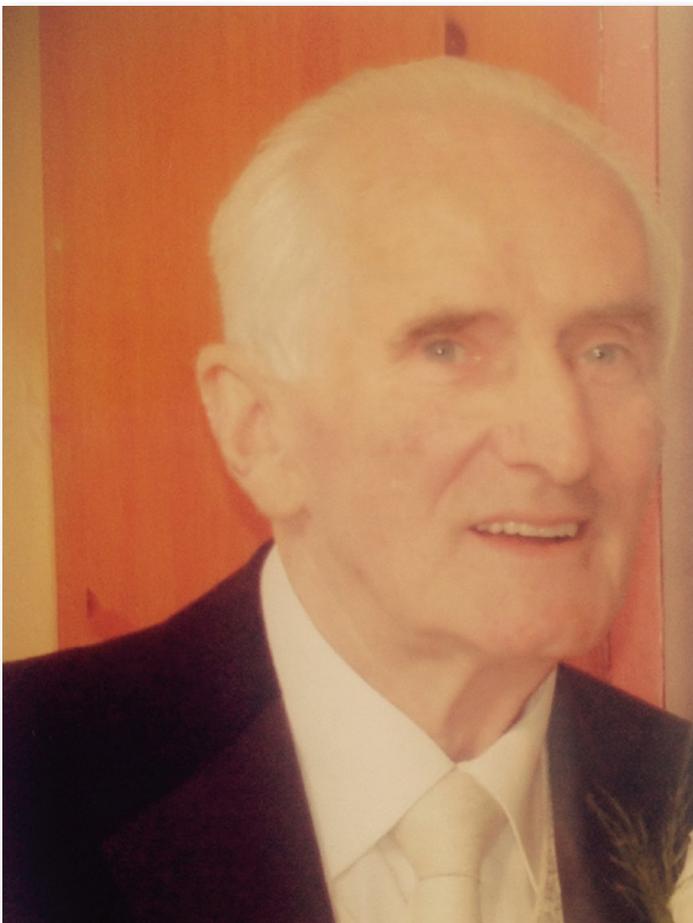
Judy and Shawn moved back to live in Kinvara in 1966 and for the following ten years he commuted to Carron. He became active in all aspects of community life — he was a member of the GAA Carnival Committee, a founder member of Kinvara Handcraft Co-operative Society and an active member of the Muintir na Tíre Guild,

subsequently the Community Council. He and Judy were part of the first group from Kinvara to visit Locoal-Mendon in the late 1980s. When, in 1972, he took over the business founded by his parents, he developed it into a thriving enterprise which was important for the people in all the surrounding parishes.

In 1976 the position of principal in St. Joseph's National School, Kinvara, became vacant and he successfully applied for it. For the next eighteen years he was a dedicated principal who promoted all the traditional good values of Irish education in his school. But he also found time for his hobbies, especially farming and Bridge, and he took pride in his family as he saw them grow.

Shawn was predeceased by his wife Judy, who died in 2009, and he passed to his reward the following year. He was survived by his eight children and nineteen grandchildren.

*Go gcúití Dia a shaothar leis.*



## KINVARA BRIDGE CLUB

Now in its 41st year, Kinvara Bridge Club continues to grow in popularity. In 1975, seventeen people turned up in Winkles Hotel, on Moya Mac Eoin's invitation. Some thought that Kinvara was too small to have a Bridge Club, but it has now become one of the most successful in the county, with over 50 members.

The club meets on Monday evenings at 7.00pm in the Merriman Hotel but, over the years, it has also played in Keogh's and the Kinvara Guesthouse.

Members take part in many competitions throughout the year and a big charity tournament is held every April. This latter event draws players from all over Galway and Clare. Joint Bridge sessions with Gort and New Quay clubs are always very enjoyable occasions, whether they are played in Kinvara or when we travel to them.



The Club received a great boost when Carmel Murphy gave classes in Kinvara. As a result, many younger players joined.

Bridge sessions, at a more leisurely pace, are held on Monday mornings at 11.00am in the Merriman, under the guidance of Marie O'Shaughnessy.

The Bridge season begins in September, and it is a great source of interest and enjoyment to members throughout the winter months. When it ends in May, with summer beckoning, everyone is sorry to finish.

New members are always welcome. Contact Susan Cranley (087 9186272) or Marie O'Shaughnessy (087 9031960) for more information.

# SWIMMING AND LIFESAVING IN KINVARA

Kinvara Swimming and Lifesaving Club, which is affiliated to Irish Water Safety, runs classes for about forty children on Saturday mornings and there has also been a short course for adults. Parents have trained as assistant teachers to teach alongside fully qualified volunteer instructors such as Bridie Giles, Eleanor Burke and Stan Mac Eoin. Trainee instructors from the Lifesaving section also assist occasionally. One parent, Helen Gunning, helped start the Swim West Club for adults, many of whom participate in triathlons and she also trains competitive swimmers with Blue Fin Swimming Club.

Since 1968 the club hired a bus to bring children to swimming pools in Lahinch, Ennis, Ballindereen and Kilcornan. Regrettably, it became necessary to discontinue that arrangement in the past year and children must now travel to the pool by car. We are grateful to Miko Donoghue, his family and drivers, for their great service to the club over the years.

Seventy teenagers attend lifesaving classes every week. Half their time is spent in the pool, building up stamina and perfecting the skills and techniques that will enable them to become competent lifesavers. An hour is spent doing land drill and learning basic life support, including the use of an automated external defibrillator. Members attend from all over South Galway, as well as Kinvara. The Director is Rory Divilly, a native of Ballindereen, who first learned his swimming with Kinvara Swimming Club and he is ably assisted by Helen O'Connor of Kinvara (an Instructor and Examiner), Mary Barrett of Loughrea, Eleanor Burke, formerly of Cahermore, and about ten trainee instructors. Jackie Tully of Moy Road is Secretary and Child Protection Officer.

At present, many past members participate in long distance swims in Ireland, the UK and Europe. We look forward to our present members also excelling in a variety of aquatic activities in future years.

## CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM

The first Christmas Day Swim in Kinvara (held at the Quay) was organised around 1988 to raise funds for a Cheshire Home in Galway. In 1997 a swim was held in Crushoa to buy equipment for a hospital in Kenya in which one of the club members, a final year medical student, worked for three months the following summer. After that, the funds raised annually were donated to a range of charities and the event became so big it had to be moved to Traught. Up to 200 swimmers take part annually and hundreds of spectators turn up. Between €2,500 and €4,500 is raised every year, a small proportion of that being used to promote swimming and lifesaving, but most (at least two thirds) going to Galway Hospice. The 2014 Christmas Day Swim raised €3,415.41 and €3,300 was sent to the Galway Hospice.



## THE FUTURE

For a long time Kinvara Swimming Club was the only constant provider of swimming classes in Kilcornan pool. In the early years, many families had little disposable income to spend after necessities were bought. An objective of the club was to bring the life skill of swimming to every child, regardless of family income. Now there is greater access to a variety of swimming classes and clubs in the area, thanks to practically universal car ownership and more disposable income. But Kinvara Swimming and Lifesaving Club which will shortly celebrate its golden anniversary, marking fifty years of promoting the essential life skill of swimming in Kinvara and farther afield, may need to examine how best it can meet the needs of its members today.

The burden put on the small number of volunteers could be shared more equitably if the many persons who have trained as Assistant Teachers and full Teachers volunteered to re-engage with the club. Thought might also be given to the desirability of once more entering Community Games and other competitions. It cannot be left to a small, dedicated number of volunteers such as Clare McGinty-Ryan (Secretary), Phil Burke (Assistant Secretary) and their helpers. Parents and past members in Kinvara should make their voice heard and work towards identified goals so that the club continues to be a vibrant force for the promotion of swimming and lifesaving.



# KAVA

kinvara area visual arts

Is it a restaurant, a fizzy alcoholic beverage, a Polynesian sedative? All of these may just be correct, but in this context KAVA stands for Kinvara Area Visual Arts. In other words, your local Arts group! The aim of KAVA is to promote and support the visual arts and the artist and to embrace creativity in the Kinvara area.

The idea of a support group for local artists was born in 2014 and came to fruition in March of 2015 with our first AGM. Since then, we at KAVA have been busy bees, working on behalf not only of our members, but also for artists in a global context. Because that is what members are KAVA – a casual group of diverse people from all artistic disciplines and their supporters who are interested and believe in KAVA's aim. We are our members.



*Pop-up gallery in the old DIY shop*

Since KAVA's formation, and even before, we have been extremely busy. We have mounted three exhibitions in different pop-up galleries in Kinvara and one in the Courthouse building. Some members have taken part in group exhibitions in the Gort Library, the Burren College of Art and the Russell Gallery in New Quay.



*William Fulford, Sculptor, Gort Library Exhibition Opening.  
(note Yeats and Lady Gregory listening intently!)*



*Pop-up gallery in Geraldine Blackwell's old shop*

KAVA mounted a wonderful exhibition in the shop windows of Kinvara called Windows into Gaza, showing work from Palestinian artists. This exhibition toured the top galleries all around Ireland and finished up in Kinvara.



*Painting on Left by Ruqaiya Al-Lulu. Harvest.  
Painting on Right by Raed Issa. Roses Carrier*

Regular film nights were held showing art related films and there were several fascinating presentations from different and diverse artists, including sketchers, painters, sculptors and photographers.



*Anne Korff's presentation of her work in the Courthouse, Kinvara*

 A poster for an art exhibition. The background is a colorful Aboriginal-style pattern with concentric circles and geometric shapes. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts.
 

**KAVA**  
**Kinvara Area Visual Arts**  
 Presents  
**An Exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Art**  
 (Private Collection)  
**At The Gentian Cafe, Kinvara**

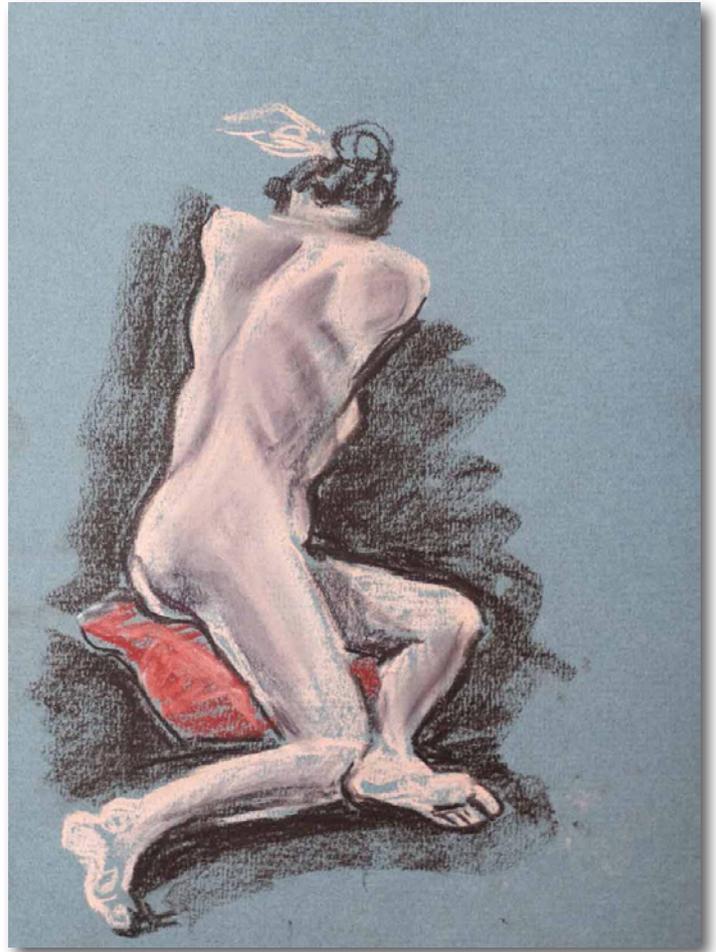
**22nd April to 6th May 2014**

**A Talk By Kate Thompson with Discussion Afterwards**  
**will be held at the Venue on Tuesday 22nd at 7.30pm**

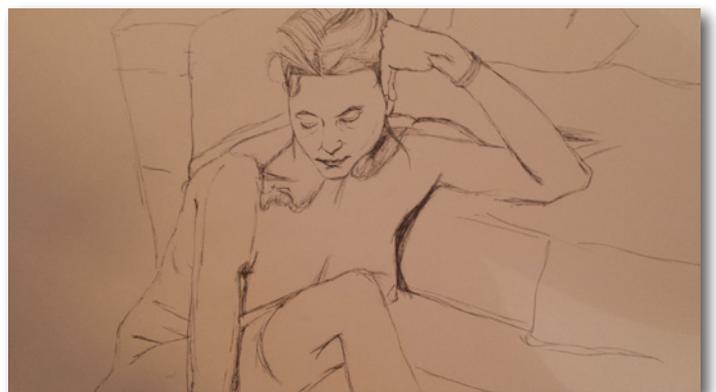
**Entrance 2 euros non-members/Kava members free**  
**Tea/Coffee & a Selection of Wines will be available for purchase**

*Poster for Aboriginal Art Exhibition*

Life-drawing sessions proved so popular that we had to hold them for two nights a week for each series.



*Drawing by Colin Johnston*



*Drawing by Belinda Deutinger*

There was an extremely successful graffiti workshop held during the wonderful sunny summer of 2014, where lots of local children participated, played music and painted to their hearts content.



*Graffiti workshop 2014*



*Graffiti workshop 2014*

We have had visits to artists' studios and a trip to Carlow to see the Patrick Scott exhibition in the Visual Arts Centre.



*A group of KAVA members in Carlow at the Patrick Scott Exhibition*

In the summer of 2015, as a result of our very interesting Windows into Gaza exhibition, we were invited to take part in Palfest Ireland. We accepted. This involved the showing of a fascinating

documentary made by our very own local and famous film maker, Richard Broad, entitled Palestine and a photographic exhibition by Belgian photographer, Seba Asmaa, on the Fishermen of Gaza.



*Photo © Seba Asmaa. Richard Broad outlining the history behind his documentary film "Palestine"*



*Photo © Seba Asmaa. Kinvara Farmers Market. Notice Board advertising the Fishermen of Gaza Exhibition*

Since then KAVA have gone underground somewhat. But not because we have been doing nothing. Oh no! We have still been very busy bees behind the scenes, as KAVA is not just about what we have done; it is about what we are going to do in the future. BIG PLANS! Early in 2015 we received some news. Kinvara's old Courthouse was going to become available in September 2015. The building was bequeathed to the Parish Council to be held in trust for the use of the Kinvara Community. So through the Community Council we applied to take over the lease with the aspirational vision of developing the Courthouse into a much needed art space for the Kinvara Community. And our application was accepted! A delightful decision for KAVA as it opens up all sorts of possibilities for the visual arts in Kinvara and the space can become a huge asset for the town.



*Kinvara Courthouse. Weekly Art Mart held on Fridays during Summer 2014.*

The Courthouse is a grand old Georgian dame, nearing her 200th birthday and quite beautiful in her simplicity – a sleeping gem in the heart of the village. She may be a bit tired around the edges as perhaps she has been somewhat neglected since the Courthouse, Playgroup and Youth Cafe vacated the premises, but working with a Conservation Architect, KAVA hope to transform her inside and make her shine once again. Our hopes for the rest of 2015 would be to make the main room a bright, clean gallery/art space, just the perfect size and shape for a town our size. To achieve this requires huge commitment and money, as there is a lot of work to be done. Wiring needs to be repositioned, the heating needs to be upgraded, certain nasties such as woodworm and damp walls need to be dealt with and of course the lighting needs to be brightened up. That is all before going near the second smaller room and toilets or the structural repairs! None of this work comes cheap.

So temporarily, the members of KAVA have become builders and fundraisers. We held a very successful table quiz to raise funds earlier this year. We have also applied for a grant from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and hope to apply for more grants as they come on stream. Our membership fees are our life blood and also help defray some of the costs. We are always looking for new members, supporters, friends of KAVA, members with expertise in the arcane art of applying for grants, or sourcing that rare and hard to source substance called 'money'! What we really need is a Patron, Benefactor of the Arts, Sugar Daddy or a Fairy Godmother! But we will persist and spend the winter of 2015 completing some



*Art Mart Summer 2014. Lunch Break.*

of this work. In the New Year there will be a fascinating exhibition called Desert to Doorus to Kinvara featuring Sudanese art and film, opening on December 29th and running until January 10th 2016.

In 2016, again with the help of grants and fundraising, we hope to paint and do up the small room, upgrade and modernise the toilets and make the Courthouse wheelchair accessible. When this work is completed the Courthouse will be a wonderful new, much needed community art space in the heart of the village and an enormous asset to residents, visitors, tourists and the Community of Kinvara. It will hopefully be used for artistic endeavours by all sections of our community. But as already stated, KAVA is its members, so we need members to keep KAVA alive. You do not need to be an artist to join; you just need to want to support us.

For your membership fee you will receive regular emails about our upcoming events, a 10% reduction to fee-paying events, a chance to meet with likeminded people at our open members meetings, somewhere local to exhibit and the knowledge that you are helping Kinvara retain its reputation as a lively, diverse and creative place to live.

To join simply email [kava@kinvara.com](mailto:kava@kinvara.com) or you can also follow us on our [Facebook page KAVA, Kinvara Area Visual Arts.](#)



## KINVARA'S KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD

Ever had someone in hospital in an emergency situation? Ever wondered how, in the middle of the night or over a Bank Holiday weekend, you get an emergency scan to a specialist across the country? Or how do you get a blood or tissue specimen to a laboratory? Or maybe even an emergency supply of breast milk to a newborn premature baby? The chances are it's being carried by the members of the all-volunteer group called Blood Bike West.

Blood Bike West (BBW) provides an emergency, out-of-hours delivery service to hospitals, clinics and other care facilities throughout the Western region, using a fleet of specially-marked motorcycles, ridden by highly-trained volunteers. All BBW riders are highly experienced and have all voluntarily undertaken RoSPA Advanced training, the standard of which is monitored by An Garda Síochana trainers.

Kinvara residents have been actively involved with Blood Bike West since its formation, with Fergus Curley involved in the initial committee and current volunteer riders Paul Moran, Enda McLoughlin and Ted O'Malley regularly traversing the country on their distinctive motorcycles to help enhance the comfort of hospital patients.

### WHAT DO WE CARRY?

Just some of the diverse range of materials and items that we carry are:

- Bloods
- Breast milk
- Scanning consumables (e.g. Reagent)
- Patient scans
- Blood and tissue samples
- Emergency consumables
- Medical equipment
- Emergency medication

### WHAT AREAS DO WE COVER ?

We deliver to and from facilities locally and regionally — from the North West to Munster — from Galway to Dublin — and all points in between.

### WHEN DO WE PROVIDE COVER?

We operate all year round, specialising in the hours from 7pm — 8am, as well as weekend and holiday periods. The times when the cover needed is most likely to be an emergency. We feel our cover at these critical times is of the utmost importance.

### THE FLEET

To deliver the service, we operate a fleet of three fully-equipped motorcycles, one of which recently reached end-of-life and has been retired. We are actively fundraising to get a third bike back on the road as soon as possible. Riders pay for and supply all their own riding gear, helmets, gloves, boots, etc.



### FUNDING

We receive no State or statutory funding, and all costs are met by Blood Bike West's own fundraising activities. Fundraising ranges from bucket collections to carol-singing and social events, and we are always looking for community groups to come on board and help us with our fundraising activities. At this time, our main aim is to get back to a 3-bike fleet. The demand is there for it. If you can help us, go to [www.bloodbikewest.ie](http://www.bloodbikewest.ie) to donate, or maybe you can organise a local event for the cause?

### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Our goal is to continually improve the quality, efficiency and breadth of our service and to explore new ways of harnessing our volunteers to a positive end.

For more information, contact John Moylan, PRO of Blood Bike West – 086 4048668 – [press@bloodbikewest.ie](mailto:press@bloodbikewest.ie).

## SOCIAL INCLUSION TOUR 2015

On Friday 28th August last, the Kinvara Social Inclusion Tour headed east to Dublin for another memorable day. This was the second year of this initiative organised by Kinvara GAA committee members Garret Byrne, Derek Smith and Mick O'Hara. The purpose is to organise a day tour open to all members of the community, male or female, including those who no longer live in Kinvara but who were born and lived here. After last year's successful tour to Croke Park the pressure was on to deliver an equally enjoyable day this time around. It was decided to head east again to Dublin with a busy day planned.

The bus departed The Square at 8am and off we went. After a brief stop at Applegreen for a bit of breakfast, the bus reached our first tour at the Guinness Storehouse at 11:30am. This was very enjoyable, capped off with a complimentary pint of the plain stuff up in the Gravity Bar with panoramic views of Dublin.

After this we made the short journey to the Ashling Hotel on the Quays where we were joined by members of Faughs GAA Club and we enjoyed a fabulous lunch together. Faughs were there to make a special presentation to Maura Mongan and to Kinvara as a mark of recognition of the role her brother Colm Muldoon RIP played in their club,

winning Dublin county titles in 1972 and 1973. Amongst the Faughs members was the great Eamon Rea of Limerick fame who spoke of Colm in high regards as both a hurler and a person. After lunch, we took a short stroll to Collins Barracks and Arbour Hill Cemetery for an afternoon tour and at 4:30pm we were back on the bus heading for home.

When we arrived back to Kinvara we were treated to some badly needed teas and sandwiches in Sextons Bar by Ruth and staff. After that some social drinks were had to round off a good day.

As in 2014, one of the highlights of the day was the meeting of the Kinvara exiles in Dublin. These people left Kinvara many years ago, and it was great to see old friends meet after forty years in some cases. Those that joined us in Dublin were Declan Brogan, Bernie Kennedy (nee Halvey), Gerry Curtin, Tommie Quinn, Vincie Byrne, Des Leech, Michael Naughton, John Joe Linnane, John Linnane and Martin Linnane.

The committee would like to thank Kinvara Pharmacy, Burkes Londis, Fallons and McMahons for sponsoring us with newspapers and refreshments for the bus journey and also Bus Eireann for partnering with us on the day.

So, if you are interested in a day of memories, old friends, meeting new friends, songs, jokes and stories, then keep an eye out next year for our 2016 tour when there will be something special planned!



# GALWAY 28TH, KINVARA SCOUT GROUP BEAVER SCOUTS

Beaver Scouts are the youngest section of Galway 28th with beavers ranging in age from six to eight years old. It's where kids start the scouting adventure and the emphasis is on maximum fun. But don't let the cute factor fool you, as Beavers can be just as adventurous and daring as any of the other scout groups. While we are having fun we still get to play with others, so that we know how to get along with other people. Kinvara Beavers are a very busy troop. In the last year we have:

- gone on hikes to Coole, Oughtmama & Harry's Walk
- learned about guide dogs
- grown vegetables from seed
- done seashore safaris
- tidied in our community
- taken part in the St. Patrick's Day parade
- developed new skills of our own choosing: cooking, quilling, seashore knowledge
- sang Christmas carols for the elderly in our community
- learned about water safety
- made an effort to improve our fitness
- learned about local history
- gone camping

..... amongst other things. We do things like looking after the world through small things and demonstrating to others that we can be responsible. All of these activities lead to the earning of Adventure Skills Badges, when we have achieved a set of skills in a particular area.



The following comments have been made by some of the Kinvara Beavers:

Caoimhe says that she “likes going on hikes because you get to see all your friends and you have lots of fun”. Luca says “I like going camping with my friends in beavers. It is great fun telling stories and singing songs by the campfire” and Alex says “we do interesting things like exploring different places”.

If you are interested in learning more about Kinvara Beaver Scouts, please check out our website [kinvarabeaverscouts.wordpress.com](http://kinvarabeaverscouts.wordpress.com) or email us on [kinvarabeaverscouts@gmail.com](mailto:kinvarabeaverscouts@gmail.com)



## CUB SCOUTS

Cub scouts range in age from nine to twelve and the Kinvara troop currently have thirty nine registered Cubs. 2014/2015 was a busy year for the Kinvara Cub Scout troop with the goal being to have a programme of events that would keep the cubs and leaders happy, active and interested in scouting for the year ahead. We started off with a bang raft building on Traught beach, building five rafts and taking them out on the water to test which was the fastest and which sank the quickest! Some of our other outdoor activities included numerous walks in the Burren, Coole Park, Black Head and a memorable night walk on Traught Beach.



We tried to keep our Monday evenings in the Den at the community centre as fun as possible with XFactor nights, flag painting, bow and arrow shooting, fitness night and of course the all-important scout tradition of learning new and exciting knots. We had a number of lectures along the way including one on native fish and waters, a lecture on old fashioned lamps and a talk from Autism Ireland on understanding autism.

Part of the ethos for Cub Scouts includes 'the role of the scouter is one of assisting, supporting, facilitating and motivating'. With this in mind it was important for us to get our Cubs out and involved with the community. This year we had the opportunity to again help out at the annual Rock and Road run in Kinvara, some of our Cubs took

part in Kinvara's first Darkness Into Light walk and we had our first presence in the St. Patricks Day Parade in Kinvara.

In June, the Cubs headed to Ruane, Co. Clare for our troop camp. It RAINED. But that didn't dampen the kids' spirits who really got stuck in on all the activities we had lined up for them. On Saturday morning the Cubs had to follow a backwoods trail that two of the Scout troop had set up in a nearby wood. We had backwoods cooking in the afternoon and the kids also learned how to make their own bows and arrows. We ended Saturday night with the traditional bonfire and singalong with the odd spooky story.

If you are interested in learning more about Kinvara Cub Scouts, please check out our website [kinvaracubs.wordpress.com](http://kinvaracubs.wordpress.com)

## SCOUT GROUP

Scouting is all about independence, learning how to be a responsible member of your community and how to look after yourself and the people you come in contact with throughout your life. Scouting is about understanding that everyone has something to offer to a group and offering a hand to those who are not as good at something as you are, you will probably need their expertise for another task. Throughout their time in Scouts we hope kids will learn some valuable life skills like navigation, cooking, pioneering, first aid, rope work, boating skills, responsibility and respect.



In Kinvara scouts we like to learn these skills in the outdoors as much as possible. It is essential to do some of the learning indoors but to put it to use and practice outdoors. We had a busy year last year with orienteering, hiking, raft building, ice skating, backwoods cooking, sleeping rough in shelters built by themselves, cycling, surfing, rock climbing, star gazing and night hikes. One of the highlights of the last year was a hike to the top of Brandon Mountain on the Dingle peninsula. This is a beautiful mountain with stunning scenery and it

is one the highest in the country. We attempted this mountain the previous year but were turned back by the sleet which was being whipped up off the heath and blasted into our faces, the cloud came down and everyone's fingers were freezing. In March 2015 however we had a glorious sunny clear day and amazing views north to Loop Head and south to Carrauntoohil.

The culmination of the scouting year was realised in the summer camp. We camped in Tipperary on the shores of Lough Derg sheltered by gorgeous



woodland. The woodland provided all the building materials the scouts needed to build alter fires, seats, gateways, washing up dressers and they even attempted to make their own clothes pegs, all in the name of self-sufficiency. The scouts did all the cooking and provided very edible meals for their patrols and the leaders. They kept their tents and kit in a clean, tidy, neat fashion, which is not an easy task in a field. We had great fun swimming in the lake and boating, building rafts, hiking and playing volleyball (with a homemade net and pitch of course) – to name but a few activities.

We have started off this season with a harvest moon hike, rock climbing and hostelling on Clare Island and we hope this year will be even better than last year, a tall order but let's try!

*If you are interested in learning more about Kinvara Scouts, please check out our website [kinvarascouts.wordpress.com](http://kinvarascouts.wordpress.com)*



# DEBI O'HEHIR

By Declan Connolly

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the untimely passing of Debi O'Hehir in the early hours of October 1st 2015. Debi was born in England and grew up in Kinvara in the 1970's & 80's with her father Sean, sister Siobhán and 'Granny Hehir' whilst also spending much time with her relations, the Fordes in Dunguaire. She studied painting at Galway College of Art, graduating in 1988 before moving to London for a number of years. While living in England she became interested in sculpture and began showing her work with London's Northcote Gallery. Debi returned to Ireland in 2001 to work at the Leitrim Sculpture Centre and as things worked out, ended up making her home in rural Leitrim, the freedom of which she treasured.

Outside of friends and family, Debi was best known for her beautiful paintings, drawings and sculptures, most famously those inspired by the horse. But at a deeper level, these works of art could nearly be self-portraits, expressed as 'horse' and inspired by a lifetime of contact, physically and emotionally, with the animal.

One of Debi's favourite places to work was the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in County Monaghan, where she worked for intensive periods each year. Her last and possibly finest work was done there just earlier this summer. Debi's ashes will be spread at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre and in her honour, the centre are going to erect a very special bench by the lake. Debi's last exhibition was at the Blue House Gallery in Schull in September, but unfortunately she was too ill to attend.

Debi held many exhibitions over the years throughout Ireland & the UK and her work is held in numerous collections all over the world, including a collection with The Arts Council Ireland, OPW and private collections.

On a personal level there is so much more that can be said about Debi. She was an avid reader, music lover, incredible cook, terrible fiddle player and a great conversationalist who had the most unusual ability to show her love for life and people and yet she did not suffer fools gladly. Mediocrity did not cut it with Debi – if she was to do anything in life, she gave it 1000%. And this tells right throughout her art, her friends and in her life in general.

Sadly, Debi was diagnosed with cancer in 2014. She put up a great fight and did make a recovery of sorts, but the cancer came back this summer. Debi died too young at age 53 and will be sorely missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Her art will live on, as will the fond memories.

## RIP Debi O'Hehir

*AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON AND GIFTED ARTIST*



# KINVARA COMMUNITY ALERT

The Kinvara Community Alert Group is a local voluntary organisation which was formed in 2008 with a committee of three local people and three area representatives, to support a local population of approximately 1,100 people and covering the geographical area within a two-mile radius of Kinvara Garda District. The group is still active and looks after the current larger population of approximately 1,800 people, following the years of increased construction in the area.

The group meets at least four times a year and also holds an Annual General Meeting at which the group officers are elected. The current officers are Joe Quinn (Chairperson), Cormac Keane (Secretary) and Niall Kilkelly (Treasurer).

## The Community Alert Group was established for the following main purposes:

- To provide a framework through which all individuals in the village of Kinvara can work.
- To be alert to individuals or vehicles acting in a suspicious manner and to report these activities to the Gardaí.
- To encourage neighbourliness and civic responsibility in all sectors of the community.
- To represent the views of the community on issues of community safety to the Gardaí, the Health Board, Local Authorities, and so on.

The Community Alert Group conducts all its business in a balanced and impartial way. In particular, it operates in a non-political and interdenominational way and acts in the best interests of all of the residents of the local community, particularly the more vulnerable members.

## The achievements which the group has made to date for the benefit of the community are:

- Installation of social monitored alarms
- Information meetings in relation to security within the home and the community
- Community Text Alert Service — went live for the Kinvara area in November. Anyone wishing to become a member please contact the committee or email [kinvaracommunityalert@gmail.com](mailto:kinvaracommunityalert@gmail.com). Alternatively, simply put a €5 donation towards text costs in an envelope, write your name and mobile phone number on the outside and drop it into the letterbox at Kinvara Garda Station.

**Membership of the Community Alert Group is open to all the residents of the Kinvara area. For further details, please contact**

**[kinvaracommunityalert@gmail.com](mailto:kinvaracommunityalert@gmail.com)**

**or find us on Facebook at**

**[Kinvara Community Alert](#).**

# KINVARA GAA 2015

## U14 HURLING SUCCESS A HIGHLIGHT FOR THE YEAR

It was another busy year for Kinvara GAA in 2015 with a mixture of highs and lows in hurling and gaelic football being played by all ages from four right up to forty five! Over the past few years, club membership has grown steadily to a record 278 playing members in addition to regular members. The club now boasts twenty two different teams and this would not be possible without the support of many dedicated coaches and parents.

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly winning the County U14 A1 hurling title. Under the stewardship of Francis Comyn, Michael Helebert, Eamonn Keely, Niall Byrne and Paddy Barry the team played in the A1 grade after winning the U13 B title in 2014. But the increase in standard did not deter the U14 squad and a combination of skill, determination and commitment saw them reach the final against a much fancied Killimordaly side. A superb display by the “boys from the seaside port” saw Kinvara victors by 2–6 to 1–3.



The U14 squad also made history by becoming the first ever Kinvara side to reach the County Féile final for U14 hurling (incidentally, the cup is called The Toddie Byrne Cup, after one of our own). Unfortunately, we came up against a very strong Athenry side on the day who won after a strong second half. However, that final appearance gave Kinvara the opportunity to play in the National Féile Regional Final — again, the first Kinvara U14 Féile

team to ever compete outside the county. So, in June the squad departed for Waterford where they represented our club with distinction. An opening narrow one point defeat to Roanmore (Waterford) was followed by impressive wins over Carrick Swans (Tipperary) and James Stephens (Kilkenny). That saw Kinvara reach the final but, unfortunately, we just fell short against Cork side Middleton.



Other notable performances this year came from our U14 footballers who reached their divisional league final, but narrowly lost out to Loughrea by 3–7 to 1–8. Our U12 hurlers reached the Shield final of the Joe Gillane Cup, where they lost to Michael Cusacks, but we did taste further victory in the U13 B Hurling Shield final, where our lads beat Liam Mellows by 5–6 to 2–2.

Our adult hurlers were competing in the Intermediate ranks this year for the first time since 1977, with hopes high to get back up to senior. A steady group campaign saw us finish top, followed by an impressive win over Meelick–Eyrecourt in the quarter-final. Next up was the semi-final against Abbeyknockmoy where the winner would not only reach the final, but automatically secure senior status for 2016. However, the day did not go our way and we ended up on the losing side by 1–13 to 1–10.

Elsewhere, the juvenile club held another successful Lá na gClub. The highlight was the playing of our three club cups — the Michael O’Sullivan Cup for U12 football was won by Sean Costello’s team, the Toddie Byrne Cup for U13 hurling was won by Barry Britton’s team, while the Dr McCarthy Cup for U16 hurling was won by Gerard Linnane’s team.

On the national stage, it was an honour for our club to have both Colm Callanan and Conor Whelan wear the maroon jersey with such distinction this year. Conor had a great debut year and although Galway did not win the All-Ireland, it was an incredible achievement for him to start in his first All-Ireland final at the young age of eighteen years. Well done also to Colm and the club are delighted to see him bring the first All-Star award to our shores. His display against Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final will be remembered and spoken of for years to come. Special mention is also due to Conaill Larrisey, Ciaran Donoghue and Dean Ivers who capped off a great year by playing for the county in the annual Tony Forrester Tournament in Waterford.



Officers of the club in 2015 were Dominic Gallagher, Mick O'Hara and Damien Mitchell while our Juvenile Club was officiated by Brian Crossan, Denis O'Sullivan and Paddy Barry.

On a final note, the club would like to acknowledge those former players who sadly passed away this year – Colm Corless, Fintan Muldoon, Tony Moylan and Tom Leech.



## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The mobile library visits Kinvara every second Monday from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and parks near the quay.



## ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT CLARE BUS

Service runs every Friday between Aughinish and Gort. Travel is open to everyone. You must pre-book your seat by calling 1890 687 287 or (061) 924375. Email: [travel@clarebus.ie](mailto:travel@clarebus.ie)

## TIMETABLE

### AUGHINISH → GORT

Leaves Aughinish – 11:45am

Leaves Kinvara Post Office – 12:30pm

Arrives Gort – 12:59pm

### GORT → AUGHINISH

Leaves Gort (Market Square) – 16:15pm

Leaves Kinvara Post Office – 16:55pm

Arrives Aughinish – 17:15pm



## KINVARA CAMOGIE CLUB

Kinvara Camogie Club celebrated their 25 year anniversary last year and during that time the club has gone from strength to strength. The club has close to 150 playing members, fielding teams from Under 6 right up to Senior Level, with several club members representing us at county level.

The highlight this year no doubt was our Minor team winning their county championship, and in the process bringing home the club's first silverware in 10 years. The team was managed by Joe Keane and Helena Huban, and they were ably assisted by Irene Leech, Siobhan Huban and Carmel Bermingham. In the final in Kilconieron, the girls faced a very strong Killimordaly side. Kinvara started well and took the lead but found ourselves in arrears at the interval by 3-3 to 1-6. Kinvara stormed out of the traps in the second half and gave an outstanding team performance and notched up 2-1, while managing to hold their opponents to just one point. The result was Kinvara 3-7, Killimordaly 3-4. There was great celebrating after with the team doing a tour of the parish followed by a meal in The Pier Head.

Elsewhere, our senior team competed in a strong championship group, and although we didn't make the knockout stages there were still signs of promise for the future. Games were also played in all other age-groups in the juvenile section, with many fine performances. There is also a very strong under-age programme being developed at the moment with some great training going on at U6s, U8s and U10s.

On an intercounty level, the club was again honoured to have Emma Kilkelly wear the county jersey, and Emma fully deserved her All Star nomination. Rachel Helebert was another who represented our county, and she was a member of the victorious Galway U16 Camogie team who won the All-Ireland title. Well done also to Lucy Gately who was captain of the Galway U13 Camogie Development squad for 2015.

In recent years we were honoured to have others who played and won with the county.

In 2013, four of our adult members, Emma Kilkelly, Sinead Keane, Colette Gill and Roisin Callanan were part of the victorious Galway Senior and Intermediate Double All-Ireland Winning Teams and brought six All-Ireland medals home to Kinvara. In the same year, Sinead Keane made history by being the first Kinvara GAA Player to captain an adult All-Ireland winning team. Veronica Curtin is also Kinvara's only Camogie All Star Winner, winning this honour from the Camogie Association on two occasions as well as a Senior All-Ireland Title with Galway in 1996. These members are just a few who have brought glory to our club in the Galway jersey over the years and we are immensely proud of each and every one of them. We have no doubt that their names will be joined by many more of the young girls who are coming through the ranks at the present time.

Earlier this year, 11 of our juvenile members were part of the victorious Seamount College Senior Camogie Team All-Ireland and Connacht Senior A Schools Camogie Title Winners including Captain Siobhan Connolly, Jenny O'Dea, Tara Bermingham, Neamh Keane, Rachel

Helebert, Sinead Keane, Ciara Keane, Eve Moloney, Aine Kilkelly, Georgina McDonagh and Amy McGourty. The Seamount College Junior Team were also the Connacht Junior B Title Winners this year, as well as reaching the All-Ireland Junior B Final. Our club members on the Seamount Junior Camogie Team included Tara Bermingham, Neamh Keane, Rachel Helebert, Sinead Keane, Ciara Keane, Eve Moloney, Aine Kilkelly, Georgina McDonagh, Amy McGourty, Meabh De Courcy McDonnell, Leah O'Connor

and Muireann Fordham. Special mention also to our senior player Roisin Callanan who was a coach for both teams.

The club officers of Mary Callanan (Chairperson), Michelle O'Connor (Secretary) and Siobhan Huban (Treasurer) would like to thank all those who help in the running of the club, preparation of the teams, and to the parents and players who participate.



**Back Row (L to R)** – Carmel Bermingham, Joe Keane, Irene Leech, Neamh Keane, Lauren Donnelly, Joyce Browne, Caoimhe Tannian, Jenny O'Dea (C), Rachel Helebert, Ciara Keane, Eve Moloney, Rebecca O'Connor, Sinead Keane, Siobhan Huban and Helena Huban.

**Front Row (L to R)** – Leah O'Connor, Amy McGourty, Aine Kilkelly, Siobhan Connolly, Francesca Glynn, Tara Bermingham and Georgina McDonagh.

# KINVARA ROCK AND ROAD

The Kinvara Rock and Road will next take place on Saturday, March 3rd 2016. A firm fixture on the annual calendar at this point, it is six years since the event was first held. Back then, the race attracted four hundred participants and comprised of a half marathon and a 10Km road race. While the race courses have remained unchanged, the event itself has changed considerably. In 2015 the event, now well established as one of the main running events in the West of Ireland, attracted a sell-out crowd of 1,800 entrants and 2016 is expected to do the same.



Kinvara Rock and Road has captured the imagination on a number of levels. First of all, there is a large local participation. From the clubs who get involved to marshal the race to the local people who take part in competing to the primary school children that are invited to run in the fun run that kicks off the event every year, everyone gets involved. Regionally, the event has also put itself on the map as one of the main running events in the West of Ireland and it has also become one of the biggest. On the international stage, the race attracts dozens of people from abroad yearly with people travelling to Kinvara specifically to take part in the race. Organised by a local Kinvara company, Dolmen Sports, the event has also forged a relationship with a leading international running brand, Saucony. One of the world's leading brands of running shoe, Saucony produce a running shoe called the **Kinvara**.

A point not lost on Kinvara business owner Michael Cahill of DIY Pursuits, who stocks the brand and pointed the fact out to Conor Madden from Dolmen Sports. Conor engaged with Saucony and convinced them of the merits of an association with Dolmen Sports and Kinvara and the company has been the main sponsor of the event ever since.

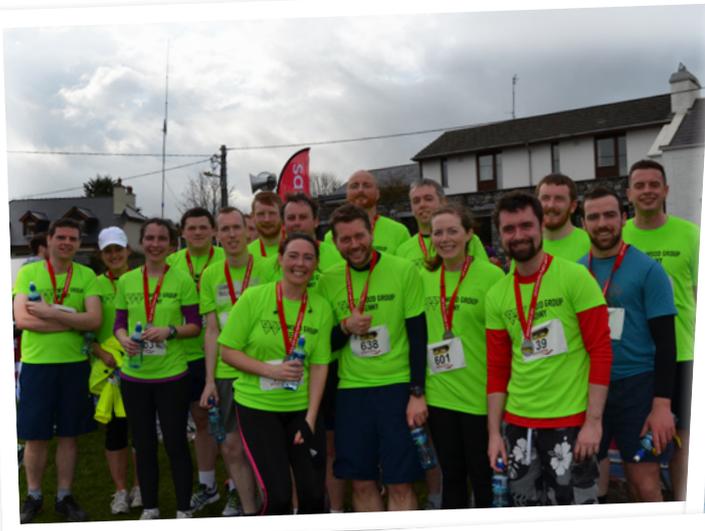


It is the marriage of all of these components that make the Kinvara Rock and Road what it is. For participants, it is a special event held in a unique place that is close to the top of the list when it comes to beautiful places in the world to come and run.



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





# KINVARA HOCKEY CLUB CELEBRATES 35 YEARS (1980–2015)

*By Sharon Tannian*

Kinvara Hockey Club celebrated its thirty fifth year in 2015 and marked the occasion with a great night in November in the Merriman Hotel with dinner and entertainment.

Thirty five years ago on November 4th 1980, a group of local women met and founded Kinvara Hockey Club in the parish hall, encouraged and supported by Mr Gerry Barret, the then science teacher and hockey coach at Seamount College. The first elected committee consisted of Christina Joyce (President), Una Murphy (Vice President), Sheila Conneely (Honorary Secretary), Esty Sexton (Assistant Secretary), Annette Barry (Treasurer), Rose McLoughlin (Assistant Treasurer), Chrissie Mc Donagh (Fixtures Secretary), Eilish Birmingham (P.R.O.) and Siobhan Forde (Umpire Secretary).

Kinvara Hockey Club has performed well over the last three and a half decades winning several junior Connacht competitions in the 1980's, 1990's and 2000's led by Elaine Mahon. The Club competed at interprovincial level as Connacht champions in

Cork, Kilkenny and Dublin on several occasions and players have great memories of these fantastic interprovincial weekends. At that time, Kinvara Hockey Club played their home games on the Astro-turf pitch in Dangan, Galway.

In the latter half of the 2000's, the game of hockey changed considerably with the introduction of new rules which included all sand based pitches changing to Astro-turf. Kinvara was at a disadvantage with no appropriate training ground and the Club found it increasingly difficult to remain competitive following their Connacht Junior Cup win in 2003.

However in 2009, the new Astro-turf pitch at St Joseph's National School in Kinvara was built and this brought new life back to the game in Kinvara by providing the Club with a suitable training space. Kinvara Hockey Club succeeded in once more attaining their previous high standard of performance in 2013 by securing a place in the Connacht Junior Cup final. Kinvara fought a brave battle against Renmore, but were unfortunately defeated on the day.

This was not to stop Kinvara however and they returned in 2015, led by experienced coach and player Mary Kelly, to meet Athlone 1st in the



*Connacht Champions U14 – 2013*

Connacht Junior Cup final and bring home a much coveted Connacht win to Kinvara after an absence of twelve years. Kinvara Hockey Club is once again the reigning Connacht Junior Champion.

In 2010, for the first time in the Clubs history, an underage structure was introduced by Sharon Tannian, Aideen O'Malley and Orla McCormack. Initially training just U10's and U12's with approximately thirty playing members, this has expanded each year to now include all age groups.

In 2014 Kinvara Hockey Club brought home its first ever U14 Connacht title and won the U14B Connacht Blitz the following year.

Currently, in 2015, the Club has over one hundred registered underage players. There are two U14 teams competing in the Connacht A and B leagues, an U16B team and the Club also trains U8's, U10's and U12's teams who enter blitz competitions in Galway City and Athlone annually.

Kinvara and Seamount have a strong history of players being selected for the Connacht U16, U18, U21, junior and senior squads, with two players being selected in 2015. Thirty players altogether

from Kinvara and Seamount have played for Connacht at various levels, with four of these players going on to play for Ireland.

Kinvara now has a thriving club and a great rapport with Seamount College through Lorraine Feehily, teacher and hockey coach at Seamount. Currently, Kinvara U14's and U16's train after school on Tuesday and Friday while U8's, U10's and U12's train on Saturday mornings and the senior teams train on Wednesday evenings. The Club has great ambitions for all teams to compete and win at the highest level and dream of the day we have a full size hockey Astro-turf pitch as a home venue!

The Committee elected for 2015, celebrating our 35th year, consists of Orla McCormack (Chairperson), Siobhan Huban (Assistant Chairperson), Aideen O'Malley (Secretary), Deirdre Mongan (Assistant Secretary), Sharon Tannian (Treasurer), Nicola Huban (Assistant Treasurer) and Corrina Mahony (P.R.O.). For further information on all things 'hockey' please contact the club phones on 087 3681896 (senior) or 087 1727716 (juvenile).



### Kinvara Connacht Junior Cup Champions 2015

**Front row:** Miriam Kerins, Helena Huban, Doireann McDonnell, Colette Gill, Aoife Tannian, Sharon Tannian, Olive Forde.

**Back row:** Mary Kelly Manager, Elaine Burke, Nicola Huban, Emma Kilkelly, Lorraine Feehily, Claire Kavanagh, Siobhan Huban, Aoibheann Mahon, Corinna Mahoney, Laura Fahy and Orla McCormack.

# BURREN YOGA AND MEDITATION CENTRE

The magical location of the Burren and the tranquil feeling one gets from spending time in the hills and by the sea helps make the Burren Yoga and Meditation Centre one of the most popular yoga centres in Ireland and it is well known worldwide within the yoga community.

David (Dave) Brocklebank, originally from Dublin and trained in psychology, moved to Cappaghmore just outside Kinvara in 1996 with a vision to set up a yoga retreat centre of very high standards which would be open to everybody. His vision was to make these yoga retreats suitable for complete beginners and to help introduce people to the practices of yoga and meditation so that they could continue these at home after the retreat. Many yoga centres provide retreats for well-seasoned yoga practitioners but Dave wanted these retreats in the Burren to be open to all ages, all levels of fitness no matter whether one had practiced yoga before or not.

A big part of the retreats is spending time in nature and Dave leads guided walks through the Burren hills and by the sea as an integral part of each retreat. This gives visitors a great chance to be shown some very special places in the Burren which are well away from the usual tourist routes. An important part of the guided outings includes stopping for lunch at one of the many top quality restaurants and cafes in New Quay, Kinvara, Ballyvaughan and Fanore.

Dave believes deeply in protecting the fragile landscape and environment of the Burren and undertook training in Sustainability and Ecotourism to ensure that the business was being run in the most environmentally friendly way so as to protect the long term survival of this unique landscape, its environment and the communities in this area.

In 2012 the Burren Yoga and Meditation Centre was awarded a silver award in Ecotourism for the very high standards of running this Ecotourism business and also for the support to local businesses in this rural area by bringing visitors to the area on a year-round basis and for providing weekly classes to local people.

Over the last 16 years running these yoga retreats, Dave has continually improved and tweaked how the retreats are run and has been awarded the TripAdvisor award of excellence for the past five years in a row.

The Burren is one of the most unspoilt and peaceful landscapes in Ireland and Dave believes that even if one spent a week in the Burren without practicing yoga or meditation one would feel much more rested and at peace with oneself. The feeling of peace and tranquillity at the centre and the care and details put into the design of the Centre all lend to a good quality introduction to yoga and meditation in a very heartfelt way.

More information about the centre and classes can be seen on the website [www.burrenyoga.com](http://www.burrenyoga.com) or phone Dave on (091) 637680.



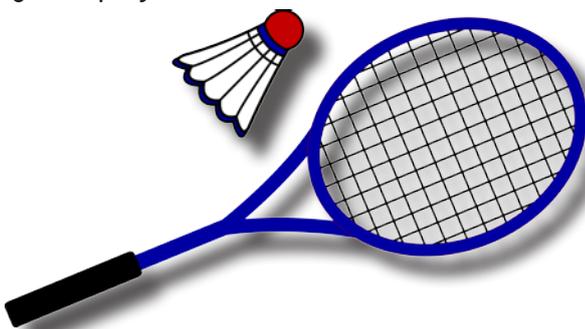
## KINVARA BADMINTON CLUB

Kinvara Badminton Club has been active in the community for over thirty years, playing in the community centre on Monday evenings at 8pm during the year and 8.30pm during the summer months. Anyone is welcome to come along on a Monday evening – the club would love to have some more playing members and all levels are welcome. The club also plays three mornings a week (slotting in between Seamount college's PE times) and welcomes more experienced players at those times, however, it is social badminton and the club does not take part in any leagues. Gort and Ardahan Badminton Clubs play competitively in the league for anyone interested in competitions – contact Mary Ui Eochaidh for information at (087) 3114353.

On Thursday evenings at 7pm Catherine Mullery, Shona Walsh and Niamh Quinn coach teenagers in badminton in the community centre (contact Catherine Mullery on (087) 6799461 for more information on teenage badminton). The club run tournaments at Christmas and in the summer for both teens and adults and while these can be very competitive, they are great fun and everyone enjoys them.

Kinvara Badminton Club is a good supporter of the Community Council and in 2014 paid over €3000 in rent for the hall. We are currently saving to get different lights for the court as we have been advised that side wall lights would be better for our players.

Our players range in ages from 13 to 70 so come along and play!



## KINVARA GOLF SOCIETY

Still going strong after many decades, the Kinvara Golf Society again celebrated an action packed year with many members enjoying the six organised outings. Each year, the society endeavours to visit six top courses and we are lucky that there are numerous of those within handy driving distance, including in our neighbouring counties.

The season began with a visit to Portumna on April 18th where the course provided an enjoyable day. Next up was Loughrea on June 18th, followed by Oughterard on July 18th, and Athenry on August 28th. The last outing on September 26th was to the popular Woodstock course in Ennis.

Each year the society also organises an overnighter, and this year we travelled to Portlaoise on May 23rd, where the course designed by Seve Ballesteros at The Heritage was challenged.

The society is always looking for new members, and absolute beginners are encouraged and most welcome, as society golf can be an enjoyable way to get in the game, especially when novices. At the other end of the scale, there is always lively internal competition in good courses that the well-initiated golfer will enjoy. The membership is open to anyone living in Kinvara, or with connections to Kinvara, and all are most welcome to come along and join in.

If you are interested in getting in touch and finding out about the dates for 2016, then don't hesitate to contact Society Captain Luke McCarthy on the society mobile 087-2421707.

**Four!**



# GORT RFC

Now in its ninth decade, Gort Rugby Football Club (RFC) is expanding its horizons and looking forward to a bright future. The club has been successful in bringing the game of rugby to many traditionally non-rugby areas, with players and coaches hailing from all over South Galway and North Clare covering an area that stretches from Crusheen to Ardrahan and Peterswell to Kinvara.



The mini rugby section of Gort RFC, also known as Gladiator Rugby, caters for boys and girls from u7 to u12 while the underage section, known as Warrior Rugby, currently fields an u14 team. This year, to cater for to the growing numbers of female rugby players Gort RFC are also now fielding an u12 girls rugby team.

The primary aim of the club is to introduce young people to rugby in a fun, friendly and positive environment and to ensure each child is given the best possible experience of the sport. The club has a number of coaches for each age grade to support skills development and both hosts and travels to a number of blitz competitions each season which give players the opportunity to put their skills to the test in safe, supervised matches. The emphasis at these blitzes is on player participation and enjoyment with each child getting playing time during the games. It is heartening to witness the large numbers of children attending training and travelling to blitzes on a weekly basis.

In 2014, Gort RFC was chosen as one of four provincial winners of the Ulster Bank RugbyForce Awards. The award was recognition for the progress that has been made in growing the club within the community and enabled the club to carry out maintenance and development work on the pitch and facilities. Since the establishment of the club, Gort RFC's home has been St Colman's Park in Gort. However, due to the ongoing work and development of the pitches the club are using the playing facilities in Gort Community School for the current season. The club wishes to thank principal Dennis Corry and Gort CS for their continued help and support in this regard.

It is with the aim of further promoting rugby in the South Galway and North Clare area that the club will be known as **BURREN RFC** from next season. The new name recognises the significant contribution by people from the Burren region to the success of the rugby club. Indeed, a relaunch of the club under its new name and reopening of its redeveloped playing facilities are eagerly anticipated.

The club is always delighted to welcome new players, supporters and coaches. The current training schedule is mini rugby on Saturdays at 10.30am, girls u12 on Wednesdays at 7pm with u12 and u14 on Tuesdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 10.30am. Anyone interested in Gort RFC can contact the club on Facebook, visit the website [www.gortrugby.com](http://www.gortrugby.com) or by phone on (086) 849 5449. Adult players please contact David on (086) 375 2162.



# TRANSITIONS

## DEATHS RECORDED IN CHURCH FILES 2014-OCT 2015

GERRY FALLON  
ANN WHELAN  
EILEEN SULLIVAN  
MARGARET QUINN  
MAIREAD CORBETT  
ELLEN LEE  
JOHN PETER BURKE  
ENDA MCLOUGHLIN  
PJ BURKE  
MAY MONAGHAN  
MARY O'DEA  
BERTIE O'CONNOR  
THOMAS MCCORMACK  
MARTIN NOONE

## 2015 DEATHS

THOMAS LEECH  
ANN O'CONNOR DUNFORD  
COLUM CORLESS  
PATRICK QUINN  
JOHN FORDE  
MICHAEL WAITES  
MICHAEL  
O'SHAUGHNESSY  
PADDY CONNORS  
ANTHONY MOYLAN  
FINTAN MULDOON  
MICHEAL LINNANE  
MARY MOLONEY,  
TOM KILKELLY  
NONIE MAY BERMINGHAM  
JOE CORLESS  
NUALA BLACK

## MARRIAGES 2014

DANIEL O'CONNOR &  
LIVIA BALAZOVA  
SARAH O'DEA &  
COLIN DEENEY  
LIAM KAVANAGH &  
NIAMH FENNELL  
BRENDA FALLON &  
AARON HYLAND  
GILLIAN KILROY &  
BARRY O'CONNOR  
ANNE DUFFY &  
MICHAEL DEVANEY

## MARRIAGES 2015

EILEEN MURPHY &  
DAMIEN CONATY  
AISLING CANNY &  
DANNY O'CONNOR  
SHAWN MACMAHON &  
BRIDGET GILDEA  
JAMES HASTINGS &  
MARIAN KENNY  
EDEL O'CONNOR &  
MICHAEL JONES  
LISA KEANE &  
MICHAEL LEE  
YVONNE CURTIN &  
JOHN O'CONNELL  
BREDA KAVANAGH &  
DAVID HARE  
NOREEN MOLONEY &  
COLIN SHEEHAN  
STEPHANIE MOYLAN &  
JOSEPH HIRST  
SINÉAD KEANE &  
STEPHEN SHAUGHNESSY

## BIRTH REGISTER 2014

CLARA LYONS  
LAYLA MCGINLEY  
JULIANNE COADY  
MÉABH KILKELLY  
JAKE CONNEELY  
ALISON BOND  
BEN HASTINGS  
ANNA MACMAHON  
LILY MCINERNEY  
LIAM DOODY  
ANNA HUBAN  
TOM O'HARA  
HARRY FARRAGHER  
REEVA KEANE  
CONOR MAHON  
ABBIEY SHAUGHNESSY  
DANIEL FORDE  
ADAM HEFFERNAN  
CASS O'BRIEN  
ORAN O'CONNOR  
MUIREANN QUILTY  
CLODAGH MERRIGAN  
KEVIN MCINERNEY  
SHANE FALLON  
ROSIE O'DONNELL  
FAYE PRENDERGAST  
CADÁIN MULLANE  
AVA CANAVAN  
ALANNA NÍ FHLATHARTA  
NIAMH O'DONOGHUE  
PATRICK MURPHY  
KATIE WATERS  
CATHAL QUINN  
SARAH O'CONNOR  
CONAILL BURKE  
ABBIEY O'CONNOR

## BIRTH REGISTER 2014

ODHRÁN POWER  
CONOR KENNEDY  
ADAM MURPHY  
SADBH KAVANAGH  
JACK HEFFERNAN  
RÓISÍN LANDY  
BLÁITHÍN O'CONNELL  
EVA MOYLAN  
RONAN MURRAY  
CONN MAC EOIN

## BIRTH REGISTER 2015 (JAN-OCT 2015)

MÉABH MAC EOIN  
FAYE & ALEX CARROLL  
FIONNÁN LAHIFF  
LOUIS FALLON  
ISLA & NOAH GREENE  
SAOIRSE HEFFERNAN  
LUCY QUINN  
CAELAN MITCHELL  
CONOR KELLY  
OISÍN MARTIN  
FREDDIE SMITH  
JERRY MURPHY  
CAOIMHE O'DONOHUE  
CIARA CALLANAN  
ÁINE FAHY  
SOPHIA FAHY  
LOGAN MORRIS



T.Q.

**TEAM FROM ST COLMANS CHURCH RENOVATION. PHOTO COURTESY OF T.QUINN**



T.Q.

**CROWD AT A CONCERT IN SEAMOUNT. PHOTO COURTESY OF T.QUINN**

