

WINTER 2020

corrib news

& Oughterard Newsletter



STORIES AND POETRY

from near and far

Heritage:

*Christmas in Camp Street
Marry on Manure
Family History research
John Henry Joyce and the story of the Nine Irons
The Riddle of the Stones*

NEW
LOCAL
BUSINESSES

BABYLOVE
ACUPUNCTURE WEST
CHLOE'S BAA BAA BANDITS

REPORTS FROM

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUBS, SCHOOLS,
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Lots of tasty

SEASONAL RECIPES

from residents & the diaspora

- Conneely's Halloween Extravaganza
- Aonghus Feeney receives the prestigious Naughton Foundation Scholarship Award
- Gardeners' Newsletter
- Re-issue of Anthony Previté's "A Guide to Lough Corrib's Ancient Monastic Sites"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OCAP'S VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS ARTWORKS MARKET
- CORRIDALE PARK AND OUGHTERARD GAA HOST A 5K SANTY DASH

(note that all upcoming events are subject to changes due to the continuing Covid-19 virus outbreak)

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Winter issue of Corrib News. Traditionally we look back over the past 12 months and reflect on the highs and lows of the year. With this year we decided to focus on the positive things in our lives and the prospect of better times to come. You will find plenty of uplifting articles in this issue of Corrib News.

It is timely to thank all the contributors to this community publication, you are invaluable. It is also important to acknowledge all the people who work on its production, our chief of staff Tom Cusack, the editorial team and of course Bobby Tierney in the administration side. We are very fortunate to have Mimi of Myoptix whose sharp eye and expertise always produces a very professional look to the newsletter. We thank the various outlets who sell the magazine and to the advertisers whose support makes it possible to keep the cost of the newsletter down. We would also like to thank Sinead Grimes for all her valuable efforts in managing the Corrib News FaceBook page.

The aim of Corrib News is to continue to provide interesting, informative news and views of the community, promoting all things local and to be as inclusive as possible reflecting our diverse community. We are always looking for new contributors and new ideas so if you are looking to get involved in a local endeavour please consider contributing an article to Corrib News in 2021.

At this point I think we all are in need of a break from reality! So, tuck into the many interesting articles in this issue, allow yourself some time to ponder on the good things in your life and look forward to a better year in 2021.

On behalf of the Courthouse Board and the editorial team we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Deidre Forde

USEFUL NUMBERS

Garda Station	091-557320	Dr. Peter Harte	091-552449
The Courthouse	091-557589	Walsh's Funeral Home	087-2902377
Church of Immaculate Conception	091-552320/552290	Health Centre Oughterard	091-552200
Kilcummin, Church of Ireland	091-521914	Flaherty's Pharmacy	091-557602
Clann Resource Centre	091-557633/557634	Veterinary Clinic (Karel)	091-552366
St. Paul's Secondary School	091-552689	Oughterard Taxi	085-8429568
St. Cuimin & Caitriona NS	091-552074	D'Arcy Hackney	087-6530417
St. Annin's NS	091-550316	Post Office Oughterard	091-552201
Doireglinne NS	091-552810	Bank of Ireland	091-552123



COVER PHOTO

At the end of the Glann Road on a sunny day at the beginning of Winter, I noticed this hawthorn bush covered in crimson berries (haws), giving a cheery seasonal welcome to the few "lockdown" walkers venturing this far. Common names for the hawthorn are "whitethorn", "maytree" or "Sceach gheal" in Irish.

The fleshy haws contain quite a large seed so they are utilised by both fruit-eating birds like thrushes and blackbirds and by seed-eating ones like finches. For centuries haws have been used by people to produce a wide assortment of jellies, jams, wines and liquors, while the tough and strong wood was valued for cabinet and tool making. Lone hawthorns are called faery trees and it is considered unlucky to cut an old one down.

In the background of the photo, across a narrow part of Lough Corrib at this point, can be seen the ancient oak wood of the Hill of Doon, still in autumn splendour.

- Tom Cusack

ABOUT CORRIB NEWS

Corrib News is produced by Oughterard Courthouse Conservation and Heritage Co. CLG, as a volunteer service to the community. The magazine is published four times each year: the Spring issue in March, the Summer issue in June, the Autumn issue in September, and the Winter issue in December.

The current Editorial Committee consists of Deirdre Forde, Jack McCann, Leslie Lyons and Tom Cusack. Sinead Grimes manages the Corrib News Facebook page. The graphics for this issue were designed by Mimi of Myoptix Photography and this issue was printed by KPS Colour Print of Knock. Corrib News is an open access publication and will generally carry any material submitted to it as long as it is not potentially libellous or scandalous. The views and opinions expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee. In case of error of fact, we will publish corrections once we become aware of them.

Don't miss out!

Next Issue's SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2021 issue is the

12th MARCH 2021

Please send your submissions to corribnews@gmail.com, or to Corrib News, The Courthouse, Oughterard, County Galway H91 XWH9.

CONTACT US

Email: corribnews@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/corribnews

What's On ...?

Keep up to date with What's On in Oughterard by checking the Corrib News Facebook page at www.facebook.com/corribnews. This is particularly important due to the uncertainty related to the current Covid-19 virus outbreak.

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On the record....

Christmas in Camp Street

Interview by Doc Gilbert, 2011

The celebration of Christmas, like every other aspect of life, has seen rapid change in recent years. This has been particularly noticeable in recent times, with shops and stores displaying the Christmas wares as early as October. The wave of holiday spending affects us all in our pockets. It was not always so, as this recent conversation with Marcella Kinnevy and Delia D'arcy will illustrate. They recall Christmases when the celebration was firmly grounded in tradition, and simple joys brought contentment to all.

Our conversation opened and closed with poems Marcella's mother learned at school in the latter part of the last century. They brought tears to her mother's eyes when she recited them, especially around Christmas. Marcella's mother's poems are presented at the end of this article.

MARCELLA talked about the preparations for Christmas. The chimney was cleaned about two weeks ahead and then the walls were whitewashed. They looked lovely and clean with a lovely smell from them. The dresser and all the delph was cleaned down. When the money came from the U.S.A, my mother bought a few yards of lace cross curtains and cretonne to make cushion covers. The concrete floors were scrubbed and the tables and chairs bleached with Vim.

DELIA started to describe the making of her grandmother's pudding, the white pudding at Christmas. We didn't have an iced cake, but we had a treacle cake and our mother made a plum pudding. And my grandmother made a putog bhan, which was white pudding made with the white flour, the suet from the butcher's shop and the raisins and currants. They were mixed together with a little bit of butter and milk and t'was put into a floured piece of linen and t'was tied and put into the pot and boiled. It was boiled for three hours and taken up then and left on the plate with the bag taken off it. And that was cut in slices and heated for Christmas Day. It was a very old recipe. Older than the black pudding. We got a brack from Johnny Byrne's bakery and that was the most beautiful brack you ever saw. It cost five shillings for the big one. And my mother used to bring it in and we thought we'd never have it eaten, it was so big.

NL: Had you a Christmas tree?

DELIA: No, and no drink. We never saw a drink going around at Christmas. The pub wasn't open on Christmas Day.

MARCELLA: I used to love putting up the

holly and ivy and the Christmas candle in the window. But that's all, and there was no meat on Christmas Eve, only fish.

DELIA: It was a day of abstinence.

MARCELLA: I was dying for Christmas day and the meat – and Santa Claus. Santa brought me a little cardboard crib every second year while my sister got it each other year. We got magic lanterns in our stockings. We had two Kevin O'Higgins mottos, one for the door and one for the fireplace. We bought them from the travelling people.

DELIA: Countess Metaxa used to come around with Santa Claus. She wouldn't give to everyone. There's always some of them she'd come and she'd give. We never got anything from her because our father was a carpenter and coachbuilder. You had to be very

poor. **NL:** So you didn't qualify.

DELIA: No, it was just like the medical card. You didn't qualify if you weren't in the system. But we weren't in the system. But the ones that were in it they got dolls and they got games and they got sweets. We never had a Christmas tree. Just the candle was the most important thing.

NL: Where did you place the candle?

DELIA: It was stuck in a turnip, and it was put in the window.

MARCELLA: And the smallest one in the house would light it.

NL: And when did you light it?

MARCELLA: Christmas Eve.

DELIA: And we used to watch the wax running down the side and make balls with it and little toys. And we used to think that we would see Santa Claus and the reindeers up in the sky if there was moonlight on Christmas Eve night.

MARCELLA: There were nine houses in Camp Street with two windows in each and on Christmas Eve at about six in the evening candles were lit in all the windows. Everything was quiet and still. At ten to midnight all the doors were opened to welcome the Holy Family. We said the rosary – our parents did, but we were too excited. We listened to the "Joy Bells" which were the church bells which rang out at midnight.



Delia and Marcella

NL: So to Christmas Day.

MARCELLA: My father was the postman, who started his rounds at 7a.m. in the morning. He was treated in nearly every house. We used to have to wait until he came home on Christmas evening for dinner. And we used to have the roast goose and roast beef, but we'd all go for the goose and potato stuffing which was lovely and which was my favourite all the time. Mrs Thompson from America made a plum pudding for us and she brought it to us on Christmas Day. And we'd get sparklers from Santa Claus and at night we'd run up and down the street with the sparklers. And we'd get a parcel from America, from my sister, with presents. I got a doll from her when I was five years and half, and I still have the doll. And she could say "mama" at the time, but never so much as a sound now. Her hair is gone and her arm is gone, but I have the rest of her. She's very near as old as myself. We'd get a bottle of raspberry wine and we were delighted.

DELIA: That was a present you got from the shop. You ordered your groceries and the shopkeeper gave you the same as you ordered. He would put in a cake, a bottle of wine sweets or a bag of apples. And whatever you bought in the shop you'd get that and it used to last until March. And you'd get the Santa thing. You'd get a handkerchief, a Christmas handkerchief, you'd get an apple, you'd get a penny. You'd get whatever toy you got. But the penny you got from Santa you'd keep it

< Continued from previous page

and we went to the church to see the crib. The penny was given to the baby Jesus. We never spent it.

Times have changed, haven't they?
We would like to thank Marcella and Delia for sharing their memories with us.

*Where are now the merry party I remember long ago,
Sitting round the Christmas fire, brightened by its soothing glow,
Harvest summer's balmy evenings, through the fields amongst the hay,
They have all dispersed and wandered far away, oh far away.*

*Some are gone to lands far distant and with strangers make their home,
Some are gone to swirled up waters, all their lives are forced to roam.
Some of course are gone forever, longer here they could not stay,
They have reached a fairer region far away, oh far away.*

*Still there are but few remaining who remind us of the past,
But they change as all things change, here. Nothing in this world can last.*

*Turn backward, turn backward
O time in your flight
Make me a child again
Just for to-night*

*Soothe from my forehead
The wrinkles of care
Pluck the sweet silver threads
Out of my hair*

*Over my slumbers
Thy loving watch, keep
Rock me to sleep, Mother
Rock me to sleep*

Antoinette Lydon sent in this "Christmas-of-old" interview with Marcella Kinnevy and Delia D'Arcy, which was taken by Doc Gilbert in 2011, and is on the Oughterard Heritage website at <https://www.oughterardheritage.org/content/topics/christmas-in-camp-street> ■

REMEMBERING TIMES PAST IN OUGHTERARD

Written by Fidelis Rice

Fidelis Rice was born and raised in Oughterard more than 60 years ago, and - upon a request from Mary Kyne - now writes a reflection from her residence in County Louth. We also include two of her poems, from her booklet of poetry "Rogha Scríbhínní".

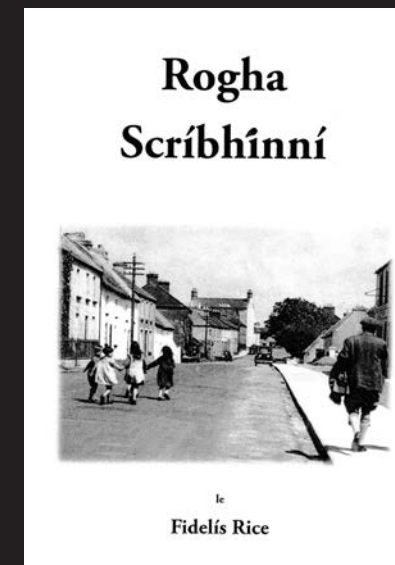
At this time of the year, and especially, this year, we all have time to stop and reflect. We remember times past, and all the fine people who are imithe ar slí na firinne. My earliest memories are of Main St. - my parents, Conneelys, known locally as "Danny Morgan" and "Mary Danny". My father's people came from Spiddal, and my mother was a Mac Donagh from Glengowla.

Life then in Uachtar Ard, for my 2 brothers, Paddy and Seán, and my 3 sisters, Norah, Teresa and Pauline, was simple, though tough, but the sun always shone! I recall with fondness,

swimming at the White Hill, down The Pier Road. Many an evening, we spent up in the woods, up at Cregg gathering nuts. The Shrubbery too, holds memories - we crossed the river on stepping stones. We spent days in Tonwee, saving hay, and the bog was another place where we laboured, not far from the Resting Stone, on the way to Glengowla.

Every Christmas night I remember Jackie Geoghegan R.I.P. because he always entertained us at midnight, by singing loud and clear, as he made his way home to the Bridge. We refused to go to bed, until Jackie sang! Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.

People, real people, make a difference, don't they? This applies to Uachtar Ard, places, and characters, who live in Rusheeney, Glengowla, Canrower, Tonwee, Magheramore, Magherabeg, Mayvoon, Portacarron, Cloosh, Eighterard, Lemonfield, Ardvarna, Leam and Glann. To me, they sound so musical. Mar a deireann an sean-fhocal - "Níl aon, tinteán mar do thinteán féin". ■



When visiting Uachtar Ard, observe and touch the bog cotton gently swaying in Bunagippaun. Or, on your way to Derrymoyle, see the heavenly colour and shape of the foxgloves. Then you may make time to "smell the roses".

Tóg go bog é

Rúille báille gan stad gan stonadh,
Neart mór fothrom é dubh go dubh,
Fearas nua-aimseartha ag óg 's aosta
Beagán faill acu, "to smell the roses".

Aicmí teicniúil ag saothrú lán seol
Sa teach, sa scoil in achan áit,
Daoine bodhar, balbh, ag útamáil leo,
Níl am acu "to smell the roses".

Gantannas cairdeas 's easba cómhra,
Saol gan comhlúadar mar a bhí fadó,
Níl suim ag formhór 'sna céadta
luigheach,

"To smell the roses" is cuma leo.

Daoine gnóthach é Luan go Satharn,
Freastal síoraigh á áit go h-áit,
Gan mórán ama don chaint 's craic,
Níl seans ag éinne "to smell the roses".

Our ever-increasing litter problem is a very serious one. The solution really begins with each of us as we do our utmost to keep Ireland green.

Bruscar

Bruscar millteach i ngach aon áit,
Fíte fuairte ar sceach 's clái,
Sráideanna iontach salach ar maidin Luan,
Sin ár náire, sa chathair, sa tuaithe.

Plódaíthe le gíobal, paipéir 's boscaí,
Na mílte toitín 's buidéalí Coke,
Éire glas, an mbeidh a leithéid ann?
Caitheamh athrú gan mórán stró.

"No Dump Here" ar fud na tíre,
Fágraí le feiceáil, aniar aneas,
Málaí dubha lán go béal,
Sin an dáigh, mo léan, mo léan.

Gluaistéin graosta, gránna,
'S corr rothar leaghta leo,
I gcóim na hoiche fágtar iad,
Daoine 'tá ciontach imithe leo.

Is leor nach linn - ne an domhan seo,
B'fhéidir thart fé trí, nó ceithre scór,
Ar iasacht dúinn, atá sé,
Mar sin, coinneigh é go cáir.

Continued on next page >

Rice Porridge:

A Norwegian Christmas Tradition

Provided by Elizabeth Folgen



Christmas in Norway at my mother's is very much about tradition. Christmas is not one day but at least 4 whole days of celebration. We start on 'Little Christmas Eve', the 23rd of December. We start at 5 p.m. Rice porridge has been simmering gently on the range for 4-5 hours. No one buys readymade, it must be homemade and it must take time. Important to have a knob of real butter on the top and a sprinkle of cinnamon. Hidden in the large porridge casserole is one blanched almond. And then the ceremony begins.

Each person receives his/her portion, no one utters a word, - where is the almond? Everyone eats carefully and discreetly. If you should happen to get the almond, you keep it in the side of your mouth until all are finished eating. Has no one found the almond? Finally, when patience wears out, the 'winner' says 'I have it!', - much to the (great) disappointment of the others. The winner receives a marzipan pig, and, in our family, the pig must be sent around the table for each to have a taste. Christmas has begun, suspense is in the air, a gift is shared, and all are happy.

This rice porridge tradition dates way back in time, to the 1500s perhaps when the 'King Bean' was hidden in the English Christmas pudding. But in Norway this Christmas tradition was at least very much alive from the early 1800s. Porridge was much eaten by the peasantry throughout the year, usually made of barley, oats or rye, with water. Rice was an expensive import product and thus used increasingly by the gentry, a status symbol. Around the mid 1800s, rice porridge started to become a Christmas speciality, for all families, and made with milk. The knob of butter was a great luxury as was the exotic cinnamon. We think the hidden almond comes from the English 'King Bean'. Associated with the Christmas rice porridge tradition, we must not forget the protective and mystical gnome living year round in the barn, or in the nearby forest, the 'julenisse'. He protects the farm, the animals and the family.

Christmas rice porridge is always made in a very large portion, in a very large casserole, so that there is much more than we eat on Little Christmas Eve. After our porridge ceremony, we take a bowl to the barn (or nearby forest) for the julenisse to enjoy. The next day, the bowl is always empty.... Those who make Christmas are also provide the julenisse with this. Today, except for the major cities, families all over Norway make sure that the julenisse gets his porridge every Little Christmas Eve.

And then - the very last portion of rice porridge is used for the rice cream dessert on Christmas Eve. ■



THE STORY OF THE FILM

"The Rising of the Moon"

Written by Matt Molloy, Eighthard

John Ford made the film "The Rising of the Moon" in 1956. His career spanned 50 years and he made 140 films in total and won several Oscars. His real name was Sean Feeney. His father was from the Spiddal area and his mother came from the Aran islands. Ford always had a strong bond with his Irish heritage and he tried to make as many films as possible about Ireland. One of his lesser known films "The Rising of the Moon" was fairly successful, but had mixed reviews. It was made up of three short stories, all set in Ireland and released as a feature length film in 1957 by Warner Brothers. It was also known as the "Three leaves of the Shamrock".



A group from the Aughnacree Castle shoot

The first of the stories was "The Majesty of the Law" based on a Frank O'Connor short story of that title from the book "The Bones of Contention". For this, Ford teamed up with a regular producer Lord Killanin, and actor Tyrone Power narrated all three stories. The music was by Eamon O'Gallagher. The actress Ava Gardner was apparently anxious to appear in the film but this did not come to pass. The film was mainly shot on locations in Counties Galway and Clare and two scenes were shot here in Oughterard on the then Lower Camp Street and also at Aughnacree Castle.

One scene was shot just outside the former British Army Barracks which had a big stone archway in place at the time. The principle actors were played by leading Irish actors including Cyril Cusack as Inspector Dillon; Noel Purcell as Dan O'Flaherty and Jack MacGowran as Mickey J. The story told of Garda Inspector Dillon walking to see his old friend, Dan O'Flaherty, the last survivor of a Noble family. En-route he met Mickey J. a poitin maker, who accompanied him to Dan O'Flaherty's cottage, where Dan is served with a warrant for striking Phelim O'Feeney, but O'Flaherty refused to pay the fine and instead wanted to go to prison.

Eleven locals, all of whom are now deceased except for Ms. Sally Osbourne, appeared as extras in the scene shot at Aughnacree Castle. They are Mrs. Maggie Thornton; Mrs. Sheila O'Sullivan; Mrs. Oscar O'Connell; Mrs. Maisie Harris; Mrs. Kay Mallon; Mrs. M.

Donnellan; Mrs. Sally Osbourne; Mr. Ollie Osbourne; Mr. Paddy Joe Joyce; Mr. Michael John Joyce and Mr. John Lambert.

The second film was "A Minute's Wait" and was set in Dunfall Railway Station in County Kerry. Paddy Morrissey, the porter announces that there will be a minute's wait when the train arrives. Passengers and crew piled into the bar where refreshments were served by Peigin Molloy. Soon Paddy finally proposes to his long-term girlfriend, Peigin Molloy. There is intermingling between the passengers and the train is repeatedly delayed and an elderly British couple are befuddled and displaced from their first-class seats to accommodate a prize-winning goat. An extra carriage had to be added to accommodate a hurling team and when the British couple disembarked for tea, the train departed without them.

The third story, "The Rising of the Moon", was written by Lady Gregory and set in 1921, as Sean Curran awaits his execution in Galway prison by the British during the Black and Tan War. This is greatly resented by the public as Curran is regarded as a hero. The British warden allows two nuns to visit Curran briefly but one of the nun's switches clothes with Curran and the unsuspecting sergeant helps the pair into a carriage and Curran makes good his escape. When the escape is discovered the city is sealed off and the search for the prisoner begins. The sergeant has divided loyalties. Apparently, Ford had a crush on Maureen O'Hara! ■

Some good advice for those seeking a partner

(Provided by Leslie Lyons)

In days of yore in Ireland, when a dowry was considered important, the wealth of a family might be established by having a glancing look at the manure heap which could be found in close proximity to the house. Stables were often joined on to the home and the ritual daily cleaning out meant that the dung heap continued to increase in size until it was time to spread it in the fields in Spring and use some of it for encouraging the potatoes to grow in the newly-made ridges. A good sized manure heap was a sure indication that the family possessed a good few cows one or two of which would be useful for any prospective son-in-law.

Cows were considered very important, as they provided a calf on an annual

basis, as well as milk and butter. They were carefully looked after and seldom disposed of unless they manifested some unfortunate fault such as being very difficult to milk by hand - a tough cow- or having a bad habit of kicking either the milking bucket or the person sitting on the three-legged stool. In such circumstances the owner might consider selling the cow to somebody else who lived a good distance away and would therefore be unlikely to return the problematic beast.

This, according to the late Máirtín Ó 'Cadhain, who was appointed to the chair of the Irish Department in Trinity College in 1969, was the origin of the old Irish proverb: Pós ar an gcarn aoiligh agus díol do bhó i bhfad ó bhaile (Marry on the



manure heap and sell your cow a long way from home)

One wonders if the amount of slurry spread on the fields or the size of the tractor used might be of similar significance today!

Receive the joys of Oughterard even if you are far away!

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(Part of an email received in July from a Corrib News subscriber in Canada)

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Three Fun Cookie Recipes

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Written by Jennifer Bell

Over Christmas, we love to buy that tin of biscuits in case a visitor calls over. But why not make your own? With the gloomy Winter weather upon us, here are three fun cookie recipes to bring the family together and get everyone involved in an easy and relatively inexpensive way to bring a smile to everyone's face.



CHEWY CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Ingredients (for 12 cookies)

100g of granulated sugar	1 teaspoon of salt
165g of brown sugar	1 egg
150g of melted, unsalted butter	1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
155g of all-purpose flour	110g of milk chocolate chunks
½ teaspoon of baking soda	110g of dark chocolate chunks

Directions

- Whisk together the sugars, salt, and butter until you've formed a paste with no lumps.
- Then whisk in the egg and vanilla, beating it until light ribbons fall from the whisk and hang for a short while before falling back into the mix.
- Use a sieve to sift in the flour and baking soda, and then fold the mixture using a spatula. Do not overmix, as this will cause the gluten in the flour to toughen and result in cakier cookies.
- Fold in the chocolate chunks, then chill the dough for 30 minutes or more. (Chilling the dough overnight will give it a deeper colour and a more complex and intense, toffee-like flavour.)
- Preheat the oven to 180C and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Scoop the dough, with an ice-cream scoop or large spoon, onto the parchment paper, leaving 10cm (4 inches) of space between the cookies, and 5cm (2 inches) of space between them and the edge of the baking tray.
- Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the edges have "just" started to brown (as the cookies will continue to cook under their own heat after taken out)
- Allow to cool before serving and enjoy!



PINWHEEL CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients (for 24 cookies)

120g of all-purpose flour	¾ teaspoon of almond extract
200g of granulated sugar	1 egg
220g of softened butter	Red food colouring
1 teaspoon of baking powder	Sprinkles
½ teaspoon of salt	

Directions

- Whisk the flour, baking powder, and salt, together in a bowl (Bowl 1) In a separate large bowl (Bowl 2), beat the butter and sugar together using a mixer.
- Add the egg and beat until mixed, then add the almond extract. If you don't like almond you can try another flavour like peppermint.
- Then add the first bowl (Bowl 1) to Bowl 2, and mix it all until just combined.
- Divide the ball of dough in half and add red food colouring to one half until the desired colour is reached. You can also try using other colours.

- Quickly shape them into a thick rectangle and Wrap them in plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm (about 30 minutes). Time for a lovely cuppa.
- Place each rectangle of dough between two sheets of parchment paper, roll into a rectangle about ½ cm (1/4 inch) thick, and then repeat with the white dough.
- Now, remove the top sheet of parchment paper from both doughs and turn one upside down on top of the other, so that the two doughs are pressed together, sandwiched between the two sheets of parchment paper, and press them firmly together to seal them. Remove the top sheet of parchment paper and use a knife to trim the edges, so that you get a nice even rectangle.
- Now, starting at one end, roll with your fingers the rectangle tightly into a log, rolling slowly to help seal all the layers together.
- Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour, (or overnight). Preheat the oven to 180C and line two baking trays with parchment paper. Pour sprinkles onto a medium-sized plate.
- Using a knife, cut the log into cookies of about 1cm (½ inch) thick and roll the edges over the sprinkles on the plate.
- Place the cookies onto the parchment paper-lined trays, leaving about 5cm (2 inches) between them.
- Bake for about 10 minutes or until the edges are just starting to turn golden. Allow to cool before serving!

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ROLLED SUGAR COOKIES

Ingredients (for 60 cookies)

625g of all-purpose flour	2 teaspoons of baking powder
400g of sugar	1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
340g of butter	1 teaspoon of salt
4 eggs	

Directions

- Use a large bowl to cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat the eggs and vanilla into it.
- Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt.
- Cover the dough, and chill for at least an hour (or overnight).
- Preheat the oven to 200C and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Roll the dough out on a floured surface until it's about 1cm thick (between a ¼ and ½ inch).
- Use any cookie cutter to cut out cookies or use a cup/glass to cut circular cookies.

- Place the cookies on the parchment paper-lined baking tray, leaving 5cm of space between them and the edge of the baking tray, and bake for 6 to 8 minutes.
- Allow to cool before serving!

Decorating

This part is the most fun, and you can get all the family involved. My favourite icings are a butter cream icing and a basic icing that uses icing sugar. Both are great and you can experiment with them by adding flavours and colours. These easy recipes are as follows:

Basic Icing

- 25g (1 cup) powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons milk
- 1teaspoon vanilla

Mix all ingredients together and away you go. Try colours and flavours and, if you like really thick hard icing when it dries, you can add less milk or, if you want a very runny consistency, add more milk. I find that if you substitute milk with honey, or your choice of syrup, you can achieve very intricate designs.

Buttercream Icing

- 113g (½ cup) of room temperature butter
- 360g (3 cups) of powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons of clear vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of milk

Combine all ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer using the whisk attachment. Whip until well combined. You can add more powdered sugar or milk to get the frosting to the consistency you like. If dying with food-colouring, stir the food-colouring in by hand, at the very end. This icing does great in a piping bag, try different piping tips to create a different effect. There are many different piping techniques that can be found on google or youtube, which is great for learning something quick and the kids will love it. Make sure to add any sprinkles or decorations onto the buttercream icing as soon as possible or it will start to form a hard layer on the top and the sprinkles will not stick to it.

Happy baking! ■

Proud of your cookies?

We'd love to see photos and stories of any of these recipes that you baked, so feel free to send them in to corribnews@gmail.com and we'll print them in the next issue.

WANDERING WYE

What I enjoy:
sliding and winding from mountain to sea,
gathering rain from above and streams from my banks.
My moods reacting to wind, weather and my changing bed —
mud, shingle, rocky slabs and boulders —
flowing and tumbling, slowing and rushing,
playing with cross-currents, shallows and depths,
lazing in swirling eddies,
toying with snaking weed, buoying branches and leaves,
nurturing salmon and perch,
carrying whatever floats, caressing canoes.

POETRY

Ever the same yet never the same,
renewing my way to my estuary destiny.

To the sandcliffs, the reedbeds, the beaches and willowbanks,
to the meadows and oakwoods,
to the mallard and swans, to the herons and kites,
I am indifferent.
Yet even I
thrill to the flight of the kingfisher.

Tim Kershaw, 17 October, 2020
following two days canoeing and camping in the Wye Valley the previous weekend

Lockdown Venison Casserole

AND A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN DARK DAYS

Written by Nicky Taylor

Greetings from Bushley - a village a couple of miles from Tewkesbury on the border of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, in England. Tewkesbury sits at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Severn, in the valley between the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills. The town boasts a splendid Norman abbey and a high street which is mercifully short of big brand stores. It's blessed with a marvellous independent book shop, an outdoor market and more pubs, coffee shops and restaurants than you could count. The area is prone to spectacular flooding (those rivers!), but apart from a few ill-advised building projects, the flood plain largely does its job and protects the community from being engulfed by flood water.

Tim (my husband) and I have been living in Bushley since 1988. We are now retired, active and well. In "normal" times we'd take about 4-6 trips to Oughterard a year (where my father's family came from); I'd make an annual trip to see my sister in Virginia, USA; we'd enjoy holidays in places like Spain, France and Greece, and travel throughout the UK visiting far flung family and friends.

Since mid March 2020 all this travelling has, of course, come to an abrupt stop. There has been just....Tim and me, here in Bushley. Thank goodness all our family are well. Tim is, however, categorised by our health authority as being "clinically extremely vulnerable". This is because, back in his youth, he was involved in a car crash in which he ruptured his spleen, which was removed. The consequence is that his immune system (in which the spleen plays a crucial role) is now compromised. If Tim caught Covid 19 he could become very ill. So he is "shielding" - i.e. staying largely at home (apart from for exercise, medical appointments, etc) and generally steering well clear of people, and the bugs they carry. I should mention that this has not prevented him from spending a weekend in mid-October canoeing down the Rive Wye with overnight wild camping!

It also means that I need to take extra precautions to avoid catching the wretched bug and passing it on to Tim. We have everything we need: the local shops deliver to the door and we get the occasional online big supermarket order. Our neighbours are very supportive and will always pick something up for us. The upside, however, is that Tim should be an early candidate for the hoped for vaccine!

Like almost everyone, I've had my good days and my bad days through these Covid dominated times. No more hugging family and friends; no more choir rehearsals and performances, ukulele evenings in the pub, book group meeting in friends' homes, water colour painting classes at the local library, pilates classes in the village hall, gym and swimming sessions, theatre and cinema outings, meals out; and no family and friends coming round. But on the upside, I've continued enjoying the garden, walking,

playing tennis (when the government has allowed this) and online art classes. It's very hard to think anxious thoughts about Covid when you're either trying to mix just the right colour, or you're focussing your eyes on a tennis ball coming towards you at speed! And thank goodness for Zoom. But I've found reading hard to do, and have not had the heart to listen to music much - until very recently. When I do feel a bit down and worried, e.g. about family members, especially those who deliver our country's front-line services, I remind myself how very fortunate Tim and I are compared with so many others who have suffered the most appalling deprivations, illness and the deaths of loved ones....and I make another donation to our local foodbank.

I had not been looking forward to the dark winter months. I'm writing this in mid-November and England finds itself in the middle of a month-long general lockdown. But I've re-discovered that winter lockdown brings some joys, like comforting winter food and log fires. And at last some good news stories from around the world have recently given me some hope for the future, especially the real prospect of an effective vaccine against Covid 19 becoming widely available very soon. I'm not going to get deeply into politics here, but recent positive developments regarding Brexit and the US Presidency are most welcome. So, for me, there have been some significant good news stories coming thick and fast in just a few days - and they keep coming. This combination has made me feel that a switch has been flipped, and hope - and even a glimmer of joy - is returning into my world.

A new vaccine could be a game changer - particularly for people like Tim and me in the higher risk groups (over 65 and with an underlying condition). It offers the possibility for us to return to an approximation of our former lives, to travel (hello again Oughterard!), and to embrace friends and loved ones once again.

In response to these good news stories I've recently started to enjoy listening to music again. For example, ever since 4th November my playlist has included a lot of American R&B etc; old favourites from the 60s, 70s and 80s: Midnight Train to Georgia, Carolina in my Mind, Sailing to Philadelphia, America, Route 66. Life is becoming a bit more joyful again, plus I'm improving my knowledge of the geography of the states and cities of USA! The thought of Christmas without sharing a meal indoors with the family has become more bearable, and I'm searching out

my favourite Christmas music CDs - ranging from Handel, Berlioz and Bach, to Frostie the Snowman. I might even dust down my neglected ukulele (cover your ears)!

So let's get on to my recipe for lockdown venison casserole, and how it came about.... A couple of weeks ago, when buying fish from the very wonderful fish stall at Tewkesbury market (photo attached), I noticed that the stallholder (another Tim) also stocked free range, locally produced, diced venison, which he was selling in 1kg packs. So I bought a pack.



My approach to cooking is a bit haphazard - some (my husband for one) might say slapdash. I start by asking what's in the fridge/store cupboard. I don't tend to follow recipes slavishly, and unless I'm making something where exact quantities are critical (e.g. a sponge cake), I tend not to measure ingredients precisely, and will decide whether something is cooked by looking at it and tasting it. By contrast, Tim's approach is more methodical and precise. He's the one in our house who uses the timer on the cooker!

Serves about 6 (but depends on appetites!)
Preparation time: about half an hour
Cooking time: around a couple of hours

Ingredients

- 1kg venison (diced)
- about 4 shallots/ or 1 onion, chopped
- about 6 mushrooms, chopped
- about 2 carrots, chopped
- about a dessertspoonful of redcurrant jelly (or any other dark jelly/jam)
- about 1/4 bottle of red wine
- about 1/4 pint of stock
- herbs (I used bay leaves, oregano and thyme)
- olive oil (or similar) for frying
- salt and pepper to taste

Note: you could add or substitute different vegetables; maybe add some chopped rashers.

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Method

1. Turn on the oven to around 160C (140C fan assisted oven); 325F; gas mark 3.
2. Brown the chopped venison in a bit of oil in a frying pan - best to do this in a couple of batches. Then put in a casserole.
3. Fry the shallots/onions, mushrooms and carrots until part cooked and put in the casserole to join the venison.
4. Warm the wine and stock together in frying pan and stir in red current jelly, herbs, salt and pepper. Then pour the liquid into the casserole and give everything a good stir. Adjust liquid so that there's enough to cover the venison.
5. Put casserole in the oven. Check it every half an hour or so to ensure that it is just simmering, and to give it another good stir. The venison should be tender after about 2 hours, but just keep checking. The meat should be tender, but not falling apart.

6. After it's cooked, if you want to thicken the liquid a bit, you could do so by mixing together and heating up a little butter and flour in a saucepan, and then pouring in some of the liquid from the casserole, stirring constantly and warming it up until it thickens and any lumps have disappeared; then pour the thickened liquid back into the casserole and stir. You could also add a dash of port to the casserole at this stage.

You could tuck in straight away, serving with e.g. mashed potatoes and veg (maybe spiced red cabbage and/or green veg).

I let the casserole cool and then filled three suitable containers and popped them in the freezer. Tim and I will be enjoying three meals for two of venison casserole over the coming winter months, and we'll raise a glass to all Corrib News readers, wherever in the world

you are, and to all our friends in Oughterard. Slainte!

Reasons to be cheerful

The thought of a vaccine capable of returning us to something approaching our former lives is tantalising, uplifting and a cause for real hope. So well done humanity! Now let's crack the climate change crisis, global poverty and world peace and then we'll really be motoring - in a truly sustainable way, of course!

Tim and I, and all our family, wish all our friends, both in Oughterard and beyond, a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Take care, keep well, see you again soon and bon appetit! ■

JOHN HENRY JOYCE AND

The story of The Nine Irons



The original Nine Irons bracelet worn by John Henry Joyce, Oughterard 1838-1915

By Breda Joyce

I am currently researching the story of my great-grandfather, who was also known around Oughterard as Séan Mór Seoighe, and the bracelet of nine irons which was fashioned for him by a blacksmith in Glann at his birth in 1838. It seems that iron was regarded as an antidote to evil and this amulet was believed to outwit demons and fairies. The first two sons of his mother, Mary O'Sullivan (Dooras) and Andrew Joyce died at birth; hence the request for this bracelet which would afford protection for John Henry. From the photo below, of the original iron bracelet - the only intact one of its kind in Ireland at present - you can see the following irons, most of which were farming implements: a plough share, a plough coulter, the blade of a shovel, the blade of a spade, a hatchet, a saw, a baking griddle, the shoe nail of a small pony, and a cross, which I presume was added to appease the clergy who were at odds with the blacksmiths who promoted this piseog.

Caoimhín O'Danachair (Kevin Danaher) published an article entitled The Nine Irons in 1973. Apparently, Walter Macken knew my father's people in Oughterard and based his short story 'Solo and the Nine Irons' on my great-grandfather's story. This story is in Macken's collection 'God made Sunday and Other Stories.' In more recent years, Jim Higgins has done a lot of research into the Nine Irons bracelet and has written about them in 'An Example of The Nine Irons from County Clare.' Jim has generously shared his in-depth knowledge and research with me.

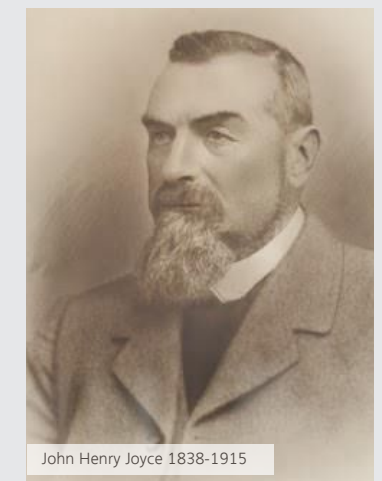
Mr. Eamonn King from Glann very kindly showed me the site of the forge at Gortervulla some years ago and I am indebted to Mark and the late Mary Canavan on whose land the site stands.

My research has taken me to the impressive Oughterard heritage website. I have spoken with Mary Kyne, who kindly suggested that I write a little of the background of the Nine Irons here. My hope is that someone reading this may have heard of this practice of blacksmiths making such amulets in your area, perhaps back in your grandparent's or great-grandparent's time. It would mean so much to me to be able to further my research in order to finally publish the memoir of John Henry Joyce (1838-1915). Any stories or information at all would be most welcome. You may also have heard of some of the feats of strength of John Henry who was said to be able to jump into and out of a barrel of porter from standing. On one occasion he is said to have answered just such a challenge upstairs in the erstwhile Odeon Hotel in Eyre Square and came through the roof to surprise the wedding party below. If you have heard any such tales (tall or otherwise!), I would really love to hear of them. He did seem to be a tall, strong looking man from the few photos I've

seen of him (I attach one below). Perhaps the bracelet of Nine Irons, which he apparently wore throughout his life, was responsible for his legendary strength and athleticism!

After his exploits in America John Henry Joyce returned to Oughterard in 1874 and married Mary Anne Conroy, the aunt of Padraic O'Conaire. They went on to have 17 children, one of whom was my grandfather, Patrick Martin Joyce, who settled across the lake in Headford. My father Paddy Joyce was his eldest son and, after serving his time in the shop in Oughterard, had a travelling shop and later opened his own supermarket in Headford in the 50s.

If you have any information or stories in relation to the Nine Irons or indeed about my great grandfather John Henry Joyce, Oughterard 1838-1915, I would really appreciate if you emailed me at bredajoyce@gmail.com ■



John Henry Joyce 1838-1915

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THE OUGHTERARD HERITAGE GROUP: My work during 2020

Written by Antoinette Lydon

Hello All,

Here I provide an update on the work I am doing as part of The Oughterard Heritage Group. What a great start to the year, not a worry in the world..... Everyone was talking about football, there were no January blues this year. After a trip to Kilmallock on a wet and windy Saturday, the road to Croker was painted Green & White. The parish did their bit too, with signs in every corner from Leam to Moyvoon and Bunnagippaun to Glann. Yours truly did a drive around to capture in photos (can be seen on the website), the excitement and happiness the Oughterard GAA Footballers were bringing to us in remembering the first time Oughterard won an All Ireland Intermediate Football Final. Thanks Tommy Finnerty, the team and all the backroom staff and the MOM's that keep every GAA club in the country going. Ye made 2020 a year to remember for different reasons and one we will never forget.

Then in mid February it started to change.

While it has been a very quiet year for many, it's been a very busy one for me. During the first lockdown, I got LOTS of Genealogical enquiries for information on their families, some are easy to find, some take a lot of research and some sadly you cannot find anything for them.

For those of you that interact with the website www.oughterardheritage.org or the Oughterard Heritage Facebook page, you will have seen that I had a very enjoyable few weeks researching the Faherty family for Damian Faherty who lives in Niagara Falls, Canada. What started with a short email has opened a treasure trove of emails, photos and cousins connecting between Oughterard, Canada, Spain & Ireland, and an amazing legacy to have for the newest member of the Faherty Family in Canada, baby Deklan born in June.

For those of you who would like to start your Family History Research, there are plenty of FREE websites to whet your appetite:

- check out the 1901 & 1911 Census records.....remember spelling is not an exact science, try a few variations if you can't find the family you're looking for.

- in the fantastic www.irishgenealogy.ie site under the Civil Records section, you can find Births from 1864-1919, Deaths from 1864-1969, & Marriages from 1845*-1944: (*non-Roman Catholic Marriages are recorded from 1845, Roman Catholic Marriages are recorded from 1864) - another useful website for worldwide research is www.familysearch.org, and best of all its FREE. - check out the Genealogy section on our Website for hints and tips.

Over lockdown, I researched the Newspaper Archives for photos of the Debs, Show, Graduations, Weddings, Sports Days etc. with connections to Oughterard, and posted them on Facebook with a huge increase of 'Likes'.

Due to Covid19, we all learned a new skill - how to use Zoom. Our County Heritage Officer Marie Mannion uses this platform, not only for meetings, but also for fascinating training courses.

During the Summer, local poet Geraldine Mills & I, with Dr. Gerard Moran, took part in interviews and post show discussions with Dr. Jason King as part of the "Great Famine Voices Roadshow 2020 Famine Heroes" virtual events. Our interviews told of own ongoing work in relation to Remembering James Hack Tuke: Emigrant Descendants. The Great Famine Voices Roadshow 2020 "Famine Heroes" videos can be viewed on www.greatfaminevoices.ie/famine-heroes/

With Heritage Week 2020 mostly online this year, I assisted in the sale and promotion of Steve Dolan's booklet 'Oughterard

Survivors: One hundred soldiers from the chief pass into lawless Connemara' with all proceeds going to The Galway Hospice with copies going to the UK, USA, New Zealand & Ireland. Copies are still available.

With September upon us it was time to start gathering photos for the 2021 Féilire (Calendar); this is our 13th edition and it could not happen without the generosity of the people of Oughterard.

International Winners!

In October, Oughterard Heritage were delighted to be a part of Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) winning the best 'Network of Archives 2020' awarded by Community Archives & Heritage Group UK and Ireland. This a fantastic achievement for all the groups involved and our partners in the National Museum of Ireland and Galway County Council.

I am currently working on GPS mapping of Kilcummin Graveyard, this project was started many years ago and there is a .pdf of the transcription on the website. When this phase of the project is complete in late Spring 2021, it will come with an exact GPS location of each of the approximately 1600 graves and new photos, using a fantastic App. Many thanks to Dr. Paul Naessens for his help on this project.

Many Thanks to Susan Toulson, California, who has local connections, on transcribing a .pdf of over 2000 records onto an excel sheet, available on the website.

Many thanks to Dorkas (German exchange student, who is pictured below), she scanned 1400 photos into 40 folders. Photos are from most clubs/groups in Oughterard that existed in the 1990's. She agreed to this work as part of her Work Experience module in St Paul's; however, due to Level 5 restrictions work experience was cancelled, but this great young lady gave her time to a community that she only joined in September.

As always, we are looking for stories, photos, newspaper extracts. Everyone has a story!

Wishing you all a very safe and peaceful Christmas and hopefully we can look forward to a 'more normal' 2021. ■

Antoinette



FORUM Connemara

FORUM Connemara CLG is a local development company, based in Letterfrack, delivering a number of community development, economic and social programmes in Connemara. FORUM currently employ 25 members of staff who are all working as normal through phone, email, text and videocall, with limited access at our offices until the easing of the Covid 19 restrictions.

FORUM is still delivering the LEADER programme (grant aid for micro businesses and community groups), the Adolescent Support Programme (supporting young people), the Ability Programme (supporting young people with disability to progress towards employment), the Rural Recreational Programme (assisting with community walks), a Social Care Programme for older people, the FORUM Farming project and work activation schemes such as TUS, RSS and CE.

The Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014-2020

The FORUM LEADER programme supports community groups and micro businesses in the Connemara area with funding for capital supports, analysis & development and training. The projects supported range in size from small projects to large flagship projects in a diverse range of sectors such as farm diversification, enterprise, rural tourism,

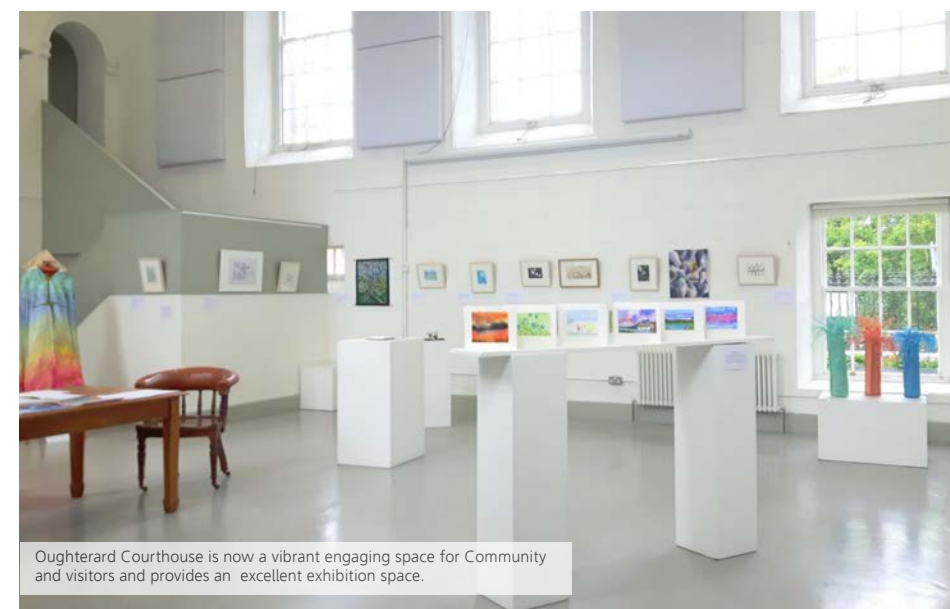
heritage, town and village renewal, community facilities and amenities, renewable energy and environmental projects.

Applications can only be considered for enterprises and activities that will not cause displacement elsewhere. For this reason, many conventional sectors and activities are precluded from receiving LEADER funding. It is best to speak with a development officer if you are unsure whether your project is eligible. Email: j.conaty@forumconnemara.ie or b.bergin@forumconnemara.ie Phone: (095) 41116

If you are interested in applying for grant aid the first step is to fill in an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. Forms are available from the FORUM website. Once you submit a completed EOI, it will be reviewed to see whether the project is eligible in principle. If the project is considered eligible in principle then you will be invited to make a full application.

Examples of local projects part funded by the Leader programme in the Oughterard area include The Oughterard Courthouse and Corribdale Park. We have also supported many local enterprises over the years.

So don't hesitate to get in touch - if you have any queries you can reach us on: 095 41116 www.forumconnemara.ie info@forumconnemara.ie www.facebook.com/FORUMConnemaraCLG/ ■



Oughterard Courthouse is now a vibrant engaging space for Community and visitors and provides an excellent exhibition space.



Corribdale Park is a world class facility that has especially seen increased usage over the lockdown period.



CHRISTMAS BLOG WITH TWO RECIPES:

Entertaining the police

Written by Teresa Krijgsman

It's almost Christmas. The first fall of snow was a magical event. We went to bed in a green kind of world and woke up to another quite different one. White. For me the good news is my lawn finally looks as good as my neighbours. I decided to celebrate by making shortbreads for the staff at a nursing home close to where we live.

As Johan's car was closer to the road, I decided to use it. As I was driving I remembered I did not have my drivers licence (in Canada it's mandatory to have it with you when driving). The nursing home is only a five minute drive, what are the chances I would be pulled over by the police? Well, I continued to drive and I heard sirens and saw a police car on my tail. I pulled over at the nursing home and the police officer parked beside me and came over to my car.

Licence please. Well officer, you won't believe this, but, but, but. You were also over the speed limit, she said. Where are you going? I told her. Can I bribe you with a short bread cookie, I said? What is your name? Teresa, I said. Go bring your cookies to the nursing home she said. When I got back to my car she was waiting for me, lights flashing, nursing home staff staring out the windows.

I want to talk to you, you do not have your driver's licence, you were over the speed limit, and you tried to bribe a police officer with a cookie. 3 offences in 5 minutes. I want you to report to your police station Wednesday morning 10am and please bring a Christmas treat, she said with a slight smile on her face. No problem officer, I said. As I got in my car she said, by the way my ex-husband married a Teresa and I don't like the name. I understand, I muttered.

This is the shortbread recipe that got me in and out of trouble:

SHORTBREAD

- 1 lb butter
- 1 cup granulated (ordinary) sugar
- 4 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 cup of rice flour
- Castor sugar to finish

Preheat oven to 150 C
Cream butter and gradually beat in sugar
Beat in flour in small batches
Divide dough into 4 equal amounts.
Press evenly into 4 ungreased 8x8x1 inch metal rimmed baking sheets
Smooth with a rolling pin and prick with a fork
Bake 45 minutes at 150 C or until golden brown
Remove from oven and sprinkle lightly with castor sugar and cut into pie shaped wedges or slim fingers
Makes 5 dozen cookies

This recipe comes from my Scottish friend Maria.

Wednesday morning I decided I better turn myself in to the police station. It was like getting into Fort Knox. Signs everywhere saying "no entry" but I kept going. I saw a door and knocked on it. 2 policemen came out. My name is Teresa. Oh you are the one who tried to bribe a police officer. That's right I said. And I was told to report here at 10am. One said did you bring the cookies? It's coffee time. No I said this time it is a cake. By the way they said, next time you come go to the front door, not the door where we have the cells. REALLY not planning on a next time I thought to myself as they escorted me to my car.

That evening they brought a bottle of wine to my house as a thank you and said don't get caught for drunk driving or you will have to bake for a year.

This is the cake I baked:

BLACK BEAN CHOCOLATE CAKE (GLUTEN FREE)



- 105g low fat spread, includes 5 g for greasing (I used butter)
- 1 can (roughly 19 ounce or 540 grams) black beans drained and rinsed
- 5 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 100g brown sugar
- 50 g cocoa
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)
- 20 g white chocolate
- 20 g milk chocolate (I used chocolate chips)

Pre heat oven to 180c (350F), fan160 c, gas mark 4
Put the black beans, 3 of the eggs and vanilla in a food processor and blitz until smooth

In a large mixing bowl beat together the remaining low fat spread and sugar until pale and fluffy

Add the remaining eggs one at a time beating well after each addition

Add the black bean mixture to the bowl and stir until well combined

Finally gently fold in the cocoa baking powder and baking soda until everything is incorporated

Pour mixture into prepared 7 inch tin and bake 40-45 minutes or until skewer comes out clean

Remove from oven and leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes, then turn out onto wire rack and leave to cool completely

Put the white and milk chocolate in 2 separate small microwave-safe bowls and microwave each one 30 seconds until the chocolate has melted

Drizzle over the cake

Leave to set then serve

This recipe comes from my sister Aideen Hennelly in Galway.

But little did I know that I would soon be back at the police station!

The other morning as I was walking my dog, Guinness, in the park watching the squirrels play, listening to the song of the birds, I stood and watched a fox run into the woods. Guinness was sniffing a small bundle beside me. I kicked it away but it came apart, and I saw \$100 bills sticking out. I picked the package up and there were several hundreds of dollars in it. No one was about, so I stuffed it into my pocket, thinking of an article by Mary Kenny; "Every woman should have running away money" she said. Back home I was very excited to tell himself of my big find. You have to go to the Police, he says? Really? I said. Well you are the one now known to the police he says and don't forget your

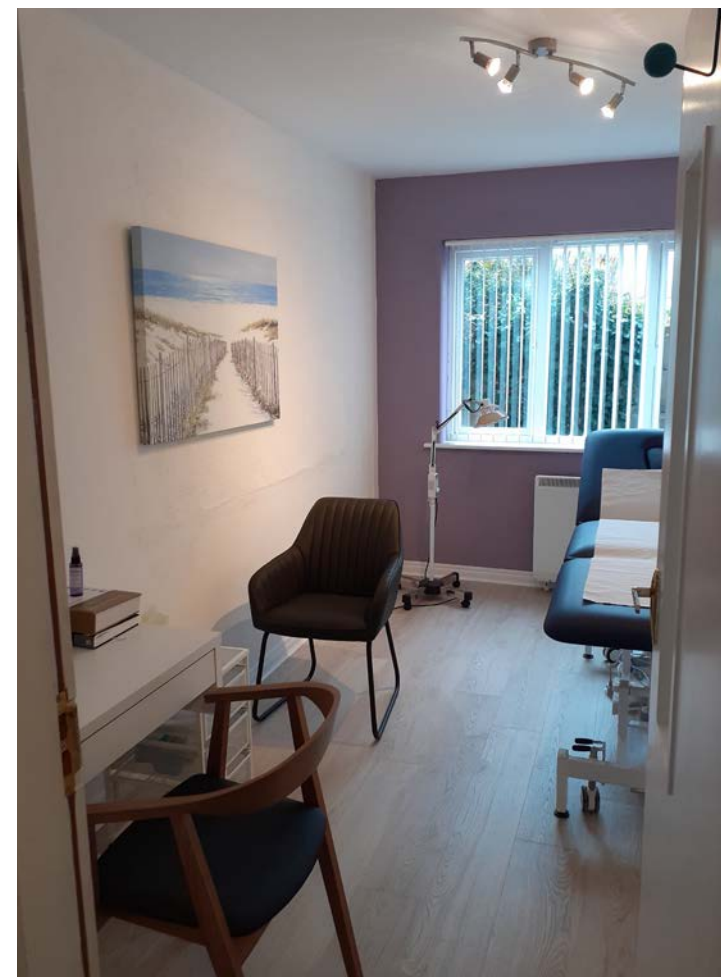
drivers licence.

Finding the correct door this time, I rang the bell. A police officer came to the door. Hi, Teresa, what have you brought us? I'm now on first name terms with the police! A pile of money, I said. Reluctantly, I handed it over. There goes my running away money. If no one claims it it's yours he said.

The next night 2 police officers came to our house. The owner had actually reported his lost money. The gentleman gave the police money to buy me something. They bought me flowers, chocolates and wine. And they could not resist also bringing me a 20 lb. bag of flour, just in case I got the urge to bake for them again! ■



Acupuncture West



Hello. My name is Trish Crampton. I'm delighted to be able to introduce you, in this issue of Corrib News, to my new Oughterard clinic - Acupuncture West. The last number of years have been a very positive journey of discovery for me into the area of Traditional Chinese Medicine. As a social care worker for many years I've always enjoyed meeting and supporting others. It was a career that I thoroughly enjoyed. However following the birth of my second child I was fortunate to have discovered the healing qualities of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. After such a positive experience and seeing first hand its health benefits I decided to study with the Acupuncture Foundation Ireland. I spent a number of years travelling to Dublin learning all about what this amazing medicine has to offer.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been in existence for thousands of years and Acupuncture is an important component of this. I came to learn that TCM takes into consideration the individual as a whole in terms of mind, body, emotions & spirit. I became aware of the idea of Yin and Yang, and how we can work to maintain balance in our lives. In Traditional Chinese Medicine, the body is made up of meridians or pathways. If there is a block, or the energy "qi" is not flowing smoothly, illness or pain can occur. Acupuncture can support the body to restore its natural balance. The patient may also require dietary or lifestyle recommendations depending on the condition. The practitioner and patient can work together to achieve the change they want to see.

Acupuncture is a safe and effective form of treatment. It can be really effective in itself or alongside Western Medicine or other therapies. It can be a really important resource for people for their health and wellbeing. Many conditions can be treated effectively, including:

- Anxiety and Depression
- Neck and back pain
- Fertility support
- Insomnia
- Migraines and headaches
- Sports injury

It has been really satisfying to see at first hand the benefits it can bring for people. I find it important to support patients in their health journey. And always try to provide any information I feel the person may need during our treatments. For me providing a comfortable and therapeutic space for people was always essential.

At this time many people are finding things really difficult. Existing health conditions may have become exacerbated and anxieties are heightened. I feel now more than ever it's important that practitioners such as Acupuncturists can continue to work to support their patients. I'm delighted that I have been able to remain open during the restrictions, and I'm ensuring I follow all safety guidelines in my practice to keep patients safe in the clinic. Currently it is appointment only; however I would be more than happy to have a chat around how Acupuncture can help you on 089 4920879. My email address is acupuncturewest20@gmail.com

I want to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to those of you who have supported me in setting up, and also to other business owners in the community who have offered their interest and have been happy to advertise. Wishing all readers a positive Winter ahead. Be well x

Trish Crampton

Acupuncture West Clinic
Fough West
Camp St
Oughterard



NEW
LOCAL
BUSINESS

Baa Baa Bandits & Wonky Woolins



Chloe Gardiner, age 17, from Salthill, is a young entrepreneur and owner of The Wonky Woolins and Baa Baa Bandits. Chloe is busy running these two businesses and is doing so as she prepares for her Leaving Certificate next June. She is the creative force behind 'The Wonky Woolins' a small handmade soft toy business based in Galway, creating quirky and unique characters for adults and children alike. Chloe hopes that her woolins become family keepsakes and suggests that they are a unique gift for a new baby or a child.

At 12 Chloe was part of a yarn bombing project at her primary school, which developed her interest and love of the craft of crochet and so she taught herself how to crochet. Crochet became a hobby and then her business began to develop in her Transition Year, where she won an award. At 15 she developed her first enterprise, The Wonky Woolins, creating loveable, high quality, handmade crochet, soft toys. The Wonky Woolins characters are all brought to life by Chloe using her own unique designs and patterns.

As Chloe's entrepreneurial spirit began to grow, she added another business to her portfolio: Baa Baa Bandits, an online shop selling vegan arm-knitting yarn and pattern packs and ideas. The arm knitting is a much thicker yarn and the knitter does not use knitting needles but their own arms. It's really simple, she adds, and it is possible to create showstopper giant projects in 40 minutes or less, like blankets, scarfs and cushions.

Chloe has won awards for her businesses, and both businesses have won individual awards from Theo Paphitis, Dragons Den, UK, as part of his Small Business Sunday Awards. Chloe said she was thrilled to win initially with the Baa Baa Bandits, but when the Wonky Woolins was announced as another winner recently, she said she was overjoyed. This in itself is a great achievement, and acknowledgement of Chloe's, design and marketing ability. Chloe is keeping very busy as she balances school and her two enterprises, but it's something she wants to pursue, and intends to study business and marketing after her leaving cert. She has also featured with RTE on radio and on their website, which has given her business another boost and increased the profile and popularity of her products.

Chloe's products can be seen on www.thewonkywoolins.com, and www.baabaabandits.com

NEW
LOCAL
BUSINESS

BabyLove

Beginning a new business in Oughterard

Written by Marek Wojdala

We came to Galway as tourists in 2016 and immediately fell in love with the scenery, culture and the people of Connemara. It wasn't long after that we decided to change the busy city of Warsaw, Poland, for some quiet place out in the country. At first, we didn't believe places like Oughterard really existed. It was like being in a village depicted in a novel or movie. Too perfect to be true, yet it's been well over three years since we first called Oughterard our home and we truly can't picture ourselves to live anywhere else. For both of our kids, it's the only home they remember, we have not dreamt of getting such a warm welcome from the locals, and feeling at home as quickly as we did.

As for the beginnings of our adventure with babylove.ie, it all started when Klaudia was pregnant with Anthony as she was trying to shop around for a couple of small bits before the birth. This was when we discovered that the selection of baby products in Ireland was not as broad as we thought it would be, and that everything seemed to be more expensive than we thought it should be. At that point, we started to brainstorm if we could do something about it and provide a wider selection of baby products at a reasonable price.

From the very beginning, we wanted to provide as much value as possible for every purchase. It was important for us to provide a sufficient product description and high-quality picture for even the smallest item. Another goal we set for ourselves was - as far as possible - to offer products at a better price compared to the items imported from the UK which make up for around 80% of the baby products in Ireland.

We are very picky when it comes to selecting the products available in our range. We always make an in-depth assessment of every product before deciding whether to add it to our offer. We want our customers to have the confidence to buy from us simply because they know that if we have decided to include something in our offer it must be something good. As it stands in our company tagline: "Give the best to the ones you love most" and every day we work hard to make that statement true.

Before starting Babylove we didn't have any experience with e-commerce, it was (and still is) a learning curve for us and everything you see on the website starting from its graphic design to user experience setup has been done directly by ourselves through trial and error.

Now, after a year of building a 1000 products collection, rebuilding a website twice and establishing everything on the right track, we finally feel ready to take on the market nationwide. It doesn't matter if you just need to buy the missing bib, or maybe arranging the whole nursery and need a set of furniture. We want to be a go-to place whatever the need would be.

As much as we would like to succeed on a national level, it is important for us to be a worthy representative of the village



Klaudia and Marek Wojdala with their children Zosia & Anthony



and its wonderful people, many of whom have cheered us and provided invaluable feedback along the way. Undoubtedly a sense of community and support has been and still is a source of great inspiration for us. This certainly had an impact on the idea behind creating our blog (see babylove.ie/blogs/babylove-blog). It is to give truthful and well-researched answers to often difficult questions asked by mums during that most beautiful of life journeys. We publish our posts every Monday, and already see a great response from some of the readers; a sense of doing something meaningful gives us that extra kick of energy needed to face the challenges of the day, especially during the uncertain times we're living in now.

You are welcome to check us out on babylove.ie

We have prepared a special Christmas offer with personalised, hand written gift cards in denominations of 30€ / 50€ / 100€ delivered locally to your mailbox. Orders can also be placed by phone: 085 805 5700 ■



Conneely's HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

In a year like none other, with ghoulish restrictions we have had to adapt to for the better of all humankind, Level 5 presented an unusual opportunity for Conneely's Café. With a café deprived of diners, and a shop front with more windows than wall, Ciarán and Francis embraced their inner trick-or-treater and decided to transform the café into a Halloween Haunted House. With the hand-made creations of staff member Colm Fahy, coupled with some fantastically creepy props, Colm took on Ciarán and Francis's brief and brought death to life!

Despite the uncertainty of 2020, the one constant visible on our streets every weekend since October has been the local Christmas Lights volunteers. Their tireless efforts this year, more than any other, to brighten up our darkness and bring joy to young and old in the locality is so vitally important. The Conneely brothers identified the opportunity to build on their Halloween Extravaganza and pay a little forward to the Christmas season by hosting a Pumpkin Carving Competition in aid of the Christmas Lights fund. The response to the competition that kicked off on Friday Oct 23rd was simply fantastic. In total 19 skilfully carved pumpkins were dropped into the café, and the public voting commenced on Saturday Oct 24th across the three age categories: U10, U16 and >16.

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The winners were announced on the Conneely's Café Facebook page on Oct 31st; **U10s winner; Sarah Fahy, U16s winner; Ernie McDonagh and >16s winner; Amanda Walsh.**

Between competition entry fees, voting fees and donations from the general public, a grand total of €580 was raised for the Christmas Lights fund. Conneely's and the Christmas Lights Committee are very thankful to all who participated and voted. ■



OPINION:

Why removing tyres from the lake is important

Living here beside Lough Corrib, this beautiful expanse of fresh water, surrounded by mountains and rainbows, a place of peace and pleasure, its islands holding adventure and deep history, is a privilege which many of us take for granted.

It has long been known that the lake is under pressure and that the water quality is deteriorating. The natural systems of the lake are confronted by a range of threats: invasive species, polluting run-off from agricultural and forest lands, and plastics pollution, to name but a few.

We might ask ourselves what can we do as individuals and as a community to make the lake a better place, and therefore improve our own well-being and that of our children. I have a suggestion in this article regarding tyre pollution, and no doubt many readers have other suggestions which they could also share with the community.

Undoubtedly, one of the main causes of diminished water quality is the quantity of tyres which are in contact with the lake water, through the leaching out in to the water of chemicals from the tyres and the breakdown of the tyres themselves into microparticles.

Tyres have been used as fenders for boats for over 80 years, but only recently have we discovered the toxic effect of so many tyres on the fish and water quality on the lake. You may say, sure, there is not that many of them but I assure you that going around the whole lake from Oughterard, Maam Cross, Cong,

Headford, Greenfields, Inis Quinn and the commercial boat club in Galway, etc. that there is a lot of tyres. Tyres built into piers, under water, under bushes, you get the idea.

So, what is in the tyres? It is not just the rubber, but tyres contain a total of approximately 1.5% by weight of hazardous waste compounds, listed in Annex 1 of the Basel Convention. These compounds are encased in the rubber compound or are present as an alloying element. Compounds leaching from car tyres include benzothiazoles, phthalates, and phenols, where benzothiazoles are typically observed in the highest quantities. Benzothiazoles are known to be embryotoxic in fish and mammals.

When we look at the rubber it breaks down to microparticles. Microparticles of end of life tyres are regarded as one of the greatest contributors to microplastic pollution. These affect the water, the fish, everything in the lake and - when fish consume the microplastic and we consume the fish - it will lead to human health problems.

So, what can we do to remedy this problem and to create a better environment for

everyone, animal, plant using the lake? One practical solution would be that we could remove all discarded tyres from the lake, and replace the tyres that are being used in the lake with a non-toxic substance such as hemp.

More broadly, we need to become aware of what is on the shore, on the piers, plastic of all types that break down and become invisible but are still there. Break open a conversation about the lake and why we love or have no interest in it. Do we want the water dirty or clean, and if we want it clean, what can we do about it? It is certain that no one person can do this on their own. ■



YOUTH SUCCESS



Aonghus Feeney receives prestigious national award

Aonghus Feeney, a past pupil of St. Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard, was one of the recipients of a prestigious Naughton Foundation Scholarship Award, which took place virtually in the past number of weeks. He has received a scholarship worth €20,000, as he continues his studies in Biomedical Science at NUI Galway. A further €1000 prize has been awarded to St Paul's as a result of his success.

He is one of only 35 exceptional Irish students who were awarded the third level scholarships towards their studies in the areas of engineering, science, technology and maths. Supporting academic and innovative excellence in Irish students, the Scholarship Award is an investment in the future of Ireland's reputation as a country with outstanding graduates. Traditionally, the awards are presented by the founding patrons of The Naughton Foundation, Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel, at a ceremony but as a result of current restrictions this event was deferred. ■



Some thoughts on saving money and helping the environment

Written by Leslie Lyons

In 2018 Toyota, the world's biggest motor manufacturer, announced that it would stop selling diesel passenger cars in all European markets by the end of that year and, at the same time, Subaru announced that it would sell its existing stock of diesels and not manufacture any more.

Demand for diesels also collapsed when the Volkswagen emissions scandal rocked the world in September 2015 and when people were made aware of the serious health risks associated with Nitrogen Oxide emissions from diesel engines. Research shows that air pollution contributes to lung disease, heart attacks, asthma and other respiratory problems and we hear that, in some places in this country, parents are being discouraged from dropping off or collecting their children close to school gates in

order to reduce the effect of fumes from idling engines. In recent times we are also being urged to seriously consider moving to hybrid or fully electric cars for which special grants and VRT relief is available in addition to reduced annual road tax. The hybrid certainly seems to be the best option for those living in cities as diesels are more suited to long distance driving when they can be driven at sufficient speed to clear out the exhaust system. Unfortunately the special grants mentioned above no longer apply to Hybrids but they do benefit from the lower road tax.

Over a year ago, I got into conversation with a man from Tuam who was charging his Nissan Leaf car at Woodquay in Galway. He told me that he travels from Tuam to Galway every day and had driven a Mercedes for many years until he decided to opt for

electric and give his Mercedes to his son. He couldn't be more pleased with his decision and is now a total believer in electric cars even suggesting that, if there are two cars at a particular household, one of them should be electric.

It strikes me therefore that, with no charging point between Galway and Clifden and, as there are already a number of electric cars in the area, now is an opportune time to put one or two in Oughterard. These could be located in the car park or even on the street somewhere near the Community centre. A stop of one to two hours for a charge would allow people to enjoy a visit to the town, discover all that we have to offer and result in customers for our shops and for all outlets which provide food, snacks, coffee or tea. ■

Sacramental Life

AT THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Written by June Threlfall

First Holy Communion

After a long wait and much anticipation, the children of Scoil Muire Doireglinne celebrated the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, 26th September. It was a beautiful, sunny day which reflected the occasion and the mood of all those involved.

The children of Scoil Chuimin agus Catriona were to have their long awaited celebration, the following weekend on Saturday, 3rd October. However, at the beginning of the week, the possibility of a second lockdown was mooted. On the evening of Tuesday, 29th September, the children came to church with one parent and made their First Confession.

Following the sacrament, Fr. Michael had a short meeting with the parents and proposed bringing the First Holy Communion forward to Thursday, 1st October. The parents agreed to this proposal as another lockdown would mean a big disappointment and an indefinite wait for the children. A core group of parents stayed behind to help organise the practical side of a socially distanced celebration; time was of the essence! Parents from the Confirmation core group had a format for a seating plan which they kindly passed on to us. The teacher in school was not the person who had begun the preparation earlier in the year, as of course, the children had moved up a class. However, undaunted, she willingly practised the readings and prayers which were sent to school and then sent home for further practise.

Thursday 1st October dawned wet and grey. However, this did not dampen the spirits of the First Communicants or any of those involved in making it happen! A rather soggy group of children arrived with their teachers for a practise in church. After the practise, they went home to get ready for the big event. Two masses had been organised for the afternoon as per government regulations. The first mass was at three o'clock and the second one at five o'clock. Although still a little grey outside, the church was transformed. Thanks to the ladies who arrange the flowers, the altar looked beautiful. The children lit up the church as they arrived in their First Communion outfits. They looked fantastic; quite different to the group which had left church late that morning!

The atmosphere in church for both masses was reverent and calm. No photographs were taken in church before the celebration. The only thing the children had to think about was their prayer or reading and then going forward when called, to receive Jesus for the first time. The children had no microphone but all read beautifully from their benches in church. They behaved in such a mature way. The parents and teachers must have felt so proud!

In less than forty-eight hours, the school, parish, parents and children created a very memorable occasion. Of course it was disappointing that the extended family couldn't be there to witness this; especially grandparents. Hopefully they enjoyed looking at the photographs which families had taken at home and at church after the mass.



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As lockdown followed swiftly on the heels of the First Holy Communion Masses, we all breathed a sigh of relief that we made it happen!

Due to Covid restrictions, it has not yet been possible to begin the Sacramental Programme for 2020/21. Although no dates have been set, Fr. Michael and the parish team hope to begin this in the new year.

The photographs in this article reflect the joy of the occasion. ■



THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Christmas & the coming months for the Parish of Oughterard

Written by Fr. Michael Connolly, Parish Priest

As I write this short article in mid-November, the future is veiled in many ways. The truth is, the future has always been veiled to us, but we were often able to do what we wanted more or less when we wanted, and that occupied our lives and our minds. Now, we are in a time of waiting. Waiting is made easier when there is something to look forward to, and the parish would like to offer some seasonal possibilities (subject to Covid-19 restrictions being lifted) to lift our minds and hearts in the true spirit of Christmas. Of course, all the following may be subject to change on short notice.

Sunday the 29th November is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and the church will be rearranged to regulate greater numbers of those who wish to come and pray, light a candle, and experience some peace in the church. The crib, Christmas tree, Jesse tree, decorations and extra candelabras will be on display, with a "one-way pass through" system in operation (enter through the town side door and exit through the parking area door). The large outdoor tree will again make an appearance, and the new LED Christmas lighting will be on display for all to see. Seasonal music will be played throughout the day in the church.

The outdoor lighting is due to be upgraded, therefore the space in front of the church will host a number of candle-lit carol services for young and old (weather permitting). The proposed dates will be all-ticket affairs, with numbers strictly limited to ensure social-distancing. Presently, Monday December 21st December at 8:00pm, Tuesday 22nd December at 7:00pm and Wednesday 23rd at 7:00pm are proposed.

The Christmas masses will be as follows, numbers strictly limited and all ticket. Christmas Eve masses at 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Christmas day masses at 8:30am, 10:15am (Glann), and 11:30am. St Stephens's day mass at 10:00am. It is only fair that those dedicated helpers in the parish who have kept us afloat the past year should be given first preference for tickets, with the remainder being distributed on a lottery basis. Those parishioners who wish to attend any of these 6 masses or any of the carol services, should make a request to us by

17th December; by email to oughterparish@gmail.com or by dropping a slip of paper into the Parish Office post box or by phoning 091 552290. The request must contain your names, telephone number, number in the household who will attend, and the mass requested. The masses list will be finalised on 19th December and communicated with parishioners by email or phone, with collection to be arranged.

Christmas cards will be on sale in various shops in the village, with those who receive them being remembered in a Triduum (set of 3) masses from Christmas eve to St Stephens day. These cards are NOT Mass cards. An additional system for Mass cards is now available. All one has to do is fill out the name of the person or intention on an envelope to be found on the church altar rails, and put this into the parish office letter box. Donations are optional, but 1-2 euros is requested to cover the cost of the cards. The signed Mass card will be left on the altar rails for collection the next day.

As I have been saying often these past few months, please profit by this time of slowing down in society. Take time to pray, to reflect, to examine your life. This is a most healthy exercise. Discover (perhaps on a deeper level or for the first time) the gentle presence of God. I am committed to producing a series of videos on catholic faith matters. Now that the church restoration is taking less of my time, I will more earnestly tend to the spiritual building made of 'living stones'.

Welcome to our new Parish Administrative Assistant Catherine Dunne, who will be helping me to organise the pastoral elements of the parish, while I will still have overall responsibility for the parish office. Thanks to Catherine, the Parish Offices will be open 5 days per week, Monday to Thursday 9:30 to 15:00 and Friday 9:30 to 13:00.

Finally, we wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. ■

Continued on next page >

Kilcummin Parish Church

LATEST UPDATE

Church of Ireland in Communion with
The Anglican & Episcopal Churches



The Very Rev LYNDA PEILOW

Rector of Saint Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway,
Kilcummin Church, Oughterard & Provost of Tuam

e: rector@stnicholas.ie t: +353 (0)91 521 914 w: stnicholas.ie
The Rectory, Taylors Hill Road, Galway, H91 ENN3

Whenever church re-opens following the current lockdown, all Sunday services will be at 11am.

Having been closed from 22nd March, we were privileged and delighted to gather with Rev Carole Reynolds as she celebrated her first Eucharist on Sunday 4th October, guided and supported by the Rector and parishioners who were able to attend. It was an emotional day as we also marked the re opening of Kilcummin for just one Sunday, after the first lockdown and preceding Level 3 restrictions.

It is a great joy to have Rev Carole as part of the Ministry team, as she joins us with pastoral responsibility for Kilcummin. Rev Carole is well known and respected and, despite the limitations at present, we are all looking forward to her time and ministry in our parish family.

Congratulations also to Rev Paidí Delaney who was ordained Deacon on Sunday 20th September. Paidí who, like Carole, was previously a Diocesan Reader, has often taken Morning Prayer services in Oughterard and will now help out in Galway.

Since 11th October those who have access to modern technology have participated in services on Zoom which the Rector organises from her home or from St Nicholas' Church on Sundays at 11am.

Christmas Services :

Normally at this time we would be giving the date for our annual Carol Service which has traditionally taken place on the evening of the Monday before Christmas - or Monday 21st December this year - but it is sad to say that this great community event with a full church is unlikely to take place in 2020.

At the time of writing these notes, as we navigate through Covid restrictions, Christmas services will be announced in December. ■



Carole's Ordination day: (left to right) Michael, Carole and Lynda



Rev. Lynda and Rev. Carole

Clann Resource Centre



WE MAY BE CLOSED FOR FACE TO FACE APPOINTMENTS AT THE MOMENT BUT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. CALL US FOR SUPPORT, ADVICE, OR A SIMPLE CHAT 091 557633

ACTIVITIES

We are still here working behind the scenes. If you need us for anything, call 091 557633 or email clanninfo@gmail.com

Our Halloween Image Hunt, over the School's Midterm, was a great success. Thank you to all who participated and found all the images. The three winners were announced on November 2nd. They were given a €20 voucher for the Toy Corner in Moycullen.

In level 5 of the Governments restrictions we have had to close our doors, however we have maintained contact with some of the community. If anyone else would like to avail of this support, please contact us.

As the darker nights were coming in we had a small number of Hi-Vis jackets to give out thanks to RSA. They ranged in sizes from Childrens to Adults. These were put outside the centre in early October to a great response.

Information packs were delivered to a number of people in the days prior to this new phase of restrictions.

The Clann Resource Centre is taking a slightly longer Christmas break this year. We will be closed from the 14th December until the 4th January 2021. We wish you all a lovely festive holiday.

Information packs were delivered to a number of people in the days prior to this new phase of restrictions. The packs included numbers of local businesses, telephone numbers for helplines, information from the Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development's Message in a Bottle, and fabulous bulbs from the very generous Maura Hynes of Baurisheen Bulbs and Blooms.

Galway Lions Club, with Galway Rural Development, **Message in a Bottle** is a brilliant idea. The bottle can help by ensuring emergency services have access to important information, such as allergies, and medication you might be on. The idea is to place a sticker, provided in the bottle, near the entrance to your home so the emergency services know. Then a sticker on your fridge where the bottle with all relevant information is placed so, if anyone should need to assist you, they have the information at hand. We still have a small number of these bottles available in the Clann Resource. If you would like to have one, please contact us and we will arrange to get one to you.

For printing, photocopying, or laminating, please email the document to clanninfo@gmail.com with a contact number and we will contact you once it is ready.

SCOIL MUIRE DOIREGLINNE

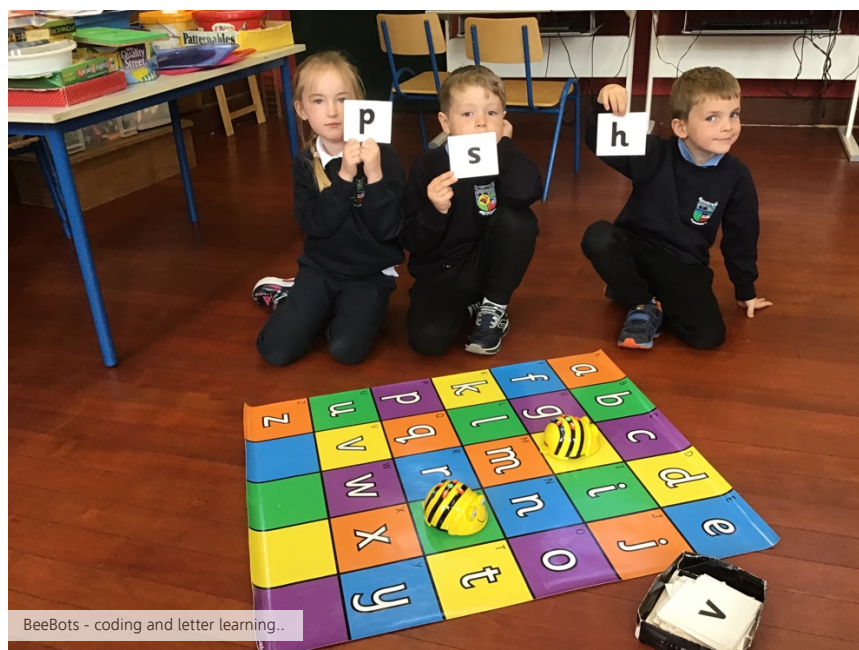
Lego Robotics, Sanitising and more Sanitising!

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!! We hope you are all keeping well and are all looking forward to Christmas. We certainly are. It's been a téarma aisteach!! We came back in August and got to look at our new covid-busting classroom layouts. In the Bunranganna classroom, the children don't have to do any social distancing, so their classroom didn't change too much. They changed the door they come in and out of to make sure they don't cross into the Ardranganna bubble!!

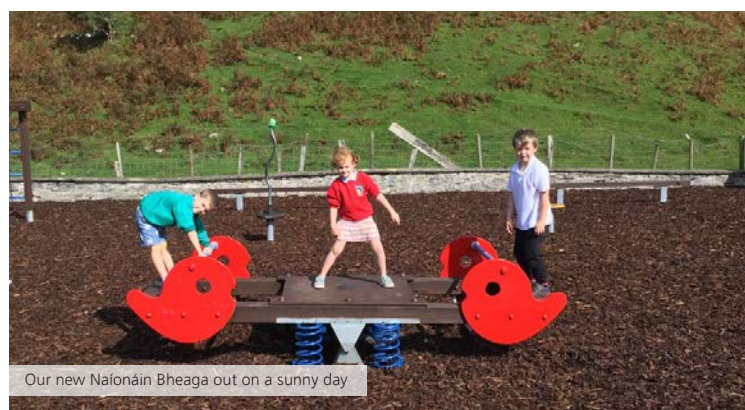
We all have to do lots more handwashing and sanitising. Múinteoir Sinéad reckons she has 9 sanitisers in the Bunranganna!! It's a bit different in the Ardranganna. We are supposed to social distance, a minimum of 1m. Our classroom is laid out differently and our desks are pulled apart so that we aren't on top of each other. We lose count of how often we sanitise and handwash in a day but it's every time we go in or out of a room. We also go in and out a new door which keeps us apart from the Bunranganna. We play at different times now, so we miss seeing the Bunranganna and playing with them in the clós. We wish we could go back to having whole school break times and whole school assemblies! The biggest disappointment is that there will be no Dráma na Nollag this year. We do a play every year so to not have one this year is very disappointing. We are trying to think of a different way to celebrate and mark Christmas in our classrooms. Hopefully we will figure something out.

But.....we are really happy to be back in school. Lots of us found home-school very difficult. It wasn't the same trying to work online and not being able to chat to our classmates as we worked. So, we miss the old way of doing things but it's better than home-school!! We still use Seesaw, a digital portfolio app, to upload our school work. This way we aren't bringing books in and out of school every day. We still get to all the subjects that we always did and have probably done more SPHE, (Social Personal & Health Education), than before. We get to do lots of PE and Johnny Heaney still comes every Friday to do football with us. In the Ardranganna we have also done a block of orienteering and athletics. We've been learning about and practising Perspective in Art and have drawn some cool Bird's Eye Perspective cities and some cool highways and street scenes using vanishing points and horizon lines. We've been learning all about the Famine and how difficult life was for people back then. Some of us who know our farming were shocked to learn how little land the farmers had to farm back then. Imagine some very poor farmers farmed less than an acre!! We were also really surprised to learn that some adult farmers lived off 6kg of spud a day!! We are so lucky with all we have today.

The Bunranganna got to use BeeBots where they learned how to code the Bots to move in different directions and make their way around a city. They had great fun with them. The Ard and the Bunranganna got to try out Lego Robotics. We got to build structures like robots, satellites and fans and code them using iPads. We were able to follow instructions in a Lego book and build and, in the Ardranganna, we got to build Dancing Robots and chose the music our robots danced to. It was so much fun and we loved working in groups, even though we had to sanitise.... a lot!



BeeBots - coding and letter learning..



Our new Naíonáin Bheaga out on a sunny day



Our children preparing for their Chéad Chaoimeanach

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Drawing maps from a height!



Ardranganna doing PE in the sunshine – Rock, paper, scissors and a chase!

We have also had our First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Alison, Ciara, Senan, Aiden, Bronagh, Darragh, Leah, and Michael who all did a great job on the day. We were so lucky we got to have it on the day it was planned and are very grateful to everyone who helped us.

Our school website has gone "live" so you can check us out at <http://smdoire.ie/>. You can learn a bit more about our school, see some more pictures and get in touch with us if you like. All our information about Admissions can be found on the website so have a look if you would like to learn a bit more. ■

Continued on next page >

Settling back into St Paul's

Written by Elaine Creaven



Staff and students returned to the school after their time at home adapting to new teaching/learning strategies and their Summer Holidays. Everyone was delighted to get back to routine and approached their work with enthusiasm.

During our first term, we have bid farewell to our Leaving Certificate class of 2019/20. A group who endured much uncertainty yet kept positive and committed to each other and to the school throughout the remaining weeks of their school experience. We are so proud of them and their achievements and we wish them every success in the future.

Also, our 79 First Year students have settled in well to life in St Paul's. They have shown courage in their opening weeks, adapting to new surroundings and getting to know many new friends and teachers. Four of our First Year students are pictured below with our Halloween display, created by the students of Ms Forde and Ms Harhen.

At the end of our first term, Mr Paddy Clancy retired, a long-standing member of our staff. He is pictured below on his final day in St Paul's. It was a pleasure to have him as a teacher and a colleague. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Given a year like no other, changes have been made throughout the school to help with lowering the risk of the spread of COVID-19. All classrooms have been fully cleared out and fitted with single desks, a one-way system has been put in place, more outside seating has been purchased, the canteen has been moved to the Hall and automatic sanitiser dispensers have been put in every classroom and corridor. A conscious effort has been made to do what is right and keep everyone safe.

Our new school website has also been revamped this year. It offers easy access to an array of up to date school news and information. It gives parents and students an opportunity to stay connected with our school community.

You can visit us at www.stpaulsoughterard.com. ■



A NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER TO Gardeners

Written by Klaus Laitenberger

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

You may think this newsletter has little to do with gardening but at the end it will come back to it – to soil – the Earth's most important organ and the one that is most neglected.

The soil is very much like our stomach, teeming with life. In one handful of fertile soil there are more living creatures than there are people in the world and the same is true for your stomach. Zach Bush said it nicely – we shouldn't view ourselves as individuals but as an ecosystem. The same is true for soil – everything is interconnected.

I'm getting increasingly frustrated with the majority of environmentalists who completely focus on carbon and climate change while neglecting so many other pressing problems. Carbon – an important nutrient that cycles in various forms through the Earth – has become demonised. Yes - there is too much carbon in the atmosphere and I'm obviously not denying that climate change occurs, but I totally disagree with this reductionist approach. This focus on carbon and carbon taxes reduces the vast complex world and the problems the world faces into a simple formula. I know people like these simple formulas and these common enemies – they are calculable and we can have clear targets but the complexity of the world is not that simple and there may be equally pressing problems.

Have we suddenly forgotten that our soils are dying? The UN put out a warning that we have only about 60 harvests left if we continue with the way we farm? What about all the chemicals – pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers that contaminate our soil, food and wildlife? What about the disturbing loss of biodiversity? What about our fish and oceans? What about our trees? Probably all our ash trees will die within the next decade – and have you heard many environmentalists voice their anger and sadness about this? Why don't they calculate the amount of carbon when 5 million ash trees no longer sequester carbon? Even worse – a dying tree will even release carbon into the atmosphere. Do you think the carbon tax will go to replace these trees on farmlands throughout Ireland? Probably not, because hardly anyone is aware of this mass extinction of one of our most loved and most common trees in the Irish landscape.

We need to try and overcome this reductionist theory on climate change and the single focus on carbon emissions and instead we need to re-connect with the soil and the land to get a deeper feeling and understanding of it all. We need to find the bigger picture and find out everything is interconnected. We should go to organic farms, gardens and grow some vegetables and fruit and fall in love with the Earth again. Because only what we love we can protect. And I'm sure this will lead to a proper solution to slow down climate change.

Our soils

I mentioned that our soils have become degraded to the extent that we have already lost 30% of the agricultural land area. The reason for this is mainly due to industrial farming methods. What we have done is using up the organic matter in the soil and never replenishing it. The organic matter content is usually between 5 and 7% of the soil and consists of everything that is and once alive. You could see it like the soil's bank account – the soil's reserves. But now in most arable soils throughout the world this organic matter content has dwindled down to about 1 or 2% and farmers themselves know that there are no more birds following the plough because there are no longer worms in their soils.

Now what people don't often know is – 50% of organic matter is carbon. Soils are by far the largest carbon sink (twice more than all the vegetation and the atmosphere combined). We have taken the carbon out of the soil and put it into the atmosphere. So don't blame the poor carbon any longer. Put it back to where it belongs - into the soil. Once that carbon is back in the soil we will be able to produce food, clothing and building materials for many more thousands of years. My recent presentation at the November National Organic Training Skillnet (NOTS) Biofarm Conference was about "How soils can be the solution to climate change" (have a look at the NOTS website www.nots.ie).

Gardening Weekend at Renvyle House Hotel in Connemara

Date: 19th-21st March 2021

With: Anja Gohlke (Head Gardener Kylemore Abbey) and Klaus Laitenberger

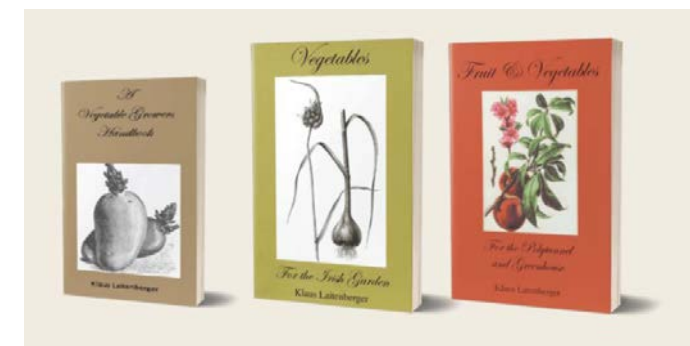
Unfortunately the last gardening weekend in October had to be cancelled due to Covid 19, but the good news is – they have a new date for March 2021. This gardening weekend course is usually booked out very quickly and it could be that numbers will have to be restricted so early booking is essential
Email: info@renvyle.ie; Website: www.renvyle.com; Tel: 095 46100 (Renvyle)

Happy Gardening

Klaus

(To sign up to receive Klaus' regular newsletter to gardeners, visit www.greenvegetableseeds.com)

Klaus lives with his wife Joanna and children in County Leitrim, having moved from Germany more than 20 years ago. Klaus is best known for a number of Irish Gardening Books (e.g. "Vegetables for the Irish Garden"), which he has self-published with Joanna. He has a M.Sc. in Organic Farming, has lectured at the MSc Course in Organic Horticulture in UCC, has worked as the Head Gardener at the Organic Centre in Rossinver, and at Lissadell House in Co. Sligo to carry out an extensive garden restoration project. He grows and sells vegetable seeds suitable for West of Ireland conditions through his on-line business, and participates in a range of courses for gardeners and others which concentrate on organic and sustainability themes. He has a particular interest in introducing new food crops to Ireland, particularly including alternative vegetables from the Andes region in South America such as oca and yacon. ■





THE COURTHOUSE UPDATE

Written by Leslie Lyons

As the end of the year approaches, activities at the Courthouse continue to be restricted as a result of Covid19 and art exhibitions planned for September, October and November had to be cancelled or postponed. CE workers, Bill Daly, Antoinette Lydon and Bobby Tierney are again working from home while Ruud comes in for short periods of time to ensure everything is neat and tidy and that essential maintenance is carried out. Ruud also hung a handsome collection of interesting framed photographs which had once been part of Oughterard Heritage Group's display at the VEC in Camp Street and which had been in storage for the past four or five years.

Amongst the other items which we came across was an interesting book entitled 'Summer Assizes 1885' which contains lists of people who held important positions in the county, details relating to homes and hospitals as well as reports relating to the maintenance of roads and the names of those responsible for the work. We hope to have the book suitably restored so that it can be put on display in the Courthouse.

Amongst the hundreds of interesting entries related to the Oughterard area we find:

Annual Road Contracts

253: To Wm Lyons, for keeping in repair and free from nuisance 2127 pchs of the road from Galway to Clifden between the back gate of Clareville, at Oughterard, and Lydon's house at Bunnakyle, pursuant to contract for 7 yrs, entered into at summer assizes, '79 at 5th d p p an. £50 19s 2d. Half off the Barony of Moycullen....£12 14s 9d
260: To Thomas Welby, for keeping in repair and free from nuisance 270 pchs of the road from Galway to Clifden, between the junction with the road to the new pier and the back gate at Clareville, pursuant to contract for seven yrs entered into at Summer Assizes, '80 at 1s 1d p p an. £14 12s 6d.. Half off Moycullen Barony....£3 13s 1d

Court and Sessions' Houses' expenses

349: To Arthur J Doig, for half a year's rent of Oughterard Courthouse and Bridewell to 1st Nov '85... £1 10s 0d

366: To the Keeper of Oughterard Courthouse, for fuel, light and petty expenses for Courthouse for half year to 31st Dec '85 ... £2 10s 0d

Charities

381: To the manager of Oughterard Industrial School for 42 inmates at 2 shillings a week each for the half year ended 30th June '85 at Oughterard Courthouse... £102 3s 2d

Special Levies

614: To Stephen King, to compensate him for a bullock, his property, maliciously killed and two bullocks, his property, maliciously injured by cutting off their tails, on the night of the 20th day of November 1884, or following morning, at Dooletter, in the parish of Moyrus. To be levied off the townlands of Carna, Rusheenamanagh ... £15. 0s 0d

Miscellaneous

406: To John Redington, Sub-Sheriff, for expense incurred in the erection of a gallows in connection with the execution of Michael Muldowney, Michael Tansey and Michael Downey£27 0s 0d

Study Centre

The Study Centre resumed in September with a reduced number of 16 students in order to allow for necessary social distancing. Anne and Catherine are most careful that

everything possible is done by way of sanitising before and after each of these sessions.

Art Classes

It was also good that we could facilitate a series of art classes by Aine Doherty on Sunday evenings and Monday mornings from Sunday 13th September, prior to the re-introduction of Covid Restrictions. Some lovely work resulted from those classes

Galway Music Residency and Contemp Quartet

Galway Music Residency and Contempo Quartet have also continued to use the Courthouse for rehearsals, recording and live streaming. At the beginning of their most recent live streaming on Saturday 10th November Maeve Bryan of GMR thanked the local community for their support and added that they now regard the courthouse as "a second home" at a time when these four wonderfully talented musicians can't perform to live audiences at venues around the country. The most recent event was enjoyed by many people from all parts of the country and even by some in Sacramento who have connections to this part of Ireland.



JazzTempo outside the Courthouse

< Continued from previous page

All of us at the Courthouse would like to thank the members of the Christmas Lights Group who have already started work to ensure that some semblance of normality will surround the upcoming festive season. We will also play our part by erecting our usual Christmas Tree to brighten up the building.

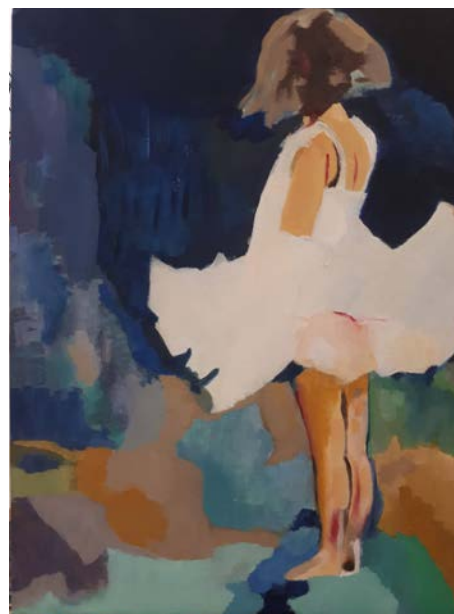
For those who might like to make use of the Courthouse when restrictions allow please refer to our web page - Oughterard Courthouse .com - where you will find information on what is available and as well a link to our efficient booking system.

We wish readers of Corrib News and all in the community a Happy Christmas and better and more prosperous times in 2021. ■



The Galway Music Residency at the Courthouse during lockdown: Contempo performing in the Courthouse

Some of the paintings recently created by the students of Aine Doherty's art classes at the Courthouse:



Continued on next page >

Inchagoill

Written by Rev. Anthony Previté

"The small, the local, the quiet have as much to show us how to live as the big, the event, the spectacular".

I say that because, each July, the late John O'Donohue and I, plus a few friends, used to come here to celebrate mass and have a picnic and a lot of laughs on the shore afterwards.

We did this in memory of the late Joe Pilkington, a former actor and environmentalist who some of you may remember. We came here because the place is special, you can sense that. All of these places have that sense of special, where you can hear and feel the wind, the rustle of insects, the ripple of water, the life-giving rain and sunshine, where you live in concord with nature, in contemplation.

Yet there must also have been hard work in those times, tilling the ground, observing the liturgical hours, working the stone, searching for fish and food. But the sense of purpose which drove these early monks to seek out isolated places along these waterways, and then ultimately to travel vast distances into Europe, founding more monastic centres to spread the Gospel, is impressive.

I have written a small book* listing all the 31 monastic sites around Lough Corrib, which has just been republished. In it are the major historical sites such as Cong, Annaghdown, and Ross Errilly, plus this unique site here on Inchagoill. But there are also listed the tiny and sometimes the almost obliterated sites such as on Inchiquinn Island. Connected with these sites are the ancient saints such as Furse, Briga, Ultan, Enda, Cunna, Meldan, Killian. Two of the best known are of course St Patrick and St Brendan, the former who is so closely associated with this island and about whom so much history has been written. I should also add that great credit has to go to Coillte, Inland Fisheries, and the OPW for this restoration and, of course, both David and Patrick Luskin who bring so many visitors here each year and give so much valuable information on the island's history.

St Brendan had founded a settlement on Inchiquinn Island but there appear to be no remains there so far. He also founded the settlement at Annaghdown and then also at Clonfert, where he is buried. He is most widely known as St Brendan the Navigator and his epic 6th century seven-year voyage, taking in Iceland, Greenland and the American mainland, after which he went on to Scotland, Wales, Brittany, and the Faroe Islands. There are even churches dedicated to him in the Canary Islands and in Sicily.

Indeed he (and many others) were obviously incredible travellers and there were no cheap flights or holiday cruises in those days! Names such as St Killian became bishop of Wurzburg in Germany, and St Furse founded communities in Normandy, Paris, Peronne, and in Pforzheim, which is named after him, meaning Home of Furse.

Between 575 and 725, a period of nearly two hundred years, this Irish monastic movement had founded some 113 monasteries and schools

in France and Switzerland, 26 in Germany, 10 in Austria, and 3 in northern Italy.

Mark Patrick Hederman, former Abbot of Glenstal, wrote that this Celtic culture seemed to have received and embodied the Spirit of Christianity in a most natural way. It was rhythmically aligned to the natural world they lived in, and they found in Christianity the perfect completion of the human map they had already designed for themselves. They lived in a God-perforated landscape to the pulsebeat of eternity. They left behind them ring forts, stone beds, high crosses, burial mounds, holy wells, sacred mountains, with accompanying music, rituals, and writings to help their successors to maintain the privilege of inhabiting such a world.

The Celts found God in the elements of nature, in the rhythms of the seasons, in the pulse of their blood, sacraments which are available to every human person on the planet, and they gave thanks for this with every imaginative gesture at their disposal. They were not pagans as the present institutional church chooses to describe them.

And so, we see here all around us, beautifully preserved, some of the signs and signposts of that era in these remains. We are among a huge throng of such remains all around the islands and countryside of Lough Corrib which the 'Corrib Beo' organisation is now thankfully seeking to unfold for all of us in all its heritage, culture and educational programme, and as John O'Donohue would say, "We should awaken ourselves to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of our own presence". ■

*A Guide to Lough Corrib's Early Monastic Sites



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Country Grocer

Oughterard, Co. Galway



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Monday to Saturday: 9am-5pm

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Daily range of breads, baked in our very own Bread Shed! And irresistible treats coming from our shop kitchen! Country interiors and accessories: selling natural textiles, handmade leather bags and jewellery which are sourced locally and from small producers around the world.

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Website: www.sullivancountryliving.com

❁ Merry Christmas to all from everyone at Sullivan's Grocer ❁

A November Letter

FROM AMERICA

Written by Fran Taylor

It's a couple of weeks now since we woke up to the results of the November 3rd US election that has been obsessing us all for months – or rather the non-results. That first day, much of it was still up in the air, but the Republicans had already won Florida, suggesting that any expectation of a resounding repudiation of President Trump had been misplaced. What was clear, even by then, was that almost half of the country voted to give Trump a second term. This time it was not a populist revolt against out-of-touch elites and an unpopular Democratic candidate – let's give the outsider a chance ... how bad can it be? We have to ponder what this says about the state of the country.

The reason the initial counts disproportionately favoured the President was that mail-in ballots are typically counted after in-person ballots. Due to the pandemic, most states had vastly extended the availability of mail-in ballots for this election; however the President disparaged their use, so they skewed greatly towards the Democrats.

Over the next few days, I kept re-checking the results as Biden's lead increased and he gradually amassed the all-important Electoral College votes, but throughout that time I had just an unsettling feeling of waiting for the other shoe to drop. This anxiety was relieved somewhat on the Saturday after the election when the state of Pennsylvania was called for Biden, giving him the necessary 270 Electoral College votes. By Friday 13th, winners had been projected in all remaining states, and President-Elect Biden had an unassailable lead. The official process of certifying the votes is still in progress, and some recounts are underway, but despite the President's refusal to concede, there is no serious expectation that the outcome will change.

While we were all focused on election results, we started to get very welcome news about a first vaccine against the Coronavirus that was producing extremely promising results, possibly with the first doses being available by the end of the year. Then a week later, a second vaccine sounds equally promising, and with less stringent refrigeration requirements, may make it more available to less industrialised parts of the world. It's lovely at last to be able to imagine a real future that does not feature masks, social distancing and no travel!

But meanwhile, as elsewhere in the northern hemisphere, we are experiencing a tremendous surge in Covid cases. When I started drafting this article, barely more than a week ago, I noted that new cases in the US were running at over 100,000 a day. I edited this a few days later to read 150,000, and the number is now closer to



200,000. Sadly, America is learning the true meaning of exponential growth. The Trump administration has given up trying to combat the spread, leaving the individual states to manage on their own. They are also at this point still blocking the Biden transition team from accessing any federal resources, the better to be prepared to distribute the vaccine when the new presidency begins on 20th January.

This has not stopped us from enjoying some fantastic late autumn weather, which has allowed Virginians to continue with outdoor social gatherings for now. I spent a lovely afternoon with good friends who live about an hour west of here in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. You can see what a spectacular view they have over the Virginia countryside in the attached photo.

As the weather is now cooling down, people are starting to think about the upcoming holiday season, turning to outdoor heaters of various types to enable safe get-togethers to continue for now. I have invested in a propane fire pit (pictured), which I can use safely on my wooden deck.



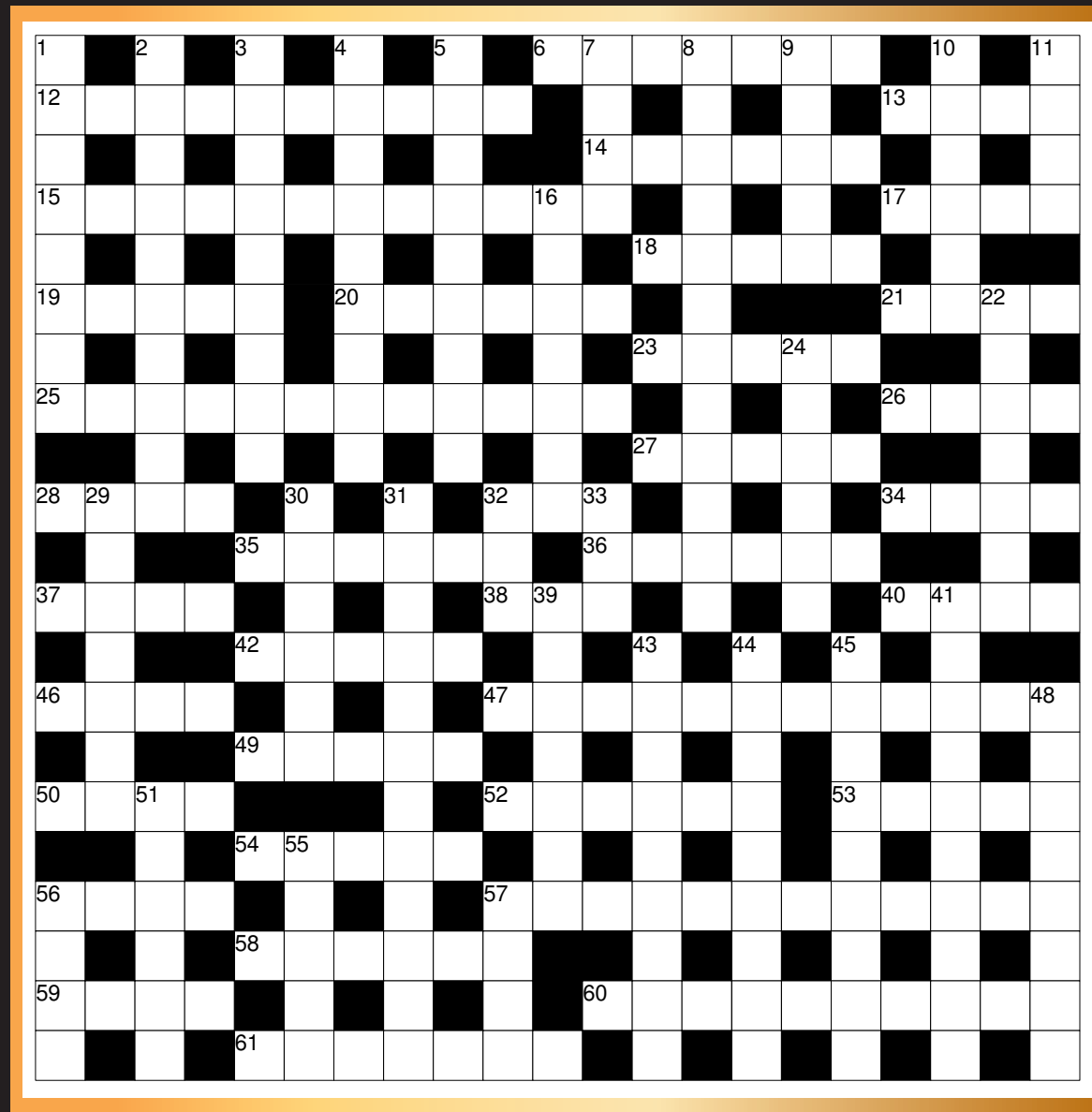
Halloween celebrations went ahead reasonably successfully with processions of costumed kids through our neighbourhood collecting candies placed at the ends of our driveways, instead of being distributed from our doorsteps.

Next up in a couple of weeks is Thanksgiving – it is the main family-oriented holiday of the year (much more so than Christmas), and in normal times people travel long distances to participate in multi-generational gatherings. These are usually centred around a meal featuring a huge turkey with side-dishes and dessert pies contributed by family members. Many people are finding it deeply unsettling to consider scaling back or forgoing this beloved celebration, but alas we are being strongly recommended to do just that.

I have a feeling that to compensate for not being able to enjoy Christmas as usual, people will focus even more than usual on decorating their houses both inside and out. Normally outdoor decorations start to appear right after Thanksgiving and these range from tasteful strings of white or coloured lights to garish inflated Santas and reindeer, sometimes motorised, that can occupy an entire front yard, or even a rooftop!

Finally we will be embracing the New Year, probably with a very quiet popping of corks among close friends. This will give us all the chance to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year and look forward to better times ahead, hopefully to a fully available and effective vaccine, and for me, the opportunity to get together with the family and all our good friends in Oughterard. Here's raising a glass to that! ■

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 6 Took on responsibility for, especially the child of another. (7)
 12 Said to be better than cure. (10)
 13 Manage in trying circumstances. (6)
 14 Special part of the tree in the police force. (6)
 15 They go round in groups during the festive season. (5-7)
 17 East of ____ Book by John Steinbeck. About gardening? (4)
 18 Where you might do a Siege of Ennis or a Four Hand Reel. (5)
 19 It's all a game of chance. (5)
 20 Open with a key. (6)
 21 Might give you a nip at the beach! (4)
 23 They are tied to tell you how fast the boats are going. (5)
 25 What to do with boughs of holly? (4,3,5)
 26 Norse god with a hammer. (4)
 27 She might be at the top of the tree at Christmas. (5)
 28 Not stupid, in fact like an old owl. (4)
 32 One of the animals in the crib . . . (3)
 34 . . . and the sound it makes in Co Wicklow. (4)

- 35 Chunk of space rock falling to earth. (6)
 36 If it's national, it's country music. (6)
 37 One who sings very high in summer. (4)
 38 She is the other animal in the crib. (3)
 40 American clinic in Irish county? (4)
 42 Festive drink that could knock you out. (5)
 46 What Donald Trump did innumerable times during his presidency. (4)
 47 A person who is trained to take notes in shorthand. (12)
 49 Cross-country carrier of power lines. (5)
 50 To the locals, Croagh Patrick might smell to high heaven! (4)
 52 Put on a brave face in front of a building. (6)
 53 Idiot. (5)
 54 When a body is the opposite of 59 Across. (5)
 56 What you can't have and eat. (4)
 57 Rearranges borders of electoral districts to suit a political party. (12)
 58 Agree with. (6)
 59 Floppy. (4)
 60 Made even stronger. (10)
 61 Treatment for an illness. (7)

DOWN

- 1 Spotted in colour like an egg. (8)
 2 The things that automatic cars don't have. (4-6)
 3 Craft that are not flat-bottomed. (9)
 4 Airs and graces. (9)
 5 Someone from Ulan Bator. (9)
 7 Calls this team the champions for several years now. (4)
 8 Aspiration for this time of year. (5,2,5)
 9 Be very good at using a Microsoft programme. (5)
 10 Way, way over there . . . (6)
 11 Poisonous plant and noxious weed. (4)
 16 Remembers a time when manufacturer asks customers to bring back faulty goods. (7)
 22 The exception that proves the rule. (7)
 24 Over the festive season one could be going with a bird from Ankara. (6)
 29 Just try and picture that John Lennon is singing a song for you. (7)
 30 _____ & The Beast. (6)
 31 Fancy name for a Garda. (5,7)
 32 Part of a circle. (3)
 33 Observed a tool for cutting stuff. (3)
 39 A disgraceful act that should make everyone very angry. (7)
 41 Deep hatred and loathing. (10)
 43 Footloose and fancy free. (9)
 44 Pact to which several parties sign up. (9)
 45 Site for horse trials or another game. (9)
 48 The nearest seats you can get to boxers or wrestlers. (8)
 51 An Inuit person. (6)
 55 Could it be a canine - or a molar? (5)
 56 A little one of 38 Across. (4)
 57 Get a tight hold of. (4)

ANSWERS TO
AUTUMN 2020 CROSSWORD

Oughterard Writers Group

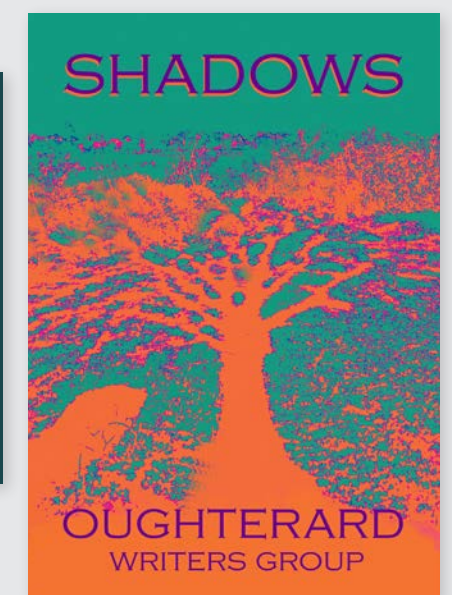
Written by Jess Walsh

Oughterard Writer's Group have been meeting on Zoom, very successfully, every Thursday at 11 am. The group is facilitated by local writer Pete Mullineaux. We would like to thank Pete for his constant support throughout this very unusual year, also a big thank you to Clann Resource Centre for setting up our Zoom meetings and for their ongoing support.

If you would like to join our group, we are always happy to see new members, please contact Clann Resource Centre 091-557634.

If you are looking for local Christmas presents please look out for our CD 'Heart Beat' which is full of lovely poetry read by our members to beautiful music composed by local musician Tommy Gibbons. Our poetry book 'Shadows' is also available in the shops.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



Corribdale Park

Every year typically has its highlights, lows and defining moments, but 2020 has brought with it so many world-changing, generation-defining and once in a lifetime developments that at times it's hard to believe we are not on the set of the latest Hollywood blockbuster! With a pandemic still raging and waves of social change swelling around the globe, there's a feeling that most people will be very happy to consign 2020 to the history books.

This really has been a tough year for most of us, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our sympathies to those who have experienced losses or ill health during these past few months. We can only hope that 2021 will bring with it a new hope and happier times.

Corribdale Park has seen a huge increase in daily usage over the lockdown period and we are delighted to see how many people are using the park on a daily basis. You will no doubt have noticed the new lights which were fitted and turned on in time to brighten up these dark winter evenings. The lighting was part funded by Sports Capital funding and is a very welcome improvement to the park.

We are so disappointed to not have been able to host any of our community events this year. Not having the ability to fundraise but still having the yearly running costs for keeping the park open to the public has presented us with a unique challenge! The park costs €3,000 annually to operate. So, we have had to put our thinking caps on and have had to be a little creative in our latest fundraising offering. Our favourite yearly event has always been the 5k on St Stephen's day – this has always been such a fun and positive event and we are deeply disappointed that we cannot safely organise the event this December.

This year more than ever communities need to celebrate and mark the end of the year 2020 in a safe and enjoyable way. So, instead of hosting our physical annual event, we would like to host a virtual 5k Santy Dash. We feel under the current conditions this is the safest way for everyone concerned and we hope we can all still spread a little festive cheer while raising money to keep this important facility open to the public.

Participants can sign up online and can do the 5k walk / run or cycle in their own time at any stage over the Christmas Week. The 5k can be done over any geographic location. It doesn't matter where in the world you are – you can take part! Sign up on Eventbrite: <https://virtualsantydash.eventbrite.ie>

The event will not have a cover charge but donations to two local causes will be accepted. These will be Corribdale Park and Underage GAA.

Each donation given will in turn receive a voucher for a local business as a prize for taking part. This allows us to support local businesses and also spread a bit of community cheer and bring people together while staying safely apart! We will support several local businesses as a result of this event by purchasing vouchers which will entitle participants to get a takeaway coffee and a mince pie or a hot chocolate and a treat after they finish the 5k.

We hope the community gets behind this event and shows their support for Corribdale Park.



2020 Virtual Santa Dash!

In aid of
Corribdale Park & Underage GAA

Sign up online at
<https://virtualsantydash.eventbrite.ie>

Do your 5k anywhere, any time over the Christmas Week

Donations Welcome

Donations over €15 will get a €5 voucher for local restaurants & gift shops.

Your entry supports local businesses Underage GAA & Corribdale Park

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details.

Finally – we would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas! ■

The Corribdale Grounds Committee



Oughterard

GAA Club *update*

From Corribdale to Croke Park

A book titled "From Corribdale to Croke Park" is being printed this month. The book has a collection of newspaper articles, match reports and photos that were collected throughout the campaign for the All Ireland Intermediate club title. Pre orders have been taken but a limited number will be available for sale in December. Please contact Helen Finnerty, on 0872336489, to reserve your copy.

Virtual 5k Santy Dash.

Corribdale Grounds, in collaboration with Oughterard GAA, is organising a community event that involves a joint virtual experience

for the entire community of Oughterard and the surrounding areas. So, instead of hosting our physical annual St Stephen's day event at Corribdale Park, we are hosting a virtual 5k Santy Dash. Details are described in the Corribdale article in this magazine: sign up on <https://virtualsantydash.eventbrite.ie>

Please support this virtual event and help us to keep the park up and running (excuse the pun!)

Oughterard AGM

Oughterard GAA would like to thank all out-going committee members and officers of the club. We held our AGM over ZOOM and we would like to thank everyone that attended. It was a very successful meeting under the circumstances.

A big thank you

Oughterard GAA would like to thank everyone that gave their time, effort and money throughout 2020. Without your help, our club would not be possible. We would like to thank all of our club sponsors, supporters, Covid supervisors, volunteers, lotto ticket sellers and buyers, players, parents, managers, trainers, and everyone that gave their time, for all their efforts. ■

Corrib Basketball Club *update*

Like father, like son...

Perhaps better known for his footballing prowess, Kevin Walsh will go down in history as one of Corrib's outstanding basketball players. Having only picked up a basketball for the very first time when he entered the gates of St Pauls Secondary School in 1981, his achievements were nothing less than remarkable. In a recent interview he reflected that perhaps his basketball career was cut short to concentrate on Gaelic football. But having gone on to win 3 all-stars and 2 senior football championships, before coming back to manage his native county senior team, he can have no regrets.

However, Kevin testifies that his early basketball commitment had a strong influence on his footballing career. In his new book, entitled 'The Invisible Game', he attributes much of his sporting success to three people who greatly influenced his life. His secondary school teacher and coach, Mary Nihill, was one of those people, and he recalled how her professionalism and style changed the culture of basketball. Under her stewardship Kevin and his teammates went on to win all Ireland school basketball finals in U15, U17 and U19. A remarkable achievement for a small school in the west of Ireland.

The 1984 schools U15 'A' final was a highly contested affair between St Paul's of Oughterard and St Nathy's College from Ballaghaderreen, with St Pauls coming out on top with a score line of 71 – 70. Walsh alone scored 53 points in that game, a tally that's usually reserved for top players in the professional game. But school basketball was only the beginning for Kevin, as he and many of his schoolmates, including Tony O'Connor, Kevin O'Reilly, and Patrick Faherty, went on to represent Connaught and even Ireland.

For Kevin, one of the highlights of his basketball career was the Killannin boys' success in the community games in Mosney. In '83 and '84, under the leadership of Ita Walsh, the humble comrades proudly brought all-Ireland success home to their parish to a rousing reception. The archives also show that Kevin won a silver medal in the shot putt at Mosney, despite the fact that both the basketball and shot putt events were timetabled for the same time. He had to be satisfied with just throwing 3 shots in order to swiftly return to the basketball.

Corrib basketball probably reached its pinnacle when they achieved senior national league status in both ladies and men's. The 1986/87 men's team was made up of the strange alliance of Oughterard, Killannin, and Mountbellew; as these three parishes would normally have clashed on the football field. However, Mary Nihill's husband, Gerry, was the basketball coach in Mountbellew and the catalyst for forging the trio. Captained by the steady John Bosco Walsh, the local

stars were Patrick Faherty, Johnny Kelly, Gerry Conneely, Michael Feeney, Kevin O'Reilly, and Kevin Walsh; the youngest team to ever gain entry into the Irish National Basketball League. They were led by Mary Nihill, the only female coach in the men's National League and finished a very respectable 5th position that year.

Just as history has a habit of repeating itself, one of Corrib's up and coming basketball stars is Kevin's son, Dara. Already towering over his dad, Dara Walsh is undoubtedly a big name to watch for in the future. Unlike his dad, Dara started basketball at the age of 6, and has won many underage all-Irelands with his Corrib club and St Paul's school. Having captained the Western Regional boys U15 team, who won the regional all-Ireland in 2018, Dara's natural ability stood out earning him a call up to the Irish Basketball Academy.

In November 2019 it was announced by the head coach of the Irish U16 men's team that Dara had earned his position on the national team. The team were due to take part in the European Basketball Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria earlier this year, but unfortunately Covid-19 cancelled that for the moment.

It would be remiss of me not to mention another Corrib player that's gaining international recognition, and that

is Marta Baneck. Marta has fought her way onto Ireland's U18 women's team, but that's another interview and another story, for another day. Needless to say, Corrib Basketball Club is very proud of both Marta and Dara and wish them both the very best of luck in the months and years ahead.

Corrib Basketball also want to wish Kevin the very best of luck with his new book. "The Invisible Game." It's a must have this Christmas, and is available to buy on Amazon. I'm sure there will be many insights given into the game of basketball as well as football, and I'm looking forward to finding out who the other big influencers in his life were.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our club members, coaches, players, parents, and committee, a very happy and safe Christmas. ■

Michael Walsh

PRO
Corrib Basketball



OAFC Oughterard Soccer Club *update*



U13 Girls squad

Lots of action and goals kicked off a great start to the 2020/21 season which was unfortunately interrupted by Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions. Luckily, we were still allowed to continue with coaching up to U19 level while, off the pitch, the ball has kept rolling with plenty of Club events.

GOLF AM-AM

Massive thanks to all the teams who took part in the Club's fundraiser Golf Am-Am on October 2nd and 3rd. Special mentions to our main sponsor, Oughterard Building Supplies, and to Justin Keogh's Centra for sponsoring drinks and snacks for golfers. Sincere thanks to all who supported this event, and also to the following people and businesses who sponsored fantastic prizes: Oughterard Golf Club, SSE Windfarm, Peacocks, Roger Finnerty & Sons Butchers, SuperValu Moycullen, Connemara Golf Links, John Monaghan @ David Martin Hairdressing, Liam Beswick, Spotlight Oral Care, Brown Thomas, Joyce's Supermarkets, and Smyths Toys.

LAST MAN STANDING

At the time of writing our Last Man Standing competition is going into its 9th round. More than 237 people took part in the competition which kicked off in September. The winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

NEW COMMITTEE

Newly elected OAFC Club Officers Dan Tuck (Vice Chairperson), Barney McAleer (Chairperson), Tom Maloney (Secretary) and Jack McConnell (Treasurer) are pictured.

COMETS COACHING

COMETS Coaching resumed mid-September with U6-U11 Boys and Girls training every Sunday morning. The Club would like

to thank Martin and Cora of DNG MARTIN O'CONNOR for sponsoring COMETS Coaching for the upcoming season. Your continued association with, and support for the Club, is greatly appreciated. Well done to all the COMETS who participated in the Midterm Art Competition, all the artistic creations are on display in the Club house.

OAFC BOYS

Most BOYS teams played two games before match suspensions came into force. The U15 and U16 squads will reconvene matches in their positions of top of their tables, winning two games a piece. U16 BOYS and coaches also got creative with a FootGolf coaching session in Newvillage in October. U18 BOYS had a narrow loss away to Barna. U13 Championship and U13 Div 4 squads also got off to a flying start, winning two games each. U12 BOYS Blue squad and U12 BOYS Yellow Squad also put in spirited performances in their first two games. Our Adult Men drew both their matches.

OAFC GIRLS

U12 GIRLS opened the season in September and U19 GIRLS recorded their first win the same day. U15 GIRLS lost their first game, followed by a strong performance in game two with a comprehensive win on home ground. U13 GIRLS have won the first two games on their fixtures schedule.

WOMENS RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL

The first in-house match between the two Women's Recreational squads took place in September. The game had a great competitive edge with superb performances. Growth in numbers in this squad has been hugely positive for the Club, and players and coaches are looking forward to getting back on track with training.

< Continued from previous page



Halloween photo



GOLF AM: Pat McEvilly, John Morley, David Walsh, and Packie Kelleher The new committee



POWERBALL 500

Congratulations to Brenda O'Malley, David Buckley, Ann Mannion and James McConnell - our August, September, October, and November Powerball 500 winners, winning €500 each. Our monthly draw has been rebranded as Powerball 500, offering the opportunity to win €500 each month, while supporting the continued improvement of the Club and the football available to all members. We are calling on all OAFC supporters to Play Powerball 500. With the increase in club members, we need to continue to invest in facilities which includes progressing plans to increase coaching session capacity at Newvillage Football Park. This can only be achieved if the club has sustainable funds to make this investment. Buying a ball (costing less than €5 a week) supports the club's development. Ask any coach for details or click on to link <http://cryq3pu.paperform.co> to play.



OAFC's monthly draw has been rebranded Powerball 500. At the recent launch were Club Chairperson Barney McAleer, Powerball 500 Liaison Officer Pat Mannion and U13 GIRLS displaying their kit with the new Powerball 500 logo.

NEW MEMBERS

Each new season we invite and welcome new members, be it players, coaches or volunteers. Today we have more than 400 Members playing and competing at levels from U6 to Seniors from Oughterard, Moycullen, Killannin, Clonbur and Maam areas. If you wish to be part of the Club in any capacity or feel you can contribute in any way, please contact us at oughterard@galwayfa.ie We would love to hear from you!

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to everyone from all of us in OAFC. Sincere thanks to everyone for their continued support throughout the year.



Continued on next page >

Oughterard Rugby Football Club *update*

This year's rugby season has not panned out quite how we wanted it to, as we all know and see on a daily basis. However, we will try as a club and a membership to keep things as normal as possible while we all get through the current restrictions.

The club took the decision to continue with training. We felt it was very important to continue as we were, before the country moved to the current Level 5 guidelines. It is important to us that we give the kids and young adults an outlet to keep fit, meet people and have fun with their friends, while at the same time playing this great field sport.

We have seen a huge increase in girls joining the club, which is fantastic. The cross over and similarities between rugby and other sports is very plain to see and, if we can provide an outlet over the dark winter months for mental stimulation and fitness for kids and young adults, then we are all onto a winner.

On a minis level, we continue to grow. Every Saturday morning, it is great to see the influx of boys and girls dressed in all colours descend on the club to run around and have fun. Of course, Mag's Cabin helps with the hot chocolates and brownies afterwards. The club has seen a massive increase in interest in rugby this season at a mini level. We really hope that we can arrange some blitzes this season so we can renew old rivalries from seasons past and display the skill of these players. Coaching wise, we have also seen an increase in volunteers and this has been brilliant to ease the workload. If anyone feels like helping out, please approach one of the coaches on a Saturday morning and we will be delighted to find a position for you.

The youths had just started the round robin Connacht-organised series of friendlies before the lockdown level 5 restrictions came into place. This year we have teams of boys and girls at under 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s and 18s, but we need to grow numbers in all these age groups. We have continued to train, while we await the resumption of the league, so the lads and girls are working on skill sets and general fitness. It is an ideal opportunity to meet friends outside of the school environment. So if you have a coach potato or XBOX genius sitting at home, please send them out to us and we will get them fit and healthy.

Unfortunately, our senior team only got one game in this season before the shutdown. These guys, who were training up to three times a week and really looking good for the season ahead, have to abide by the regulations and stop training as a group. They can still train but only as individuals, which, as we will know, is not easy in the winter months.

Oughterard Rugby Club Development - progress to date

After many years of contemplating and thinking of having a facility that we could call our permanent home, we finally broke ground on the 18th of September on our new site on the Pier Road. To date, there has been great progress, with our contractor, Prime Civils, continuing work apace. Firstly, the topsoil was stripped and stored beside the pitch location. Next, the site was rough graded and this was followed by the installation of the drainage, which will ensure a high quality surface to play on in the near future. We expect the drainage to be completed soon, weather permitting, and once this is done the site will be made winter ready. Our contractor will then move out and will return in the spring to lay down the soil on top of the drainage and seed the pitch.

We are also working on moving forward other parts of the project, with our clubhouse and roadway plans continuing apace and also the training and lighting plans all at an advanced stage. As with all projects of scale, there are bumps along the way and, to date, we have had a few small ones but with the dedicated team involved they have been overcome thus far. We expect to find innovative solutions and work arounds to continue to progress the development. We are working closely with Leader and Forum Connemara to provide a great facility for our rugby teams, and also for many other groups in the off season and in the evenings in the clubhouse facility.

We must also pause for a moment and thank our existing landlord Mr Pat Higgins. Pat is a founding member and trustee of the club and the owner of our existing site. Pat has supported us down through the years and continues to do so. We expect to have a few years left on our existing site as we transition to our new facility and look forward to continuing our relationship into the future.

We are very thankful of all the great support we have had from you, our members, and, indeed, all those in the community who have supported us in various ways. To assist us, we have set up our 50/50 initiative and, to date, we have given away nearly €1,000 in 2 months. While also making the same for the club, this initiative will give us a great base to work from into the future and greatly help us with our new development. We hope to increase the number of members playing each month so it's onwards for the club and again many thanks for your continued support.

Contact Details

For further details on all matters ORFC go to www.orfc.ie; Facebook: Oughterard Rugby; email: ouughterardrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com; or call Niall at 0858887457. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for training times. ■



Training and fun - November



U16 v U17 Challenge - October



Oughterard Courthouse Arts Programme (OCAP)

Written by Mo Mooney

As we approach the end of 2020, OCAP can reflect on a year that has thrown up a series of challenges to the Arts Community. OCAP has taken the route of many other Arts organisations and embraced the virtual world to share the work of our wonderful Artists locally and much further afield.

We are delighted to share a diverse range of Artworks just in time for Christmas with the launch of our "VIRTUAL ARTWORKS MARKET" which is due to launch on Friday 27th November 2020 at 7pm. This event will showcase a diverse range of original artworks and is an excellent opportunity to support Irish Artists and purchase a unique piece of art for your own home or for someone special in your life. This event can now be viewed on www.ocap.ie alongside our other Exhibitions from the SET IN STONE programme.

OCAP had a very successful Galway 2020 programme of Exhibitions over the Summer months. The GALWAY 2020 Small Towns Big Ideas project SET IN STONE is based around the research of local Archaeologist Bill Daly who traced the history of Oughterard back to Neolithic times. The Visual Arts Programme opened with the uachtarARTS Group show RIANTA (traces of our past) and featured the work of Catherine O'Leachain, Clare Hansen, Deirdre Stephens, Gil Cusack, Grainne MacManus, Jess Walsh, Kathleen Hinde, Lelia NiChathmhaoil, Mary Byrne, Maureen Mooney, Maria Hutton, Molly McHenry, Olga Magliocco, Philippa Maguire, Shona Butler, Simon Hamnell and Susanne Keane. The second Exhibition CUIMHNÍ (memories) featured new work by local artists Kathleen Furey and Leah Beggs. The third Exhibition AIMSITHE (discovered) presents the work of Co Galway Artists Collective AKIN including Jay Murphy, Dolores Lyne, Leonie King, Margaret Irwin West and Sioban Piercy. All the Exhibitions are still available to view on our website www.ocap.ie as the Galway 2020 programme has been extended to March 2021. We would like to wish all the Artists, Supporters, Friends, Family and Committee members a special Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all back to the Courthouse in 2021.

OCAP (Oughterard Courthouse Arts Programme) is a voluntary group that was formed to run visual art exhibitions during the summer months in Oughterard Courthouse with support from both Oughterard Courthouse Conservation & Heritage Company and Galway County Council. If you are interested in assisting with invigilating please let us know; it can be a very enriching experience to engage with Art in the community.

For more information contact ouughterardcap@gmail.com or follow us on www.facebook.com/OughterardCourthouseArtsProgramme. ■



Bernie Fleming "Smokie" Linocut



Dolores Lyne "Good day at Fanore, Co Clare"



uachtarARTS



Art Trail images in Oughterard businesses

As we approach the end of 2020 we can look back on a year where we continued to make connections in the community in spite of Covid 19. We were fortunate to celebrate Culture Night on 18th September in the Courthouse and all around the village of Oughterard. Galway Music Residency produced two videos of artwork and spoken word which were shown along with an extra video produced by Olga Magliocco in The Courthouse on Culture Night.

uachtarARTS had the honour of collaborating with Galway Music Residency, NUIG and ConTempo quartet during the Summer. The Courthouse hosted an exhibition of the artwork produced by the uachtarARTS members who responded from lockdown to two pieces of music from Beethoven and Philip Glass, which were presented by ConTempo. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Galway Music Residency and ConTempo for their generosity in sharing their wonderful talents with us.

uachtarARTS also hosted a sensational Art Trail in the windows of Businesses in Oughterard. We had great feedback from the businesses and members of the public who felt it brought a great splash of colour to Oughterard in the difficult times we are currently living in. The majority of the businesses kept the work up for the week following Culture Night, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful businesses for their generosity and the positivity shown to the artistic community in Oughterard and beyond.

uachtarARTS had hoped to resume meet-ups in October, but unfortunately due to the reintroduction of Level 3 and subsequently level 5 restrictions no indoor gatherings could go ahead. We would like to wish all our members and friends a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all back in The Courthouse in 2021.

We keep everyone posted on upcoming uachtarARTS events on Facebook: www.facebook.com/uachtarARTS or you can contact uachtararts@gmail.com for more information. If you would like to be involved with uachtarARTS just let us know, new volunteers and members are welcome to our meet-ups at the Courthouse on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am -12.30pm, when we return in 2021. uachtarARTS would like to thank Galway County Council, Clann Resource Centre and the Oughterard Courthouse for their continued support. ■



One of the artworks responding to ConTempo's music: Kathleen Hinde's "The Listening Lesson"

Corrib Ramblers

2020 Autumn update

Written by Heather Martin

Well, what a stop-start year this has been. We walked in January and February, Covid-19 lockdown forced us to stop going out as a group from March until mid June, then we walked weekly until mid October and now have had to stop again until at least December. Despite this, we have really enjoyed the walks we did and we visited some beautiful places. The most amazing thing we noted is that - from when we began rambling again in mid-June - we had dry and frequently sunny walks until we had to stop again in October. Prior to and in between lockdowns, we also managed to enjoy fabulous rambles on our "away" trips to the Canaries and to Belmullet.

We enjoyed a wide variety of walks in our autumn programme, despite the curtailment necessary due to Covid. We like beach walks and being by the sea and we visited Finis near Kilkerrin, Tawin near Oranmore, Gurteen and Dog's Bay near Roundstone, and Baile na hAbhann beyond Furbo. We also seem to end up in bogs fairly frequently and this time we went to Casla bog though we stuck to the tracks as opposed to ploughing through the bog as we have done previously! We also like lakes and we did a wonderful walk to the well hidden Dirkbeg Lough near Tourmakeady. One Sunday in September we did a loop near Ballyvaughan and enjoyed the beautiful Burren landscape. Another interesting walk was the Sean Bothar near Clonbur. This road connects Clonbur with Cornamona. In the past women gathered to spin wool and then walked barefoot along this path en route to Clifden to deliver the wool to be woven into blankets.



Jim, Joanna, Kathleen and Ethna, looking very pleased with themselves at Baile na hAbhann



On a South Connemara bohereen



Doing it the hard way in the Burren



A 2-hour ramble in the sea at Finis

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Plenty of activity to watch during our picnic at Ballyquirke Lough, Moycullen

Although temporarily halted again in walking as a group we know that members are doing their own rambles in their own localities. This actually provides people with lovely opportunities to meet neighbours whom they might not otherwise see when people are living their busy lives. It also allows people to discover all sorts of local boreens and little known local beauty spots. We have set up a photo competition and look forward to seeing what interesting photos of their rambles that members choose to submit.

Corrib Ramblers normally meet up in Oughterard Carpark on almost every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. We used to carpool but in these Covid times people are taking their own cars. We go for interesting, varied and social walks within one hour's driving distance. We occasionally walk further afield, including The Burren, other parts of Ireland, and in other parts of Europe. Usually, the walks are 2-3 hours long on established paths, with plenty of opportunities to loiter along the way - including a picnic lunch break and great camaraderie. Also, many take refreshments at a local hostelry immediately after the walk - again Covid restrictions permitting. We welcome new members and visitors at any time: email corribramblers@gmail.com for further information or ring Mary Kyne (086 077 9114), Barbara McSharry (087 353 1535), or Joe Murray (087 219 2682) for more details. ■



The Riddle of the Stones

Written by Bill Daly

Sometimes, when you are involved in a bit of research and you come across something that you know should be left alone, it is better to just leave it alone. Otherwise, the genie is likely to jump out of the bottle and will be almost impossible to put back in again. In the following little story, the genie well and truly jumped out of the bottle and I'm not sure if I will ever be able to put her back again! It all started a few years ago when I came across a footnote in Sir William Wilde's book - Wilde's Lough Corrib. I went back to take a look at it again last year and it is a wonderful description by a 19th century Travel Writer as to what she perceived on the old road overlooking Aughnacore Castle in the late 1830's. The following is the extract....

'Leaving Galway town, the tourist will proceed to Oughterard en route to Connemara. Oughterard is small, but an exceedingly neat town. When within a few miles of this pretty town, our astonishment was excited by perceiving a prodigious collection of cromlechs, of the existence of which, we believe, no traveller has taken note, but which certainly demands extensive and minute investigation. These huge circles of stone were so numerous, that at first we imagined them to be merely accidental occurrences in the rocky soil; but repeated examinations convinced us that they were as much artificial erections

as any of the monuments, of which we have encountered so many in various parts of the country. Mr. Fairholt made drawings of several; we do not consider it necessary to engrave them, for they differ in no respect from the examples we have already given. This great city of the Druids - for such it undoubtedly is - lies between Galway and Oughterard, but much nearer the latter town, upon the old road; yet the road is not so old but that searchers after antiquities must have often traversed it. It occupies the whole of an extended plain, on a height of a steep hill, and in the valley beneath is seen the old castle of Aughnacore. The space literally covered by these Druidic stones of all shapes and sizes, extends for about two miles, and we imagine it would not be difficult to count a thousand of them. We found it easy to trace out the circles in nearly every instance in which we tried to do so; that one had been built into the hedge, or into the gable of a house, or had sunk into the ground until nearly imperceptible, or had left some fragments, to show where it had been. The circles were of varied sizes, some very small, in others so large as apparently to be half a mile in circumference, and although in most instances the props which supported the huge rock had crumbled under its weight, sufficient proofs of their former existence were left in nearly every case. Our leisure did not permit us to make a very minute scrutiny of this truly wonderful place, but our brief note of it may, and no doubt will, induce such an examination as it undoubtedly demands. We earnestly

recommend it to the attention of Mr. Windele. (Vol 3 Page 466)

This extract is from a monumental work called 'Ireland's Scenery and Character' by Anna Marie Fielding (1800-1881) and written under the names of Mr and Mrs S.C. Hall. Published in three volumes between 1841 and 1843 it runs to over 1,600 pages and 560 illustrations. It documents a journey to every County in Ireland, over five trips between 1825 and 1840, and it carries an incredible amount of detail. The work was commissioned under the patronage of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, and the first volume was dedicated and presented to him in 1841. Galway makes an appearance in volume three, and I was able to download all three volumes for free, courtesy of Google Books.

However, we must read Sir William Wilde's comments also, and the resultant pouring of cold water on the above extract. Here is what Sir William Wilde had to say...

'It would be a great injustice to Ireland, and to the tourist or reader who has accompanied us thus far round the shores of Lough Corrib, if we omitted to direct attention to, and. If it existed, to describe this wonderful place, but there are no cromlechs. The only remains of stone circles in this district are those at Laghtgannon, referred to at page 286. In one of these there are still seven standing stones, and the site of ten others is

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Aughnacore/Gortrevagh Artefacts in National Museum



Polished Stone Axe (Neolithic)



Chert Arrowhead (Neolithic)



Butt-Head Stone Axehead (Mesolithic)



Stone Axehead (Mesolithic)

visible in the vicinity. There was also one formerly on the Glebe, but an agricultural incumbent had it removed. All these forts are marked on the 6 inch Ordnance Map'. (Page 293)

Sir William Wilde (1815-1876), Oscar's father, was a very famous Eye & Ear surgeon based in Dublin. He built a house which he named 'Moytura' on the banks of Lough Corrib near Cong. Apart from his work as an eminent Surgeon he was also a renowned Antiquarian/Archaeologist, and in his capacity as Head of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), he was the first person to catalogue artefacts by type rather than date. His book 'Wilde's Lough Corrib', published in 1867 and republished in 2002 is a classic and a wonderful account of a journey on a Steamer along the inner circumference of Lough Corrib.

I now had the ultimate research horror story, two conflicting accounts of the events and everybody that was involved now being dead. I had to stand back and look at the evidence, or lack of it, in greater detail, and these were my observations when I analysed Mrs. Hall's account almost word for word.

Sir William Wilde told us 'there are no cromlechs', and by this he may be referring to full monuments like we have in the landscape today. A 'cromlech' (derived from the Breton language) is not a term used in Archaeology anymore and back in the 19th century it would blanket cover what we know now as megalithic tombs, stone circles and stone alignments. Mrs. Hall and her company were passing a rocky landscape near Aughnacore and as Galway appeared in Volume 3, they had become accustomed to looking at the landscape of Ireland and had developed a keen eye to pick out stuff. Mrs. Hall's husband, Samuel Carter Hall who had accompanied her on all of the trips was also an expert on History and Topography (the arrangement of natural and artificial physical features of an area), and he may have spotted it first.

What they were essentially looking at were components of once intact

structures that had now been taken apart over time but had left their imprint on the landscape. They were able to 'trace the circles', some had been 'built into a hedge, others into the 'gable of a house' while some others were almost 'buried underground'.

We must also remember that thirty years had elapsed between Mrs. Hall's observation and the writing of Sir William Wilde's book. In this intervening time we had the Famine and the subsequent Outdoor Relief Projects where large rocks would have been quarried for road projects.

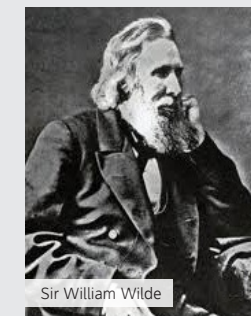
'There are a lot of old roads in Oughterard. There is an old road in Magheramore called Poll Buidhe and it was made at the time of the Famine. Men and women worked on it and they got 4d a day and they wore no shoes. The Factory Road leads to Ceann Reamhar and to the Factory and it was made at the time of the Famine' - School's Folklore Project (1938) Oughterard.

The construction of the Galway-Clifden Railway in the 1890's may have taken the remaining stones, and that may be why they are not visible to us anymore.

Why would Mr. Fairholt have made sketches if there was nothing to draw? Frederick Fairholt (1814-1866) apart from being a very well respected Artist and Illustrator in London was also an Antiquarian. The 'Mr. Windele' that Mrs. Hall refers to is John Windele (1801-1865) who was a very famous Antiquarian in Munster circles, and I can see he also accompanied her and made some sketches for Volume One. We are

unfortunate that it is a time just before the advent of photography where Artists/Illustrators accompanied the Travel Writers. Afterwards the Publishers/Authors would decide what would migrate from sketch to engraving, and as this was both time consuming and costly they would not engrave a similar object/cromlech for a second time. The only way we are going to solve this mystery is to somehow get access to Mr. Fairholt's sketches or to John Windele's archaeological notes to see if he did indeed pursue Mrs. Hall's request of him. This may seem like a task beyond our reach at the moment, but you never know what the future may reveal to us! I know where John Windele's papers are housed and I intend to make a start with these in the New Year.

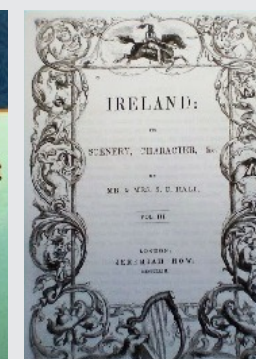
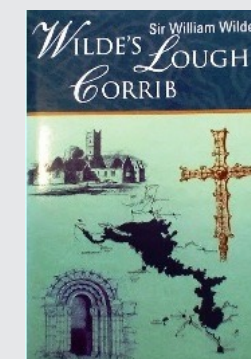
Since 2018 I have been endeavouring to research and map the prehistoric interconnectivity between the Cloosh Hills, the fertile Maghera uplands, and across to the plains and Lake positioning of Aughnacore. This is progressing nicely at the moment and we hope to be in a position to continue with the Presentations, Exhibitions and Field-Trips at some stage during 2021. During this research, many items have been located in the National Museum that were deposited there in the 19th century. On the accompanying graphic you will see a sample of what has been found at Gortrevagh (now Oughterard Golf Club) and around Aughnacore Castle. The polished stone axe and the barbed chert arrowhead are from the Neolithic period (4,000 - 2,500 BC) and, interestingly, the stone axes are quite possibly from the Mesolithic (8,000 - 4,000 BC). The prehistoric culture in Aughnacore that used the polished stone axe and chert arrowhead were also the builders of the megalithic monuments. Was Mrs Hall correct in her assumption? The story has barely begun. ■



Sir William Wilde



Mrs. S. C. Hall



The Oughterard

Angling Club *update*

In what has become our Covid lockdown year, it was with a heavy heart that the Lough Corrib Angling Federation had to cancel the annual Oughterard hatchery work, last October, due to the level-5 lockdown that was in place. The hatchery operation has become even more important over the last decade due to the illegal introduction of invasive pike into the Owenriff system. Inland Fisheries Ireland are still under an obligation they gave to the EU, with regard to the rehabilitation plan in place to rid the Owenriff of these very destructive predators, and local anglers are determined that this plan is fully implemented.

Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland (TAFI), National Anglers Representative Assoc. (NARA), and Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers, have made a submission to Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communication, Climate Action & Environment with regard to Bye-Laws 806 and 809, which give protection to non-native species such as pike. These bye-laws were introduced without the necessary appropriate assessment screening and they also appear to be in breach of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive & the provisions of Natura 2000. The Oughterard Angling Club fully supports this submission.

The Club have also made submissions to relevant state agencies regarding the following:

- 1) Algae bloom in Oughterard Bay
- 2) Felling of protected oak woodland on the Hill of Doon
- 3) Illegal under-water moorings in Oughterard Bay

The Covid pandemic also halted most of this year's angling competitions and, in particular, the mayfly period which is a time when the Club registers most of our membership fees. This led to a drop in Club membership and, as a result, a fall in much needed financial support. So I would like to take this opportunity to stress that it is never too late in the year to renew your membership (€60 p.a.).

The Club are also in the process of purchasing the land adjacent to the deep-river/public walk-way area, beyond the Club Boathouse. It is the Committee's intention to firstly secure and make safe the public walk-way, with the help of Galway Co.Co. and N.P.W.S. Over the years there has been much erosion of the river bank and, as a result, the public access path is becoming increasingly unsafe. So, with the help of these two state agencies we intend to rectify this problem. Following this remedial work, the long-term plan would be to put in place proper boat berths for Club members.



Photo by K. Prunty



Good memories of fishing at Currarevagh during the summer, including a 31/2 lb trout.

Photo by K. Prunty

On behalf of the Club, I would like to wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas as we look forward to bright, new fishing season in 2021. ■

Kevin Prunty

Secretary, Oughterard Angling Club
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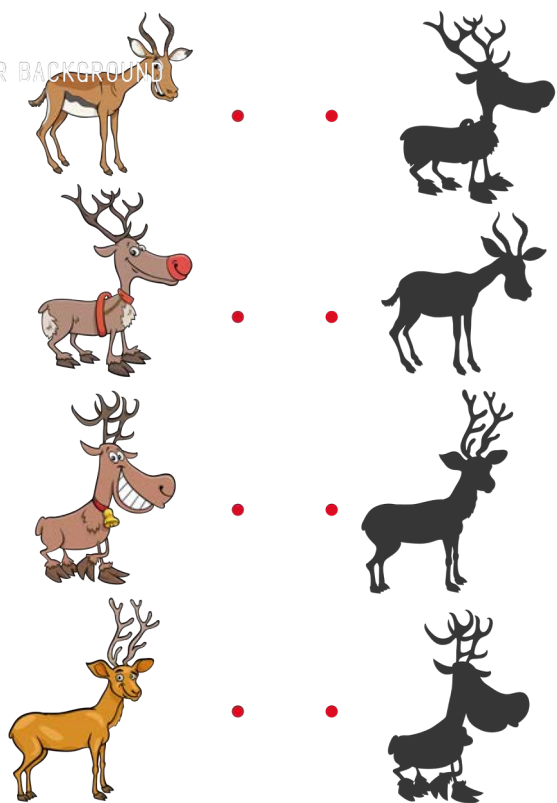
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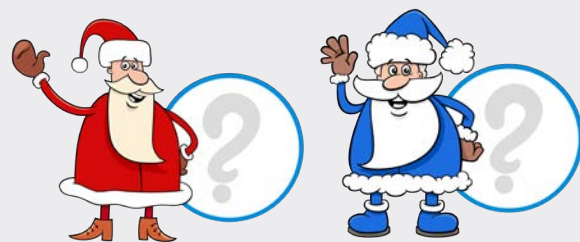
Match the silhouette to the correct reindeer



Find 7 differences in these pictures



How many red and blue Santas can you see in the picture to the left?



Which path should Santa take to get to the sack of presents?



Path C to sack of presents

$$\begin{array}{l} 1. \quad 2 + 3 = 5 \\ 2. \quad 4 - 2 = 2 \\ 3. \quad 10 - 5 = 5 \end{array}$$



Answers:

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POETRY

Black Bart's Cabin

Written by Diana Van de Kamp

Deep in the heart of the redwood forest
lies the timber skeleton of a shack,
just a stones throw from stage coach roads.
A 19th century log stacked lodging,
camouflaged amongst the trees.
Privacy is pleased.

This charming homestead
revealing in frontier minimalism,
features plumbing from the sky.
and rustic treasure hideouts.
A haven of safety
for a thief, a poet,
a soldier, and a gentleman.

A shelter for a man
to build a fire, to write a poem,
to stash some loot, to cool down hot blood.
Time drifts into chimney smoke,
a legacy turning into ashes,
fading into outlaw history.

Here is a little background about Black Bart:

Black Bart was the nickname of Charles Earl Boles, a stage coach robber in Northern California and Oregon, in the 1870s and 1880s. He was called a gentleman bandit, because he left poems behind in 2 of his robberies. He was known for being polite, witty and stylish. He brandished a shotgun, but never used it in his years as an outlaw. He was a soldier in the Civil War & was a prospector in the California gold rush. In Northern California he robbed at least 28 Wells Fargo stage coaches. He served four years in San Quentin Jail for robbing the stage coaches, and little is known about him after his time in jail. He was last seen on February 28, 1888. The ruins of his cabin rest in the mountains at Cazadero, California.

The last time I saw the cabin I was 10 years old hiking in the redwoods. For whatever reason, Black Bart's ghost has stayed with me ever since.

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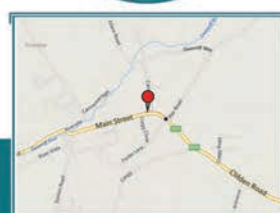


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