

SUMMER 2020

# corrib news

& Oughterard Newsletter



SPECIAL  
FEATURE

*Community voices:*

## THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

INTERVIEW WITH MARY KYNE

OUT OF THE BLUE,  
NOW INTO THE FUTURE..

*Reports from*

CLUBS, LOCAL BUSINESSES &  
COMMUNITY GROUPS

PUZZLES &  
CHILDREN'S PAGES

THREE COURTHOUSE

## ARTS EXHIBITIONS

GO ON-LINE

*Heritage:*

THE AUGHNANURE  
LONGBOAT

VISITING THE PEARSE  
CULTURAL CENTRE

*Corrib Ramblers go to*

LA GOMERA

*Upcoming events:*

NOTE THAT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS  
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES DUE TO THE  
CONTINUING COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this summer issue of the Corrib News, packed with news and views of your local community. You will find this issue full of "community voices" responding in various informative, interesting and rewarding ways to the lockdown conditions we have endured since March. In particular, we have a special feature, The Lockdown Chronicles, where adults and children from the local community, and the diaspora, share their lockdown activities, reflections and experiences.

Thank you to all those who sent in their wonderful contributions to The Lockdown Chronicles, age range from 3 to 70+, covering numerous facets of our community; we have printed them all in this issue. For our children's Lockdown Chronicles competition, we have received 6 outstanding artworks and stories, and have sent prizes of a 15 euro books/arts voucher to each participant, which can be redeemed at John P. Keogh's shop in Oughterard. We are delighted that so many from the community found time to share their words and images.

With less chasing around the place, we have had more time to reflect on how life is taking its course, to perhaps concentrate on and discover the things that mean the most to us, and to better appreciate the natural environment around us. Many of our routines have been disrupted, new and perhaps more effective ways of doing things have been found, and it is not clear if many of us can go back to the way some things were done before the lockdown. Many in our community have been badly affected by the lockdown conditions, in numerous ways, and we express our sympathy and support for them.

In view of the lockdown, community groups and clubs have relatively little to report, and you can read about how most are instead looking ahead to adapting as best they can to the current relaxation of restrictions. Although the main spring and summer community activities, such as the Oughterard Show, The Regatta, The Mayfly Festival, and the Oughterard Galway 2020 events have had to be cancelled, it has been wonderful to see such an outpouring of caring between community members, and flourishing volunteerism; community spirit is alive and well!

We wish you a successful release from lockdown, beyond our highest hopes and deepest fears, into a summer full of fulfilment and promise.

*Tom Cusack*

## 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

"Michael John McDonagh in Lockdown" was photographed by Harry Walsh who reports that "Michael John lives in Magherabeag and goes for a short walk every day to feed his donkey. He is pictured here taking a break at Magherabeag bridge during the fine weather in May."

### 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 Autumn 2020 issue is the

**4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Please send your submissions to [corribnews@gmail.com](mailto:corribnews@gmail.com), or to Corrib News, The Courthouse, Oughterard, County Galway H91 XWH9.

### Contact Us

Email: [corribnews@gmail.com](mailto:corribnews@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/corribnews](https://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](https://www.facebook.com/corribnews). This is particularly important due to the uncertainty related to the current Covid-19 virus outbreak.

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# A review of the Activities of Clann Resource Centre

Written by Helen Cronnelly, Community Development Worker, Clann Resource Centre

Clann Family Resource Centre was established in Oughterard in December 2002, and has grown and developed considerably over the past 18 years in response to the needs of the local community. During this time Clann has provided a broad range of developmental opportunities, information, advice, supports and services to community groups, families and individuals. Its overarching objective has been to improve the social and economic position of those living in disadvantaged and marginalized circumstances, and those that are socially isolated. Working within community development principles, Clann have achieved these aims using a variety of methods, increasing awareness of social exclusion and poverty, while promoting healthy lifestyles and supporting community activism.



Clann relocated to their current premises at Cregg Lodge in 2009 as the project grew in size and capacity. The centre's dedicated facilities provide a vital resource in a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for the entire community. The Centre provides many supports and services including information, resources (including administrative), meeting space for other community and voluntary groups, along with delivering outreach projects, Counselling service, play therapy and Citizen Information Centre, etc. to support organisations and individuals throughout our catchment area. Clann has played an important role in the development of the local community, building capacity while empowering families and individuals to achieve their potential. The community, within which the Family Resource Centre operates, ranges from well-populated communities to isolated rural disadvantaged areas. Our remit extends from Moycullen in the east to Maam in the west, with this area experiencing a wide range of challenges and difficulties. To address these issues Clann's main areas of work have included:

- youth development and supports for

- children and young people
- a wide range of family and parental supports including lone parents supports
- support for vulnerable groups such as older people and the housebound
- supports for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community
- supports for people with disabilities
- measures which combat domestic violence, racism and social exclusion
- drop-in support with access to information, citizens information and MABS
- policy work and anti-poverty strategy work
- networking at local, regional and national levels
- community wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention programmes
- community arts
- affordable accessible counselling at a local level and one-to-one support

Clann strives to engage the entire community, with focus on the following target groups:

- Families and parents

- Children and young people
- Older people
- Minority, disadvantaged and marginalised groups
- Isolated women and men
- Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender community
- Volunteers
- Unemployed, underemployed and self employed
- People with disabilities
- Early School leavers

Clann Family Resource Centre has embarked and has been involved in countless initiatives and projects over the years. Collaborating with various agencies, organisations and groups to provide information, supports and services to the wider community. Clann Family Resource Centre on Station road is the main centre where numerous groups and activities function from, however it is not the only premises that Clann delivers its work from; the Youth Café on Camp Street and The Nearly New Shop on Main Street are both vital to the work that Clann delivers.



## The Youth Café

Youth development has been a priority area of Clann's work during the last number of years, facilitating a broad range of activities and projects for young people and children. The process of a youth cafe started back in 2006-07 when a local group of volunteers commissioned a robust feasibility study. The Youth cafe was established originally in 2009 over Dessie's Restaurant under the then Development Worker Kerry E'Lyn Larkin and later under Marie Loughlin; it ran in that location for two years. Clann then opened the youth cafe in its present location in October 2011 under our current Youth and Community development worker Barry Dillon.

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The youth café provides a space for numerous activities, it is a busy dynamic space for young people to engage and come together for a whole variety of things. Here are some of the main items on Barry's agenda:

- Establish and manage an alcohol and drug free, socially inclusive youth café drop-in service
- Establish and Support a number of youth groups, clubs and related volunteers, these include Codor Dojo and Teen youth clubs
- Summer Camps for a wide range of ages involving arts, crafts and outdoor activities
- Mentor Bronze and Silver Gaisce, President's Award to local secondary school students
- Mental Health, drug and alcohol, anti-bullying and leadership &

- citizenship programmes
- Outdoor adventure group and once-off outdoor activities with teenagers
- National Recreation Week Mental Health Camps.
- Drama, arts, graffiti, dance and animation workshops
- Music, drumming, DJ, song writing, and guitar workshops
- Radio and Racism Programmes and Flying Film Squad Project
- Substance Abuse – Masks Project
- Counselling service
- Outreach projects with schools; intergenerational, intercultural, anti-bullying, mental health
- Oughterard Youth Arts Festival
- After-schools study and support
- A safe space for the youth of our catchment area

## The Nearly New Shop

In order to support and sustain many projects, Clann established a Nearly New Charity Shop in the summer of 2009 in its present location on Main Street. The Nearly New Shop filled a gap within the market for recycling and affordable goods. We are very grateful for all the donations from the community, and to the wonderful volunteers who enable the shop to open as often as it is. The revenue generated through the Nearly New shop contributes towards the costs of various projects and activities undertaken within the community. Without the revenue that the shop provides, Clann Family Resource Centre would be unable to offer half of the facilities and services it currently can. The Shop also serves as an information and resource centre particularly for those unemployed and experiencing social isolation.



Other projects and groups that work from Clann Family Resource Centre are numerous and aim to meet the needs of the community. The establishment of the Community Garden and the Oughterard Men's Shed, both of which are on the grounds of Clann Family Resource Centre on Station Road, addresses needs as identified through consultation with the community.



## Community Garden

Clann Family Resource Centre has developed a very fruitful community garden on their premises on Station Road, Oughterard. Community gardening is about sharing the growing and the harvesting of vegetables, fruits and flowers. Participants also share their knowledge, and both novice and experienced gardeners are welcome. The Garden has a polytunnel and a sensory garden to the front of the building. The group meets from Spring time weekly and our exceptional horticulturalist Kay Synott runs classes from it throughout the year.

## Oughterard Men's Shed

The Shed is the latest edition of the Clann projects, although it was officially launched early this year, it has been in the making for the last few years. Oughterard Men's Shed provides a venue for men to talk and connect with others whilst participating in group and/or individual projects. It gives opportunities for friendship and socialising in a safe environment, while at the same time providing the space, expertise and facilities for men to pursue hobbies, crafts and creativity. It also provides a space to undertake projects - acceptable to the group - which are of benefit to individuals, groups and the broader community. The Oughterard Men's Shed is NOT a commercial entity and does not wish to take work from local businesses. Due to this, the shed will only undertake projects and/or make products that do not have a commercial value. The Men had developed into a routine of meeting twice a week from their launch in January 2020, it is an inclusive group, open to all.



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**Other programmes and activities**

Clann Family Resource Centre has a cradle to the grave approach, meaning all members of the community are thought of and included in various projects and groups they assist. Clann supports older people as well as families and young people.

Other programmes and activities include:

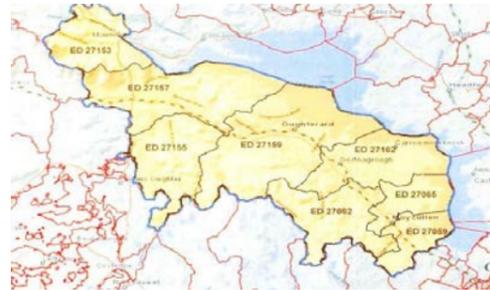
- parenting courses and programmes
- social activities, play days and family fun activities

- respite for older people, active retirement and afternoon tea clubs
- art programmes, writers group
- Parent and Toddler group
- yarn club – knitting and crochet
- Classes, such as basic I.T training, cookery, Sewing, Flower Arranging, Irish and Felting all run at various times in the year, dependant on demand.
- intercultural activities
- health promotion –mindfulness, mental and physical health related courses

**Outreach**

In addition to our work at our 5 sites described above, we have an extensive outreach programme.

The catchment area of Clann includes a wide rural area extending from Maam in the West to Tuairini in the East, with outreach work playing a central role in Clann's operations. Clann outreach work centres mainly on parents/pupils and Seniors in local primary schools, in Roscahill, Tullykyne, Collinamuck, Moycullen, Tuairini and Derryglynn. Numerous once-off Projects have taken place focusing on arts, drama, film, dance, photography, and a Christmas Card project engaging many groups across the region. Other outreach areas of work include counselling supports, parenting courses, collaborative arts projects and social events.



ED 27153 AN CHORR ED  
ED 27157 LETTERFORE ED  
ED 27155 KILLANNIN ED  
ED 27159 OUGHTERARD ED  
ED 27162 SLIEVEANEENA ED  
ED 27062 WORMHOLE ED  
ED 27065 TULLOKYNE ED  
ED 27059 MAIGH CUILINN ED

**Clann Family Resource Centre and Covid-19**

We have been working throughout the pandemic from behind closed doors, trying to support our community in any way possible, connecting with people, providing information, support and advice, using our social media channels and phone calls to signpost to various resources, providing activity packs, photocopying and printing, and linking people to the counselling services. We will always follow best practice in all areas of our work and within HSE guidelines, we will slowly reopen the various aspects of our centres when it is safe to do so. We will and must stick with the Governments phased plan. Stay Safe, Take Care and Reach out.

**Clann Resource Centre**  
**Cregg Lodge**  
**Station Road**  
**Oughterard**  
**Galway**  
**H91 X9D5**  
**091 557633**

Charity No. 20051488  
Company Registration No.: 367626  
CHY 15137  
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**Oughterard Angling Club Membership Appeal**

**D**ue to the Covid 19 outbreak, membership to Oughterard Angling Club has fallen by more than 75%. Most local and visiting anglers would purchase their membership in Tuck's Angling Centre, but as this outlet was closed for over 2 months the Club has seen this drastic reduction in its numbers. The Mayfly period would normally be the busiest time for visiting anglers but with travel restrictions in place this meant that no revenue was generated from this source.

With the gradual lifting of restrictions and the reopening of Tuck's Angling Centre, on behalf of the Club, I would like to make an appeal to all to renew your membership and help the Committee continue their good work in the protection and development of our unique wild brown trout waters.

The Club wishes everyone health & safety in these difficult times.

**Kevin Prunty – Sec.**  
**secretary@oughterardanglers.com**  
**Mob: 085 1694930**



**Out of the blue, now into the future:  
a global pandemic to contend with.**

*Written by Fr Michael Connolly pp., Oughterard*

**W**atching the news at the start of 2020 and seeing Asian countries go to extraordinary measures to contain a new virus, it seemed like another world away. Little did we realise that all of our plans were to be dashed, countries were to be disrupted beyond recognition, and many lives were to be lost. Firm decisions by our government helped contain the rampant spread of Covid-19 here; now we are beginning to open up and look to the future. What have we learnt from the experience?

I believe it is true to say that there will be a new normal; the old world we knew will not return as before. This signifies new opportunity; new does not necessarily mean better however. To clarify our reflection, we can ask ourselves, "what do we want our legacy to be, how do we want to be remembered?" Put another way we can ask "what does the next generation need from us, and how can we give it to them?" A little virus has halted our modern technological world in its tracks! The supremacy of science and technology to solve all problems has been shattered; we are being made more humble, and this is a good thing. Before looking at "what can we do" we need to ask "what have we learnt" from our pandemic.

On an individual level, many people have had free time like never before. Young families, home schooling and zooming have still been demanding, but the opportunity has been here to reflect and think on our lives. Mostly, this can be a time for being thankful, consciously. Could we have been in a more beautiful place than Oughterard for lockdown? Did we not have the nicest spell of weather in a long time, beautiful for so many days? Did we not have people who know us and are concerned for us, and we them? Though the virus is dangerous, very dangerous for people with underlying conditions, Covid-19 was not as fatal as many novel virus strains can be. Were we not spared a higher mortality rate? I know many individuals may have had difficult personal realities to contend with, and the pandemic amplified the stress, sense of loneliness, and worry for the future. Without being unsympathetic, I maintain that seeking out what to be thankful for is a healthy exercise; it frees us to be more objective in our outlook.

Still, it's not always easy to be thankful. It is not easy not to be busy, to open up to what is going on within us. To fight the fleeing into media to fill "empty" time is courageous; staying

with inner turmoil and fears needs stamina. Remembering the past can also bring up hurts and disappointments that can lock us into resentment. Perhaps some of our inner matters are too big to face just now. No problem; we are not meant to journey on our own. Reaching out is opening up, when we find the right people. Make no mistake, the inner journey is at times arduous, but always fruitful. I am not surprised that mental health matters are on the rise, we are being "remade" in many ways. Do not be afraid, trust and seek help if required. From the beginning of the pandemic I have encouraged people to spend time in prayer, if at all possible 3 short times daily. It is essential to bring God more and more into your life.

Having listed our blessings, and acknowledged the blockages we all have, let us now be objective. A global pandemic was in fact long overdue, and it is severe, but not near as severe as it could have been. I can't help but think we are being spared far worse, so this Covid-19 virus is like a wakeup call and not a chastisement. The front line response has been superb, we all took on this challenge with great seriousness. Still, I don't believe that real, determined and critical reflection has been given to where we are going as individuals and as a society. I have set aside my promised instalment on climate change to address the pandemic fallout. Yet, climate change will be far more devastating over a longer time than the virus. In fact, habitat encroachment is making future new viruses more probable (what is called zoonotic transfer). Poverty is a scourge, and our financial system is not working! Just 1% of the world's population own over 44% of its wealth, while the poorest (representing 50% of the world's population) own less combined than the world's top 38 billionaires<sup>1</sup>. I don't want to go on, we all know these matters, but they seem too big for us; let us never forget the powerful influence a man or woman of faith can have. But how do we become more men and women of faith. We need to recognise God's action in our lives. He is wonderfully providential, always present in the here-and-now, and waiting for us to open up to him.

So, we have acknowledged the new reality, we have found cause for thanks within this most serious situation, we have acknowledged our blockages to gratitude and to providence, and finally we have objectively given an overview to some big matters we need to work on for our future generations to have a good chance at life. Where to from here? As I have said,

never underestimate the power of men and women of faith. To nurture our catholic faith, be guided by it, strengthened by it and also to pass it on faithfully will help us overcome any difficulty the Lord wants us to tackle. Remember our creed; "I believe in God, the Father the Almighty..." We can do all things through him, with the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

Now that the extensive and essential restoration works on the parish church are near completed, we the parish of Oughterard will be hosting reflection and discussion evenings on the way to respond to our new reality, as soon after September as circumstances allow. We will document all that is agreed upon, and offer plans for implementation locally. I believe our younger generation are worth all the work that will be involved. God bless you. ■

<sup>1</sup><https://www.credit-suisse.com/about-us/en/reports-research/global-wealth-report.html>



# Scoil Muire, Doireglinne: Our Covid Learning

Well this is an article like no other article sent in by the school...ever. Who ever thought that when we went home on March 12th that we wouldn't be going back to school until August? - Maybe one of our classmates did! Rian in Rang 4 was overheard wondering, "Do you think we will be telling our grandkids about this when we are older?" as we were frantically packing up all our books heading home for the last time. Rian, you might be right!!

The teachers sent work home with us which was to last for the two weeks we were supposed to be closed.. The múinteoirí must have realised pretty quickly that we were going to be closed for longer because they started setting work for us on Seesaw. Seesaw is a "digital portfolio"! What on earth does that mean? Well it works a bit like a scrapbook, and a bit like a social media platform. The teachers were able to set work for us that we could see when we logged in. They were able to leave pictures, audio instructions, and typed instructions with videos to keep us on our toes! We then completed the work and uploaded our answers. The good thing about Seesaw is that it isn't just writing. We could respond by writing, drawing, audio, photographs, or videos! We all got much better at using it as our time learning at home went on. We could only see our own work and not anybody else's but, if we submitted good work, it was shared with the whole class and we could leave feedback for each other. The teachers left feedback on all our work, mostly voice recordings, which was pretty cool because it felt a bit more like being in the classroom. We were asked which kind of feedback we preferred to get, audio or typed and almost all of us said audio! Imagine, we missed our teachers' voices.....don't tell them! We also had some Zoom classes which was a great chance to see our friends.



## What have I enjoyed about being at home?



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While lots of the activities were fun, nothing really is as fun as being in school with our friends. We miss the craic in the morning when we arrive at school, dying to tell each other our news or find out who was watching the match the night before. (Matches, we miss them too!) We miss the way the teacher teaches the class, in front of us, and can answer our questions right away when we get stuck. Our moms and dads did their best at that but it's not the same! We miss eating our lunch together at "Am Lóin". We miss playing in the yard together. We miss sharing our work with each other and getting our classmates' opinions on how to improve our work. We are tired of working from home now. Tired of sharing laptops and devices with our siblings and parents. Tired of patchy Wi-Fi. Tired of not being with our friends. We are ready for laethanta saoire an tsamhraidh.

We are sharing pictures of some of the work we did over the Remote Learning School Closure to give you an idea of the types of things we got up to. We hope you enjoy them and we also hope we never have to share our work with you this way again!!! ■

## Brigit's Garden

Brigit's Garden is delighted to announce the reopening of the Celtic Gardens and Gift Shop on Monday, June 22nd followed by the Garden Café on June 29th and are looking forward to welcoming everyone again, old friends and new!

With 11 acres of Celtic Gardens and nature walks, Brigit's Garden offers lots of space for an enjoyable visit with safe social distancing. Also, the award-winning Garden Café will have plenty of suitably-spaced tables both inside, and outside on the patio.

For families, there are many areas for natural play and the new Earth Quest trail provides a fun way to learn about nature and energy as you explore the Gardens. There will also be woodland summer camps for ages 7-11 in August.

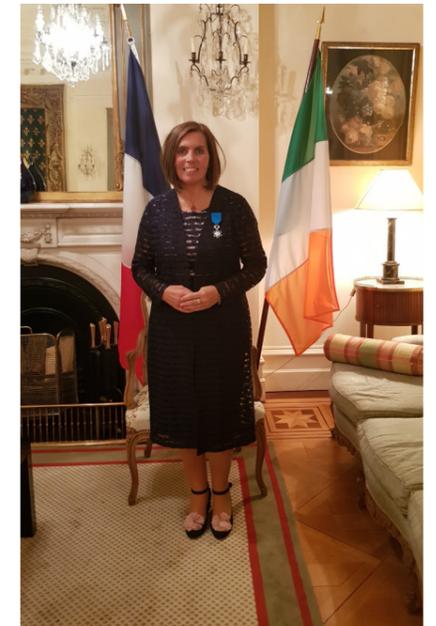
The launch of the 'Family Fun' summer membership means you can make the most of the rest of the summer. A family of 4 can get unlimited access to the Garden until 31st August for only €50! Additional children can be added for €10 each and under 3's as always go free. Enquire at reception on arrival or book online at [www.brigitsgarden.ie](http://www.brigitsgarden.ie).

New procedures are in place to keep everyone safe and Brigit's Garden asks all visitors to ensure they follow the guidelines.

Brigit's Garden is located in Roscahill at the gateway to Connemara, only 25 minutes from Galway City. Should you have any concerns about your visit to Brigit's Garden, phone 091 550905 for guidance. ■



## OUT & ABOUT



## New citizen

Congratulations to French citizen, Marie-Hélène Poudevigne, from Oughterard, who has become an Irish citizen at a ceremony held in Killarney at the end of November 2018. Marie-Hélène has been living in Ireland for the past 25 years and has engaged in her community. She says that she felt the need to show her loyalty to the Irish people and to the State, as another, strong, thread to bond her to Ireland. Now a citizen of both France and Ireland, Marie-Hélène Poudevigne reports that she accepted her certificate of Irish citizenship "with emotion and pride".



### Lockdown at Brigit's Garden, 14th June, 2020

It was a strange feeling closing the gate of Brigit's Garden on 13th March not knowing when we would open to visitors again. All the staff had to go home, most to go onto the Covid payment and others doing minimal admin at their kitchen tables. All group visits, kids' birthday parties, weddings, family events, forest school sessions and community events cancelled. Hoping everyone would stay safe and well as we all went into lockdown.

I was privileged, however, as I and my husband came to the Garden two or three times a week for essential maintenance. We weeded and cut back and tried to stop the Gardens deteriorating, with some help from local garden staff. It was a privilege to be in such a beautiful place surrounded by birdsong and the succession of spring plants: daffodils, then primroses and wood anemones, followed by cowslips and apple blossom.



In the three months of lockdown the Garden changed from the sparseness of spring to the fullness and lushness of summer. Nature flourished as people stayed away. Now the wildflowers and herbs are coming into their midsummer best and every day there are new orchids or butterflies or scents to enjoy.

As we prepare to re-open at the end of June my feelings are mixed. It will be lovely to hear children again in the Garden and to see people smiling as they relax outside. Lockdown enabled many people to see how much they value nature in their lives, and it is wonderful to be able to offer that at Brigit's Garden. But re-opening is also a responsibility, keeping everyone safe with all the necessary precautions for social distancing, screens at reception, a one-way system in the Visitor Centre and so on. At least with 11 acres there is plenty of room outside. Re-opening is the next stage of this journey we are all on together, and I look forward to seeing where it leads. **Jenny Beale**

### Oughterard Meals On Wheels: Our Covid Chronicle

On the 7th of March last the Meals on Wheels committee made our first broadcast to all our volunteers regarding the Corona Virus. Covid had just arrived in the West, and we knew we had to act fast and rejig our procedures and guidelines in order to protect our clients, who are a very vulnerable group, and also to protect our volunteers. We use a restricted Whats App group to communicate with our volunteers, allowing us to keep everyone up to date on any changes in real time. The following week, when all bars and restaurants closed nationwide, we were so relieved to hear from Chef and Proprietor Noel Kelly of Kelly's Restaurant that - no matter what - he would continue to supply us with our meals. This was a great relief to us!

Our guidelines and policies evolved and changed over the next couple of weeks in line with government advice - our normal procedures had to be suspended. Volunteers would normally have travelled in pairs and delivered meals directly into our clients' homes while having a little chat with them, but all of this had to be revised. Volunteers could no longer share the same car and had to travel separately. The meal run was split in two and the meals were delivered to the doorstep only, with a phonecall in advance to the client to let them know that the meal was arriving, while also checking in on them to ensure all was ok - this is a very important part of our service. Strict hand sanitising and sanitising of the carrier bag was carried out en route continuously.



Normally menus are distributed weekly to clients for the following week but - as no paperwork could exchange hands - menus were not distributed. This was replaced by a phone call to the clients at the weekend to decide their meal choices for the following week.

Unfortunately, some of our existing volunteers had to cocoon but we were delighted to receive many offers of help from individuals and also in particular the ladies GAA football club. From the outset we were prepared to double our capacity - extra volunteers were on standby and Noel Kelly assured us that he could cater for increased demand. Fortunately, this was not required and we didn't experience a surge in demand. We think that families and neighbours stepped in to support the elders and the vulnerable in their community.

As we won't be able to hold our normal annual fundraising events this year (i.e. table quiz and church gate collection) we were delighted to receive some generous donations from locals and from people with local interest, as well as a grant from the Galway Wind Park, which was granted earlier than usual, so as to support the Covid emergency.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and we look forward to welcoming back our cocooning volunteers, when it is safe for them to return. Thanks also to those in the community and further afield who made generous donations. Finally a big thank you to Noel and Katie of Kelly's Restaurant for their huge support and commitment throughout these difficult times.

**Catherine Faherty**

### Exams postponed



On that random Thursday in March when I was told that it would be my last day in school for two weeks I felt relieved as I thought I would get a good bit of study done. As two weeks turned into three and three turned into four I felt extremely anxious as there were talks of the leaving cert being postponed, cancelled, and even talks of predicted grades.

After weeks of uncertainty about the leaving cert I was glad that they finally made a decision. I will admit at first I was mad and upset as I didn't want the leaving cert to be cancelled but after a couple of hours I realised that they had made the best decision. I also felt relieved that I could sit one exam rather than having to repeat the year if I was unhappy with my grade.

I always felt like I was a person who could self motivate and that couple of weeks really tested it. I found that I was capable of setting a timetable and was able to stick to it. I was also the type of person who liked to have control over my life and situations but I have now learnt that there are some things I can't control, and things in my life are going to change whether I like it or not.

I would be lying if I didn't say I was anxious but I definitely feel a lot more confident in myself and I am excited about my future and where it is going to take me.

**Shauna Walsh**  
Leaving Cert student at St Paul's

### Phyl Furness postpones her 105th birthday celebrations



Phyl's 105th birthday was on Saturday 23rd May, and a party in her garden in Oughterard had been planned. However, Phyl said that she would prefer to have a proper party when the Covid situation allowed, so the day went off relatively quietly with occasional visitors and the delivery of a cake which was kindly baked and donated by Maria of the Greenway Restaurant.

Phyl continues to be very busy keeping in touch with her granddaughters in Kent and Australia, and eating chocolate. She is presently gearing up to learn Latin. She doesn't drive any more, seeing as she was stopped for speeding at 97.

Phyl is well known in Oughterard for crafting her nativity figures in wool, and for her poetry which she regularly contributes to the Corrib News. The attached photograph was taken on her 105th birthday, and shows her with the John Player Award that she received some years ago, for her outstanding monologues. Phyl is still able to recite more than 20 monologues from memory.

We wish Phyl a happy birthday, and look forward to the party!

*(Photograph credit: Tom Broderick)*

### Family time

My initial reaction to Covid was public safety and watching what was happening in Italy was a worry. So following the guidelines, I felt the best thing to do was anything that would help slow things down. In some ways it was a relief to be closing, as the Friday and Saturday before I decided to close was very stressful. Keeping staff and customers safe was difficult. The village was very busy with visitors which we usually love to have, but at this time it did not feel so as the fear of Covid spreading was now a worry. At this point, not realising it would be for so long, thinking that Sunday night

that we closed our doors it would only be for a couple of weeks, little did I know....



It has personally made me step back from a busy life and has given me the opportunity to spend much needed family life, time to catch up on my own life and enjoy my family without being under pressure, it's given me time to look at the way I approach things in life. But on the other hand it is a big financial worry after just coming out of a winter and losing the best part of the busy months, the worries of staffs' lives being affected with decreases in wages, all our students that we take on

for summer months that help them pay for college, the worry about some of our dear customers when we are the only people they see in their day for that chat, that meal, the company. The impacts are so many but the impact could be so much more if we had not done what had to be done.

It has left me with an uneasy feeling going forward with the new normal but with following the guidelines hopefully in a year or so it will be craic agus ceol and the Irish pub will be better than ever before.

**Rory Clancy**  
Manager,  
Power's Thatch Bar and Restaurant



## Lockdown Film Suggestion

*John Hinde recommends:*

**The Dish**, an Australian film from 2000. For those who remember the first moon landing this will take them back to the excitement of that live event. For others, it portrays a picture of a simpler less-connected life. Set in a rural Australia, that has echoes of Connemara lifestyle, it tells of an observatory's role in bringing back the live coverage of the first man on the moon. Based loosely on true events the film nicely contrasts Australian and US values and style. A very gentle comedy and an uplifting feel-good film.



## Swallows and Amazons

I expect that many fishermen or women will have come across this book or seen its tv or film adaptation. It was first published in 1930 and is a magical tale about 5 youngsters, the Blackett and Walker families, who are holidaying in the English Lake District ...messing about in boats, fishing and having great adventures. It is a fable of all our childhoods and how we remember them...sometimes through the rose tinted mists of time. Just like the children in the book, I clearly remember those early magical years of my youth, when as a boy (I am now nearly 72) I spent many, many days on Lake Windermere fishing for minnows, perch and pike, in that order . After some years I graduated to fly fishing under the patient guidance of an older fisherman. ... I have never looked back ...I was hooked . Even though many years have passed, my love of fishing has never waned. In those early days it was a solitary pursuit ...just me in the boat for hours and hours, but never bored ....always expecting the huge splash . Of late my fishing has been restricted to the local reservoir as I live in Jersey which has no rivers or lakes.

In the 1990's I received a phone call from a dear friend and ex-work colleague . He was looking for a replacement for a team member, who couldn't make the annual pilgrimage to Corrib to fish the May. I jumped at the chance and was soon back in the world of Swallows and Amazons. All the excitement and anticipation of packing, what would the weather be like ...freezing, boiling, hurricane or just pouring down ? Yes you guessed it ...all 4 in as many days. The journey to Ireland is always to

be enjoyed ...chicken stuffing sandwiches on Aer Lingus, and then meeting up with old friends. Each year flashed by and here we were again. A forty minute taxi ride from Galway was soon over as we discussed how any fish we weren't going to catch. The taxi slowed down as we passed through Oughterard and its hundreds of pubs, and as we crossed over the bridge at the end of town we got our first glimpse of the River Owenriff . How much water was in the river ? Whose boat would bottom first ? Probably ours ...we aren't exactly sylph like. Round a couple of bends and there are Greg and Deirdre Forde, our wonderful hosts at Camillaun Lodge, ready to greet us as long lost friends and show us to our rooms . We are creatures of habit and have to have the same rooms each year.

Oh yes ...the fishing! The next morning we would tackle up and carefully select the flies, which would guarantee us a bumper catch. Onto the two boats next and down the Owenriff. Even on the worst days these 15 minutes down the Owenriff is pure magic , slowly edging down the river , seeing the vast shoals of small fry glittering in the sun, as they scattered in all directions . Then the two herons would launch skyward in defence of their territory ...and the amazing sight as the huge lough opens up in front of the little boat. Sometimes it is a wild seascape, sometimes a mirror but never predictable and always to be respected. We have had a few scrapes over the years but don't tell Greg.

As I said above we are creatures of habit , so we would inevitably fish Bald Island

first, then Glann shore, Monkey Puzzle Bay and Kitteens before stopping for lunch and a fight with the Kelly kettle. After such we would be more adventurous, weather permitting, and head for Inchoigoill and then a final sortie on Bog Bay. If the fish sound incidental this isn't quite the full picture as my friends have caught some great fish over the years ...all returned.

Back to Camillaun and a cup of tea and some cake with Deirdre . A quick shower and up the road to the village for a pub meal. The standard of cuisine in the village has risen meteorically over the past few years. in the old days we would stagger home in the dark but nowadays we are in bed embarrassingly early. We are well past it I'm afraid.

This year thanks to the virus we won't be able to make it. We four are sorely disappointed that this magical week has been snatched away from us .. No fish, no Camillaun, no Corrib, no soda bread, no Irish stew, no clam chowder, no holiday !! But rest assured we have already booked for next year. For me, and I suspect many who make this pilgrimage as well, this is a visit back to the simplicity of our youth. Of course the fishing is important but just as important is the great welcome and hospitality of the Irish folk. As I put my pen down I realise that I have not even scratched the surface of what Oughterard, Corrib and Ireland mean to all of us . It truly is a magical place. As they say at the end of the book "Swallows and Amazons Forever "

Harry Vernon, May 2020

## Schools closing

It was announced on the Thursday morning news that the Taoiseach was going to speak to the nation from America, where he was on an official visit as part of the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. A few schools had closed at that stage but they had students who had contracted COVID19 or were in close contact with someone who had contracted it. Time seemed to stop when we heard the words that all schools were to close from that evening. It was a surreal moment. This was unprecedented. Schools had to close. The remainder of the day was spent communicating with the students and parents. Everyone said farewell, lights were turned off and the front door was locked. We all thought that we would be back before Easter.

The school community responded very quickly to this crisis. So much was achieved at very short notice. Staff and students had to navigate unfamiliar technologies in order that teaching and learning could continue. Microsoft Teams became the word of the day, every day. Communication between teachers, students, parents and school management was maintained via email, text, MS Teams and phone calls. The resilience, determination, flexibility and goodness of the school community was really impressive. In conjunction with students' families the school community played an important part in students' lives by being their anchor in such a challenging and uncertain time.

Every week brought stricter regimes. Our priority was the care of the students and care of each other. Huge efforts were made to continue contacting students and parents with updates, information and offers of support. We were very relieved to reach the Easter Holidays. It was time to rest, renew and return, refreshed for the next part of our journey. The weather was certainly on our side and made a difficult situation somewhat easier to manage.

When we returned after Easter we focused on maintaining the momentum in our virtual classrooms as COVID fatigue set in around the country. Definitive guidance eventually emerged on the Junior Cycle. There was to be no Junior Cycle Examinations in June. They were to be replaced by school examinations in May; at last, a clarity which allowed for a much-needed pathway for this cohort of students, their families and our teachers. Teachers and Management began planning for on-line end of year assessments for 3rd Years and indeed all years. Eventually, the Department of Education and Skills made the decision to cancel the Leaving Certificate. The Calculated Grade Model for predicting Leaving Certificate marks by teachers was published. We were again swimming in uncharted waters.

An alternative solution was required for the Board of Management to meet, and continue to operate and make decisions in relation to the functioning of our school. It was decided to meet via Zoom and this worked very well. Staff meetings were also convened via Zoom.

The 29th May eventually arrived. The final assessments were completed online and submitted to teachers for correction. The year had come to an end. We had survived. The academic year has drawn to a close. Work continues in school with the marking of the Leaving Certificate and planning for our return in September.

As I reflect on the eleven weeks that our school was physically closed for our students, I am grateful for all the support and assistance from parents at home at a time of significant uncertainty and difficulty for many. I am grateful for the tireless work our school staff put in to "keep the show on the road" and the commitment they have shown to our students. I am grateful that we have all emerged healthy and safe. I now ask God's blessing on the whole school community and ask that our students and our staff have a peaceful and happy holiday and that they all return healthy and safe to us in September.



Orla Malone, Principal, St Paul's



## Working as a midwife

Working during lockdown in March and April in Maternity was a huge worry and very stressful due to Covid 19. Policies changed daily on the care of patients in accordance with HSE guidelines. It was daunting and challenging to all midwives, the thought of caring for Covid positive or query positive patients. All of us within the Department had our personal fears of caring for these women due to our home circumstances. Some of us had elderly parents, more young children, others had partners or children on immune-suppressants, so there really wasn't any way out of caring for them.

We were shown and trained in the wearing of PPE. All staff were and are very supportive of each other. It was about making sure we were putting on the PPE properly and not infecting ourselves or others, this was always the worry. But try and wear PPE in dead heat - it was no joke. Once we went into a room with PPE gear on, we tried not come out of the room until all care was given to the women. I suppose like everything else, once I got used to it and the different policies it wasn't as much of a worry. I got used to caring for the women who were query Covid positive but it was the women who could come under the radar and later test positive - that worried me, but thankfully that never happened. We were very lucky because our numbers for mothers testing positive for Covid were very low.

Some of our colleagues did contract the coronavirus and I suppose that really with contact tracing it was always the worry - and still is a worry that you will be one of the close contacts of somebody who has the virus. Then it's the anxiety again waiting to get tested and the results, even though the results now are coming back in a much shorter period of time; they're coming back now I think within a few-hours whereas back in March and April and May it was up to 24 or 48 hours.

I think in UCHG we were quite lucky, we didn't get that huge surge of positive patients that we thought we were going to get. I was probably quite lucky, my kids have gone beyond the home-schooling and childminding. Seeing the girls that I worked with trying to balance work, homeschooling and childminding, that was proving to be quite difficult for a lot of them, and nothing put in place by the HSE to support them.

Seeing young mothers come in to have their babies and partners not able to be with them (their own choice and decision) due to health problems or child care was very difficult to see.

I think life will never be the same again for anyone. At the flick of a light switch our whole lives have changed. At work and until a vaccine is found I think we are always going to be aware that women are going to come into us with signs and symptoms of the coronavirus and we all have to stay aware

of that. Work practices have changed and will probably never go back to the way they were before. As for life going forward for college, schools, teaching and nursing - I have no idea how that will look. I think people have to start moving on with their lives. It's now time that pubs, restaurants and hairdressers!! - all those businesses - should open their doors. I think people have to be responsible for their own actions, they have to learn to keep the safe distance and to wash their hands.

When I look back in 2020, the first thing I will think of always is the great day we had on January 25th in Croke Park when our fantastic intermediate team won the All-Ireland intermediate football final and the great celebration we had that weekend. I suppose after that, it will always be the Coronavirus and the impact it had on us all.



**Kathleen Hanley,**  
Midwife, Maternity Dept UCHG

## THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

### Condolences

Kieran O Sullivan passed away on May 5th. The Covid 19 restrictions prevented him from having a traditional funeral which meant that people could not shake hands with his family or sympathise with them properly. Kieran had a lot of health problems in later life. He was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and grand uncle.

He came from a famous football family. He was on the Galway Minor football team of 1976 that won the All Ireland, beating Cork in the final. He scored a goal and two points. Kieran also played several matches for the County Senior team, but he suffered some very bad injuries which impacted on his career. Also in those days the players from the West Board had to go to Tuam to play and this was difficult. Kieran gave loyal service to the local club and played on until the ripe old age of 39,

Kieran was also one of the best friends you could ever have, so we must extend our sympathies to Anne and the family, now that he has gone to his eternal reward. He will be sadly missed.

From his old friend, **Matt Molloy**

### My job during Covid

I feel very lucky to have been designated as an essential worker during the Covid crisis and to be able to go to continue to work every day, especially in a rural area.

Like the rest of my colleagues, we are always mindful of the customers on our routes and this has stepped up a notch during the pandemic. I have even more interaction with folks now, but at a distance! It was strange, initially to be gloved and masked, but I think it was accepted as a positive image by the people on my 'run'. The kindness and concern for my own needs has been overwhelming.

Staggered start times were initiated in the Galway hub to comply with Social Distancing, and delivery of extras such as papers and simple shopping have become part of the support for our customers if necessary.

The profile of the actual post has changed and the number of packages as opposed to letters seems to have increased exponentially. This means that sometimes there is an extra early start in order to sort the extra boxes.

I feel blessed to have a job to do, that I enjoy. And in a place that I love.

**Stephanie Collins,**  
Post worker, Oughterard

### Difficult times

The very first case of Covid-19 arrived in Ireland the same day I flew to Australia visiting my son, so my initial view of it was from afar. When you're away you don't tend to focus on the news or fully understand what's going on back home; we were hearing that everything in Ireland had shut down and we knew things were serious when we heard the pubs had been closed! But, Australia was behind Ireland so we had been unaffected. That was up until our flights home were cancelled three days before we were due to come back. Suddenly we were facing up to a month or more stuck in Perth. Spending the lockdown outside of Oughterard was inconceivable. Thanks to a group of Irish doctors who were planning on coming home from Australia but had been left in a similar situation to us, the Irish government organised a flight out of Perth, and we got home.

Other than the stress of trying to get home, funerals have been the area where I feel the effects of the lockdown most. I sympathise dearly with anyone who has lost a loved one during this time, and finds themselves unable to grieve in the traditional way. It is incredibly sad to bury someone with only a handful of people at the grave, or in the church. While friends and neighbours have all been very creative in coming up with ways of sympathising without coming too close, I am very much looking forward to the day where I can once again shake hands with a bereaved family member.

I had two aunts, Alice and Mary, who died four days apart in 1918, from the Spanish Flu, and in all my years visiting their grave I never envisioned a return to that way of life. It's difficult to believe at times, how much everything has changed. It's hard to imagine how it is going to affect us all going forward. I especially feel for business owners trying to reopen with social distancing measures. It won't be easy for them, especially here in Oughterard where a lot of business people rely on tourists coming into the town. I suppose that you have to hope you're supported by local people and tourists from other parts of the country.

**Dermot Walsh, Funeral Director**



# THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

## Lockdown Film Favourites

The world of film is constantly evolving, just like the order of those films we have admired and enjoyed the most. Everyone has their own particular favourites from a variety of genre and no-one has the definitive list of the greatest cinematic productions.

But there is nothing to stop any of us throwing our assorted choices out for consideration and discussion, especially when the nightmare of Covid-19 has left many people in the environs of Oughterard with loads of spare time on their hands which could occasionally be filled by a couple of hours from the big screen watched on your TV via all manner of stations and channels.

So, as requested by Corrib News, here is a personal top 10 (it could have been plenty more) to kick things off – though I am afraid it will not please fans of children’s films, comedies or romances. I am happy to leave those to someone else.

Further detailed information on any of my chosen list can be gleaned by consulting online with the IMDb (Internet Movie Database).

- ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST:** Jack Nicholson gives a stunning performance as a drifter who inspires the inmates of a mental institution to rise up against those who have written them off.
- THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION:** The No.1 film in the IMDb's top 250 and a small screen favourite. A prison friendship overcomes all and the finale will bring a tear to even the hardest-hearted. Can be watched again and again.
- THE USUAL SUSPECTS:** A complex crime classic from the mid-90s that they seem to have given up making these days. Sure to keep you guessing and climaxes with a great twist.
- DOWNFALL:** Many actors have had a crack at playing Adolf Hitler. But Bruno Ganz, who passed away last year, trumps the

lot with a powerful depiction of the German dictator's final days in the Berlin bunker at the end of World War II.

- GLADIATOR:** Another film to enjoy multiple TV airings. Russell Crowe is on top form as the wronged Roman general intent on vengeance against the man who cruelly wrecked his military and family life.
- SCHINDLER'S LIST:** A businessman in Second World War Poland tries to defend his Jewish workforce against the Nazis. Schindler, born in what is now the Czech Republic, is brilliantly played by Irishman Liam Neeson.
- THE DARK KNIGHT:** My pick of the Batman films directed by my favourite director Christopher Nolan. Heath Ledger gives a viciously sinister performance as The Joker in the penultimate film before his death at just 28 in 2008.
- ALIEN:** I love science fiction and this 1979 classic has truly stood the test of time. Scares galore as the crew of a future space freighter end up menaced by one of the great screen monsters.
- MEMENTO:** Christopher Nolan directs again as a former insurance investigator with short-term memory loss tries to find the man who murdered his wife. You will need your wits about you for this one, as it is mind-twistingly baffling.
- BEN HUR:** Showing its age a bit now at more than 60 years old, yet it is the sort of biblical epic that used to pack them in and was one of the first films I ever saw. The chariot race remains a piece of memorable cinematic excitement. Stick with the Charlton Heston version and forget the remakes.

OK, that is it. Do you agree with my choices or have you a selection you feel is much superior?

Nigel Rickard, Glann Road

## A brief reflection

One of my favourite quotes is of Dickens from A Tale of Two Cities, you know it well, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness..." These words kept running through my head as we moved through lockdown. The best of times when we were able to spend some real quality time with our families, a slower pace to life and time to appreciate nature and the wonder of spring. The worst of times when some of us lost family and friends and were not able to experience the usual support and love of others. There were many wise words and good leadership needed to help counteract some of the foolishness that we all have witnessed, and it is not over yet!

Deidre Forde



# THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

## Life around Magherabeag



Anthony Walsh was getting ready for the baler, by lining up the hay, as bad weather was promised after a great long spell of fine weather: Magherabeag, June 2020

## Oracle snail



June, 2020: Harry Walsh reports that this snail must have heard of the bad weather and was heading up the window for shelter.

## Hen's Lockdown Recipe: Maureen's Spicy Baked Spinach Chicken



The story behind this recipe is 45 yrs old. When I was growing up in Oughterard my mother talked about her best friend from childhood in Sligo, Maureen Denehan. And we heard many stories of them climbing Knocknarea to put a stone on Queen Maeve's grave.

When they finished school, Maureen went to visit a relative in South Africa and left Ireland never to return. Not quite the same case for me, but I took a nursing contract in South Africa for a few years in the 1970's. When I was home on holidays, my mother said "Why don't you look up Maureen". "Where is she?" I asked. In Africa somewhere came the answer.

Not giving it another thought, months later I told my husband the story. "Mammy has no clue how big Africa is", I said. A year went by and Johan, who worked for Anglo American, was looking for a telephone number in the internal phone book and there he saw the name. It rang a bell. Could this be her? So he rang her and indeed it was. She and her husband had us for dinner and there was much crying and laughter. This is the recipe she cooked and every time I make it, I think of two best friends who had lost touch and were, in a way, reunited.

- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter at room temperature
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup of crumbled feta cheese
- 1 10oz package of frozen chopped spinach (defrosted)
- 1/2 tsp minced jalapeno pepper (or any hot pepper) add to taste

- 6 chicken breasts SKIN ON (an option that I follow is to buy the breasts with bone in and then debone, using the bones for stock)
- 1/4 cup dijon mustard.
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- Salt/ pepper

Combine butter, feta cheese, jalapeno pepper and spinach (well drained). Pat chicken breasts dry. Carefully lift the skin from the meat and carefully stuff the spinach mixture under the skin. Slather the skin with the mustard and place skin side up on a cooking dish. Put in fridge 30 minutes.

Season the bread crumbs with salt and pepper and roll each chicken breast in it. (I usually do this in the morning). Dab each piece of chicken with a large Tbsp of butter.

Bake uncovered in preheated oven 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes until the skin is golden. Enjoy!

Teresa Krijgsman (née Hennelly)



### A Diary of Light

I was born in 1979, bathed in California light. Under shadow sways of the palm trees breezes, that danced across the water, and pooled into moonlight. I was shaped under sunshine, learned to swim at 2, planted poppies with my grandma deep in the soil, and we watched the sun pull them upward. My father and I hiked up to the skies of Mount Baldy, 4 Saints Lookout, and down into Yosemite redwood valleys. My mom lovingly dressed me appropriately for all these occasions. There were marshmallow bonfires and film screenings in cemeteries under full moons. I skipped in the oceans, fell in love with the stage, and tried to find the right light in the arts. The southern California sky saw smiles, first kisses, awkward break ups, countless auditions and many tears. I swam in the spotlights until it began to empty. The light served me and scorched me. It hollowed my shell, and made me long for another. I was always in a hurry, though I did not know my destination, and I was never going fast enough. For 39 years, I frolicked in this iridescent, illuminating, forceful yet forgiving, dimming light. Light can change your life, you can grow in and out of it.

What does California sunshine smell like? It smells of sand and smog. What does it feel like? It melts root beer floats, and burns skin to a peeling. It tastes like salt, and sweet orange groves. What does it look like? It looks like the swimming pools in David Hockney paintings through a solar glow. It looks like glowing. What does it sound like? Waves crashing, cars humming peppered with Santa Ana wind gusts. California light is golden, it shines through all the senses. It is an outward illumination. You take it in.

One of my favorite friends and artists is Helen Pashgian. I have been lucky enough to know her my whole life. She is part of the "Light & Space Movement" that originated in the 1960's, which focused on minimalism and geometric abstraction. She was a pioneer in the midst of men, like Peter Alexander and James Turrell, who dominated the scene. She forged her own path, and made her own light. Helen creates incredible sculptures that make California light into art. She makes orbs of ocean greens that disappear into a deep blue infinity. She uses specific shades of color, completely unique to Southern California. Her pieces look as if they are lit from within, though they are not. It is an illusion that she has carefully crafted, then mastered. She works with an epoxy resin, she shapes and molds her representation of light into each work. Many of her sculptures are reminiscent of Crystal Cove State Park. It is a hillside sprinkled with small cottages right on the beach. This magical enclave is sandwiched in between Corona de Mar and Lauguna, as the echo of Pacific Coast Highway runs alongside. It is a

simple, unpretentious coastline with clear, clean waters, and a long beachfront to stroll down for miles. Helen and I strolled beside this stretch of the Pacific, we hunted for sea glass, braved riptides, for many of our formative years, and it stuck with us. From our cottage windows, we watched foggy bacon mornings roll in, and sunscreen afternoons roll out. This community has inspired many artists, throughout the years. They are drawn to the clear turquoise and sea greens. All of them want to capture the stunning serenity. Some have been lucky enough to accomplish it. Helen sure has.

California is well represented in art, films, television, music and cuisine. This sunshine conjures daydreams, a paradise the soul long for. It has been manufactured into a consumable image. Frames, filters and lenses capturing ideal reflection and flawless portrayals. Much emphasis is put on physical beauty in the sunshine state. These standards became an unhealthy priority for me. Something I am still working on deprogramming to this day. California is beautiful just as it is, and so am I.

I moved out of my familiar light to Ireland, in 2018, after I married my husband. His light comes from within, and I was drawn to it almost immediately. Eoin has an inner spotlight. The light in Ireland is very different than the light of southern California. I am still adjusting to the differences. Irish light is unpredictable, it changes momentarily. Irish folks had told me about this phenomenon, but you can't know it, until it has been experienced. The sky can go from pelting rain, to a sudden burst of sunshine, like the weather is playing a sneaky game of peek-a-boo. The clouds can move across the sky as if they are racing to do so. Though the sky moves fast, beneath it time is savored. There is a slower pace to this light. There are moments to get comfortable in my skin, to gaze at the wonder, to find the right words. There is a feeling that there will be time. There are grey days, which are hard to take, when my body craves consistent sunshine. On those days, I wish to retreat to the warmth of a Crystal Cove beach towel and soak up all the sun the south has to offer. Then I look around, I think about the warmth from within, that I have felt on this island, it is like a warm cup of tea. I am comforted by the smell of chimney smoke, the pen in my hand and the green surrounding me. The greens here are the greenest I have ever seen, some of them a deep forrest greens, some of them a shade down from neon. The greens of this island represent solace, a cradle for life. I am being born into a new light. This light illuminates from within. It takes you in.

*Written by Diana Van de Kamp*



Painting of an Amazon Tree Frog by Cian Harris (age 13), his reflections on climate change and our global vulnerability during lockdown.

CIAN, AGE 13

The lockdown letter from Lydia- "This was the first letter I got during lockdown. I was missing all of my friends from school and when I read it made me laugh because we joke that homework was boring!"

Clara Gadd, Claremount, Oughterard, Age 8

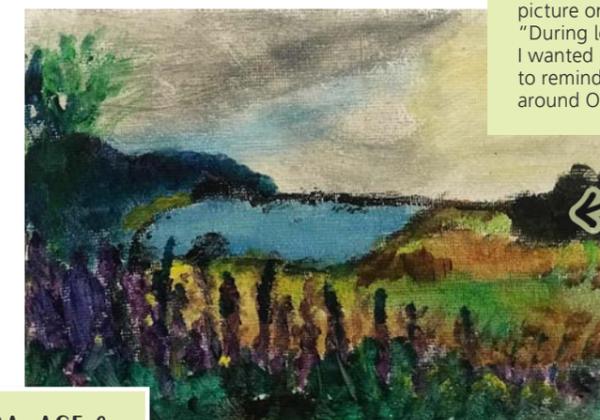


A picture of the Lighthouse - "I love the sea and missed being able to go to the seaside during lockdown so I painted the lighthouse with a light on".



CLARA, AGE 8

A picture of the lake with foxgloves (Inspired by a picture on the Internet) - "During lockdown in March, I wanted to paint this picture to remind me of the summer around Oughterard".





# THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION

GRACE, AGE 7

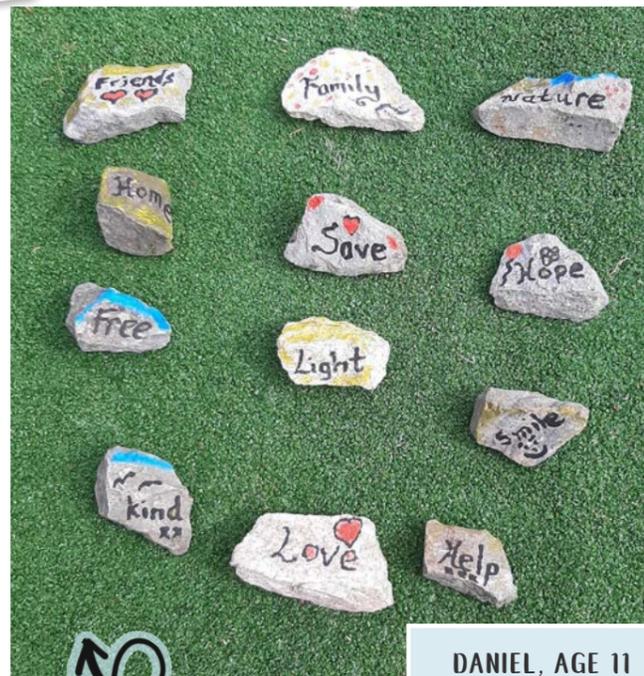
Shark's teeth are white when they are in their mouths. When they come out they sink to the bottom of the sea. Then they get covered in sand and minerals and turn black thousands of years later they get washed up on beaches as fossilized teeth. Last week we went hunting for them on the beach in Beltinge. It is important to go in low tide and look in the places that have pebbles around the same size as the teeth. I found 23!

by Grace Carabine

An account of a lockdown discovery by Grace Carabine, age 7, with some corrections prompted by her mum...

AOIBHEANN, AGE 3

This artwork entitled "Uncle Niall's Car" was painted by 3-year old Aoibheann McLoughlin, inspired by her uncle's passion in designing and tinkering with cars. Aoibheann interpreted basic car parts like engine and wheels using her own abstract representation with different colours of ready-mix poster paints.



DANIEL, AGE 11

"These are our Wish Stones. We needed a break from school work!"

They are words that are helping us through the lockdown; reminding us who we are doing it for why we are doing it and what helps us through it"

Created by Daniel Caine, age 11, with a little help from his Mum Anna.



# THE LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION

AILBHE, AGE 12

## MY Last Battle of World War one

It was the third of January 1916 I was living with my best friend Bobby in the attic of a hotel we worked in. My parents had abandoned me because they hadn't had enough money to feed me and my older brother Harry. So one day they went to the market with Harry and never came back, after that there was a lot of moving from orphanages to crazy foster homes. I was miserable there and the only joy I got was when I met Bobby and we would both be up to mischief every day. That didn't last long though because as soon as we were old enough, the evil matron who looked more than a man than a woman would beat us or whip us as soon as she found out what we were up to. I had 14 miserable years there until one day Bobby told me we were going to escape.

We had planned the whole thing out and it actually worked! The milkman would come every Tuesday (everyone at the orphanage loved him he was so fat and jolly) and me and Bobby jumped out the window as soon as the matron got the milk and grabbed on to the axle of the wheel and hung on until the orphanage was out of sight. Then we hopped into the front seat with the milkman, who was very surprised but allowed us to ride with him to London. It was a long ride to London as the Orphanage was way out in the countryside in the middle of nowhere, though I and Bobby quite enjoyed it because it was our first huge adventure and the jolly milkman supplied us with plenty of food. We eventually arrived in London and said our farewells to the milkman. After two full days of looking for a job Bobby and I found a job for painting at a hotel and since we had no where to stay the manager allowed us to stay in the tiny attic on the fourth floor. When we arrived there it was full of old boxes and huge cobwebs with one tiny diamond shaped window. One day when we had just finished painting the hotels front door, we walked to our usual spot in the park to eat our hardly filling lunch when we noticed a group of boys a few years older than us crowded around a lamppost. On the lamppost there was a poster looking for men aged 18 to 40 to join the British army for world war one. When the crowd dispersed me and Bobby walked up to the poster and read it, the first thing that caught our eye was "three meals daily" without even thinking of the consequences we wrote our names and address on the poster. We realised we were only sixteen but we thought no one would notice and just think we were smaller than usual eighteen year olds.

2 weeks later a middle aged man in a fancy army uniform called at our hotel and announced they would be on the march in two days time and gave us our uniform. The next 3 and a half years passed in a flash and though it was extremely tough and bloody work Bobby and I somehow managed to survive though we had a few near death experiences. The troop of soldiers I was with was all about mine and Bobby's age and we had fun with them. On our third battle I really got to know everyone really well because we were stuck in that cold muddy trench all night. I started off getting everyone's first name; there was of course Bobby then Markus, Johnny, Sean from Ireland (who I really like), Peter, Evan, Lucas and so on, when I came to the last guy who looked about two years older than me I was quite taken aback by how alike we looked but I chose to ignore it, but when he said his name was Harry I couldn't ignore it anymore. "What's your surname?" I asked a bit afraid but intrigued at what his answer might be. He looked a bit confused

but answered, "I'm Harry, Harry Smith, what about you?" I didn't answer him; I didn't know what to say was this really my long lost brother?! I gulped, "H-Harry I-is it really you?!" There was a few minutes silence; Harry's face had gone pale "John! My brother I've missed you so much!", then he stood up and we hugged for what seemed like forever, all my anger faded away to sadness and love. After that we talked all night long catching up on each other's lives, it turned out when Harry and my parents were at the market they got a taxi and drove to the other side of London near the countryside and as soon as Harry was old enough he ran away to look for me and find a job in London. "I looked at every orphanage in London for you", he finished quite sadly. After I told him my story he realised he should have looked at the orphanages in the countryside but I assured him he had looked enough and I was just glad we finally found each other. The next morning Harry and I woke Bobby up and I explained everything to both of them and they became fast friends.

It was the my last battle of WW1 I was still alive looking down at all the dead bodies of mostly the German side, the battle field was quiet, the grass was grey with blood and bodies everywhere. It was as if I was the only one alive in the whole world even though I knew the remaining of our soldiers were somewhere behind me. I turned over in bed, "no I can't see this again I know what comes next". I could hear shouts and cries distantly, probably our troops finding friends dead or injured. There was a grey mist hanging low. I looked down and screamed yet no sound came out of me. There was my own brother who I finally found just three years ago with three limbs gone and a pool of blood around him. He was dead and there was nothing I could do about it, I fell on my knees and kissed his forehead not caring how much blood I got on me. I just couldn't believe he was dead, he had left me again but this time we would never be reunited. I stumbled back on my feet wiping tears from my face, I felt numb, and I had to see were there still Germans willing to fight. I walked heavily up the hill dragging my gun behind me; there in front of me was a single German, with no weapon whatsoever. He was covered in crusty mud and had blood dripping off his arm. I sat up sweating in bed. I couldn't take it. I didn't want to relive it again but eventually I fell asleep once more.... He looked so helpless. I just couldn't bring myself to kill him or even take him captive. He was so young, even younger than me. He had dark wavy hair and very pale skin and looked he was just starting to grow a moustache because it was shaped like a toothbrush. "Go live the rest of your long life in freedom... I will not take you", I said in a big voice. "Ich bin für immir dankbar" he said in German and bowed and then walked slowly away. I winced as I watched him, what have I done?

Yes that young man was Adolf Hitler, WW2 had started and it was my entire fault.

The End

By Ailbhe Walsh, age 12, inspired by Michael Murpurgo's Eagle in the Snow

# Oughterard GAA Club Update: A Tribute to Kieran O'Sullivan (RIP)



Eddie O'Sullivan and his dad Kieran after Oughterard's county final success over Micheal Breathnach in 2019



After a long and brave battle, Kieran O'Sullivan was recently lost to his Family and to Oughterard. We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Anne, Eddie, Ciara & the entire O'Sullivan Family at this time, his passing will be felt throughout the Parish and wider areas, especially by those who knew him well, not least by those within Oughterard GAA.

A man steeped in the Oughterard GAA Club, it was a most special moment for Kieran and his family when son Eddie lifted the trophy after the club won this year's All-Ireland intermediate crown in Croke Park in January. And members of the current All Ireland winning team formed a guard of honour as Kieran left his home on Main Street for the last time.

The son of Edward and Bridie (Moran), Kieran was the youngest of four children who grew up above the family shop on the town's Main Street. Father Edward was one of four brothers on the only Oughterard team to win a senior county title.

No surprises then that Kieran was a fine footballer, highly regarded as a real attacking threat for any opposition. He made his mark with Galway on the All-Ireland winning minor team of 1976, scoring 1-2 from right corner forward to help beat Cork 1-10 to 0-6. He is attributed to having swung the game decisively in Galway's favour in the thirtieth minute when he latched on to a pass and crashed the ball to the net.

Kieran will always be remembered as a valued member of Oughterard GAA & he will be revered for his passion and love of Gaelic Football, not to mention his on and off pitch contributions. Some of us are old enough to have played alongside him during his playing career, a career that saw him proudly represent Oughterard and Galway with some notable successes along the way.

Kieran had a style of play & a turn of foot that struck fear into every opponent he faced. He will be remembered as a straight talking, no nonsense guy, someone who was never afraid to voice his opinion and equally listen to & respect

the opinions of others. I've no doubt that Kieran took immense satisfaction in seeing our small Club rise to the level of winning County, Connacht and All-Ireland Titles, but it's in returning to play Senior Club Football in Galway that his dreams were realised, the rest was a bonus.

The president of Oughterard GAA, Paddy Geoghegan, said Kieran's contribution to the club was immense: "As a player he was as good as I had seen. He was an all-rounder, a gentleman, and he was a great man for the club. No job was too big for him, he collected at the gates, trained the boys, his contribution was huge, and for him to be able to watch his son win a county and All Ireland medal was so special."

Members of the 1976 All-Ireland winning minor team also paid their respects to the local legend in his guard of honour, and included Mattie Coleman, Ger Ford, Pádraig Coyne, Frank Rooney, Pádraig Conroy, Ciaran Faherty and Gerry Burke.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam ■



Galway - 1976 All-Ireland Minor Football Champions

Back row (left to right)  
Kieran O'Sullivan (Oughterard GAA), Frank Rooney (Cortoon Shamrocks), Barry Brennan (St. Grellan's, Ballinasloe GAA), Pádraig Coyne (Milltowngaa), Gerry Forde (Annaghdowngaa), Ciarán Ó Fátharta (Cumann Peile Naomh Anna, Leitir Móir), Mattie Coleman (Monivea Abbey GAA Football Club), Leo Higgins (CorofinGAA).

Front row (left to right)  
Gay McManus (Milltown GAA), Pádraic Ó Conaire (Naomh Anna, Leitir Móir), Robert Bermingham (Milltown), Gerry Burke - Capt. (Corofin), Stephen Ruane (Monivea-Abbey), Joseph Kelly (Tuam Stars GAA Club), Ollie Burke (Corofin).

## Oughterard Rugby

### Football Club *update*

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and following Government and IRFU guidelines, all rugby ceased for ORFC in mid-March. The teams were just entering the cup season, from a youth and senior point of view, and the Connacht under-age mini blitz season was just about to start. The 2019/20 season was one to write off in many respects. On the pitch, minis to seniors all had outstanding seasons in terms of results but the weather last winter caused havoc with the fixture list. Many games were cancelled or postponed due to the terrible winter weather.

While pitch activities ceased, the members of the club have been very busy. Matt Henderson, our director of rugby, has been making fitness videos to share with the players to help keep them fit and occupied in these difficult times. We also teamed up with Galway Wind Park and SSE to procure and deliver hand sanitizers to the cocooning population and townlands surrounding Oughterard.

Some of the senior team - Martin Irons, Matt Henderson and senior team coach Jack Clark - have been running a delivery service for Joyce's Supermarket to those people who could not get out to do their shopping due to Government restrictions or for health reasons.

Very recently, the club started some repair work on the pitches at St Michael's Field as they had taken a battering over the winter period. Well over 50 helpers turned up with shovels and wheelbarrows for a very productive morning's work moving top soil, raking, seeding, and picking stones. It just shows the community spirit the club has, and the fantastic community the town and surrounding areas has for its people.



Summer work on the ORFC pitches



Club chairperson, Niall Walsh, receiving a delivery of hand sanitizers from Micit Distillery



Summer work on the ORFC pitches

Looking forward to next season, pre-season can start in July and we hope all our members return so we can continue the good work we have built up over the last 16 years. We are also planning to start the preparations for the new site down the Pier Road. Over the coming weeks, we hope to see the contractors on-site preparing the main pitch for the 21/22 season. The committee has been delighted with the support we have received to date and we can reward all this effort with a lovely new playing pitch for the people of the town and surrounding areas.

We are always looking for new members. We have a very active minis group, from age 5 up to 12 in boys and girls, and youths from age 13 to under 18s. Also, in boys and girls teams, a senior squad and a vet's team. All our coaches are IRFU trained, with constant input from Connacht Rugby, to ensure our training is the most up-to-date there is.

Rugby is back in September, please come along and join the club.

#### Contact Details

For further details on all matters ORFC, go to [www.orfc.ie](http://www.orfc.ie)  
Facebook: Oughterard Rugby  
Email: [ouughterardrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:ouughterardrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com)  
Or call Niall on 085 888 7457  
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for training times. ■



# O AFC Oughterard Soccer Club Update



U19 girls

March 8th 2020 was a cold, wet, and windy Sunday. March 8th was also International Women's Day which O AFC GIRLS celebrated with two good wins at Newvillage Football Park: U19 GIRLS against Athenry and U12 GIRLS against Maree/Oranmore. The full significance of March 8th was not known at the time but it turned out to be the day of the final fixtures of the 2019 - 2020 season to be played at Newvillage.

On March 12th, following guidance from the governing body, all football activity was suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions, and on June 3rd the Galway FA decided to void the 2019 -2020 season and the official close season began.

However, on June 8th the FAI issued guidelines and protocols for a return to football training on June 15th. The focus of the Club is now entirely on preparing for the new season. At the time of writing it is hoped that pre-season will commence in August and the new season will commence in September or early October.

Please check the Club's social media etc. for updates and registration dates etc. We would like to thank all our players, parents, and coaches for all of their patience and understanding during the period of uncertainty due to Covid-19 restrictions. Your continued support, as always, is greatly appreciated.



Newvillage Football Park



Our U12 GIRLS Captain presenting Pat Mannion with his Powerball winning cheque in our May draw



U12 girls

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April Powerball winner Michael Maloney with his €500 winning cheque

## FAI SUMMER SOCCER SCHOOL

At the time of writing it is hoped that the FAI Summer Soccer School will take place in Newvillage at the end of July/early August. Newvillage has been the venue for the FAI Summer Soccer for many years now and each year has been a success. It is hoped that 2020 will be equally successful. The camp is operated by the FAI using FAI coaches etc.

Check the FAI social media for updates, bookings and all other details.

## PLAY POWERBALL TO WIN

Playing Powerball with O AFC is now easier than ever. For €21 a month, you are in with the chance to win €500 in each monthly draw. The draw takes place in the second week of the month and you can cancel at any time. For further details log onto the link <http://cryjq3pu.paperform.co>, also on our Facebook page, or contact Pat Mannion at [manniop1@gmail.com](mailto:manniop1@gmail.com). Congratulations to Michael Maloney and Pat Mannion, our most recent Powerball winners, winning €500 each.

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Each year, particularly at the start of the new season, we invite and welcome new members, be it players, coaches or volunteers.

If you wish to be part of the Club in any capacity, or feel you can contribute to the Club, please contact us at [oughterard@galwayfa.ie](mailto:oughterard@galwayfa.ie); we would love to hear from you!

## CLANN RESOURCE CENTRE



### Re-Opening Clann Resource Centre

#### Contact

☎ 091 557 633

✉ [clanninfo@gmail.com](mailto:clanninfo@gmail.com)

📘 [facebook.com/clannoughterard](https://facebook.com/clannoughterard)

📷 [instagram.com/clannresourcecentre](https://instagram.com/clannresourcecentre)

🐦 [twitter.com/clannresourcecentre](https://twitter.com/clannresourcecentre)



Our office will be open from June 29<sup>th</sup> Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm by appointment only, please email or call us to arrange your 30 minute time slot.

Counselling: this can be arranged via the phone.

Printing, Scanning and Photocopying: forward your documents to our email and we will print for you in the hours we are open Mon-Thurs.

All the above is within Government Guidelines.

Thank you & See you Soon.



## YOUTH CAFÉ 2020 SUMMER SCHEDULE

### Outdoor activity camps

Activities to include Local Hike / Nature Arts / Outdoor Games

**July 1st - 3rd & July 8th - 10th**

6th Class Transition Yr camp - 10 - 12.30pm

**July 22nd - 24th**

1st Yr Activity Camp - 10 - 12.30pm

**July 29th - 31st**

2nd Yr Activity Camp - 10 - 12.30pm

Each camp will be delivered in an outdoor environment adhering to current social distancing guidelines. Numbers will be limited and all measures will be taken to ensure the camp is delivered in safe manner. There will be no cost charged for these camps!

To book your place, Please call or text Barry in the youth café at 086 1049684 or email [Barrydclann@gmail.com](mailto:Barrydclann@gmail.com). Places are limited on each camp so pls book asap

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# Corrib Ramblers

## Before and after lockdown

Written by Tom Cusack

Corrib Ramblers cancelled all scheduled weekly Sunday walks during the main National Covid-19 lockdown period of March to June, 2020, in accordance with Government regulations. The last pre-lockdown walk was Sunday 15th March, on a beautiful day at Dog's Bay, Roundstone, entirely spent on the wonderful Machair grasslands; only 6 members participated due to Covid-19 concerns. Social distancing and no car-pooling were observed.

New "Phase 2 Plus" Government regulations began from Monday 08th June, indicating that we could begin to organise our regular Sunday walks after a three-month break; we also knew from the frequent communications between members that many were desperate to get rambling again in the various interesting locations that Corrib Ramblers find for their rambles. The first post-lockdown walk was therefore organised immediately for the first possible Sunday on 14th June, to include social distancing, no car-pooling and no inside refreshments afterwards.

To everyone's surprise, 22 members turned up in 15 cars on 14th June, mad for rambling, like a bunch of calves let out of a shed after the winter. Luckily, there was ample parking, in a vacant farmyard adjacent to our hosts' house south of Carraroe village. The new rules were explained, and "poking canes" were provided; the canes were two metres long and could be used to gently poke the next person if they came too close, but everyone felt that there was enough safe entertainment without the canes!

The walk covered the deserted bohereens, beach graveyard, Mass rock and small beaches South of Carraroe, and there were options of walking loops of either 4 or 10 km. Almost everyone walked the 10 km loop, some went paddling in the sea en route, but none swam even though there was lots of sun and no wind, and the temperature was 21C. After a picnic on the rocks by the sea, we returned to the cars almost three hours later, to find to our surprise that Hi-Jong and Jim were providing wonderful homemade scones and drinks from their kitchen! A tasty end to a great day of blasting away the cobwebs, and an encouraging beginning to the new rambling season.

Apart from our usual Sunday walks, we are looking forward to weekends of rambling camaraderie based at the Broadhaven Hotel in Belmullet in early September and at Renvyle House Hotel in early December, and to our summer Islands walks taken midweek.

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Social distancing at Dog's Bay



Carraroe cow, with ramblers in the distance



Picnic on the rocks near Carraroe



How to balance on top of a stone wall on the Machair



Corrib Ramblers being welcomed to Carraroe

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Corrib Ramblers meet up in Oughterard Carpark on almost every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM, to carpool 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. We welcome new members and visitors at any time: email [corribramblers@gmail.com](mailto:corribramblers@gmail.com), just turn up at Oughterard Carpark on a Sunday morning, or ring Mary Kyne (0860779114), Barbara McSharry (0873531535), or Joe Murray (0872192682) for confirmation and details. ■

## Diary of a Rambler: Corrib Ramblers' trip to La Gomera

4-12 March 2020

Written by Heather Martin

### Wednesday and Thursday

A small but select group of Corrib Ramblers arrived at the airport in Tenerife South to be met by Tom and taken to the Beverley Hills Heights Hotel in Los Cristianos where we spent the night. Tom and Gil had just spent a week on the island of La Palma, which they recommended as a possibility for a Corrib Ramble next year! The next morning we took a sequence of comfortable ferries to La Gomera, arriving at our destination - Valle Gran Rey, the Valley of the Kings - and walked the short journey from the quay to our hotel, although it was very hot and maybe a taxi might have been preferable!!

La Gomera is one of the smallest of the Canary Islands and much less touristy than the more well known islands. The island is about 36 km in diameter, has a population of only 23,000, has year-round temperatures averaging about 22C, and is particularly well-known for its variety of easy and challenging walking trails. Running from a high plateau in the centre of the island down to the coast are deep fissures and steep walled ravines with fertile valleys and farmland. The terrain is such that it is easier and quicker to get a boat around the coast than to go by vehicle up and over the island.

Since Berber tribes colonised the island millennia ago, outside contact was minimal until around the end of the 12th century when seafarers and merchants started looking for new markets to develop. Today, the small-scale farming of grapes, bananas, vegetables and a range of tropical and temperate fruits is being superseded by tourism. Paths that locals used to get from one valley to another have now become popular hiking trails ranging from steep hill paths to old donkey

paths going from village to village as well as wonderful forest tracks.

Some of the islanders can use a unique whistling language, called El Silbo and now recognised by UNESCO, to communicate with each other across the many deep ravines and valleys when in the mountains. Whistles can travel up to 5 km and can be used to carry all sorts of messages from public announcements to the whereabouts of a lost goat.

La Gomera is known as the Columbus Island because it is recorded that Christopher Columbus called here to take on his last supplies before sailing to America in 1492. However, we in Galway know better - isn't he reputed to have stopped in Galway port to replenish supplies and worshipped at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church!

We stayed in the Hotel Gran Rey - attractive and very comfortable - overlooking the sea and with the mountains rising up behind. It had a magnificent pool on the rooftop which Madeline and Heather particularly enjoyed, with Mary and Tom preferring to dip in the sea.

The first afternoon we walked for a few hours in the warm sunshine along a coastal track between the sea and the steep sun-baked cliffs, until we came to the end at what appeared to be a hippy wellness centre. In the evening we walked the short distance from our hotel along the water front to La Playa where there was a good choice of restaurants. En route we listened to the beating of drums by young people who gather on the beach to watch the sunset

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Friday

After a tasty and voluminous buffet breakfast, we took a taxi up to the high plateau at Raso de la Bruma and did a fascinating walk in the dense mist through the ancient laurel forest. Up here, the mosses and lichens cling to the gnarled roots of the trees and hang off the branches creating a magical environment where fairies and elves would not be out of place. We then descended on easy tracks through tree heath and wax myrtle to a small hamlet called Las Hayas where we found the most wonderful little restaurant for lunch. Casa Efigenia was like going back in time. As we entered somewhat cold and wet, a young man piled wood into the stove and invited us to sit down. Efigenia was very keen for us to try the 3 course set lunch, but we compromised and had one set lunch between us and lots of bowls of steaming soup. Their produce is all organic and straight from their garden. Attached to the restaurant is a tiny grocery shop which is where Efigenia and her husband began working in the 1940s before opening the restaurant in the '60s. The place has barely changed since those early days and Efigenia, along with other family members, are still serving customers surrounded by family photographs and memorabilia.

After lunch, we descended along the edge of a dramatic canyon, getting into warm and sunny conditions, checking out a village ceramic shop in El Cercado, and completing our walk in Chipude, where we had delicious carrot cake in Café Sonia before catching the local bus back to Valle Gran Rey. The many walking trails in La Gomera bring you through deserted countryside, then small hamlets and then on into the countryside again. The wild flowers along the way were numerous and beautiful. As the island has many different micro climates, the range of the flora and fauna is truly impressive.



Mountain path near Las Hayas



Wandering through the magical ancient laurel forest



Efigenia's shop

Saturday

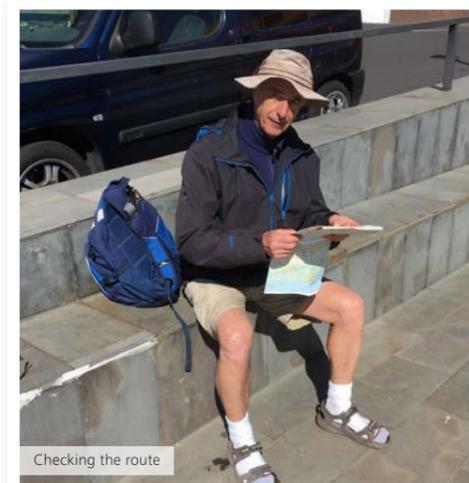
We took the local bus towards Vallehermosa, alighting at Epina. Being so high it was misty and we donned our wet gear again and then began a slow descent for about four hours down an amazingly scenic path. The weather improved as we descended and we peeled off the layers and reached for the sunscreen! We had seen the village in the distance for several hours before we reached it. We had very welcome refreshments outside a café before catching the 5pm bus back to Valle Gran Rey. That evening we decided to stay in our hotel and try the buffet which provided us with the opportunity to try all the culinary specialties of the island in one go! There was an abundance of wonderfully exciting dishes to choose from.

Sunday

Gil, Tom, Madeline and Heather took the 11am local bus up the mountain. Mary decided not to join us that day preferring to explore Gran Rey and to go sea swimming. There is only one route up out of Gran Rey but as you ascend the hair pin bends the road divides and you can go different routes. This time we got off at Macayo and took a very pleasant path that went in a 4 hour loop down through the valley along little paths passing through small hamlets. We had our picnic beside a reservoir while watching some young people fishing. At one point we stopped where a local farmer was irrigating his new potatoes and between some Spanish, some English and miming he explained the system. The local farmers have to work by hand as their plots are perched on the sides of hillsides and not suitable for machinery. We ended up with refreshing drinks at the same cafe in Vallehermosa as the previous day and again took the 5pm bus back to Valle Gran Rey.

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Checking the route

Wednesday

As we only had one full day in Tenerife we decided to make the most of it and hired a taxi to bring us up to El Teide National Park. The taxi man seemed delighted to be out of the town and made a point of stopping at anything interesting en route. One of our stops was at Pino Gordo, a giant pine tree on the outskirts of Vilaflo which at 1,400 metres is the highest village in Tenerife. Then we reached Teide National Park, another UNESCO world heritage site, situated below Monte Teide which is Spain's largest volcano and the third tallest in the world. We walked for about three hours along an easy loop track curving around the wonderfully jagged Roques de García – formed from a volcanic eruption some 200,000 years ago and subsequent erosion. Then we descended by taxi to the giant sea cliffs in Los Gigantes where we left Tom to explore the dramatic seascapes and make his own way back by bus. That evening, having been busy swimming in the pool or packing, we ate in an Italian restaurant just across the road from our hotel – the only meal of the week that we ate indoors!



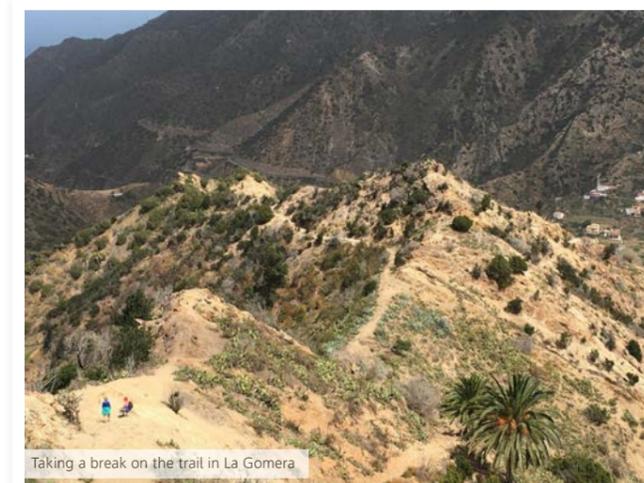
Skirting a canyon with scarves

Monday

Leaving Mary to continue her exploration of Valle Gran Rey four of us took a taxi up to the National Park office at Laguna Grande before beginning a very leisurely four hour walk along flat tracks winding through varied scenery. The range of wild flowers never ceased to amaze us. We ended up in Le Cercado where we discovered another interesting little café and had refreshments before catching the evening bus back to Valle Gran Rey.

Tuesday

We checked out of the hotel, leaving our bags at reception. Tom suggested a short walk to Playa del Ingles so the group went off leaving Heather free to try and find a craft shop to purchase one or two small gifts. Shops had been few and far between during the week as basically we were outside in rural areas and shops did not feature! It was a full two hours before the group returned as it turned out that Playa del Ingles is a nudist beach and so they were full of stories of their walk across the beach! We then took the ferry back to Los Cristianos in Tenerife where we again stayed in Beverley Hills Heights.



Taking a break on the trail in La Gomera

Continued on next page >

< Continued from previous page

Thursday

Our taxi was arriving at the hotel at 9am but the buffet did not open till 8.30am which we felt did not allow us time to do justice to the wonderful spread to which we had become accustomed. So we sent Tom to sweet talk the manageress to allow us to enter early and thus to properly avail of our final feast of fresh fruit, yoghurts, eggs and crusty bread and other goodies. We each managed to make up a sandwich and quietly place it in Gil's very large shoulder bag, brought in for just such an occasion so that we would not have to obtain food on the plane.

As we began our journey home we began to think again of coronavirus and we were slightly wary at the airport and decided to avoid duty free going directly from security to the gate. We had an uneventful flight back to Dublin. There were not many people on the plane and most of us managed a row of seats to ourselves. Tom and Gil had parked their 7 seater car at Dublin airport so they very kindly drove us back to Galway leaving us at our doorsteps.

As with all Ramblers events, food and chat were a very important part of our holiday. The food was excellent and made good use of local produce. The buffet breakfasts were outstanding – papaya, melon, water melon, oranges, choice of all the usual eggs and bacon but my personal best was the omelettes made to order with a little chilli pepper, onion or cheese added in as you wished. It was also a pleasure to get to know our fellow travellers better, even though we already knew them as regular ramblers.

The night we returned Leo gave his address to the nation and announced the closure of schools and colleges with immediate effect. Within two weeks of our return we were in full lockdown! We felt extremely lucky to have had our holiday particularly in view of the fact that it doesn't seem as if any of us will be leaving the country again for quite some time to come! The fact that we were outside in fresh air and sunshine, walking every day for a week, set us up in good stead for the challenges of the times ahead.



The effects of altitude in Garajonay National Park



Stepping it out in El Teide



uachtarARTS

Written by Mo Mooney

UachtarARTS had a busy last term of activities and workshops planned before we had to cease our meet-ups back in March due to Covid-19. Luckily we had already begun working on our Exhibition in collaboration with OCAP, Galway 2020 "Small Towns Big Ideas", and local archaeologist Bill Day. Some of our members continued this work while in isolation and are pleased to present our Group Show "RIANTA-Traces of our Past" online on [www.ocap.ie](http://www.ocap.ie). RIANTA will be launched on 26th June 2020 and will feature the work of Artists Catherine O'Leanachain, 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 Hammell and Susanne Keane. The Exhibition will showcase a diverse range of mediums including video, printmaking, textiles, painting, sculpture and photography, and represents the broad range of skills of our members; three examples are illustrated below.

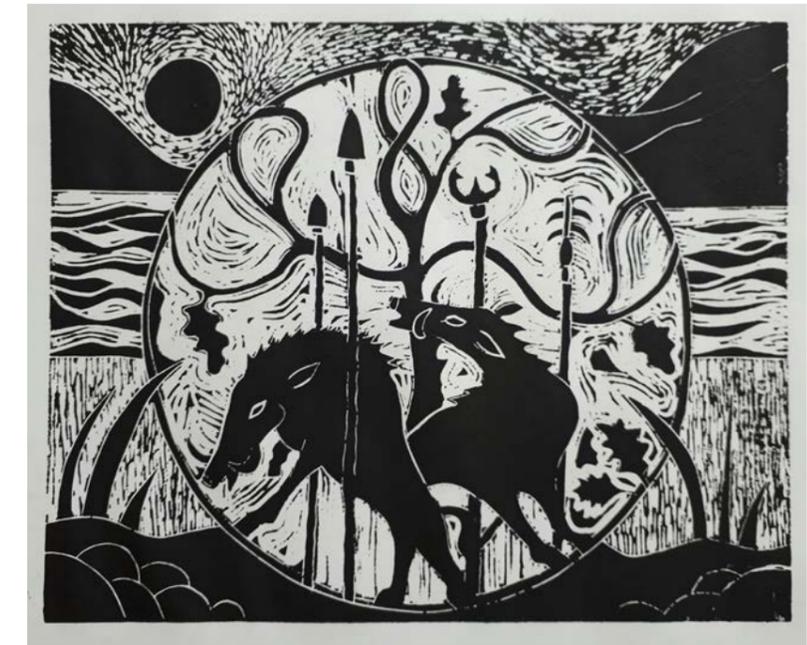
uachtarARTS aim is to raise the profile of the arts in the Oughterard area, support artists and craftspeople, and develop innovative ways of engaging with the arts in an inclusive environment. We are looking forward to returning to our meet-ups in the Courthouse in the Autumn.

Watch out for upcoming uachtarARTS events by liking us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uachtarARTS](http://www.facebook.com/uachtarARTS) or contact [uachtararts@gmail.com](mailto:uachtararts@gmail.com) for more information. If you would like to be involved with uachtarARTS just let us know, new volunteers and members are always welcome to our meet-ups at the Courthouse on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am -12.30pm (return date to be confirmed). uachtarARTS would like to thank Galway County Council, Galway 2020, Clann Resource Centre and the Oughterard Courthouse for their continued support. ■

TOP: Simon Hammell - "Untitled no 1", mixed media  
LEFT: Shona Butler - "Crainn cosanta", textiles  
BOTTOM: Clare Hansen - "Capture", linoprint



uachtarARTS  
Oughterard Community Arts Group



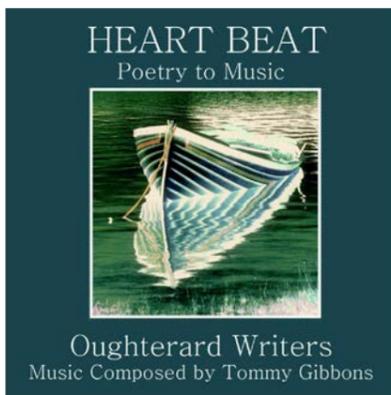
Oughterard Writers' Group

Written by Jess Walsh

Like the rest of the world all of us in the Writers' Group have been staying quietly at home over the last few months. It's been a good opportunity to do some writing and all of us in the group have put pen to paper at different times, some weeks it seems easier to be creative. It's been a great treat to see people's poetry or stories popping up on email. Pete Mullineaux, our facilitator, has given us wonderful feedback and encouragement all through these solitary times, he has really supported us in making our time at home move along more quickly, thank you Pete.

The CD we produced last year, Heart Beat, is still waiting to be launched, we hope it won't be long before we get a chance to do this.

The Writers' Group normally meet in Clann Resource Centre at 11 am on Thursdays. We hope circumstances will allow us all be together again in September. We are always looking for new members and you can contact us via the Clann Resource Centre, telephone 091 557634.



# Feline Routine Preventative Healthcare

Written by Christopher Forde MVB MRCVS



similar albeit milder symptoms that we often refer to as cat flu, this is because during times of stress the virus can re-emerge from hiding and cause disease again. When the cat is older and stronger infection will typically be overcome within a week or so without much problem; however, appropriate care at a young age with vaccination, and care for the mother of the young, may allow us to avoid all this completely.

Feline calicivirus can also result in 'cat flu' symptoms, cats may often develop watery eyes with this virus and other clinical signs similar to that of herpesvirus. In cats infected with calicivirus at a young age we can often see really severe gingivitis, which is inflammation (swelling and redness)

of the gums around the cat's teeth. The current thinking is that when a young cat becomes infected with calicivirus, the cat's immune system goes into overdrive; following this the cat's immune system overcomes the virus but remains in overdrive. In all mouths there are bacteria, they live there normally without causing harm most of the time. However in these cats the immune system which is already on the rampage starts to go after these harmless bacteria in the mouth and the result is gingivitis. The gingivitis can get really bad leading to really smelly breath, pain and some of the teeth may begin to decay. Medications can help, however sometimes the only way to overcome this problem is removal of the teeth to help reduce the gingivitis. Thus good care when cats are young, and vaccination at the right time, will help to prevent these issues.

Feline panleucopaenia is a really serious disease, and thankfully it is rare now due to effective vaccination. It is the older cousin of parvovirus in dogs. It is an aggressive virus that attacks cells that are rapidly dividing, such as cells of the digestive tract and immune cells found in the blood. This is where the fancy medical term panleucopaenia comes from, it means that all the different types of white blood cells (of which there are many) are reduced in number. Pan meaning across the board, leuco referring to white blood cells and paenia indicating reduced number. This leaves cats really vulnerable to secondary disease and they can die from these infections; the good news is that vaccination provides really good protection from this virus and your cat will almost certainly not contract the disease once vaccinated.

Kittens should be vaccinated at about 9 weeks of age. They will require two vaccinations approximately 3 weeks apart depending on the vaccine manufacturer. Kittens can be vaccinated as early as 8 weeks of age but the second vaccine should be given at 12 weeks (an interval of 4 weeks in this instance), the cat should have booster vaccinations annually

thereafter. For indoor cats the above three vaccinations are essential, but for cats that go outdoors I would recommend they are also vaccinated for feline leukaemia virus. Feline leukaemia virus is most commonly spread when cats interact outside, and it is spread in saliva and likely by cat bites too; if a cat is an indoor cat with no risk of being exposed to other unknown cats then vaccination is not essential (although there is no harm in doing it). Some cats that are infected with leukaemia virus will clear the infection and be absolutely fine; others, later in life, will go on to develop leukaemia and this carries a really poor prognosis. Thus, vaccination as well as neutering which reduces fighting among cats will help to prevent this happening. It is important to note that in households where there are numerous cats there is an increased risk of the infection spreading among the cats because of the likes of shared food and water bowls etc. If you have a number of cats in the house as it stands and they are healthy and you are thinking of adopting a stray I would recommend you test the stray for feline leukaemia virus to make sure you are not introducing the virus into your home!

Testing for feline leukaemia virus is very straightforward, most vets will have tests called SNAP tests that can be done in the practice with a sample of blood. The test also checks for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). This is a relative of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), however humans cannot contract FIV. The virus targets the immune system and over time these cats will become vulnerable to other infections as their immune system is depleted. Most FIV cats can live normal lives, they may be more likely to develop flu-like symptoms or respiratory infections as well as dental disease so care is needed that treatment is obtained early to help their already under pressure immune systems. Cats get FIV from fighting; cat bites are the most likely way a cat will get the virus, so if your cat is going outside it should be neutered to reduce the likelihood of the cat ending up in a fight with the local stray. If your cat does test positive for FIV then the cat may well live a normal life; however they should be kept indoors and ideally be the only cat in the house, as this is to reduce the risk of spread to other cats in the house or neighbourhood. We do not vaccinate for FIV in Ireland; while there are vaccines available in some countries they are generally regarded as ineffective and make testing for the disease difficult.

When it comes to infectious disease this is the tip of the iceberg. However, by vaccinating and neutering you can significantly reduce the risk of these infections and their resulting diseases. As always if you have questions about these diseases or you are worried your cat has never been vaccinated or is overdue its annual booster, please contact your local veterinary professional.

Having spoken about routine preventative healthcare in dogs in my last two articles, I would now like to turn my attention to the feline variety. Cats in my opinion are a much more independent species when compared to dogs, much if not all of the social interaction with humans is on their terms. This has the knock-on effect that many people regard them as standoffish and unsociable, and for some cats this can certainly be the case. Being a cat owner myself I am very fond of the species and I do believe that the bond formed between an owner and a cat can be very rewarding.

What's important to note about cats is on the whole they require less than dogs when it comes to preventative healthcare. Nonetheless there are certain things that should not be overlooked. In this article we will discuss vaccination in cats and why it is important.

## Vaccination and infectious diseases

As per my previous articles about dogs I am a strong advocate of vaccination in cats. I have seen my fair share of disease in young cats that would have been avoided had appropriate vaccinations been used when they were the right age. In cats we typically vaccinate for three to four diseases while they are kittens. The so called 'core' vaccinations consist of feline herpesvirus, feline calicivirus and feline panleucopaenia virus; these are essential, all cats should be vaccinated for these.

Herpes in cats can be a frustrating illness, particularly in young unvaccinated cats where it can be quite serious. These kittens develop severe 'flu' symptoms with sneezing, sore eyes, crusting of the face and general lethargy; groups of kittens can be affected and some can die. If the kitten overcomes the virus and the clinical signs resolve, the cat will nearly always still have the virus in hiding, this is called 'latency'. The herpesvirus is a very clever virus and hides away in areas of the cat's body where its immune system cannot find it. The consequence of this is that later in life, the cat can develop

## 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

### Times of Service

As has been the case throughout the country, the church has been closed since 22nd March. At that time it was thought that this might just apply for a two or three Sundays but nobody could then have guessed that "a few weeks" would eventually become thirteen!

For the past five weeks up to eighty people from both Galway and Oughterard have been connecting by way of Zoom at 11 a.m. on Sundays and, following the recent lifting of restrictions as announced by the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on Friday 19th June, plans are now well established to open for worship on Sunday 5th July. This will happen providing everything is in place with strict adherence to the "Return to In-Church Worship Protocols" issued by the House of Bishops and the Representative Church Body.

The Rector advises that services will initially be on a trial basis and it is important to note that it will be different to what we have been used to. We have a duty to care for one another and it is incumbent on us all for public health reasons to follow guidelines and to be wise in our approach.

As of now it is not possible to provide

a list of services and the times at which they will take place, but this will be given by way of the notice board at the church gate.

### Churchyard

During the lockdown the grass and weeds continued to grow. Many thanks to Craig Mc Cleane who helped to tidy things up and now, more recently, to the CE workers who have everything under control.

### Bell

The issue relating to the Church Bell which was mentioned in the Spring Edition of Corrib news has now been investigated by an engineer with expertise in that area. He recommends that the bell be supported by two steel beams until such time as the decaying wooden mounting can be removed and replaced. His report is awaited and, when that has been received, the necessary work will need to be carried out under the supervision of Conservation Architect Gerry Manus. The bell dates from 1853, probably weighs between 800 and 1000kg and, for the moment, it must remain silent.

### Galway 2020 Cello Concert

Unfortunately, like so many other events connected with Galway 2020, the proposed lunch-time concert featuring cellist Christopher Marwood scheduled for Wednesday April 29th did not take place. It now remains to be seen if all of the fantastic concerts arranged for the Cello Festival will now take place next year.

### A remarkable achievement

Congratulations to Phyl Furness who celebrated here her 105th birthday on Saturday 23rd May. Phyl continues to enjoy good health, and is well looked after by neighbours and carers. While she insisted having no great fuss to mark the occasion, she has now received her fifth medal from the President and looks forward to a proper party when lockdown is over!

### Condolences

The Rector and all parishioners would like to take this opportunity to extend deepest sympathy to the family of Dorrie Faherty. Dorrie always made a special effort to attend the annual Carol Service and any concert taking place in the church. She is fondly remembered by all. ■



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The new Lamb of God Chapel



The sagging of the small panels shows that re-leading of the old windows is needed.

## The Church of the Immaculate Conception Restoration Update, June 2020

Written by the Restoration Team

Who would have thought that we are in the Summer and are still only slowly creeping out of lockdown? Life has become very restricted, with people keeping to themselves by legal requirement, the natural instinct to meet and greet friends and neighbours has been suppressed. It is still heartening to look into the Church and see candles flickering in the dim light, signalling the hope in people's hearts. Let us too hope that Ireland emerges from the pandemic at an appropriate speed – not too fast that the virus would get a new lease of life but in such a way that our lives can slowly return to some level of normality.

Oughterard has been lucky! While we have avoided losing parishioners to the virus, we did lose a number of our community in the past three months – and for those families the grieving process was difficult with all the new rules in place, but we all know it was for the best.

The restoration has continued over the last three months – despite it being curtailed by restrictions on essential work and movement. We were also somewhat fortunate that much of the work was done in a studio and travel was not necessary. With a lot of the main church work now complete the effort to finish the new Lamb of God chapel progressed when it could. It must be stressed that the work on this chapel would never have been even contemplated to this extent was it not for the fortunate securing of one substantial private donor as well as the Albert Gubay grant from the United Kingdom in addition to many other significant donations.

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners we have received significant sponsorship over the last year and to date the borrowings still amount to €130,997.98 from the Meitheal fund. However, with the monthly Restoration Fund envelopes coming to an end this month and attending Mass being suspended, we have had a significant reduction in the amount of donations.

We are asking that anyone wishing to contribute to the project to please use either an envelope in the Church located near the altar (and the safe in the wall) or by direct transfer to the restoration account.

Name of Account: Oughterard Church Restoration Fund; Bank Identifier Code BOFIE2D (that's 2 capital I's); IBAN: BOFI 9039 3931 1177 11 and please make sure to put your name on the 'text line' to identify the source of the donation. Once off donations and monthly standing order commitments can be made using this method. It is again worth stressing that an additional 31% can be claimed from the Revenue when in excess of €250 is donated from a tax payer in a calendar year.

The next big milestone will be the blessing of the new Lamb of God Chapel. It is virtually complete with a carpet now fitted resulting in a very calming ambience – there are no chairs as yet. We look forward to opening the chapel to the public but with the current social distancing rules this is still not possible.

The guttering and downpipes remain a significant job to be completed in addition to the re-leading of the old windows in the church. The old bell is not far from being

commissioned and we look forward to it tolling across the village in the near future.

The overall cost of the restoration is still in the region of the original estimate of €600,000.

Finally, there are a large number of coin collection boxes distributed throughout the parish. We are not encouraging the return of these until the 'all clear' later on in the year – but please continue to fill them with any loose change.

As we said in the last update – we must be patient and look after each other and ourselves. The strength of Oughterard is its sense of community, we are all here together and lookout for one another especially our elderly family, neighbours and friends – for many, the Church plays an important part in the life of the community and thanks to everyone here our church is now in far better shape than it was just 24 months ago. But we are not finished yet!

With new rules coming on holding Masses, we will be needing a number of volunteers to assist in the ushering of people to the correct safe distance for Mass and ensuring unidirectional circulation – please advise Fr. Connolly if you are willing to assist.

In the meantime, wash your hands thoroughly, stay your safe distance; wear your protective clothing when required to do so and stay home if you are feeling unwell and consult your GP.

We look forward to seeing you in the church before too long. ■

## The reopening of Oughterard Parish Church for public mass

Written by Fr Michael Connolly pp, Oughterard

At the time of writing this in late June, we intend to reopen Oughterard parish church for public mass from Sunday 5th July 2020, in keeping with the government's roadmap to reopen society in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. **Please check for the latest news, by looking at the parish website, our Facebook page, posters in shops, and on the church door.** Reopening in early July is by no means certain, as we still need to confirm that the substantial requirements to protect public safety can be put in place. Approximately 10 fully-trained volunteers are required for each mass, and the church capacity will be greatly reduced; two out of every three pews will be blocked off, with each open pew only able to sit 3-4 people, unless they are from the same household. The total church capacity will drop from 550 to 50, while phase 3 of the reopening lasts. Therefore many people who may like to come to Sunday mass will not be able to attend every Sunday in the current phase. The planned roll-out is to begin with only the 11:30am mass on Sunday, followed by the regular Sunday mass schedule in the following Sundays. We hope to have our

normal weekday masses beginning soon, but not right away. Sunday obligation is still suspended, probably until a vaccine is found for Covid-19.

In light of these considerations, and in consultation with parishioners involved in ministry, the following scheme for mass attendance has been proposed, while the Phase 3 reopening programme remains operative.

A book will be left on a table inside the church. Those who wish to attend an Anniversary Mass on a particular date at a particular time will be asked to sign in the names of those who wish to attend.

Baptism and weddings are permitted, again with the limitations set out for social distancing and sanitising. Please remember that extra voluntary help will be required, so your preferred date may not be possible.

There will be a maximum of 40 places available per mass, as the other spaces are

needed for the voluntary helpers, choir, readers, Eucharistic ministers and the priest. [The parish will not issue tickets, as this system has led to vacant seats when implemented in various situations.]

It is important to queue for entry into the church as you are accustomed to doing for supermarkets etc., and hand sanitising stations will be available.

As collection baskets are not permitted, I ask with all sensitivity to the current economic uncertainty that you consider taking a box of envelopes to support the church running costs. If €5 per week is too much, please consider this amount every two weeks or every month. Our counters need to be considered in light of handling coinage.

I personally would love to see you all again in our newly refurbished church for the mass, although circumstances dictate that it will be an unusual affair (but still the same gift of the mass). Finally, do consider lending a hand, as we still need more volunteers. ■

### CONDOLENCES

## Chris Mayhew

On the 30th of April, we in Oughterard Writers' Group lost a very dear friend, Chris Mayhew, a long-time member of our group and always a gentle beacon of light.

She was an incredibly talented writer, mainly focusing on writing poetry. She wrote beautiful songs of worship, she had an amazing singing voice and many times we were lucky to be treated to a performance of one of her extraordinary compositions. Chris was also a wonderful artist and in September 2019 she had a very successful exhibition of her paintings on glass at the Courthouse.

We miss Chris greatly and our thoughts are with her husband, Simon, and all her family.

Jack McCann has written the following poem in honour of Chris:

### THE MUSIC LIVES

You make sense of words.  
You were reading my poem,  
lines tripping off your tongue.  
Guitar in hand,  
you said you had to sing it  
and you did, like a songbird  
pouring forth with passion and melody,  
keeping us all enthralled.  
We witnessed the birth of beauty,  
words married to music, instantly,  
captured on video  
showing your creativity.  
So play, play in Heaven!  
Sing to the tune in your head.  
They'll recognise your talent.  
To us you'll never be gone.  
So walk with us again through Connemara,  
share your poetry and songs.  
You said "Don't be afraid of tomorrow,  
Tomorrow is not the end!"

Jack McCann  
13. 05. 2020



## THE COURTHOUSE UPDATE

Written by Leslie Lyons

Sadly all activity in the courthouse came to a sudden end in mid-March following the introduction of the lockdown. A great deal of hard work had gone into planning a number of exciting exhibitions and events for June, July and August, all in collaboration with Galway 2020 and associated with the work of local Archaeologist Bill Daly; Bill is based in the Courthouse and works on the Community Employment scheme on behalf of Oughterard Heritage Group. The arts exhibitions have now been developed as on-line exhibitions, and articles elsewhere in the magazine describe how these can be easily accessed by the community. We continue to work with our community partners in getting the Courthouse back to business as soon as possible.

With doors closed for almost three months, it was great that the Courthouse provided an ideal venue for Bogdan, Ingrid, Andrea and Adrian of ConTempo String Quartet to meet together in June for the first time since the start of the lockdown. Following three days of rehearsals, ConTempo performed and recorded on 11th June the Third Movement from Beethoven's String Quartet Op 18 No. 5; the video recording also includes an introduction, recorded in the Shrubbery, on what Beethoven means to each of them, 250 years on from his birth. The recording may be enjoyed by all, by searching for Galway Music Residency and accessing the GMR Facebook Page.

We are always delighted to welcome ConTempo as they, together with BelCanto, were kind enough to perform at the very first event to be held in the newly restored courthouse on 8th December 2014.

As was the case with most companies and businesses, the Annual General Meeting of Oughterard Courthouse Conservation and Heritage Company had to be deferred this year as no meetings could take place. Now that restrictions have been relaxed, we have scheduled the AGM for Thursday 06 August at 8pm in the Courthouse, when government anti-Covid guidelines will be respected; we encourage public participation, so please email Leslie Lyons at leslielyons47@gmail.com if you are planning to attend as the current capacity of the meeting room is 15. Also, feel free to turn up on the night, but in that case there would be no guarantee of being able to participate.

The Board of Directors also wish to offer their deepest sympathy to Catherine Faherty, her father Pdraig, brother Patrick and the extended family on the recent death of Catherine's mother Dorrie. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Chris Mayhew whose lovely painting on glass was exhibited in the Courthouse last September; condolences to her husband Simon and the family members.

## Butterfly Quiz

Can you identify the 8 butterflies in the photographs?



Local photographer, Anne Gallen, found these butterflies around Oughterard during lockdown. Answers will be in the next issue of Corrib News.



## Interview with Mary Kyne

President of The Retired Teachers' Association of Ireland, 2020

**Congratulations, Mary, on recently becoming President of the RTAI, this must be a great personal achievement, and is in keeping with your lifetime of energetic public service in Oughterard and elsewhere. Firstly, could you briefly fill us in on the RTAI?**

The Retired Teachers' Association of Ireland was founded in Dublin in the early 50's and it has grown to over 10,300 members organised in 32 branches throughout the 26 counties. It is a vibrant and energetic fellowship of retired primary teachers. The growth of the organisation didn't happen by chance but evolved from the commitment and dedication of Branch officers and members over the past 70 years.

**What benefits does the Association provide members?**

There are two key aspects to the work of the Association, one at national level and one at local level.

At national level there is a strong focus on looking after the interests of retired teachers in relation to pensions, social welfare entitlements, taxation, health insurance and other issues that impact on teachers' well-being and welfare; providing counselling, advice and services to individual members is central to the Association's work.

At local level there is a strong social element to its work. It provides an opportunity for members to engage in a variety of activities and events such as day tours, tours abroad, book clubs, choirs, bridge clubs, yarn clubs, lectures, computer courses, yoga, Tai chi, and golf outings to name a few. Those activities provide an opportunity for members to remain in touch with former colleagues as part of a collegiate and supportive network.

**How do members keep in touch?**

Members meet at branch AGMs in June, at annual memorial masses for deceased members of the Association, and at lunches and coffee mornings in outlying areas of the branches to facilitate those who cannot attend regular meetings.

Social activities and events are posted on the RTAI website. Branch members also get together to celebrate special events.

Our RTAI magazine "Comhnasc" is delivered three times a year to our membership. Members living alone or in residential homes welcome this contact with the general cohort of members as it keeps them entertained and in touch with their former colleagues. A recent personal example of how the magazine can bring members together was that during the pandemic I had a pleasant surprise when Seán Smyth, a former colleague of my husband, made contact with me, as a result of seeing my photo in Comhnasc. Seán explained: "Back in 1955 when I celebrated my 17th birthday I was a member of my local parish football team that won the County Monaghan Intermediate Championship. On that team was a young footballer (teacher) from Galway called Frankie Kyne. I admired this young man and it was Frankie's encouragement that led me to take up teaching as a career. In 1984 I met Frankie at a Football Banquet celebration in Clones. There are just four surviving members of the team now and we often wondered what happened to Frankie Kyne - the fastest forward in our area."



Mary Kyne with her chain of office, photographed by her grandchild Ada Bowler

**Your Presidency has coincided with the Covid-19 outbreak, how did this impact your work?**

My aspiration on taking up office on the 3rd of March was to reach out in a meaningful way to members confined to their homes and in residential care. I was aware that social isolation, loneliness, loss and bereavement all have a direct impact on well-being and mental health. I wanted members to know that their membership was valued and that they were not abandoned. I had unwittingly chosen as my motto for my year as President - Care & Connect.

Just one week later, life changed. Coronavirus hit the country with a bang. Suddenly we were caught off guard. Care & Connect took on a totally different meaning. Over 70's were obliged to isolate within their own homes and others had to stay two meters apart. Now in the month of June we have moved on. All conferences, branch and executive meetings have been cancelled so as an Association we now rely on Zoom meetings to conduct our business. My chain of office is still in its box and will remain there until restrictions are lifted.

I'm conscious of members who are suffering, who have been bereaved by the virus or any death and who are now feeling alone, isolated and disconnected without the support of wakes, funerals or human contact at this time. I extend to them and their families my sincere sympathy.

When this time of fear and uncertainty passes - and it will pass - we will be ready as an association to Care & Connect in a meaningful way to make this world a better place for all mankind.

**Thank you, Mary, for sharing this with us, and we wish you every success in this most difficult of years. ■**

# The Aughnanure Logboat

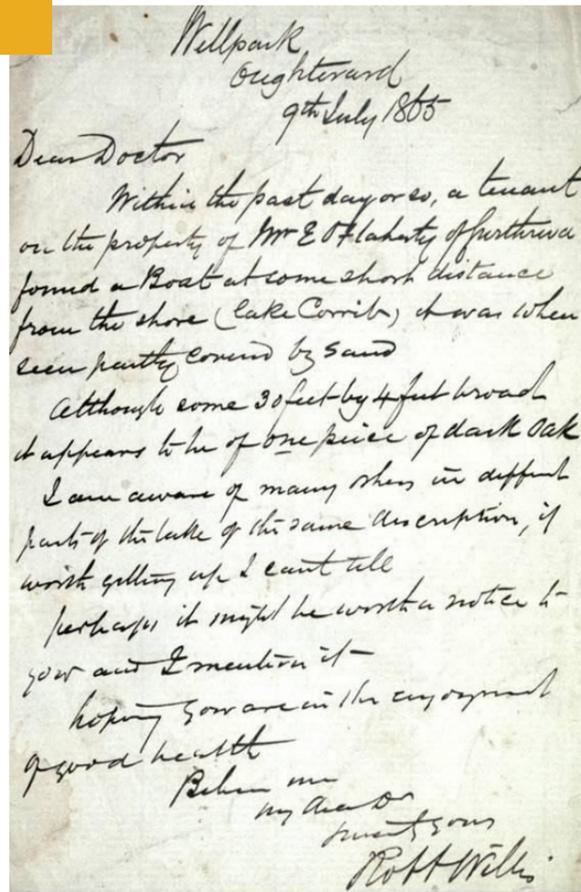
Written by: Bill Daly

'In this Bay was lately discovered a long single-piece oaken canoe, of great antiquity, which Dr. R. Willis, of Oughterard, has presented to the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy' – Sir William Wilde (1815-1876) extract from "Wilde's Lough Corrib" (published in 1867).

I came across the above footnote in Wilde's book during 2018 when I was researching the Mesolithic period (8000-4000 BC). I parked it for a while and revisited it again in 2019 when I was working on the Neolithic period (4000-2500 BC). It was to be my first encounter with Dr. Robert Willis, Dispensary Doctor of Oughterard in the 1860's, and it turned out to be a very interesting one indeed. Before we go any further, let me explain what a logboat is. They were usually made from oak, a single tree, and could be up to fifty feet in length. The felled tree was hollowed out with stone axes, then a controlled fire was lit inside the boat, the embers cleared out, and this was followed by more axe work until the desired shape had been achieved.

I started off by contacting the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in Dublin, and they confirmed to me that they did indeed have a letter from Dr. Willis to Sir William Wilde in relation to a boat. They wouldn't tell me what was in the letter until I agreed to give them €12, which I did, and then they sent me on a scanned image of the letter by email. Sir William Wilde (father of Oscar) was an internationally famous eye and ear surgeon based in Dublin, had written a renowned medical book as well as some acclaimed European travel guides, and performed some incredible work on Statistics by extrapolating the data from the Census Reports. The Wildes also had a summer house in Moytura, on the far side of Lough Corrib near Cong. Sir William was also an Antiquarian, the forerunner of modern day Archaeology, and undertook some enormous work in the RIA where he classified artefacts by type for the very first time. Dr. Willis and Wilde were very close friends.

The letter itself gives us some important and relevant information. The boat was found in early July 1865 in the Bay where the River Drimneen enters Lough Corrib beside



Aughnanure Castle. It measured 30 feet in length, 4 feet in width, and was made from a single length of oak tree. Dr. Willis also referenced other boats being at the bottom of Lough Corrib, which was remarkable as they were not in a position to avail of the technology we have at our disposal today. The boat was delivered to the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin during 1867, and we do not have any information as to how this happened. I imagine they would possibly have tied three carts together, used four horses to pull it to Galway, and then put it on the train to Dublin. Not the easiest of logistical projects when you are dealing with a thirty foot boat! My friend and expert craftsman, Brendan Hodgers from Ballymacoda Co. Cork, produced a replica model for us to display (illustrated below).



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My next task was to approach the National Museum and pick up the story from there. I also knew that the Royal Irish Academy had moved all of their archaeological artefacts to the Dublin Art and Science Museum in 1890, and this would later become the National Museum of Ireland after 1922. I then emailed my contact in the National Museum and attached the letter from Dr. Willis. As I awaited the response, I was looking forward to a trip to Dublin and possibly getting the Logboat back to Oughterard if it was only in storage and not on display in the Museum. I waited for a couple of weeks and then decided to ring them. They informed me that they didn't have the boat, and the last trace they had of it was when it was included in Wakeman's Catalogue Volume 3 in 1893. The catalogue had registered the boat at 24 feet, and this was 6 feet shorter than when it was found in 1865. They also told me that all of the boats that were registered around this period were no longer around.

This was a big disappointment for me, but certainly not a total surprise as I knew that removing ancient objects from a bog or the bottom of a lake would disturb the anaerobic conditions. The anaerobic environment and the presence of tannic acids within bogs and lakes can result in the remarkable preservation of organic material. The moment they are exposed to the air, bacteria start to work on them, and they can quickly degrade if oxygen is not excluded. However, we do have the letter to prove that the boat was found in Aughnanure and the critical dimensions thereof. In this particular area there have also been finds of stone axes, polished stone axes, arrowheads and a copper axe head - lending credence to the theory that Aughnanure was occupied over 5,000 years ago in the Neolithic period.

We are eternally grateful to Dr. Robert Willis for his great work in bringing this to our attention all those years ago. As well as being the local Doctor, he was also an Antiquarian and artist; he made many drawings, sketches and stone rubbings in and around Oughterard. Robert died rather suddenly in 1868 at the very young age of 34, leaving a distraught wife and five young children. I will finish this article by including a few lines from his obituary in The Galway Express on Saturday July 18th 1868 –

*"On yesterday evening at nine o'clock, the above named gentleman breathed his last in Galway after an illness of only a few days. He leaves an amiable wife and five young children, to mourn their bereavement.*

*He was one of those gentle beings whose soul was actuated by all the purest impulses of nature; the poor man's friend – a friend wherever he beheld suffering humanity.*

*He knew none of the formal grades in the social status which men are ever aping after; he always, no matter what his position might be, respected man as man.*

*To the people of Oughterard he was attached by a thousand fond memories, and they reciprocated that love and mutual intensity. The West with all its natural scenery drew out all the finest feelings of his nature, but now he has left forever the people and the land he loved so dearly and so well.*

*People of Oughterard, long, long until ye meet his like again. Many fond reminiscences shall remain ever entwined round the name and memory of one whom the people felt was entirely and exclusively their own – their own by his choice and their selection, their own by his sweet bewitching manner and native homeliness; their own by all the fondest chords that can unite a sterling friend and a grateful people".* ■



## Oughterard Library update

Written by Karen Connolly



Not much to report from the Library over the last few months! It has been a very difficult time for lots of people in lots of ways. Right now though it seems we have weathered the worst of it and normality is coming back - won't be long now.

We're working on getting Oughterard Library back in action, it is looking like it will be the beginning of August. That's to make sure that everything is in place to follow the government guidelines correctly. For the moment you will have to use one of the big libraries which are already kitted out - Westside or Clifden would be good bets for Oughterard borrowers. There has been a contact and collect service in place there for the last few weeks. In essence you ring up and tell us what kind of thing you like and we put together a selection for you, and hopefully a few things hit the spot! That will remain in place for anyone who is minding themselves for another while, but if you are ready to come out for a quick browse the big libraries are ready to welcome you back. Additional services such as PC use, printing and inter-library loans will be coming back over the next little while - see social media channels for details as they come available.

Summer Stars has started as normal in the big Libraries, so you can start there and we will carry on from Oughterard later in the summer. It is too early to say much about our usual Certificate Presentation which normally happens early in the school year. Like a lot of things, we will see how things have unfolded by then. I'm looking forward to seeing the Young Readers of Oughterard tearing through the books as usual - in a year of disruption I expect some things to stay the same!

Deepest sympathies to the family of Chris Mayhew, who sadly died in April. Many borrowers will remember Chris from her time working in Oughterard Library, a gentle, smiling lady of many talents. Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam.

Looking forward to reconnecting with borrowers over the next while - we're getting there!

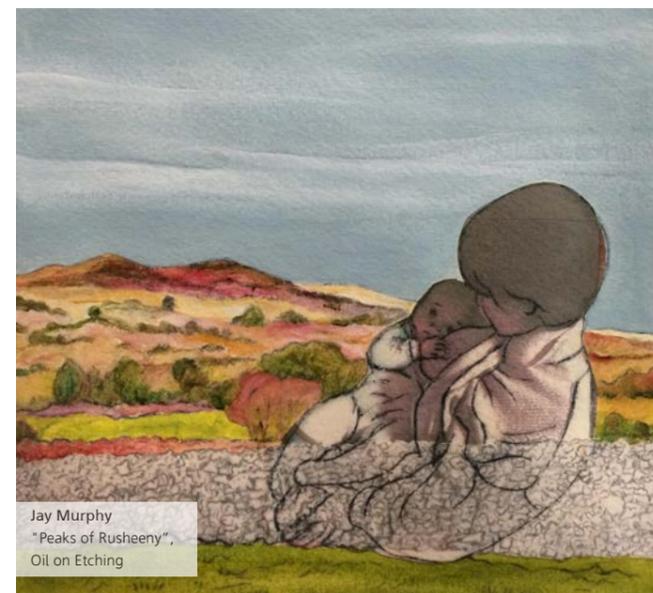
Oughterard Library: 091 557002 FB: Oughterard Public Library  
Westside Library: 091 509091 FB: Westside Public Library  
Clifden Library: 095 21092 FB: Clifden Library ■

Continued on next page >



Kathleen Furey  
Wild Pig Afternoon (fire), Mixed Media Print

< Continued from previous page



Jay Murphy  
"Peaks of Rusheeny",  
Oil on Etching



Leah Beggs  
"THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS",  
Oil on Canvas

## Oughterard Courthouse Arts Programme

Written by Mo Mooney

O CAP had been looking forward to a very busy programme of events in and around The Courthouse centred on the SET IN STONE project, which is based on the work of local Archaeologist Bill Daly who has traced the history of Oughterard back to Neolithic times. SET IN STONE is a community project bringing together many players including the Oughterard Courthouse Arts Project (OCAP), uachtarARTS, Oughterard Writers' Group, Oughterard Heritage Group, Aughnanure Castle, Corrib Beo and the Schools of Oughterard. This project will be completed in the summer of 2021 due to current COVID-19 restrictions; we are thankful for the Galway 2020 "Small Towns, Big Ideas" programme for providing funds to undertake the 2020 activities of the project. Since the artists have produced their work for the three summer exhibitions we decided we would present the exhibitions this Summer on-line on our website [www.ocap.ie](http://www.ocap.ie). We look forward to seeing these artworks in The Courthouse in 2021; three examples are illustrated here.

The Visual Arts Programme will open with uachtarARTS Group show RIANTA (traces of our past) on Friday 26th June 2020. RIANTA will feature the work of Catherine O'Leanachain, Clare Hansen, Deirdre Stephens, Gil Cusack, Grainne MacManus, Jess Walsh, Kathleen Hinde, Lelia Ni Chathmhaoil, Mary Byrne, Maureen Mooney, Maria Hutton, Molly McHenry, Olga Magliocco, Philippa Maguire, Shona Butler, Simon Hamnell and Susanne Keane.

Our second Exhibition CUIMHNÍ (memories) will launch on Friday 10th July featuring new work by local artists Kathleen Furey and Leah Beggs. Kathleen's work for this exhibition references history, myth, memory and observation. It responds to personal research regarding our ancestors, our earliest flora and fauna, and new research and theories put forward by archaeologist Bill Daly. Leah's work responds to the different weather patterns and the importance of the Landscape on its ancient inhabitants. "Ideas around climatic effects on the landscape are one facet to my paintings, whilst other more abstract concepts explore an emotive response to the landscape by reminiscing or suggesting a 'sense' of place, an atmosphere or a feeling, rather than depicting a particular scene."

Our third Exhibition will feature the work of Co Galway Artists Collective AKIN including Jay Murphy, Dolores Lyne, Leonie King, Margaret Irwin and Sioban Piercy. AIMSITHE (discovered) will be launched on Friday 24th July. AKIN was formed as a geographical network to bring together a group of artists based in rural Galway to discuss and share ideas, and to provide a resource and a platform for showcasing their work in a mutually supportive context. All the artists work individually and have their own distinctive voice, and bring together their collective energy. For over 25 years they have been a significant part of the cultural map of Galway, individually and as a group. AKIN is one of the longest established collectives in Galway with an unbroken record of quality exhibitions over 25 years.

Since the artists have produced their work for the three summer exhibitions, we decided we would present the exhibitions this Summer on-line on our website

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 as it can be a very enriching experience to engage with Art in the community.

For more information contact [ouughterardcap@gmail.com](mailto:ouughterardcap@gmail.com) or follow us on [www.facebook.com/OughterardCourthouseArtsProgramme](https://www.facebook.com/OughterardCourthouseArtsProgramme) and don't forget to visit [www.ocap.ie](http://www.ocap.ie) to see our Summer Programmes present and past. ■



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From 26th June RIANTA - Traces of our past  
uachtarARTS Group Show:  
Catherine O'Leanachain, Clare Hansen, Deirdre Stephens, Gil Cusack, Grainne MacManus, Jess Walsh, Kathleen Hinde, Lelia Ni Chathmhaoil, Mary Byrne, Maureen Mooney, Maria Hutton, Molly McHenry, Olga Magliocco, Philippa Maguire, Shona Butler, Simon Hamnell and Susanne Keane.

From 10th July CUIMHNI - Memories  
Artists:  
An Exhibiton of new work by  
Kathleen Furey and Leah Beggs.

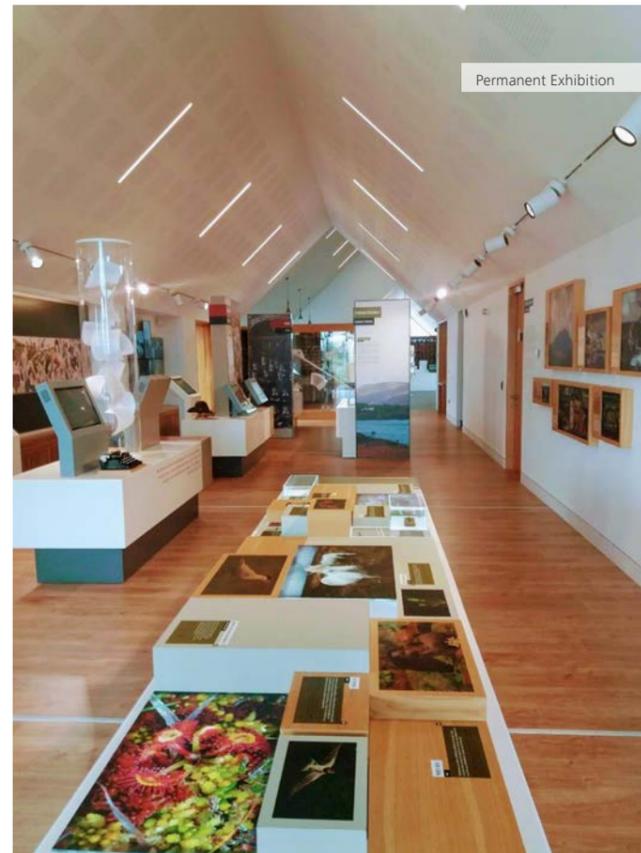
From 24th July AIMSITHE - Discovered  
Artists Collective AKIN  
Dolores Lyne, Jay Murphy, Leonie King, Margaret Irwin and Siobhan Piercy.



Continued on next page >

# Visiting The Pearse Cultural Centre in Rosmuc

Written by Larry McDonagh



Permanent Exhibition

He bought a plot of land in the area, where he built a summer cottage. Rosmuc and characters in the area inspired Patrick for many of his short stories and poems, which he worked on at the cottage. He also brought students there from his bilingual school in Dublin to be immersed in the language and culture. The information in the cultural centre focuses on these connections, the language and culture, his short stories and poems, the school in Dublin, the Gaelic League, and the famous oration he delivered at the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa in Glasnevin in 1915.

The Cultural Centre offers all the facilities you would expect from a modern building without taking away from a significant historical property, as it is situated three hundred metres from Teach an Phiarsaigh. It is bright and spacious and a lovely atmosphere is created by traditional music and seanós singing, playing in the background. A temporary exhibition area to one side is available to the public free of charge. Tourists traveling in the area can come in and learn about all that Connemara has to offer. A touch screen provides information on the many things available for visitors, from museums and craft centres to walks and cycles. A video playing on a continuous loop on a large screen gives a taste of life in the area through music and song, beautiful landscape and scenery, people at work in the area, and local arts and crafts.

A large map of the Connemara area by Tim Robinson on the floor is very popular. Tim carried out so much work and research in the area. The map is very detailed with holy wells, churches, burial grounds, mountains and lakes in the area all referenced. It is also an added bonus for the guides when answering questions on directions as they can literally walk the visitor through the Connemara area! This side of the building is also available to the public for events and has been used for plays, concerts, poetry recitals, cd launches and writing workshops.

The permanent exhibition is on the other side and it starts with two introductions. The first gives an overview of Patrick's life and his achievements, of which there were many in his short thirty six years: his family life and education; the cottage and his connections with



Patrick overview

Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Conamara, opened to the public in 2016 as part of the commemorations of the 1916 Rebellion. Along with state ceremonies to mark the historic event, the government set aside funding for eight permanent reminders, to act as a lasting legacy. Some of this funding was made available for a new interpretive centre at Teach an Phiarsaigh, in Rosmuc, the summer cottage used by Patrick Pearse for six years in the early 1900's. The new centre was officially opened to the public by the Taoiseach Enda Kenny, on the 10th of November, the date on which Patrick was born, in 1879, on Great Brunswick Street, Dublin. An earlier article in the Winter 2019 Edition of the Corrib News focused on the cottage, while this article concentrates on the Cultural Centre itself.

Patrick Pearse had first come to Rosmuc in April 1903, as an inspector with Conradh na Gaeilge, to examine locals who wished to qualify as teachers with the language organisation. It would appear that Patrick's intention at the time was to stay for two or three nights, to administer the exams before heading back to Dublin. However, Rosmuc and the people living in the area made such an impression on Patrick, given the beauty of the landscape and the strength of the language and culture in the area. He extended his first visit and continued to return to the area for the next twelve years.

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Connemara; his work with Conradh na Gaeilge and his involvement in the 1916 Rising. The second introduction is a depiction of life in the Connemara area through papier-mâché, by the artist Isabel Buenez. Instruments and dancing shoes show the strong culture in the area while a slane, lobster pot and oar show the importance of fishing and farming and the coastal way of life in the area. These introductions are expanded on further throughout the exhibit.

Visitors can learn about St. Enda's, the bilingual school founded by Patrick in Dublin in 1908, through a series of slides. With a replica of a magic lantern similar to one used by Patrick to teach the students, photos can be viewed on each slide, along with information on the methods used in the school, based on principles seen by Patrick during his time studying bilingualism in Flanders.

This leads on to a screen where the visitor can watch a series of six videos, showing the Irish language being used in all aspects of daily life, from the local creche where it is passed on to the next generation,

to eating out in a local restaurant, and playing football. The videos are short but they show that this is a living language used in all aspects of daily life. At a later stage there is an opportunity to learn more about the development of the Irish language, and to listen to the three different dialects along with a taste of Irish language in the media with different categories of programmes from TG4.

At another presentation it is possible to listen to the famous oration delivered by Patrick at the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, and read the famous words. The oration was written in Rosmuc in July 1915, before Patrick left the area for the last time to attend the funeral on the 1st of August, in Glasnevin.

Information and extracts from Patrick's short stories and poems are available to give visitors a taste of those beautiful pieces. The segment of Tim Robinson's Connemara map related to Rosmuc is available on another screen, to learn about the place names in the area, which Patrick used in many of the short stories. Information is also available on other local writers from Patrick's own time up to the present day who have been writing and publishing works in the Irish language such as Máirtín Ó Direáin and Caitlín Maude.

Conradh na Gaeilge held its National Convention in Galway in 1913. A group of those in attendance were photographed outside the building that we know today as the Town Hall Theatre. A digital copy of this photograph is available on two screens at the centre and information is provided on certain members of the organisation who attended the event. Visitors can learn more about people such as Patrick and Willie Pearse, along with other key historical figures from this period and later years in Irish history such as Eamon De Valera, Douglas Hyde and Countess Markievicz. This is a great opportunity to learn about men and women involved in the language movement who in later years became involved in the 1916 Rebellion, the War of Independence and the Civil War.

Of course for the majority of visitors a visit to the cottage is the highlight of their trip. This is now accessed by a scenic bog land walk, Slí na Coille. There are information points along the way to learn about the surrounding landscape and benches to sit down, to rest, relax and take in the beautiful surroundings, which inspired Patrick. A wooden structure near the cottage provides a practical space to give talks to larger groups. It also has information panels about people who lived in the locality during Patrick's time such as the writer Pádraic O Conaire.

Visitors return to the centre after the cottage and if time permits enjoy a treat in the cafe or read further. Many comment on the amount of information available in the centre. Some have even returned for a second and even a third visit if it is practical to do so! The number of visitors to the site have increased year on year since its opening and facilities such as the cafe and the large carpark make it more accessible for larger groups and tour companies.

The cottage and centre are open all year round: 9:45 to 18:00 during the summer months, and 9:30 to 16:00 from early November to March. Further information is available on the website, [www.icpconamara.ie](http://www.icpconamara.ie). The centre can also be contacted by phone at 091 574292, or email at [tanphiarsaigh@opw.ie](mailto:tanphiarsaigh@opw.ie), for any queries or group bookings.

As with all aspects of life, Covid 19 has had an effect on the centre. The site closed to the public on the 12th of March. At the time of writing, it is hoped to reopen the centre on July 20th, as part of the government's roadmap to reopen Irish society and businesses. ■



View of the cottage from the Centre



Slí na Coille

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Can you **spot 10 differences** in picture B?  
Draw a circle around each one you find.

PICTURE A

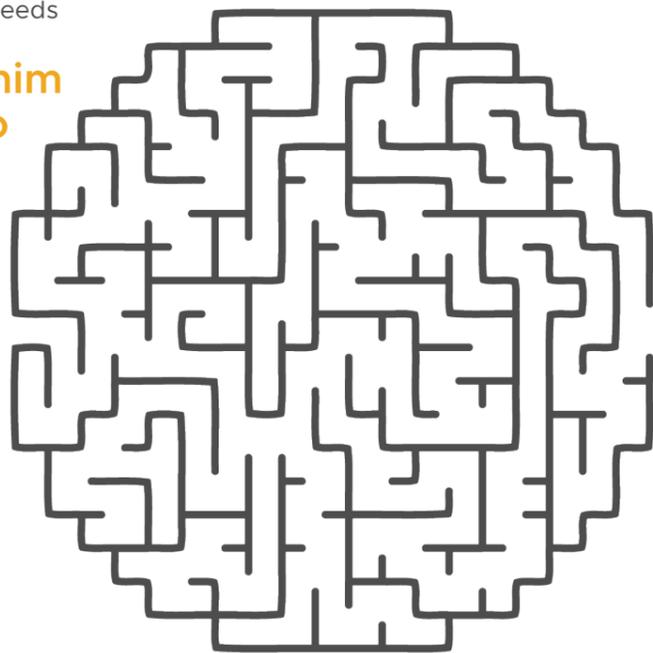


PICTURE B



This man has developed symptoms such as fever, cough & shortness of breath when he was at work. He needs to go home to self isolate.

Can you guide him the way back to his house?

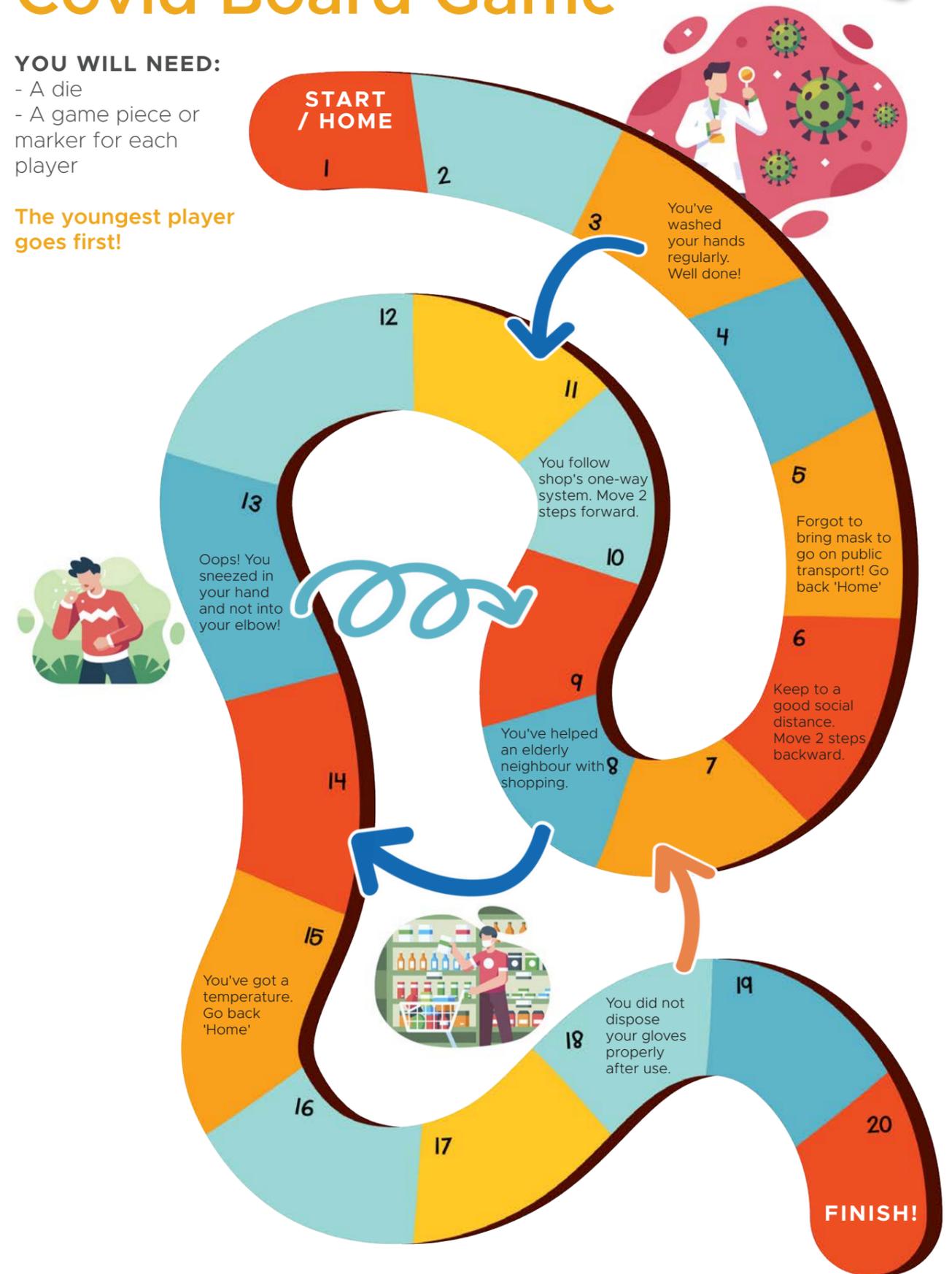


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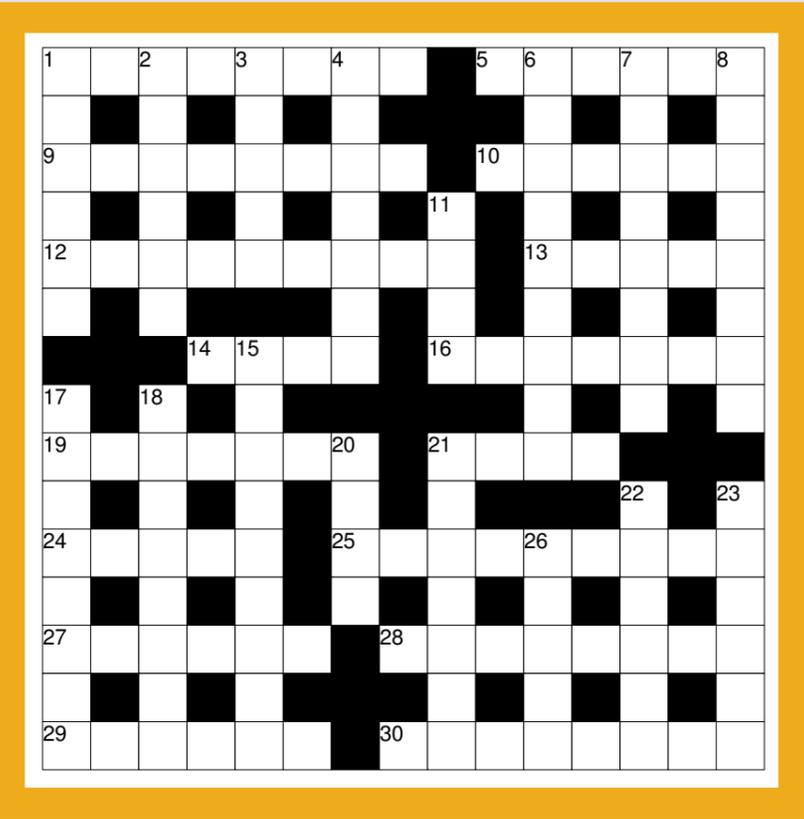
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# SUMMER 2020 CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Put it on when going out in cold weather. (8)
- 5 Put it on head when going out to ride bicycle or horse. (6)
- 9 Replied or responded. (8)
- 10 Not so far away. (6)
- 12 Very large, very cold island between Iceland and Canada. (9)
- 13 Where to stay when away from home. (5)
- 14 Run away from danger, and b) sounds like something you might find on your dog's back. (4)
- 16 It's a large round opening in street or road, usually covered by a heavy iron lid. (7)
- 21 Gone astray and not knowing the way home. (4)
- 24 Cow's organ that produces milk. (5)
- 25 Machine that produces electricity. (9)
- 27 Military parade or picture on the skin. (6)
- 28 It has many tall towers with propellers that rotate in the wind to produce electricity. (4-4)
- 29 They are sung by a choir at Christmastime. (6)
- 30 Not knowing or being unaware of some fact or other. (8)



## DOWN

- 1 Citrus fruit. (6)
- 2 Springtime festival associated with rabbits and eggs. (6)
- 3 Not dirty. (5)
- 4 Of normal number, neither very high nor very low. (7)
- 6 They can be African or Indian and they never forget, it is said. (9)
- 7 Very long race called after an ancient battle in Greece. (8)
- 8 An exciting novel and the name of Michael Jackson's biggest-selling album. (8)
- 11 The first man, according to Creationists' belief. (4)
- 15 Port city in the west of England and where The Beatles came from. (8)
- 17 To do with sound quality and the type of guitar that is not electric. (8)
- 18 Any animal that hunts other animals for food. Also an anagram of 'teardrop'. (8)
- 20 Insulting name for horses, or b) goes on and on and on, asking for something to be done. (4)
- 21 The action of a pilot when bringing a plane back safely to the ground. (7)
- 22 Canada's capital city. (6)
- 23 Be on time, or b) give someone a verbal nudge if they have forgotten what they should say. (6)
- 26 Before mobile phones, how people communicated over long distances, thanks to Marconi. (5)

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