

ears. Weeding and thinning the mangolds and turnips bring back memories of drudgery and sore finger nails.

In early Autumn, the fields would be full of mushrooms, some as big as dinner plates, especially where there were horses. They made a very tasty morsel toasted on top of the hot plate with a grain of salt or fried with some home grown streaky rashers.

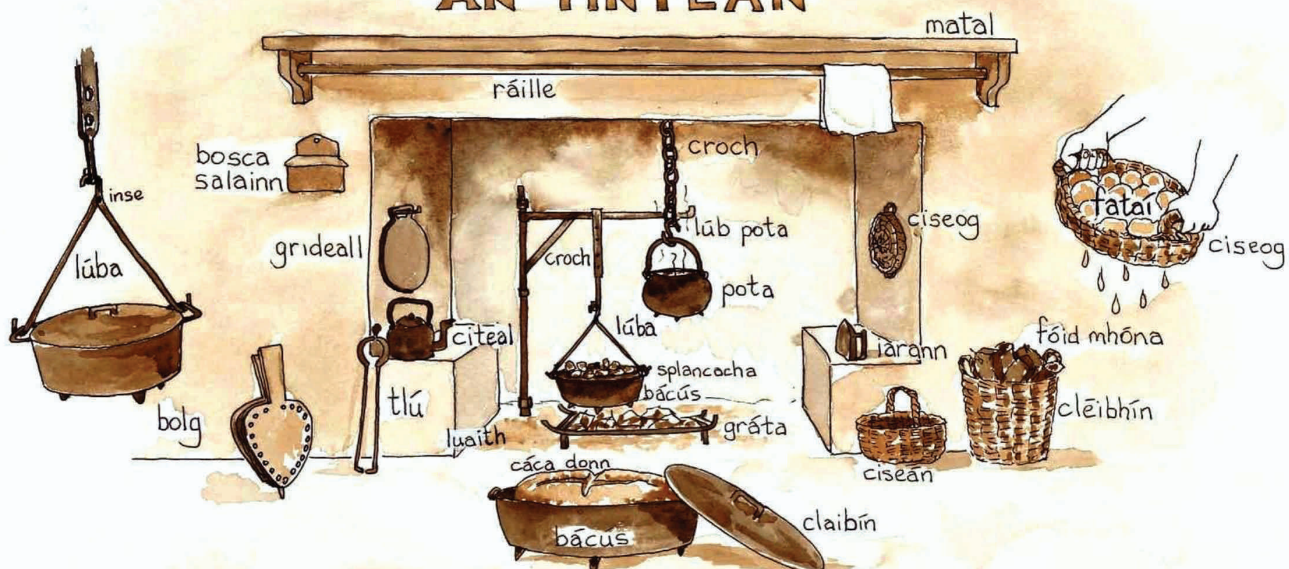
The Autumn heralded a whole new set of farm tasks, the first of those being harvesting the grain in August. The barley and oats were cut either by sythe or with the fingerbar mower. Men women and children had to get out tying sheaves and stacking them. Later then the stacks were capped with a ring of sheaves tied together upside down to protect the grain from birds and spill the water. These would then be made into big reeks or stacks in the haggard ready for treshing. A *reaper and binder* which was a machine for cutting and tying the sheaves came to Glann for a number of years. This was owned by John Maloney from Killannin. Later on in the autumn the tresher would come to the village and go from house to house followed by a big meithel until all the corn was treshed. There again was great excitement around the treshing. The hum of the treshing mill could be heard in the distance as it groaned when ever a big feed of corn was shoved into the mechanism. An army of men usually followed it around all doing their own particular part of the operation, forking up the sheaves, cutting the ties off the sheaves, feeding the

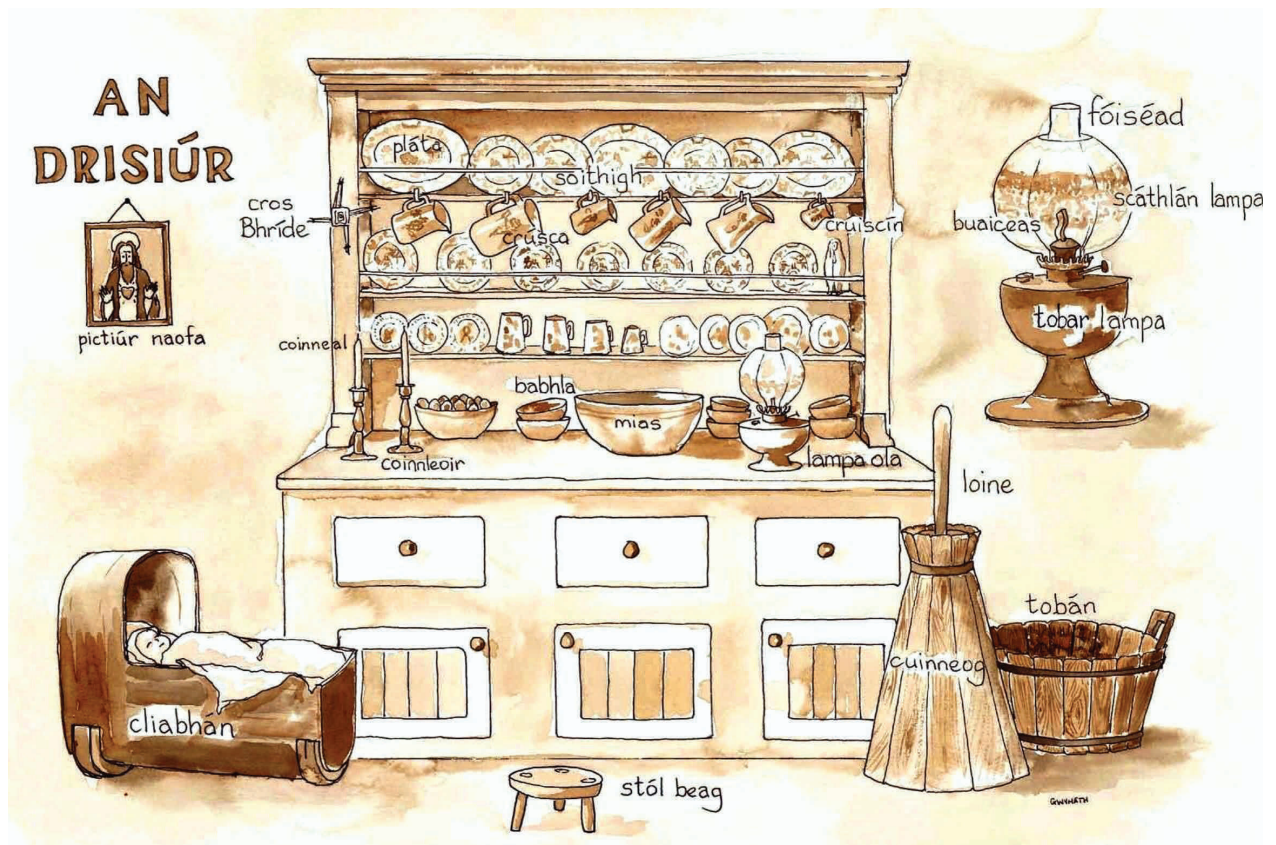
mill, watching the grain bags fill, carrying the grain to the loft, forking the straw away from the kickers, making the straw stack or feeding the straw to the baler and removing the straw bales. In the evening everybody descended on the house for a big feed and stories were told of characters they had met, of places they had been, good yields, bad yields, stacks full of rats, awkward places to get at, breakdowns, and a tall tale or two and the usual ghost stories after a few whiskies. Mick Joyce from Ardnasilla usually did the threshing in Glann, succeeded by Eamonn Casey in the '70s.

The other big task of the autumn was digging the spuds. Facing into a few big ridges of potatoes for picking was not something to look forward to after school on a cold frosty evening. It was always more pleasant to keep up with the digger and less monotonous. The potatoes were sorted into big ones for eating which went into a separate pit and small ones for seed or for the cattle. When picked and sorted the potatoes were put in a long pit in the soil. They were neatly piled in a triangular shape. Rushes and sedge were cut to cover the pit and before the onset of frost, the pit was covered with clay. This protected the potatoes from frost and kept them cool and fresh until the following spring.

The Autumn was a good time then to get a shot at a few wild geese and the many duck flocks that visited the stubble and potato fields. They disappeared along

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with the tradition of crop planting as they came for the food. Maybe it is the same for the Corncrake.

Another task that occurred in the autumn was the slaughtering of the pig. Great preparation went into this. A big fire was lit outside to boil water. Knives were sharpened. Pots and table tops were scalded. Eddie Butler was the master of ceremonies in the Curraghduff/Farravaun area and went about his task with great calmness and professionalism. The Pig was hauled out of the piggery, knocked unconscious with one blow of the sledge and then his throat was cut to drain his blood. This was then collected in saucepans to be used for making the black pudding. That was the woman of the houses job. After slaughter the pig was placed on a big table for cleaning and hair removal. The boiling water was poured over the skin to soften it so that the hair and outer skin could be scraped off. A soup spoon was often used for this job. The pig was then hung up by the heels and eviscerated. After a day or two it was cut up and prepared for preservation by salting. Timber half barrels were used for this. After a time in the salt some cuts were taken out covered with muslin and hung to dry over the fire place, and as required rashers would be sliced off these.

In winter the cows and small calves were tied in the byre and fed on a diet of hay, pulped turnips or

mangolds and rolled barley or oats. The byre was cleaned out each day and freshly bedded. Other cattle and sheep were fed hay somewhere out in the fields usually under a wall or hedge for shelter. The hay was tied with a rope and hauled on the farmers back to the cattle. The small square baler did not arrive in the Glann area until the early seventies. Grain was rolled or crushed before feeding. In the Glann area Edwin McDonagh and Johnny O Connor had the equipment for this job.

Farming in the sixties and before was subsistent and considered hard work. The woman of the house did many of the farm tasks as well as looking after the house often having to feed a Meithil of men after spending the day helping them in the fields. They were great hard working people dedicated to their land, their families and neighbours, agus ní beigh a leitid ann arís.

Farming was more varied than today with a greater range of tasks, stock and crops to look after. It was a way of life now almost gone, it gave us the landscape we live in, the variety of plants and wildlife that was there then, the clean water that was there then, the countryside that the tourists raved about. It was not regulated, or constrained or subsidised. Today the countryside is largely overgrown with a resultant loss of biodiversity and many of our scenic views.

When electricity came to Glann

The rural electrification scheme, the bringing of power to homes in rural Ireland, was started by the E.S.B. in 1947 and came to the Glann area in the early 1950s.

The power was switched on in the Gorterwulla area on March 5th 1955, the power line having been extended from Corin Cottage, then owned by a Mr. Kidd. Currarrevagh House had its own wind powered dynamo and battery bank to provide lighting in the house many years before E.S.B. power came to the area. Mr. Kidd had a petrol powered generator for some years.

The power line continued to Faravaun later in 1955, John McGloin's house was the last to be supplied at this time. The line was continued from Faravaun in 1974 and reached Curraun in 1975, Christy Butlers' being the end house on that road at the time. Some local people worked on the digging of pole holes etc.—all done by hand in the 1950s. The late Michael Canavan and Peter Clancy drew the poles and equipment from the roadside with their horses and the late Martin John Molloy was one of the hole digging crew.



Erecting poles in 1950s

Jackie Murray who worked as an electrician for J.H. Cleggett wired most houses in the 1950s, his transport for his tools and equipment was a bicycle. The houses in these years generally had 3 or 4 lights and one socket wired but as the years progressed homes installed other appliances and most had electric water pumps, a few farm houses had grain mills for cattle feed purposes and of course later had all the appliances we are now accustomed to.

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METER READINGS		CONSUMPTION	PRICE PER UNIT IN PENCE	METER SEQUENCE	CODE	AMOUNT OF CHARGE			ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT FOR	DATE OF READING	
PRESENT	PREVIOUS					£	S.	D.			
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9 JUL 1959

EXPLANATION OF "CODE"

- 12 FIXED CHARGE ON TWO PART TARIFF
- 13-19 ELECTRICITY ON TWO PART TARIFF
- 21 FENCE RECORDING APPARATUS
- 24 REVENUE GUARANTEE
- 25 HIRE PURCHASE INSTALLMENTS
- 26 SERVICE REPAIRS
- 27 ARREARS
- 31-39 LIGHTING ON FLAT RATE
- 41-49 HEATING
- 51-59 MOTIVE POWER
- 61-69 MAXIMUM DEMAND
- 01-09 WATER HEATING

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1959 ESB Bill, Mr. Michael Maloney, Gurterwulla

Glann and fishing on the Corrib

A book about the Glann area would not be complete without reference to Lough Corrib which forms the boundary on the Northern side of the townlands. It is the largest free wild brown trout fishery in Western Europe and is famous throughout the world for its abundance, variety and size of fish. This was acknowledged even back in 1900 when in the sporting papers, the fishing on Lough Corrib was described as “the best free fishing in the Kingdom”. Henry Hudson of Currerevagh was to the fore in the setting up of the “Corrib Fisheries Association” in 1898 having successfully campaigned for a bye-law prohibiting cross line fishing. Up to 1895 the number of tourist anglers visiting the area, were very few indeed. However this changed after the railway from Galway to Clifden was opened and by 1905 there were not enough spaces in the local hotels to cater for the number of anglers coming to the Oughterard area. In 1907 the charges for a boat and one man was 6 shillings and for a boat and two men was 8 shillings. Many of the people of Glann became involved in catering for anglers and the tradition remains today.

Because of the proximity of the people of Glann to the lake most would have fished it at some stage. Some might have gone out on the lake a few times a year while others would have earned a living from it. Tom Molloy from Gortawulla worked as boatman and fished professionally all his life as did his father, Martin, before him. During the '60s, '70s and '80s Tom would fish every day from the 15th February onwards in all types of weather and sell his catch to Keogh's in Oughterard.

Christy Butler also fished professionally in the same manner for a period during the '60s and '70s. Brickeen or minnow fishing was the main method at the start of



*Tom with his biggest catch ever on the troll
—56lbs. trout March 1990*

the season. Preparation for this would begin in January when minnows would have to be got. This involved a trip to the Maam valley armed with buckets, hand-nets made from lace curtain and traps which were made out of two pound jam jars. Other traps were made out of brandy bottles. The brandy bottle when emptied was suited to the job, because when a hole was made in its base it made a natural funnel. The traps would be set with bread inside to entice the minnows in to feed. In the meantime one would walk around from bog-hole to bog-hole sweeping the net through the water to catch the minnows. The contents of the net would be thrown out on the grass. Suitable sized minnows would be kept and the rest returned to the water for the next year.

The long nights during January would be spent making spinners on which to mount the minnows. This would involve cutting out pieces of metal (sometimes a valuable piece of silver or maybe a gold watch would be sacrificed for the cause), shaping it and bending the wings so that it would spin in the water when trolled after a boat.

Ten pounds of trout per day was the target for a fisherman to earn a decent wage and this remained the case right through the years. Keoghs gave a little rise to the price each year. The ten pounds of trout in a day was often outdone but on the other hand the target was often, not met. Most of the early season fishing was done from a punt, which is a small one-man rowing boat. Some of these boats still exist today but are used very little for fishing. The rods used for the "spring fishing", as it was known, were made of hazel and were about ten foot long. This was set in the punt with about 30 yards of line attached and the spinner with brickeen at the end. At the top of the rod there was a bell attached and when there was a take, the bell would ring. These rods were home produced having been cut in the wood during the winter and let "season". Newvillage was a good place at that time to get suitable hazel.

Although outlawed, another method that was used by some fishermen trying to make a living was the otter board. It took a very skilled operator to successfully use this contraption, which was a board, leaded on one edge but leaving enough buoyancy to prevent it sinking. This left the board floating on its edge. It was then harnessed in such a way that when the boat was rowed with line attached, the resistance of the water against the board took it away from the boat and it more or less ran parallel. The line between the board and boat would have droppers attached with spinners or flies. This method gave an opportunity to use five or six extra spinners or even more flies with a skilled operator.

From Easter onwards the bigger boats would be launched in order to cater for the visiting anglers. Another character in the area was Paddy (Matt) Clancy whose wife Mary ran a guest-house. They hosted many visiting anglers from all over the world and some of the people that stayed at the guesthouse are still returning to this day with fond memories of times gone-by. One of these people is Ed Hill from England who still comes annually. On his visit in 1993 Ed planned a fishing trip with Paddy and Gerry



Molloy. It being a Sunday, Paddy stuck to tradition and went to mass before going on the lake. However Gerry and Ed headed out for a drift while they waited for Paddy. By the time they took Paddy on board Ed had bagged a 6lb trout while dapping mayflies and afterwards thanked Paddy by way of writing the poem below.

*Six Pounder From Rinneroon Point
Lough Corrib - 20th May 1993.*

*Off the point a rise was seen,
On the hook three mayflies green,
With the breeze the drift was made,
In the church wise Paddy prayed,
O'er the lough his words went out,
To a golden six pound trout.*

*Through the waves the lunker lunged,
Mayflies gone the monster plunged,
Screaming reel and surging run,
Dogged fight as battle done,
Singing line and bending rod,
To the net by Grace of God.*

Ed Hill.

Paddy competed in angling competitions throughout the country and represented Oughterard Angling club on many occasions. Many other people would have worked as boatmen on a part-time basis especially

during the mayfly season. All the “Glanners” that had a boat would have done boatman at some stage especially during Mayfly time which was the main attraction to tourist anglers.

Today the main operators are Gerry Molloy who has continued the tradition, and runs an Angling centre from his home in Gurtawulla. Also Donal Connolly runs an angling centre at Shannawagh. Practically every family in the Glann area has participated in some way or another in enjoying the wonders of “The Corrib”.

Many youngsters would also have made some money from the supply of mayflies to the local holiday houses, guest houses and Currerevagh Hotel, as well as to visitors that kept boats and fished in the area. Many of the holiday houses built in the Glann area was because of the lake and fishing.

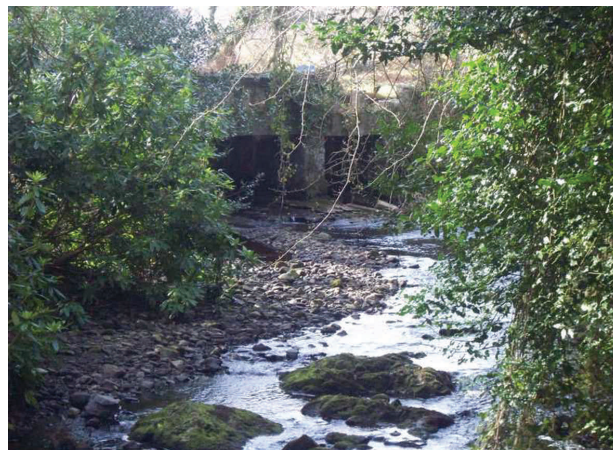
The Glann area of the Corrib is particularly suitable for fishing with its many naturally sheltered bays and shoreline. Hotspots include, Glynn's bay/Macs Bay, Glann Wood, Slate of the wood, Moons bay, Currerevagh Bay, Point of Park, Kits Bay, Snadaans, Dunaville, Molloy's Bay, Rinaroon Bay and point, Jingles point, Bob's Island, Charlie's shallows, Sullivan's point, Shanawagh bay and rocks and Curraune Point up to Falamer. From Jingles point to Falamer along the Glann shore is also famous for salmon fishing.

The main run of Salmon back to the Corrib occurs in June/July and they move quickly through the system to their spawning grounds. An example of how quickly the move is told in a great fisherman's story recalled recently by Tom Molloy. On an occasion when trolling for salmon along the Capanalaura shore he realised he was stuck in a fish. To his amazement he found that his line was entangled in another line. He caught this line in his hands and landed a fine salmon. This was obviously a fish hooked and lost by another angler. Later that night in Oughterard armed with the bait which was a Kerryman spoon, he discovered that the owner was Tim Molloy who on recognising his bait realised that it was the fish he had lost the previous day in Baurisheen Bay.

Glann has many streams and rivers draining the area and these have been maintained in pristine condition throughout the years. The Farmers and landowners have contributed to the protection of these watercourses, on which the lake depends for the supply of young fish. The main fish producing watercourses are Derrymoyle Stream, Currerevagh

River including the Fishhouse stream and Tom Kelly's stream, Kits stream, Dick's stream, Rinaroon Stream, Owen na Raha (Curraghduff River), Lee's stream, Sullivans Stream, Shanawagh Stream,

Capanalaura stream, and the Falamer River. One of the greatest threats to the lake in modern times is the occurrence of a number of ‘invasive species’, one in the form of a weed called African Curly leafed waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) and another a mollusc called zebra mussel (*Dreissina polymorpha*). Ongoing remedial work carried out by Inland Fisheries Ireland staff is having some success in controlling the weed. With



the increased interest in angling around 1900 came the demand for suitable boats. In the early years it was important that the boat would be easy to row as engines were very scarce. The main boat builders connected to Glann area then were the Kineavey's of Inchagoill. Some of this family lived in Gortawulla around 1911. Stephen Kinneavey, a direct descendant of this family still operates a boatbuilding business in Oughterard.

Jackie Mons, a native of Ballygally, Glann having worked for a while with Tommy Mallon, in Oughterard made his first boat 1966 for the Manning family.