

# Oughterard Pride of Place 2017



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

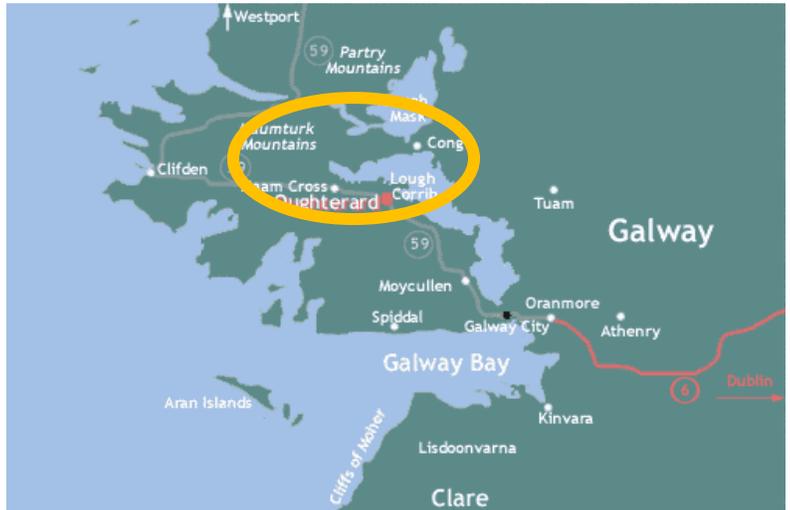


# *Table of Contents*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Oughterard</i> .....                             | <b>- 2 -</b> |
| <i>The Built Environment</i> .....                  | <b>4</b>     |
| <i>The Natural Environment</i> .....                | <b>13</b>    |
| <i>Sports Clubs</i> .....                           | <b>18</b>    |
| <i>Recreational Groups</i> .....                    | <b>24</b>    |
| <i>Community Event Groups</i> .....                 | <b>33</b>    |
| <i>Education</i> .....                              | <b>35</b>    |
| <i>Community Supports</i> .....                     | <b>40</b>    |
| <i>Commercial Services</i> .....                    | <b>42</b>    |
| <i>Famous People with Oughterard Connections</i> .. | <b>44</b>    |
| <i>Future Opportunities</i> .....                   | <b>49</b>    |
| <i>Conclusion</i> .....                             | <b>52</b>    |



The village of Oughterard has been officially documented for over 500 years with a reference in The Galway Inquisition of 1617. As such it is steeped in history both in the written word and the natural and built environment. As part of our involvement in the Pride of Place competition we will be bringing the judges on a virtual tour of our town showing all the historical buildings and the history of the various clubs from the oldest, Oughterard Angling Club, up to the most recent, the Camera Club.



When present day travellers leave Galway City and drive on the N 59 through Moycullen and Oughterard towards Clifden they should be reminded that the town of Oughterard was in existence approx. 300 years before Clifden was established by John D’Arcy in 1812. So for nearly 300 years Oughterard was the last main established residential and commercial settlement heading North West from Galway City. Even today when you exit Oughterard by the west approx. one mile from the town centre you are into a rugged rural countryside which would largely exhibit the same features, and land use for the last few hundred years.

An essential element to any settlement is water and the Owenriff River would have been the magnet to draw, and keep, our forefathers in the area. At that time the river would also be a food source but today it is an environmental wonderland with its mix of international species, and habitats, which we will detail later. At one stage the river was also a source for power when the owners of Clonbeg and Clareville created a diversion and the water flow was used to produce electric power to service a number of dwellings. The river feeds into Lough Corrib, the largest lake in southern Ireland. The Lake has always been an integral part in the history of Oughterard with the historical monastic island and the eventual migration of the island families onto the mainland with their various skills contributing to the local economy.

Because Oughterard was used as a strategic location with the construction of a barracks there has always been a healthy mix in relation to religion, education and ethnicity long before it became the norm in the country as a whole. That diversity would have opened Oughterard up to different thinking and practices such as the construction of the Trout Hatchery, the oldest in the world, and a development that exposed Oughterard to the international stage as far back as the great Paris exhibition in 1854.

No doubt the fact that Oughterard was a “garrison town” it diminished the use of the Irish language and would eventually exclude the town from formal recognition as a Gaeltacht even though Leam, four miles to the north, and Moycullen, eight miles to the south, are officially recognised Gaeltacht areas. The Irish language, though not widely used, is still very much part of the Culture and Heritage of Oughterard.

Oughterard development was somewhat impeded during the “Celtic Tiger” period due to the lack of a functioning waste water treatment plant. A new plant that will service Oughterard into the distant future is now been constructed and will be operational before year end. But where the lack of this essential service limited the construction of residential developments it didn’t halt the development of sustainable community sporting and recreational groups which make the life of the resident, and visitor, to Oughterard an enjoyable experience. In the event that development does now proceed Oughterard will have bucked the trend of “chimney stacks” first and amenities and a sustainable community second.

So sit back and enjoy the Tour we know you will!!!!!!

# *The Built Environment*

## Clareville House

**(RPS 673)** Was built by Robert Martin (1714-1794) in the mid-18th century and it was used as a winter residence and gate lodge to his other property Ballynahinch Castle. Later it was the home of his son Richard better known as “Humanity Dick” (1754-1834) founder of “The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals” and MP representing Jamestown, Lanesborough & Galway. Mr. Martin used to boast that he had an avenue 30 miles long stretching from Oughterard to Ballynahinch Castle.



In 1852 the Martin’s property was bought by the Law Life Assurance Society when the estate went into liquidation. George Bernard Shaw’s grandmother, Margaret Gurly lived for a time in the house. Dr Kirwan, a later occupant of the house, had a hydro-electric system constructed above the waterfall. It supplied electricity to Clareville, Mc Donaghs, and three other neighboring houses. In 1932 the New Connemara Road, the present N 59, was built through the front garden, dividing the property in two.



## The Waterfall Tower

The Tower once marked the eastern limit of the vast estates of the Martins of Ballynahinch. The landlords employed bailiffs when the salmon was running to keep a watchful eye on poachers.

There was a lookout post on the top of the tower that gave the bailiff full view of a long stretch of the river on both sides of the waterfall.

## The Hatchery

The Oughterard Trout Hatchery is the oldest operating hatchery in the world, commencing operations in 1852 as a salmon hatchery. In 1908 it became a trout hatchery. The hatchery continued operations until 1925 when the Corrib Fisheries Association was dissolved and it closed, subsequently falling into disrepair. In 1938 a group of anglers met in Castle Hotel, Abbeygate Street, Galway, to discuss ways of improving trout fishing on Lough Corrib and they decided to rebuild a new trout hatchery in Oughterard. Within months they had raised the £450 to cover costs and by the end of the year the new hatchery was built and ready to start operating.

Apart from a short period in the charge of the now defunct Western Regional Fisheries Board, the hatchery has been run by local members of the Oughterard Angling Club ever since, with the property now vested in Lough Corrib Angling Federation, a grouping of angling clubs around the lake. In 1992 a complete reconstruction was carried out and a new concrete access bridge was also put in place.



Every year a netting license is obtained and at the end of October, nets are laid on the Owenriff River where over the course of a week on average a brood stock consisting of 300 hens and 150 cock fish are taken to the hatchery. In November the hen fish are stripped of their ova and these in turn are fertilized by the milt of the cock fish. The ova are then left in the incubation unit of the hatchery and over the course of the next 3 months are tended to by local volunteers of the hatchery team. Adult fish (all brood stock) are released back to Lough Corrib a week after the stripping.

Between January and February the ova develop into fry and, while still possessing their yoke- sack, about quarter of a million unfed trout fry are distributed through-out the Corrib system by all the angling clubs of Lough Corrib Angling Federation. Some of the unfed fry are also used in restocking programs for stream enhancement by the Fisheries Authority. The work being done in the Oughterard Hatchery is now seen as an important intervention to the survival of the wild trout stocks in the Owenriff System, and the wider Lough Corrib Catchment's.

## Clare House

Clare House was the home of Colonel John Doig originally from Edinburgh who purchased 2,153 acres for £5,040 from the sale of the St. George estate in the early 1850's. This house was occupied by George Cottingham a local landlord who rented it from Doig. The Doig's were listed in both the 1901 & 1911 census and they were known to be living there up to the 1930's and members of the family are buried in the graveyard adjacent to the Church of Ireland in the village.

## Round Tower

On the grounds of the Roman Catholic Church is the remains of a Round Tower which was once part of the infrastructure of a toll bridge. It was also reputed to be part of an old fort and a sentry post in Cromwellian times when courts were in session in Wellpark house across the river. This toll bridge is clearly identified in the earliest known map of Oughterard which was produced by Marlow Brother's (Lithographers), Merchant Quay , Dublin showing the lands of Christopher St. George. This map was produced in the early 1800's.

## Nimmo's Bridge

The bridge on the N 59 was designed by the renowned engineer Alexander Nimmo who was responsible for the design of large scale road, pier and bridges projects all over Connemara.

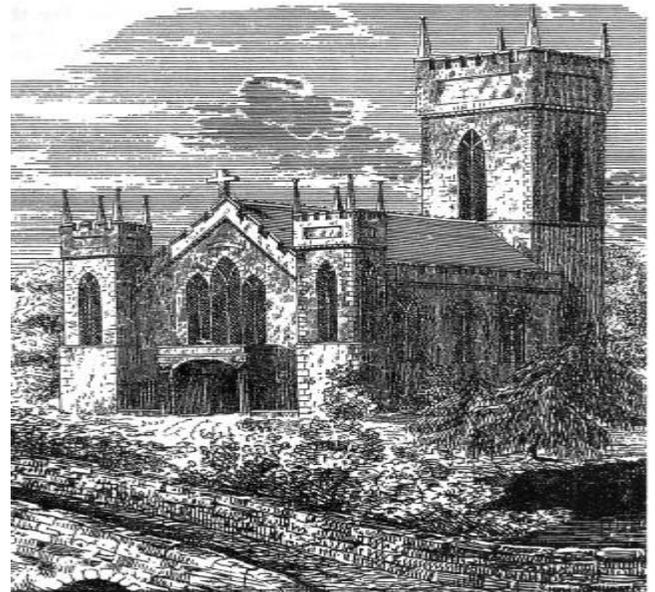
The bridge was constructed circa 1820 and still serves the function that it was designed for even though the transport modes have changed dramatically in the intervening years.



## Church of the Immaculate Conception

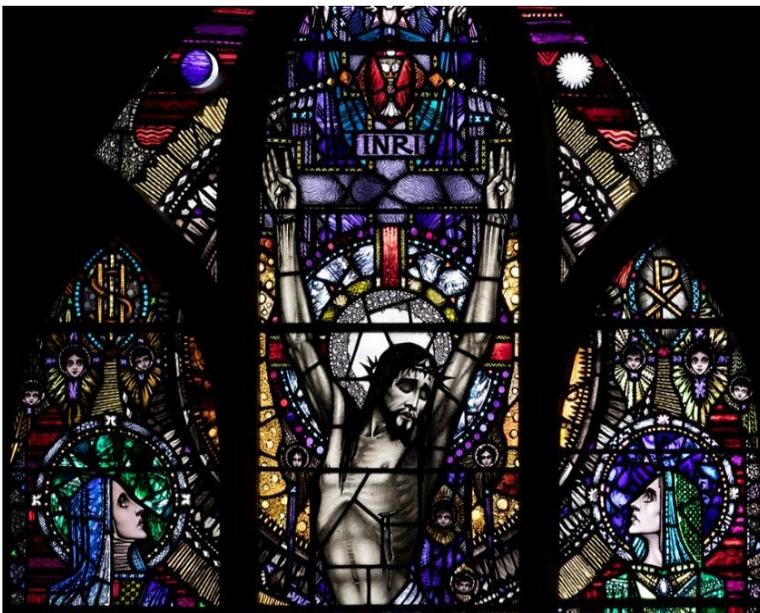
**(RPS 670)** The construction of the Church was attributed to Rev. Dr Kirwan a remarkable man and a brilliant orator. He later became the first President of Galway University. Arriving in Oughterard in 1827 he wrote, "I found a neglected and mountainous district with a large scattered population of 10,000 souls and literally destitute of a house of worship. He was encouraged to commence the erection of a house of worship by Thomas Martin MP who bestowed for that purpose an acre of land in the town of Oughterard with a subscription of £50 and £50 from his father Colonel Martin. A similar sum from Mr. St. George of Tyrone and other small sums not amounting to £50 in all, was all the support received from the parish or those connected with it."

The people of the parish may not have been in a position to offer financial assistance but they did offer voluntary labour, a factor that helped reduce the cost of construction very considerably. A dispute arose over the title of the site when the Martin Estate went into liquidation and the site passed to The Law Life Insurance Company and the O'Flaherties. The Martins had not given proper title of the site to the church authorities. They were ordered to quit, but Dr Kirwan, petitioned Daniel O'Connell to intervene and he made a national issue out of it. The Lord Mayor of Dublin was one of the many important people who signed a petition against O'Flahertie. Daniel O'Connell arrived in Oughterard March 14th 1840 and within two days the case was settled out of court.



R.C. Church of St. Mary, Oughterard' (1840)

The contract for the building of the church was given to William Brady of Nun's Island, Galway. The bishop of Galway, Dr. Plunkett Browne, dedicated the church on the 24th August 1837 and Archbishop Mc Hale of Tuam preached the sermon. The original church was early Gothic with a Romanesque flat-pitched roof, the entrance flanked by two machicolated towers. There was a larger bell tower on the west side.



In January 1879 a fire destroyed most of the church. Between 1932 and 1934, it was reconstructed by Archdeacon Mark Conroy, P.P. At this time the altar was moved from under the gallery to the north wall. The church is worth a visit to see the famous Harry Clarke stained glass window, depicting the Crucifixion, behind the main altar, erected at this time.

The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – alpha and omega are in two panels on the left and right hand bottom corners of the window. The altar was made from Connemara marble and was designed by Mr. Hughes of Galway Marble Industries. The organ was built by L. Isaac, 20 Forster St., Galway.

## The Convent

**(RPS 669)** In the early 1840's a French order of nuns "The Faithful Companions of Jesus" (FCJ) resided in Oughterard. They had come on the invitation of Dr. Joseph Kirwan who was aware and impressed with their work. The order was represented by Mother Julie Guillmet and by the summer of 1844 she had established a school with 300 enrolled. Unfortunately Mother Guillmet soon realized Oughterard was not suitable to fulfill the expectations of the order and they left Oughterard before the end of 1844. In November 1857 the Sisters of Mercy accepted an invitation to come to Oughterard and by 1863 the school had an enrollment of 367 children. In 1888 the convent was built and it continued in use as a school up to 2014 when the two existing schools were amalgamated on the site of the former boy's school. The convent is now in the process of being transferred back to the community and it is hoped that it will accommodate the Boxing Club, Cubs and Boy Scouts into the future.

## Oughterard Courthouse

**(RPS 667)** The building was designed by Architect William Caldbeck. It was constructed circa. 1840. It operated as a Courthouse up to 2008, under the operation of the Court Services, when court sittings were dispensed with due to the poor condition of the building. It then reverted back to Galway County Council's (GCC) control. The project to restore the Courthouse was a major collaboration between GCC. (Owner's), Forum Ltd, (Main funders) and the Oughterard Courthouse Conservation & Heritage CLG, (Promoters) on behalf of the community.

The project was by far the largest financial works undertaken in Oughterard in the last decade with a cost in excess of € 750,000 with a community contribution of approx. € 70,000. Almost € 28,000 was raised from the local community in a six week period by a door to door collection by volunteers under the bricks and slates initiative. GCC maintain the Library service out of a section of the building.

The rest of the building is used primarily for arts exhibitions and an office for the Oughterard Newsletter as well as a commercial study centre. The Board hope to move onto phase two of the project which would entail the construction of an additional extension, a linking conservatory and an internal mezzanine.



Musician Sharon Shannon and County Mayor Cllr Thomas Welby launch the 'Who Wants to Be A Thousandaire' fundraiser for the Oughterard Courthouse restoration.



## The Oughterard Workhouse

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1849 the Oughterard Poor Law Union was formed and at the time it served the electoral divisions of Camus, Clonbur, Cong, Crumpaun, Cur, Gorumna, Kilcummin, Letterbrickaun, Letterfore, Lettermore, Oughterard, Ross, Turlough and Wormhole. It was formed from the Western part of the Galway Union and occupied an area of 271 sq.m. A consequence of the formation of the Poor Law Union was the construction of a Work House. The architect was George Wilkinson who was also attributed with similar developments in Claremorris and Tubbercurry. It was designed to accommodate 600 people, it was on an eight acre site. The cost of the building was £ 5,950 with a fixture and fitting cost of £ 1,095.

It is reputed that the Oughterard Poor Law Union was the second poorest union with Kiltimagh been the poorest. Today all that remains of the workhouse is the external boundary walls and what is believed to be the remains of the chapel. The lands themselves are now the site of the largest residential estate in Oughterard.

## The Workhouse Graveyard

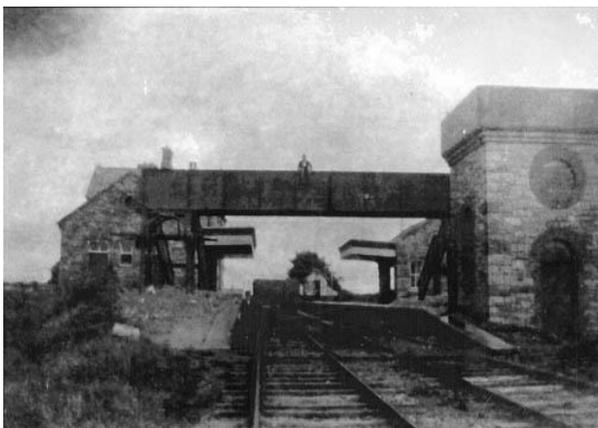
Locally known as “Teampaillin” as the grounds were not blessed it was not called a cemetery. This graveyard was used to alleviate the pressure, of the deaths in the Workhouse nearby, on the main graveyard in Oughterard.

The people in the workhouse who died mainly from famine and fever were transported to this area and given a simple burial. A circle of small stones signifies a child’s grave. There is one headstone erected to commemorate the interment of a man from Bealadaingean. This is stop 15 on the Golden Mile of the Heritage Walk.



## The Railway Station

**(RPS 672)** The former railway station was the stop serving the Oughterard area for the Galway – Clifden railway service. The first train arrived in Oughterard in 1<sup>st</sup> January 1895 and the service continued up to its closure on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1935.



Oughterard Railway  
Closed in 1935 - Demolished in 1936

This impressive stone cut building had many uses after its closure from a school, a factory manufacturing swimwear to its present day use as a factory for the world renowned handmade Dixon Carpets.

The company was established as V’Soske Joyce Ltd., in 1957 with Michael Dixon as Production Manager. Michael purchased the company in 1979 and sold it to his son, Tony, in 1990. Projects include the Dorchester Hotel in London, The Four Seasons Group to The Rulers of Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Sharjah, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar plus many American and Irish Embassies around the world, including London, Paris, Brussels, Prague, New York, Washington, Rome and Riyadh.

## The Railway Bridge

This is stop 14 on the Golden Mile. This magnificent limestone bridge is one of 28 bridges built to carry the trains travelling between Galway and Clifden. The construction of the railway in less than four years was a great engineering achievement. In all there was 7 stations, 28 bridges and 14 gate keepers' cottages were built at level crossings, 78km (49miles) of track were laid, all at a cost of £264,400. Arthur Balfour granted government aid towards the building.

## Kilcummin Parish Church Church of Ireland, Oughterard

**(RPS 666)** The Kilcummin Parish Church was built in 1810 by means of a gift of £600 from the Board of First Fruits. Rev. John Wilson 1806-1844 was appointed as Perpetual Curate to the parish of Kilcummin 1806. It stands on one acre of land was acquired from Arthur St. George from Tyrone, Galway for the nominal sum of 10 shillings. The church consisting of the present nave and tower was a small neat edifice that seated 70. Services were also held in the Barracks in Camp St. for the convenience of the military. In 1810 tithes (church taxes) of £140 were collected from the general population of 9000 Catholics and 50 -100 Protestants. The building was renovated and extended in 1852. Between 1841 and 1851 the population of the parish fell by 20% due to famine deaths, disease and emigration. Long established landowners went bankrupt - the Martins and the O Fflaherties and 40% of the land in Oughterard changed hands.

## The Community Centre

The Oughterard Community Centre was a modern constructed replacement Community Centre of the previous building used as a centre known as "The Kirk". "The Kirk was totally destroyed by the big storm in January 1974. The community rallied together and the process of a replacement build was commenced and with a cost of approx. £ 65,000 The new centre was constructed and officially opened in 1977 by the late Bishop Casey and Bishop of Tuam Dr. J. Coote-Duggan.

Today the centre has a fully operational gym manned by staff from a Community Service Programme, an afterschool club and a breakfast club to service the local community. The main hall facilitates groups and events ranging from the local Basketball club, Secondary Schools Transition year play, Badminton Club and the domestic arts section of the annual Oughterard show.



## Corribdale Grounds



Corribdale Grounds was originally part of the O' Fflahertie Estate and it eventually came under the control of the Land Commission at which time it was purchased on behalf of the community by Corribdale Grounds CLG. It comprises of approx. 12 acres in the heart of the village and this property wraps around the local GAA Clubs ground.

Since 2009 to date Corribdale has been transformed from a wide open space to the home of a children's playground (opened July 2010) and then the combined construction of a Teen zone and 700

m of walking trails with outdoor exercise equipment (opened in Sept 2015) and recently the construction of another 800m of looped trails (opened in Feb 2017).

Funding for all these works came from Galway Co Co, St. Anthony's & Claddagh Credit Union, SSE Electricity, Roadbridge Ltd, Department of Transport Tourism & Sport and the local communities matching funds. Substantial benefit in kind in relation to labour and material contributions greatly reduced costs to the projects most notably by Killola Quarries and Mc Donagh Plant Hire.



The developments have created a safe space for all ages and also caters for people with disabilities. The development of the Park has been the catalyst for the creation of a number of recreational /social events that have contributed to the financial aspect of the development's these include The Mayfly 10k Challenge, The Duathlon, Jog the Bog, Field of Screams and the Shrubbery Illuminations.



## Oughterard Army Barracks

To the British administration Oughterard was a prime location for a base from which to govern and dominate the wild lands further west. The British Military Barracks in Oughterard was situated at the end of what now is Camp Street. All that now remains is a small section of wall as one enters the circle of houses at the end of the street.

Its exact construction date is unknown, however, a letter exists in the British Archives from the Duke of Bedford (the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland) from 6th May 1758, which requests "authority to grant the amount necessary to build a barracks at Oughterard". This would in all probability make the barracks to some extent contemporary with the two landed estate houses of Clareville, owned by the Martins, to the west of the settlement, and Lemonfield, owned by the O'Flahertys, to the east. Hence the presence of the barracks was most likely an important feature in the shaping of the modern-day town. The Barracks and Aughnaure Castle were a location for the John Ford film "The Majesty of the Law" in 1952.

## Aughnanure Castle

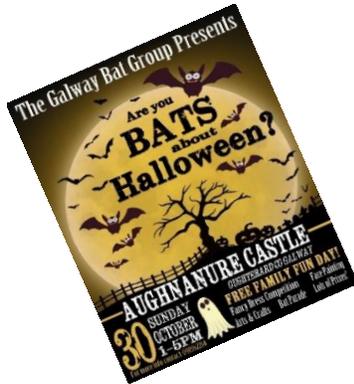
The castle was a stronghold of the O'Fflahertie clan between the 14th and 17th centuries who ruled over of large areas of Connacht. Walter De Burgo, first Earl of Ulster, may have built the original castle on the site. In 1618 Aughnanure was granted to Hugh O Fflahertie by King James 1 but, by the middle of that century, it was occupied by the Marquis of Clanrickarde. In 1687 he rented the lands to Bryan O'Fflahertie for an annual rent of £76. In 1719 he sold the lands for £1600. The money was borrowed from Lord St. George.

That mortgage was afterwards foreclosed, and Lord St. George took possession of the castle. In the 19th century the castle was once again the property of Edmund O'Fflahertie of Lemonfield. Later the castle and adjoining lands transferred to James O Hara a local landlord. In 1930 a local farmer Michael Welby purchased the castle and nine acres of property. Mr. Welby sold the



castle to Peter O’Flaherty in 1952 and Mr. O’Flaherty vested the Castle to the Commissions of Public Works for preservation as a national monument.

In 1963, the site was cleared and the walls and buildings were repaired and restored. Presently the castle is operated by the OPW and has in the region of 30,000 visitors each year. The castle also hosts many events for the community on a regular basis.



## The Graveyard

**Kilcummin Cemetery Mapping project**

Kilcummin Cemetery Project is well under way with volunteers transcribing the inscriptions from the head stones. The graves are all mapped and numbered. There are a number of unknown graves and we seek the public's support in identifying those graves.



360 panorama of Kilcummin Graveyard



About Kilcummin Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions



Kilcummin Cemetery

360 degree Panorama of Kilcummin Graveyard.

The main graveyard is located on the N 59 and it has served the village for nearly 300 years with the oldest documented grave dating from 1747 and it is a free standing decorated headstone dedicated to Hue Darcy and his wife Napy Welsh. A survey undertaken by the Heritage Group has documented approx. 1200 graves and the details are available on their website [www.oughterardheritage.org](http://www.oughterardheritage.org).

## The Pier in Oughterard

The main Pier in Oughterard was constructed in 1852 and it would have been a hugely important piece of infrastructure for people travelling between the mainland and all the inhabited islands on the Corrib at that time. It would have been a safe landing point for all users.

In 1853 a local landlord Henry Hodgson who owned a steamer “The Enterprise” used the Pier to transport cargo of copper, nickel and passengers between Oughterard and Galway City. Today the Pier is the point of departure for the Corrib Cruise that services Inchagoill and Cong, in the summer months, and for locals and tourist alike to enjoy a picnic with an outstanding view.



# *The Natural Environment*

## The Shrubbery

The shrubbery is a beautiful little park located between the busy N59 and the Owenriff River. It was recently donated to the people of Oughterard by relatives of the late Kathleen Maloney (nee Morton Jack, Lemonfield), Kathleen was the daughter of Hugh Morton Jack, son of Dora O' Fflahertie of Lemonfield. It was a previous site for the playground serving the area but insurance issues contributed to the playground closure but it continued as a beautiful open space.



In the 90's a FAS scheme built a beautiful stone bridge to access a tiny island in the centre of the river. Due to its stunning setting it is regularly used by newlyweds to take their first photos as a married couple. It also is a favourite location for people to stop and have a picnic in a relaxed setting. It is lovingly maintained by the local FAS scheme.



## The Owenriff River

The village has a historic connection with wild brown trout angling as the majestic Owenriff River, a key feeder stream to Lough Corrib, meanders over the limestone shelves in the heart of the village as it flows into the western shores of the lake. As Oughterard was the largest town on the N 59 west of Galway City and entering Connemara it was commonly known as the "Gateway to Connemara". The river and lake are an integral part of the Community having sustained many of the families over the years, initially by providing food for families and later as the local anglers provided boatman and guiding services to visiting tourist anglers.



The lake has, as a consequence, been the most important tourist angling attraction in the area for the past century and a half and is well documented in old tourist angling books. This was particularly important when the railway steamed its way from Dublin and enabled fish from Oughterard to reach the Billingsgate market in London fresh long before any refrigeration was possible.

The Owenriff is host to a diverse community of wildlife in particular some elusive otters and flighty kingfishers but one of the most important species is the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) This prehistoric molluscan relic is virtually identical to a species now only found in fossils and the species is endangered worldwide. Oughterard is fortunate to have a breeding population which is extremely rare and adults and juveniles can be found in the gravel in the river. For a sustainable population the mollusc also needs a healthy trout stock as the juvenile mollusc first lives in the gills of wild trout before falling to the river bed. Oughterard has a strong wild brown trout population which hits its peak in October and November when the wild trout cut up the gravel in a spawning frenzy throughout the town and especially at the shrubbery and below the road bridge.



## Lough Corrib

Lough Corrib, the largest Lough in the Republic of Ireland, is located approx. 1 km due east of Oughterard. It is reputed that there is 365 islands on the Lough. It is world renowned for its wild fishing and Oughterard has rightly adopted the name “The Wild Trout Capital of Europe” due to its connection, promotion and efforts to enhance the fishing for local and tourist alike.

Each year an international fishing festival is hosted and based in Oughterard attracting fishermen from all parts of the world.

Lough Corrib was a “living lake” due to the number of families that were settled on the various islands up to the 1930’s and 40’s.

There are substantial details of families in the 1901 & 1911 census and these families eventually moved onto the mainland and shared their skills, such as boatbuilding, which are still practiced in Oughterard today by direct relatives of the islanders.

A number of years ago an exciting discovery of 12 log boats heralded major archaeological discovery with one potentially being 4,500 years old.



This is an amazing discovery and as they are extremely delicate.

If the community are going to mark their existence it may be by replicates which potentially could be placed in the Courthouse. This project is being explored at present.

## Inchagoill Island

Inchagoill Island is the fourth largest island on Lough Corrib. The name was first referenced by Roderick O'Flaherty when he wrote about the island in 1684 "Inis a' Ghaill, or the foreigner's island. Sir William Wilde wrote also of Inchagoill in his book **Lough Corrib its Shores & Islands** originally published in 1867. He describes Inchagoill as "by far the most interesting island on the lake" and "if we said one of the most remarkable spots on Irish ground, we should not fear to take up the gauntlet in its favour, for picturesque scenery, grand mountain views, and existing historic monuments".

The island is home to two churches built in the 5th and 12th century and where the island narrows towards its centre, an extensive graveyard. In an ancient ecclesiastical enclosure are interred the dead of the Kinnaveys, Conways, Sullivans, Murphys, Lyddans, and Butlers. Within the graveyard stands Teampall Phaidrig or St Patrick's Church, the smaller and older of the two, standing just 34 feet 7 inches long when measured by its outer wall in a north-south direction and quiet plain with its narrow square headed doorway.

Not far from Teampall Phaidrig stands a monumental stone, containing one of the earliest Christian inscriptions in Ireland. It is a single four sided obelistic pillar, slightly cambered, broad at the base where it measures 10 inches and gradually decreasing from 6 to 5 inches on the inscribed side which faces the south west end of St Patrick's Church. This monumental stone has two crosses on the faces to the west, east and south, with one on the north face. On the east face is an inscription in the Uncial of old Latin character which was reproduced by careful rubbing. It reads perpendicularly and was first published in 1845 by Dr Petrie in his celebrated works upon "The Ecclesiastical Architecture and Round Towers of Ireland". The stone reads "Lia Lugnaedon Macc Lmeneuh," the stone of Lugnaedon, son of Limeneuh (the sister of St Patrick).

It is said that this monument has all the appearance of having been one of those corbel stones so often seen projecting in old Irish churches, and of which there is an example in the north east angle of the gable of the neighbouring church, Teampall na Neave, "The Church of The Saint" (probably Lugnad). The stone now stands two feet four inches over the ground as a headstone to a grave.

The second church Teampall na Neave is said to have been built in the 12th century and is more modern than that of St Patrick's with its highly decorated structure. It is also larger in size, measuring 38 feet 1 inch from its outer walls. Projecting from the north east angle of the wall of the nave is a remarkable corbel shaped stone, two feet four inches long that reminds us of the Lugnaedon pillar. The doorway to this church is far more elaborate than its neighbour and the entire thickness of the doorway is 39 inches and is formed from coloured sandstone which can be found on the Cong side of the lake.

The jambs are formed by columnar pilasters which are crowned by human faces from which springs the arch which again is carved with a row of faces each different and thought to have been portraits. But unfortunately, due to weathering over time, it has not become possible to identify any individuals. Inside the church the altar is still intact and measures 4 feet 7 inches wide and one foot 10 inches high.

On the altar are two indented stones: one has an oblong quadrilateral hollow while the other, placed immediately under the small eastern round headed single light, is a smooth stone with an oval shaped depression, measuring 6 by 4 inches in diameter and capable of holding a closed fist. This is believed to have been a very early water font.





# *Sports Clubs*



## Oughterard GAA

Oughterard GAA Club was formed in 1908 and is named after Seamus O Maille, one of the Tuam Martyrs, who was executed on 11th April 1923, he was a staunch supporter of the club up to his death. The club's first officers were; Fr. Fitzgerald PP, Harry O'Toole, Hugh Walsh Billamore, Coleman King of Glann, Willie and ML Logan of Maghera, Martin Walsh of Cregg, Bartley and John Conneely of Rusheeney. The current pitch, known as Corribdale was the subject of some controversy with the O'Flaherty estate agreeing to the young men using it to play to avoid the continual trespassing in other areas of the estate.

The pitch was eventually taken over by the Land Commission and eventually purchased by the GAA. Oughterard GAA has been lucky to have the support of generations from families on the playing field as members and officers. In particular, some families have provided up to seven members of one generation such as the McGauleys of Baurisheen, the Keoghs of Lemonfield, the Gibbons of Waterfield, the Gibbons of Glengowla, the O'Hallorans of Cloosh and the Lees of Cloosh amongst others.

Oughterard's first County success was the 1919 Junior Title, captained by John Joe D'Arcy from Maghera. 1938 brought the Club its first, and so far, only Senior County Title with a win over Ballinasloe captained by Pat Gibbons. The backbone of this team was the four Sullivan brothers, Dinny, Tom, Charlie and Edward plus the O'Toole's and Frank Burke (Cornamona) and Henry Kenny (father of former Taoiseach) who was a national school teacher in Recess at this time. The County Junior Championship was won again in 1949, starting an era which was without doubt a golden era for Oughterard during which the club contested 3 senior county finals.

At this stage the GAA tradition was complemented by a strong and successful feeder system coming from the National and Secondary schools. The first major success from this was the County U 21 title in 1974. Other successes then included Intermediate titles in 1984, 1990, 1996 and 2001. The Club also had county success in Junior A - 1994, Junior B - 1992 & 2007 and Junior C in 2003. Other notable senior League successes were 1979 & 1981. League success at U 21B in 1990 & 2000. Under 17 league success in 1977 and U 16 & U 12 success in 1973 & 2007.

The list of players who would have represented their County & Province is extensive and it can be referenced at [www.oughterardheritage.org](http://www.oughterardheritage.org)



## Soccer Club

Oughterard AFC was founded in 1997 with the primary objective to make football accessible to all of the local community with the emphasis on participation. The players range from U6 to adults, both male and female. Currently there is a core playing membership of 300, 90% of whom are U18 years of age.

The catchment area for members stretches from Moycullen to Recess to Cornamona to Camus. The Club has nine boys' league squads, five girls' league squads and provides development football for over 100 players from U6 to U11. In 2006 the Club purchased 10 acres at Newvillage, Oughterard to provide playing and coaching facilities.

Development to date included three pitches a sand carpet pitch, grass training pitch and a floodlit all-weather training pitch. The cost of providing the playing and coaching facilities including the cost of the land was € 900,000. Newvillage Football Park was officially opened by Republic of Ireland international Niamh Fahey in June 2017.



## Boxing Club

The Oughterard Boxing Club was formed in 1962 by the late Johnny O Connor in the old "Hibernian Hall" in Camp St. The first boxing tournament held in Oughterard was in 1965, in "Kirk Hall". The club won their first national title in 1969 through Martin Lee, he was successful again in 1970. This success catapulted Martin onto the international stage

representing Ireland boxing in Coventry, The club won 6 Connacht Juvenile titles in 1970 and in doing so winning the best club in Connacht award. It would take until 1995 to win this award again when the club won 5 juvenile titles. Also in 1970 the five Lee brothers won Connacht titles Martin, Raymond, Gerry and Richard juvenile titles and Johnny later won a junior title. This was the first time in history that five brothers won Connacht Titles in the same year and this record still holds to this day.

In 1980 Gerry Clancy took over the coaching of the club after serving under Johnny O'Connor. Oughterard Boxing Club would achieve another All Ireland title in 1984 with Alan O'Connor. Gerry Clancy untimely passing in 1986 saw Raymond Lee take over the coaching of the club with great assistance from Johnny Folan, Tony McQuinn, Paddy Geoghegan, Richard Lee, Marin Lee and Jimmy Kelly. In the late 80's and 90's the club was to experience one of its richest periods in relation to Connacht and All Ireland titles and some of the clubs boxers representing Ireland at the highest level. In 1992/93 the club won an impressive 9 county titles and had two boxers go on to contest for national titles. Kevin Clancy and James Kelly

In 1994 Marvin Lee won an All-Ireland title for the club the first of 4 titles. In 1995 the club won 'Best Club in Connacht Award' and this accolade was also achieved in 1996 & 1998. In 1996 the Club had two All-Ireland champions Marvin Lee and Rory Mc Gauley plus an impressive 11 Connacht titles at juvenile level. In 1997 Thomas Lee won the first of his 9 All Ireland Titles in total and retains the record for the highest number of All Ireland titles by a Connacht boxer. In 1996 & 1997 Marvin Lee won bronze medals at the European Junior Championships, the only boxer out of a team of 8 to win a medal for his country. In 1997 Marvin would represent Ireland in Greece at a multi-nations tournament having won 11 of his 13 International contests representing Ireland. He also won a multi-nations tournament in Yugoslavia and awarded best boxer of the tournament. At this stage Oughterard boxing club has established itself as a strong force in Irish boxing. Testament to this was when Thomas Lee was selected to represent Ireland at the boxing training camp at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. His selection was recognition of his achievements having won 5 Irish titles in a row. Oughterard boxing club was now winning All Ireland titles annually.

In 2000 Martin Healy won an All-Ireland title for the club. It would be 2010 again for the next title for the club with the emergence of Colm Molloy. The following year his brother Kieran would also win an All-Ireland title giving the club two All-Ireland titles that year. In 2012 Oughterard Boxing Club had their first ever Boy 1 All Ireland Champion when Mathew Tierney winning Gold. Considering the level of talented boxers that had been in the club it was this title that seemed so elusive in the clubs 50 year history. Colm and Kieran Molloy also won All Irelands bringing the clubs tally to that year to three. 2012 was also the year the Oughterard boxer Kieran Molloy won a European bronze medal at school boy level.

Kieran Molloy's achievements to date, and still only 18, are amongst the highest in the country. Kieran is now part of the Elite Irish Senior Boxing team and is touted as being a number one prospect for the Olympics in 2020. Here are his achievements to date, 8 National titles, Bronze Medalist at European junior level, Bronze medalist at World Championships (retired injured in semifinal) youngest boxer to win a medal at this level for his country. Gold medalist mini World Championships in Russia, moving him into ranking number 1 in the world at welterweight U18 and only third boxer to win medal at this level for Ireland. Gold medal winner in the following multi nation's tournaments in Latvia, Croatia, Lithuania, Denmark, Dublin. Wining Silver in Poland this year at his first Elite Senior Championships the only Irish boxer to win a medal at this tournament. Winner of Gold medal in the Harringey Cup in London this year one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world. To date Kieran has never failed to bring home a medal for his country since he represented Ireland at 12 years of age. He continues to be a true inspiration to not only the youth of Oughterard Boxing Club but the youth of Oughterard.

Unfortunately the club over the years has not had a purpose built gym and to this day still hasn't. It is testament to the members and coaches of the club all the above has been achieved regardless of facilities. The club can only cater for about 60 children and our members range from the age of 8 years to 25 years of age. The club have in the past have provided adult classes to improve fitness and would do so again if appropriate facilities were available.

The club has members come from Barna, Moycullen, Killanin, Oughterard, Leam, Clifden, Ballyconnelly, Roundstone and Lettermullen. Our ethos is to develop and enhance positive mental well-being and healthy lifestyle regardless of whether members want to participate in the physical contact aspects of the sport.

In October 2012 The Boxing Club worked with Oughterard & Killanin GAA & Oughterard Rugby Club to host the unique and successful "Parish Pride" fundraising event, a memorable and enjoyable night for all the community.

## Angling Club



Around since 1852 Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association is among the oldest angling clubs in the world. For over 160 years the club has been to the fore in the protection of the Owenriff and Lough Corrib systems.

Working in tandem with local Inland Fisheries Ireland staff, trout angling Federations TAFI and ITFFA as well as the Corrib Federation, NPWS, Corrib Navigation Trust among other bodies and organisations. It has worked tirelessly, on a voluntary basis, to preserve and conserve this magnificent angling resource, not only for anglers but all lake users.

Their objectives include:

- Promotion of angling in the area of Oughterard and District.
- Acquire, develop and maintain facilities to be used for the purpose of Angling.
- Defend the preservation and conservation of free fishing grounds.
- Conduct angling competitions, including mixed competitions with other sports.
- Establish and maintain funds to be used for the development of the Association.
- Develop and encourage the youth and females of Oughterard and District to partake in the sport of fishing.

Approximately 10 years ago, a hoist was installed at the Boathouse, along with a designated mooring, to allow disabled anglers enter or disembark from their boats safely, it is available to any disabled angler who wishes to use it. Committee members are always on hand to help this facility be used safely

## Badminton Club

The Badminton Club was established in the early 70's and based in the "The Kirk" and subsequently moved into the new Community Centre when it was constructed. The club was very successful and won County titles and the competitors would have moved forward to represent County Galway in the Connacht competition. Today former members of the club participate in a social setting in the Community Centre on a weekly basis over the winter.



## Rugby Club

Oughterard Rugby Football Club was formed in 2004 and it was fortunate to have the use of a property at St. Michael adjacent to the N 59. The first games were played on more a field that a pitch. Initially the membership comprised of approx. 20 members, today we have 250 with one full size pitch along with two training pitches. The age profile of the players is from 5 to 40 +and they come from Recess, Maam,

Killanin, Moycullen and as far as the Western outskirts of Galway City, these members complement the Oughterard membership.

The club welcome all cultures and race. Recently the club setup a past members executives of older members who express their views and endeavour to help the new committee members support to grow the club in a sustainable manner, this has proved to be hugely successful.

The Club would has annual events such as Table quizzes, Golf Days and the Club Social. The members participate in the St. Patrick's parade and senior members act as marshals on the day. The Club also organises outings which can be in Ireland or internationally to countries such as Wales and France and this exposes the young members to other nationalities and cultures.

Currently the Club are in discussion with St. Pauls Secondary school to access lands at the rear of the school are presently derelict and overgrown. If agreement can be reached the club hope to develop the lands for an additional pitch with service buildings and these would have shared use with the Club and School. To date the club would have spent up to € 60,000 in capital expenditure with no grants from any organisation.

## Basketball Club

Basketball was first organised in Oughterard by a local FCA platoon in 1944. It operated for a number of years and lapsed until 1965 it was revived by local UCG student Matt O Sullivan. Remarkably the outdoor facilities behind the old Community Centre "The Kirk" even had floodlights in 1967. During the construction of the new Community centre the club chairman Kevin Blehein lobbied successfully to have the new centre constructed to accommodate National League Games. The 1980's was the summit as it boasted both a men's and a women's National League team. The opening of St Paul's in 1964 gave a natural pool of talent from the surrounding parishes which culminated in the school winning several All-Irelands.

The current Galway senior Football Manager Kevin Walsh is a current member and coach and played for Ireland in the eighties. The club has the use of two fantastic facilities in the locality. They use both Oughterard, and Killanin, Community Centre for training and games. The club caters for children from 7yrs of age up to adults both male and female. From u12 onwards we enter teams in the Galway league.

Social Basketball for older members is catered for in the club with a male and female "fun" group.

Membership is a healthy 230 at the moment. Coaches and volunteers and come from the local area in general. The catchment area includes parts of Moycullen, Collinamuck, Oughterard, to Maam Cross with some members travelling from Galway, Carraroe and further afield.

The successful teams of the eighties have created a legacy as some of the players of that era are now coaching the next generation of players. With a very successful 2017 season just completed the Club may one day get back to competing again in the National League.



## Oughterard Golf Club

An entry in his recently published book "Early Irish Golf", William H. Gibson tells us that golf was being played in Oughterard in 1906. It is believed that the course was situated at nearby Killaguile (adjacent to where Ross Lake Hotel is now sited) and that golf continued to be played there up until 1940.

The story of the present course dates to 1967, when for £10,000, Miss Alice Willis sold her 140 acre estate, to Martin Faherty, Paddy Higgins, Sheila Egan, Annie Egan and Lily Willis, for development as a golf course. The main development of the Club took place between 1969 and 1972. When the course development was nearing completion Tom Barry was invited to assist with the setting up of the Club structure. He invited Pat Goggin who worked at Galway Golf Club to join him.

Today the course is a magnificent 18 hole championship course with pristine tree-lined fairways and beautiful water features which offers a wonderful experience to golfers of all abilities. Along with the great golfing experience Oughterard Golf Course offers visitors the very best in facilities including the spacious bar and restaurant with panoramic views of the course. Golf tuition is available from resident PGA Professional Derek McNamara. Junior Golf Summer Camps are also provided. The Club is twinned with Newcastle West Golf Club, Co. Limerick and Tullamore Golf Club Co. Offaly where members have free casual golf.

Oughterard Golf Club has huge success in competitions, both provincial and national, over the last 30 years. The provincial include the Pierce Purcell 1987, 1990, 1991 & 1997. Kenny cup 1991. Fred Daly 1995. Irish Junior 4somes 1995, 2001. Jimmy Bruen 1992 & 1993. Irish Club Juniors 1993. Irish mixed 4somes 1993. Junior Cup 2009. Seniors >55 2017. The National titles include Pierce Purcell 1990. Junior 4somes 1995. J.B. Carr 1996. Irish mixed 4somes 2010. Also Oughterard won the coveted title of Hidden Gem of Connacht 2013.

There has been prominent competitors playing the course over the years but probably the most notable was Rory Mc Ilroy who played and set a new course record 67 (-3 ) as a 14 year old in 2003. This record had stood until the leading player in the Club Devin Morley created a new record 63 (-9) in 2016. Devin is a scratch golfer who won the Connacht Close in 2013. He was also the leading point scorer for Ireland in Boys Home international in Wales 2015. Currently, Devin, who secured a scholarship from the Louisville Cardinals is in his second year at the University.

## Corrib Athletics Club



Corrib Athletic Club was formed in January 2012 and they are affiliated to the AAI (Athletic Association Ireland) when the local running clubs from the Killanin and Oughterard areas amalgamated.

The club use facilities in Killanin and Oughterard and cater from ages of 5 up. Even though the club is relatively new they have had success in the field events at up to provincial level. Some senior members have also been very successful up to national level at cross country and long distance. There is a full schedule of training particularly "Fit for Life", cross country and Strength and Conditioning. The season runs from September right through until May the following year.

One novel event is where Corrib Athletic & Tuam athletic come together for a fun event in the indoor arena in Athlone at Christmas. This event is basically a taster for new members but a fun day for the existing members. With over 200 members it is fast becoming an important part of the Athletics community in Galway.

# *Recreational Groups*

## Oughterard Bridge Club

The Bridge Club was formed in September 1984 with 39 members. Bridge is the most popular card game in the world. It is a social game for all ages and can be played at many different levels. It is a game for life, keeps the brain active, and helps to make new friends. The Bridge Club played for many years in the Corrib Hotel, Lake Hotel, Connemara Gateway Hotel before settling in the Community Centre. The Bridge Club caters for every age group to include young people, people with disabilities, minorities and the elderly. In the Oughterard Community Centre we are warmly welcomed and are provided with a comfortable downstairs room with tables and chairs and access to tea and coffee facilities to cater for all.

Oughterard Bridge Club is registered with the CBAI (Contract Bridge Association of Ireland). This allows members to play in clubs throughout Ireland. A very successful taster night was held in March 2017 which attracted 14 new people and we hope that this will increase our membership. All new members are very welcome and bridge lessons will be arranged. The club plans to organize further taster nights and to organise an invitational night to other Bridge clubs. The year recommences on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30 pm. Each year the Bridge Club hosts a Christmas party and end of year social and our prizes are purchased from local businesses.

Bridge is a game for life, only requires a decent pack of cards and all that matters is the game!

## Oughterard Camera Club

The Oughterard Camera Club was founded in August 2016, and at the time of writing it is the most recently formed club in the village. Its creation followed on from a very successful Photography Exhibition in conjunction with the Galway Camera Club during the Discover Oughterard International Mayfly Festival in 2016, when a couple of local amateur photographers got together and set up the Oughterard Camera Club.



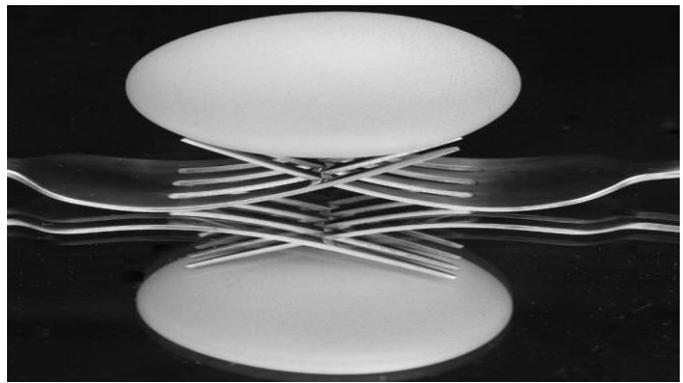
It's an adult group catering to all levels of experience, but most of the group are beginners. It's a learning and social group. Meetings are weekly from September to May, the group have had regular outings to practice what they have learned. At present, they have 25 members ranging in age from 30's to 70's. They are delighted that one of the local businesses, The Boat Inn gave us free use of his function room to hold our meetings, this was especially useful as one of members is disabled.

For the 2017 Discover Oughterard International Mayfly Festival, they joined with the Youth Café Photography Group for a fantastic exhibition in The Oughterard Courthouse.

The club has members from our neighboring communities Maam, Killanin, Moycullen and as far away as Tuam.



As amateur photographers, we are blessed with having so much amazing beauty in our local environment, at "The Gateway to Connemara".



## Model Flying Club

The Oughterard Model Flying Club was established in April 2015, and they have grown from an initial number of 2 to a current complement of 10 members. Since they started they have exhibited in the Oughterard Show and in University Collage Galway Science EXPO.

It is a hobby that is both creative and involves building, maintaining and flying model aircraft which includes helicopters, vintage planes, modern aerobatic planes, trainer planes, jets and drones. The club members normally meet at their flying club location on the shores of Lough Corrib on Saturday or Sunday morning (weather permitting) initially for a coffee and then a couple of hours flying.

Now that the club has its own club house & designated flying field they believe that there is a very bright future ahead.



*Above left is a WW1 French Nieuport, a Radial Rocket and an Apprentice trainer plane for beginners. It's has built in electronic stability).Above right is Nigel's plane this is a 50CC petrol plane and one of the largest in the club.*



*Above are a couple of our aerobatic aircraft these run on 30CC petrol engines.*



*At a recent Sunday morning meeting you can see the variety of aircraft.*



*Here we have one of our junior members with his WW1 American Corsair*

## **Scouts – Beavers - Cubs**

In 2011 a small group got together to re-establish the Oughterard Scout group. The group was led by Neil Mooney with the assistance of Scouting Ireland. Meetings were held and the people who expressed an interest in becoming scout leaders subsequently carried out the essential training required. After detailed planning the first intake of youth members got together October. Currently they have Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8) and Cub Scouts aged (9-11).

In relation to Beavers the emphasis is on fun and how to get along with other people. The group is organized in small groups called lodges and when they gather altogether it is a colony. They learn lots of new skills and games as well as participating and planning any outings for the group. Beaver Scouts are given a say in what happens in the programme. It is great to get the opinion of the scouts so the leaders can change the programme to suit the group.

In relation to the Cubs the emphasis is on fun and exploration. Cub Scouts learn new skills and learn about responsibility so they develop skills to take on hikes and camping trips. Cub Scouts are organized into small groups called Sixes and they gather together in what is called a Pack. The group meets and talks about things that they would like to do. This meeting is called a Council. Cub Scouts are given more responsibility and more say in the running of the programme and as a result can do more. Responsibility is the key to developing the Cub Scout. They spend more time working as a group and learning about working as a team.

Getting back to nature is one of the activities of scouting & Oughterard gives the organization a variety of places to explore and enjoy, such as the Hill of Doon. The group undertake camping outings with barbeques afterwards. The first members have attended Jamoige which they really enjoyed. The Leaders are hoping to grow the numbers so as to make the organization more sustainable into the future.

## **Active Retirement**

Oughterard Active Retirement Association (ARA) has been going from strength to strength since its foundation in 2011. It is an independent local association which enables older people to lead full, happy and healthy lives. The group organises opportunities for participation in a wide range of activities. It plans and delivers a range of social, cultural, lifelong learning and physical pursuits based on members' needs and desires and their ability to participate.

It now has upwards of forty members for the over fifty five age group and meets every Tuesday at the Oughterard Community Centre at 11.00am. Active Retirement Ireland reaches out to all older people to prevent loneliness through friendship and support.

**Activities include:**

- Physical activities such as walking, swimming, keep fit and Go for Life exercises
- Social activities such as dancing, evenings out, holidays and short breaks
- Cultural visits to theatres, museums, heritage centers and galleries
- Learning activities such as creative writing, IT training, arts and crafts
- Providing information on issues such as health, welfare rights and pensions
- Acting as a voice for members at local and regional levels

The group contributes to all aspects of the local community. Members are involved in voluntary activities such as Meals on Wheels, visiting the Nursing Home, SVP, Clann Charity shop, fundraising for local charities, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Oughterard Show and various church roles, to name but a few.

Each meeting begins with a cup of tea, a chat and a bit of 'craic', in anticipation of an interesting agenda. The Committee works hard to draw up a varied programme of events each year and invites inspirational ideas from the members too, thus ensuring active participation of all members and sharing of various talents and strengths. New members are always welcome!

All activities are designed to reduce isolation and are aimed at keeping older people independent, active and healthy, both mentally and physically.

## **Oughterard Heritage**

Pride of Place begins with the knowledge and appreciation of the heritage and culture of home.

One of the earliest mentions of Oughterard is in The Galway Inquisitions 1617. Oughterard is noted in Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I 1618. As for cartography, there is no record of Oughterard in The Down Survey of 1658 or on 'Moll's map of 1726. The earliest sign of Oughterard seems to be Taylor and Skinners Irish Road Maps of 1777 and it appears to be a permanent fixture by the time Mathew Carey published his map of Ireland in 1795. By this time Oughterard is well established as a garrison town.

The Oughterard Heritage Group's mission has been to research, archive and share the memories, images, stories and history of our village from Cromwell to Varadkar and on into the future. The group has engaged the community through intergenerational projects, publications, talks, and conferences.

With the support of local businesses and the public, partnerships have been developed with the County Galway Heritage Office and The National Museum of Ireland-Country Life. Oughterard Heritage Group's innovative approach to the digitization of heritage has led to the establishment of an award winning, open access, website that shares and encourages contributions from both the local community and from the world wide diaspora. This includes text, images, audio and video. On the website are databases of emigration passenger lists and detailed examination of the 196 Townlands of the Oughterard D.E.D. including all recorded people in the 1901 and 1911 census, as well as links to all original sources.

So successful has Oughterards approach been that it is used as a template for both the National Museum of Ireland's **iCan** group and The County Galway Heritage's Galway Community Heritage group. Both of these partners now facilitate groups and communities to digitize material and establish an online presence. These two initiatives amount to seventeen community websites, with a queue of groups waiting to join

Oughterard has been appointed by both, as network administrators and the first call for technical support. Oughterard also trains and mentors network group members and interested groups within the County, on behalf of The Heritage Office and nationally, on behalf of the National Museum

To date the websites, cumulatively, have recorded 390,000 visits and 1.85 million page views.

## Oughterard Show

The Oughterard Show is one of the leading agricultural and horticultural shows in the West of Ireland. It gives both locals and visitors an insight in to the best of Connemara with performance ponies, livestock, pets, dogs, farm and garden produce and vintage displays as well as a large variety of art and craft exhibits. The show caters for everyone through the wide range of attractions, and free family entertainment also adds to the atmosphere providing a full filled weekend for all in attendance. The addition of the best-dressed competitions and bonny baby competitions ensure the styles stakes are high for all in attendance.

It is believed that the first show to take place in Oughterard was held in 1911. It featured ponies and donkeys with carts with an animal welfare aspect associated it. The Workhouse Field, Station Road, Oughterard was selected as the venue for two shows organised by the Connemara Pony Breeders Society in 1929 and 1930. No shows were held for some 12 years until Thursday 20th September 1962 when Oughterard Development Company Ltd held the first of the current series of Oughterard Agricultural and Horticultural show.

From 1965 to 1973 the organizing role was taken on by Oughterard Guild of Muintir na Tíre and on a report in the Connacht Tribune read as follows: "The new venue for Oughterard Agricultural and Horticultural Show - a fine spacious field off the Galway road which was used for the first time last week was a big success. Entries were up in the major sections and a feature was a magnificent display of Connemara ponies. The judge described the quality as "excellent" and said that, with some development, Oughterard could challenge Clifden as the major centre for the Connemara Pony - a touch of colour was added by a number of gaily painted horses and pony carts a novelty which has more or less died out at other shows. The organizers, the local guild of Muintir na Tíre, had an innovation this year in reviving the jumping contests for children and adults over a splendidly laid-out course'

From 1974 to 1981 the show was organized by Oughterard Community Council and from 1982 to 1990 by a Show Committee. A Limited Company - Oughterard Show Society Co Ltd. was set up in 1990 taking responsibility for running the 1991 and subsequent shows. There was further major development in 2003 when it became two-day show with the Connemara Pony Performance. This year it will celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> year of the Oughterard Show. It is a major weekend event for both the community of Oughterard and the many people who travel from all over world to attend. The show not only showcases Oughterard community spirit but places the village on a national stage drawing competitors from near and far.



## Discover Oughterard

Discover Oughterard is a voluntary organization whose aim is to promote Oughterard as a special destination for visitors to the Village. They recognize that Oughterard has a wealth of natural amenities such as Lough Corrib, safe walking routes, an amazing array of historical buildings and an enormous history to share with tourist and local alike.

Discover Oughterard have also engaged with the various clubs such as the Anglers and Walking groups to organize events compatible to all. An example of this was the “Oughterard Trails Festival” which showcased the walks, scenery, heritage, archaeology and food in the locality.

Discover Oughterard advertise the facilities and services which include Golf, Angling, Walking & Hiking, Horse Riding, Biking, Lake Cruises, Festival & Events, Heritage & History, Traditional Music and Fantastic Food on their website.

In October Discover Oughterard has organized an informal twinning with Easthampton, Boston when they expect to have in excess of 40 people visiting for seven days.



## UachtarArts

UachtarARTS is a volunteer led community arts group formed in late 2008 to encourage and promote art and culture in Oughterard and the surrounding area. It was formed in collaboration with Clann Resource Centre.

Its aims are to:

- Increase access for all to arts and culture, including those feeling isolated in a rural community.
- To raise the profile of the arts in the Oughterard area.
- To support artists and craftspeople and to develop innovative ways of engaging local audiences with high-quality arts events.
- Promote social inclusion through community arts and culture.
- Encourage a sense of shared community spirit and engagement around the arts.
- Provide a platform for local artists to showcase their work and engage with the local community.



**UachtarARTS Community Arts Group**  
Winners of the Cathaoirleach Award for Arts and Culture in 2014

## Vegan Club

The Oughterard Vegan Club started as a small group of friends who shared an interest in healthy, plant based eating. They meet once a month, usually the last Thursday of the month. The venue is Camp Street Cafe and the time is 7.30pm. Each member brings a dish and enjoys a simple ‘potluck’ vegan meal. It is a great opportunity to try new dishes, share their recipes and just have a bit of fun and fellowship.

The group welcomes anyone interested in joining. They try not to take themselves too seriously and even enjoy an occasional vegetarian dish, thus the club's name of 'Sometimes Vegan Society' (SVS).

## Oughterard Ramblers

Oughterard Ramblers was founded in 1998 by Una O Halloran and Matt Welby. The group meets every Sunday morning in Oughterard Car Park. The Ramblers have a core group of loyal, athletic, enthusiastic walkers. Visitors and tourists join from time to time. Rambling has introduced us to the delights of our own area in the West of Ireland. It offers us a huge choice of landscape – mountain peaks, woodland, bogs, lakes, sandy beaches and the strange limestone plateau of the Burren and the Aran Islands as well as the sheer beauty of Inishboffin, Clare Island, Omey Island and Achill Island.

We also have explored foreign destinations with the late Roland Wirsching one of the first members of the Ramblers, visiting the Black Forest, Bavaria, Munich, Heidelberg, Salzburg, Vienna and Austria. Our travels have taken us to Barcelona, Tuscany and as far afield as Lanzarote. In September 2017 members of the Ramblers are walking the Camino in Spain.

Over the years the Ramblers have walked in woods, forests, climbed mountains, skirted shore lines and explored villages. The club is always willing to take on new challenges.

- Members have led walks in conjunction with Discover Oughterards Walking Festival.
- Led Heritage walks during Heritage Week every August.
- Explored award winning local Heritage walks with school parties.
- Engaged in sponsored walks for Galway Hospice and local fund raising events.

The beauty of the Ramblers is that they enjoy the walks regardless of age or ability. The walks suit the group, they cost nothing but time and they span all seasons. We enjoy each other's company and we delight in having picnics, lunch or coffee wherever we visit. Conversation is lively, witty and often serious – never boring. Indeed the camaraderie is great.

As the old proverb states; Giorraíonn beirt Bóthar (Two shorten the road.)

## Oughterard Senior Group

The Oughterard Senior group was founded in 1975 by Rev. Fr. Crosby C.C. and was a sub group of Oughterard Social Service. Up to 60 parishioners met weekly in St. Chuimin's N.S. and later in the Community Centre. Villages in their turn provided refreshments and local talent entertained the group. The highlight of the year is the Day Tour to various locations in Galway, Mayo and Clare followed by dinner and entertainment. Volunteers looked after the various events and funds are raised through Card Drives and a massive Sale of Work on the 8<sup>th</sup> December each year – prior to the Christmas Party.

Over the years due to the demise of members the numbers have reduced. Many of the initial helpers now in their 80's and 90's attend the weekly get-together in the Community Centre. Members play Bingo, engage in 40 minutes exercise to music while sitting followed by tea and scones provided by Xin a local chef from O Hollorans Restaurant. Over the cup of tea we exchange views on local events, TV programmes and world news. ***It is hugely beneficial for the group's psychological health to maintain a spirit of curiosity and openness to events in the locality and the world around us.***

Up until recently members went on a tour up Lough Corrib to Ashford, to the Cinema in Galway and Clifden. But in the past few years due to member's incapacity to board a bus or endure a lengthy car journey our activities are confined locally. Members enjoy lunch once a month in a local restaurant and we invite residents of our

community in the local Nursing Home to join us. We have also invited seniors from the Killanin and Maam to meals locally. ***It is important to care for the social needs of members of our community in their 80's and 90's.***

Members have contributed over the past number of years to the successful Oughterard Heritage Website. Several of their interviews are posted on the site as well as the project on "Grandma's Aprons" and they also appeared in the recent film "Turf, Trout and Tall Tales. They have shared their experiences and stories of the past with the community.

## Maumturks Walking Club

The Maumturks Walking club based in the Maam Valley was formed in 2009. Since that time the club has grown to the stage where it now has over 80 members.

A large number of the members hail from the Oughterard area and are involved in and supportive of the club activities.

The Club organizes walks and/or hikes primarily in the Connemara area in particular on the Maumturks Range, the Twelve Bens and the Mweelrea range to name but a few it has a walk practically every Sunday in the year and sometimes has more than one walk.



Walks are led by volunteers and the club appreciates how lucky it is to have such a strong group of leaders who happily lead their fellow walkers up and down the slopes of Connemara.



# *Community Event Groups*

The Local groups below comprise of a voluntary committee with a wider cohort of volunteers who they can call on to contribute to the successful operation of the groups events. Be it the one day St. Patrick day group, to the all year round Tidy Towns group, or the Lights Committee who spend every weekend from early November to early February putting up and taking down strainer cables, wiring and light fittings.

All of the above groups, with the exception of the Oughterard Show who generate some money from “gates” on the show day, raise all their funding from table quizzes, cake sales, ticket draws or sponsorship from the businesses. Many of the committees have come up with innovative fundraising events which can include all the community and it has a fun aspect to it.



# *Education*

## St. Paul's Secondary School

In 1964, the Mercy Sisters established St. Paul's Secondary School, in Oughterard. The School was the third co-educational school in Co. Galway and began as two rooms in St. Joseph's Convent. As the school expanded, the Sisters provided more rooms in the Convent and new prefabricated classrooms were added.

These included a Woodwork Room, Science Room and a Home Economics Room. However, as numbers increased, it soon became obvious that a completely new school building would be necessary. On October 15th, 1990, Mrs. Mary O'Rourke, Minister for Education, laid the foundation stone for the new St. Paul's Secondary School which opened on 12th December, 1991.

The new building includes the most modern facilities available with two specialized Science Laboratories, a Demonstration Room, a Woodwork Room, a fully equipped Computer Room, Home Economics Room and an Art Room, as well as a Careers Office and dining areas, Sporting facilities include a beautiful Sports Hall, three outdoor courts and a football pitch.

In September 1999, a new extension was opened. This extension, which includes a well-equipped Canteen, a new Technical Drawing Room, a student Careers Office, as well as extra toilet facilities, has maintained the design features of the existing school and is located in the centre of the cloister.



The school caters for Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle and also has a transition year programme in 4<sup>th</sup> year, a big part of the year is the annual musical show that the students work for months to produce. The musical takes place in the community centre and is always sold out with large demand for tickets.



**March 1965. St Pauls Pantomime “ A Summer Holiday ”**



2016 - 2017 This year the Transition Year Musical was called Dallas Denim

In 2010, an all-weather pitch was constructed in conjunction with a grant of € 200, 000 from Galway County Council under their recreational policy scheme. This pitch services both the school and the community.

## **Scoil Náisiúnta Uachtar Árd**

Scoil Náisiúnta Uachtar Árd historically operated out of two school buildings, Ionad an Chlochair and Ionad Naomh Chuimín, which have always been known locally as “The Convent” and “The Boys’ School” respectively. Prior to amalgamation in 2008, all children entered junior infants in “The Convent” together, and classes were co-educational in Ionad an Chlochair until 2nd class, at which stage the boys ‘went off to the Boys’ School’.

Scoil Chuimín agus Caitriona was established following the amalgamation of Scoil Chuimín Naofa and Scoil an Chlochair in 2008, the two schools were amalgamated under one Principal, Micheál O’Domhnaill, the whole school is now co-educational.

Following the amalgamation of Scoil Naoimh Cuimín and Scoil an Chlochair in 2008, the school asked parents and the wider school community for proposed associated names for SN Uachtar Árd. There were a number of very interesting and thoughtful suggestions made. Two of the more relevant and meaningful suggestions have been adopted and now appear on their newly designed school crest.

### **Catherine McAuley**

Catherine McAuley (1778-1841), was the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, who in turn founded *Scoil an Chlochair* in Oughterard in 1888. Education was central to her life’s work, which was dedicated to improving the lives of the poor. Caitriona thus commemorates and honour’s Catherine’s legacy, and indebtedness of the school to the order for its very origins, and the ethos by which it was created and sustained.

## St Cuimín

Saint Cuimín (592-662) is renowned as the most famous and learned Abbot of Clonfert. His scholarly reputation attracted students in great numbers to his monastery, attaining 3,000 monks at its height. He appears to have travelled west into Connemara, which may explain Oughterard's long and affectionate devotion to the saint.

The two names thus signify the joining together of the two schools, which for so long have had their own unique and separate histories and identities. A new school crest was then designed which incorporated the following symbols and meanings:

- The white and green trim and band in the crest signify the color's worn by the children as they represent our school, club and parish on the sports field.
- The green band across the centre signifies the beautiful land and scenery in the area in which we all live.
- The Bridget's Cross is a traditional Gaelic Cross made by the children in the school every year. It signifies a strong tradition and faith.
- The rippling water signifies the Owenriff and Lough Corrib, two huge influences in our locality, with our proud fishing and mayfly tradition.
- The Owenriff Bridge is a landmark in Oughterard. On our crest it signifies the importance of building bridges; learning to grow together, and live with each other in respect. We also should cross our bridges and face the future with courage. With pride in their past and faith in the future, our children can face any trial that comes their way in hope.



The new building was a prize winner in the "Best Educational Building category of the Irish Architecture Awards, the school is built around a central courtyard surrounded by classrooms, providing a multitude of facilities to encourage the children to learn in a holistic environment.

The school believes in the holistic development of all its pupils. This year it is progressing towards achieving Active Flag Status through encouraging increased non-competitive physical activity in all its pupils. The school has piloted a fundamental movement skills six-week programme for all class levels. The programme is not only designed to improve agility, balance and co-ordination, but it also has a positive impact on learning in the classroom.

With an astro-turf pitch and GP room, the school offers a multitude of sporting opportunities at all class levels. The school also has a music room, a school band, school choir, and a developing school orchestra. A Green Schools' committee ensures the classroom outdoor planting areas are abundant with flowers and vegetables in summer.

The school also has a new central library, a homework club, swimming for the senior classes in the NUIG Kingfisher Club, and Irish dancing (after school).



At a special celebration in Scoil Chuimín agus Cairtriona in Oughterard, the national flag was presented by the defense forces to Helena Geoghegan, a senior infants pupil. Helena continues a great family tradition as her great grandfather, Pat, was the first pupil to be enrolled in the school in 1916. Pictured: Private Robert O'Flahartha, CQMS James Geoghegan, Tom Geoghegan, TJ Geoghegan, Sgt Wayne Fitzpatrick and Helena Geoghegan (front ).



## **GRETB Oughterard**



GRETB (Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board) operate a BTEI (Back to work Initiative) in the Further Education Centre at Camp St., Oughterard.

In the 2017 period they are running five courses which include:

- Early Childcare & Education
- Healthcare Support
- Art & Design
- Information Technology
- Business & Entrepreneurial Skills

Tuition is also provided for adults who wish to learn or improve their reading, writing, spelling or basic math's. Tuition can be arranged during daytime or evening on a one to one basis or in small groups.

Learners have the option of acquiring accreditation by QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) which are recognized on the National Framework.

# *Community Supports*

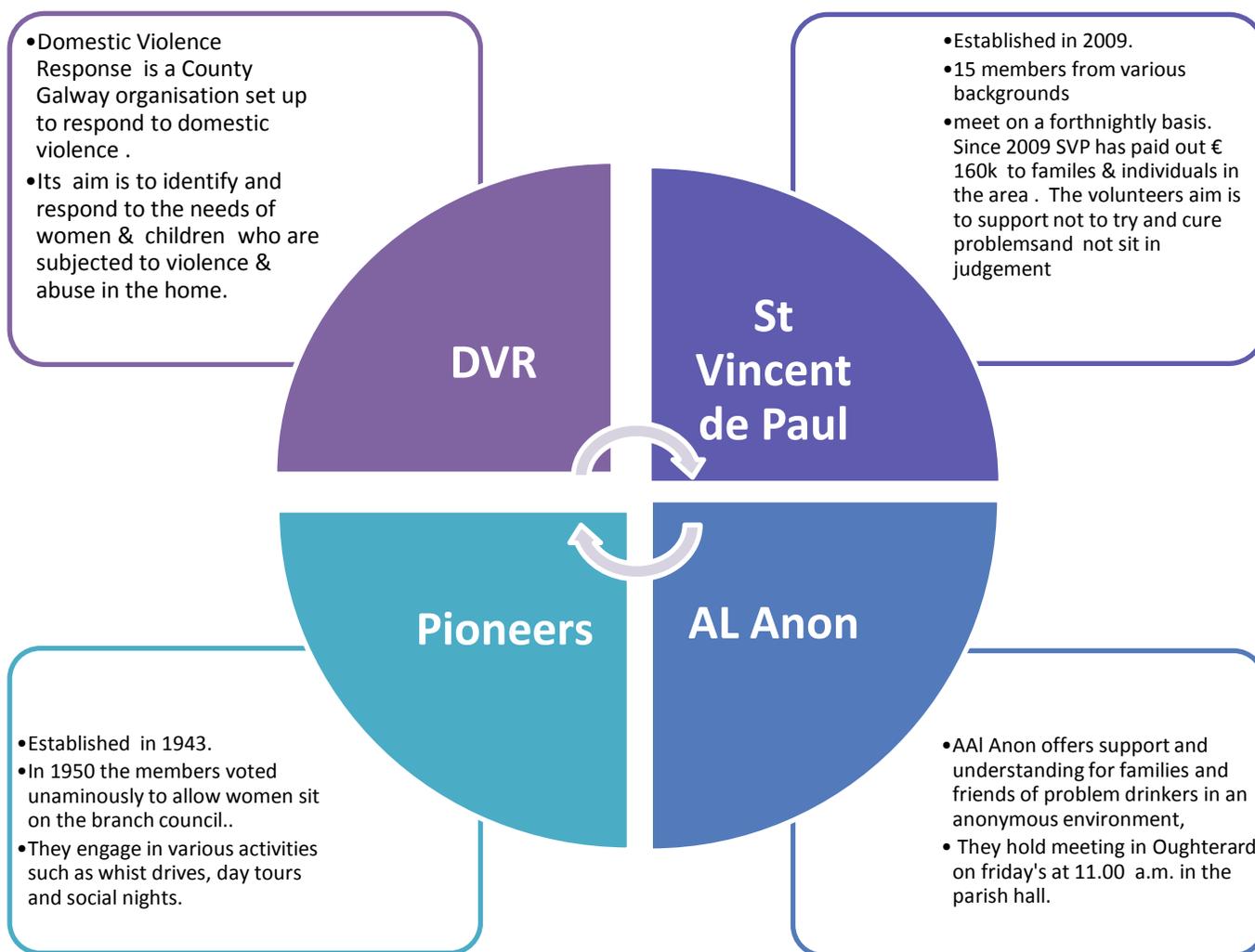
Within the community we have a number of valuable supports available for persons who maybe in need have help or assistance.

These groups provide a safe environment which offers a range of supports that can assist either an individual or a family in need. Some of these groups, such as the St Vincent de Paul are run and maintained by a group of local volunteers, others such as the Domestic Violence Response are run by organisations trained in the specific areas.

These services are integral in ensuring that all members of the community have support should they ever need it and that they know there will be someone there to offer them assistance and compassion.

The Clann Resource Centre is a family- centred project which enables the community to meet its common goals and changing needs by treating everyone equally while re-specting differences and working in an inclusive and creative way.

Clann Resource Centre was set up in December 2002 in response to the needs identified by the local people of Oughterard and surrounding areas of Connemara. The needs are outlined in a three year work plan. The Centre is managed by a voluntary committee and there are three full time staff who run the centre. The work of the Centre encompasses community and family support



# *Commercial Services*



| <b>Family Services</b>   | <b>Recreational</b>  | <b>Medical Services</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 4 crèche's in the area</li> <li>➤ Oughterard Afterschool Club</li> <li>➤ Breakfast Club</li> <li>➤ Courthouse Study Centre</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yoga</li> <li>➤ Theatre Nights in Camp</li> <li>➤ Street Cafe</li> <li>➤ Movie Night Club</li> <li>➤ On shore Fly fishing facility (Disability access)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Medical Centre</li> <li>➤ GP's</li> <li>➤ Dentist</li> <li>➤ Opticians</li> </ul>                 |
| <b>Bars and Restaurants</b>  | <b>Financial Services</b>  | <b>Classes / Courses</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 8 excellent restaurants</li> <li>➤ 9 bars</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bank of Ireland</li> <li>➤ St Anthony's Credit Union</li> <li>➤ 2 Bank Machines</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Painting</li> <li>➤ Crafts</li> <li>➤ Quilting</li> <li>➤ Back to Education Initiative</li> </ul> |

*Famous People with  
Oughterard Connections*









# *Future Opportunities*

## **REDZ**

Oughterard is located in the Galway rural REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone) area. The zone takes in Furbo to Maam Cross and then back to Oughterard, Moycullen to the city boundary. Galway County Council, as the lead agency, successfully applied for funding and recently issued a tender for consultants which closed in mid-August.

The consultants brief is to meet representatives from the various areas and list a number of projects, largely small scale, which are at an advanced stage of planning for implementation. It is hoped that the consultants will be working on the ground in mid-September with the various groups.

## **SSE & Coillte**

Galway Wind Park is new development by SSE & Coillte near Oughterard which generates enough electricity to power 89,000 homes, making County Galway a net exporter of renewable power. This local project won the Irish Construction Award for excellence in Sustainability (2016) and the Irish Construction Award for Green Project of the Year (2017). The project adds to the sustainability credentials of the general area in many ways.

In addition to the local employment, a community fund of circa € 400,000 per annum will be awarded to communities by the wind project during its lifetime. It is proposed that 50% of the fund will be allocated to local projects with focus on themes of energy efficiency, safety, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, education and recreation. Of this fund 37% will be allocated to major projects to fund large scale, strategic projects under the themes of empowering communities, sustainable regeneration and creating opportunities. Projects which secure other additional funding will be prioritised. The balance will be allocated to scholarships to assist secondary school students in the local area going onto academic or vocational further education, based on the categories of “academic excellence” & “effort & progress”. Possible other options include scholarships at universities.

Currently recreational trails for walking and cycling are under construction after consultation with local stakeholder groups including Discover Oughterard, Maamturk Walking Club, Moycullen Walking Club, Oughterard Heritage, and Oughterard Ramblers & Corrib Running Club. There will be 6 way marked trails of varying lengths & challenges. Trails will feature interpretive signage on topics including renewable energy technology, local heritage and environmental sustainability.

The addition of the recreational amenities in a highly scenic location will no doubt enhance the attractiveness of the region. The community fund which will be a substantial amount of money and if combined with locally raised money, has the potential to open up further opportunities for the provision of additional facilities in Oughterard.

## **Galway 2020**

Galway City & County designation as the European Capital of Culture in 2020 is a tremendous opportunity for Oughterard to showcase all that is good in the area. Oughterard has been active in the process to date, with “speak outs” where various proposals were put forward. We believe Oughterard is ideally placed to contribute to the success of the overall event. We will be organising events to showcase our history, culture, Arts and facilities. Also, as Rijeka in Croatia is also designated a Capital of Culture in 2020, we are exploring the possibility of hosting a virtual run “The Road to Rijeka” which is a relay to cover the distance from Oughterard to Rijeka and we hope to cover the distance in the year 2020. We are hoping to use various nationalities to help us complete the run.

## The Greenway

The Greenway is a Galway County Council initiative in conjunction with local groups and landowners. The proposed Greenway from Galway to Clifden could bring tremendous opportunities to Oughterard. Currently the section from Oughterard to Clifden has planning and some sections are been developed. Issues with landowners need to be resolved and if so additional funding will be required.

## Ongoing Projects

As with every community there are short term and long term projects in the pipeline and in Oughterard case they include in no particular order:

- Phase two in the Courthouse the construction of another extension and conservatory/reading room and the construction of the mezzanine. Planning in place.
- Installation of replicate of log boats to be installed in Courthouse, possibly located in constructed mezzanine.
- Construction of footbridge to allow for safe crossing of pedestrians in close proximity to existing Nimmo Bridge. € 250,000 allocated from Galway Co under the Village Upgrade Scheme. Completion date 2019.
- Phase three in Corribdale grounds which entails the lighting of approx. 600 m of completed trails. Planning and civil works in place.
- Restoration works on the Catholic Church. Currently a conservation architect and engineer are surveying the building and we await a final report. Planning and Section 5 approval will be required but some minor works will be complete before year end.
- New, permanent, home for the Boxing Club. Potential location in “Nan Burkes” field of 17 acres owned by Galway County Council.
- The Soccer Club next phase will include the servicing of the site with a sufficient water supply and a waste water treatment plant. This would allow them cater for existing users and expand into walking football for over 65’s in a partnership with Croi, the west of Ireland heart foundation, plus they could caters for people with disabilities on the all-weather pitch in a safe and stunning environment.
- The Rugby Club are currently in discussion with St. Pauls Secondary School whereby there could use additional land for pitches and the development of changing facilities which would then be used by both parties.
- The Lights Committee proposes to replace the current Incandescent lights with LED Lighting. Also install Solar Powered Units for areas hard to reach with a Mains Cable.
- Work with Galway County Council regarding the REDZ process for additional projects in the Village.
- Work with Galway 2020 to organize various events to mark the Capital of Culture year.

# *Conclusion*

Firstly can we say that this document is an extremely slimmed down version of what we could have produced. We are working on the principle “that less is more”.

This competition has showcased both the extremely active voluntary community present and the pride we take in our community. It also demonstrates that we are extremely conscious, and have a strong desire to preserve our heritage, buildings and open spaces. We endeavour to maximise the use of all our facilities for our community, our neighbouring communities and any visitors to the area.

We have a multitude of services and facilitates for our youth, elderly, minorities and people with disabilities. We have worked in partnership, and successfully secured substantial grants from Galway Co. Co., Forum Ltd, Pobal, DSP, DTTAS and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to name but a few. Oughterard has shown innovation from the initial construction of the hatchery to having a day designated for the young children in the area to select the equipment for their playground to the use of IT and social media to promote as aspects of the community. The local community and business have shown their support, both financially, and by direct involvement through the business people or staff.

Engagement by the residents and business people in operation of services, or development of facilities, has been an integral part of the community. When Rev. Dr. Kirwan started building the Roman Catholic Church in the 1830's the people hadn't money but they supplied labour for free, that is today's version of benefit in kind, and that was an element used of the construction of the playground, Teen zone and walking trails in 2015. The business community also supported any events either financially or by hosting fundraisers.

In any community in relation services, supports and recreational groups sustainability and continuity is probably the most important aspect for the users and the community. The Angling Club formed in 1852, with numerous generations of families, contributing to it operation is an amazing feat of sustainability. The GAA club in existence for nearly 110 years and the Boxing Club for 55 years are also exceptional. Even our community supports, the Pioneers since 1943, Meals on Wheels for 20 years are clear evidence of strong sustainability.

The Oughterard Show, started in 1911, now preparing for their 54<sup>th</sup> show after various challenges shows the strength and support of the community. In relation to our heritage and built environment generations of inhabitants recognised both accordingly and have worked hard to preserve and protect at their time and for generations to come.

Due to the both the continuity and history of the clubs and associations that make up the fabric of recreation and services in our community it allows seamless movement, both in and out, of these organisations by new or old members without effecting the operation of the groups.

As previously outlined the preservation of the culture is very important to the community and the award winning website of the Heritage Group is an astonishing creation which can remind the local, or educates the visitor to the amazing culture in the locality. But the Heritage group are not sitting on their laurels they are constantly updating and experimenting with new technology. The built environment, with the major works on the Courthouse, and the proposed work on the Church will guarantee both buildings future into the next century.

In relation to our linkage to the neighbouring communities Oughterard is extremely strong here as practically all our community groups have substantial members from the adjoining communities. A lot of this probably stems from Oughterard being the centre for second level education, thereby integrating the pupils of today, but the population of tomorrow seamlessly together. Also the facilities and strong clubs also are a major draw from the

regions to the centre, Oughterard. This is not to say that when the parishes meet on the football pitch that it is a kinder garden party, no it is a full blooded encounter on the pitch, with friendship when they walk off.

We hope that this publication and the presentation will give you an insight into our community participation, services, environment, heritage, achievement both nationally and internationally by our people and our built environment. All involved in this process feel that we should also share this with our future generations and to that end all the documentation, and IT presentations, will be included in a "Time Capsule" that will be buried in Corribdale "The Heart of Oughterard".

To conclude we hope you thoroughly enjoy your visit to our community and that you were able to enjoy our hospitality and that you will return again at a leisurely pace to truly understand why Oughterard will always be our "Pride of Place".