



Oughterard Newsletter

## OUGHTERARD NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5 May 1974.

Eleventh IssueEditorial Board

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 Kathleen Walsh  
 Sister Colette

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The discerning among you will have noted a certain reorganisation in the Newsletter. Fresh faces have been introduced on to the Editorial Board and to make for more efficiency a Business Manager, who will look after sales, and a Publicity Manager have been appointed.

The retirements of some members of the old Editorial Board have been announced and the New Editorial Board would like to thank them for their contribution to the success of the Newsletter to date.

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter which is now over twelve months in existence.

OUGHTERARD'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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By Jack Fahy.

A democratically elected Community Council has now been established in Oughterard. The representation on the Council is as follows :

- Ward 1 J.McQuinn and P.Halloran
- Ward 2 T.Welby and T.Connell
- Ward 3 J.Fahy and Iris Lyons
- Ward 4 Mrs.K.Maloney and C.Butler
- Ward 5 J.McGauley and Fr.E.Glynn
- Ward 6 S.Tierney and P.Donnellan
- Ward 7 Mrs.N.Walsh and J.J.Clancy.

The officers of the Council are as follows :

- Chairman Fr.E.Glynn
- Vice-Chairman S.Tierney
- Secretary Miss.Iris Lyons
- Treasurer Tom Connell
- Recording Secretary Mrs.K.Maloney
- P.R.O. Jack Fahy.

The 75% poll was very gratifying for the Steering Committee (P.Hartley, T.Joyce, Mrs.N.Joyce and J.Fahy) and it shows that the people were concerned about having a representative organisation to speak on its behalf. The Council is very conscious of the responsibilities placed upon it and it will endeavour to the best of its ability to discharge these responsibilities in the most fitting way. It will, of course, take the Council some time to get to grips with the problems of the area but it will endeavour through the medium of statutory bodies and with the assistance of the local community to solve these problems..

A start has already been made. At its last meeting the Community Council decided to contact the relevant authorities in regard to the following matters

- a) The Fair Green
- b) Public Toilets

- c) Extension of Water Supply to Billamore, Maghera etc.
- d) The Progress to date of Proposed Housing Scheme in Carrowmanagh .
- e) The adoption of Curraghduff Road by Co. Council.
- f) The Extension of the E.S.B. to Curraun, Glann.

While the Council is the authentic voice of the people it must also take account of the several local voluntary organisations representing sectional interests and, where possible, work in conjunction with these. Cooperation is a key concept in the Community Council's involvement, and consequently the Council recognises the excellent work being performed by other organisations in the parish and is prepared to assist these in any way.

The Council holds fortnightly meetings in the Boys National School (permission having been obtained from the School Manager for this) and at the moment Sub-Committees are being appointed to look after the Show, Regatta, Tidy-Towns etc.

With regard to identification of community needs we request that you contact your Ward Representatives, inform them of your needs, and then it will be possible to list priorities and plan development programme accordingly.

In conclusion we wish to thank the Staff of the Newsletter for facilitating us publicity-wise. We now realise how vitally important the Newsletter is for were it not in existence we would have had to issue our own little Newsheet to keep you informed. We, therefore, take this, our first opportunity to compliment the founders on their initiative and most praiseworthy achievement. The Youth of today are frequently criticised for waywardness but was not this Newsletter the brainchild of youth-conceived, delivered, fed and fostered by youth -and now maturing into a well-fed, informative, learned and at times controversial, but always interesting organ. Go n-cirigh leis.

CONFIRMATION

All preparations are now almost complete for Confirmation Day - this coming Tuesday. The sacrament will be administered by Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Killenora. The liturgical ceremony is scheduled to commence at 11 a.m. It is expected that the Bishop will confirm 127 boys and girls. The following is a list of those scheduled to receive the sacrament :

OUCHTERARD CONVENT OF MERCY

Rose Lyons, Catherine Mullins, Della Molloy, Patricia Tuck, Martina Duggan, Breda Healy, Patricia Tierney, Rita Mcgauley, Ethel Lee, Sally Lydon, Nora Polan, Patricia Lydon, Ann Nee, Eileen Dixon, Gemma Coady, Eileen Clancy, Geraldine Gillespie, Mary Kelly, Vera Tierney, Ann Walsh, Maurea Tierney, Carmel McGeough, B. Ann Molloy, Ann Walsh, Mary Nee, Carmel Geoghegan, Bernadette Lydon, Lorna Keogh, Norrie Power, Mary Teresa McDonagh, Ann Tuck, Geraldine Watts, May McDonagh, Mary McGloin, Peggy McQuinn, Mary Molloy, Nora Gibbons, Bridie Watts, Emer Joyce, Elaine McDonnell.

OUGHTERARD BOYS SCHOOL

Sean Coady, Mark Molloy, Paul Farnan, Patrick Faherty, Christopher McEvilly, Liam Walsh, Declan Harris, Conor Gibney, David Connell, John Walsh, Henry Keogh, Rory McMahon, Joseph Connolly, John Tierney, Joseph Mannion, Michael McDonagh, Stephen McDonnell, Patrick Connolly, Ivan Edwards, Michael Molloy, Joseph Clancy, Liam Donnellan, Declan Farnan, Seamus McDonagh, John Connolly, Patrick McQuinn, Michael Gibbons, John McQuinn, Michael Duggan, Eamon Walsh, Tony Morley, Brendan Kelly, John Eacey, Roger Joyce, Thomas Joyce, Pat McDonagh, Brendan Walsh, Gerard Molloy, Anthony Tierney, Pat Molloy, John Joyce, Patrick Gillespie, Seamus Kenny, Michael Noone, Michael Darcy, Cyril Molloy, Liam Connolly, Michael Connolly, Thomas Welby, Aidan Watts, David Walsh, David Watts, Thomas Moloney, John McDonagh, Kevin Welby, Gerard Gibney and Martin Polan.

COLLIMANN NATIONAL SCHOOL

Mary Ann Maloney, Caroline Gully, Kathleen O'Halloran, Catherine Maloney, Winifrid Maloney, Thomas O'Halloran, Martin McDonagh, Gerard Acton, Bridgid McDonagh, Della Carter, John Joe Carter, Patrick Mullins, Catherine Lydon, Robert Andley, Martin Lydon, Vincent McDonagh, Matthew Maloney, Thomas McDonagh, Bridgid Maloney, John Maloney.

TEAM NATIONAL SCHOOL

Anthony Sullivan, Kevin Walsh, Gerard Lyons, Pauline Geoghegan, Geraldine Geoghegan, Michael Geoghegan, Ann McDonagh, Mary McDonagh, Margaret Toole and Sean Lydon.

All look forward eagerly to this triennial occasion in Oughterard. As they start out their journey through life we salute them and wish them well.

The apparent impression in some quarters is that Oughterard will have no community hall. It is difficult to pinpoint how this impression got around but at this stage it must be nipped in the bud. Oughterard will have a Community Hall - of this let there be no doubt. Rome wasn't built in a day, neither will the hall be. There are some difficulties to be ironed out and these must be ironed out satisfactorily before work can go ahead. At the moment the Hall Committee is working on these difficulties. It is well to admit that there are difficulties; the next step is to try and resolve them and this the Hall Committee hopes to do.

The first real difficulty is OWNERSHIP OF THE HALL.

Naturally people before subscribing to a venture like this would like to know if they would own the project when completed. A solicitor has been employed by the Committee and his opinion is that local trusteeship does not necessarily mean local ownership. Word is awaited from the Diocesan Office as to what exactly is their intention in regard to this matter. It is not yet clear whether they will agree to transfer the ground to local ownership.

DEMOLITION. Some organisations and individuals are at the moment removing certain items from the KIRK. May 11th midnight is the closing date for these items to be removed. It is hoped then to proceed immediately with the actual demolition of the building. The Committee at the moment are negotiating certain arrangements in regard to this matter.

Plans. Mr. Tony Gibney is working on a final draft of the Plans and his services in this area are much appreciated.

Finance. The Committee have opened a New Hall account in the Bank and at the moment there is £4,080.53 in this fund. This comprises Insurance Money, Card Draw Profit (220 pounds) and Youth Club Jumble and Cake Sale (£136). A sum of approx. £800 for a new Hall is with the Community Council and will be handed over to the Hall Committee once the difficulties mentioned above have been resolved.

The Basketball and Tennis Clubs are combined and the membership fee is as follows :

Children of National School Age	50p.
Students	£1
Adults	£2
Family Fee	£3.

All are now welcome to join. It is hoped to have a Basketball Tournament open to all Clubs in County Galway before the end of May. Cups and trophies will be awarded to the winning Ladies and mens teams.

Tennis will start in June and it is hoped to have the two tennis courts ready for play then. The Committee hope to organise local tournaments, mixed-doubles every week-end and to have an Open Tournament in late summer. The tennis will continue until the end of September and the Basketball will start then for the winter. We hope to have at least two mens and two ladies teams entered for the Leagues.

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### THE SHRUBBERY

By Mrs. Nora Joyce.

The Park and Children's Playground at Clareville is now an acceptable amenity. It caters for both adults and children alike. The swings, see-saws, slide, roundabout etc. are a source of pleasure to the children while the adults can relax on the many seats provided and enjoy the beauties of nature. The 'Shrubbery' as it is locally known is in one of the most beautiful scenic settings in the parish. Situated on the banks of the Owen Riff river which separates it from the plantation with its stately trees of forty shades of green.

Do those of us who enjoy its facilities ever stop and wonder how its development came about ? Like many of the other

good things in life we just take it for granted without question. A few short years ago the 'Shrubbery' was just another piece of waste ground where itinerants and camping-holiday makers pitched their tents and parked their caravans, more often than not leaving a hail of rubbish. As there was no one to check and hinder them it was gradually becoming an unsightly refuse dump.

Then out of the blue a 'For Sale' notice appeared on the site. The local guild of Muintir na Tire became perturbed about this and discussed it at a meeting. It transpired that the Landlord was a relation of Mrs. Kathleen Maloney, one of Muintir's most active members, and she undertook to discuss the matter with him. Due to her intercession and power of persuasion she succeeded in obtaining the Shrubbery from him free gratis. She in turn leased it to Muintir na Tire for 99 years for the princely sum of 5p. per year. A Committee of six, including the donor, was set up and they undertook the development which cost in the region of £1609. This was no mean undertaking and they ran into many difficulties but nevertheless they persevered and are to be highly commended for making the Shrubbery what it is to-day.

The people of Oughterard owe Mrs. Kathleen Maloney a debt of gratitude for her wonderful gift. She choose to give for nothing what could have been a source of personal monetary gain. Let us show our appreciation by taking care of it and by maintaining it. The Shrubbery is, indeed, the testimony of a woman's unselfish generosity.

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### Tidy Towns

The Community Council intend to establish a special Tidy Towns Committee in an effort to improve Oughterard's standing in this Bord-Failte sponsored competition. The Youth Club, who last year organised the Anti-Litter week very successfully, will also be involved in the project. Judging in the Tidy Towns can take place any time after 1 June. So watch out for developments.

II  
I. C. A.

By our I.C.A. Correspondent.

( This item is especially for our female readers but it also provides some useful information for male chauvinists as to what the I.C.A. is about. Ed.)

Present activities of the I.C.A. are 'Dressmaking' Classes given by Mrs. Hudson and 'Keep Fit' classes given by Miss Brearley. Both are very well attended. It is now hoped to have the Annual Outing to the Spring Show Ballsbridge on Thursday next 9 May.

A Sale of Work and Raffle have also been arranged for Saturday 8 June. There will be lots of lovely cakes and Home Produce to buy, so come early. Tickets for the raffle are on sale from I.C.A. members. Proceeds for this sale of work and raffle will be in aid of new Community Hall.

The I.C.A. is an interesting organisation for ladies. We had a very successful Dance on Shrove Tuesday night in the Corrib Hall. An enjoyable night was had by all. An outing to Leisureland, Salthill, to a Fashion Show last month was also very enjoyable. So, ladies, all those interested in joining should contact Mrs. Edwards or Mrs. McDonald. All are very welcome.

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Oughterard Anglers Club

The Annual Meeting of the Club took place on Thursday 25 April. It arranged its annual fishing competition for to-day Sunday 5 May and officers elected were :

Chairman Mr. Tommy McQuinn  
Vice-Chairman Mr. Bartley McGawley  
Joint Secretaries Joe Lydon and Jim Mitchel  
Treasurer Mr. Stephen Tierney.  
Committee. Paddy Keogh, John Gill, Paddy Clancy, Pete Molloy, Philip Hartley and Bill Colahan.

Fising competition commences at Baurisheen at 11 p.m. Weigh-In 6 p.m.

## The Glann Copper and Lead Mines

by Emmet McGloin

In 1852 Mr. Hudson, great grand-father of the present Mr. Hudson of Currarevagh, set about the task of organising and financing the working of the copper and lead mines which were discovered on the slopes of the hills in Glann. Many of the local people got employment in the mines. The copper and lead had to be picked out and carried out of the mines and then loaded on the train which carried it down the hill to the lake where it was loaded on a big boat, transported up the Corrib to Galway. The copper and lead was then exported to England.

The mines ran out after about forty three years and the railway closed down. The mines, about twenty in all, can still be seen. They look like big wells full up of water and are very deep and dangerous. The railway can also be seen. It is grown over by grass and bushes and the tracks are gone but the outline still remains. It is about two or three miles long. The pier or jetty as it is called has rotted away except for the big poles which were driven down in the water.

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"The first ingredient in conversation is truth ; the next good sense ; the third humour and the fourth, wit". Sir. W. Temple.

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"Our time is a time for crossing barriers, for erasing old categories , for probing around." McLuhan.

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"The worst sin towards our fellow human beings is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them ; that's the essence of inhumanity".  
Shaw.

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"The thing of it is we must live with the living" . Montaigne.

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A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books". Chinese Proverb.

DOUGHTERARD'S SECOND FESTIVAL

Sunday 25 August to Sunday I September

The programme for this year's Festival is being arranged at the moment and the proposed schedule of events is as follows :

Sunday 25 August

Opening Ceremony  
Election of Mayor  
Vintage Car Rally  
Fancy Dress Parade  
Band Recital  
Fishing Competition  
Open Road Race  
7 a Side Soccer  
Irish Dancing

Monday 26 August

Tug of War  
Stage Events.

Tuesday 27 August

Pram Race  
Old Time Waltzing Competition

Wednesday 28 August

Motor Car Treasure Hunt  
Junior Cycle Race.

Thursday 29 August

Tug of War Final  
Side Stage Events.

Friday 30th August

Fly Casting Competition  
Basketball  
Irish Music on Stage.

Saturday 31 August

Swimming Gala  
Gymkana  
Greasy Pig Competition

Sunday I September

Clay Pigeon Shoot  
Cycle Race  
Final 7 a side Soccer  
Selection of Queen of Connemara.

There are also many other events throughout the week including a Children's Art Competition and an added attraction will be the

establishment for the week of a CORRIB COUNTRY MUSEUM. A Carnival has also been procured and a good series of bands have been lined up for dances that will be held in the Marquee on Sunday 25th, Wednesday 28th, Friday 30th, Sunday 1st, Wednesday 4th, Friday 6th and Sunday 8th.

The next meeting of the Festival Committee has been arranged for Tuesday next at 9.30 p.m. in The Boat Inn. The Committee would like to see more people attending the meetings and making suggestions.

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### Youth Club

The Club has settled in well to its new quarters in the General Purposes Room in the Boys National School. The numbers attending increased dramatically during the Easter holidays but it is expected that there will be a slight lull in the coming month as many members prepare for State examinations.

A recent attraction to members was a Film Show presented by Mr. Jack Fahy containing film strips of the Festival and some of Connemara's scenic sites. Mr. Declan Larkin also spoke to the Club on university education and life today in a modern Irish university. Four further talks have been lined up.

The Youth Club of course is not without its critics. It is a human institution embodying the same perfections and imperfections ~~that~~ are common to all human institutions. Many youth club members feel that people very often forget the constructive things done by the Youth Club - e.g. the raising of £136 in a Cake and Jumble Sale for the New Hall ; the Anti-Bitter Week and the painting from its own funds of the outside of the Kirk that was.

The forthcoming Tidy Towns Competition will provide a further opportunity for the young people of the area to harness their energies in a constructive manner. Growing up today is difficult, more complicated than it was in the past. The Youth Club is worthy of your wholehearted support. Do give it this.