



The builder was James Farragher of Tuam. It cost £7,813.00. Much of that money was collected from the community at that time, starting in 1956 with yearly instalments of £1.10s.0d, increasing as time went on, with 2 instalments paid in 1957 and two at £2.0.0 in 1958 as the original document hereunder displays, all vouched for by Canon T.H. McCullagh.

Payments continued until 1963 increasing to £4.0.0 per instalment.

Building started on the new church on the 7th May 1959. It was intended to build the new church to the south of where it stands today that is closer to the road. The digging of the foundation was almost

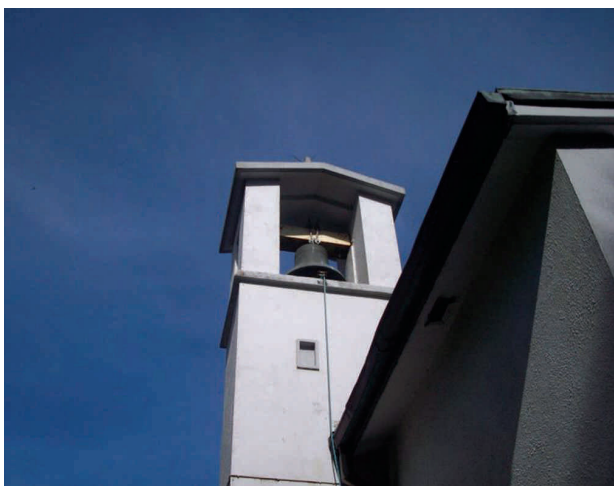
completely finished, when a very large spring of water started bubbling from the ground. A large pump was summoned from Galway and the water was pumped out for days to no avail, so a second one was got but that was no use either. The engineer then advised that the position of the church would have to be moved so the old church had to be demolished to do this. The original foundation was filled in. There was worry as to how would trucks pass over this wet mucky ground as it was directly on the path to the church. The strange thing is that when the workmen came in the following day, there was no sign of the water and the ground was completely dry. Strange, but true.

Another puzzling discovery by the workmen who demolished the old church was that there was a room underneath the Altar area. There was no visible door to this except for a two inch wide opening. There, rubble from the walls of the old church filled it in. It may have been the room used as a school before the old school house was built.

The local men who worked on the construction of the new church were Ned McDonagh, John Kelly, Mark Canavan, Peter Tierney (John) and Jimmy Healy from Oughterard. Mass was held in the school while the church was being built.

The Bell that sits in the small tower on the west side of Glann Church was donated by the late Kathleen

Cathedral and Church - Building Fund. Paid up to 1st July '58			Paid up to 1st July '58		
	£	s d		£	s d
Curran			Thomas King	2	0 0
Walter Butler	2	0 0	John M. O'Sp.	2	0 0
Frank Butler			Furtherella		
Shanavagh			Mrs Walter M. Donagh	2	0 0
Thomas Joyce	2	0 0	Michael Molony	2	0 0
Curraduff			Martin Molloy	2	0 0
Bastley Sullivan	2	0 0	Mary D. Britin	2	0 0
Patrick & Leaharty	2	0 0	Richard M. Donagh	1	10 0
Edward Butler	2	0 0	John Kelly	1	10 0
Nancy Lydon	2	0 0	Pat M. Donagh (Lam)		
John Kelly			John Canavan	2	0 0
Edward Sullivan			Michael Canavan	1	10 0
Cusam and Bonfield			Tom Joyce	2	0 0
Mrs Mary O'Brien	1	10 0	Ballygally		
Peter Lydon	1	10 0	Thomas Balleran	1	10 0
Harravane			Pat Mons	2	0 0
Mrs Manning	2	0 0	Walter Macken (Pays at Parochial House)		
Mrs Mary Clancy	2	0 0	Michael Hynds	1	0 0
P. H. Clancy	1	10 0	Bawnagurthy		
Edmund Thornton			John Clancy	1	10 0
Peter Clancy	1	10 0	Pat M. Donagh	1	10 0
Michael M. Donagh	2	0 0	Stephen Molloy	2	0 0
Michael Sullivan	1	0 0	P. H. Joyce		
Michael Joyce	2	0 0	Tom Kelly		
	21	0 0	Stephen John Tierney		
			Do. James - 50th		
			1958		
			Do. James - 50th	30	0 0



Maloney (nee Jack). Originally, this bell was used to summon members of the O' Flaherty family, Lemonfield House, Oughterard, for meals, and local workers for duties. In her youth, Kathleen spent some summers at Lemonfield House with her sister Norah, as her aunt was married to one of the O'Flaherty's (the Landlords of the area at the time). She later acquired the bell when the house was demolished. Its familiar ring summoned the Glanners to 10 o'clock mass during the 60s 70s and 80s. The Bell is back in action again after some necessary repairs to the timbers that hold it in place.

Her future husband, Michael Maloney from Shrue, worked on the O'Flaherty Estate, where they met in about 1936. She became a Catholic convert and they married in England in 1938. The couple returned to Ireland in 1950 when they bought 'Island View' house and farm in Gorterwulla. Michael Maloney died in 1982 and Kathleen in 2007, aged 94. The



*Kathleen and Michael Maloney*

house is now owned by Michael's nephew, Michael (Mick) Maloney who lived there from an early age.

Kathleen was caretaker and flower provider etc. to Glann Church for over forty years, together with May Canavan, who now ably carries on these duties. Kathleen was also an active community person, helping with fund raising and community council activities. She was an active member of Oughterard Show Society and a director of Corribdale grounds.

### PARISH PRIESTS OF OUGHTERARD 1827 – PRESENT<sup>3</sup>

John Lawthern		Tom Kyne Adm.	1943
Andrew H. Martin	1827	Michael Fallon	1947-1952
Joseph W. Kirwan	1827-1849	Thomas McCullagh	1952-1973
James Caskaux Adm.	1849-1852	Patrick Eaton	1973-1988
Michael A. Kavanagh	1852-1864	Patrick Tully	1985-1995
George Usher	1864-1874	Patrick Heneghan	1995-2008
Redmond McDonagh	1874-1914	James Walsh Adm.	2008-2010
James Craddock	1914-1931	James Walsh	2010-
Mark D. Conroy	1931-1947		

<sup>3</sup> Galway Diocesan Archives

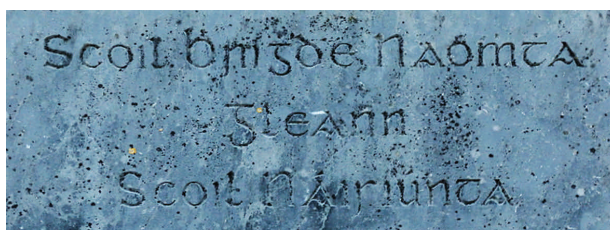


## *The History of Glann School*

Scoil Bhríde Naomhtha opened its doors to students for the first time in 1884-'85. Principal was Ms Mary Ann Corbett and there were two monitors, Ellen Faherty and Margaret Clancy. The lease of the property on which it was built was obtained on 20th March 1883 from William Downes Griffith for 99 years at 1d per annum. The cost of the building was £391.14.4d. There was a grant from the National Board of Education of £261.2.11d and the local contribution was £130.11.5d. It replaced an existing school, which was situated to the far left of the entrance gate to the present Church. Sadly, the remains of this school is now covered in rubble. According to information received by Mary Kyne, ex Principal, Scoil Muire, Doireglinne, from the late Canon McCullagh a Mr Martin Quinn was the first teacher in this school. He was a graduate of U.C.G. In 1881 Misses Corbett, Faherty and Clancy were teaching there and transferred to Scoil Bhríde Naomhtha when it opened.



Ms Corbett was remembered for years afterwards as a great English teacher, and emphasised the importance of syntax and pronunciation. Tom Kelly



owner of the property on which the “Mayfly” cottage now stands was one of her pupils, as was Thomas Joyce from Shannavaugh. By the time Mary Ann Corbett retired in Dec. 1897, Margaret Clancy had married Sgt. Joe Morrissey and she became Principal. She retired at the end of 1929. Her son, Joe, who had been a teacher at the school in the 20s succeeded her and remained as Principal until 30.9.1935.

Since May 1922, Eileen Hession, a Junior Assistant Mistress was also teaching in the school. She resided in Mons’ house opposite the Church and had a school choir which won acclaim at choral festivals.

Seán Divilly (O’Duibhgiolla) became Principal on 18.12.1935, and remained there until 31.10.1936. There was a temporary teacher by the name of Murray from Donegal there for two months. He was succeeded by Sean Divilly’s wife, Eileen who remained until 30.9.1941. Ms. Maureen Nolan then became Principal and a Ms White and Nancy Lydon taught there from time to time.

Gerardine Manning became Principal in February 1947 and retired in June 1972. The government policy at that time was to close one teacher schools. She was not replaced. Since then the children have been going to the convent and boys’ schools in Oughterard.

There were valid reasons for closing the school. But on the other hand a school is at the centre of any community and closing it meant that school

events now are centred in Oughterard. This lessens the vitality of the Glann community. However, as the fiftieth celebrations of the blessing of the Church showed, the Glann community is in a healthy state – celebrating belief and welcoming the wider

community. Its collective memories of the little school in the Chapel grounds and Scoil Bhríde Naomhtha on the hill overlooking the valley remain and are a testimony to a bygone era and people who struggled and yet were happy in the lovely area.



*Glann National School Choir, which won the Corn Naomh Brigidhe at Oughterard Ard Aerideacht. Back row: Bernadette Clancy, Mary Joyce, Mary Kelly, Cisse Sullivan, Mary Clancy, Mary Clancy, Bridget Clancy, Celia McDonagh R.I.P., Miss Hession (Teacher) R.I.P. Middle row: Bride Clancy, Mary Feeney R.I.P., Nora McDonagh. Front row: Peter McDonagh R.I.P., Cuimin Clancy, Paddy Feeney, John Feeney, James Kelly, Cuimin McDonagh.*



*Pupils with Mrs Manning 1956. Back: Mary Canavan, Sean T. Kelly, Mary Rose Sullivan, Nancy Kelly, Patsy Manning, Francis Joyce, Donnchadha Manning, Bridie Canavan, Front: Mick Maloney, Bertie Manning, Frank Kelly, Maureen Sullivan, Teresa Manning, May Canavan, Bridie Sullivan, Sean Kelly, Anthony Canavan, Bridie Canavan.*



## Glann An Gleann (The Valley)



Stretching westwards for about 8 miles from the townlands of Druminakill and Newvillage on the southern shores of Lough Corrib west of Oughterard along the lake shore to the Hill o' Doon and to the townlands of Currane More and Cappanalaureabaun this most verdant rich valley at the gateway to Connemara boasts of having some of the finest scenery in all of Ireland.

This glaciated valley carved out by the passing ice some 12,000 years ago is one of the largest in Ireland and in it, rests our second largest lake Lough Corrib. The Glann Hill forms its southern boundary while the Lake forms its northern boundary. There is one way in and the same way out so the passing visitor is always doubly treated to its majestic and panoramic landscape.

It is and always has been a place that people fall in love with and want to live in, because of its great natural beauty, its wonderful fishing and hunting and most of all, its warm and friendly people.

Glann is nicely describes in a lovely poem by Una O Higgins O Malley:

### THE GLANN ROAD

*Just look for the sign at Oughterard  
And go by Baurisheen, Foorannach, Derrymoyle,  
Gortdrisagh, Cappagarrieff, Rinneroon,  
And winding on by Glann to Shannavock  
follow the friendly road to the Hill of Doon.  
In Spring it will sustain your spirit  
with the miracle of crimson rhododendrons  
or buds of soufflé pink and towering forest -flame  
and the brassy cheerfulness of gorse,  
the fidelity of primroses,  
the genteel mauve of lady's smock  
and a fringe of Mary's bluebells.  
Beside a flowering orchard a scribe-in-residence  
raises titian-haired children  
and on the way the birds will sing  
of life and love and of communion.  
I know it sounds hyperbole unrhymed  
but that's the way things are  
in Spring on the Glann road.*

The 26 townlands that are considered to make up the Glann valley form an area of approximately 5800 acres of mixed land running to the mountain. There are large areas of natural deciduous forests of oak, ash, birch and holly and of course state forests plantations of mainly Sitka Spruce. These were planted, mainly on the hill areas, in the fifties and sixties.

The area is in one of the wettest parts of Ireland with more than 60 inches of rain annually and has a diverse range of flora and fauna. There are many small eroding mountain streams running to the lake from the hill that are very important nurseries for the famous wild trout and salmon of Lough Corrib.



It is a place that would have been settled and farmed from very early on because of its accessibility from the lake by boat. This is evidenced by a number of sites of archaeological interest in the Glann area, most notably Cairn-se-Finn on the top of Glann Hill and Cnoc na Raha in the townland of Farravaun, a fort in Curraghduff Middle and at Ballygally and the

remains of a Fulacht Fiadh just south of Cnoc na Raha in the townland of Curraghduff East.

The mark of our ancestors is very evident everywhere on the landscape. Those that lived and farmed here all left traces, from the very early ages to medieval times, and more recent times when the famine ridges and small green meadows and stone walls were created.



*Famine ridges*

Some of the older people can remember their parents and grandparents talk of famine times.

There are 26 townlands in the Glann area, all ranging in size with Newvillage being the largest at 1010 acres to Shanballymore the smallest at 24 acres. Some townlands that were home to several families at the start of the twentieth century now have no inhabitants and some others that were vibrant in the sixties are down to just one or two families now, while others have grown largely due to holiday and retirement homes.

## *The Shaping of our Valley and why we have mines*

The area to the west and northwest of Oughterard in Co Galway is one of outstanding natural beauty. Part of this beauty is the geological mosaic on which the area lies. This mosaic is made up of a variety of rock types and structures of different ages. Some of the more significant structures in this area were the pathways whereby significant mineralisation took place within the existing rocks. Some of the sites of mineralisation have been exploited in the recent past and the abandoned mine sites can still be seen.

Rocks are divided on the basis of their origin into three major groups; igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. All rocks ultimately owe their character and distribution to the movement of the Earth's plates. The three major groups are represented of the Glann Valley and form part of the complex geological history of Connemara.

The oldest rocks in this area are that of the Lakes Marble Formation and the Ballinakill Schist Formation. They are over 545 million years old. The Lakes Marble Formation comprises of calcitic marble with several impurities, including silica rich material and ancient muds. It can be seen locally in the townlands of Curraun Beg, Curraun Hill, Derroua and Barratleva. The Ballinakill Schist formation comprises many pebbly layers within a rock, that appears in a hand specimen as layered, often closely resembling a slate. This rock type can be seen locally in the townlands of Gortnashingaun, Shannawagh, Curraun More, Coosan, Curraghduff East, Middle and West, Gowlaun, Ballygally, Gorterwulla, Annaghbeg, Rinneroon Farravaun and Bournagurtheeny. Both of these formations are metamorphic rocks but were originally deposited as sediments in seas on a stable continental shelf like around Ireland today. However

the climate was much warmer and akin to the Bahamas today. Similar sediment and rock type can be seen in the waters off the Bahamas.

The Lakes Marble and Ballinakill Schist Formation underwent extensive movement and deformation before the intrusion of the Oughterard Granite during the Ordovician Period 462 million years ago. Granite is an igneous rock from a source of magma from beneath the Earth's crust. The movement and deformation of these formations indicates that the original stable environment in which they were deposited became very unstable. Unstable geological environments are often associated with the intrusion of igneous rocks such as the Oughterard Granite. The granite can be seen as a medium to coarse grained pinkish rock in the townland of Derroua, Newvillage and Gortdrisagh.

Following the intrusion of the Oughterard Granite, green-grey sandstone seen in the townlands of Annagh Wood, Cappagarraff and Currarevagh was deposited during the Silurian period approximately 440 million years ago. The environment into which these sands were deposited represents a return to more stable geological conditions.

These rocks now form part of what is known as the South Mayo Trough in which thick sequences of sediment were deposited.

As is the case with most geological successions a certain amount of structures exist that have moved, deformed or displaced sequences due to pressure in the Earth's crust. One of the most common ways to relieve these pressures is by faults. These are large scale fractures of rock and several of those are noted in the area and trend mainly in a NNW-SSE direction. Intimately associated with these faults is some significant mineralisation



that took place as hot fluids circulated along these pathways through the rocks. These hot fluids, known as hydrothermal fluids carried mainly lead and zinc but also significant amounts of copper and pyrite. The circulation of these is probably closely linked to the mineralisation associated with Glengowla mines.



*Copper mine at Curraghduff*

Several disused mines are noted on the original 6 inch mapping sheets of the area that combine to provide a rich mining heritage to the area. These disused mines are located in the townland of Bournagurtheeny (lead), Curraghduff Middle (copper and lead), Barratleva (one mine pyrite and pyrrhotite, one mine in copper and one mine in copper and lead) and Curraun Beg (copper,

pyrite and chalcopyrite.) In 1985 Burmin Ltd. (now Ormond Mining Plc.) conducted a small exploration programme and found small quantities of gold in panned water course sediments in the townlands of Gowlan Curraghduff East and Curraghduff West.

The rocks, lakes and bogs that we see now are relatively recently exposed or created as in the case of the bogs and lakes. Limestone covered this area at some period, evidenced by outcrops in Barratleva townland and in Curraun More.

The last ice age which ended 10,000 years ago, would have shaped our valley as it is today. There was 1000 metre thick layer of ice sitting on the area which moved eastward along the Corrib valley. As the glaciers retreated they scoured out what is now the lake valley and created a new landscape, leaving features like drumlins, eskers and moraines, composed of sands gravels and clays. Many of the islands in the lake are drumlins and the “up and down” landscape that is Glann resulted from the way the ice left its cargo of ground down rock. After the ice age many of the hollows between the drumlins would have had small lakes that eventually filled up with dead organic matter becoming bog. And when the climate grew wetter, bog covered other less free draining and higher areas also even encroaching into woodland, hence bog oak and bog deil.



*Copper mine Curraghduff*

