

Old Head and Gertie Gallagher, Belclare who received Diplomas in Reflexology.

December 1990: Breda O'Malley, Louisburgh, attended a "Focus on Farming" course at An Grianan, Co.Louth Michael Hannon, Louisburgh, has been appointed Chairman of an Taibhdhearc, Galway's Irish Language Theatre The Student Bank (AIB) is encouraging students at Sancta Maria to save for projects and educational tours later in the year The Annual Christmas party takes place at Saint Mary's Hospital, Castlebar. It is always generously supported by the Louisburgh Community Congrats to Breda O'Malley, Thallabaun who graduated from University College Galway with a B.Comm Hons. Degree We wish Paddy Gallagher good health and happiness on his retirement from the staff of Westport C.B.S. Congrats to Evelyn Leamy on the occasion of her retirement from Killeen N.S. A presentation function was held in Taylor's Hotel, Killadoon. Glowing tributes were paid to Evelyn Bernadette Burke, Askelane, was winner of "Heatherfield" cake-icing competition. Bernadette was representing Mayo Kathleen Morrison wins Calor Kosangas scholarship to An Grianán, for a special cookers course.

January 1991: The Senior Citizens Party in Louisburgh was a huge success An t-Athair Pádraic Ó Maille (Kiltegan, Malawi and Doughmakeown) concelebrates with Pope Paul II in his private oratory in Rome Louisburgh's own Dan the Street Singer provides the music for the West of Ireland Old Time and Ballroom dancing competition in Sullivan's Royal Hotel, Gort, Co. Galway Louisburgh-born veteran of the First World War, John Moran (Falduff) and Kilcock, Co. Kildare died at the ripe old age of 101 Mr. John Mulvey (Collacoan, Louisburgh and Castlebar) was presented with a special plaque for his personal help to Rehab. Johnny is Secretary of Connacht G.A.A. Council Garda Michael Grady, Cregganbaun, son of Mrs. Mary B. O'Grady, Post Office, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant at Rathfarnham Garda Station, Dublin.

February 1991: Leslie O'Dowd, Moneen, Louisburgh, received first prize in the Community Action Awards category in Queen's University, Belfast Tribute to Louisburgh's Gulf Heroes by Seán Mc Evilly at Louisburgh's G.A.A. Annual Dinner. They are Seán Kerr, Bunowen, Martin O'Malley, Doughmakeown and Boston and Billy Maxwell, Ballyhip. Serving with the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf Budding poet in Feenone, young Isabella O'Malley, Feenone, Louisburgh, wrote about "The Light is Coming" in our local paper Louisburgh Community Council campaign to prevent any reduction or loss of public services in the area Floodlighting at the Grotto was among the many successful projects undertaken by Louisburgh Community Council Minister Flynn attended meeting of Louisburgh Fianna Fail Comhairle Ceanntair in the Derrylahan Liam Mc Namara, Bunowen, was one of thirty-two young people who presented Mary Robinson with a Saint Brigid's Peace cross. AFRI organized the presentation.

March 1991: Killeen Drama Group present "A Problem Solved", written by Basil Morahan Saint Catherine's Church of Ireland, becomes a Heritage Centre.



Louisburgh Drama Group: First National Trophy winners 1991

The formal handing over was performed by Rev. Jack Heaslip, Westport Sancta Maria College band are busy rehearsing for the Big Parade Students and staff of St. Scholastica College, Duluth, Minnesota, were warmly welcomed to Louisburgh, at a reception in their honour at Durkan's Hotel The annual Saint Patrick's Day parade was a huge success with colourful floats from all sections of the community. . . . Well done students of Sancta Maria College, who took part in a twenty-four-hour fast for Trocaire, which raised £590 Louisburgh Community Council strongly object to the erection of roadside letter-boxes in rural areas Sale of Work is always a great success in the Parochial Hall on Saint Patrick's Day.

April 1991: Louisburgh Drama Group won the overall prize of £500 and the First National Trophy in the West/North West Radio Drama Competition. Michael O'Malley, Main Street, was deemed "Best Actor" of the series in which twenty-two drama groups competed. . . . The Old Vocational School at Killeen has now been sold to the local Community Council. It will be used in future for community purposes Television viewers in Louisburgh may soon have a multi-channel selection Archbishop Desmond Tutu is welcomed to Louisburgh by local Scout Troop A Famine scene was re-enacted outside Saint Catherine's Heritage Centre commemorating the Doolough Famine, in which six hundred people perished.

May 1991: The grounds of Sancta Maria College was the venue for the very successful Muigheo District "Cub Scout Fun Day" Louisburgh Senior Resource Committee organize a pilgrimage to Knock for its Senior Citizens A question about the future of Louisburgh Parochial Hall Louisburgh Community Council

tackle the problem of indiscriminate dumping in the Louisburgh area Plans are being made for the Third Annual Clare Island Symposium Lecanvey celebrates the centenary of Saint Patrick's Church County Manager Mr. Des Mahon pledges full support and co-operation for any plans to further improve Louisburgh's image as a holiday destination Local Garda Sergeant, the staff of Sancta Maria College and the College Parents Association have agreed to set up an Identity Card Scheme to curb underage drinking Louisburgh I.C.A. guild's annual outing is scheduled for July to Bunratty Castle. All are welcome.

June/July 1991: Bríd O'Grady, Kilgeever and pupil of Sancta Maria College, received her Gaisce Award from Mr. Frank Fahey, Minister for Youth and Sport Killeen N.S. team were winners in the Division 4 area final in the National Schools competition Nora Gibbons, (Cregganroe and Allergan, Westport) receives a Shield for winning in the Mayo Soccer League. Nora is Captain School Principal, Mr. Donald O'Leary, Bunowen, Louisburgh turns the key in Saint Colmcille's old National School, Westport Quay. The school served the community for 105 years Louisburgh Community rallies to raise £5,000 towards a life-saving operation. Leukaemia victim Kevin Kitterick (Cregganbaun) is to undergo a bone-marrow operation, which we hope will save his life Éamonn Keane N.T. is proud of his team who were winners in the County National Schools Final. They received their trophies from John Brennan, A.I.B. Westport Clare Island Hoteliers, Kay and Chris O'Grady, have launched a new ferry service to the Island. The new ferry namely "Rossend" sails daily History is made on the summit as a book is being launched on the occasion of the annual "Garland Friday" pilgrimage. The book "Croagh Patrick, an ancient mountain pilgrimage" has been written by Westport businessman, Harry Hughes The Louisburgh Parish Reunion is always a huge success. More and more emigrants arrange a visit home to coincide with this event each year. It's an ideal opportunity to meet many old friends and acquaintances Doctor Maureen Kelly, Kilsallagh qualifies at University College, Galway with MB BCH BAO Degrees and a Gold Medal in Ophthalmology. Maureen is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfie Kelly and is a past pupil of Bouris N.S. and Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh Congrats to Donal Sammin, Thornhill, Murrisk, on qualifying as a Veterinary Surgeon. Donal is son of Noel and Brid Sammin Austin and Geraldine O'Malley, Kilsallagh have opened a new Carpet and Bedding Centre at Castlebar Road, Westport. Good luck to them in their new venture Archbishop Joseph Cassidy visited Caher Island when conferring confirmation on Inisturk and Clare Island Louisburgh I.C.A. organized a series of weekly cookery demonstrations, held at Sancta Maria College.

September/October 1991: Mr. Haughey arrived on Clare Island by helicopter to launch the Royal Irish Academy's proposal for a new survey of Clare Island Louisburgh F.C.A. member, Gary Mc Evilly (Bunowen) has been selected to commence training as an aircraft technician with the Irish Air Corps H.Q in Baldonnel. . . . Louisburgh couple celebrate golden wedding Jubilee. John and

Gretta Tiernan, Doughmakeown, celebrated with their family at Durkan's Hotel Louisburgh Congratulations to John O'Malley (Jim) Cahir and his wife, Kathleen, on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Jubilee The O'Toole Clan Rally is to be held in Louisburgh. A large number of O'Tooles are coming from the U.S. Highlight of the rally will be a visit to Inisturk, ancestral home of many Mayo O'Tooles Louisburgh Pre-school Playgroup has re-opened in the resource Centre. . . . Nomadic Structures, Louisburgh, sponsored prizes for competitions held at the Pitch-and-Putt Course Fund-raising social in the Derrylahan, in aid of Saint Patrick's Missionary Society. Father Alexis Morahan, Mooneen was there on behalf of the society. He will be returning to the missions shortly Louisburgh exiles celebrate in London at the Parish Re-union We wish Brian McDonald newly-elected Mayo Team manager, every success in the future. Brian is married to Louisburgh girl Mary Harney of Chapel Street Teresa and Frank Sammin, Carramore, Louisburgh, run a top farm guest-house in the West. They won the prestigious AIB Agri-Tourism award for 1991. Congrats! Louisburgh man, Eugene O'Malley (Collacoan) now living in Westport, is Operations On-Call Electrician with Westport E.S.B. Eugene is never happier than when called to work in his native Louisburgh! Joseph Mc Donnell, Louisburgh receives first prize and the Mart Trophy for being the winner of the Overall Champion of the show at Westport Bullock Show and Sale The I.C.A. weekly cookery demonstrations were a huge success with record attendances for each. The final session was devoted to icing and decoration of Christmas cakes under the expert eye of Bernadette Burke Louisburgh Badminton Club are utilizing the facilities of the Sports Hall in Sancta Maria College on Wednesday nights commencing at 8.30 p.m. New members are always welcome Gowlaun native Jim O'Malley, and his wife Ellie celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary with their family of nine daughters, relatives and friends in West Roxbury, Boston, U.S.A.

January/February 1992: Heartiest congratulations are extended to "A" Company (Westport Area) F. C.A. member, Sergeant Barry Gaffney, who recently gained the distinction of being the first serving member of the Company to be promoted to the Senior N.C.O. rank of C.Q.M.S The annual Christmas Social for Senior Citizens, held in Louisburgh Parochial Hall proved to be an outstanding success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests Mr. Tony Bourke of the Irish League of Credit Unions made an inspection visit to the offices of Louisburgh Credit Union Ltd. and was very impressed by the efficiency with which Louisburgh Credit Union was being operated and by the progress achieved to date The Chairperson of Mayo Macra, Mary McDonnell, Bridge Street, and her Vice-Chairman, Michael Horan have announced their engagement The 3rd Mayo Louisburgh Scout Group celebrated "Founders" day on 22nd February in the Resource Centre, where they held a group investiture Over 160 people attended the first-ever American Tea Party hosted by Louisburgh I.C.A. in the Derrylahan on 16th to raise funds for the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice Movement. £912.60 was raised.

March/April 1992: Mr. Tom McHale, Principal of Killeen Community School,

has retired from the position after nine years' service. He was a member of the school teaching staff since 1975. He is succeeded by Mr. Pat O'Grady, Cregganbaun Mr. Bill McNamara, Bunowen, was presented with a portable colour television set by his colleagues on the Board of Louisburgh Holidays Plc. in recognition of his services to the company over the past twelve years A most enjoyable fund-raising dance and raffle was held in Taylor's Hotel, Killadoon in aid of Killeen Community Centre. All funds raised will be used to maintain the centre and improve facilities there for the use of the community The Louisburgh Interpretive Centre was featured in O'Lochlainn's Personal Journal of Irish Families, Vol. 7 Saint Patricks Day 1992 entitled "Irish Family Talk" Louisburgh I.C.A. Guild presented Mr. Michael Downes, President of Westport Lions Club, with the cheque (£912.60) for the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice Fund Louisburgh businessman, Mr. Frank Kenny, has been co-opted to the Board of Louisburgh Holidays Plc Patrick Conway, Askelane, a frequent contributor to the "Mayo News" has been conferred with a Diploma in Freelance Journalism by Kilroy's College Dublin. . . . A batch of salmon fry were released into the Bunowen river from the holding tanks at Carr's Pool, Ballyhip in the latest attempt by the Western Regional Fisheries Board to augment the existing fish stock of this renowned salmon and sea-trout river Merle and Austin Bergin, owners of the Village Teashop, opened the Aimhirgin Art Gallery in the upstairs part of their premises at Bridge Street. The three-roomed gallery features the works of local and Mayo artists.

May/June 1992: Congratulations to Louisburgh Choir, winners of the Mayo finals of the Community Games competition. The choir goes to the All-Ireland final in Mosney in Autumn Mr. Pádraic O'Malley of Cross, Killadoon, and his sister, Mrs. Sal O'Sullivan, are the new owners of Killadoon Beach Hotel. Pádraic and his wife, Bernie, will personally manage and supervise the hotel A presentation was made to Mr. Eamonn Keane in the Resource Centre by the parents of the young footballers in the mini-sevens competition 1991-'92. Eamonn is a teacher and trainer at Louisburgh Boys' National School Muigheo District Scout Camp was held in Carramore, Louisburgh. Troops from 2nd (Mayo) Westport, 5th (Mayo) Swinford, 7th (Mayo) Belmullet, 9th (Mayo) Cornacon and the host troop 3rd (Mayo) Louisburgh attended the camp A fund-raising function held in "The Derrylahan", Louisburgh on July 23rd raised over £3,000 for Sister Sarah Durkan's "Mission Mill" project for her mission post in the Karamoja Desert in North Eastern Uganda. Sister Sarah is a native of Bunowen.

A twenty-seven-year-old Brentwood woman has been awarded the MBE for her work at Conservative Central Office, Miss Martina Ward, of Costead Manor Road, works in the campaigning department at the Conservative Party's Smith Square, London, headquarters. Miss Ward studied at Saint Helen's School and the Ursuline Convent High School. She joined the Conservative Party's staff direct from the sixth form. Martina's mother, Kathleen, was formerly Sweeney: she is a member of the well-known family on the Square, Louisburgh.

Letter To Mother

Dear Mother,

A few lines to say how glad I am that you are out of the hospital and well again and isn't the health everything.

We are all well here for the most part. Peggy had to have the leg amputated but strangely enough she seems to have twice the spirit since the operation and gets around great. I had occasion to go to City Hall a couple of weeks ago to try and straighten out a real estate tax bill on John's house. You know I find it very strange. We send our children to the best schools and they learn all kinds of things we never knew about, videos and computers and all kinds of technical stuff but when it comes to plain common sense I find them often very lacking. Well anyhow I had to see the city treasurer Jim Cronin. He asked me where I was from and when I said Louisburgh he asked if I knew Doiregarrow. He said that's where his mother was from her name was Elizabeth Egan and she only died a few months before. Did you know her? Sure he said John Harrity in the City Council is my first cousin; his grandfather Peter came from the same village and he asked if I knew Peg Scanlon who was Assistant City Manager recently retired. Of course I know Peg, her father came from Brackowney, Furmoyle; and her brother Father Peter, a fine man, I meet him at occasional fires in the city as he is the chaplain to the Fire Brigade. In fact Peg had told me they were in Louisburgh in November they had gone to see Holy Cross College play Fordham University in Limerick and went to visit the ancestral home and were there at Alice Kerrigan's funeral. Well, it's a small world indeed. Tim Cronin spoke about John Durkan who is the school superintendant for the city of Worcester and what a great job he has done. I was glad to hear that and I knew you'd be glad to hear it. I remember you telling me his father stood beside you in the same class in Accony school house. Do you ever meet Red Johnny from Treinse Buidhe? He'd be a first cousin. to our school superintendant. I remember being in his company one night in Michael Tom's and he sang "She moved through the fair" and I want to say that I never did hear anyone sing it better. I see Mary O'Malley of the Bridge is retired from the Telephone Company since December. I'm sure she'll be back and over a lot now that she has the time and the money. Nora Grady of Furrigal is still working away like myself, no sign of retiring at all. I see her niece Maura Baynes at most of the social functions. Anne Grady of Kilgeever I haven't seen in a while; she works in the courthouse. William Durkan of Long Street retired in April. You will probably be seeing him quite a bit now as his wife Barbara loves Louisburgh. Your old friend

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Margaret Mac Namara from Carramore is not in the best of health but she's holding her own. I see Margie and Rosemary once in a while and do have an odd cup of tea when I'm working in their part of the city. They are very kind and hospitable; in fact Margie's son Jeffrey and our Kevin are good friends. I felt sad to hear of all the recent deaths — Pat Cannon of Shraugh, John O'Malley of Tully and your old friend Dan Sammin from Carramore. They tell me he was the very last of the Flying Column, he almost made the hundred. And not forgetting our other good friend Tom Hannon; wasn't he a colourful character! He told me he paid as much for the last bicycle he bought as he paid for the first new car. You were asking about two Doughmakeon people, well Grace O'Malley told me to tell you that she doesn't have to fight the traffic into Boston anymore. She has a different job. She used to run the Credit Union for American Airlines, now she runs their ticket agency in Plymouth and its only down the road a few miles from where she lives. John O'Malley (Tony), I think is into higher education now. I saw him coming out of a health club one evening and he was in a lather of sweat. I made some remark about never seeing that kind of sweat on him at home and he made a kind of a funny answer. I asked one of the doctors he was with, playing racquet ball, what he said and the doctor said that's a bit from Shakespeare: he said "The labour we delight in physics pain". Sure enough a few days later I was in his office over at Saint Vincent's Hospital where he works and didn't I see "The complete works of Shakespeare" on a counter there. He said it was from one of the lads going to College, but sure I know none of them here study that kind of stuff. Anyhow I hope that working all these years with them big-shot doctors hasn't gone to his head because he's really very nice. It's too bad cousin Patrick didn't take the plunge. I thought she was a nice suitable sensible girl and there aren't too many left anymore that's willing to get involved with cows and cattle and dung in the wellingtons. Ah well, it's like you said maybe he's as well the way he is. You really want to be young and foolish to take the step as you get older you can see all the pitfalls and you tend to get selfish as well. Paddy O'Malley of the town is the new President of Mayomens Association in Boston and I hope to see him at the big annual dance in October. There might be a flight to Knock in '93 and if there is we'll be seeing you all. In the meantime take care of yourself, take your medicine regularly and with the help of God we'll be seeing you in your health for many a long day.

*Love
Seán*

Sé do mhac do mhac inniú; ach sí t'iníon t'iníon go dté tú in úr!
Your son is your son today; your daughter is your daughter till you to in the clay!

At Home Away

A very successful Louisburgh Reunion was held on 1st May 1992 in Saint Brendan's Club, Coventry. The manageress, Nellie Prendergast (nee Grady), a native of Cloonty went out of her way to make everyone welcome. She worked with the other members of the committee: Canon Eugene Nee (chaplain), Michael Needham (chairman) and his wife Josephine (secretary), Séamus O'Malley (vice-chairman) a native of Doughmakeon, John Sammin (treasurer) and Nellie Leonard (nee Kerrigan) (publicity) to ensure the smooth running of the evening, the planning of which had started some six months before. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Michael Fox, a native of Swinford (to keep it in the Mayo tradition) and his band Black Velvet. The food was provided by Betty Carey (nee McGrael) who is herself from the Louisburgh area, just to keep it in the family. The chairman, Michael Needham, welcomed everyone and spoke of the pleasure it gave us to extend our hospitality to all those who had travelled over from Louisburgh, that same hospitality of which so often we are on the receiving end. It gave us an opportunity to cement the warm ties of friendship which were already in existence.

It was a particular joy to welcome from Louisburgh:- Father Tadhg Moran, Parish Priest, Martin Joe O'Toole T.D; and his wife Briege, Michael Tom and John Durkan, Joe MacNamara, Pádraic Needham, Patrick Corrigan, Tom Staunton, Jimmy Davitt, Dympna, Tady and Brendan Coyne, Richie Mangan, Carol O'Malley (Feenone), P.J. and Brigid Sammin, Jimmy Duffy and Martin Joe Keane. Six of these people had actually flown in by private plane from Mayo! The committee also received many letters of encouragement and good wishes from people in the Louisburgh area who were unable to come and they appreciated this very much. Father Moran spoke on behalf of the people of Louisburgh, as befitted him as parish priest, and said how happy he was to be present and to meet up with so many of the natives of the Louisburgh area who had come from so many corners of England to join in the celebrations. People travelled from London, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Oxford, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, to join with people from Coventry and the surrounding area (Kenilworth, Rugby, Leamington and Daventry). We were also able to welcome several priests to our gathering including Monsignor Thomas Gavin, Father Seán Grady and Father Chris Clonan.

Monsignor Thomas Gavin, whose father, Jim, was a native of Culleen and whose uncle, Peter, still lives there, and who himself played Rugby for Ireland, gave

us the benefit of his wisdom and memories when he said how happy he was to join our celebrations. He told us of his childhood memories of climbing Croagh Patrick and his return to Culleen in 1946 following his ordination to the priesthood. Despite his heavy commitments in Coventry he still manages to visit his relatives and friends in the Louisburgh area each year. But now it has become more than a childhood memory for him, which became apparent as he spoke not only of the history of Granuaile and the Augustinian Friary at Murrisk, but also of his own father's experiences collecting the wrack and working the farm at Culleen; and the impressions made on himself by the faith and the friendship of those he has come to know through his visits there.

Martin Joe O'Toole T.D. was grateful to be a guest at our reunion with his wife, Brieghe. He spoke of the imminent referendum on the Maastricht Treaty. A presentation was made to him and his wife by the committee of a painting depicting historic Coventry Cathedral. On their arrival at the airport they were met by Canon Eugene Nee, our chaplain, who took them to meet the Lord Mayor of Coventry, David Edwards and the Deputy Lord and Lady Mayoress, Don and Mary Ewart, themselves from Armagh and Cavan. They also paid a visit to Coventry Cathedral. Following this, Canon Nee, former Air Force chaplain at the American RAF base at Upper Heyford, took them to the base, where Colonel Thompson, the base commander, entertained them to lunch. He also took them to Stratford, Shakespeare's birthplace, and other places of interest in the area. They were guests of Canon Nee for the weekend.

It was a great pleasure for many of the natives of Louisburgh now living in Coventry to be able to offer hospitality to those who came over from Louisburgh. Many of them went out of their way to show them the sights and sounds of Coventry. Although the evening officially closed at 1.00 am on 2nd May, for those who were able to stay on for a few days the festivities continued to the joy and happiness of those involved. As a result of fund-raising activities before the event and profit made on the raffle, the committee were able to make a donation to help a disabled teenager to go on pilgrimage to Knock. The next event we are planning is a Louisburgh/Westport over — 50's Retirees/Pensioners Christmas Buffet Dance to be held in Saint Brendan's on Friday, 4th December, 1992.

Coventry

Josephine Needham

Saint Catherine's — a new role

The following gracious and generous note was written by the Reverend Jack Heaslip (Westport) before the ceremony of handing over of Saint Catherine's Church on 6 April 1991.

The closure of a church such as Saint Catherine's Church, Louisburgh, is a sad event in the lives of the small number of Church of Ireland people left in that particular community. A church building stands as visible witness of the presence of the Anglican Church in an area and the closure of a building suggests that the influence of that particular denomination will no longer be felt within the community. Tribute must be paid to the small congregation who had the courage to make the difficult decision to close the building which had served them and their forebears as a valid and valued place of worship. In the case of Saint Catherine's Louisburgh, there was comfort taken in that the Louisburgh Development Company expressed their willingness to take over the building and establish within it a heritage centre for the area. The realization that a building will continue to be used by the community significantly reduces the pain of deconsecration and closure.



Handing over of Saint Catherine's to Louisburgh Development Company 24-3-1991. Left to right: Donald Wallace, Reverend Jack Heaslip, Clem Lyons, Vincent O'Loughlin

The heritage centre will be opened by the Anglican Primate of South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It will initially house a small exhibit on the Irish Famine. The handling of this painful and difficult time in Irish history will need to be sensitive if it is to be positive. It is curiously suitable that this exhibit should be in a former Church of Ireland church. For many, the Church of Ireland has been associated with the ascendancy and therefore with those who are blamed most for the atrocities of the famine period. Such thinking may be simplistic and over-generalized but is real in the hearts of so many in Ireland and abroad. As an Anglican, I apologize to my Roman Catholic neighbours for the wrongs done to their forefathers by the cruelty of bad landlords. I believe that in the forgiveness of Anglicans by Catholics lies the real beginnings of reconciliation and healing of much of the hurts which can still be felt generations after the famine itself.

I hope that, through its links with AFRI, this exhibition of materials about the Famine will turn our attention from the evils and hurts of past years to the present and future concerns about famine in our day and in our wider world. One of the justifications of learning history is the theory that from the past we can learn to avoid making the mistakes of the present. The role of this heritage centre within a former church building will be most positive if it manages to make the visitor aware of the mirrors of injustice and famine, exploitation and greed. The mirrors are made of the past but the faces reflected are embarrassingly ours. There is much to reflect on!

Westport

Jack Heaslip



"Bind Us Together Lord"! Mrs. Lyons, Archbishop Tutu and his wife Leah, Bishop John Neill and Archbishop Cassidy

Folk and Famine Centre

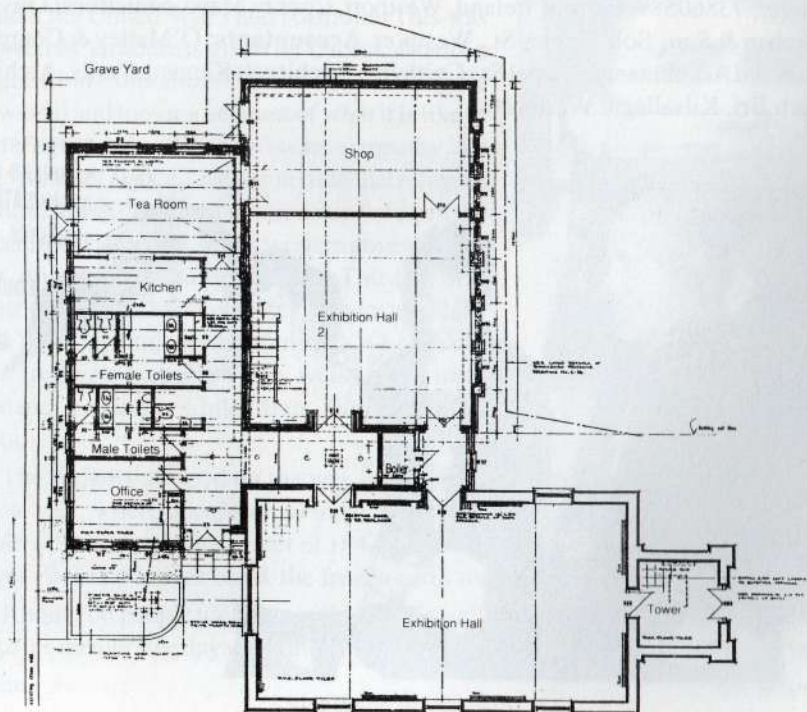
In Spring, 1992, I contacted some 298 *Coinneal* readers, inviting them to make a subscription towards the new Folk and Famine Centre which is being developed in Saint Catherine's, the former Church of Ireland building on the Bunowen Road. This approach was made (with the sanction of the *Coinneal* editor) because it was felt that the project, being of such importance in the life of the parish, would be of interest to Louisburgh readers anywhere.

So it was. I now wish to acknowledge with gratitude the generous subscriptions and words of encouragement which *Coinneal* readers so kindly sent us. These were truly appreciated. The invitation still stands! Having read further about the Folk and Famine Centre in this issue, you *may* wish to join those generous people by sending on your own subscription so that the Centre will become a worthy tribute to Louisburgh, past and present. See page 144.

Signed: Clementine Lyons

Coinneal Secretary

and Cathaoirleach, Louisburgh Development Company.



LOUISBURGH FOLK AND FAMINE CENTRE PLANS

Finance:

Development Costs	£174,500
Ireland West Grant	£ 84,850
Fund Raising Target	£ 89,650

Contributions

Your contribution as a "Friend of Louisburgh" will be greatly appreciated and duly acknowledged by our Finance Committee. Contributions may be directed to any member of the Finance Committee as follows: Andy Durkan, Tom McNamara, Oliver Harney, Mary O'Malley, John Joe Kilcoyne, Clementine Lyons, Sean Harney, Tommy Duffy, Michael P. O'Malley, Seamus Durkan, John McConnell, Vincent O'Loughlin, c/o Folk and Famine Centre, The Square, Louisburgh.

Official association with the Centre can be arranged for those considering sponsorship. For information on costings and advise on sponsorship please contact: Paul Cassidy, Project Co-ordinator, The Square, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. Telephone: (098) 66597. Fax: (098) 66598. See also page 144.

Banking Details

Louisburgh Development Company Limited, Folk and Famine Centre. Account number: 73860589. Bank of Ireland, Westport, County Mayo. **Solicitors:** Oliver P. Morahan & Son, Solr., James St., Westport. **Accountants:** O'Malley & Company, Chartered Accountants, Chapel St., Castlebar. **Architect:** Kenneth Yardy, Architect, Teach Bri, Kilsallagh, Westport.



Ecumenical handshake!

Refugees

AFrI's fifth Annual west of Ireland "Famine Walk" took place on July 19th 1992. The previous four walks were led by Father Niall O'Brien of the Philippines; Vietnam veteran and peace activist, Brian Wilson; members of the Choctaw Nation of Indians from Oklahoma and in 1992 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife Leah, from South Africa. These walks followed the route between Louisburgh and Doolough, the road along which many hundreds of Irish people died during the famine of 1847. The 1992 walk had a different theme and followed a different route. The theme was "refugees" and it looked at the issue of the Irish as refugees during and after the famine and the many refugees who have been forced to leave their homes around the world and come to live in Ireland. The route we took was along the sea at The White Strand because we felt that the sea was an appropriate backdrop for the subject of refugees.

The walk began with an address by Marianna O'Gallagher, herself a descendant of Irish famine refugees. She spoke about the pain and suffering of the refugees as they left the land of their birth and attempted to start new lives in places such as Canada, the United States and Australia. This was followed by an address given by Oscar Castano, a refugee from Colombia in Latin America. He gave a powerful and moving account of what it is like to be a refugee today. "We don't want sympathy," he said, "we want justice." He pointed out that refugees are the result of the unjust relationship between the rich and the poor world. Many western governments prop up brutal dictatorships in Third World countries only in order to protect western interests. "This is wrong, unjust and immoral!" Oscar said. Other refugees who led the walk were from Vietnam, Lebanon, Chile, Iran, Libya and Sri Lanka.



Oscar Castano, a refugee from Colombia

The walkers stopped on the way at the extraordinary burial mound, Teampall Duach Mór, where according to local historian, Justin Sammon, several hundred people were buried in the winter of 1847, because their loved ones, weakened by the hunger could no longer break the frozen earth to bury their dead.

About 500 people took part in this year's walk on a beautiful sun-drenched day, unlike the memorable day when the Tutus visited the beautiful Louisburgh hinterland!
Dublin

Joe Murray

Ordination in Killeen

On the 5th July 1992, Brendan Kilcoyne, Killadoon was ordained to the priesthood in Killeen Church by his Grace Archbishop Joseph Cassidy of Tuam. Father Brendan was educated in Killadoon National School and later at the Holy Family National School, Killeen. He received his secondary education at Saint Jarlath's College, Tuam. His training for the priesthood commenced at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth and later at The Pontifical Irish College in Rome. He is returning to Rome in October to resume studying for his licenciate in Canon Law.

Father Brendan's ordination was the first ever in Killeen Church and a great spirit of co-operation and community effort ensured that the ordination and first Mass were a truly memorable event for himself, his family and the entire area.



Killeen Community Council making a presentation to Father Brendan after his First Mass

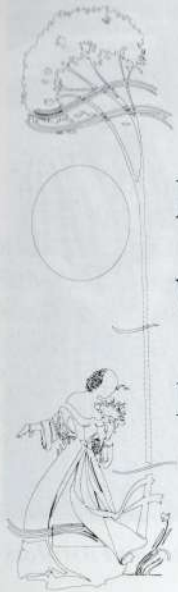


Father Brendan surrounded by his family after his ordination. Also in the picture is Archbishop Joseph Cassidy (4th from left at back) and Monsignor Michael J. Coyne, New Jersey (5th from right at back).

Any Vocations?



Playschool group Killeen Community 1991/1992. Back from left: Pádraic Bourke, P. J. O'Malley, Daniel O'Malley, Blaine McNally, Patrick Jordan, Patrick O'Malley. Middle row: Pádraic Kilcoyne, Maeve Kirkham, Siobhán Kirkham, Martina Gavin, Stephanie Morrison, Teresa O'Malley. Front: Kelly Gavin, Marie Jordan, Patricia Morrison, Majella Morrison, Christina Burke



**Parish
Weddings
1990-1992**



Tommie Gibbons, Cloonlaura, Killadoon, Louisburgh and Colette Boyle, Athenry married in Annaghdown Church, Co. Galway



Ann Marie O'Malley, Thallabawn, Louisburgh and John O'Keeffe, Clontarf, Dublin married in Killeen Church



Ida Gallagher, Thallabaun, Louisburgh and Richard Duffy, Lanmore married in Killeen Church



Laurena Mitchell, Dereen, Louisburgh, and Enda Maloney, Gort, Co. Galway married in St. Patrick's Church, Louisburgh



Seán Kerr U.S.M.C. Bunowen, Louisburgh and Tracy Damiano Holland, Pennsylvania, who were married in Pennsylvania



John McNally, Roonith Hill, Louisburgh and Bernadette Lyons, Williamstown, Co. Galway who were married in St. Cronan's Church, Ballymoe



Peter McNally, Roonith Hill and Tracy Ovenden, Kent, England who were married in Kent



Mary O'Grady, Devlin, Louisburgh, and Kevin Forde, Lacken, Ballycastle, who were married in Killeen Church



Anne Ruane, Thallabawn, Louisburgh, and Michael Daly, Kilconly, Tuam married in Holy Family Church, Killeen



Helena Morahan, Louisburgh and Kevin O'Toole, Lecanvey who were married in Saint Patrick's Church, Louisburgh



Redmond Lyons, Furfmoyle and Mary Staunton, Kilsallagh married in Lecanvey



Rita Scanlon, Feenone and Michael F. O'Malley, Cross, Louisburgh married in Holy Family Church, Killeen



Michael J. Needham, Culleen, Kilsallagh and Bernadette O'Toole, Belclare, Westport married in St. Patrick's Church, Lecanvey.

Golden Jubilee



Mary McDonnell, Bridge Street, Louisburgh and Michael Horan, Knockmore, Ballina, married in St. Patrick's Church, Louisburgh



Patrick and Teresa Walsh, Culleen, Kilsallagh married April 1942

Comhgháirdeas!

We send our good wishes from *An Choinneal* to:



Ann and Albert Stank on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February 1992 pictured here with Cardinal Mahony, who was the principal celebrant of the celebrated Mass. Ann was formerly one of the O'Grady family of Glenkeen.



Mary B. Callahan, Boston, U.S.A. pictured with her parents Daniel Callahan (Carndonagh, Co. Donegal) and Beatrice Callahan (nee Tiernan, Cregganacopple, Louisburgh), following her graduation as a doctor at the University of New England on June 6th 1992. Mary is a granddaughter of Mrs. Nora Tiernan, Cregganacopple, Louisburgh.

Comhgháirdeas . . .



Presentation to Miss Nora Lyons N.T. on the occasion of her retirement from Carrowholly National School. Left to right: Canon Eamon O'Malley, Mary Gibbons, Miss Nora Lyons, Nuala Moore and Father Kilbane. We wish Miss Lyons, who was former Assistant Secretary of An Choinneal, many years to enjoy her retirement.



Louisburgh under 12 football team. Back from left: Declan Moran, Michael Fergus, Stephen O'Grady, Pat Durkan, Anthony Burke, Stephen O'Grady, Fintan Morahan, Thomas MacGréil, Alan Moran, Matthew Maxwell, Don O'Malley, Seán Grady, George Murphy. Front from left: Daire Healy, Matt McEvelly, Conan Dyar, Stephen O'Malley, Darragh McLoughlin, Michael Bonner, Seán Beirne, Kevin O'Malley, David O'Malley, Eugene Coyne, Desmond O'Malley. Missing from picture is Beannann O'Loughlin.

Comhgháirdeas . . .



Cathleen Morrison, Killadoon was conferred with B.Comm. Degree at University College, Dublin. They are son and daughter of James and Winnie Morrison of Killadoon, Louisburgh.



James Morrison, Killadoon conferred with B.Sc. Degree in U.C.G.



Tommy Gibbons, Cloonlaura, Killadoon, Louisburgh, who graduated with Bachelor of Manufacturing Technology Hons. Degree from Regional College, Galway 1990



Catherine McDonnell, Bridge Street, Louisburgh conferred with a B.Ed. Hons. Degree at Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick in October 1991.

Comhgháirdeas . . .



Michael O'Malley is presented with his drama trophy



Reunion—thirty-four years later. In the mid-fifties three young ladies worked in the Railway Hotel Westport and then went separate ways. This year the trio came together again and for the first time in thirty-four years and the venue for celebration was the Railway Hotel. They are above left to right: Bridie McCabe O'Malley, Cavan and England; Catherine Cusack, Saint Mary's Crescent, Westport; and Mary Gibbons Fetchers, Feenone and Philadelphia.

Comhgháirdeas . . .

Kieran Francis is a boy of eleven; and what a list of distinctions he has for such a tender age! Twice he has performed before Princess Diana: he played in "The Attraction" at the Place Theatre; and "Oliver Twist" at The Empire (Leicester Square). He had a role in "What The Devil" (drama) at Middlesex University; is a member of "Chicken Shed" Company and appeared on BBC television as a special guest in *Tea With Grandma*. And much more!

But *Coinneal* readers will not wonder — because Kieran Francis' greater distinction is that his mother (God bless her!) was Nora Rita Gibbons, and so his grandparents are James and Nora Gibbons of Feenone. Briseann an dúchas tré shúilf an chait!



Kieran Francis Rafferty, Our Lady of Grace Junior School, Dollis Hill, London N.W.2



Senior Citizens from London (Camden Town) on a visit to Louisburgh

Comhgháirdeas . . .



Ann Carr, daughter of the late Austin Carr of Ballyhip. A resident of Framingham Mass., for the past sixty two years, she celebrated her 80th birthday on 10th August 1992. She has made sixteen trips to England and nineteen trips to Louisburgh, her most recent trip being in May 1992. Her sister, Rachel, (London) and her family, friends and relations and three sisters in the U.S.A. wish her the very best, we all look forward to her future visits in the years to come.



Release of salmon fry at Carr's Pool, May 1992

Congratulations also . . .

to other Louisburgh young people who continue to distinguish themselves.

Paddy O'Malley (Chapel Street) of the Coinneal Committee in Boston who has been elected Chairman of Boston Mayomen's Association.

Tommy O'Malley, Kilsallagh, National Certificate in Fine Woodwork and Carpentry, Letterfrack

Catherine Morahan, Main Street, Commis Chef, Killybegs; Secretarial, Roscommon.

Jane Eva McCormack, Caher, B.A. in U.C.G.

Clodagh Keegan, Collacoan, B.A. in U.C.G.

Pádraig Kilcoyne, Kilsallagh, Diploma in Civil Engineering, Bolton Street

Maureen Kelly, Mullagh, M.D. in U.C.D.

Clíona McHale, Carramore, B.Sc. Biotechnology in D.C.U.

Martina O'Malley, Askelane

Evelyn Kerrigan, Main Street, M.A. in Cambridge

Michelle Viney, Thallabawn, B.A. (Media Production)

Bernie McGreal, Killeen, Commis Chef in Killybegs

Colette Duffy, Louisburgh, HCI HCIMA, Cathal Brugha

Regina Leamy, Bunowen, B.Ed., Saint Patrick's

Father Brendan Kilcoyne, Killadoon, B.A. Rome

Catherine O'Malley, Roonith, Commis Chef in Killybegs

John O'Malley, Roonith, Mech. Eng. Galway.

Ann Cannon, Ballyhip, Commis Chef, in Killybegs

Donal Sammin, Lecanvey, M.R.C.V.S.

Tommie Gibbons, Cloonlara

Joseph Staunton, Kilsallagh, B.Sc., Pharmacy, England

Michael Gallagher, Furmoyle, National Certificate in Fine Woodwork and Carpentry in Letterfrack

Sandra Mayberry, Ballyhip, Hairdressing, Barry's in Galway

Congratulations to James and Nora Gibbons, Feenone, Louisburgh on their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary with love from Mary, Salome, Myles, Pádraic, John, Austin, James, Rita, Therese, Gabriel, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and twenty-two grand-children.

Innocent Interlude

The old school known as Accony National School was situated in Sicín. It accommodated the pupils from the surrounding villages, Polgloss, Askelane, Doughmakeon, Emlagh, Accony Thiar and Accony Istigh. It was well over a hundred years old. There were a hundred-and-twenty pupils on the rolls. One can imagine what a difficult task our teachers had to teach and control in this situation.

The principal teacher was Mr. J. T. Morahan. He was a wonderful, dedicated, excellent teacher. Ms. Mary O'Reilly taught us from day one as infants and up to second class. She was a native of Shraugh, aunt of Patrick O'Reilly who lives there now with his wife, Monica, and their family. She was like a mother-figure to us, especially when we started off as infants. She taught us our prayers through Irish: she had a great love of the language and she wore the Fáinne always. We had one very special day in the Old School and that was the Feast of the Sacred Heart in the month of June. When school was over on the day before, the big lads would arrange the desks so that they were facing the altar; the altar being the copy-press over which was hanging the big picture of the Sacred Heart. We skipped home feeling happy because next day was free from lessons. We went out into the fields and gathered wild flowers, primroses, blue-bells, butter-cups, daisies. Next day we arrived in school dressed in our best bibs, laden with the flowers, our lunches and cups. Some pupils brought candles and candle-sticks. The candle-sticks having got a polishing because they were brass, when the lighted candles were stuck in them they shone like gold. Pupils brought jam-jars of water into which the flowers were arranged. When the flowers and lighted candles were arranged on top of the copypress it was a beautiful sight to see. The master would recite the "Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart" after which we sang the lovely hymns we had learned. Then we trooped outside to play games, the girls would play skipping and jack-stones and the lads would play football. The one game which the lads and ladies played together was 'Rounders' (and the ladies always won!).

The big ladies, Menty Morahan, Margaret McEvelly, Violet Scott, Eveleen McHale, Kitty Prendergast and Teresa Kelly to name just a few, would make the tea and everyone got a cup of tea to have with their lunch on that day. Then the 'Master' and the 'Missus' would give us a treat of oranges and can-sweets, 'pure boiled sweets'. When three o'clock chimed we went into the school again and the master said a thanksgiving prayer. Then we stood to attention for the final hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers.' We had come to the end of a perfect day.

Main Street

Mary O'Malley

Scissors and Sellotape

The following news-items have been culled from local newspapers — mainly The Mayo News—to give a general view of news-media records or comments about the parish community and its activities. Thanks to Mairéad Staunton for assembling these.

News-items from other news-media for inclusion in this feature will be welcomed.
—Editor.

The 9th annual general meeting of Louisburgh Community Council, held last week, elected eleven new members to the Council.

The newly-elected members are: - Mr. Michael O'Malley, Main Street, Louisburgh; Mr. Eamon O'Malley, Bunowen; Mrs. Mary Fergus, Cahir; Mr. Francis O'Malley, Doughmakeon; Mrs. Margaret O'Malley, Doughmakeon; Mr. Patrick Prendergast, Accony; Mr. Michael Sammin, Askilane; Mr. Patrick Conway, Askilane; Mr. Louis Heneghan, Old Head; Mrs. Anne O'Reilly, Laughta; Miss Mary O'Malley, Shraugh.

Members re-elected to the Council for its fourth term of office were: Mrs. Clementine Lyons, Chapel Street, Louisburgh; Miss Annie B. Casey, The Square; Mr. Anthony Morrison, Bridge Street; Mr. Vincent O'Loughlin, Collacoon; Mr. Michael P. O'Malley, Doughmakeon; Mr. Johnny McConnell, Shraugh; Mr. Michael J. O'Grady, Kilgeever; Mr. Tommy Duffy, Falduff; Mr. Sean Harney, Bunowen.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. Anthony Morrison; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Sean Harney;

Secretary, Mr. Vincent O'Loughlin; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Anne O'Reilly; Treasurer, Mr. Francis Sammon; PRO, Mr. Tommy Duffy.

- Mayo News 13-2-91

More and more people in the Louisburgh community have come to recognise the benefits they can derive from being a member of the local Credit Union, Mr. James Scott, Chairman, told the recent annual general meeting held in Louisburgh Parochial Hall.

In welcoming the large attendance to the 3rd A.G.M. of Louisburgh Credit Union, Mr. Scott said he was pleased to report that steady growth continued to be achieved, with membership now exceeding 200 and share capital (members' savings) approaching £60,000. Low-interest loans advanced to members for productive purposes during the past year totalled £63,257, with the average loan size being just over £1,000.

- Mayo News 13-2-91

An important new component was added to the Louisburgh tourism product at the weekend when Merle and Austin

The Other Side of the Village

I grew up in Bunowen. When I looked out the bedroom window which was in the back of the house I could see Clare Island and Mulranny and when I looked out the front door I could see the Reek, (Croagh Patrick) which was only seven miles away. This was of course if the day was clear which wasn't always the case. My friend Johnny Murphy, who lived across the river in Cahir but was born in East Galway, used to say that though he had heard dozens of signs of the weather, there were only two he could really rely on. They were: if you could see Clare Island it was going to rain; and if you couldn't see Clare Island it was raining!

We always used the road that went by McEvelly's, Scanlon's, and Katey Donnelly's and by the Protestant Church to get to the town, except a couple of times a year during the Spring and Autumnal Equinox when the tide would rise up through Cally marshes and block off the road. We would then have to use the road that came down by the Garda barracks, Davy McGreal's and the Girls School. It was a little longer that way and as a child I remember being afraid of passing Catherine Kerrigan's house which was completely enclosed by bushes. She had a terrier which she would set on you, or so we were told. The first house after you left the town on that road was Geoghegan's. Michael, the father, worked mostly for the nuns; the mother was Nora Durkan from Askelane and she died very young leaving a house full of children. Lorcan was only a baby and I think Nora who later married Mick Fadden, reared all the younger ones even though she was only a child herself when her mother died. Next house was Tom Grady's. Tom was a shoemaker; he was married to Annie Ward who would be grandaunt of the Dowds of Moneen. She was a very skilled housekeeper and used to can vegetables and make crab-apple jelly and gooseberry jam and lovely blackberry jam. She was a very kind lady and used to come to our house usually after a baby was born and take over (like a sergeant-major!) which was a great help to my mother. Everyone had to toe the line and no nonsense; and though we resented the tight discipline the lovely crab-apple and blackberry jelly used to more than make up for it. She would take the scissors and everyone would get a close haircut and when she handed over control to my mother all would be A-1, ship-shape! Tom the husband used to try to keep the shoes of the parish repaired, which was an impossible task; and at times he fell behind and the shoes would pile up. When he fixed our shoes promptly we called him Finn and, when we had to wait a long time we called him "Finn Deoite."

Finn's big love was fishing. He made three *currachs*, which were not the greatest; but were sea-worthy, though quite heavy, flat and low in the water. He was also a skilled story-teller and could make them up as he went along!

Bergin, owners of the Village Teashop, opened the Aimhirgin Art Gallery in the upstairs part of their premises at Bridge Street.

- Mayo News 29-4-92

The Annual General Meeting of Louisburgh Credit Union Ltd. - the community's own saving and lending co-operative - will be held in Louisburgh Parochial Hall tonight, Wednesday, December, 18 at 8.30 p.m. All members are invited to attend the meeting at which the Credit Union will report on progress achieved during the past year.

- Mayo News 18-12-91

Louisburgh Community Games Committee wish to thank all those who gave generously to the Church Gate Collection in Louisburgh and Killeen last weekend.

Louisburgh has been involved, for the first time, in the Community Games badminton, basketball, soccer and quiz competitions and the committee is now organising a Sports Day for athletic events. The athletic competition and fun day will take place in May and further details will be issued shortly. The choir is practising at the moment for its competition and all are wished the best of luck. The Committee appreciate the help given for the various events.

- Mayo News 29-4-92

The prospectus for the Louisburgh Folk and Famine Centre was launched at a ceremony in the town, with the full backing of the local community, the

Christian Churches and several public representatives.

Through it, it is hoped to raise £85,000 to match a grant of that amount approved by Ireland-West Tourism for the development of a folk and famine centre at St. Catherine's Church of Ireland in the town. The church was recently handed over to Louisburgh Development Company for this purpose.

Said Project Chairperson, Mrs. Clementine Lyons: "the grant of £85,000 is an indication of Ireland-West's satisfaction and confidence in the project. We have the task of raising the remainder of the project cost and already we have received generous subscriptions from local business people and private individuals. We are now compelled to seek support further afield, from all Louisburgh's friends and well-wishers throughout the world."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is one of the international patrons of the centre. He said "I had the honour of opening this centre and of participating in the 1991 Famine Walk. I believe it is fitting to commemorate the victims of the Famine. The centre will also serve to sensitise people to the needs of the powerless peoples of the world, and as a sad reminder of our capacity for inhumanity."

Members of the Project Finance Committee to whom contributions may be made are Andy Durkan, Tom McNamara, Oliver Harney, Mary O'Malley, Paul Cassidy, Clementine Lyons, Seán Harney, Tommy Duffy, Michael F. O'Malley, Séamus Durkan, John McConnell and Vincent

At one time a nightly visitor was John O'Malley (Mick) from Cahir who had been temporarily barred from Josie (Alfie) Scanlon's house. Josie, Bridie and Evelyn Kilcoyne, (Michael Tom Durkan's mother) ran a very successful and popular tailoring establishment next to Jimmy Mannion's house and we used to visit there frequently. When Johnny Mick was barred he took umbrage and used to spend extra time in Finn's cobbler shop, where he used to say a lot of unkind things about the three girls. One night after a lengthy tirade Finn told him about a dream he had the previous night. In the dream he said he heard Johnny had died and he went up to the wake in Cahir and who was there making the tea and passing the clay pipes and cigarettes and doing everything but the three girls; Bridie, Josie and Evelyn! He nearly had Johnny in tears by the end of the story and poor Johnny swore he'd never say a bad word about the girls again.

About a month after that Johnny came for a pair of boots he had left to have half-soled and Finn told him that he just didn't have the time to do them, but he'd do them just as soon as he got the chance. Yes, said Johnny but you could dream!

Finn was lame. One leg was bad and in his later years it had to be amputated, but in my time he managed fine with one crutch. He talked a lot about Tony Mack of Collacoona. Tony was always ready to go fishing. He had spent a couple of years in the British army and was a trained commando in an airborne division. I think Finn, being himself crippled, was quite fascinated by the fact that Tony had jumped out of airplanes many times with a rifle and pack and he was the only one we knew that had ever done that. An older brother, Paddy, served out six years as a combat infantry man and survived. When Tony came home they had decided one was enough to sacrifice for the Empire. So Tony and Finn did a lot of fishing and when the war was over Tony went to Canada, but Finn would always talk about him like a long-lost son. The division Tony belonged to was pretty well wiped out at a place called Arnhem in Holland in 1944. I believe they dropped in about 11,000 men to hold a bridge for three days. They weren't relieved for three weeks and for every five men dropped in, only one came out alive and Finn would speculate on Tony's chances. Would he be the one out of five? We will never know. One thing we knew was that nearly one third of that division was Irish-born lads sacrificed in a poorly planned operation. Up until the time he died he used to send me a sweepstake ticket. That was in the day before the Lotto and the Megabucks!

I more or less replaced Tony as a fishing partner and we shared one very frightening experience. Matt McEvelly, Finn and I went out from Loughagraunie one evening going after a few mackerel. We drifted over toward Sean Harney's when the sea turned rough and the wind got hard. The sensible thing to do would have been to go with the wind around by Maxwell's Leap and into Old Head, but the objection to that was the two-and-a-half-mile walk back to the town! So we took our chances and fought the tide and wind, back to where we put out from; but we couldn't make a landing there and we tried to get in at the river, with no better luck. Our last chance was Carramore, Matt was small but he was a powerful man at the oars. Finn always

O'Loughlin, all c/o Resource Centre, Chapel Street, Louisburgh.

- Mayo News 13-3-92

Louisburgh ICA Guild meeting cancelled. The very savage weather caused the cancellation of the Guild monthly meeting. This has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 14 at 8.30 p.m. in Resource Centre. Final arrangements will be made for the hosting of Mayo Federation (County) Meeting in The Derrylahan on Tuesday, March 6. Therefore each member is asked to make a special effort to attend on February 14.

We will also receive a report for our member who was lucky enough to win scholarship for Calor/Kosangas Week at An Grianan.

Plans for several other interesting items (which are in the pipeline) will be formulated.

- Mayo News 13-2-91

Members wanted for Christmas Choir! Once weekly practice sessions beginning Tuesday 5th at St. Patrick's, Louisburgh from 8-9 p.m. Tenors and basses particularly needed. Contact: Jackie Cassidy after 6 p.m. at 098-66560 or simply attend next Tuesday.

- Mayo News 30-12-91

Clare Island Drama Group, who had a big success with their production of John B. Keane's "Many Young Men of Twenty" which they presented to appreciative audiences in Clare Island, Innishurk Island and Inishboffin Island last year, set themselves a very

challenging task with their current production choice, Sean O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock". In every aspect it was an excellent production and reflected the dedication of the cast under the direction of producer, Áine Ryan-O'Malley.

The Clare Island group plan to visit Innishboffin Island this weekend with "Juno . . ." and a visit to Innishurk Island is also planned.

Cast members are: Oliver O'Malley ("Capt. Boyle" - "The Paycock"), Mairead McDonagh, The Clare Island District Nurse ("Juno"). Padraic O'Malley ("Joxer"). Fr. Peter Gannon, C.C. ("Johnny"). Mary Moran ("Mary"). Mary McCabe, N.T. ("Maisie Madigan"). Brendan O'Leary ("Jerry Devine"). Máirtín Moran ("Mrs. Tancred"). Máire O'Malley ("Neighbour"). Austie Burns ("Needle Nugent"). Seamus O'Grady and Christy O'Leary ("Soldiers").

- Mayo News 8-4-92

Deputy Martin J. O'Toole has allocated £1,500 from his Council allocation to Louisburgh Tidy Towns Committee for the planting of flowers and shrubs and the provision of seating in the town centre.

The allocation has been warmly welcomed by Mr. Frank Kenny, Treasurer of Tidy Towns Committee.

- Mayo News 1-7-92

Louisburgh Co-operation - At a meeting of Louisburgh Holidays Ltd., many tributes were paid to the Louisburgh Development Company for making

sat on a board across the gunwale at the stern and did the fishing. He was powerless to help us on the oars, but his skill saved our lives that day. He had us keep her nose in the wind and head for Pulgloss and outside the Cuanines he had us hold the bow to the waves and let the tide and current push us into the lee of Carramore pier. We couldn't turn and run for it the waves were too high and the old *carrach* was flat and we would have been swamped. When we got in the lee of the pier we just pulled in there. As we pulled up on the sand a huge wave came over the back of the pier and knocked Finn, his crutch and the board he sat on and the fishing lines and a couple of bags we had all in a pile, into the water. All we could do was laugh in a kind of hysterical relief at the comical picture of poor Finn all tangled up in bags and fishing lines. I think we must have laughed for ten minutes, we were so glad to be alive. In the years after that before I left the village even though Matt and I had many a squabble about fences or drains or trespass there was always that bond between us that we had shared that perilous hour together. I knew he would be there to back me up if I was in trouble and that I wouldn't even have to call him. I was with him when he died after a massive heart attack in the summer of '69.

There were two houses built next to Tom O'Grady's in the 1940's, by two members of the Gardaí, Pat O'Leary who was from Kerry and Tom Hannon who was from Sligo. Pat O'Leary was married to Julia Kerrigan and they had six children. Seán who is a priest in California, Damien in Dublin Castle, Donald and Desmond and the two girls, Angela and Joan. Tom Hannon was married to Brigid Burke from Doughmakeown and they had a house full of children. All reared on the milk I delivered there for years; or so I always boasted anyhow! The oldest son is a professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and used to be a great buddy of mine as a youngster — that's Tony. Michael made a name for himself as a singer. When I think about it now there were fourteen children between the two houses and they were all very successful in life. Damien now owns Finn Grady's house as a summer home.

Across the road from O'Leary's was the curate's residence. Father Morley who was active in the G.A.A. and Father Tom Martin of whom I can remember very little except that he could not preach a sermon. He used to go into the pulpit and mumble away but nobody knew what he was saying. Father Joe Moran and Father Ciaran Waldron taught in the convent as we knew it, which later became Sancta Maria College under their tutelage and is now known far and wide as one of the better academies of the second-level education in the republic.

After the curate's house there was a farm owned by Watt Burke of Bridge Street who made his money in Australia. The only thing I can remember is one of the sayings accredited to him in reference to the Union Jack. He used to say "wherever that flag flies it's both feared and respected." The next house on top of the brae was directly across the fields from our house possibly 500 yards away, before my time it was Owen O'Donnell's place, whose son Miley O'Donnell was much spoken of by my father. I think there was a relationship but both Owen and Miley were dead

three members of a FÁS work team available free of charge to the cottages company for the essential painting of a number of cottages.

The gesture was described as an outstanding example of community co-operation and it was decided to make an appropriate seasonal gesture to the workers in appreciation of their high standard of workmanship.

- Mayo News 18-12-91

Sister M. Agnes Burke, a native of Curlisduane, Ballyglass, who has died at the Convent of Mercy in Tuam, served in Louisburgh from 1950 to 1982 when she retired. She entered the Convent of Mercy in Tuam in January 1927 and was professed in October 1929. In 1942 she was transferred to Claremorris Convent and worked there for eight years before transferring to Louisburgh. As a great nature lover she had a particular affection for Louisburgh with its magnificent landscapes and seascapes, but her special love was for the people of the area who held her in such high regard.

- Mayo News 1-7-92

Louisburgh/Killeen Tourism Association have expressed great concern at the lack of progress being achieved to resolve the difficulties which are at present preventing the Bunowen and Carrowniskey rivers from being promoted as major attractions for visiting anglers. The Association is convinced that the enormous natural resource of the two famous angling rivers could be a huge asset in attracting large numbers

of angling tourists to the area - with consequent benefits for the local community - if the various interests involved resolved their differences and united in a spirit of goodwill and co-operation to promote and market two of Europe's best angling rivers for the good of the community.

- Mayo News 13-2-91

Bank turf cutting machine now commencing in Seanacloy Bog (Louisburgh). Please mark banks, Thank you! T. O'Reilly.

- Mayo News 29-4-92

Gowlaun, Killadoon, native, Jim O'Malley, and his wife, Ellie, recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary with their family of nine daughters, relatives and friends in West Roxbury, Boston, U.S.A.

- Mayo News 18-12-91

Patrick Conway, Askelane, Louisburgh, a frequent contributor to the "Mayo News" has been conferred with a Diploma in Freelance Journalism by Kilroy's College, Dublin. Pat Conway was born in Dublin but grew up in Louisburgh where he received his education. Although a farmer, he has worked in numerous jobs in Louisburgh and Westport. A lifelong interest in writing led him to partake in a freelance journalism course which he recently completed, with distinction.

- Mayo News 8-4-92

in my time. Miley had two daughters who were reputed to be very beautiful. One went to America and Bea, who was the more beautiful of the two, married a retired R.I.C. man, a handsome young fellow called John Doyle. He was retired from the R.I.C. as a young policeman when the Gardaí was formed under the Free State Government in 1922. As far as I can recall they owned some houses in the town as well as the farm. There were seven children, Annie, Mary, Kitty, Carmel, John Francis, Michael and Gerard. They were always very well dressed and I can remember always two of them would come back the bog road and go to Nicholson's for the milk twice a day but would never play with us. I used to wonder if it was because we were so poor! Bea died I believe in 1939 and I remember serving her High Mass. Then the father took the family away to Sligo, I think. I remember Kitty coming back for a visit in later years and being in much demand by the young lads as she was very pretty. Later I met Annie (Mrs. Feely) living in Bundoran, and I believe, running a very fine drapery shop. I used to get the V.I.P. treatment when I visited on my occasional trips to Finner Camp in my F.C.A. days on Summer camps and shooting competitions. After the Doyles left, John Joe Morrison owned the house and the Fallons moved there from the town. Pat Fallon was also a Garda, a powerfully built man (six foot four) who came from Roscommon. He was a great javelin-thrower and could heave the fifty-six pound weight great lengths, both distance and over the bar. There were six children: Mickey, Paddy and Frank, Mary, Lilly and Pauleen. Mickey was my pal before he went into the Gardaí. He and Maurice Geoghegan and I worked together one summer on a drain which started as an open sewer in back of Long Street and went out into the river through the Cally marshes.

I met Paddy Fallon one time on The Reek, he was a fine man, like the father. I remember Lilly was very religious, and Pauleen (who was my favourite) was very beautiful: tall, outgoing and vivacious. She married a boy called Peter Duffy in Monaghan. My sister Nora knew them. I think Peter died fairly young, but Pauleen, I would like you to know where ever you are, you were once a bright ray of sunshine on a sometimes bleak landscape. Mickey died a few years ago in Fethard, County Tipperary. Maurice Geoghegan died in England many years ago. Garda Fallon was transferred to Coolanney in Sligo as a sergeant and the family moved away and I lost track. Isn't it a coincidence that both the Doyles and the Fallons left that house to move to Sligo!

When you passed that house you could take a sharp left onto what we called the bog road. When I was a child Catherine Kerrigan lived in the first house at the right which is now a ruin. She had a son who was a seaman and his family lived in Bootle in England. One time she was telling a neighbour how his wife wrote to her looking for a couple of pounds to help her over the bad times. The neighbour asked if she did send her any few shillings and Catherine's answer was, "Faith I did not! There is no rain-down on Cailleach a' Bootle."; which would seem to indicate that the house Catherine lived in did need a bit of new thatch badly. I believe the Gallaghers of the

Louisburgh G.A.A. Club are organising a special Public Meeting to discuss the problem of under-age drinking. The meeting will be held in Louisburgh Parochial Hall next Thursday night, June 18, commencing at 9.30 p.m. and all concerned about this problem—parents, teachers, groups, organisations, etc—are invited to attend and to contribute to the discussion, aimed at finding a constructive course of action to tackle the problem of under-age drinking and the abuse of alcohol.

- Mayo News 10-6-92

On behalf of the Council, Rev. John Fallon, C.C., Louisburgh, Spiritual Director, presented a specially-made plaque to Louisburgh couple, Joe and Assumpta Fergus, who were married during the year, for their outstanding and dedicated service to the PTAA over the years.

Mrs. Assumpta Fergus (nee Gill, of Thornhill, Lecanvey) has served for many years as a member of Lecanvey P.T.A.A. and is a delegate from the Westport Regional Council on the Connacht Council of the P.T.A.A. Her husband, Joe, of Cregganbaun, Louisburgh is an active member of Louisburgh P.T.A.A. and the Westport Regional Council.

- Mayo News 6-11-91

Louisburgh Community Games Committee wish to thank Nomadic Structures for its very generous donation towards the cost of the awards presented on Sports Day. The next Community Games' meeting is tonight

(Wednesday), 8th July at 9.30 p.m. in the Resource Centre. The parents of the qualifying athletes are requested to accept the gear and make arrangements for the County Finals, on 11th and 12th July in Claremorris, at that meeting.

- Mayo News 8-7-92

A most enjoyable fund-raising dance and raffle was held in Taylor's Hotel, Killadoon recently in aid of Killeen Community Centre. The organisers are very grateful to all who helped to make the event a success.

- Mayo News 18-3-92

Hilarious side-splitting comedy is assured at Louisburgh Parochial Hall on this Friday and Sunday night, March 6 and 8, when Killeen Drama Group present "A Wake in the West". Curtain up at 8.30 p.m. each night.

This new 3-act comedy by Mulranny playwright, Michael J. Ginnelly, was a huge hit when presented by Mulranny Drama Group. The members of Killeen Drama Group do full justice to the hilarious characters and comedy of the script and received a warm and appreciative reception when they presented the play in Leenane.

Members of the cast are: John Duffy, Michael McGreal, Ann O'Grady, Rosaleen Gibbons, Leona Morrison, Mary Davitt, Michael Joe O'Malley, Joe Murphy and Walter Davitt.

- Mayo News 4-3-92

The Clare Island Ferry Service, owned by island hotelier, Mr. Chris O'Grady, has geared up for what is

town, who used to live where John Joe MacDonald now has his business and residence, used to till part of Catherine's place, and I think the Needhams of Legan had another part of it. Jamie Gallagher used to spend a lot of time hauling wrack from Legan to fertilize the place. It ought to be very fertile if sea-weed is any good at all.

The next after Catherine's was James Gibbons'. We always called him "Jamet." He had three daughters: Mary Kate who stayed at home, Sara who taught at the Sacred Heart School in Westport and Maggie who married a Wicklow man by the name of Mark Doyle (their son John now owns the place and with the help of Eammon O'Malley recently rebuilt the house and did a fine job on it). Jamet was a very intelligent man who came from Boneereen, a section of Accony Thiar. He worked very hard all the daylight hours six days a week and on Sunday if the sun shone he would go to the sea. He liked to talk to the College kids or kids who would be preparing to go to Tuam or Balla or any of the boarding-schools. He would ply them with problems, some simple some rather complex, and he could predict fairly accurately those who would be very successful. I only remember two of the problems he used to give in the form of rhymes. The simple one went like this:

If I lent at 5 per cent to those who want to borrow,

In what time would I gain a pound,

If I lent a crown tomorrow?

The complex one was something like this:

On the fourth of June at six o'clock, 't'was at that hour I spied a cock,

He flew between me and the sun, at him I did present a gun,

I shot him dead and down he fell, one hundred feet from where I stood,

The height he was I do require: likewise the length that I did fire?

I never did figure that one out. I think there is a little trigonometry involved, but I have promised myself that sometime I'm going to corner his grandson, John Doyle, and we'll get an answer between us. Does anyone want to take a crack at it? The dimensions of two sides of a scalene triangle having a base 100 foot long?

There are some lovely houses built on the Bog Road now. John Lyons, Ger Nicholson, The Corcorans, but I think I'll stay on the road on the far side of the village. After you passed where the Doyles and Fallons lived there was a little house with a chimney that Johnny Kerrigan of the town used as a shed but I never knew who lived there. Does any one know?

And then on down to a little crossroads where if you took a left you would go by Nora Dunne's, John Kerr's and Donald O'Leary's. And if you took the right, which is all closed off now, the road would take you out to the Kilgeever road in the old days before the new line was built. There was a village of houses there at one time. John Joe MacDonald says he can trace at least fifteen of them. That section was known as Carrowclaggan.

When I was about eight or nine years old I met a man at the sea one Saturday morning. He was visiting Ireland for the first, and probably the only, time. I used to drive the cows to Derrylahan after they were milked in the morning and I used to

expected to be a good year for tourism on the popular island resort.

The 'Rossend' has a 55 foot steel hull, is a twin-engine vessel with cabin and deck seating and is fully licensed and insured. A special information office will operate for the convenience of visitor at Roonagh Point throughout the summer months. The 'Rossend' leaves Roonagh daily at 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., returning from the island at 9.30 a.m. 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Mayo News 3-6-92

Among the surprising and exciting developments in Co. Mayo is the Louisburgh Interpretive Centre. The centre gives us some idea of the facts of Grace O'Malley, the famous "Pirate Queen," her life and times, through pictures, artefacts, replicas, videos etc.

Visual displays there include information on the area history, folklore, and archaeological monuments. The souvenir shop in the building has many interesting mementos of Louisburgh and Mayo, including maps, books and post cards. For further information contact: (098) 66195.

Located just down the street from the famine exhibition centre, which was dedicated last year by Bishop Desmond Tutu (a feat which many 'authorities' from Dublin can't understand!). We also enjoyed driving down the road a bit to the ferry which goes to one of Grace O'Malley's islands. Some nice quiet beaches on the mainland too.

We arrived at Louisburgh on a Sunday, in an off-season, during the middle of a big game being played on

TV. A few questions led us to the right person, and we must say that here we have some dedicated, professional people, in a community that needs a lift. O'Lochlainn says "go into Louisburgh, Co. Mayo," it is actually rather small in size, but is well worth a visit.

- Ó Lochlainn's "Family Talk",
Vol. 7

Christmas '91 was a very special one for Kilsallagh, Louisburgh native, Michael O'Donnell. It was the first Christmas in 52 years that Michael enjoyed at home in his native area. Michael emigrated to London in 1939 and although he is a regular visitor home, he had never before managed to organise his holiday break during the Christmas period.

Michael returned to London last week after what he described as the best holiday ever in his native Louisburgh. "Summer holiday breaks in Louisburgh have always been great but there's something very special about spending Christmas in you native area among old friends," said Michael who was accompanied on his visit by his wife, Rose (a native of Roscommon); daughter, Margaret and son, John.

- Mayo News 5-1-92

Mr. Tom McHale, Principal of Killeen Community School, has retired from the position after nine years service. In all he was a member of the school teaching staff since 1975 and succeeded Mrs. Clementine Lyons as Principal in 1983. He has now been succeeded by Mr. Pat O'Grady, former Principal of

come back always along the shore taking cock-shots at any bottle or can I could see. And always on the look out for bruth-fá-thír, (driftwood). This man, whose name I now forget, told me he was staying in Old Head Hotel and had been in Spain to try to get his only son to come home and go back to College at Notre Dame in Indiana to finish his final year and get his degree. Evidently the boy had dropped out of College to join the Lincoln Brigade which was one of the many International Brigades that went to fight in the Civil War which was ravaging Spain. At that time, I knew that two brigades had left Ireland to fight on opposing sides. There was a General O'Duffy who was the leader of a Fascist outfit called the Blue Shirts who went to fight for General Franco; and a Frank Ryan who was the leader of the IRA at that time and led a brigade to fight for the other side which was supposed to be communist. I was a little bewildered when the man told me his son was fighting against Franco, especially a lad going to a stronghold of the Catholic religion like Notre Dame! Anyhow the very interesting thing about this man, who was a mining engineer or geologist working mostly in the Middle East for the oil companies, was that he told me he had a relative on his mother's side who used to tell a story handed down through the years about a relative born in Carracraggan, Kilgeever, in Mayo area who cut the old wooden bridge across the Shannon at Athlone back at the end of the 17th century. He had dredged up quite a lot of information between Westport House records and Dublin Castle and the then Costume Barracks in Athlone. He had a bunch of ordinance survey maps which seemed to indicate the boy was born either in or near the old ruin we used to call "Wallace's." Well anyway he was one of the two that escaped when Sergeant John Costume and eleven men cut the main span of the bridge at Athlone to slow the advance of the Williamite army into Connacht in 1690. He was killed at the battle of Aughrim shortly afterwards. One brother went to France with Sarsfield and "The Wild Geese" after the treaty of Limerick and another brother eventually came back to Carrowclaggan with the news. Four of that same family had served in the Jacobite army. The family name was McQuillan and must have immigrated a couple of hundred years ago.

This man was delighted when I told him there was a ballad about the destruction of the bridge by his ancestor and I was able to recite it for him:

*Oh! who for Eireann will strike a stroke
Who'll hurl yon planks where the waters roar.
Six warriors forth from their comrades broke
And flung them upon the bridge once more.
Again at the rocking planks they dashed,
And four dropped dead dead and two remained,
The huge beams groaned
And the arch down crashed
Two stalwart swimmers the margin gained.*

The man was so delighted he gave me two ten shilling notes which would be about the wages of a working man for two weeks at that time. I had to write down all the words of the ballad. He also wrote down our address and I always thought I

Islandeady National School. A presentation ceremony was held in the school to mark Mr. McHale's departure and many tributes were paid to him for his dedicated service. Rev. John Fallon, Chairman of the School Management Board, thanked Mr. McHale for his work and said he had always maintained the highest professional standards in his job as Prinipcal. He would be sadly missed by his colleagues and pupils.

- Mayo News 18-3-92

At present enjoying a holiday in her native Louisburgh from Framingham, Boston, Mass., U.S.A., is Miss Ann Carr (79), daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Austin Carr, formerly of Bunowen. Ann, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1930, is on her 16th visit to Louisburgh where she is guest of family friend, Mr. Séamus Ball of Ballyhip. Ann, who is very impressed by the continuing progress and developments made in Louisburgh, is cousin of Sister Bernadette McNally, Matron of the MacBride Home, Westport; Rev. Patrick McNally and Mr. Michael McNally.

- Mayo News 10-6-92

A prime bull calf is the first prize on offer at a "25" Drive in Lecanvey Community Centre on next Saturday night, March 7, commencing at 9.30 p.m.

- Mayo News 4-3-92

A ceremony held in Dublin last week was described in media reports as the first acknowledgement in 145 years of the generosity of the Choctaw Indian

Tribe to the Irish during the Great Famine of 1847.

In this the reports were incorrect. Three years ago members of the tribe were warmly thanked for their concern for the Irish in famine times when they participated in the Doolough Famine Walk in Louisburgh.

- Mayo News 3-6-92

Attention Farmers - Silage Covers and Mollasses now in stock at keenest prices. O'Malley's Builders' Providers (Louisburgh). Telephone: (098) 66146.

- Mayo News 1-7-92

Muigheo District Scout Camp was held in Carramore, Louisburgh last week. Troops from 2nd (Mayo) Westport, 5th (Mayo) Swinford, 7th (Mayo) Belmullet, 9th (Mayo) Carnacon and the host troupe 3rd (Mayo) Louisburgh attended the camp.

- Mayo News 8-7-92

The Louisburgh Branch of the Apostolic Workers' Society were very appreciative of the generous support of the local community towards the Society's recent Church Gate Collection. On Sunday next, May 3, the Society invite the general public to come and see for themselves how their contributions to the Society are put to practical use in helping the Foreign Missions. The Society's annual Display of Work will open in the Girls' National School after 11.30 a.m. Mass. and all are welcome.

- Mayo News 29-4-92

would hear from him again. I never did. Maybe his only son was killed in Spain, as I learned much later on that the Lincoln Brigade sustained very heavy losses as also did Frank Ryan's, where as General O'Duffy and his Blue Shirt brigade saw very little action, if any. I always remember that man saying: "My God, do you realize that if that was now, that McQuillan boy would have been awarded the congressional medal of honour?" I said I suppose so. I didn't know at that time what that meant and I didn't want to sound ignorant by asking! Anyhow I was always intrigued by the fact that a boy from our village was a great hero, honoured in song and story and that somewhere there was a descendant who knew a little about it on the other side of the world. All of 250 years after the event and like all small boys I had my dreams of being a great hero when I grew up. Nach deas í an óige!

Next on the right was James Nicholason's house. Mrs. Nicholson was Gibbons from Roonith. They had no family. Robert, the youngest brother was college educated and taught in Ghana in Africa. Geoffrey and Patrick both worked for us when I was about six or seven years old. My father had a ganging job at the Neale, and Geoffrey worked six days a week for the princely sum of twelve shillings; and Patrick worked three days and he got six shillings! I think Geoffrey would have worked for a shilling a week because my cousin Ellie Gibbons from Accony Thiar used to spend a lot of time in our house and he was totally enamoured of her. She wouldn't go out with him but just to be near her was almost enough for Geoffrey. She was pretty as a picture as were most of that family and Geoffrey would complain to my mother if at the dance she went out with anyone that he considered beneath her. Those were the days of the Four-Penny Hops at MacDermott's Hall. Geoffrey and Patrick went to England when the war broke out and shortly after went into the army. They went all the way through the North African campaign with Montgomery. Libya, Egypt, Tobruk, Benghazi, Ell Allaimin, then into Sicily and all through the Italian campaign and, somehow, survived. I wonder where they are now and if they ever wrote their story. I always look at the list in the *Coinneal* but I haven't seen their names in the obituary column.

Across the road was Martin Kneafsey's cottage, always a delight with daffodils and bright flowers. Martin was a postman for many years and everyone loved him. I could never understand why he didn't marry. He went to all the dances and the girls, young and old, liked him. I suppose I should mention the fact that the other side of the village (which I also regarded as Bunowen) had a section which was called Carrowclaggan and another called Balloor, which was a village completely evicted to make way for the farm owned by the Wilbrahams and run by a manager called Davidson who later became the owner. The farm gave employment to all the available help in Bunowen and Kilgeever, and Davidson lived in the house now owned by Seán Harney. All the stones and houses in Balloor went to build the stone walls on "the farm" (as it was called) in Derrylahan. The farthest section of the village was called Legan but to me it was all Bunowen. There is a new house across from Marty's cottage now owned by Eamonn O'Malley who is a son of Eddie O'Malley who lives in the next house and who, I believe, is the one who should be writing this story. His father John was a great *seannachie* and had lots of folklore;

Mr. Bill McNamara, Bunowen, Louisburgh, was presented with a portable colour television set by his colleagues on the Board of Louisburgh Holidays Plc in recognition of his services to the company over the past twelve years. Bill, a teacher at Sancta Maria College, was one of a group of people who pioneered the development of the cottages which are now ranked as one of the most successful holiday cottage schemes in the country. He has now retired from the Board and he and his wife, Anne were guests of honour at a presentation function in Durkan's Hotel hosted by his Board colleagues.

- Mayo News 18-3-92

44 Byfield Road, Coventry, CV6 1FF

Dear Sir - Recently we ran a Louisburgh Reunion buffet dance in St. Brendan's Club in Coventry. Would you please through the columns of your newspaper express our thanks to all of the people who supported us in this venture.

We are particularly grateful to Father Moran, Parish Priest in Louisburgh, and Martin Joe O'Toole, T.D., and his lovely wife Breege for giving us their valuable time to attend. We also appreciate very much the efforts made by many people from Louisburgh and the surrounding area to travel over to Coventry.

If the success and pleasure which were enjoyed on the night is anything to go by, we can foresee this marvellous event being repeated many times in future years.

Yours faithfully, Josephine Needham, Secretary, Organising Committee.

- Mayo News 10-6-92

Bishop Desmond Tutu is a wonderfully articulate and charismatic personality who has done much for his downtrodden people in South Africa.

In Louisburgh and Doolough at the weekend it was easy to see why he is held in such big regard by his people. His is a voice for peace, reconciliation and moderation; but, above all, freedom for his proud people who have suffered so many indignities.

He received a wonderful West Mayo welcome when he opened the Great Famine Exhibition in the newly restored St. Catherine's Centre, formerly the Church of Ireland place of worship, and later when he started the fourth annual Doolough-Louisburgh Famine Walk. The route, one of the most spectacular and splendid imaginable, retraces the footsteps of those 600 who perished during the Famine as they sought life-sustaining food.

The people of Louisburgh gave him a memorable welcome and are to be congratulated on the manner in which they handled all the arrangements. Congratulations, too, to the local development company on a very fine Famine Exhibition at the restored centre which, in the giving to the community by the Church of Ireland, is another superb example of the ecumenical spirit which burns so brightly in this region. South Africa please copy.

- Western People 10-4-91

A group of concerned citizens got together on Tuesday the 18th February for the purpose of providing a housing scheme for senior citizens living alone in remote areas. Some members of the

and Eddie has retained a lot of it. Eddie is married to Mary Hastings of Cregganroe and was a very skilled plasterer. I remember him designing and putting in a beautiful centrepiece in our livingroom ceiling the year before I left home and Frank O'Malley of Moneen later doing the painting. I can still remember that Frank was home on a visit from Australia and even he had to admit it was a great piece of craftsmanship. There was quite a house full of boys born in that O'Malley house: Charley and Paddy who went to England and Harry and Tommy to America and one girl, Bridgie.

Across the road was Tom Geoghegan's house. Tom was the herd for Davidson and would be Nora Fadden's grandfather. There were two daughters that I can remember: Katie who married Jim Harney and was Merci Harney's mother; and Bea who lived with Merci later on in Ballinrobe. Next there was Pat Prendergast's house. Pat had a gift for the language and a thousand stories. The sons were: Austin who went to England; Joe who died at home; and Tony who was quite a musician. He played the accordion and clarinet and was a foundation member of the "Dawn of Freedom Band" when the Parochial Hall replaced the old school in the 'forties. Tony died in California and Mary his sister still comes home to visit the old home.

Seán Harney's would be the next house in my time. John P. was the father and he was married to Rose Prendergast from the Bridge. The house was an imposing structure and even the barns were built like a fort with beautiful cut-stone, it used to be the residence of the manager of Lady Wilbraham's estate. Next house was John Needham's always a great house for the fishing. There was always a good *currach* at that house and the tradition did not die. I see John and Tom out in Clew Bay all the time setting or lifting pots and after the mackerel and the coal fish. Of course the Yamaha has taken some of the labour out of it, but it's still a laborious occupation!

The last house at the end to the line was Myles Maille's. Myles used to work at one time at Old Head House and in his younger days had a shop in Louisburgh, but at my time was completely into the farming and had six children all very hard-working and industrious as well as being highly intelligent. The mother was Sara O'Toole. Myles, the eldest boy, studied accounting in England. Gussie did civil engineering at U.C.G. and Frank was a construction foreman. In later years they would pool their resources and talents and become the famous O'Malley builders who built a good portion of Galway city and surrounds especially out the Headford Road. That would be all in the future but when we were young we did not think of money or material success. We mostly didn't think much farther than the next Sunday night dance, because there were also three girls in that house and there were those wonderful parties on Christmas Day night. For nine years before I went away, every Christmas night was spent in that house and I could never know until much later that they would be the very best I would ever enjoy. Somehow at that age you thought it would get better. Of course the older people knew different — but who would believe those older people!

There used to be Basil, Anthony Sweeney, Tony Hannon, Séamus Harney and we would sing, "Rose of San Antonio" and Zambizzie's "Unchained Melody," "Stardust" and we were all in love, mostly we were in love with love; and the song says, "Falling in love with love is falling for make-believe, falling in love with love

group had already visited a similar project in Swinford and were very impressed. A number of possible sites were mentioned at the meeting and it was decided to inspect those before any final decision was taken.

The Swinford scheme was built under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul organisation who play a caretaker role in the scheme. The housing scheme is a tribute to the interest and care shown to elderly people by individuals and groups in the Swinford area.

At the Louisburgh meeting the following officers were elected: Chairperson, John Joe Kilcoyne; Secretary, Ken Yardy; Treasurer/PRO,

Pat Conway. The next meeting will be held in early March in the Resource Centre following inspection of possible sites. All correspondence to the Resource Centre, Chapel Street, Louisburgh. New members are always welcome.

- Mayo News 26-2-92

Louisburgh Community Council have called on Mayo County Council to increase the filtering capacity of the water treatment plant in Louisburgh as a matter of urgency following problems encountered with the quality of the water supply during last summer.



At the Farm Guesthouse of the Year Regional Awards Presentation in the A.I.B. Westport. Left to right: Mary McGreal, Ireland West, Pádraic Divilly, National Chairman I.F.A., Dympna Benson, Branch Manager A.I.B., Teresa Sammon, Carramore, Louisburgh, Regional Winner, Terry Gallagher, C.A.O., Áine Kavanagh, Officer A.I.B., and Peter Glynn, Manager A.I.B.

is playing the fool." Anyhow it was all so wonderful and I hope that all the others remember it with the same sweet nostalgia as I do. We would break up at three or four in the morning and sleep around the clock and it was time for the Saint Stephen's Night dance and hopefully another wonderful night, if one hadn't overindulged on the eating the night before.

Christine who married my friend Paddy Malone had her birthday on Saint Stephen's Day. I'm not too sure why I remember that so well when I can hardly remember my own anymore! Mary and Bernadette would both marry professional men. I know everyone knows John O'Brien of Rot a Rossa who is Mary's husband and I know Mary doesn't particularly care about Yanks but I hope she never includes me in that category. Bernie I haven't seen since April of 1966 on my way back to Shannon when my mother died, but they tell me she and her husband have retired. I can't believe that we are all that old. She was the baby of the family and in the lingo of my time she was one beautiful doll.

From the top of Derrylahan you can see both sides of the village and as I look down at the houses I wonder how it is with the others that left — do they remember it with tenderness? Seán Kerr and Kevin, Paddy Joe O'Donnell, The Doyles and Fallons, the Hannons; but times are different and even if people have to emigrate it's possible with a little effort to keep in touch and make an odd trip home but I can't help but wonder if that boy that helped to cut down the bridge in Athlone learned to swim in Carramore. Not too many could swim in those days I am told. I think of my fishing partners on some beautiful days out on Clew bay: Tom (Finn) Grady, Anthony MacHale and good old Tom Hannon. There I learned endurance and tenacity, built muscle and learned to tell lies from all three of them, and sometimes we even caught fish. Tom Hannon would always tell of the 22nd of October, 1954. We filled the currach with big *mangach* (pollock) and that was one story that was not a lie. He told me he had one day in his life before with Andy McHale of Emlagh that was as good. (But that could have been a lie!). I remember the date: it was my father's birthday.

And so, I let my mind wander back again to those wonderful nights in Myles's, when we sang "Moonlight in Vermont" and "Red River Valley," and practised the tango and the slow foxtrot, and lived in some kind of nebulous dream-world strongly influenced by the beautiful lyrics and magnificent melodies of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Sigmund Romberg; and having little relation in fact to the real world we would meet out there as we went our separate ways — a world full of cares and worry and responsibilities; of illness, mental and physical. For the brave souls who would go to live and work in Africa and the Third World countries there would be poverty and hunger and disease and all kinds of deprivation.

So, for those priceless memories which helped to carry us over the rough spots, thank you God; or "the Great White Spirit" or whoever it is out there who controls our destiny.

Worcester

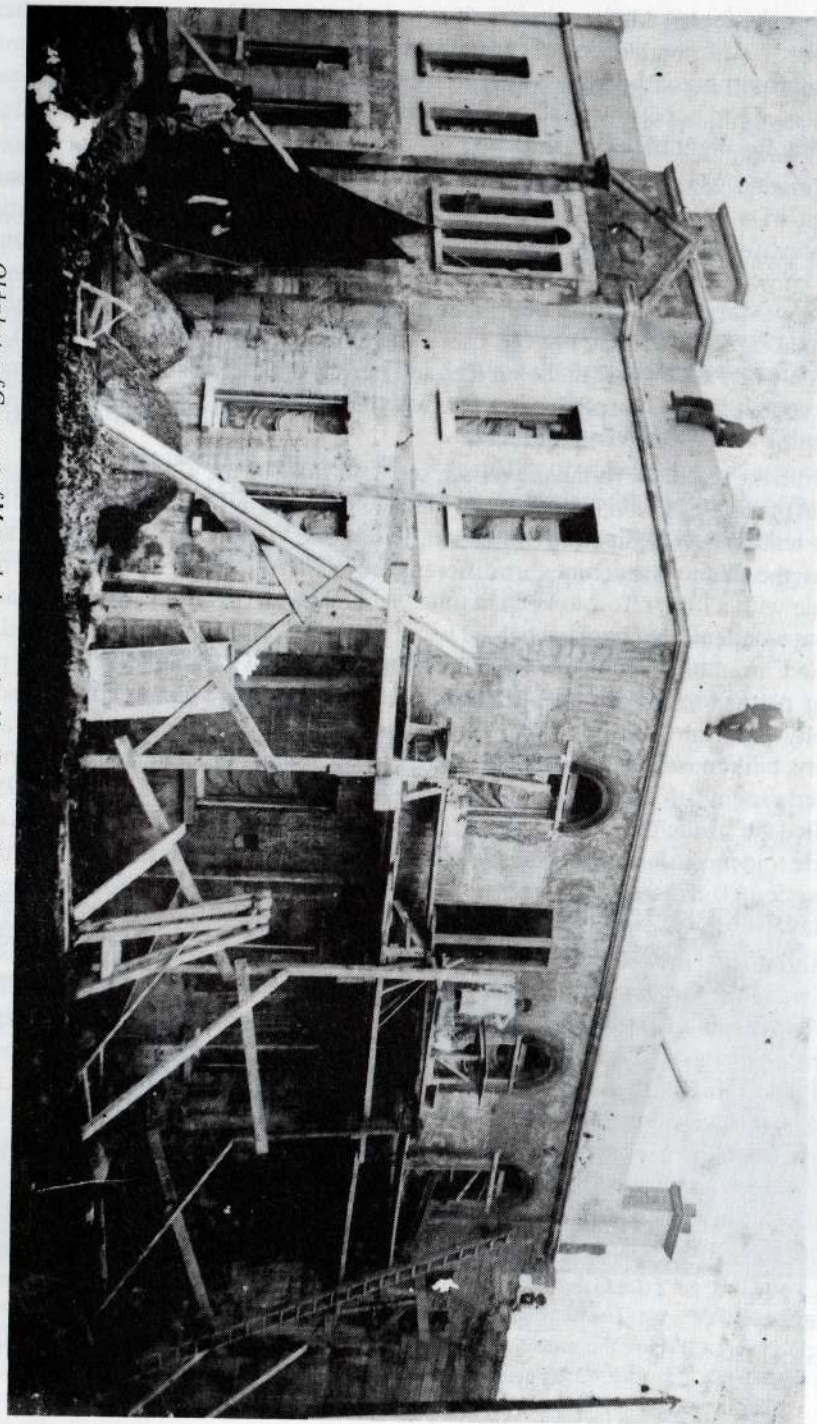
Seán MacDuarcaín

Memory From Microfilm

Last year was the seventieth anniversary of the truce which ended the “War of Independence” in which Louisburgh men, like those of many other parishes in the Republic played an active role. Perhaps one of the most famous encounters in the war was what has come to be known as the Ambush of Carrowkenedy. According to veterans of that ambush, on the morning of June 2nd, 1921 four men from the Louisburgh Battalion joined the Column of thirty-three men under the leadership of Michael Kilroy. They were Paddy Kelly O.C., Dan Sammon, J. Harney and P. McNamara.

In the early afternoon of that day the sentries reported three Black-and-Tan lorries held up at Carrowkenedy by a trench cut in the road. Having made the local men fill the trench with turf, the ‘Tans crossed and proceeded towards Leenane. The O.C. immediately moved the column towards Carrowkenedy, determined to ambush the lorries on their return. Before an ambush site could be selected, however, the ‘Tan lorries were seen returning a few hundred yards away. The men of the Column rushed to the fences and took up positions. As the leading lorry came opposite they opened fire and the lorry stopped, its driver dead. The time was 3 a.m. and during that long June day the fighting raged. The ‘Tans brought a Lewis machine-gun into action but it was soon silenced and its gunners dead. Some troops and police from the lorries occupied a roadside house and continued to fight from there. The sun was setting behind Croagh Patrick before the fight was over. The ‘Tans and police were completely defeated with twelve of their men dead and thirteen surrendering. As night fell the captured lorries were burned and the victorious Column returned to Claddy, carrying the arms they had captured — twenty-five rifles, twenty-five revolvers, one Lewis machine-gun, sixty hand-grenades and five thousand rounds of .303 ammunition. After a hearty meal at Claddy the men left for Drummin and early on the morning of June 3rd reached Mám na Ceasach. They remained in the Louisburgh area until June 9th when they marched to Shraheen in Aughagower.

From intelligence reports it was now evident that the Crown forces knew of the Column’s presence in the area and put a large encircling movement into operation. By the time the Column had reached Owenwee it was surrounded by four thousand troops. The O.C. called the men together and explained the position, and in the early



Old photo of Convent of Mercy being repaired by Charles O' Malley (Johnnie) in the 1940's.

Museum Pages . . .

morning of June 4th the Column split up into twos and threes and made their way through the surrounding cordon. Not one man was captured; all got safely away. And in the following days the truce came and the war was over.

Footnote: While browsing through the pages of the Connaught Telegraph on microfilm in researching the above article, I came across the following under "Louisburgh Notes," dated February 8th, 1919.

'Monday was court day. All the shopkeepers of consequence and of no consequence were "up" before the "gintlemen" for overcharging. I don't like the word 'Overcharging' in these cases. As a matter of fact and of equity there is no overcharging. Is it right or equitable that a Louisburgh or Killeen shopkeeper should be compelled by Act of Parliament to sell his stuff at the same price as a Dublin or Westport shopkeeper? Of course it's not; for without going into the merits or demerits of the case, the Louisburgh or Killeen shopkeepers have to pay carriage on goods from Westport and that is no small trifle. Food controllers do not seem to be aware of the facts; that goods are not transported to Louisburgh or Killeen free gratis and for nothing and that horses are to be fed and carts maintained—yes, and that carmen also have 'appetites'! . . .'

'On Sunday night we had a big "spread", in the shape of a fancy ball in the Courthouse. Of course all the "coorters" of consequence and of no consequence were there "coortin'." Pusher was "invitated" but wouldn't go. He says that according to his point of view, the people who go to dances do so with a view to matrimony, but he never intends to do no marrying, therefore no "coortin'" and no dancing for him. Dan thinks that Pusher is a fool, and points out that many a man who swore "agin" matrimony and hated the girls, changed his mind on the subject and married a wife when he discovered that she had a little token of money in her stockin'. For once in his life Hughie agrees with Dan and he says that in the natural and supernatural order of things, every man and every woman who hasn't honourable reasons for remaining single ought to be married. Moreover that a tidy little woman, with a good temper and a little token of money is not to be despised. Pether says of course Hughie is right as well as Dan, but if Pusher wanted a good sensible wife, who would know how to wash his "sox" and mend his shirt it's not at a fancy ball in the "coorthouse" he'd be findin' her.'

Furmoyle

P. J. Gibbons

Museum Pages . . .



Ministir na Tire group. Father Joseph Moran, Tom Harney, Eddie O'Malley, Michael Gallagher R.I.P., Evelyn Prendergast, Donald Wallace, Austin Lyons, Clementine Lyons, Annie B. Casey, Mary Ball, Séamus Durkan, Kay O'Malley, Mary Evelyn Leamy.

French Connection

The following excerpts, unearthed and kindly forwarded by Mr. Vincent O'Loughlin, are of special interest in view of the coming celebration of Louisburgh's bicentenary (1996). Here, in 1785, there is mention of "Louisbaye." Did someone at that time consider re-naming Clew Bay? — Editor.

Versailles, April 24th 1785.

Mr. De Couloume,

I have received your letter concerning 3 ships "Le Restauration", "La Marie-Francoise" et "Les deux France" which left Dunkerque for Irlande and were obliged to leave their goods behind at Louisbaye. I agree on the ship "La Nymfhe de mer" to bring back these goods. Would you make an agreement with the ship owner concerning the content and the price of transport. I had liked Sir Warstabel (?) to command this expedition, but the king has just appointed him on another vessel.

I trust you to get another officer in Dunkerque, someone we can rely on.

Here by, I send you an "order of the King" for the captain to collect in Ireland and bring back to Dunkerque men and goods.

It seems better to bring back the equipment to Dunkerque rather than Bayonne. It will be easier to negociate a good price in the formen city.

Versailles, April 24th 1785

On behalf of the King, the Sir Commanding the ship "La Nymphe de men" based in the port of Dunkerque, is ordered to go to the bay of Louisbaye in Irlande to collect one officer and 4 men, crew members on the ship, "La Restauration" which was stranded in the bay in June 1784. He will also have to collect the equipment left behind by the captain of "La Restauration" and the captains of two other ships "Les Deux Franc" and "La Marie-Francoise.

The above mentioned Sir will have to bring back the men and goods to Dunkerque where the goods will be handed to the department of marine.

Versailles May 13th 1785

Mr. De Couloume.

I have received your letter dated 30th April, and also the contract signed with Sir Bollet, merchant in Dunkerque concerning the expedition in Ireland by the "the Nymphe De mer".

The list of instructions for the captain of the Nymphe, Sir Benoist, concerning this mission is clear and detailed...

Versailles August 19th 1785

Mr. Mercier,

I have received your letter dated 11th of August, in which you inform me of the return of the ship "la Nymphe de mer" from Louisbaye in Ireland. She was sent to the island to collect the goods of the stranded waler "la Restauration" as well as the 5 men left behind to keep an eye on the goods.

I'd appreciate if you could draw up an inventory and take great care of the goods.

Mr. Chandon will go to Dunkerque at the end of the month to negociate with you the saling price on behalf of the general controler who is interested in purchasing them. Could you give me an estimation of the value of the goods.

Versailles August 28th 1785

Mr. Mercier,

I have already told you about Mr. Chandon's visit to Dunkerque, concerning the purchase of the fishing equipment included in the goods belonging to the waler "Le Restauration de Bayonne" and brought back from Louisbaye. Mr. Chandon just informed me that the vessel for which the fishing equipment is purchased is ready to go for a new expedition. Therefore it is necessary to hand

it over as soon as Mr. Chandon ask for it. Could you make an estimation of the value of the equipment including the cost of the transport occured by the marine department. I will then be able to ask the general controler of the finance department for the money owed to the marine department.

— *Supplied to Vincent O'Loughlin on request by the French Embassy in Ireland. The reference is to various orders regarding "Le Nymphe de la Mer" (Archives de la Marine, cote B 2 1785).*

Louisburgh, 21 miles from Leenane, 14 from Westport. Hotels (IACc) McDermott's (small modern), (c) McGirr's (also small) is a dull village of 400 inhabitants, within a mile of the sea, and as free as Athenry from all attempt to adorn itself with outward attraction. There is salmon fishing in the rivers near for 10s a day. Boats can be had to visit Clare Island, to which it is the nearest point. Its only piece of antiquity is the disused chapel, now converted to secular use.

— From Black's Guide Book to Galway and the West of Ireland Pub. London 1912.

This road by Louisburgh is much prettier than the direct road, as it passes Doolough and the Falls of Ashleagh. Class II bumpy surface over the hill (1 to 10) to Westport Quay — after that poor and bumpy surface along the shore of Westport Bay, but generally improving, and after Murrisk a good road to Louisburgh overlooking Clew Bay. Thereafter a narrow road — Class III — over the bog descending (1 in 12) to Doolough, after which better surface to Bundorrgha with short hills, 1 in 12 at 25 m and 283/4 m.

— From Contour Road Book of Ireland (Inglis, Edinburgh 1908).

Affie Dillon

In Croagh Patrick's morning shadow Affie Dillon first saw light,
In the hungry eighteen forties famished by potato blight;
Falduff, by Clew Bay's lovely shores, was his native heath
He was to see few joys, as man and boy, but hunger, want and grief.

He heard the chilling hunger cries while still a babe in arms
And his parents like so many more, were forced to beg for alms;
The sea shore was the only hope to give some sustenance
As the praties failed and grain was sold to pay the cursed rent.

With death and fever all around, news spread from door to door
That ship had reached the Killary with grain and food in store
The long trek by the mountain-side might bring them some relief
And though deathly weak, the hundreds walked through snow, storm and sleet.

Young Affie's loving mother tied him snugly on her back
And set her face for the promised land through wild Doolough pass,
But soon hope turned to despair as at Delphi Lodge they found
No food was there, or even passes to the Work-house grounds.

With heavy hearts and stomachs slack they stumbled o'er the land;
The ghost of death walked by their side and on many laid his hand;
By lake and track and river-bank the lifeless bodies lay
To the powers to blame, eternal shame for a plight they could allay.

Affie's ailing mother, too, fell by the corpse-strewn track
And left this life just where she fell, with the babe still on her back
The child himself at death's cold door, was rescued just in time
His life was saved but starvation's wear had left poor Affie blind.

His life was hard and comfortless 'till the day he passed away
He never viewed the pleasant scenes that abound around Clew Bay
The sunset red o'er Oldhead hill or Croagh Patrick's stately cone
Like luxuries, were unknown to him though amid them he had grown.

Kilgeever holds his unknown grave unmarked by plaque or stone
At rest at last from earth's cruel ways since God has called him home.
Let us who have seen better times spare a moment's thought
And pray for those life Affie who have borne a fearsome cross.

Kilgeever

© Michael O'Grady

Exile's Return

A favourite old poem, well known as a recitation in the parish fifty years ago was "Dawn on the Irish Coast," written by a school teacher from Callan, County Kilkenny who became the "poet of Ireland-in-Exile" during the period of the Fenians. For many years before his death, Michael Burke of Roonkeel, a frequent contributor, tried to collect the authentic text and did send versions to be published. He expressed disappointment that it was never published in An Choinneal. Our policy to await the authentic version rather than publish approximations has paid dividends and we are happy now to publish this fine poem as a tribute to Michael and to his friends abroad who await it.

Glory to God but there it is: the dawn on the hills of Ireland!
God's angels lifting the night's black veil from the dear, sweet face of my sireland!
Oh Ireland, isn't it grand you look, like a bride in her rich adornin'!
And with all the pent-up love of my heart, I bid you the top of the mornin'!

This one, short hour pays lavishly back for many a year of mourning;
I'd almost venture another flight, there's so much joy in returning!
Watching out for that hallowed shore, all other attractions scorning;
Oh Ireland, don't you hear me shout: I bid you the top of the morning'.

Oho, upon Cliona's shelving sands the surges are grandly beating;
And Kerry is pushing her headlands forth to give us a kindly greeting;
In to the shore the sea-birds fly on pinions that know no drooping;
While out from the cliffs with welcomes charged, a million of waves come trooping!

Oh kindly, generous Irish land, so leal, so fair, so loving!
No wonder the wandering Celt should think and dream of you in his roving!
The alien home may have gems and gold, shadows may never have loomed it,
But the heart will sigh for that absent land where the love-light first illumed it.

And doesn't old Cobh look charming there, watching the wild waves motion?
Leaning her back up against the hill, and the tip of her toe in the ocean.
I wonder I don't hear Shandon's Bells? Ah maybe their chiming's over;
For 'tis many a year since I began the life of a western rover!

For thirty summers, a stór mo chroí! these hills I now set mine eyes on,
Ne'er met my vision, save when they rose o'er memory's dim horizon:
E'en so, 'twas grand and fair they looked in the landscape spread before me!
But dreams are dreams! and my eyes would ope to see Texan skies still o'er me.

Ah, often upon the Texan plains when the day and the chase were over
My thoughts would fly o'er the weary waves and around this coastline hover;
And the thought would rise, that some future day, all doubting and longing scorning,
I'd help to win for my native land the light of young liberty's morning.

Now fuller and truer the coastline shows: was there ever a scene more splendid?
I smell the breath of the Munster breeze! Thank God my exile's ended!
Old scenes, old songs, old friends again: the vale and the cot I was born in!
Oh Ireland, up from my heart of hearts, I bid you the top of the morning!

The Tear in Granny's Eye

*This poem has been sent by Pat Scanlon (Bridge Street, now Bronx, New York.)
Readers may have differing reactions. Comments are welcome. - Editor*

I often wondered why I saw a tear in Granny's eye
when someone spoke of Ireland and of days now long gone by,
and how my dear Grandfather, though feeble, old, and grey,
could walk as straight and tall as youth upon Saint Patrick's Day.

They never spoke that often of the land they left behind,
they kept those memories in their hearts and cherished in their mind.
When oft I'd ask, 'What was it like, and why did you leave your home?'"
They'd smile and say, "We'll tell you lad, someday when you are grown."

"It wasn't easy leaving that dear land across the sea
whose silver lakes and rolling hills are treasures yet to me,
but keep your faith in Ireland lad, and learn her history,
and someday soon we may go home to an Ireland truly free."

My Granny's gone these many years and Grand-dad's gone as well;
they never lived quite long enough, to me the truth to tell.
And so I took the trip myself to see if I could find
just what it was they loved so much in that land they left behind.

I found a land of music, of poetry and charm
with gentle people living in the town and on the farm;
I found such beauty everywhere, no matter where I'd roam,
I knew how hard it must have been for them to leave their home.

But the question burned inside me; I just couldn't understand
what could have happened in their lives to make them leave this land.
The answer to that question, I'd lost all hope to find
when my granny's words came back again and echoed in my mind.

"It wasn't easy leaving that dear land across the sea
whose silver lakes and rolling hills are treasures yet to me,
but keep your faith in Ireland lad, and learn her history,
and someday soon we may go home to an Ireland truly free."

Then I saw the border, stretched across that lovely land,
and beyond it people struggled underneath a foreign hand.
The people were oppressed, intimidated, and denied,
yet still they held their heads erect and never lost their pride.

The pride to strive with dignity on land their clans once owned
just to give their sons a better life than the one that they had known;
A life without the violence, and the long and sleepless nights;
a life with nothing more or less than basic human rights.

For that they face imprisonment; for that some even died
while some were forced to emigrate across the raging tide
'Twas then the answer came to me, and I began to cry
for the pride in Grand-dad's marching step, and the tear in Granny's eye.

A Reflection

It isn't the things you do
it's the things you leave undone,
which give you a little heartache
at the setting of the sun.

The gentle word forgotten,
The letter you didn't write;
The flowers you might have sent,
are y our haunting ghosts tonight.

— Forwarded by P. J. McNamara, London

Slán Abhaile . . .

The following parishioners have died since our last issue.
God rest them!

1990

November: 28 John Needham, Aillemore
30 Mrs. Annie Burke, Derrygarrew

December: 9 William O'Grady, Kilgeever
26 Mrs. Mai Prendergast, Accony

1991

January: 29 Michael John Gibbons, Loughta

February: 2 Kathleen Gallagher, Cahir
20 Mrs. Margaret Kilcoyne, Shrawee

March: 2 Patrick Gibbons, Aillemore
8 Christina Joyce, Collacoan
11 Miss Mamie Carty, Fallduff
17 Mrs. Bridget Davitt, Curradavitt

April: 2 John McKeown, Accony
13 Thomas Gavin, Derrygarrew (Infant)
16 Mrs. Nora McGreal, Doughmakeown
20 Séamus Harney (Chapel Street) Belfast

June: 25 Michael Sammin, Cross

July: 21 Michael Tiernan, Doughmackeown
22 Donald Wallace, Old Head

August: 3 Oliver Morahan, Moneen
28 Mary Grealis, Fallduff

September: 5 Nora O'Malley, Feenone
22 Willie Murphy, Devlin
22 Isabella O'Malley (nee McDonnell), Feenone

November: 15 Alice Kerrigan (nee Durkan), The Square

December: 4 Mary Ball (nee Cannon), Ballyhip
4 Patrick (Pa) Duffy, Ballyhip
14 Eileen McNamara, (nee Flannery), Chapel Street
30 Delia O'Reilly, (nee McMyler), Shraugh

1992

January 7 Sarah Jane Lyons, (nee Gibbons), Accony
16 Tommie Coyne, Aillemore
18 Michael Gibbons, Ballyhip
21 Joseph Lyons, The Colony

February: 12 Myles Mitchell, Derreen
15 Nora Mitchell, Loughta
20 Helen Sarah Harman, Tully Lodge

March: 22 Willie Gibbons, Aillemore
Peggy Staunton (Lecanvey)

May: 6 Jim Fitzgerald, Devlin
19 John Frazer, Kinnadoohey
24 Pat O'Toole, Aillemore

June: 8 Bridget O'Malley, Doughmakeown

July: 1 Winnie Hester, (nee O'Toole), Fallduff
17 John O'Malley, Tully
25 Patrick Cannon, Shraugh
30 Tom Hannon, Bunowen Road (and Wexford)

August: 13 Kate Needham, (nee O'Grady), Feenone
21 Joseph Guiney, Doughmakeown
25 Paddy Hastings, Loughta

September: 2 Mary Christina O'Toole, Roonagh
17 Mrs. Brigid Burke, Feenone and Clooneun, Glenamaddy.

October: Michael Geraghty (Doughmakeon)
Johnny Scanlon (Brackowney)

Deaths Away from Home

1991

- March:** 17 Dr. Maureen Keane (Killadoon) Doncaster
- April:** 10 Michael Coyne (Aillemore)
14 James Jennings (Bridge Street) New York
21 Séamus Harney (Chapel Street) Belfast
- May:** 12 Nora McGovern (Hester, Thallabawn (New York))
26 Michael Doherty (husband of Mary Staunton, Curradavitt) London
- June:** 2 Jane O'Connor (Thallabawn) New Jersey
23 John Burke (Askelane)
Anthony Berry (Carrowniskey) Coventry
- July:** 21 Bridget Teresa Kilcoyne (Woodfield, Cregganbawn)
Upper Darby, Philadelphia.
- August:** 4 Austin Corrigan (Shrawee) Boston
Agnes McNally (Thallabawn)
- September:** 24 John O'Grady (Glenkeen) New York
24 Teresa Murphy (Devlin) Boston
Bridie Duff (Gavin, Derrygorrow) England
- October:** 20 James Hester (Falduff) Chicago
John Gibbons (Feenone) Liverpool
John Lyons (Furmoy) Bodenstown, Co. Kildare
- November:** 3 Patrick Staunton (Curradavitt) England
- December:** 8 L. B. Joyce (Scott, Shaugh) Leenane
Anthony Corrigan (Woodfield) Coventry
- 1992
- January:** Bridget Grey (O'Malley, Cregganroe) Dublin
Julia Rust (Berry, Carrowniskey) St. Louis, Missouri
Paddy Prendergast (Emlagh) Birmingham

- February:** 2 William Burke (Feenone) Springfield, Mass. U.S.A.
9 James Staunton (Thallabawn) Boston
16 Patrick Prendergast (Accony) Scariff, Co. Clare

- March:** 15 Ita Fleming (McHale, Main St.) Ballina
Nora Dell (Ward, Carramore) London
22 Mary Taaffe (Lyons, Furmoyle) Drogheda

- April:** 5 Berry Burke (Derrygorrow) Chicago
28 Sarah Donnelly (Carrowniskey) Dublin

- May:** 10 Winifred Burns (Frazer, Barnabawn) Boston
24 Berry Cronin (Egan, Derrygorrow) Worcester, Mass.
31 John Kerrigan (Falduff) England

- June:** 18 Baby Pádraic O'Grady (son of Patrick, Kilgeever) Leixlip
Ellie Flynn (O'Malley, Thallabawn) Boston
Dick Grey (Chapel St.) Dublin
Merci Jennings (Harney, Bunowen) Ballinrobe
Charlie McDermott (Chapel St.) London

- July:** Tom Kevin Prendergast (Accony) London
Fr. Tom McLoughlin (Leitrim) Dublin

- August:** Maisie McMyler (wife of Tommy, Carramore) Maynooth
Teresa Quigley (Gibbons, Laughta) Manchester

- September:** Mary Agnes Walley (Kitterick, Deereen) Chester, England
John Cox (Devlin) Leeds
James Morrison (Killadoon) Liverpool
Kathleen McPadden (Kilcoyne, Shranacloya) New York
Bridge Burke (Killeen) Glenamaddy
Dr. Walter Heneghan (Bridge Street) Newfoundland

- October:** Sr. John McHale (Main St.) New Zealand
Patrick Corrigan (Shrawee) London
Sarah Keenan (O'Malley, Cloonty) Coventry
Bea Collins (Reilly, Collacoan) New York

Pádraic Burke

Since the last edition of *An Choinneal*, those of us in exile have learned with deep regret of the death of Pádraic Burke, of Bridge Street. A frequent contributor to our parish magazine, his articles and poems mirrored his love and affection for Louisburgh and its people. In the late 'fifties he followed the emigrant trail to London, when he obtained a degree in chiropody. But home was where the heart was.

He founded an Institute of Chiropody in Cork City. Many of his students are today working at home and overseas. A few summers ago my sister's husband and I motored south to see him. His welcoming hospitality made our visit a memorable one; he showed us the delights of that lovely city on the banks of the Lee. A great raconteur, he regaled us with stories of our school-going days in Louisburgh. Memories gather thickly in my English bedsitter . . . memories of league-games between Parnell's and Pearse's, Davitt's and McBride's . . . of plays produced like *Knocknagow*, *Professor Tim* and at Christmas, *The Star of Christ* . . . of our late teacher Seán T. Morahan, speaking with passionate warmth of the men of Easter Week 1916 . . . of winter nights in McDermott's hall, attending variety shows presented by Pat McEntee, Carrickford's and the Shannon Players. Memories crowd.

In contrast to when Pádraic and I came to London, young people coming to this capital today seeking employment are children of the good years. They have enjoyed greater home comforts and benefitted from a better educational system. Those of us in the Louisburgh Association observe them when we are promoting the sales of *An Choinneal*, at our parish reunions in "The Grosvenor Rooms," "The Spotted Dog" and "The White Hart." The Safe Start Foundation, which was founded by Mayo men and women helps them to integrate into their new environment.

Warm and witty Pádraic Burke, will be missed and fondly remembered by those who knew him. He was a devoted husband and caring father. I'm sure to greet him at the pearly gates was his close friend and neighbour, Gerry Philbin. Gerry won a Mayo County Council Scholarship in the forties and subsequently coached boys from the parish to success in the garda examination). Pádraic's interment took place in Kilgeever cemetery. May his soul rest in peace. To his wife Sharon, his daughters Shirley and Kim we extend our sincere sympathy.

London

P. J. McNamara

The following oration was delivered at Pádraic's graveside by Pat Mortell, President of the Irish Chiropodists Organization, November 22nd, 1990.

A dhaoine Uaisle, (Colleagues)

My name is Patrick Mortell, president of the "Irish Chiropodists Organization", and I wish to say that I am deeply grateful to be given an opportunity on behalf of

all our members and other colleagues throughout the many countries of the world to pay tribute to our colleague, friend and brother, Pádraic Burke. We are deeply indebted to him for arming us with the skills to enable us to carry out our duties as members of a profession which does so much in the caring of people, especially the elderly. In addition to providing us with such skills he also instilled in us a sense of humility, caring and compassion; these qualities were the actual make-up of this great man.

Pádraic was a big man in stature, yet his body was hardly big enough to carry the biggest heart within, for the heart was bursting at the seams with generosity, love, compassion and kindness.

Pádraic had one philosophy, which was, "do all the good one could do while in this life because no matter how long one lives, life is still short-term." He loved his wife and family, and was by nature a workaholic. He usually went to his homeland, Louisburgh, each year as it was here he found it easier to unwind. He was very nostalgic about his hometown and took pride in the walks he used to take to places like Old Head, Maxwell's Leap and the Bridge. I remember too when he took his holidays here this summer, he told me that he found the greatest peace and tranquility in this graveyard, visiting the graves of his late parents and ancestors. Perhaps he then knew that he would soon be here permanently. As we stand at his graveside let us regard it as a monument to a great and noble man and I'm sure that the abundance of inspiration which he has given to us in this life will be continued beyond this. So let us not turn away from this grave so much in sadness, as in grateful appreciation that we were privileged and honoured to know him.

We can always remind ourselves how much indebted to him we are, let us now repay that debt with prayer and commemoration by returning to his grave as pilgrims whenever we can, this is how Pádraic would have wished it to be.

Ba chalma an fear thú a Phádraic. (You were a brave man, Pádraic). Táimid an-bhuíoch díot don mhéid a thug tú duinn. (We are most grateful for all you have given us). Gan amhras tá do anam ar dheis Dé. (No doubt your soul is at the right of God).

Quiet Dignity

Mrs. Merci Jennings died on Thursday, 25th June. A native of Louisburgh, she began her teaching career in the Vocational School, Ballinrobe, where she was held in high esteem and respect by staff and students. In the earlier years she was a member of the Badminton Club and later of the Bridge Club. Merci left no trail of great heroic deeds behind her, but to us, her friends, she left a legacy of the quiet, unassuming things that will forever keep her memory green — the phone-call when someone was sick or had a problem, ever ready to drive you to hospital or collect you from a train, how she would listen with care and concern; always gentle, never intrusive.

She never let her illness depress her, never complained about her many trips to hospital; no matter how sick she felt there was always a Springtime; her positive attitude and her gentleness and her wonderful sense of humour endeared her to all her friends. She was so thankful for the thirteen years of good health that God gave her since her kidney transplant, to see Ann and Ruth grow up and to help Martin in the formative years of their successful business venture. Her family was the love of her life; never knowing her own mother, who died after her birth, later losing her father and then Auntie Bea who reared her.

Strangely, in the last few weeks before her final medical treatment, she made contact with all her friends. We sat with her on different nights and had tea and chat and marvelled at her courage and strong faith and her attitude of serene dignity in facing this long arduous treatment. Then she left us as she came in to our lives, and the world became dull and empty in the first crushing impact of grief. At the presentation of gifts nobody brought up the socks she knit for the Foreign Missions, because she didn't; nobody brought up the jam she made for the Sale of Work, because she didn't; Merci did what she was good at — the little, unseen acts of kindness and of love.

Thank you, Merci, for touching our lives. Thank you for the many happy times together, we will think of you not as dead but in the full tide of an Eternal Life.

D'éag sí mar a mhair sí le misneach, dignít agus stuaim. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam!

Ballinrobe

Nuala Neachtain

A Parish Friend

The death of Lady Sally Harman, Tully Lodge, Louisburgh on 20th February, 1992 leaves a gap among the lovers of the Parish of Kilgeever and Killeen.

Although born and educated in England she who had given devoted service to her country in the 1939-45 years became enamoured of the West Mayo area and knew and loved each village as a native born. Hers was not a mere admiration as she joined and took part in the organisations which tried to improve the area, amenities and life. She gave freely of her time and was supportive of many of the best developments in parish life. The number of friends who rallied to her during her long and courageously borne illness paid testament to her capacity for friendship.

May she rest peacefully among her friends and neighbours of over half a century!

Main Street

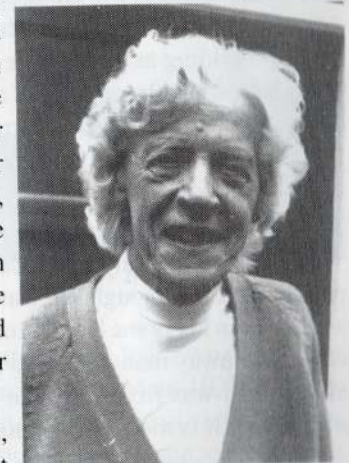
Columb McHugh

A former parishioner recounts his young memories of Lady Harman:

It wasn't like Canon Sheehan's character, Terence Casey hero of Glenanaar. He had "suddenly appeared in our village . . . a man unknown, who aroused great

curiosity." Lady Harman never *suddenly* entered my life and never caused curiosity because, as far back as I can remember she just simply *existed* in our parish. She was well known to be an English Lady but my young mind remembers her as "one of our own." I believe that this is how she, too, would wish to be remembered. So I write of her as *I* remember her, and without the aid of any research. A journalist friend impressed me lately by saying that in writing one's own knowledge and sincere recollections, the possible disapproval of others should be banished from one's mind.

Sally Harman was a lady of striking character; a woman seemingly filled with a purpose in life. With lithe and agile bearing she strode the roads in our area and the streets of the small town where I was born. She was a woman of haste in her every gesture, who seemed so full of urgency in her daily habits. Her attire was more practical than fashionable, and again portrayed her character. She wore tight slacks years before the advent of jeans, which nowadays have become so popular among the young and old female population. Being a practical woman, clad in practical garb, she would occasionally assist in the normal chores of her small farm. I have seen her feeding calves and foddering cattle. She loved her garden and had a great affection for animals, especially her pet dogs. And once I saw her remove a donkey from her gateway in Tully by feeding him a carrot! Her words echoed sounds of gentle persuasion, for she was a gentle lady of peace and Christianity who gave the carrot precedence over the stick!



Lady Harman seemed to have many friends, but to my young mind my own dear father (God rest him!) seemed to be one of a special few. They had many sessions of heated debate, often on topics of Anglo-Irish history. They both were well-versed in that subject, graciously accepting each other's comments and often just "agreeing to disagree". She was an eager listener but adamant in her point of view and, as I remember, a champion of the righteous (or even the not-so-righteous as history would have it!).

Cromwell was being discussed: my father offered a tirade on history's record of his evil work. The lady interrupted: "The man just loved this country and I can understand his feeling. Of course he had his own principles but I believe he really wished to come here." "Loved?" said my father, "he came here to murder our countrymen; he did it, and he got away with it!" My father seemed to be winning so far. He mentioned Cromwell's murder of the British king and the people's mock execution of his body, posthumously! She shrieked: "Regicide is a heinous crime; but to execute a man's remains is barbaric and vengeance. Vengeance is mine, says the Lord"! To my young mind she won that battle of words. The defence rested!

One Autumn morning during World War II she arrived at our home elated with joy. "They have done it," she said. "History has been made!" It was the day of Dunkirk and the successful evacuation of the entire British army from France. "And," she cried, "the whole manoeuvre was covered by an Irish Regiment." My father's head shook: "Lady Harman," he said, "history is repeating itself. Our soldiers have fought and won every nation's battles but their own."

"I am very proud," she continued, "of your Irish Regiment, are you not proud of them also?" He replied: "I am happy for all those lives our Irish boys saved. Every life is a bonus to the world. Would that it were for Ireland!" They both smiled and I knew that they were both happy! Later, I was working one morning on the building of our new home on Main Street. It was the Autumn after I had scraped through my Inter-Cert and as Lady Harman cross the street shouting "Hello", I was partly ashamed of being engaged in demolition work. I expected her to admonish me for she would know of my close call in the exam. She never mentioned it! In her kind voice she said: "I have been watching you now for two days, and I think you should take up building as your future profession"! Her words echoed in my ears twenty years later when the director of a building company in Dublin, with whom I worked, advised me to take a construction course which brought me a diploma in Construction Engineering! I have often thought of her encouraging words and her appreciation of manual labour.

Among Lady Harman's other special friends was our parish priest, Father Willie Heaney. I heard him recall how generous she was towards the upkeep of the parish church, although she was of a different religious persuasion. Her generosity as hostess in her home is well known. She held many parties there, and at Christmas-time gave away many presents and toys to children. I gratefully acknowledge that as a child I was frequently the recipient. She understood and lived the Christian message: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

She was a keen angler and an ardent carer for the environment years before the advent of any green party! So she abhorred river pollution — "destroying the beautiful amenities available in your lovely, healthy, clean country." I thank God now that she shared with us the beauty of our parish and seemed to enjoy it so graciously.

My father, who as I have said, was a sincere friend of hers made things easier for her, I believe, in her adopted country. He, too, has died; many years ago. One happy memory of that sad time rests in my heart. Among the wreaths on his coffin was one which I still recall with emotion. The written message ran:

In loving memory of a sincere Irish patriot from a sincere British friend.

It was signed: Sally (alias Lady) Harman
Dun Laoghaire

Jarlath Morahan

Upright Christian

Following is the text of the homily preached by Father Tadhg Ó Móráin, parish priest, at the funeral of Garda Tom Hannon.

One of the words, one of the ideas, that comes across very strongly in the story of Christ is the importance of witness, of giving testimony in word and in deed, to our faith in Christ and our love for him. "You will be my witnesses," he said to his disciples. Many of his early witnesses gave this testimony with their blood in martyrdom: indeed some are still called to do so. But for most of us, it is the evidence we give with our daily lives, of living out to the best of our ability, in prayer and faithfulness to our beliefs, what we profess to be our faith. It is only in his followers that people can get to know Christ and Christianity. We cannot just be private Christians. It is not something to be kept hidden and secret. "What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops," Christ has told us (Matt. 10, 27). It is to be like the light on the lampstand, the city on a hilltop. It is not always easy to do this; not because of the danger of physical attack today, but because of the worldly spirit that decries anything that is not success and power, the innuendo of being old-fashioned, or backward, or ignorant, or naive and innocent, of not being in tune with modern thought. But what a reward Christ has promised to those who do bear witness to him: "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge him before my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 10, 32). Talk of having a "cara sa chúirt"!

Of course I didn't know Tom Hannon until his old age — the four score that approaches the limit of earthly life. But when I did come to know him the image he presented to me was that of uprightness; not just ordinary everyday uprightness, but Christian uprightness. He seemed to embody in his dignified bearing the goodness and strength of his inner self, of what was in him that made him what he was, of bearing witness to his dignity as an image of his Maker, of one made in "the image and likeness of God." That is what we are all meant to be. We don't always live up to it, but we are always helped and encouraged by those around us who become saints because they are sinners who never give up trying.



Tom Hannon

I don't know was it his professional training as a garda that taught him the importance and the necessity of giving good and truthful evidence, of being a dependable witness, of giving testimony that stands up to public scrutiny. He had many other qualities — they are known to his family and friends and neighbours — but this is one that is surely worth noting and thanking God for. His attendance at nearly every Mass in the church here, not only once on Sunday but back again for the next one, his presence at anything that was good and worthwhile, his bringing into his conversation — as naturally as he brought in the weather or the local news — of his faith, of the need for goodness and truth and uprightness of life and behaviour, the giving of good advice, and maybe a friendly word of warning or admonition — all this was a tremendous witness to the life and the following of Christ.

There was nothing of "à la carte" Christianity in Tom, of picking the bits and pieces of Christianity that suited or that appealed, like taking just what you like, and only that, from a dinner menu in a restaurant. There was a fulness, a wholesomeness, about him. I cannot imagine anyone who knew him having the gracelessness to decry or denigrate the things of God in his presence — or getting away with it if he did.

Tom Hannon was someone worth knowing, and we thank God for having had him as a friend.

Donald

Donald was . . . different. As a child I would watch him arrive at our shop to collect groceries for the hotel. The motorbike, the leather jacket and long gloves, the high boots, his accent, his mannerisms, his conversation were all . . . different. His visits were very much a social occasion. I would sit and watch with childish fascination, listen to the strange stories of hotel life, the Mountbattens, the Braburns, the Dugdales, the Woodham-Smiths and the Day-Lewis. I never fully understood nor was it explained to me, why, on certain occasions, the shop would have to be manned at all times with the hall door to the kitchen securely bolted in anticipation of Donald's arrival. I suspected it had something to do with the fine piece of fresh salmon from Poll-But or Poll-Cam that simmered gently on the kitchen stove; but I never asked!

Much later, I would know him better, when we shared many a stage as members of the Louisburgh Drama Group. For forty years Donald was the mainstay. His attention to detail was meticulous. He was always



punctual. At rehearsals he was first to arrive and last to leave. He was never one to hog the limelight but was constantly in the background carrying out his duties with military precision .

Muintir na Tíre and the Table Tennis Club were other organizations to which he brought his gifts as an organizer and worker. He was a founder-member of both and his enthusiasm and vigour were instrumented in the many successes as enjoyed by both organizations down the years. But, of course, Donald's consuming interest was Saint Catherine's Church. He had a strong belief in God. His care and attention to the elderly is often recalled. He became a lay reader in 1978 and ministered in Louisburgh, Knappagh, Castlebar, Turlough and Newport .

He was a many-sided man. His interests were wide-ranging. That in itself is not extraordinary. What is extraordinary is that his talent, his dedication and his enthusiasm matched them to the full.

Donald Gordon Wallace died on 22nd July 1991. He is buried in the grounds of his beloved Saint Catherine's. We shall miss him.

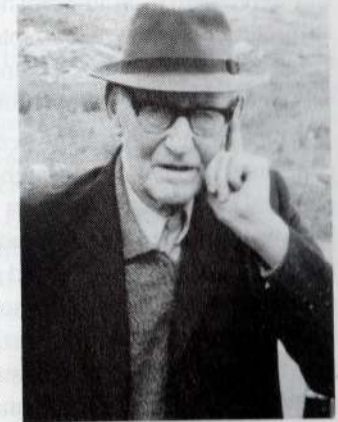
Main Street

Michael O'Malley

Old Soldiers Never Die . . .

The death of Dan Sammin on 16th July 1992 left a feeling of personal loss not only among the members of his own family, but among neighbours and the various people who knew him, during his long and fulfilled lifetime. Born in Carramore, Louisburgh on 28th December 1893, he lived through a period which spanned almost a century. During this time the country he loved so well experienced a wonderful transformation, which he often exulted in and marvelled about. He also lived through three major wars - The Boer War and World Wars I and II. More importantly, he participated in the War of Independence and the ensuing Civil War in Ireland. In the former Dan, as active member of the West Mayo Flying Column, had played a major role alongside his fellow patriots.

On the few occasions when he could be persuaded to talk about 'the Troubles', there emerged exciting stories of dawn raids, hairbreadth escapes and victory achieved in spite of great odds. Such tales revealed personal qualities of leadership, a fund of commonsense, an innate instinct of impending danger and a determination to outwit an enemy, which enabled him to escape capture on a number of occasions. He was a very balanced human being, always ready to listen to both sides of an argument and as a result was never given



to extremes. Like many others who took part in that struggle, he deplored the tragedy of the Civil War, abhorring the loss of Irish lives, many of them former comrades-in-arms. Although he remained committed to that cause and to the Fianna Fáil party right to the end, he was also prepared to admit that every system had flaws.

A naturally shy and retiring personality, he shunned the limelight and after 'the Troubles' he assumed the very different roles of shopkeeper, farmer, hackney-driver and, later, husband and father in Thornhill. During the forties 'the shop', as it was known locally, became the centre of news and political discussion for the local people, in an era in which 'the wireless' was a rarity and television virtually unknown. There each night politics, fairs, markets and the difficulties of wresting a living from the land were discussed at length, among the mainly male clientele. Dan, in wonted position leaning across the counter, revelled in such conversations. He was always ready to make a witty or provocative comment, calculated to stimulate argument when discussion seemed flagging. It seems odd now in this age of lounge-bar society, that such lively debate was carried on in cold sobriety without any stimulus, apart from the Woodbines or occasional pipe being smoked! Dan was also an unrivalled expert in the cattle trade and one of his great pleasures, regardless of whether he was buying or selling, was attending a fair. His was the advice sought by those less confident in such matters as to the potential value of a beast. A man who struck a hard bargain, he never admitted to being satisfied with the price extracted or paid in purchase or sale. Nevertheless he participated enthusiastically in the cut-and-thrust of the bargaining process, the banter exchanged and the clinching of the sale agreement in an adjacent hostelry. Having enjoyed such experiences, it is hardly surprising that he never adapted to the modern idea of the mart as an alternative. Gone was the human element he relished so much and the consequent official efficiency was a poor substitute.

One of those fortunate people who effortlessly wins respect and affections, he continued this pattern throughout his life. His was a golden old-age, retaining his physical and mental faculties virtually intact. In addition to this, he was further blessed in that he was surrounded by a family who loved and respected him, nursed him tenderly and then grieved sorely at his passing, even though it came at the end of a long and fruitful life. Although he had lived in Lecanvey parish for many years, he still had the greatest affection for and interest in the parish of his birth. Any reference to Louisburgh or surrounding areas ensured a lively and enthusiastic response on his part. He had an amazing fund of knowledge about the genealogy of the various families and their connections, particularly if they happened to be related to the Sammins! Therefore it is most fitting that this tribute should appear in *An Choinneal*, the parish magazine he enjoyed and appreciated so much.

No appreciation of Dan Sammin could be completed satisfactorily without reference to his strong, religious faith, which unswervingly carried him through life's crises and problems. Though excommunicated by the Church as a member of an illegal organization in his youth, he never let that come between him and his God.

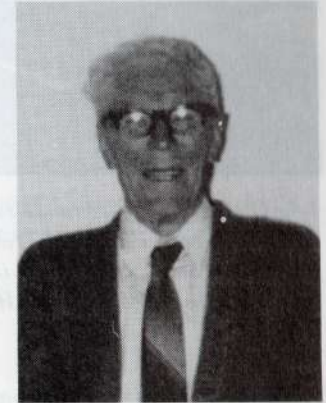
A firm believer, who never wavered in his convictions of the importance of one's faith, he was prayerful and faithful right to the end. It was indeed appropriate, that his inability to join in the prayers being said by his bedside, was interpreted as a sign he was departing this life. No doubt even then he was being rewarded for his faithfulness before the throne of the Almighty. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Kilsallagh

Maureen O'Brien

Micheál Mac Eoin

Bhí Micheál Mac Eoin agus mé féin ag taisteal bóthair le chéile, eisean go dtí an Scoil náisiúnta i gCill an Dúin agus mise go Scoil náisiúnta Talamh Bán, ar feadh cúig bliana déag, ó 1955 - '70. Ní cuimhin liom é a bheith fiú agus aon lá amháin as láthair ón scoil i rith na mblianta sin go léir. Nuair a smaoiním siar ar na laethanta sin bíonn díl-chuimhne agam ar an bhfhear caoin, cáirdiúil, cumasach sin. Níor chuala mé riamh ach an deá-fhocal uaidh. Ní raibh sé tugtha don chúil-chaint ná don bhiodán. Ba chosúil nár chuir sé mórán suime i rudaí a bhí taobh amuigh dá chlann féin agus dá chuid oibre i measc na n-óg. Bhí sé ar dhuine de na daoine ab úiríse dár casadh riamh orm in mo shaol.



Bhí sé féin an-intleachtúil. Chuala mé ó fhear a bhí ar scoil agus i gcoláiste leis, gurb é Micheál an buachaill ba chliste a tháinig tríd an choláiste ins na blianta sin ar scoil dóibh. Ach ag caint leis, ní bhéadh fhios agat go raibh sé árd-mheanmnach, ar chor ar bith. Nuair a bhí a pháistí féin ag dul tríd na meán-scoileanna agus na coláistí ní uaidh fhéin, ach ó dhaoine eile, a chualamar chomh h-íontach maith agus a d'éirigh leo. Ní raibh aon mhaíomh ná gaisce i Micheál ach is iomaí scéal greannmhar a bhíodh aige. D'innsíodh sé faoi eachtraí íontacha a bhíodh acu ag dul go dtí na chuichí peile ins na tríochaidí nuair a bhí foireann cumasach ag Cluain Cearbán, agus ag Muigheo. Bhíodh an-ghábhanna acu ag taisteal í V.8, agus Austie Affie ag baint deatach as an mbóthar; ach tháinig siad slán í gcónaí le Austie, mar b'íontach an tiomhánaí é. Is deacair a chreidiúint go bhfuil Micheál imithe ar shlí na fírinne le dhá bhliain anois. Ní fhaca mé fhéin riain na h-aoise riamh air. Is minic a chas mé leis ar a shiúlóid laethúil, tar éis dó éirigh as an múinteoiracht, agus ní raibh aon athrú air.

Cheap mé go raibh "Rún na n-óg" aige.' Ach mo leán gheal lá eile, agus bhí sé imithe. D'éalaigh Micheál go ciúin gan aon sotal, gan aon ghleo, ar an mbealach céanna in ar chaith sé a shaol.

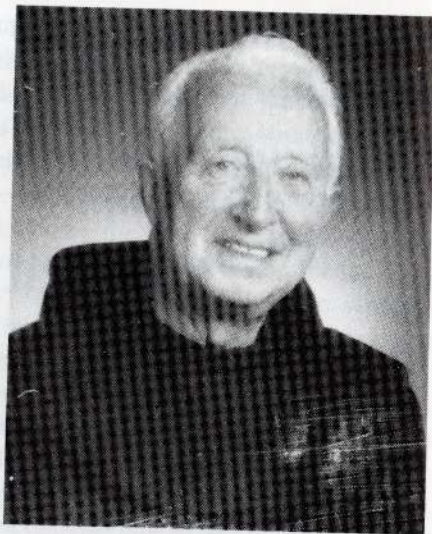
Guidhim solas síorraí suaimhneach na bflaitheas dá anam uasal, caoin.

Bun Abhainn

Eibhlín Bn. Uí Leíme



John O'Grady, Glenkeen and New York (who died 6 September 1992 in New York). Worked for many years as a bartender in New York City Plaza Hotel and also in the Hilton Hotel. R.I.P.



Father Leonard Mattimoe, O.F.M., Merchants' Quay, Dublin, frequent visitor on vacation to Louisburgh. Died 22nd September 1991. R.I.P.

“We are determined that, one way or another, we will keep Tully and continue to see our real friends. It cannot, of course, be the same as it was; but we saw at Saint Catherine's last week [at our mother's funeral] that we are part of the Louisburgh community that turned out in such numbers. They made us feel part of a wider, Irish family that shared our grief and knows us well. In our busy lives neither Jerry nor I have been able to spend nearly as much time in Louisburgh as we would have liked. We hope to put that right in the future.”

— Nick Harman, in a letter to the *Coinneal* Secretary

Scholar's Bag

A medley of local and Irish items for the quizzical. Readers have expressed keen satisfaction with this feature which was introduced in the last issue. We would welcome items suitable for inclusion in such a feature.

Ó Máille

The O'Malley crest is becoming better known in recent times because of the success of the O'Malley Rally which takes place each year in early summer. The inscription on that crest is, of course, the family motto and boast: Terra marique potens (meaning “powerful on land and sea”). A famous clan member, Mikey Maille, private schoolteacher from Carramore, told of some prankster (a classical one, obviously) who changed one letter in the motto where it was displayed in public. Replacing an ‘e’ with an ‘a’ he had it read: Terra marique potAns (meaning “drunk on land and sea”). No scholarly O'Maille would be influenced by that prank: or become annoyed under the influence!

The Moon

Here is a rule of thumb for knowing whether the moon is waning or waxing:

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, turn to the east — shine, be increased;
Lady Moon, Lady Moon, turn to the west — sleep, be at rest.

The validity of the test is upheld by a Latin mnemonic, (that is, an aide-memoire; that is a ceap chuimhne; that is a memory help!) Here it is: At times the crescent moon is shaped like a C; and other times it is shaped like (part of) a D. Now the Latin words *Crescens* and *Decrescens* mean “waxing” and “waning.” The only problem being that the moon-shaped like a C is in fact *Decrescens* (waning) and the moon-shaped D is actually *Crescens* (waxing). Ah but here is where our *Coinneal* readers come in: I wonder — I just wonder about the southern hemisphere. Could it be that in Australia, New Zealand, South America and our other colonies in parts south, the English rule doesn't hold and the Latin one is righted? Antipodean readers will please take a moonlight walk, and report to the Bag (through some other satellite). Meantime, Gaelic scholars will try to improve on this translation:

Cúl siar — neartú; cúl soir — cúlú.

Latin and Greek

Our last issue referred to one public Latin inscription in the parish, the one over Canon Healy's grave in Louisburgh Church grounds. It asked where in the parish

was there another. The answer is that there is another such inscription over the grave of a Father Malone in the old graveyard of Kilgeever. This inscription was published in the second issue of *An Choinneal* with a translation. What is remarkable about Father Malone's death is that it took place while he was hearing Confession in Louisburgh.

And, now, who can recall a public inscription in Greek in the parish? We will leave the challenge open until the next issue of the Scholar's Bag.

The Road and the Sky

A well-known view in the Clifden area of County Galway is what is called "The Sky Road". It runs from Clifden environs out to the nearby headland. Strangers to the area would be pardoned for thinking that the road is so called because it rises towards the sky.

Well, here's a theory: One of the Irish words for a headland is "scoith" (pronounced very like "sky"). It is the word for the Island of *Skye* in Scotland. It is the word that those born in the hinterland of Emlagh will recall in the poem "Tá Scoith Imligh i n-imnidhe ó rinne sí an t-ár . . ." composed by Seán MacConamara to lament the drowning of his son, Antoine . . . So the theory is that the name of the road is really "The Scoith Road" that is 'the road of the headland.'

But the present bilingual signpost at Clifden has fouled up the theory. It mentions "The Sky Road" and then translates it as "Bothar na Spéire." Good try, of course. But the Scholar wonders!

A Soft Deal?

One traditional lovesong in the Irish language is known as "Caiseal Mumhain" and also, more popularly as "An Clár Bog Dale." "Dale" is simply the Irish rural pronunciation of the word "deal". So what then does the phrase mean? At first sight it means that the young man who sings, pledges that he will gladly go with his love without any fortune or riches; "is gan de leaba fúinn ach an clár bog deal" apparently meaning "without a bed beneath us other than the soft, deal board." But soft! Have a look again at the word "bog." Louisburgh natives who have forgotten their Irish language will have an advantage over their bilingual cousins here: for them the word "bog" is the place where we cut the turf; the moorland. Soft again, however! Chambers English Dictionary (1988) having given the meaning of the English word "bog" and its many compounds, adds that it is derived from Irish and Gaelic "bogach; bog, soft." This could well mean that the songwriter was in fact saying: "nothing beneath us other than a bog-deal board." No proof, of course; but the scholar wonders! Incidentally the song is available nowadays in a recording by Eileen Curtin.

Editor's Page

I hope you have enjoyed our *Coinneal* offering for 1992. As usual I would really appreciate your comments; not just your praise but also, believe me, your suggestions for improvement. And especially your own written contribution on any topic in line with *An Choinneal's* general policy of serving the Louisburgh community at home and abroad. *Faraor*, because of economic trends the proportion abroad is gaining at the expense of the numbers at home!

This year we have tried, for a few reasons, to have the magazine on sale somewhat earlier. Personally, because I am now in a much busier location the pre-Christmas season is quite demanding. Besides, we all feel that it is better to have the *Coinneal* on your table as a real Christmas candle! One less fortunate result of our early start is that schools could not be contacted in time for a children's collection in *An Cipín*. We hope to revert to this practice in future issues.

For this earlier production, extra work has fallen on individual committee members as well as on our contributors and they earn our extra gratitude accordingly. American readers have for long been indebted to our Overseas Committees in Boston, Chicago, New Jersey / Philadelphia, and San Francisco who undertook the individual delivery, and without any expense to the magazine funds.

We have requested these committees to understand our new arrangement of distributing *all* copies from one central agency. This is by no means any kind of slight on our loyal distributors throughout these scattered areas. We owe them our sincerest gratitude. The simple reason for the new method is this: If one, central, agency can mail 200 copies or more, the cost is 63 cents per copy. If less than 200 are mailed the cost of mailing is a daunting £2.79 for *every single* copy. Simple mathematics dictates our decision. We ask our committee members overseas, who would love to be actively involved, to understand and accept the reasoning behind the change. We are grateful that, as in the other committees heretofore, this mailing delivery is being done without any cost whatever to our *Coinneal* funds.

One repeated request: if you are in contact with any parishioner — especially an older person — who has a story, folklore, history or any memory about the home parish *please* write it down and send it on. This is the essential basic material which makes *An Choinneal* what it sets out to be — a magazine which identifies us and makes us justly proud of our rich inheritance. A happy, Louisburgh, Christmas to all!

Go mbeirimíd beo an t-am seo arís!

New Addresses Requested

The last issue of *An Choinneal* was sent to the following addresses and returned by U.S. Mail! We would be grateful if friends would let these patrons know. And please let us have the correct addresses.

John Brady
1400 N State St.
Chicago, IL 60605

Mrs. Nora Burke,
86 Brookley Road,
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Mr. Joseph Burke
P.O. Box 23766,
Washington, DC 10024

Ann Cogivan
125 Granite Place,
Quincy, MA 02137

Mrs. D. Cummins
24 Columbus Pl,
West Newton, MA 02165

Mrs. Jessie Fergus
47 Wright Road,
Weatherfield, CT 06109

Willie Fergus
5444 W 99th St,
Oaklawn, IL 60415

John Garavan
5731 W 10-6th ST,
Chicago Rodge, IL 60415

C. Garavan
1121 W Odgen Ave,
Napierville, IL 60540

Anne Gibbons
99612 S Kilpatrick Ave,
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Mr. Raymond Gibbons
247 - 11thAve.,
San Francisco, CA 92101

Austin Gibbons
522 N Lieb Ave,
Chicago, IL 60625

Martin Grady
16 Wyold Dr,
Worcester, MA 01603

John Hallinan
3934 N Hamilton,
Chicago, IL 60618

Mr. T. Hester
B 42 Kolin Ave,
Chicago, IL 60652

Mr & Mrs H. Hidding
10102 McConnell Road,
Woodstock, IL 60098

Mary B. Magee
40 Waverly Street,
Brighton, MA 02119

Tony Maxwell
133 River St. Apr No. 2
Mattapan. MA 02126

Mr & Mrs Thomas McCarton
1127 Seminole East, Apt. 21C
Jupiter, FL 33477

John McHugh
5861 N Hermitage Ave,
Chicago, IL 60660

Mrs. Mary McIntyre
61 Park Street
Brookline, MA 02146

Mrs Maureen McLoughlin
5721 W 9th St.,
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Mrs Mary J. McVane
7445 N. Claremont Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60645

John Morrison
4530 N Lowell,
Chicago, IL 60630

Mr Michael J. O'Grady
11825 Laurlewood Dr,
Studio City, CA 91604

Brigid A. O'Malley
3636 - 16th St. NW, Apt No. 1160-B
Washington, DC 20010

John O'Malley
60 Dound Road,
Needham, MA 02194

Mary O'Toole
4515 Lindley,
St. Louis, MO 63132

Clare Prendergast
3446 W 63rd PL,
Chicago, IL 60629

Pat Ralph
57 Crescent Road
Middleburg, OH 43336

Mr & Mrs Martin Roach
125 Otis St,
West Mansfield, OH 43358

Mrs Pauline Ruane
345 Church St,
Clintonwton, MA 01510

Margaret Ruddy
26 Dent Street
West Roxbury, MA 01232

James Stanton
5731 W. 106th St,
Chicago, IL 60415.

An Choinneal Income and Expenditure Account

For the Period from 1st November 1990 to 31st May 1992

	£	£
Receipts from Sales — Lodged to Bank		5,693.63
Cash Expense paid from Receipts		267.96
Deposit Interest		89.03
Donations		747.78
		6,798.40
 Expenditure		
Printing	6,000.00	
Typing	220.00	
Stationery	10.00	
Auditor	60.00	
Photography	40.00	
Postage	97.96	
Bank Charges	5.93	6,433.89
Surplus for Period		364..51
 Cash on Hand 1st November 1990		 5,577.61
Surplus for Period		364.51
		5,942.12
 Represented by:		
Current Account		5,162.74
Endowment Fund		779.38
		5,942.12

McCann and Company, Auditors and Accountants, Malahide, Dublin.

Louisburgh Folk and Famine Centre

“We just want to say thanks very much indeed to all of you for your support of our struggle in South Africa and you have wonderful words for expressing it: ‘Go raibh maith agat.’

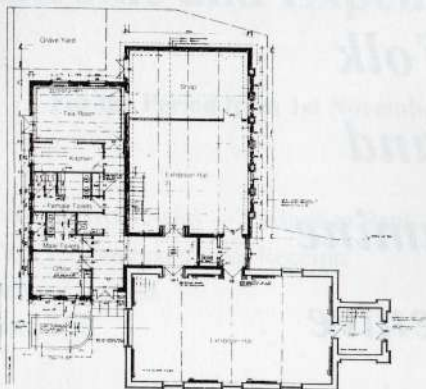
We do want to say thank you to AFri for their commitment to the struggle for justice and peace and equity everywhere in the world. We come here on the fourth walk to commemorate the Great Famine in this land. We are aware that at that time there was a great deal of injustice, exploitation and oppression. We want to link that catastrophe with those threatening our world today. We don't seem to have learned anything at all from history, for much the same kind of things are happening today as happened there. And we want particularly to call on the Western world, to warn them, to appeal to them and to say that many agencies are warning that more than 20 million people in Africa alone are under threat of death from starvation. Death from starvation in a world that has the capacity to feed all of us!”

—Archbishop Tutu in Louisburgh, April 1991

Subscription Form

Overleaf

Folk and Famine Centre Subscription Form



Finance:

Development Costs £174,500

Ireland West Grant £ 84,850

Fund Raising Target £ 89,650

Contributions

Your contribution as a "Friend of Louisburgh" will be greatly appreciated and duly acknowledged by our Finance Committee. Contributions may be directed to any member of the Finance Committee as follows: Andy Durkan, Tom McNamara, Oliver Harney, Mary O'Malley, John Joe Kilcoyne, Clementine Lyons, Sean Harney, Tommy Duffy, Michael P. O'Malley, Seamus Durkan, John McConnell, Vincent O'Loughlin, c/o Folk and Famine Centre, The Square, Louisburgh.

Official association with the Centre can be arranged for those considering sponsorship. For information on costings and advise on sponsorship please contact: Folk and Famine Centre, The Square, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. Telephone: (098) 66597. Fax: (098) 66598.

Banking Details

Louisburgh Development Company Limited, Folk and Famine Centre.
Account number: 73860589. Bank of Ireland, Westport, County Mayo.

Solicitors: Oliver P. Morahan & Son, Solr., James St., Westport. **Accountants:** O'Malley & Company, Chartered Accountants, Chapel St., Castlebar. **Architect:** Kenneth Yardy, Architect, Teach Bri, Kilsallagh, Westport.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Cover picture: All the way . . . from Clew Bay to Shetlands ! (see page 45)