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GORT'S LONGEST RUNNING COMMUNITY MAGAZINE - ESTABLISHED 1978

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GORT GLADIATORS



GORT GLADIATORS MINI RUGBY TEAM PICTURED AT THE 2014 CONNACHT U8 RUGBY BLITZ, CASTLEBAR.
 FRONT ROW: (L-R) EOIN NAUGHTON, PATRICK PIGGOTT, NATHAN RODGERS, SEAN MAHON, ALEX BELL, RHYS MINIHAN.
 BACK ROW (L-R) ETHAN MINIHAN, BARRY CUNNIFFE, DAITHI MOSSMAN, CHARLIE KELLY, GRACE PIGGOTT, RIAN PIGGOTT, JASON MULLINS
 AND FINN FUREY WITH COACHES MARTIN MCGRATH AND GARRETT PIGGOTT.

FOREWORD

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to a very special edition of Guaire Magazine featuring news, stories, thoughts and pictures from the people of Gort and South Galway.

As 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War 1, the Guaire team decided to commemorate this landmark in world history with a feature article remembering some of the many young men from the region who fought and died in this conflict. The great folly of the war is one which is hard to comprehend. In Ireland, the silence and judgement facing Irish soldiers returning home from the front makes the sense of tragedy even more acute. Speaking on the commemoration of Irish soldier's contributions to WW1, President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins said: "we offer our sorrow that they and their families were not given the compassion and the understanding over the decades that they should have received"

We hope that in future we can build on this memory bank and would welcome any further information relating to WW1 soliders from the area.

The standard of creative writing continues to impress and this year for the first time we have a creative writing competition kindly sponsored by Niall Finnegan. See 'Conundrum' page 42, and finish the story in no more than 1500 words and submit it for the next issue of Guaire Magazine to win a €300 prize.

Continuing the great legacy of the Guaire magazine is a mission we are committed to. In our own way, we see this magazine as playing its part in preserving local history. The wealth of stories from people connected to the area has provided us with a real treasure trove this year, from Chattanooga to London, Cape Town to the Arctic Circle, Brussels to Philadelphia. A special thanks to all our contributors, readers and sellers who are essential to the continued success of Guaire. I hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to hearing from you. Check out our website www.guaire.org or contact us at guairemagazine@gmail.com

Christine Brennan
 Editor

Running for over 35 years, Guaire features the news, stories, reflections and history of the local community at home and abroad. Guaire Magazine is a non-profit organisation. Proceeds from the sale of the Guaire Magazine are donated to local charities. We would be delighted to receive your comments and ideas for future editions – contact guairemagazine@gmail.com or go to our website www.guaire.org

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Editorial Board: Brian Brennan, Christine Brennan (Editor) Dick Burke, Mossey Clabby, Paddy Cooke, Maura Helebert, Colm Grealish, Mary Lynskey, Tonii Kelly, Monica McGrath, Marty O'Connor, Evelyn Roche, Colm Ward, Josephine Ward.

Cover: A view of St Colman's Church, Gort, oil on canvas by Mavis Gormally. A native of New York living in South Galway, artist Mavis Gormally teaches classes to various age-groups. Find out more at www.facebook.com/mavisgormallyart

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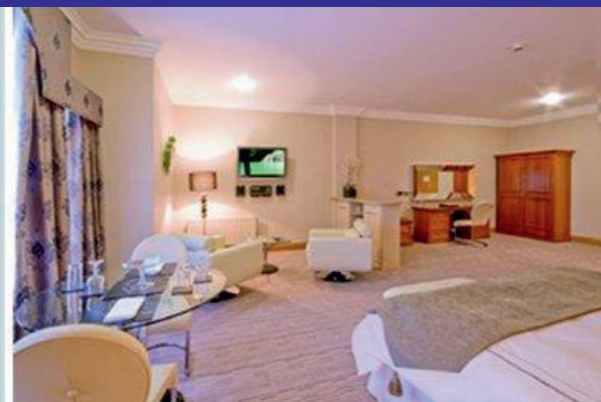


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BRIAN STEWART, PHILIP JORDAN, NIALL NUGENT, STEPHEN BOYLAN, VINCE (HUNGARY).



FRONT ROW (L-R): GERRY MAYES, NIALL NUGENT, MICHAEL COTTER, BRIAN STEWART, STEPHEN BOYLAN. BACK ROW (L-R): MIKE NASH, TOMMY FOX, PHILIP JORDAN, VINCE KELLY.

GORT MEN'S SHED

The shed is now open to both young and old. We love having the craic and try not to be bold. The ideas we come up with might look a bit crazy. Keeping ourselves busy to avoid being lazy.

We are full of ideas and open to new. Willing to help for the sake of a brew. We use our spare time to work for free. But to keep the shed open we need a small fee.

No job is expensive to big or too small. For we put in the effort and give it our all. We ask for donations and not for the credit. For we don't have a bank and use direct debit.

The men are retired or no longer have jobs. They recycle old pallets and use bits n' bobs. Some have a trade and others not a clue. So we use lots of screws and a bottle of glue.

Some men are lonely or out of their mind. So we put the kettle on and mean to be kind. Some men are open and willing to share. So we put out our hand and tell them we care.

Some men have a biscuit, a coffee or tea. Because all that is said is between you and me. Some men are quiet and feel in despair. But we tell them not to breathe deeply as there's dust in the air.

Men of all sizes, shapes and age. Will never feel lonely or trapped in a cage. You might get a bruise, a bump or a cut. But the shed door is open and never slammed shut.

Stephen Boylan

Gort Men's Shed is a voluntary initiative based in Boland's Lane, Gort. Open 5 Days, Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm, (Thurs & Fri 7pm - 9pm) find out more at www.mensshed.ie or [facebook.com/gortmensshed](https://www.facebook.com/gortmensshed).



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER WINS ALL IRELAND PRIZE

The Gort & District Show hosted the first Irish Shows Association All Ireland Photography Final in 2013. Photography as a section within the show has grown immensely over the last number of years with the Gort show having one of the largest photography sections of any show in the country. The prize of €500 for inaugural national competition was kindly sponsored by Gort & District Lions Club.

The class proved hugely popular with 37 entries covering a wide range of subjects from portraits of wildlife to scenery, action shots to still life were among the wonderful exhibition.

However, it was local competitor, Fiona Curley whose beautiful image of one man and his pony caught the eye of the judges. Fiona has long had an interest in photography, she said: "I've been taking photos with different cameras since I was young. I remember my first camera was one I found at home and fixed up to bring on our 6th class school tour to Dublin. It had those flash cubes that you place on top of it, it looked bit strange but it did the trick!"

Commenting on her winning image, Fiona said: "This particular photo was taken of my Dad, David Curley and his pony mare 'Prilla

Breeze' completely unaware as they walked up Josie Curleys bóithrín in Ballyaneen on a late September evening. I think we were putting her in as he was going to bring her to the fair in Ballinasloe the week or so after. I had brought the camera with me as I had planned on taking a couple of pictures of her before she was sold on. Looking through the image later that evening this one really stood out to me. I loved the colours, the light and shade and the subject. It tells a story, there is a lot in that one picture and it means a lot to me."



MARGARET O'CONNOR

HATS OFF TO MARGARET

Interview with Irish milliner Margaret O'Connor
by *Christine Brennan*

FIND OUT MORE GO TO: WWW.MARGARETOCONNORMILLINERY.COM

Ireland's reputation for world class millinery is set to continue with the rise of up and coming young designer, Margaret O'Connor, who is making waves in the industry. A native of Boston, Tubber, in the heart of the Burren, Co. Clare, O'Connor rose to fame when her work was worn by pop icon Lady Gaga while attending an exhibition with Irish milliner Philip Tracey. The talented young designer has since received a Millinery Designer of the Year 2014 at the Galway Now Fashion Awards and continues to create breathtaking new collections.

When asked what inspires her, O'Connor said, "Music inspires me the most. It makes me want to create. I feel I can get lost in a trance when I'm working on something alongside some powerful music. I forget to eat, drink, all I do is make. Music softens people. So it's easy to start making, it's not forced."

Now based in her studio at Walthamstow, London, O'Connor attended school in Boston and on to

Gort Secondary School. From there she studied at GMIT and Kensington and Chelsea College of Further Education (K.C.C) London. Her interest in conceptual textiles was sparked by her time at GMIT.

“London is good for the underdog. It doesn't matter where you are from, if you have talent you will go far.”

O'Connor's hats are all based on a concept or idea. "I'm working on a concept at the moment. It's all based on mental health in the fashion industry. I've been working on this since last January, and I'm making over ten hats. It's a slow process," she admits.

Commenting on her move to the UK, she added, "London is good for the underdog. It doesn't matter where you are from, if you have talent you

will go far. But, London isn't easy and you really need to work hard to get noticed as everybody here is hungry to push themselves more and more."

O'Connor returned home early this year to accept her Millinery Designer of the Year award at the Galway Now Fashion Awards. She said, "I'm very happy and proud to have all my hard work pay off in such a public manner, in front of all my friends and family. Without their endless support, I wouldn't be in the position I am today. I'm like any Clare person, love winning and titles (up the banner!). The most important thing about the award was the recognition on a national level from so many respected people in the fashion industry in Ireland, and to be recognised as a standout among such an impressive and intimidating field of competitors. I hope this award helps to open more doors in the millinery world, and to get my work seen on a global level - and eventually show on my own catwalks in Paris, Milan, and New York!"



SIAM SHIMMER COLLECTION BY MARGARET O'CONNOR.
PHOTOGRAPHER: ERICA COBURN. MODEL: ALLISON BROGAN.
STYLIST: ANN LOUISE BRESNAHAN.
SHOT IN MULLAGHMORE HOUSE OMAGH

THE DEEP SOUTH THROUGH IRISH EYES

Young reporter, James Mahon is making waves in the USA, he talks to Christine Brennan about the challenges of breaking through to American TV News.

Find out more about James Mahon at www.jamesmahon.com @JamesMahonWDEF

Chattanooga, Tennessee is a long way from Lavalley, Gort, but it's where award-winning Irish news reporter James Mahon is forging a career as one of the most promising young news journalists on US TV today. At 23 years of age, James is the first Irishman in American TV news, reporting with CBS News Channel 12 and hosting his own TV series 'Through Irish Eyes'.

With a population of over 160,000 Chattanooga, is the heart of the Bible-belt halfway between Nashville and Atlanta, Georgia. Armed with his degree from NUI Galway in English and Classics and a BBC Masters in Broadcast Journalist from the University of Sheffield, James took the plunge and headed state-side in 2012. Since then, accolades have followed, as the Associated Press recently named James as the number two TV reporter in Tennessee, a state of almost 7 million people.

Q: When and why did you decide you wanted to be a journalist? I didn't! To be honest, I never woke up one morning and thought, right I want to be in TV News in America. I am not sure how it happened. My experiences in radio and TV from Ireland and the UK mixed with traveling and observing that the best way to give others a chance to open their minds and grow is to let them hear and see others telling stories. I think from an early age, I appreciated the fact that I don't know a whole lot and I never will be that super brainiac person but I can help others by bringing the opinions and information from academics, detectives, victims, survivors, etc. to the TV's and homes of many, as a messenger and a journalist.

Q: What was your first big story, or the point when you realised your career had taken off? The story of Richard O'Dwyer, a UK student who was facing deportation to the US over copyright infringement was a major story that was covered by TV and newspapers across the world weekly. The Irish media failed to pick up on it. O'Dwyer lived a mile away from me in Sheffield at a rival university. I became close friends with his Barnsley-based mother who ran his campaign against the UK Home Secretary, Theresa May and a New York court. It was a strange time but it was around the Wikileaks expose. I was told Julian Assange was reading my articles and looking at my interviews and I kind of felt this is something serious.

Q: Do you feel that as an outsider, or an Irishman, that it helps when investigating stories, and getting people to open up? People want to know who you are, where you are from and why you are wandering around Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina in a CBS affiliate TV jeep asking questions. That is long before you ever get to ask them your interview questions for the news. It has helped immensely being a novelty and something different but one that is not also perceived as a threat. The pride that Southern Irish and Scots Irish Americans have in their heritage is refreshing.

As a reporter, I am exposed to extreme diversity, African American

gangs, Bible thumping Baptists, trailer park families, rich old southern families, Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants. As an outsider, they are all eager and intrigued to know about where I'm from. And I tell them of Galway and Ireland, of Yeats and Coole Park.

Having been taught Spanish by Sr Maura Crowe and Wayne Devlin at Gort Community School for five years has also proven invaluable. Being an outsider will intrigue those from the Latino community who empathise with your plight as an immigrant, but speaking their language opens you up to the fastest growing ethnic group in the US.

Q: How did your series 'Through Irish Eyes' come about. What's been the highlight of the show so far? It was the brainchild of a number of my colleagues who mentioned the random looks and funny remarks I would relay back to them as an outsider seeing their world. Going to a rodeo was fascinating, it was a world inside our world. It was intriguing to see professional rodeo clowns, riders and bull fighters. Shooting guns was also fun as it is such a major part of southern life as a past time and a school sport. Series producer William Collins

Parker and videographer Ashley Henderson want me to see their world as it is and to see the goodness in it also. They like the honesty of Through Irish Eyes mixed with light humour. Tennessee comes high in polls of domestic violence and substance abuse cases and has pockets of high crime. Chattanooga also has a gang problem, so anything fun and culturally engaging in TV news gives the viewers a break and hopefully a chance to smile.

Q: Do you think that in journalism today, there is a tendency to reinforce negative stereotypes? I think that exists for us as a society. We like to box things in, categorise and make assumptions. The internet and social media only cement our negative stereotypes further by seeking out others who support our angles and views. Journalism ethics, standards and media laws are integral, if you cannot have standards yourself how can you possibly respect those you are asking to share their story, views or opinions? If you conform and let yourself reinforce negative stereotypes you are merely playing into the hands of apathy and ignorance. Tabloid journalism is guilty of this as is network TV on both sides of the Atlantic. I hope things change, but I am an idealist

and an optimist in an industry often fueled by the strife and suffering of others.

Q: Who is your journalistic inspiration? I never really was into journalism or media. I thought I wanted to be an architect for a long time. Grealish, Glynn & Associates architectural firm in Gort opened my eyes to it and gave me a chance to observe their world. Then, I thought I wanted to be a lawyer or an actor. So my role models or inspirations have never been media figure heads. I had always admired the life of my godfather, Ger Canning, an RTÉ broadcaster, who jettied off to cover the World Cup and Olympic Games, but never thought I want to be a broadcaster. I look up to those who are not in journalism or embroiled in frenetic media bubble, mainly my parents Oliver and Peggy and my sister Mary. All of my family, my godmother Rosemary and her husband Robin Lahiffe, my aunts and uncles John and Anne Dervan, and Johnny and Deirdre Carty of Loughrea and Kiltullagh and the Curley Family are my inspiration. The standards they set and the views they hold as honest decent people trying to give others a chance have allowed me to bring something unique to an industry full of copy cats and emulators.



JAMES MAHON.
PHOTO: ASHLEY HENDERSON



JAMES MAHON.

BRIGADIER GENERAL,
MURRAY PIGGOTT

GORT MAN APPOINTED MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND AT EU

Interview with Brigadier General, Murray Piggott
by *Christine Brennan*

Brigadier General Murray Piggott, a native of Gort, is posted to the European Union Military Committee (EUMC), the highest military body set up within the European Union. The EUMC directs all military activities and provides the Political and Security Committee (PSC) with advice and recommendations on military matters. Brig Gen Piggott explained his role as a representative of the Chief of Staff. "The work of the Military Committee is driven by the European Council and by priorities agreed by the Chiefs of Defence. While there are many challenges facing the Committee, I believe that the biggest challenge is the planning and execution of EU led Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. Currently the EU is undertaking five military missions under CSDP, the most recent a deployment to Central African Republic in April 14. Incidentally Ireland has or is contributing troops to three of these missions."

Brig Gen Piggott joined the Irish Defence Forces as a Cadet in 1973. He was commissioned as an officer

in 1975 and appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry Corps to the Eastern Brigade (Dublin). The list of war-torn countries he has served in includes Lebanon, Liberia, Chad, Croatia and Montenegro. Of his experience, he said, "Each of my seven overseas deployments brought their own challenges, but if I am to single out a particular deployment, it has to be my posting as a Company Commander (A Company) with 77 Infantry Battalion in Lebanon. As Company Commander I had to prepare and train my Company of some 132 personnel, over three months, for overseas deployment followed by leading them on a six month deployment on operations in South Lebanon. During the period, Lebanon was particularly tense and we experienced many serious incidents including being subjected to hostile action. Fortunately we suffered no casualties and completed a successful tour of duty ensuring that we provided, within our area of responsibility, a safe and secure environment for the local population allowing them to have as normal a life as was possible in a conflict zone.

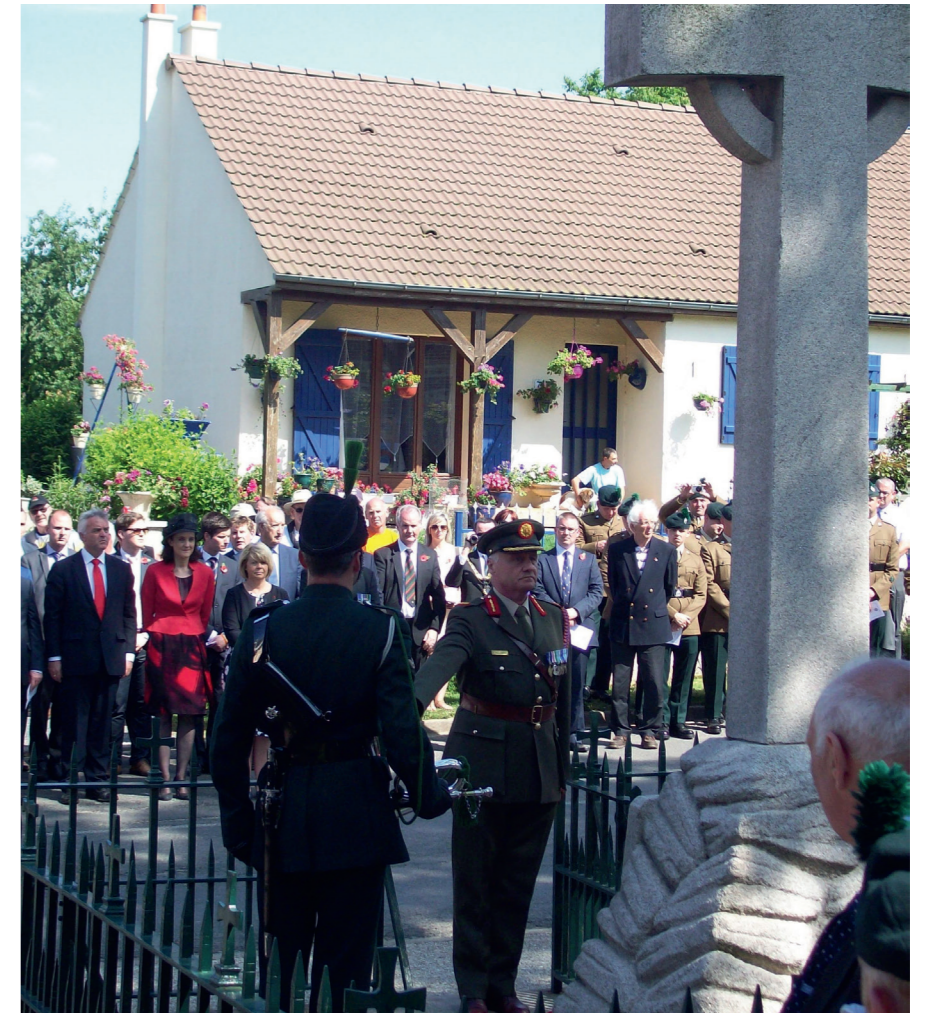
But I suppose the thing I, personally, most got from this deployment was the number of good friends that I made and that almost 20 years on I am still in regular contact with many who served with me and like nothing better than sharing "war stories" together. Incidentally, three Gort men served with that battalion."

Brig Gen Piggott continued, "Irish troops have been serving overseas almost continuously since our first peacekeeping deployment with the United Nations to the Congo in 1960. Irish men and women have served with the United Nations, NATO and the European Union across the globe, from Angola to Afghanistan and many places in between. Today, Irish soldiers are serving with 14 different missions and are much in demand. I believe that the Irish are sought after because of our history, our broad peacekeeping experience, the quality of our personnel and our attitude. In my experience I have found Irish personality and temperament is very suited, especially, to peacekeeping operations."

"The fundamental nature of being

a good peacekeeper is to have impartiality, sound judgement and an ability to communicate. Any Irish soldier I have served with not only had all of these qualities but generally also had a good sense of humour thrown in. Throughout my overseas service I have experience of young Irish soldiers who, while they can show compassion and kindness to local populations can also demonstrate a steely determination to get the job done."

Growing up in Gort and attending Our Lady's College, left Brig Gen Piggott with many memories from those times. "Like most Gort people, I could probably write a book on my school years at Primary and Secondary level which were extremely happy years. Primary School was Mr Heneghan, rivalry with the lads who didn't live in The Square, Frank Lally, Tom Muldoon and swimming in Small Hopes. Secondary School was the Tin Shed in the Convent, the new school, the great hurlers and hurling teams of Our Lady's College, the leather, the pantos, evening study, the hops and the Classic."



BRIGADIER GENERAL, MURRAY PIGGOTT ATTENDING THE 1ST JULY BATTLE OF THE SOMME WREATH LAYING CEREMONY WITH THE ROGER CASEMENT BRAND ONE-T AT THE 16TH IRISH DIVISION MEMORIAL IN GUILLEMONT FRANCE.

AROUND THE WORLD



MAIREAD REDDY

Máiréad Reddy
Ballyhugh, Gort - Columbus, Ohio, USA.

School: The Convent Primary School, St. Joseph's Secondary School, and WIT.

What brought you there?

I moved here, by way of New York and Massachusetts, to start a graphic design business www.Reddyorknot.com

What is your favourite thing about living there? We enjoy four very distinct seasons! And for a smaller (and less expensive) U.S. city, Columbus has a thriving art scene.

Fondest memory of Gort? I have a lot of great memories of participating in the Gort Panto. From practice to performance, we always had so much fun while still putting in the work, what a brilliant time we had! I also loved my Saturday morning art classes with Mrs. Ward, she had such a positive influence on me. And all thanks go to her, as she truly helped me get a solid footing for a career in the arts, and I am forever grateful.

One thing about home you would have beamed over to where you are now? My family, of course. But definitely Coole Park as well, what a treasure it is! I loved going for walks there every single day with my parents. It is so peaceful and beautiful, there is no other place quite like it.

Robin Huenicke
Aughinish, Kinvara - Victoria, British Columbia, Canada



ROBIN HUENICKE

School: Gort community school

What brought you there? I always wanted to be a pilot and training in Ireland and Europe is too expensive. Canada has a large aviation industry and British Columbia is a spectacular setting for learning to fly. Between mountains, lakes and the Pacific Ocean it provides a fantastic, diverse training environment.

What is your favourite thing about living there? The scenery and getting to enjoy it from a birds eye perspective. The largely unspoiled landscape is best explored from the air.

Any fond memories of Gort or things you miss? I do kind of miss the countryside and the views of the Burren and the west coast. And of course my friends and family.

One thing about Gort you would have beamed over to where you are now? The Gallery Cafe - great pizza!



JIM FOGARTY

Jim Fogarty
Crusheen, Co. Clare - Vancouver, Canada

I grew up in Crusheen, but don't hold it against me just because I'm a

Clareman!

School: Crusheen NS, Tulla Secondary School and then onto NUI Galway.

Where are you now based? Based in Vancouver on the West Coast of Canada, but my job in the mining industry enables me to do quite a bit of travelling within Canada. Often to some bizarre and some beautiful locations, I just got back from working at an exploration camp inside the Arctic Circle.

What brought you there? I was spending some time visiting with my uncle, Vince Keehan, Shanaglish and his family in San Francisco, when I got an e-mail from an old college friend asking if I was interested in moving to Vancouver. With the engineering industry the way it was at the time I was left with little option but to emigrate. Three years on, it's been one of the best decisions I've ever made.

What is your favourite thing about living there? Definitely all the options to have fun, how many other cities in the world present the opportunity to go lie on the beach or go skiing/snowboarding on the same day, all within 20 mins of each other?

Any fond memories of Gort that you miss? The Annual Jimmy Hynes Crusheen GAA 5-a-side St. Stephen's Day Soccer Tournament on the astro-turf beside the secondary school!

One thing about Gort that I would have beamed over here? Definitely some pizzas from The Gallery Cafe.



COLM BRENNAN

Colm Brennan
Georges Street, Gort - Toronto, Canada

School: Garbally College, Ballinasloe and then onto LIT

What brought you there? Like many of my generation, I left for work but also the opportunity to see the world.

What is your favourite thing about living there? Variety in general. Toronto is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world so lots of great restaurants, interesting neighbourhoods and weekends in cottage country during the summer.

Anything you miss about Gort? Spending time with family and neighbours, also enjoying early morning runs in Coole park

One thing about Gort you would have beamed over to where you are now?

Probably Irish winters!!! we frequently get below -25C here and I miss being able to walk outside in January without multiple layers of clothing.



RONAN KILROY

Ronan Kilroy
Glenbrack, Gort - Perth, Australia

School: I went to the convent for my first three years in school, then attended Scoil Eoin Boys School for 5 years until I started secondary school in the Community School for 5 years. I grew up living in Gort. We lived over the shop my parents owned on Bridge Street for about ten years and lived in Glenbrack, on the Galway road another 7 years. I flew the coop then and now live in Perth, Western Australia for the past 6 years.

What brought you there? Well I first came to Australia with two friends when I was 22 for a year back packing, but found it a lovely place to live in so came back after that year to start a new life here with the little lady. It was the weather and the way of life here

that really made the decision to leave home that bit easier.

What is your favourite thing about living there? I would have to say the best thing about living here is the climate. From late October we are blessed with high temperatures, and even in the winter the daytime temperatures never really go below 18 degrees. I live 5 minutes from the beach and Perth being such a small city means that I never have any more than a 25 minute commute to work.

Any fond memories of Gort that you miss? My memories of Gort are warm ones. Going to underage hurling games with the lads. Waiting in The Square to get on Garret Piggotts mini bus to go to the games and then screaming abuse at him the whole way there. I remember hurling in the park night after night with Aidan Harte, using the telegraph pole as one up right and an imaginary one as the other. Also heading up the street to Kilroy's bar to practice the piano which was in the back room, and instead spending 5 mins at it and heading out into the bar to watch Monday night football on Sky Sports instead. I miss going to watch the Gort hurlers and the junior rugby team the most. I could go on and on.

One thing about Gort that I would have beamed over here? If I could beam something over to me it would be to share in the big moments from the lives of my friends from Gort, such as weddings, family occasions, having kids, winning county titles, playing for the county. Not being there to support family and friends after a bereavement is very difficult.



NIAMH GANTLEY

Niamh Gantley
Beagh - Cape Town, South Africa

School: Following 8 years in Lurga NS, I attended the Convent of Mercy in Gort for 3 years. In 1995 Gort Community School opened of which I spent my final 2 years.

What brought you there? I came here four years ago for my husbands job. My favourite thing about living in Cape Town is the nice weather, lovely food and beautiful scenery.

Any fond memories of home that you miss? There are so many things I miss about home I couldn't possibly list them all but top of my list is the people. You just can't beat the craic agus ceoil!!!

One thing about Gort that I would have beamed over here? One thing I would beam over here would be a hurling match followed by a nights fun/sing song in Whelans of Shanaglish!!!!



IAN LEONARD

Ian Leonard
Lavally, Gort - Seville, Spain

I grew up in the mighty spot of Lavally Gort and went to the Gort Community School. I came to Spain a year ago to teach English and I've been here since.

What is your favourite thing about living there? My favourite thing about living here is the weather, the nightlife, the tapas and the ole senioritas of course!

Any fond memories of Gort that you miss? A good few fond memories alright, Sully's on a Saturday night sure where else would you be going! Going for games of pool in Dicey's and going for the auld spins around the town sure.

One thing about Gort that I would have beamed over here? A lovely curry cheese chips from Supermac's or a few penny sweets from Gillanes.

50 YEARS OF THE GORT MART (1962 - 2012)

by David Curley



COLIE MOLLOY AND MICHAEL O'GRADY AT THE GORT MART, CONNACHT TRIBUNE ARCHIVES.

Looking back over the years it seems a short time since fairs were held in most towns on a monthly basis. Some quarterly big cattle sales were: Patrick's Day on the holiday, May 10 and November 1. Other holidays were big cattle only days. Pig fairs commenced on the first Monday of every month. Horse fairs were November 6 and January 6. Sheep were sold on the first Tuesday of every month with cattle fairs.

Fairs began at 4 a.m. without fail. Most cattle were walked in from outside town. If you had a tidy field nearby, it would be booked by people from as far away as Derrybrien for the night before the fair to contain their livestock. Early each fair morning, farmers could be seen carrying storm lanterns through fields and roads leading into Gort. There was no penning on back stamps then and no reading of tags. Sheep were often penned on the higher footpaths to make them look larger and more desirable. If you sold your cattle or sheep the buyer gave you a ticket with the sale price marked on it and later in the day, he would later meet you outside the

bank and pay off the sale.

As the people of the town made their way to the eight o'clock mass, often through puddles, they could be heard complaining about the mess. On the other hand, shopkeepers had a heyday with the increased customers. Pubs opened at 9 a.m., tea houses opened early as well and there was a mobile canteen at Tony Connors in The Square,

“Early each fair morning, farmers could be seen carrying storm lanterns through fields and roads leading into Gort.”

near the statue of Christ the King. Shopkeepers were happy and with the influx of cash, all bills were sorted and paid.

In 1960, a move was made throughout Galway County for change. Banks guaranteed the backing for marts to be built. Athenry, Ballinasloe, Tuam and Gort all worked to collect

the £4000 of share capital each required, no mean feat at that time. The Gort area reached its target between late 1960 and early 1961. A suitable site near the railway station became available and developments began. By August 1962, the Gort Mart was open for business.

The new facility included 32 covered pens with the usual intakes, offices for staff, a tea room and public bar as well as toilets. It was a huge improvement, the new mart had a committee management of twelve men led by Martin O'Donnell, manager, who also co-managed three other marts. The rest of the committee was comprised of three members of Gort town and one from each neighboring parish.

Members of the Gort Co-Operative Livestock Mart Ltd included: (from Ardahan) Richard Taylor, Chairman, Jack Higgins and Tomo Curtin. From Gort came Mark Scully, Mel Fitzgerald, Mattie Brennan and John Kelly, secretary. Robert Lahiffe and James Moran represented Kilbeacanty. Redmond Glennon stood for Peterswell, and John Murray for Kilchreest. Joe Egan

came from Derrybrien, while J.C. Kelly came from Ballindereen. Bertie O'Connor represented Kinvara. Chris Droney, Bellharbour. Michael O'Grady was from Coolbane, Tubber. Andrew Quinn and Jack Neilan spoke for Kiltartan. Other committee members included Seamus Clandillon of Beagh and Martin McGrath of Kilmacduagh. The office staff members were as follows: Mary Flaherty Fenton, Ballinakill; Breda Shinnors, Georges Street; Mary Kellehan, Cappard; Paula Finn, Peterswell; Patricia Loughnane, Tubber Road; Bridy O'Brien, Lough Cutra. Some of the local building crew retained jobs as yard staff on sales days only. The weights clerk was Tom Nolan, Kiltartan. The yard staff included yard foreman Colie Brennan, Georges Street; Henry Martyn, Lavally; John Glynn, Crowe Street; Johnny Touhy, Cloghnakeava; Mick Nolan, Kineen and Paddy Reynolds of Georges Street. Auctioneers included Colm Hillard, Meath; Pádraic McCormack, Longford, (who both later became T.D.s in the Dail Eireann) and Johnny Kelly, Gort. Buyers during this era were Peter Austin, Navan; Willie Bonner, Quin, Co. Clare; Kevin Purcell, Roscrea, Rosclare and Peter Quinn, Moate.

However, not all was rosy with

opening of the mart as some cattle traders resented the new operation, but gradually a truce prevailed and the first beast with a weight of 12-1-7 was sold for £68.15. Mary Flaherty Fenton logged the deal in writing and the new mart was launched.

Years passed and as the town of Gort grew, traffic patterns changed and the location of the mart and noise levels were no longer suitable. In 1996, a new mart opened in Ballybaun, one that met current E.U. standards and the weights scale was changed from centum weight

(CWTS) to kilos.

An official opening of the new mart by Minister of Agriculture Joe Walsh took place in 1999. The new mart was managed by John O'Rourke of Tubber. The facilities include canteen rooms, sally rings and a meeting room. The first sale included 100 sheep and 100 cattle, and took place in November 1998. Gort's long history with livestock auctions continues, but no longer includes the distant flash of storm lanterns in fields as farmers bring their animals to be sold.



PAUL GILL, JOE MCNAMARA, PADDY NILAND AT THE GORT MART, 1969, CONNACHT TRIBUNE ARCHIVES.



GORT MART, 1969, CONNACHT TRIBUNE ARCHIVES.



TUG-O-WAR AT GORT ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE WHICH WAS WON BY TUAM.

ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVITIES BRING PLENTY OF COLOUR TO GORT

An exciting tug-o-war and impressive tractor build proved to be among the highlights of the 2014 St Patrick's Parade Day festivities in Gort. Huge effort went into the floats and groups marching with the best overall float awarded to Coole F.C. The tractor-build by members of Mountbellew Vintage Club saw the impressive team assemble the machine in less than ten minutes, slightly outside the national record.

Francis Linnane, Gort, Brian Uniacke, Ardrahan and friends gave a display of vintage threshing and old working

farm machinery. Music was provided by Christy Hurley, Ballinruan, Pauline Callinan, Crusheen and Colie Moran Gort. Local set dancers under Maggie Hutton, Ennis gave an excellent display of the art. Shane Mulcair, Gort entertained the crowd with his special display of sean-nos dancing. A large number of entries on floats and on foot took part in the actual parade and the colour and sound lifted the spirits of the many onlookers.

Before the parade moved off, Fr Tommy Marrinan and Fr Gearoid

O'Griofa blessed the shamrock and distributed it to members of the United Nations Veterans Association who marched with the tricolour, the U.N. and the Post 30 flags. Grand Marshall, Michael Carr, proudly led the parade accompanied by members of Ardrahan Camogie panel.



FR TOMMY MARRINAN, OUTGOING GRAND MARSHALL, PRESENTING THE SASH TO MICHAEL CARR, MANAGER, ARDRAHAN CAMOGIE TEAM AND GRAND MARSHALL OF THE 2014 GORT ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE. ALSO IN PICTURE: PADRAIC GIBLIN, SEAMUS KILLEEN, ADRIAN FEENEY AND BRID QUINN OF THE PARADE COMMITTEE. AT FRONT: LORRAINE DIVINEY, CARMEL BRODERICK, ST COLMAN'S CAMOGIE TEAM, COUNTY JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS, ROISIN GARDINER, ARDRAHAN CAMOGIE TEAM, COUNTY SENIOR CHAMPIONS AND ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS AND MARY MOLONEY. MISSING FROM PHOTO: NOEL CORLESS, MARY FORDE-FLAHERTY AND TOMMY O'DONNELL OF THE PARADE COMMITTEE. BOTH CUPS CAME TO SOUTH GALWAY IN THE SAME YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2013.



BEST MUSICAL ENTRY: GAILLIMH THEAS COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN.



BEST OVERALL FLOAT BY COOLE F.C.



COOLEY/COLLINS MEMORIAL STONE UNVEILED

by Colman Collins

We were delighted to be invited to the unveiling of a lovely crafted memorial stone at the Square, Gort early last December. The stone commemorates two local and renowned Irish traditional musicians; the late Joe Cooley from Peterswell, and Kieran Collins from Lavalley, just outside Gort on the Loughrea Road.

It was great that Kieran's wife Nuala and their family were able to attend, as well as our many friends, neighbours and relations. It is most gratifying that the two late musicians and their respective families should be honoured in this way. We could not have asked for more. We are most grateful to the festival organising committee for taking so much trouble in bringing the event to fruition. I can only think that our late parents would have been delighted and very grateful for this honour.

Kieran loved playing and listening to Irish traditional music. He had an acute awareness of the music's place, amongst other things, in helping to give the Irish our unique identity. He loved coming back to his

hometown Gort and its surrounding areas, and did so whenever possible. The family home in Lavalley was a very open and conducive place, where so many came; good neighbours, relations, friends and strangers. Kieran brought and introduced so many musicians and associates, from so many walks of life, down through the years. Our mother, being so naturally hospitable, bore the brunt of the hosting and catering, as our father was semi-immobile due to chronic rheumatism. She was a formidable influence on Kieran's progress into Irish traditional music. Like so many mothers, she was surely on loan to us from heaven. The whole experience of an open house coupled with Kieran's success at traditional music certainly enriched us all.

It was 1956 when our home was electrified. Someone had etched the year on the base of a Sacred-Heart lamp bulb. Electricity quickly introduced us to un-budgeted radio time, gone were the wet and dry batteries, vinyl records and reel-to-reel tape recordings. The black wind-up gramophone box was emptied of its mechanical contents

and relegated for use as a document filing container. Our house was filled with an eclectic mix of various types of music. As television was yet to make its appearance, the radio and recordings augmented any live music. Our mother would hum her favourite tunes from sources such as Delia Murphy, Fr Sydney MacEwan, John McCormack, and later the Beatles and The Seekers. Our parents' first love was Irish traditional music. Engagement with it was so easy and natural, and they

“It was 1956 when our home was electrified. Someone had etched the year on the base of a Sacred-Heart lamp bulb”

seemed to enjoy it in such a visceral way. I can recall the spontaneity with which visitors might take to dancing when hearing the music. I like to think that music, and all the social things that went with it, helped our parents hard lives.

On behalf of the Collins family: Michael (Mick), Anne, Liam, Bernard and I would sincerely like to thank the Cooley/Collins Festival Committee, Fr. Gearóid Ó'Griofa and Irish Natural Stone who kindly sponsored the memorial stone. I would like to put on record our gratitude to all the Cooley/Collins Festival Committees, since the inception of the festival thirty years ago, and to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to Irish traditional music.



MARGARET AND PATRICK COLLINS



SISTERS DOLORES AND CYNTHIA KEANE, GALWAY CITY.

WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE AT GATHERING EVENT

Over 200 people attended the Georges Street, Gort Gathering event organised as part of the worldwide campaign to welcome the Irish diaspora back home. Past and present residents of the Georges Street area were invited back for their own special Gathering event. Past residents travelled from New York, London and around the country to take part in the event which was

organised by the Georges Street Residents Association as a fundraiser towards their local flower drive. Attendees enjoyed music provided by local musicians and a slideshow of old photographs from the street. The Georges Street Residents Association would like to thank Hennelly's Bar and Off-Licence and Gerry O'Donoghue Butchers who generously supported the event.



TONY BRENNAN (LONDON), MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM (GORT)



MARY KILROY, (GORT), ELIZABETH BURKE, (GORT) EILEEN GALLAGHER (MOYCULLEN)



MICHAEL QUINN, (GORT), SHANE FITZGERALD, (GALWAY CITY)



GERRY BURKE AND MARY BURKE



A CHILDHOOD TALE

by Josephine Ward

A few generations ago, when children were plentiful and easy to please, a young mother had six little girls sandwiched between two brothers. Those little girls were not only very close in age, but also in temperament, and were often left to their own devices, as was common in those days. Despite the odd disagreement over who was in charge in their various exploits, they had one thing in common, they all loved dolls.

Now dolls in those post-war days were what would today be called rag dolls, but to those little sisters, their exotic creatures couldn't be insulted with such a demeaning title. Rag dolls, to the adult opinion, should be soft and comforting, and although these little beings were brought to bed at night, kissed and carefully

tucked in against all monsters; by day, they were sophisticated mannequins. Ideas were shared and clothes were fashioned.

In this house there also lived grandmother, who had a bedroom full of wondrous treasures. These were stored in an antique chest of drawers that two little girls could just manage to open if they took a handle each. There were lace collars, silk scarves, cameo brooches and hatpins; dangerously sharp, but with very attractive heads, pearl, coloured glass and decorative metal. Although the collars made pretty skirts, it was the hatpins that were the most inspiring, and no outfit was complete without an exotic concoction held in place with a hatpin. The hatpin, of course, went into the doll's head. No thought was given to the torture the

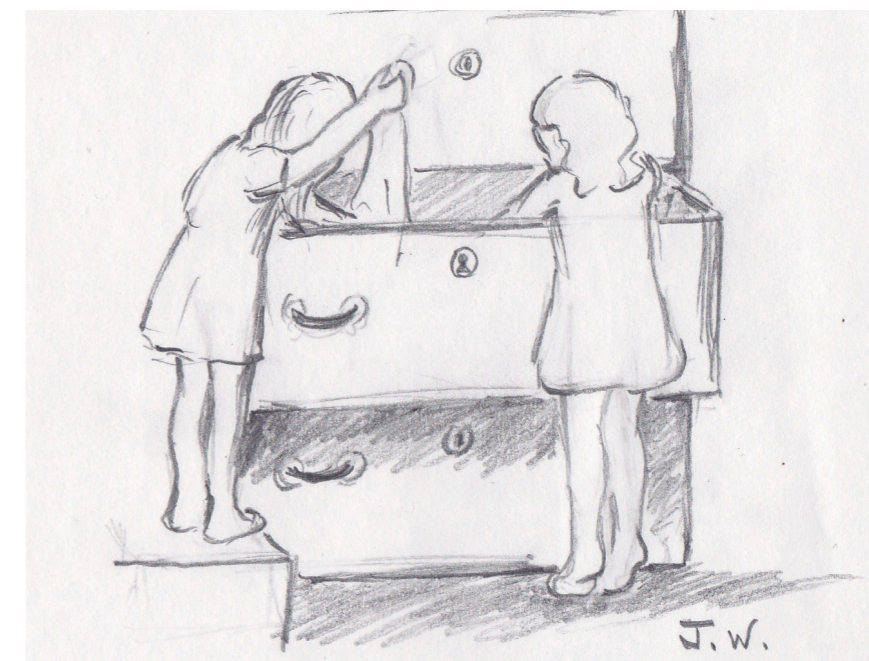
poor dolls had to endure for the sake of fashion. Those were wonderful hats.

“these little beings were brought to bed at night, kissed and carefully tucked in against all monsters”

The hat idea came into being for one particular doll that was losing her hair and without headgear didn't look quite up to scratch. She eventually became bald. The solution was found in grandmother's room. Her curtains were made of green brocade heavily embossed with a pattern in gold silk thread. It was easy to pull out lengths of this silk thread with small fingers and when bundled together it was curly!

After a reprimand from the oldest sister, who was developing a conscience, for damaging the curtain, she had to agree it made the most wonderful hair. She sewed it to the doll's head. Strangely, the fascination for hats eased up afterwards. Luckily the damaged section of curtain was partially hidden by the chest of drawers, so it was hoped it wouldn't be noticed.

The curtain was never mentioned by grandmother, but she did smile when she saw the golden curls, and although all the drawers had keys they were never locked, or too tightly closed.



CENSUS RECORDS REVEAL BRAVE SOLDIER'S STORY

by Maurice Nagle



MURT HOWARD

My late maternal grandmother Bridget Hehir (nee Howard) was born in 1884 to John and Mary Howard of Gortacarnaun which is less than 10 miles from Gort. She lived there with her parents and two brothers, Tom and Martin Howard, until she married local man Michael Hehir. They then moved to Rindifin, Gort where my late mother, Mary Nagle (nee Hehir), the eldest of her family, was born in 1917. My mother married Garda Maurice Nagle in Dublin in 1947 and regularly returned to Gort in the years that followed to visit her then widowed mother and brothers John, Colie and Joe Pete Hehir.

I discovered my grandmother had another brother, Daniel Howard, when comparing the Howard family census records for 1901 and 1911. He did not appear on the 1911 census and to my surprise a search of Ellis Island records revealed he had

emigrated to the United States in 1905 at the age of 24. He had travelled to Cobh, County Cork and along with other men and women from the Gort area left Ireland by steamer for a new life in America.

The Ellis Island records identified that Daniel Howard was going to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to join his older brother, Patrick Howard and that he had \$10 in his possession. We had no previous record of Patrick who had, according to the Ellis Island records, emigrated there in 1895. It is most likely that he had sent Daniel his fare to America. Further research of US census records from the 1930s showed that both brothers were married with children and working in the Pittsburgh Steel Mills.

It is likely my grandmother never heard again from her brothers after they emigrated, as communications

in those years were not what we are now familiar with today. In November 2012, we decided to write a letter to an address in Pittsburgh and were delighted to receive a response from Erin Howard, Daniel's great granddaughter. Her grandfather, David Howard Senior, is a son of Daniel and a veteran of World War II.

“PFC Murt M. Howard was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for his sacrifice for his country

We learned that following the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, three of Daniel's sons - Murt, David

and Robert enlisted in the U.S. Army and AirForce. One of the brothers, Murt Howard, was attached to the Third Infantry Division, part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, U.S. Seventh Army. The U.S. Seventh Army was involved in numerous combat operations against German forces in North Africa, Italy and France. It took a central role in Operation Dragoon, the Allied invasion of Southern France on the 15th August 1944.

The Allied invasion of Southern France started with a parachute drop by paratroops of the U.S. First Airborne, followed by an amphibious assault by the Seventh Army, including the Third Infantry Division, and the invasion force was joined a day later by the French First Army. The invasion force

caused the German Army Group G to retreat from Southern France in the days that followed. The U.S. Seventh Army went on to cross the Rhine into Germany and took part in the capture of Munich. It then headed for Austria where the Third Infantry Division captured Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden at the end of the war.

Sadly, Private First Class Murt M. Howard was killed-in-action on the 15th August 1944, taking part in Operation Dragoon. He along with his comrades of the Third Infantry Division had left Italy as part of the invasion force on board a Naval Task-force for the amphibious assault. He is buried near to where he fell, in the Rhone U.S. Military Cemetery, Draguignan, France with over 800 comrades killed in the

same operation.

The local newspaper, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, reported: "One of the three brothers serving overseas, Private First Class Murt M. Howard, age 23, met his death on the Italian Front recently, the War Department has informed his family. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Howard he attended the University of Pittsburgh before entering the service." (February 1945)

PFC Murt M. Howard was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for his sacrifice for his country and this article is dedicated to his memory. I would like to thank the Howard family in Pittsburgh for their kind permission to use the above photographs for this article. Maurice Nagle lives Dublin and is a regular visitor to Gort.



DAVID HOWARD



ROBERT HOWARD

THE HIRING FAIR by Pat Farrell

They stood on the steps of the church, separated by experience and hope. The younger ones huddled together while the older men remained stoic. Maybe ten or fifteen men altogether stood in the cold and dark square on a December morning, two weeks before Christmas. "Did you get anything yesterday?" was the first question asked between the groups. The younger men listened intently for the answer. An old fellow shook his head. "No, not for days, there's not much doing outside. Too wet."

"A bit going in Loughrea, though?" The hope in the voice was pitiful. "Depends on what you can do, there's not much if you're not a carpenter." "Me, I'd like a nice indoor job, bit of plastering or decorating."

The old man snorted in reply. There was about as much chance of that as sunshine. "The local boys have it all wrapped up. Don't you all know that?"

Conversation lagged, but the ice was broken. "What time did you get home yesterday?"

"Nearly nine, my missus thought I'd gone to the pub."

A voice called out, "How much do local guys get?" The others looked at him for he was very young.

"How much you get yourself?"

The moment passed and they all laughed, digging each other in the ribs, patting shoulders, and hitting backs. Didn't they all know they'd take whatever was offered?

Deliveries started to come and go. It was a busy town especially on a Friday. Stall holders lifted down trestles, set up stalls. The men fell silent, watching work get done without them. One man struggled with half a ton of holly to go into a stall. A young one spoke up.

"That much he gets for a bunch. I helped him cut that for less than a tenner, my hands were freezing. I was starving, we were there all day. My missus didn't know we'd be outside." The man had a nick on his chin where he'd cut himself, shaving with cold water.

"That's the trouble with you young guys, you're never prepared. I always bring some tea." The senior had a grizzled beard of his own. "OK granddad, how did you do yesterday?"

"Oh I did alright, third day of the same job. We just finished off, got good money and a hot lunch."

No one passing made any comment or much eye contact with any of the would-be workers. The town got on with its morning business, walking

around them, not pulling them in. They were on show, invisible strangers, out of place but useful for filling in the cracks, shoring things up, tying up loose ends. The Brazilians knew it, too.

A few more came up and joined the group. Someone called a greeting and then silence fell again. It was getting late, 8:30, maybe quarter to nine. There was a strain on some of the faces. It was too near Christmas for so little work. One or two of the older men walked away. No point in staying when they could see the way it was today.

Cars passed, only to look up, look at them and look away. It was nearly too late for any real day's work. The group was small now, only about a third of them left when a van drove up.

"Fiver an hour to cut Christmas trees," the driver intoned without making eye contact, ready to keep going if no one took his offer. They went.

Pat was born in Muswell Hill London in 1949 and arrived in Ireland in 1972. She has lived in Gort for the last 5 years and really enjoys the closeness of a small town community. She has written short stories and poems since she was very young.



Anyone with small children will no doubt be very familiar with the most beautiful playground on the Ennis Road, Gort, which was officially launched in 2012. Word has spread that Gort has one of the best playgrounds in the area, and this is in no small part due to the efforts of the Gort Playground Group Ltd established in 2005.

After lengthy negotiations the Gort Playground Group was provided with the site on the Ennis Road by the Department of Education and Skills and the Galway County Council. The state-of-the-art equipment was funded in part through the Galway Rural Development with the remainder covered by a major fundraising campaign. The fundraising campaign kicked off with the sale of bracelets which were kindly sponsored by John Sullivan, followed by the 'Sponsor a Brick' campaign, which was very successful. Additional funding for benches and some equipment was received from Galway County Council.

The Playground Group are grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Collins of the UK, who

GORT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

- BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

by Sandra Farrell

through the Gort Lions Club who very kindly donated the funds for the car park. Without their help we would still be fundraising.

The Gort Playground was a community project and a community achievement. Everyone contributed to the success from those that bought a bracelet to those that sponsored a piece of equipment. The opening of the playground in November 2012 was such a positive and special day.

Special thanks to former committee

member, Martin Aherne, who was a fantastic asset to the group and continues to be for our community. Many thanks to Gort & District Community Development Group for their help with the up-keep of the playground and to our playground inspector Howard McCarthy of Galway City & Rural Childcare Project, who checks all equipment every week on a voluntary basis. This is your playground and we hope you and yours will enjoy it for many years to come.



MEMBERS OF THE GORT PLAYGROUND GROUP (L-R) LOUISE DUFFY, MARTIN AHERNE, RACHEL MCMULLAN CUNNIFFE, MAD HATTER, PAT REGAN, SANDRA FARRELL, EDDIE REILLY.



THE MARKET SQUARE, GORT

GALWAY NURSES DURING THE EMERGENCY YEARS

by Mary Hawkins

2014 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. It was more commonly known in Ireland as 'the emergency.' A Fianna Fáil Government led by Taoiseach Éamon de Valera, adopted a policy of neutrality, nonetheless, some Irish men and women emigrated to work in England, thus contributing to the war effort. Many women chose to go to England either as student nurses or as fully qualified nurses. By 1946, it was estimated that 12 percent of all hospital nursing staff in England were Irish born. What of the nurses who remained in Galway?

The Central Hospital Galway was opened in 1922 on the grounds of what was the Galway Workhouse. A training school for general and fever nursing was established in 1927. By 1937, there were 32 student nurses in training and Galway was the largest state-owned training school outside Dublin. Different local groups took an interest in nursing matters and one initiative taken in 1937 was to assume greater significance with the

outbreak of war. Professor Conor O' Malley established a Galway Branch of the Order of the Knights of Malta Ambulance Corps. The first group of 13 men trained in first aid was just one group to play a part in the rescue effort following the sinking of the SS Athenia. Two other groups were established – one in Ballinasloe and another in Gort. The decision to form a branch in Gort was especially significant given the absence of a local district hospital. The Central Hospital Galway therefore served Gort patients. Gort authorities had been involved in a campaign to open a district hospital citing the long distance involved in traveling to Galway, but this campaign had been unsuccessful and was abandoned. It should be emphasised that the Knights of Malta groups were involved in first aid and ambulance work only.

International attention turned to Galway on the first night following the declaration of war, as the ability of Galway authorities to deal with a major disaster was put

to the test. The SS Athenia was sunk by a German U Boat off the northwest coast of Ireland on 3 September 1939 while sailing en route from Liverpool to Montreal. Nearby vessels managed to locate and rescue c.1300 survivors, some 450 of whom were then conveyed to Galway aboard the Cathair na Gaillimhe. This was the first British vessel to be sunk by Nazi Germany and Connacht Tribune reporter Sean Kenny's account of the Galway rescue effort was reproduced in English newspapers.

Kenny's report described the actions of different groups in the rescue effort – including the nurses. He wrote: "Below deck, white veiled nurses from the Central Hospital Galway stood ready to give the survivors instant attention and members of the Galway Ladies Committee were preparing hot food and stimulants.... Dr Morris personally supervised the removal of the stretcher cases." Survivor R Crawford's letter of thanks to the sisters, nurses and doctors and all concerned with ward

m1 of the Central Hospital Galway was published in the Connacht Tribune near the end of September. The incident engaged the attention of prominent Galway personalities and fears of a possible invasion arose. Within two months of the Athenia incident, a Galway branch of the Irish Red Cross was established and this was made up of a group of Central Hospital Galway staff nurses Galway Bishops –both Protestant and Catholic – attended the first meeting. Bishop Michael Browne expressed his view that the work of Red Cross nurses was compatible with Ireland's policy of neutrality. Browne said: "This country had declared its neutrality and every party and section of the country was determined upon preserving that neutrality at any cost. That idea seemed to be uppermost in the public mind so much so that people did not see how the Red Cross could assist the wounded of the different belligerents without infringing neutrality and, further, they did not see any need for organisation because the different belligerent powers had organised their army medical services very efficiently and looked after the wounded very well. That was all quite true, but it should be remembered that wounded

soldiers were not the only victims of war. In fact, nobody knew what kind of victims this strange war was going to produce. It might – they hoped it would not – be turned into a chemical war – a war of gas and germs. In any case they could be certain that it would bring in its train, famine and plague for large sections of non-combatants." Hospital doctors made emergency plans in the event of invasion or a major disaster. This included the provision of extra accommodation, additional facilities and schooling in emergency procedures. Dr Barley O' Beirne was concerned with fire fighting provision, with places prepared in Wellpark and Spiddal, in case of an evacuation. Dr O' Donnell and Dr Fallon were in charge of other preparations. These included, the provision of an emergency blood transfusion service, a food supply of one weeks' duration (the kitchen in the old nurses home would be used) and the building of an emergency operating theatre in Newcastle. Local Security Forces carried out frequent exercises in tactical manoeuvres. T O'Halloran was head of the Gort LSF. Some newspaper correspondents expressed fears that some towns such as Gort, Clifden, Loughrea and Portumna lacked

essential firefighting equipment which would be needed in the event of a major disaster.

Preparations were made in the event of invasion, but in other respects things remained unaffected by war. Fears of a possible invasion remained, and Bishop Browne spoke of this possibility at a Confirmation Ceremony held in St Colman's Church, Gort on 28 May 1940. Nurse training remained unaffected by the outbreak of war – the popularity of training meant that by 1940, it was proposed to automatically admit girls with a Leaving Certificate qualification, without the need for them to sit the entrance examination. Ireland's neutral stance in the Second World War meant that the need to bolster nursing personnel was not an urgent priority as it was in those countries affected by the war.



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND. GROUP PICTURED AT THE WATERFORD AND CITY INFIRMARY, MARCH 1946. BACK ROW (L-R) DR DICK HALLEY, MR F. MURPHY, DR VINCENT WHITE. FRONT ROW (L-R) MAY HEDIGAN, KITTY WALSH, EDNA BARRY, UNKNOWN.



NICHOLA BAVERSTOCK, KITTY MOORE, CATHY COUGHLAN AND FIONA O'DRISCOLL

THE BURREN LOWLANDS

The Burren Lowlands is a community initiative to reinvigorate the region covering the areas of Gort, Ardrahan, Kinvara with surrounding districts of North Clare and South Galway. The main objective of Burren Lowlands is to foster a strong sense of community and belonging for people living in the region and make it a better place to live in. Among the groups objectives are: job creation, rejuvenation, sustainable tourism, an educated workforce, an appreciation of arts, culture & heritage and prosperity. With the establishment of 5 sub-groups, the Burren Lowlands is championing the following projects:

The Aesthetics Project - This group is focused on Tidy Towns Development and have had much success to date with lots of planting and painting. This group would like to enter Tidy Towns, and is calling for more active members to take part.

The Belong Project - This project is focused on social regeneration through shared interests through the establishment of an information hub where sporting, cultural, music, community groups or clubs can advertise their activities in the region, and attract new members. The group are calling on information from all interest and social activities

in Burren Lowlands region to populate an official website network and communication tool for events in the area.

The Business Retail and Tourism Project - In June 2014, this project established a Tourist Information Centre in Gort which was managed by volunteers and one Galway Regional Development worker and managed to be open 7 days a week. A massive thanks has to go to all the volunteers, without you it would not have happened. This group have many items on their agenda for

example there will be a 'Shop Local Initiative' in place in the near future. The Arts, Culture, and Heritage Project - 2015 will be this groups year with a focus on Yeats 150 years. The Community, Sports and Education Project - This group is only in infancy we do foresee great things ahead.

The Burren Lowlands started with a few people interested in building the community. These groups can and will have ripple effects for the local and regional economy.



LAUNCH OF THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, GORT (L-R) NICHOLA BAVERSTOCK, GERRY FINNERTY, PADDY JORDAN, CATHY COUGHLAN, RENA MCALLEN, FR TOMMY MARRINAN, BRIAN MORRISSEY, FIONA O'DRISCOLL. PICTURE: JOHN KELLY, THE CLARE CHAMPION



GAILLIMH THEAS COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN PERFORMING AT CULTURE NIGHT, GORT.

WHISTLES, FLUTES AND STRINGS

- COMHALTAS COMES TO GORT

by Renee Brennan

For the want of something to do on a Sunday afternoon, I joined the local Gort Comhaltas - Gaillimh Theas Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. I had doubts if my amateur playing of the guitar would suffice but having reached my 60th year, I said 'why not?'. And what a delightful welcoming group the Comhaltas proved to be. All the young members and beginners, like myself, were encouraged every bit of the way. Kathleen, the chairperson, not only helped to organise these events but she also made time to make fresh buns for these sessions!

The sessions start with young members and beginners usually kicking off the practice sessions and later the adults join in and

it becomes a rousing energetic afternoon of music. On one occasion a very young member of the group became upset as she had lost her tin whistle and couldn't join in, much to her disappointment. At the end of the session, lo and behold, the tin whistle was found and everyone sat quietly while this little pig-tailed girl with little legs swinging from the chair played a heart-felt rendition of 'Twinkle Twinkle' which was followed by a rapturous applause. It was definitely one of life's golden moments. The same little girl was later spotted playing her tin whistle at the St. Patricks Day parade.

Having progressed from 3 chord trick to 6 chord trick, I joined Comhaltas sessions in the various pubs around

the Gort area and these proved to be very enjoyable nights. There was great delight among the members when one of the young musicians Neil Martyn qualified for the All Ireland flute competition in Sligo. Neil is only 10 years old and it is a pleasure to watch him play as it seems his entire body is at one with his music.

There is great promise among our talented young members so we look forward to many an All Ireland Fleadh where Gaillimh Theas Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann will be well represented. For further information contact Kathleen on 087 977 6591 or email gaillimhtheasce@gmail.com or follow us on facebook/gaillimhtheascomhaltas



POETRY

Lowrys Lane

A curious walk down a lane
 Thrown into another land
 Of cobblestone and smaller efficiencies of living
 Off the land and of the stone
 Created dwelling places of
 Accomplishment
 Where a village once existed:
 The overgrowth now dominant
 As it out-ran the pass of time
 To where the boundaries have now shifted
 A shaded sight from the eyes of viewers.
 They blend a Celtic tale
 Half standing ruins in orchards
 Of wild and trees,
 Of streets of stone
 And houses of the same and thatch and chimney stacks
 Maybe squalor of the cooking smells
 Maybe a dynasty of families and pots
 And tales
 Now lost to the encroaching
 Garden of the trees
 And of the backs of outward looking houses
 A point to have a different focus
 Back streets of this lane
 Now abandoned
 To the backs of people
 If only I could knock on the small front doors
 And windows
 And get answered from
 Stepping back in time.

A. Coppinger

Fooled

He thinks he hath me fooled
 Old scoundrel
 Transparency betrays him
 Words drip of falsehoods
 Enlightenment surrounding him
 Life delivering its own council
 He remains blind, unformed
 Stagnant in assumed greatness
 Shall I leave him wallowing in ignorance
 As he carves a path through life
 Deplete of wisdom
 Bereft of knowledge
 Lacking in depth
 Shallow in deed
 Unresponsive
 Soul of ill consequence
 I watch as the crown of life eludes you
 Poor, miserable wretch
 I pity you in your ignorance
 As you dance in the shadow of life
 Non entity
 Who art thou
 Fool
 Thou art
 Fooled

Mary Moloney

Last Man on Inishark

For Thomas Lacey

I

I said it in few words and took my stand
 As the people passed me left on the hill.
 Watching boats leave for life on the mainland.
 I stayed. Waiting, with an unbending will.

For two to return. Unknown where they fell.
 Unsure of the moment. A dark night
 Marked by the thunder of a church bell.
 My final vigil begins with this wax-light.

My parting boat is tied, delayed yet.
 A decade long gone since I became old
 Overnight. One man sits, three places set.
 The fire throws light on an open threshold.

The hours proceed in an endless drift
 From drawn out night to the final day
 Alone. My thoughts would never shift.
 A priest's persuasion could not draw me away.

II

The crows will claim this island soon.
 Flying through the windows of empty rooms.
 Circling the house, ghosting this spot
 For two to return, my knights to Camelot.

Patrick Mc Loughlin

Winter Observations

How wide the river looks today!
 Angry wind forces ripples to counter sway.
 Banks burst with brimming waters, confused in flow.
 Mother Nature, loud and verbal, forces last leaves to fall and go.

Watery sunshine brightens this November day.
 Precious light, scarce, soon will fade away.
 Listen to the boisterous storm, feel the chill,
 Hungry animals penned in stalls, consume their fill.

Slide the slippery slope to Christmas time.
 Dream to hibernate like creatures fine.
 Battle elements as growth sleeps.
 Claustrophobic darkness weeps.

How wide the river is today but rest assured;
 Angry winds will go away!

Mary Moran

FROM GORTEENBOY TO PHILADELPHIA AND BACK AGAIN

by Pat Regan



A FAMILY PORTRAIT OF THE HENNESSY'S TAKEN LATE 1800'S.

Norma Fleming always knew that here roots were in the small parish of Kilbeacanty as both her grandparents on her mother's side were from the South Galway village. What Norma didn't know was that when her grandmother Mary and her sister Winifred left Kilbeacanty for the last time in the late 1800, those they left behind continued to prosper and the family tree continued to grow. So

“the biggest credit goes to the people of Kilbeacanty who pieced together the relationships which we couldn't find any records for

when Norma and her cousin Elaine Hollister came to visit Kilbeacanty last summer much to their surprise and delight they got to meet many cousins and relations that still live here but they never knew they had. A letter to Fr Callinan the parish priest of Kilbeacanty kick started this adventure for these two American cousins and a message on Facebook to the Kilbeacanty Old and New page really got things rolling. This resulted in numerous

correspondences and research in an effort to fill in as many pieces of this family jigsaw as possible and resulted in Norma and Elaine coming to Ireland in the summer of 2013. Norma's grandmother Mary Hennessy left Ireland for America

in 1888 and went in to service in a house in Philadelphia for 10 years. In 1898, Mary made the unusual decision to return to Ireland for 6 months to visit her mother. This would have been unheard of at the time with the distance, cost and a



MARY HENNESSY

six week sea trip. It was an era when starting out on that journey was usually the last time you would get to see Ireland, your friends or you family.

Mary returning to the U.S.A again in 1899 and settled in Philadelphia where she married her neighbour from Gorteenboy Martin Callinan who had also immigrated to America. Mary's sister Winifred followed soon after and to make our research just a bit more complicated she also married a Martin Callinan who was a first cousin of her sister's husband. Mary Hennessy was the daughter of Michael and Catherine Hennessy and a sister of Thomas Hennessy Gorteenboy. Thomas Hennessy continued to live in Gorteenboy and had four sons and four daughters. Patrick was the oldest and lived in Gorteenboy all his life. His descendants include Mary McNamara, Gorteenboy, Toddie Regan, Kilbeacanty, Bernard Regan, Shannon and Val and Brigid Burke from Gort. The descendants of Mary's husband Martin Callinan include Phil Glynn and Mary Coen and Margaret Hansbury.

Norma Fleming now living in Madison in the State of Wisconsin and her cousin Elaine Hollister and her husband Vincent who live in Philadelphia spent a day in Kilbeacanty last summer. First there was a whistle-stop tour of ancestors home in Gorteenboy. The front wall of the old cottage on the green road is all that remains of the ancestral home. Next the visit included Knockroe, Dereen, Lisbrien and Inchaboy taking in the scenic view of Lough Cutra Lake.

The local priest, Fr Callinan went through the parish records of their family before they visited the burial site of their ancestors in the old graveyard. From there, they went to Gerry and Phil Glynn's house to be joined by other cousins including Mary Coen who had also done a lot of research in an attempt to try to piece together as much as possible of the family tree.

Norma said "I am also grateful to the National Archives for putting the census of 1901 and 1911 online.

Before that, we were just going on what we had heard growing up. Of course, the biggest credit goes to the people in Kilbeacanty that pieced together the relationships that we couldn't find any records for. Only local family with local knowledge could have done that. I am very hopeful that I will get back to visit in the next couple of years, and I look forward to having more time to visit with my new family the next time I come."

This trip for Norma and Elaine was

more than they could have imagined and to hear them talk about their feelings of belonging to the place with such emotion as they looked out over the barren landscape of Gorteenboy which was the home place of the ancestors before then take fragments of stone from the old cottage wall to bring with them back to the USA and to have with them on the rest of their journey through life. They returned to the U.S shortly after but for them Kilbeacanty will always be a special place.



MARTIN CALLINAN



SECOND COUSINS ELAINE HOLISTER, TODDIE REGAN, NORMA FLEMING.

TAEKWONDO ACADEMY SUCCESS

by Gina Casey

2014 has been a great year for my son, Cathal, and I. It is the culmination of 5 years of training at Gort Taekwondo Academy and was marked by us grading together on May 11th where we attained our black belts; 2nd Dan for Cathal and 1st Dan for me. Little did I think that when we first joined Gort Taekwondo Academy and started to train under the wonderful and dedicated tuition of Lisa Connolly (5th Dan) that we would ever fulfill this dream.

Along this wonderful journey both of us have attained multiple medals including several golds representing our club provincially, nationally and internationally where our journey has taken us to

England, Germany, USA and Crete. Cathal and I have won gold, silver and bronze respectively at 2 world championships in taekwondo and kickboxing.

However, taekwondo is not just for the competitive at heart. Most people chose not to compete and instead benefit from the endless gains that practicing taekwondo has to offer such as: stress reduction including calmness and peace of mind, self-defense, improved self-confidence, concentration, improved body awareness and adherence to nutrition.

I myself have had access to first aid courses, have completed instructor training (both of us are now



assistant instructors in the club) and both of us are qualified as national referees. Gort taekwondo Academy offers a chance for people to train in an environment that is nurturing, accepting and very positive. The club is full of great people all striving to do their best and reach the highest level they can. We have recently changed premises to Tobair Peadair Boxing Club, where the facilities are excellent. If interest in experiencing this wonderful martial art you can contact our Instructor, Lisa Connolly on 087-207-0583.

GORT U13 HURLING CHAMPIONS



GORT U13 HURLING CHAMPIONS. BACK ROW (L-R) COLIE ROCHE (SELECTOR), PAUL ZIGA, ALEX O'CALLAGHAN, JAMES GORMALLY, EOIN COOLEY, JASON DONOGHUE, EOIN MARREN (MANAGER), ADAM MINOGUE, CATHAL HEGARTY, KEITH MULKERE, TIERNAN FINN, NIALL CUNNINGHAM, JACK LINNANE, PAUL KILLILEA (SELECTOR) EANNA MARREN. FRONT ROW (L-R) BRENDAN WINTERS, WESLEY LUIZ, BEN CAHILL, EOIN KILLEEN, GAVIN DEELY, NIALL CARR, CAOMHIN MARREN, KEITH FINNERTY, PADDY CUMMINS, PETER NOLAN, TADGH MELVILLE.

EILEEN BRENNAN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The inaugural Eileen Brennan Memorial Tournament was held in Scoil Eoin, Gort Boys National School during June of 2014. Eileen is a sister of Brian Brennan, the hurling coach who gives generously of his time and expertise to the boys of Scoil Eoin. The school staff were honored when Brian presented them with a beautiful trophy in memory of Eileen. The tournament began with four teams, each consisting of boys from 2nd to 6th class and the teams choose the hurling team they wanted to represent. Tipperary was

captained by Rory O'Halloran. Cork was captained by Adam Minogue. Clare was captained by Peter Zsiga and New York was captained by Barry Dermot Murphy. The opening match by Tipperary and Clare left Tipperary victorious. In the next match, Cork and New York met, with Cork successful. Round 2 saw New York return to beat Clare while Cork saw off Tipperary. In the third round, Tipperary overcame New York and Cork defeated Clare to secure a place in the final against Tipperary. Great excitement filled the days



EILEEN BRENNAN CUP CHAMPIONS 2014 'CORK' TEAM: BACK ROW (L-R) WESLEY LUIZ, ADAM MINOGUE, LUCAS CAVALCANTE, ALEX O'CALLAGHAN, IVAN MCGRATH. FRONT ROW (L-R) THOMAS BURKE CAHILL, DYLAN MURPHY, JACK DE OLIVEIRA, ADEBOLA NUGA.



SCOIL EOIN STUDENTS HAVING FUN AFTER THE TOURNAMENT

leading up to the much anticipated final match on June 20, 2014. Many of Eileen's family and friends joined parents, staff and pupils to cheer on the two fantastic teams. Rory and Adam were inspirational captains of their respective teams. It was wonderful to see boys of all ages and abilities involved in the game and playing their hearts out. At the final whistle, Cork prevailed and became the first champions of the inaugural Eileen Brennan Memorial Tournament.

Mary O'Donovan, Eileen's sister, presented the silver trophy to a proud Adam Minogue. His teammates graciously accepted their medals from Fr Michael Brennan and after Sean Brennan thanked the players and wished them well on their future hurling careers, the celebrations began! This was a fantastic start to an event sure to be a wonderful feature of the Scoil Eoin sporting year for many years to come. The boys are already looking forward to the 2015 tournament. *Born and raised in Georges Street, Gort, Eileen Brennan was a primary school teacher in Kilchreest. An avid hurling fan and a dedicated teacher, Eileen had a reputation for kindness and generosity with a great respect for fairness, equality and camaraderie in sport and in life.*

FIGHT NIGHT – WHITE COLLAR BOXING COMES TO GORT

Ronnie Giblin, Southern Gaels and Tom Finneran, Gort RFC

White Collar Boxing returned to South Galway last year with a fundraiser hosted by Southern Gaels Gaelic Football Club and Gort Rugby Club held at Sullivan's Hotel. A huge crowd attended the night which saw 11 action-packed bouts with high quality boxing and endurance on show. Training for our would-be boxers commenced in May and the 22 brave participants were given expert guidance from Tobar Pheadair Boxing

Club at Beagh Community Centre. Richie Darcy and the members of the boxing club gave enormous time and energy into the project and the boxers were in the shape of their lives. The fighters put in an almighty effort to ensure that there were ready for Fight Night! Head of Sport at Galway Bay FM Ollie Turner was the master of ceremonies and Sullivan's Hotel put on a marvellous show. Las Vegas had come to Gort for one night. Each fighter was

escorted to the ring by glamorous card girls and their chosen entrance song was blasted out through the airwaves. Each contest was made up of 3 x 1.5 minute rounds of energy sapping action. The organisers would like to thank all the local businesses and people of the area who generously supported this event together with Derek and Carol O'Connor, previous organisers of a white collar boxing fundraiser for their advice and support.



ROB STEED



RICHARD MOLLOY



JOHNNY RYAN, TOM FINNERAN, JOHN SULLIVAN.



JASON KENNY PREPARING FOR HIS BOUT WITH STEPHEN KILLEEN.



MICHAEL MONAGHAN AND GERARD GIBLIN

LET'S PLAY DARTS - GORT DARTS LEAGUE 2014

The annual Gort Darts League saw 130 players take part this year including the first ladies team representing Mullins pub. The league kicks off the first weekend in November and finishes the last weekend in March with a grand final in one of three venues. The Lady Gregory Hotel, McCarthy's and Sullivan's Royal Hotel. The 2014 final was held in McCarthy's, Kilbecanty and a great stage was built by Florence which looked fantastic on the night.

This years division two final was contested by Hennelly's B team and McCarthy's B team. Hennelly's went in slight favorites but the form

book got it wrong as McCarthy's took a 5 - 1 lead in the singles and were in control from then on with Christy Lally throwing the winning dart.

The division 1 final was contested by O'Donnell's and Canny's, Killanena. This was going to be hard to call but Canny's came out on top. Some fantastic darts were thrown by both teams but it was Mike Moroney of Canny's who threw the winning dart.

A crowd of about 300 attended the final and were well entertained. So watch out for 2015 finals dates and support your local pub team.



MIKE MORONEY, CANNY'S AFTER THROWING THE WINNING DART

A special thanks to all who helped make this another great night. If anyone would like to participate throwing or organising you are more than welcome. Present organising committee consists of Hughie O'Donnell (Chair), Richie Darcy, (Treasurer), Tom Finneran, (Secretary), Ollie Broderick, (Competition Secretary), Eddie O'Reilly and Gerry Tuohy.



DIVISION 1 WINNERS – CANNY'S. BACK ROW (L-R) MICHEAL MORONEY, MARTIN CANNY, DAVID NOONE, PAUL DIGNAM, NOEL MCNAMARA. FRONT ROW (L-R) PATRICK MCNAMARA, DAVID MCNAMARA, LIAM MCNAMARA.

OLLIE ROCHE - A DEDICATED GOLFER



Ollie Roche, champion golfer, departed this world in March 2012, journeying to his celestial fairway where no doubt he now passes the times trading shots and stories with other golf heroes, passionately advising them on how they could improve their game. One could imagine their awe of this happy South Galway man as he'd compliment them on their earthly achievements whilst gently enlightening them on why they

lost a particular tournament, like a loving father gently consoling his child following the loss of a coveted county final. A founding member of Gort Golf Club, Ollie was a credit to his Club. His legendary passion for the game was palpable as he inspired, encouraged and mentored two generations of players who had the privilege of traipsing in his footsteps around his favourite playground, overlooking the magnificent Kilmacduagh round

tower. Younger members sought him out for advice, which he was happy to share, generously and enthusiastically. Bridge St., echoing with the sound of his hearty laugh, will never again be the same at the loss of this jolly octogenarian mechanic. The spirit of this great Gortonian remains, tattooed on the hearts of those who loved him. May he rest easy, content in a job well done, out of sight but never out of mind. Ar dheas Dé go raibh a h'anam.

SOUTH GALWAY A.C. GOES GLOBAL



SOUTH GALWAY AC IS THE VIBRANT ATHLETICS CLUB WHICH WAS RE-FORMED IN 2011 AND CURRENTLY HAS MEMBERS FROM GORT AND ALL SURROUNDING AREAS. THEY RECENTLY TWINNED WITH VIGANTANES DEL VOLO ATHLETICS CLUB BASED IN LA BOLOU OUTSIDE PERPIGNAN IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR THE PRESIDENT OF VIGANTANES DEL VOLO, XAVIER SOULA, VISITED GORT WHILE ON HOLIDAYS IN IRELAND. HE IS PICTURED WITH MEMBERS OF SOUTH GALWAY AC AT THE RUN AND RECEPTION IN HIS HONOUR WHICH TOOK PLACE IN COOLE PARK. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SOUTHGALWAYAC.COM

COURAGEOUS ST COLMAN'S COUGARS - GORT BASKETBALL ON THE UP



Following on from a very successful 2012/13 season, where Girls u12 and u14 teams had completed a successful double by winning both leagues in the Clare Juvenile competition, a committee was set up to develop basketball in the South Galway area. The club affiliated with Basketball Ireland and decided to continue participation in the Clare League but to also compete in the Galway Juvenile League at u15 and u14 level. An underage academy was also established which took place on Saturday mornings in Gort Community Centre. The academy run by Padraig Cummins, Rose Connors and Olivia Daniels was a huge success. A girls' u12 team competed successfully in the Clare League and were unlucky to miss out on a place in the final. The club also hosted underage squads from Claregalway in a very enjoyable end of season blitz for all the boys and girls involved. The academy continues on Saturday mornings for the 2014/15 season.

Our u14 girls competed strongly in the Clare league and were unlucky to lose out to Ennistymon in the semis. The Galway League proved challenging for our u14 girls. The girls struggled against an exceptional Oranmore Maree squad but performed well against Corrib, Kiltimagh and Claregalway and defeated Moycullen. As many of the squad are again underage for u14, it is hoped the 2014/15 season will be

more successful.

Our Girls u15 squad had a very successful season in their first year in the Galway League. They lost their opening 2 matches away to Corrib and Moycullen but won well against Claregalway and Titans home and away. They then defeated Corrib in an excellent performance at home and narrowly missed out on a place in the A Final when they lost by 3 points to Moycullen. Our u15 girls went on to comfortably win the B Final against Titans.

The u15 squad also contested the u16 Clare Cup and League. They reached the Clare Cup Final which took place on March 14th in Ennistymon but on this occasion they lost out to Cascaders, Ennistymon. The girls also had a very successful run in the schools competition with Gort Community School winning the Western Regional Finals on March 24th. The girls contested the Clare League u16 Finals on March 29th where an open draw saw them play Cascaders, Ennistymon in their semi-final. However, on this occasion, despite injury to ball carrier, Lisa Della Chiesa, a gritty and determined St Colmans' team, inspired by captain, Olga Burke, overcame a tenacious Cascaders side in a nail-biting period of extra time. Ciara Helebert scored on the buzzer to secure their final spot. The girls were comfortable winners against Kilrush in the final.

The following weekend the girls

represented Gort Community School in the All Ireland Play Offs where Gort hosted Loretto Crumlin, IS Killorglin and PS na Trionoide, Youghal. The girls won all their matches and qualified for the All Ireland Semi-Finals held in UL Arena on May 9th. Unfortunately, the girls lost out to Mount Temple, Dublin. Hopefully the experience they have gained will ensure a successful 2014 season in the u16 schools' competition.

St Colmans' Club also held a very successful camp in June for boys and girls aged 9-14 and a coaching clinic for senior players also took place. We were very privileged to welcome coaching staff, Jason Killeen (Irish International and professional player) and Mike Hickey (Irish Premier Select Team Assistant coach) to Gort. A great weekend was had by all who attended the camp. Seven of our girls attended 'Shooting Hoops' basketball camp held in Kilkenny in July and eight girls attended camp in Ennistymon where they met with Miami Heat coach, Tony Fiorentino. This year also sees the development of a senior men's squad and an u12 boys' squad. We wish them and all our teams every success. We thank our hard working committee, Gort Community Centre for all their support and all our players and coaches who give so generously of their time and commitment. Hopefully 2014/15 will be another great season for St Colmans' Cougars.



**ALL IRELAND SEMI- FINALISTS
GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2ND YEAR GIRLS C COMPETITION**
BACK ROW (L-R) REBECCA SMYTH, NICOLA QUIRKE, SARAH DOLAN, EDEL NOLAN, RACHEL O'CONNOR, OLGA BURKE, KATE TARPEY.
FRONT ROW (L-R) ROISIN CLANCY, EMMA FENNESSY, LISA DELLA CHIESA, AVA LYNSEY, NATASHA BURKE, CIARA HELEBERT, JACKIE BERGIN



LISA MCINERNEY

FAITH AND FAITHLESSNESS TACKLED IN DEBUT NOVEL BY YOUNG GORT WRITER

*Her work can be described as contemporary, urban, Irish, literary fiction and Gort native Lisa McInerney is set to publish her debut novel 'The Glorious Heresies' in the Spring of 2015. In an exclusive interview with **Mary Lynskey** for Guaire, the author talks about her inspiration, joining the ranks of Jane Austen and Cork accents.*



CLARE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS U12 2013
BACK ROW (L-R) CLARA DELLA CHIESA, AVA PIGGOTT, JASON KILLEEN (MEN'S SUPER LEAGUE PLAYER), KATE GREHAN, ELEANOR DERVAN, PAULINE DELLA CHIESA (COACH).
FRONT ROW (L-R) CAOIMHE FLANAGAN, RACHEL BURKE, LUSAI KELLEHER, LUCY DERVAN (TEAM MASCOT).



CLARE LEAGUE U16 CHAMPIONS 2014
BACK ROW (L-R) PAT BOURKE (COACH), KATE TARPEY, LISA DELLA CHIESA, SARAH DOLAN, EDEL NOLAN, OLIVIA DANIELS (COACH).
FRONT ROW (L-R) CIARA HELEBERT, OLGA BURKE (CAPT) NATASHA BURKE.

Lisa McInerney describes herself as "a thirty-three-year-old writer of contemporary fiction from Gort with a weakness for sweet chilli sauce and terrible jokes. I've got one daughter, one husband and one dog." Her very first novel was written at the tender age of eight and it featured a magical horse, she called "Tundercloud, because of course it was."

When asked did she always want to be a writer, Lisa replies "I still don't want to be a writer. I think it was Lawrence Kasdan who said that being a writer is like having homework every night for the rest of your life. I think I'm stuck with it now, though, because I don't know how to do anything else."

With her first published novel 'The Glorious Heresies' coming out shortly, the question of inspiration for the work arises. "We were practically at the proofing stage before the title came to me. It is,

as is probably obvious, a play on the Glorious Mysteries, as faith and faithlessness are themes. And it's populated by a cast of degenerates; heretical is probably the nicest thing you could call them. It came out of the tiniest spark, the image of a middle-aged woman walking down a city street, utterly anonymous and yet carrying a staggering secret: that she's just killed someone. Out of that one image grew this story that stretches over five-and-a-half years and impacts on the lives of five rascals: a fearless but twisted casualty of Magdalene Ireland and her gangster son, a young prostitute who feigns Christian conversion, an alcoholic widower who's got a terrible grudge against his next-door-neighbour, and a fifteen-year-old drug dealer with a talent for musical expression."

The novel is an urban story based in Cork. The city is an important feature of Lisa's background having

gone to UCC; she also married a man from Douglas and lived in Carrigaline for years. "A lot of Cork comes out in me when I get excited, so it's no surprise that the same happened with my characters. Besides, the Corkonian variation of Hiberno-English is wonderful. The language of the city is a writer's playground."

Having written online for years in blogs, news and entertainment sites, Lisa went on to develop a friendship with a literary scout, Sinéad Gleeson who introduced her to her agent. But it was when her work featured in Kevin Barry's 'Town and Country' anthology that things really took off. "My agent gave me a deadline, told me to write a novel, and then landed me a great publisher in the form of John Murray, as old and venerable as they come. I join the likes of Jane Austen, Lord Byron and Charles Darwin. That said, my editor is young, whip smart and forward-

looking, and the novel is unruly and mischievous and plenty bawdy in places. So together we have a great mix of respectability and irreverence!"

“Her very first novel was written at the tender age of eight and it featured a magical horse, she called ‘Thundercloud, because of course it was

The dreaded writers block isn't a condition she has suffered from. "I do get the dreaded 'writers appalling laziness' though. Keeping office hours of 9-5. Lisa is very committed to her craft. "I can't imagine not writing. I can't even say I've got the writing bug, because calling it a bug intimates there's a cure for it. There isn't. My head is full of people and each one is yowling to get out and into their very own story. If I didn't write them down, well, what would I be? Who would I be?"

She describes the best thing about being an author is the feedback from the readers. "My favourite part is when people read and enjoy what you've created; without that the whole enterprise is shamefully self-indulgent. There's nothing like someone else getting a kick out of your turn of phrase or falling for your characters. There's a real richness to it." But writing can be a lonely pursuit and she describes the "endless, crippling self-doubt. There's no one to turn to and no one to blame if it all goes wrong. It can be terribly lonely, and pushing for something – a feeling, an image, a truth – that you feel you haven't been able to reach is exhausting."

So where does the journey start when it comes to writing? "Oh gosh, the spark can come from absolutely anywhere. An image, people-watching, a cut-scene in a video game, a song. But I always build on that spark via a character. Character first, then plot. Character should always lead. I see where the idea takes me. I mean, there might be some micro-management when I'm weaving narratives together, as in Heresies, which has five protagonists. But in general I just get one scene down and then see what happens."

An avid gamer, Lisa turns to a different kind of storytelling to relax. "Reading can often feel like more work, especially when you're in the middle of a project and every brilliantly-crafted phrase gets you thinking. But I like my stories, so gaming it is. Not as passive as watching movies, and, depending on the game, tons of scope there for narrative building. I love series like Fallout, the Elder Scrolls, Final Fantasy and Bioshock. And I'm always building playlists on iTunes for moods I never seem to have. Oh, and I walk the aforementioned dog."

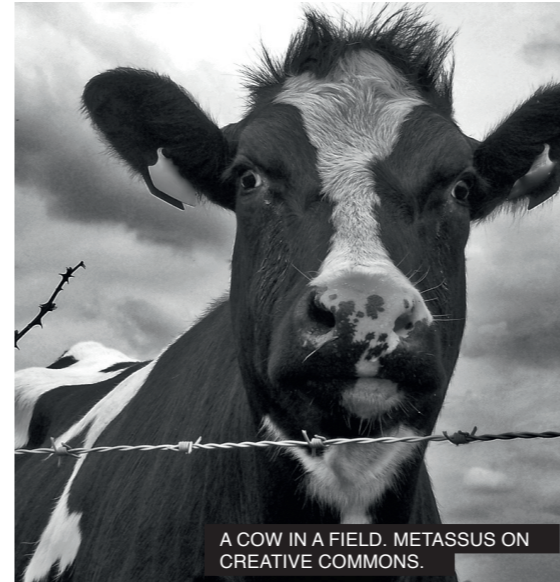
Technology aside, Lisa still enjoys reading hardcopy, even though her writing occupies most of her time. "I'm writing novel number two at the moment, so I'm not reading much at all. A passage or two of Ulysses in the evenings, just to feel connected to something. At this stage I might finish it sometime in the 2030s. I love to re-read, so later on this year I'll probably give Wuthering Heights yet another lash."

Writers that inspire her include Hubert Selby Jr. "Everything he wrote was brave and wild and difficult and incredibly moving", and Melvyn Burgess "When I was a kid,

nobody influenced me as much as Melvin."

When asked for her personal preference, e-books or hardcopy, and whether she thought hardcopy was on the way out, Lisa was unsure what the future held in this regard. "I honestly don't know; the whole thing is in a state of flux right now, which is both exciting and terrifying. Personally I like my hardcopies, but that's probably because I'm horribly materialistic and love having shelves of books all over the house!"

Lisa's advice for budding Gort writers was both refreshing and blunt. "First off: do you really have to write? I mean really? If there's anything you'd rather be doing, do that instead, because writing is a heavy monkey to have clawing at your back. If you're sure you're stuck with it, then get yourself out there. Use blogging platforms, social media. Enter competitions. Join writing forums. Keep plugging away and always keep your eyes on the prize, because a book deal isn't just going to land on your lap. Also, avoid clichés." Those who believe writing is a doddle should keep in mind the dedication and hard work involved in keeping the show on the road, as Lisa points out when she says "It's full-time for me, so I write from morning to evening, keeping office hours. I think it helps me stay focused, but different times work for different people. But when I'm coming to the end of a project or have a deadline approaching, all of my rules fly out the window. My husband is endlessly patient; it can't be easy being married to someone who has dozens of people living in her head. And my daughter appreciates my working from home, so that's a bonus."



A COW IN A FIELD. METASSUS ON CREATIVE COMMONS.

COUNTRY LIFE - THE EVENING MILKING

by Mary Moran

Evening time and the cows just knew it was time to stroll in from the field to be milked. They stood lazily in the cool of the evening under the shadows of enormous spruce trees adjacent to our house. They were enjoying the shade as they swished away the annoying midges and flies with their tails. Midges and flies were a nuisance, landing in the cows eyes and feeding on any bleeding scratches or wounds they might have accumulated during the day if they got scratched with briars or bushes on their daily graze. As they swished their tails from their left shoulder to their right; you kept your distance in case you got whipped with this tail. Also, in case you got showered in dung which might be dripping off the tail!

My grandfather approached the cow to be milked, speaking calmly to her as he approached with two buckets, one in either hand. He tapped her upper back leg with the back of his hand and said "Back, back the leg" in a firm voice. The cow duly stepped back her leg to expose her udder, calm, relaxed and unrestrained. Then one bucket was turned upside down and my grandfather used it as a stool to sit into position under the cow. He wiped off any dust or dirt from the udder and placed the second bucket between his knees. Then with fingers and thumb he drew the teats downwards spurring the milk into the bucket. Milking the

two front teats first; the milk hit the bottom of the bucket like a sweet tympanic instrument changing it's melody as the volume increased. The rhythm of this tune increased it's speed as the farmer developed his efficient pace and the cow let down her milk. The cow was relaxed, chewing her cud. The farmer was relaxed too and the yield was good. A symbiotic relationship creating perfect harmony. Next the back teats were milked in the same manner but with the farmer leaning his head more into the cows side and resting it there. Spurts of milk splashing into the bucket were the only audible sounds. This was good as it meant the job was going well!

Our entertainment as children was to watch. We had to keep very still and quiet so as not to upset the animal. Occasionally, we would be allowed to try our hand at milking...under supervision! Practice makes perfect and we would have needed a lot of that. In the meantime we sometimes got the job of holding the cows tail to the side. This prevented the cow from hitting my grandfather in the face while he was busy concentrating on his task. Now the cow didn't have the use of her tail for whipping flies away. When the insects landed on her skin she twitched that area to disrupt them and sometimes tried to pull her tail away too!

You had to pay attention to your job. You never stood directly at the back of the cows hind legs for fear of the obvious.... a kick! There was always lots to do and lots to be learned. We were enthusiastic! We didn't know then that machinery would take over to improve productivity. Progress is good. We didn't know then that magical moments would become memories. Can I capture this atmosphere with words to let you know what it was like?

As the milking continued, the bucket filled and a snow white froth rose to the top. The milk looked rich and the bucket felt warm. The task was completed in five to six minutes with skill. My grandfather then sat back and lifted the bucket out from under the cow to a safe environment. If this cow kicked the task would have been in vain. Of course this happened too from time to time.

Next, my grandfather would dip his index finger into the top of the rising froth, he used this froth to make a visible sign of the cross on the cows side just above her udder. It was a blessing for the cow, a thanks for the yield and a ritual of the routine. It continued until each cow was milked. It seemed to be something that we would always do. Now it is something tucked away in the depths of my memory.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN, SINGER AND FRIEND

For anyone who has admired the beautiful Georgian Buildings on Parnell Square, Dublin, consider the great skill and dedication it takes to restore these to their former glory. The detailed plaster work is just one part of the legacy of master craftsman Tony Cloran who is fondly remembered here by his friend and colleague **John Carr**.



TONY CLORAN

The history of the Cloran Family traces from survivors of the shipwrecked Spanish Armada, a returning immigrant from the USA at the turn of the 20th century and a family of seven children living on St Colman's Terrace in Gort. But we'll begin the story with Thomas and Mary Cloran setting up a home on the Terrace where they raised

“Tony frequently played a game of rings with the poet Patrick Kavanagh, a friendly game that led to many disagreements between both of them”

their children, the second eldest was Tony, born in 1933.

Although he left Gort at a relatively young age in search of a living and managed to carve out a remarkable career in the construction industry, Tony never forgot his roots or his

heritage. For him, Gort was a place of proud belonging that held many great memories.

Tony had an extraordinary work ethic, starting work every day at 5.30am, including weekends, rarely returning home before 7pm, a trait he learned from his father who often cycled home at weekends having worked in places as far afield as Edenderry, Roscommon, Athlone and Limerick. He worked for a spell in London, initially as a bricklayer for Martin 'Bomber' Brown, later switching to plastering where he developed a reputation as a master craftsman. It was while in London that he earned the accolade from his workmates that he could move his float with breath-taking speed from floor to ceiling laying a perfect coat of plaster in one stroke.

In 1980, he started working at the Irish National Teachers' Organisation's (INTO) offices and devoted the rest of his working career to restoring seven Georgian houses on the western side of Parnell Square across the street from the Rotunda Hospital. Tony's

passion for classical architecture and period houses was nurtured from an early age during cycling trips with his father to Mount Vernon, the summer home of Lady Gregory. Built in the 18th century the Georgian manor was situated two doors down from where Tony's father was brought up in Newquay and contained many magnificent fireplaces designed by the famous Welsh artist, Augustus John. His keen interest in classical fireplaces and elegant mantels, no doubt inspired by John's designs in Mount Vernon, were central to his theory that no Georgian room should ever be completely restored without the inclusion of a classically designed fireplace and mantel.

'Genius begins great works, labour alone finishes them' wrote the great French Essayist and Moralist, Joseph Joubert (1754-1824). Tony Cloran applied both his genius and his labour while restoring the ornamental cornices, ceiling medallions, interior covings and classical mouldings in the Georgian buildings on Parnell



Square. He always undertook his restoration tasks with the patience and attention to detail of a conservationist, the rigour and precision of an engineer, the vision and imagination of an architect and the skills and talent of a master craftsman.

Nobody was a stranger in the Cloran household in Gort. Paddy Flaherty, the Hartigans and the Daffys were regular callers. The family home was a haven of activity. On Sundays young and old huddled round the old battery operated wireless listening to commentaries on football and hurling matches. On particular evenings those present enjoyed Irish traditional musical broadcasts. Regular callers came to hear stories from the war front also. The house was crowded to capacity on the 8 May 1945 when Winston Churchill announced that hostilities had ended at midnight the night before

and that the German armed forces had unconditionally surrendered.

The Cloran household was also a place full of music and song. Tony's mother played the accordion and, in the evenings, musicians would gather around her kitchen for music sessions. The sessions included the famous Galway fiddlers, Joe Leary and Paddy Darcy and the renowned Cooley brothers. Joe who was regarded as one of the most accomplished and influential button accordionists in Ireland and Seamus, the famous banjo player with the Tulla Céili Band. It was here the young Tony developed a love of music and song which he carried with him throughout his life. He attended the Cooley-Collins festival every year since its inception in 1984.

Tony attended St. Josephs Convent School where according to local folklore his reign was short lived. His brother, it is said, climbed onto

the roof of the school following an altercation with one of the nuns and refused to be coaxed down. Whether the story is true or not is unclear but a hint can perhaps be found in the fact that both brothers transferred to Kilbeacanty National School. On completion of his primary schooling he went on to the local Vocational School which he attended only for a short period before leaving at the age of fourteen years. Unbeknown to his mother he headed for Glasgow to be with his sister Mary. Times were hard in Scotland in the 1940s and work was scarce but he quickly got a job on a farm just outside the city. Farming work was severe and the hours were long especially for a youngster from a small town in the west of Ireland with no previous experience of farm labouring. He decided after a while that farming was not for him and he returned home to Gort.

His interest in music grew and in 1949, at the age of sixteen, he attended an audition with American Country and Western talent scouts and was offered an apprenticeship in Nashville. His father, however, refused the move to America because he thought that he was too young at the time. His father's rejection did not dampen his enthusiasm for the music scene however. Having moved to London he immersed himself in Irish music circles and following his return to Dublin he was a regular in The Embankment in Tallaght which was owned at the time by Mick McCarthy, the famous Kerry bricklayer and balladeer whom Tony had befriended in London. He was never found wanting himself either when asked for a party piece from his extensive repertoire of songs which invariably included his favourite Galway songs: Galway Bay, The Galway Shawl, and My Own Dear Galway Bay.

Tony was also a keen follower of the Big Bands and it was in the early days of show band scene, at a dance in the National Ballroom, on Parnell Square, that he first met Veronica Keane from Ballyhaunis at the age of twenty. They married in 1960 and had two children, David now a doctor in London and Denise a Senior Executive Manager within the Health Service Executive. They initially lived in Haddington Road before moving to a house in Sandycove which they purchased in 1969 from Tony's good friend, Len Woodbyrne.

Jack Shine, known locally as 'the friendly potato merchant' and Tony were also great buddies along with their other friends Mick Sheehan, Mick Kelly, Joe Guerin and Sean Cullen. The group often met in Smyth's on Haddington Road, an old fashioned traditional Irish pub, which belonged to Noreen Lambert (sister of Tom) from Gort. Brian Brennan, a native from Gort and Tony would also meet up on a regular basis in this pub too. The Beggars Bush pub was also a favourite meeting place. It was

here that Tony frequently played a game of rings with the poet Patrick Kavanagh, a friendly game that led to many disagreements between both of them. Tony too could often be found in the corner of the pub sharing stories with Brendan Behan about the Irish navvies working on the railways in London or exchanging views with Benedict Kiely, the journalist and critic who at the time worked for the Irish Independent before joining the Irish Press in 1950.

Gaelic games were central to Tony's life. As a youngster he often cycled the forty miles to the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick to watch hurling matches. On one occasion he slept in a ditch while cycling home from Cork following a game between Galway and Cork. In later years Croke Park was his favourite place to be on a Sunday in the company of his great friend Andy O'Donnell. He was a fine analyst of both codes and spent many happy hours reviewing the day's matches in Club Na Múinteoirí.

Tony never contemplated the idea of retiring not even prior to

his confinement in hospital and, even then, he made frequent trips from his hospital bed to work. Regrettably those visits became less frequent as his illness progressed. While Kavanagh's words could be ascribed to him that 'he had an abundance of life' his life gradually receded and he passed away on the 30th October, 2012.

There is no simple yardstick by which to assess Tony Cloran's life without referring to his humanity, friendship and loyalty. Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget, so it is with Tony Cloran. Albert Einstein once said: 'that the value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive'. Tony Cloran was a man of value who never ceased giving and one who delighted in each day's success. His life was shaped by commitment to family, service, adventure, hard work, fun and responsibility traits, which were deeply rooted in the values and traditions of his upbringing in Gort.



TONY CLORAN 1933 – 2012

CONUNDRUM

by Niall Finnegan

Under certain circumstances there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. However, as I relished the cucumber delight from the second tier this was to be more about sustenance for the night ahead rather than an afternoon treat for my palate.

It had been a long train journey from London to Pitlochry and as I surveyed Blair Atholl from this Victorian splendour I knew that this current conundrum would test my powers of observation to the limits.

I had made acquaintance with the guests earlier and suggested we would meet in the library at four thirty sharp.

This far north the evenings seem to close in much faster and as I watched from the drawing room of the Atholl Palace hotel, the sun was already sining below the horizon.

It had been a long winter in this part of Perthshire and although there was

still snow on Glenshee the heather had started to bloom as if creating a welcome mat to the highlands.

All around me the opulence of the Palace Hotel suggested privilege. On the walls were several tartan tapestries of Scottish clans and over the imposing granite fireplace a gleaming claymore. On a closer inspection of the blade an engraving suggested that this sword had been wielded by Bonny Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden.

The room itself was dominated by a magnificent chandelier which had been hung to commemorate the visit of Victoria herself in 1842. It seemed slightly at odds with the Scottish memorabilia and perhaps suggested an intrusion by the English overlords who had made Pitlochry their playground.

Advancing to the top tier, I chose a square of treacle cake to embellish my last few sips of tea. The clock on the mantelpiece had tickets its way to twenty five minutes past four. It

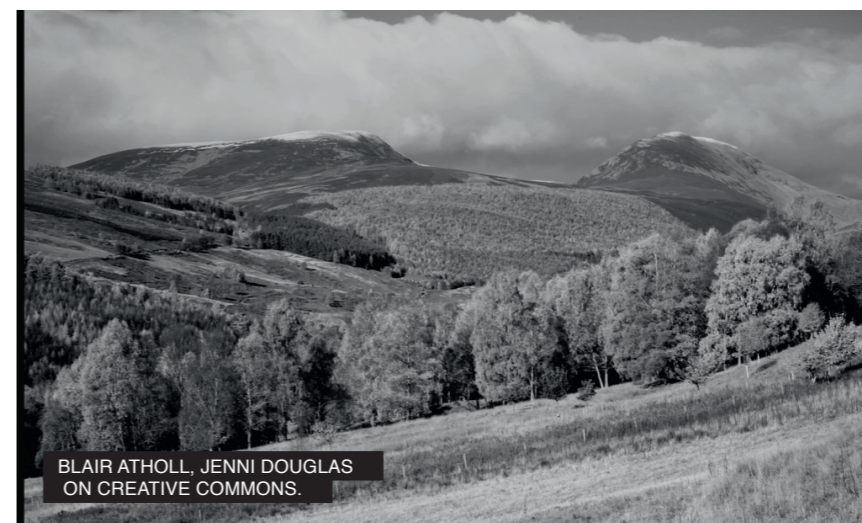
was time to begin the business of the evening.

The Hotel had not been busy over the last few days and as I opened the oak wood doors of the library only twelve sets of eyes fixed their gaze on me.

It was a period room with mahogany wall panelling centred by a majestic Italian marble fireplace surrounded on both sides by book shelves which rose all the way to the ceiling. Above the fireplace was a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots.

“He was a short reserved man and seemed to have an extra thick sole fitted to his left shoe which I was later informed was a result of an accident while on service for the Empire of India.”

In the alcove of the bay window sat Lord and Lady Alderton. He was a short reserved man and seemed to have an extra thick sole fitted to his left shoe which I was later informed was a result of an accident while on service for the Empire of India. They were both in their seventies but Lady Anne looked at least ten years younger than her ailing husband. She was a strong willed woman who quickly displayed an impatient tendency I had found before among others of her social standing.



BLAIR ATHOLL, JENNI DOUGLAS ON CREATIVE COMMONS.

"I find this whole business a total charade" she exclaimed "i would remind you Sir that we are well connected at Windsor and have spent the last two summers in Balmoral."

I thanked her for the candidness and brief glimpse of her lineage before turning my attention to the next table.

Three sombre-faced gentlemen dressed in shooting gear sat at the table next to the fire. They seemed to be in their forties and ruddy faced outdoor types, one clean shaven, one with a mustache and the other with a full facial growth. I had been informed earlier that they were a shooting party from Germany but on further consultant the man with the beard insisted indignantly that they were Bavarian.

As I moved from the gaze of Mary Queen of Scots, I acknowledge the elderly couple with their spinster daughter. She was a handsome looking woman though soberly dressed which seemed to match her

demeanour. Her eyes seemed to tell a story of compassionate duty but of opportunity missed and perhaps love lost. She turned her eyes from me preferring instead to fix them on the glow of the fire.

An American man in his thirties stood by the grand piano, beside him his stunningly beautiful young wife. His voice rose impatiently as he enquired, "is this gonna take much longer? We gotta sail to New York in three days time." His wife shifted nervously on the Rococo sofa, smiling politely as her right hand grasped her left which had started a slight tremble.

In the far corner of the room stood two servants, both Scottish. One was an older man who had spent his life tending to the needs and whims of a class above him. If the walls of the Palace Hotel could speak he would be their voice. Soon to retire he would bring with him years of dangerous liaisons and secrets not to be exposed.

Beside him a frightened young girl. Just sixteen, she had only started her new position in the hotel two weeks ago. She looked awkward in her black dress and lace apron and as the tears ran down her cheeks her superior handed her a spotless white handkerchief. They were the only staff in the hotel that night.

"Ladies and gentleman" I announced. "As you all know a forty seven year old gentleman was found stabbed to death in this hotel two nights ago. The twelve of you were the only other people here. It is time to find the murderer....."

COMPETITION: Finish the story to win a €300 prize sponsored by Niall Finnegan. Tell the rest of the 'Conundrum' story in 1500 words or less and email it into guairemagazine@gmail.com The winning story will be published in the next issue of Guaire Magazine.

COOLE F.C. U16 CHAMPIONS



2014 ENNIS PHYSICAL THERAPY CLARE SCHOOLBOYS SOCCER LEAGUE U16 CUP WINNERS BACK ROW (L-R) PETER MINIHANE (SPONSOR), EVAN KELLY, JACK MCGANN, SEAN ROCHE, STEVEN FAHY, BRYAN MULLINS, RONAN JOYCE, COLIN FINNEGAN, SIMON O'SULLIVAN, ETHAN CUNNIFFE, STEPHEN CUNNIFFE (COACH), DAVE CAHILL (COACH). FRONT ROW (L-R) DECLAN MORAN, EDDIE MADDEN, CONAL FINN, GERRY, DANIEL GILLESPIE, JOE COPLEY (CAPTAIN), ALAN NAUGHTON, JAKE FARRELL, NIALL FAHEY, LILY COPLEY (MASCOT).

MEMORIES WITH DESMOND COEN

Now in his 90s, Desmond Coen recalls for Brian Brennan and Paddy Cooke the history of his family of merchants.

Edited by Tonii Kelly.

To begin with, family legend says the Coens came to this area after the battle beyond, in Aughrim. My great grandfather was Bryan Coen, born in 1817 in Ballycahallan. That's over toward Peterswell, in the parish of Kilbeacanty. Bryan married Bridget O'Loughlin. She was down from below Ardrahan and the poor thing was killed in a pony and trap accident. They had two sons, Martin, born in 1856, just after the Famine, and Murty. When Bryan died, he left a £100 to Martin and the farm to Murty. But Murty said to Martin, lookit, I don't want the land, I want the £100. So he gave Martin the land and Martin handed over the money.

My grandfather, Martin, came to Gort after some schooling in Kilbeacanty. Martin was apprenticed to Glynn's Hardware, where the AIB is now, remember it used to be the Munster-Leinster Bank? At that time it was a general hardware store. Martin became the manager after a few years, but was always anxious to get a little place of his own. His cousins, the Hayes, had a little shop in Bridge Street. Bryan rented the place from them. It was a small shop, but a publican's license was attached to it. Eventually Martin bought the shop from the Hayes. He married my grandmother, Anne Ryan, who was from Gortacarnaun. She died the same day as Lady Gregory in 1932, the same year as the Congress.

Now when my grandfather set up that little shop he rented from the Hayes, every penny he had was upon the shelves. One day the local PP came in to ask for money for the church. Martin was married at this time and his wife was expecting my father, J.J., things were very tight. The PP demanded money for the church. Martin says, I'm sorry, every penny I have is up on the shelves. Oh right, says the priest,

well you needn't send your wife to be churchd when the time comes. That was the time when a mother had a child, about a month after, she had to undergo a ceremony in the church where she was blessed, as she was deemed to be unclean. She had to go through this ceremony of purification. At any rate, JJ was born in 1892. There were five brothers: Patrick and Richard who went to America, Bernard, Thomas, the man in Raheen House, and Matthew. My father went to school in Rockwell College in Tipperary. Himself and his brothers went to national school in Lough Cutra. After school he spent three years at Alexander Moons, now Brown Thomas, in Galway to serve his time. The apprentices lived in and had an old Protestant lady looking after them. The First World War was on at the time and every morning she was on to them, "Why don't ye go out and help poor Belgium?" But they didn't go. In the meantime the grandfather Martin had bought what we called our millinery, across the road from the first shop. There were two old drapers there, Scotchmen. One of them could be seen combing his beard with the



light of a candle. But they sent for my grandfather and asked would he buy the place and he said he would. J.J. opened that shop, mostly men's wear. He opened for business on Saturday, 16 of April same as that thing in Dublin in 1916 Easter weekend. He opened that Saturday and by twelve o'clock he was in Galway jail. So was another fellow, Pat Hynes of the mill, and Michael Trayers who worked at the Great Southern & Western Railway, subsequently the C.I.E. and now the Iarnród Éireann. (Trayers later became manager of the Galway Senior Hurling team of 1924).

They were in jail for a whole week. They were arrested for being in the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). After a week, the officer in charge had J.J. up in his office and said he could go home. My father asked, "Would it be all right for me to go back to cell and get my underwear and Foxford rug?" "Oh no," the officer said, "You can leave that to me."

There was a curfew on, this was late at night and he hadn't any money. What was he going to do? He went up to the Square where Dunnes Store is now. There was a petrol station at the time and J.J. told the owner his predicament. And the owner said, "I'll drive you home, curfew or no curfew." And he did! My father never forgot it for him. He always got his petrol from him when we were in Galway.

By the early 1920s, my grandfather was still alive. J.J. was setting up a menswear business across the road from the original shop, what I'd call Madge Burke's side. But it wasn't meant for him. The shop was meant for Mattie, his younger brother who was doing a line with Nicky Brady's sister. She was doing a course in Irish as a teacher, out in Spiddal. Mattie had a



CHRIST THE KING, THE SQUARE, GORT. IMAGE: COLM GREALISH

big powerful motorbike, an Indian. He used to put her on the pillion and drive around Spiddal on a Sunday evening. Coming back, he had an accident and was killed.

In 1932 the statue of Christ the King in the square was erected by my family in Mattie's memory. Bishop Brown was at the unveiling of it. My grandmother left a certain amount of money to my father to look after it, but I guess it wasn't enough and he had to back it up. Some years later, there was no still inscription. My father got the Dublin man who carved Pdraigh O'Connaire's statue in Galway square to do it.

J.J. married my mother, Eileen Kelly, from Caher. I was born in 1921. I was the oldest. Patrick was next, then Anne and Richard. I went to national school in Gort for about six months. The teacher was Mr. Heenan. My classmates were Johnny Geoghegan from Geoghegan's pub, Marie's brother. That pub is now Cummin's bar in Bridge Street. The Rosses from the AIB bank, and Mattie McNeil from Crowe St. Jack's brother. After that I went to Thurles. The nuns had a boy's school there. My father got to hear about it and decided it was the place for me. After that I went to Roscrea but didn't finish the five years. I came home and apprenticed under my father.

We had Mrs. Neary, from Longford in the shop. She married a guard afterwards. And we had Nora Mulcair, from Castletown, Michael's sister. A funny thing happened. I told you about the old men with the millinery, how they asked my grandfather to buy it. The same thing happened with our own shop. It was owned by Sheehan's next to Gerald Keane's. And they were getting old and asked my grandfather would he buy it. Not only did he buy it and the yards but he also bought the land over down by Mattie Cummins over by Bolands lane.

Fair days were good for business. They started early and everyone was paid in cash. My father also had sheep and cattle and he would sell them. We had to be up at two or three in the morning and go down to the land to get them. We'd bring them outside our own shop. The prime place for selling cattle was the other side of the street because they looked bigger.

I remember Mrs. Farrell, secretary of



COEN'S, BRIDGE STREET

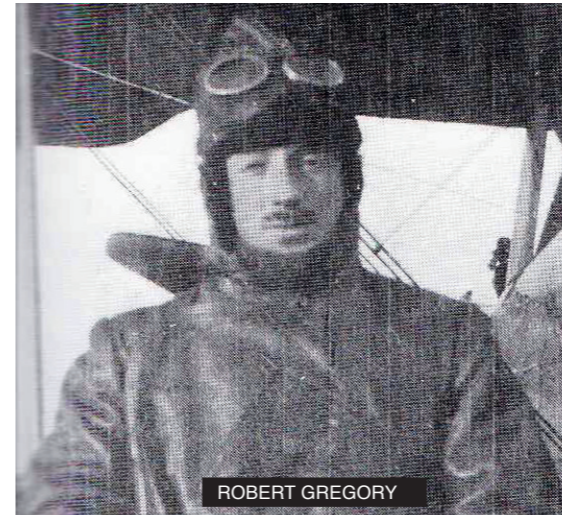
that the Gort Development Company, where News & Views are now. They had a license by that went back hundreds of years to collect fees from the sellers at the March and October fairs. That money was used to improve the town, but it's no longer collected. Remember the almighty mess of cow dung on the streets afterwards? The county council weren't the best of workers and it would take the best part of a week to get it cleaned up. I was never much interested in politics, but I'll always remember Dev on a truck down in the square. Dr. Fallon was chairman of the meeting and they both looked so much alike you know. Tall thin men. All for an election.

The Protestant Church was on Queen Street. I remember as a young lad, with the other kids, playing around the carriages that came in to the service on a Sunday. You had the Baggots of Ballyturin, the Gregorys of Coole. The Gregorys had one gallery and Goughs of Lough Cutra had the other. I was never tempted to go in to the services, but when Mrs. Mitchell of the post office died, my father carried her remains in, genuflected and knelt down as if he were in his own church. When he went in to the men's confessions he was unfortunate enough to tell Cassidy he was in the Protestant church and said prayers there. "You have to go in to the bishop to get absolution," said Cassidy.

I'll tell you a story about Georgie Daly's father, Archdeacon Daly. He was the rector of the Church of Ireland. I was two months old when the Ballyturn ambush took place. You remember, two officers and one of their wives were shot dead. Anne Gregory got out of the car, they had been playing tennis at the Baggot's place.

Now when the Black and Tans based in the barracks heard about it, they wanted to burn the town. But Georgie Daly's father came over to the officer in charge and interceded. The officer gave him so much to say they won't burn, but they will loot. With the butts of their rifles they broke our plate glass windows. They went in and threw Foxford rugs on the floor and filled them with underwear and trousers, whatever took their fancy, slung them on their backs and went down to the barracks. My father was on the run at this time. My mother was frightened. She took me in her arms and brought me up to the Fever Hospital.

I met my wife, Claire Nolan, through her brother who invited me down to Kilkee. He was an apprentice to O'Flynn the solicitor and worked with Sam Devlin who did everything there. The Nolans had a hotel in Kilkee and that's where I met Claire. We had a long courtship because the war was on and I had no way to get down to see her besides cycling. But I did. We married and we're still together!



ROBERT GREGORY

Major Robert Gregory, the commander of 66 squadron Royal Flying Corp, crashed while air testing a Sopwith Camel plane over Monastiero in the province of Treviso in northern Italy on January 23rd 1918. He is buried in the military cemetery in Padua. The poem begins with the lines.

*"I know that I will meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds
above
Those that I fight I do not hate
Those that I guard I do not love"*

The first world war was a conflict where over half a million Irish people enlisted and where up to 49,000 Irish soldiers died. It was the one event more than any other that made modern Ireland and for that matter Britain. Such a destructive war was a loss for all humanity. The losers in particular were the landed gentry whose feudal rule ended. The winners, if it is possible to use that word, were the poor, the tenants of the gentry who were able to purchase the land they farmed. The Irish Airman was one of four poems that Yeats wrote in Robert's memory initially at the request of Gregory's mother, Lady Gregory and Robert's wife Margaret, who later survived the Ballyturn ambush and remarried Guy Gough of Lough Cutra. The surnames Gregory, Gough, Martin, Perrse represented the dominant elite lineage that ruled in South Galway at that time. They attended

AN IRISH AIRMAN

By Tony Brennan

schools like Harrow and Oxford. They were the officer class who volunteered with enthusiasm for the war. The poem 'In Memory Of Major Robert Gregory' outlines his many human skills and achievements "Soldier, scholar, horseman, he". The Airman is not given a name and represents a heroic figure that possesses super human qualities of foresight and a calm acceptance of death. The simple iambic tetrameter with four stresses per line gives a sense of clarity and control. While the vowel sounds of the 2nd line soften the harsh reality of his death. Gregory a married man with three young children and in the midst of talks over the sale of his estate was under no pressure go to war. He volunteered to fight and enlisted in September 1915 gaining a commission with the 4th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers.

*"My country is Kiltartan cross
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor
No likely end would bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before"*

The lines suggest that Gregory, the aristocrat and landlord is one with his tenants. Tenants, however, were keen to purchase their land and this situation did not always make for good relations. The title of the Yeats poem "Upon a House Shaken by Land Agitation" gives a clue to the tension that existed in Coole between landlord and tenants with rent strikes and threats

of impounding livestock. Lady Gregory invoked the assistance of the local clergy to settle disputes on occasion. On some estates the Land League resorted to violent campaigns. Meanwhile the Land Acts of 1903 and 1909 encouraged tenants to purchase land and allocated money for them to borrow and finally made land purchase compulsory. By 1902 on his 21st birthday Robert, while still studying at Oxford, became Master of Coole. Lady Gregory notes in her diary "Thank God he is so well received and on such good terms with his people and has so good a name" He was however determined to be an artist, and later attended the Slade School of Art in London. He held an exhibition of his work in Chelsea in 1914. He also helped his mother with set designs for her plays at the Abbey Theatre. Today, Kiltartan Cross is the sight of the Gregory museum and in a neat reversal it is where the people of Kiltartan are one with the Gregorys.

At the heart of the huge Irish enrolment for the 1st world war was an expectation of Home Rule when the war was over. The Irish Home Rule Bill had already been passed by the House of Commons in 1912 and was waiting to be passed in the Lords when the war intervened. John Redmond, leader of the Irish Party took it as a given that the Bill would be passed by the House of Lords in reward for

Irish participation in the war. Other nationalists including the IRB and Arthur Griffith's Sinn Fein took a different view that led to the 1916 Rising. The war had many far reaching consequences for Ireland in the shape of the Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War. It also had consequences for the people of Kiltartan. Ellen Quinn the wife of Malachi Quinn, an ex-tenant of the Gregorys, was shot by the Black and Tans in November 1920. In the poem Reprisals Yeats urges Robert Gregory to rise from his grave and avenge the murder.

**"Nor law nor duty bade me fight
Nor public men nor cheering
crowds
A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the clouds"**

Gregory moved from the Connacht Rangers to the Royal Flying Corps the Irish. The Airman discounts the normal reasons why people enlisted. A famous song at the time does not give much of a clue either. It goes "We're here because we're here, Because we're here, Because we're here". The Irish war poet Tom Kettle is more forthcoming. His memorial in Stephens Green quotes lines from a sonnet he wrote for his daughter shortly before he died at the battle of the Somme in 1916 stating he died for "a dream, born in a herdman's shed". Kettle an MP for the Irish

Party believed like his leader John Redmond that Britain's defence of Belgium would bode well for Irish Home Rule after the war. Seamus Heaney highlights the underlying tensions that existed in the Irish war poet Francis Ledwidge who died in Ypres. Heaney refers to Ledwidge "in Tommy uniform/A haunted Catholic face" and concludes in Ledwidge "all the strains /Criss-cross in useless equilibrium"

No such strains are evident in the Airman. Yeats tells us the reason for the Airman going to war was because he enjoyed the excitement of flying. Gregory had said to George Bernard Shaw that the time he spent in the Flying Corp was the happiest time of his life. The Airman's death is softened by the use of vowel sounds. The word tumult is used by Yeats elsewhere to refer to rebirth and we meet again the word 'clouds' a soft resting place where the Airman can glide above everything. The image of clouds drifting across the horizon as a description of death is one Yeats uses again to conclude his Tower poem as he himself faces death. Robert Gregory was 37 when he died. Four of Lady Gregory's nephews also died in France. Her nephew, the art collector, Hugh Lane died on the Lusitania when it was sunk by a German U-boat off the Irish coast in 1915.



**"I balanced all, brought all to mind
The years to come seemed waste of
breath
A waste of breath the years behind
In balance with this life, this death"**

What strikes you about these lines is the repetition of the phrase 'waste of breath'. The repetition embeds the phrase in the memory. On the one hand it seems so casual to dismiss your past and your future as a waste of breath. On the other hand the idea that it was just something on the spur of the moment is contradicted by the repetition of the word balance. The decision has not been taken lightly. Two opposites are set up life and death. The poem ends with the word death no further rhyme is possible. There is no escaping his fate. Gregory was shot down mistakenly by an Italian plane. However there is a suggestion that he fainted due to a loss of oxygen. If so that would give added resonance to the phrase 'waste of breath'

In the poem "Upon a House Shaken by Land Agitation" Yeats uses the phrase "passion and precision" as qualities that marked out the tradition at Coole. At a personal level they are qualities needed by a good cricketer. Gregory was good enough to play briefly for Ireland. They are the qualities needed by a fighter pilot. They are also qualities of a good poem. The sixteen line poem is divided into two sentences of 8 lines, with four quatrains rhyming abab. Four by four is a square. Eight is also the number of divine balance in the ancient world representing harmony between the real and spiritual world. Gregory is reputed to have shot down 19 German planes and was awarded the Legion of Honour from France and the British Military Cross but it is the poem that will ensure his memory is preserved.

Tony Brennan was born in Gort and now lives in London. He is the Manager of Haringey Irish Culture and Community Centre, Tottenham.

GORT SHOW

by Fidelma Larkin

Gort Show 2014 was a huge success, despite a wet start, the weather settled to a beautiful sunny day, prompting a large turnout. 260 classes with 180 in the indoor section catering for all age groups: from the enthusiastic baker, gardener, flower arranger, crafter to professional photographer, it was a brilliant opportunity for people to show their creativity, expertise and talents. The Children's Section was the colourful, fun-filled centrepiece of the Show. A great confidence booster and imagination builder, it was uplifting to see the mighty efforts of Gort kids

this year.

Students of Gort Community School had an amazing exhibition of handcrafted woodwork - a fine representation of the astounding talents of our local teenagers. Gort Show Committee members are always looking to develop new categories for younger people so if you have any suggestions please get in touch.

Gort owes a debt of gratitude to the vast number of volunteers who worked hard throughout the year and on the day to ensure the show was the very best it could possibly be.



Under the guidance of Chairperson Ollie Connolly, Treasurer Padraic Giblin, and Secretary Kathleen Curley, a great time was had by all. A special thanks also to Jamesie Lee and his team for the preparation and use of the Community Centre, without which the Show could not succeed. The Gort and District show is kindly sponsored by Galway Co. Council, Gort Credit Union Ltd & Gort Lions Club. Find out more at www.irishshows.org/gort

TOMÁS Ó QUIGLEY, THE BARBER (1927 - 2014)

Melville and they had five children, Colin, Leonard, Judy, Tomasina and Hilary.

A great sportsman, Tomás played Gaelic Football with Gort in the early 1950's and was an integral member of the group to re-establish the Gort Rugby Club where he later become President. Golf played a big part of his sporting life and he became Captain of Gort Golf Club in 1958 and President in 1982 and 2002. He was a winner of the Club Cup in 1976 and 1980 and was a valued member of the Gort team who won the first Connaught Shield in 1965 along with members John Moylan, Noel Mullins, Gerry Cahill, Fr Christy Burke, Vincent O'Shaughnessy and Eddie Treston. In 2011, Gort Golf Club awarded him

Honorary Life Membership along with his good friend Tom Lambert.

Tomás was also involved in the community in Gort and was a founder member of Gort Credit Union in the early 1960's and served as treasurer to Gort Social Services. He attended Knock Shrine for 40 years as a member of the handmaids and stewards and in recognition of his work he was awarded a medallion. In later years, Tomás could be seen seated in the front porch of his residence in Georges St. There he would greet people, young and old and always had a welcome and many a tale to tell those who were lucky to have had the pleasure of his company.

Ar dheas Dé go raibh a h'anam.



LEST WE FORGET

2014 marks the 100th anniversary since the beginning of World War 1, one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of humanity with over 9 million soldiers killed, not to mention civilian casualties. There are many reasons why young Irish men enlisted to fight, some saw this as a route to Irish independence or home rule as promised by Redmond, others may have felt a duty to defend those countries invaded, others quite simply needed the work in a country where the memory of the hunger of the Great Famine was only in the recent past. Whatever the reason, young Irish men fought bravely in a campaign which is described by the British poet and soldier Siegfried Sassoon as “the hell where youth and laughter go”.

For countries like New Zealand, the commemoration of their sacrifice in WW1 has been a long-standing national theme. It's taken a long time for the Irish consciousness to turn its mind to those who died and to those who survived to return to a country disdainful of their sacrifice. As part of our commemoration of WW1 and the Irish contribution to war, the Guaire team have compiled a list of soliders who fell in the conflict from places like the Somme, Ypres, Gallipoli. These records include the fallen and some who returned. They are an amalgamation of data sourced from www.InFlandersFields.be and information supplied from local memory. Its a heartbreaking read, in the case of the Sweeney family where five of

“young Irish men fought bravely in a campaign which is described by the British poet and soldier Siegfried Sassoon as “the hell where youth and laughter go

their sons served. Their ages alone tell a story of a generation of young men who enlisted to fight, never to return.

There are more names again of those who enlisted and returned to live in Gort: John Ramplin, Tommy Murphy, Jim Minogue, Jack Berry, Patteen Donoghue to name just a few.

the 1914 Star, he died of his wounds aged 27 years.

CAFFERY, MICHAEL

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 2nd Battalion.
Commemoration: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Date of death: Sun Nov 08 1914 Killed in action aged 20 years.

CORLESS, JAMES

Place of birth: KINVARA, CO. GALWAY Private, 1st Leinster Regiment.
Commemoration: BOULOGNE EASTERN CEMETERY
Date of death: Fri Jun 04 1915 Died of his wounds in France at 30 years. Son of John Corless, Kinvara.

DALTON, THOMAS

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 6th Battalion.
Commemoration: KEMMEL CHATEAU MILITARY CEMETERY
Date of death: Wed Jan 31 1917 Son of Henry and Bridget Dalton, Lavally, Gort. Killed in action aged 20 years.

DALY, RICHARD ST GEORGE HERCULES LANGRISHE

Place of birth: GORT Corporal, 11th Hussars.
Commemoration: LA BRIQUE MILITARY CEMETERY NO.2
Date of death: Sun Nov 01 1914 Son of Henry V Daly, ArchDeacon of Clonfert & Elizabeth Alice Daly nee Messines St George of Deanery, Gort. Richard was awarded

DAVENPORT, FRANCIS JOHN

Place of birth: KINVARA, CO. GALWAY Private, The London Regiment, 2nd Battalion.
Date of death: Tue Aug 07 1917 Killed in action, France.

FORDE, PATRICK A.

Place of birth: BEAGH, CO. GALWAY Corporal, 2nd Life Guards, Household Cavalry (Formerly Irish Guards)
Commemoration: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Date of death: Sat Oct 31 1914 Killed in action, France.

FLOOD, FREEMAN OSCAR

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Date of death: Sat Feb 10 1917 Buried Parkhurst Military Cemetary, UK. IV.B.101 recorded in Commonwealth War Graves Commission records.

GARRITY, GEORGE

Place of birth: CLOONDINE, GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Royal Munster Fusilies, 1st Battalion.
Date of death: 20th November 1917 (48 years, son of Martin and Bridget Garrity of Cloondine, Gort. Remembered at Arras Memorial – Pas de Calais, France)

HOLLAND, CRAIELL LAKE

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Lance-Corporal, Yorkshire and Lancaster Regiment, 1st Battalion.
Date of death: Mon Mar 22 1915 Died of his wounds aged 25 in France, buried Dranouter Churchyard.

HYNES, MICHAEL

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Lance-Corporal, Connaught Rangers, 1st Battalion.
Date of death: Fri Mar 19 1915 Killed in Action, France.

ICKLAM, EDWARD

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 1st Battalion
Date of death: Tue Feb 19 1918 Killed in action in France buried Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetary Extension, France 1.B.12.

JOHNS, JOHN

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Lance-Corporal, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles.
Date of death: Wed Oct 14 1914 Died of wounds in France. Remembered in Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

JORDAN, PATRICK

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 1st Battalion.
Commemoration: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Date of death: Mon Apr 26 1915

KELLY, JOHN

Place of birth: DERRYBRIEN, CO. GALWAY Private, Irish Guards, 1st Battalion.
Commemoration: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Date of death: Tue Aug 07 1917 Died age 35 years. Killed in action at Ypres. Son of Martin and Ellen Kelly, Derrybrien

KAVANAGH, JOSEPH

Place of birth: KILMACDUAGH, GORT, CO. GALWAY Lance-Corporal, Connaught Rangers, 2nd Battalion.
Date of death: Mon Sep 14 1914 Died of wounds. Born in Kilmacduagh, enlisted in Ballinasloe and buried at Ailly British Cemetary Aisine, France.

KELLEHER, JOSEPH

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, 2nd Leinster Regiment.
Commemoration: TYNE COT MEMORIAL
Date of death: Sat Sep 28 1918 Died aged 25 years, killed in action. Son of John & Ellen Kelleher of Boland's Lane, Gort.

KENNY, JOHN

Place of birth: KILMACDUAGH, GORT, CO. GALWAY Lance-Corporal, Connaught Rangers, 5th Battalion.
Date of death: Sun Aug 22 1915 Enlisted Galway, died of wounds in Gallipoli aged 22 years, son of Michael & Kate Kenny (Nee Foran), Church St, Gort. Kilmacduagh.

KENNY, JOSEPH

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, The Border Regiment, 6th Battalion.
Date of death: Sat Aug 21 1915 Killed in action in Gallipoli, remembered at Helles Memorial, Turkey.

KEANE, PATRICK

Place of birth: LISBRIEN, KILBEACANTY, CO. GALWAY Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion.
Date of death: Mon Dec 21 1914

LALLY, MICHAEL

Place of birth: IRELAND Wireless Operator, Royal Navy - SS Bristol City Mercantile Marines
Died aged 25 years, drowned as a result of an attack of an enemy submarine. Son of James and Maria Lally (nee Bugler) of Ballyconnell, Gort. Brother of Thomas Lally (listed next). Remembered Tower Hill Memorial, London.

LALLY, THOMAS

Place of birth: IRELAND Sergeant, Irish Guards, 2nd Battalion.
Date of death: Sun Oct 27 1918 Died aged 30 years, brother of Michael Lally (previous). Son of James & Maria Lally (nee Bugler), Ballyconnell, Gort. Buried Abbeville Cemetary Extension, Somme, France.

LEECH, MARTIN

Place of birth: KILMACDUAGH, GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 1st Battalion.
Date of death: Thu Dec 10 1914 Died aged 25 years, killed in action in France. Son of John and Ellen Leech, Church St, Gort (Kilmacduagh), remembered Le Touret Memorial – Pa De Calais, France.

LEECH, PATRICK

Place of birth: KILMADUAGH, GORT, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 6th Battalion.
Date of death: Tue Nov 20 1917 Enlisted in Galway, born in Kilmacduagh, killed in action in France. Buried Croisilles Railway Cemetary, Pas de Calais, France.

MORRISON, ALEXANDER

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY Sergeant, 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
Date of death: Fri Mar 29 1918 Killed in action in France. Remembered at Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.

NILAND, JOHN

Place of birth: KILCHREEST, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY Private, Connaught Rangers, 2nd

Battalion.

Commemoration: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Date of death: Tue Nov 10 1914
Died aged 21 years, killed in action in France. Son of John and Ellen Niland, Lakefield, Gort.

NEE, MICHAEL

Place of birth

KINVARA, CO. GALWAY
Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 6th Battalion.

Date of death: Mon Aug 09 1915
Killed in action, Gallipoli.

PURCELL, MICHAEL

Place of birth

KINVARA, CO. GALWAY
Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.

Date of death: Tue Sep 05 1916
Died in Mesopotamia.

O'DONNELL, PATRICK JOSEPH

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY
Private, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 10th Battalion.

Date of death: Tue Feb 13 1917
Died of wounds in France. Remembered Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, UK.

STOKES, JOHN

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY
Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 1st Battalion.

Date of death: Mon Jun 28 1915
Killed in action in Gallipoli. Remembered Helles Memorial, Turkey.

SWEENEY, EDWARD

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY
Private, Connaught Rangers, 1st Battalion.

Date of death: Mon Apr 17 1916
Brother of Michael Sweeney (listed next). Five brothers of this family served in WW1. Died of wounds and was buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq (Mesopotamia).

SWEENEY, MICHAEL

Place of birth: GORT, GALWAY
Private, Connaught Rangers, 2nd Battalion.

Commemoration* YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
Date of death: Sat Nov 28 1914
Brother of Edward, (previous) killed in action in France. Awarded distinguished conduct medal.

TRESTON, WILLIAM

Place of birth: Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.

Date of death: Sat Apr 29 1916
Died aged 27 years, son of Elizabeth Treston of Kilmacduagh, stepson of James Keran, buried at Kur War Cemetery, Iraq.

VEREKER, ROBERT HUMPHREY MEDLICOTT

Place of birth: not available
2nd Lieutenant, Grenadier Guards.
Date of death: Tuesday August 25, 1914

Enlisted September 1914, son of captain George Vereker, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, grandson of Lord Gort of Lough Cutra Castle, Gort. Killed in action in France.

WARD, THOMAS

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY
Private Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion.

Date of death: Sun May 09 1915
25 years, killed in action

WARD, WILLIAM

Place of birth: GORT, CO. GALWAY
Private, Royal Irish Regiment.

Date of death: 13. NOVEMBER 1917
Killed in action in France aged 29 years.

GREGORY, ROBERT

Place of birth: IRELAND
Lieutenant. (Temporary Major).
Connaught Rangers, Royal Flying Corps.

Date of death: Wed Jan 23 1918
Awarded Military Cross & Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Son of Rt Hon Sir William Gregory, of Coole Park & Lady Augusta Gregory (nee Pearse). Died Killed in action at Padua aged 37 years. Survived by his wife Margaret Graham Parry, and children Richard, Anne & Catherine Gregory. The Italian Air Force shot down his aircraft in error. William Butler Yeats wrote the poem 'An Irish Airman Foresees his Death' in his memory.

QUINN, PATRICK

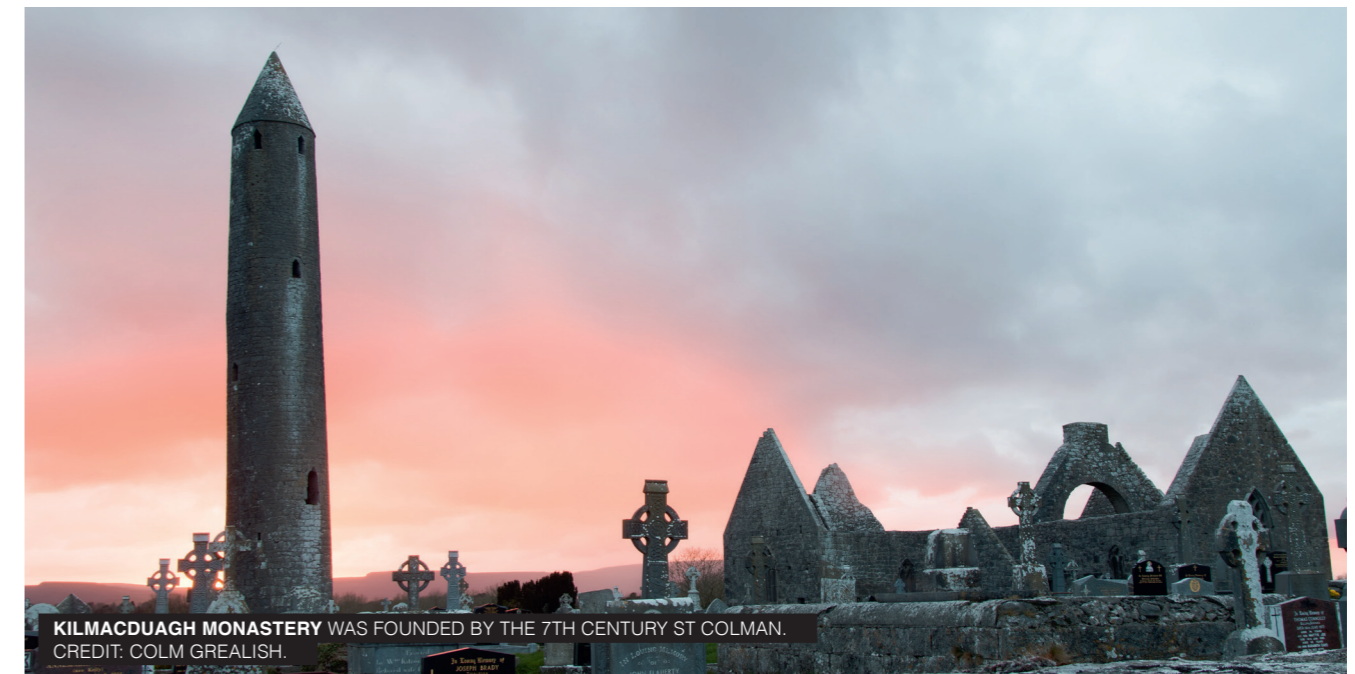
Place of birth: BALLINDEREEN, CO. GALWAY
Private, Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish)

Date of death: Sun Jul 09 1916
Died of wounds, France.

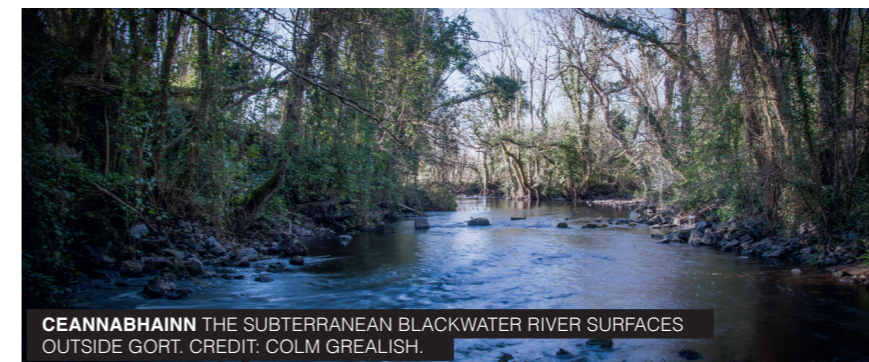
SOUTH GALWAY IN PICTURES



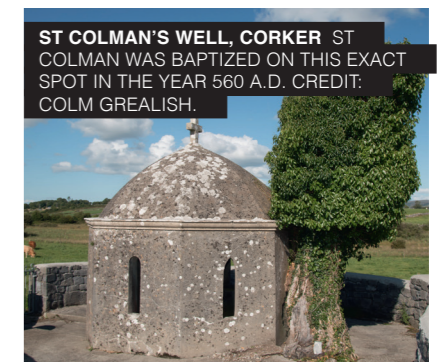
THE SECRET GARDEN – BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY GARDEN IN DOORUS



KILMACDUAGH MONASTERY WAS FOUNDED BY THE 7TH CENTURY ST COLMAN. CREDIT: COLM GREALISH.



CEANNABHAINN THE SUBTERRANEAN BLACKWATER RIVER SURFACES OUTSIDE GORT. CREDIT: COLM GREALISH.



ST COLMAN'S WELL, CORKER ST COLMAN WAS BAPTIZED ON THIS EXACT SPOT IN THE YEAR 560 A.D. CREDIT: COLM GREALISH.



KILTARTAN CHURCH BUILT IN 1842. THE CHURCH THAT REFUSED TO DIE HAS SUFFERED EXCEPTIONAL FLOODING OF UP TO 3 FEET IN 2009 -2010. CREDIT: COLM GREALISH.



FACE IN THE BURREN AT ABBEY HILL.



POPPY FIELDS, LES HAINES. CREATIVE COMMONS.



JOHN RAMPLIN



JIM MINOGUE



SONIC STRINGS GETTING READY AT TOWN HALL, GORT.

CULTURE NIGHT

Throughout the country, Culture Night was celebrated this year on the 19th September. The line-up for the fabulous Culture Night show at the Town Hall, Gort included the Kyleneano Quartet, Coole Music, Sonic Strings, the Wild Swan Theatre Company and Gort Comhaltas.



'WILD SWANS THEATRE PERFORMING THE WORKHOUSE WARD' BY LADY GREGORY. (L-R) LIZ O'REILLY, JIM EARLEY, AUSTIN MCINERNEY.



KYLENANO QUARTET - FIONNUALA FAHEY, SIABHRA FEENEY, KEELEY MANNION, CAOLAINN FEENEY.



FUN TIMES WITH GORT I.C.A.

By Fidelma Larkin

The Gort ICA guild is a very active and busy organisation. Not many people, especially the younger members of the community realise the amount of varied activities that we do in a given year and every year is different. Since I joined in 2013 I've attended so many classes and outings. My social calendar got a major boost! Gone is the perception of old ladies knitting by the fire, this is a multi-aged vibrant and energetic group of ladies that are only too willing to share their expertise and knowledge of crafts, baking, cooking, and how to paint the town red.

One of the highlights of our year is the Christmas Bake Sale in early December. We really appreciate the level of support from our community and it is such a pleasure to see all our home-baked yummy treats being snapped up and putting smiles on people's faces young and old. We have Christmas cakes, puddings, mince pies, crumbles, Cathy's nuts & bolts, jams, cranberry sauce, brown bread, scones and an array of cakes, buns and biscuits all of which are made by our members either at home or as a group in our hall.

ICA is all about sharing knowledge and learning new skills. In the last year classes included: card making, silk painting and a session with our Bootcamp guru Josephine Helly in making designer bags. To calm us down after all these activities we have Tai Chi classes on a Wednesday morning with Siobhan Flinn – a gentle yet effective form of exercising calmly! But we also have a wealth of talented people as members that constantly share their expertise in all aspects of life. We've made wall hangings for our local churches, helped out at charity events, had sewing classes in cushion making, a demo in how to make a



roman blind, donated to our local playground.

Our monthly meetings are a great way to catch up on what's going on in the guild and to socialise with all the members. They usually take an hour for business with a cuppa and chat afterwards. Sometimes when possible we will invite a guest speaker to talk about their particular business and to maybe give a short demonstration. We recently had Eamon Carrick from the Galway based Community Spirit Drumming, who gave us a hands-on workshop in drumming using the African djembe drums – now that was an experience that everyone should try.

It's not all work, we like to relax too and we normally do it in style! Visits to the Dáil Éireann for a day or a beautiful visit to the Bloom festival; the Knit &

Stitch Show in the RDS is a favourite. We don't have to go that far either – we had a very enjoyable evening at Woodville Walled Garden where we had a lovely relaxing informative walk of the garden followed by a scrumptious picnic. Or our guided walking tour of Coole Park to work up an appetite for a lip smacking lunch in the Tea Rooms. We usually try getting to see a musical in the Town Hall or a movie night at the No Name Club.



DOWN MEMORY LANE



MARY DONOHUE'S 18TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. BACK ROW (L-R) ANGELA DONOHUE, MARY O'CONNOR, JOSEPHINE DONOHUE, RITA LALLY. FRONT ROW (L-R) MARY HOARTY, MARY DONOHUE, RITA FINNEGAN, HELEN HOARTY, RITA DONOHUE.



KILTARTAN JUNVEILE TEAM (1957/58)
BACK ROW (L-R) TOM FAHY, HUBERT DISKIN, PATRICK DIVINEY, MALACHY QUINN, LAL FORDE, BRIAN NEILAN, BENNY DOWNEY, JOHN KELLY. FRONT ROW (L-R) DENIS REGAN, P.J. DIVINEY, CHRISTY FORDE, DONAL REGAN, KIERAN MURPHY, NOEL FLANAGAN, RAYMOND FORDE.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (L-R) PADDY JOE WALLACE, MICKEY GILLANE, SEAN BRENNAN, KIERAN MURPHY, VAL WILLIAMS, PAKIE KERANS, JOHN NELLY, GUS KELLY, JOSEPH BURKE, OLIVER LOUGHREY. LATE 1940'S



UP FOR THE MATCH, O'CONNELL ST. DUBLIN (L-R) DICK TRESTON, EDDIE TRESTON, PADDY LALLY.



ELAINE PIGGOTT'S 4TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. BACK ROW (L-R) MOLLY PIGGOTT, KITTY DUFFY, BRIAN TRESTON, MAI COUNIHAN, UNKNOWN. MIDDLE ROW (L-R) MARILYN O'SHAUGHNESSY, BRID PIGGOTT, CATHERINE PIGGOTT, CLAIRE TRESTON, MARY MADIGAN, ANN DALY, MARY BROUGHAM, RITA MADIGAN, BERNIE SMITH, PHIL CLEARY, ? ROCHE, ? BROUGHAM. FRONT ROW (L-R) MARIE DALY, RITA LALLY, ELAINE PIGGOTT, ERIC COUNIHAN, CHRISTINA O'SHAUGHNESSY, MARY BERMINGHAM.



LEGION OF MARY OUTING (L-R) ANGELA COEN, MAUREEN FENNESSY, EDNA DALY, NANCY FENNESSY, RENA SHAUGHNESSY, JOSIE CAHILL, PATSY QUIGLEY, PAT NELLY, TOMMY MCGOVERN, MAI BRENNAN, PEGGY SHAUGHNESSY, MARY ROCHE, MAEVE KELLY, FR MICHAEL SPELMAN.



1966 - GORT U16 COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONS. PHOTO: WILLIAM QUINN, TAKEN FROM BURKES PUB, CHURCH ST.

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | JOHNNY COUNIHAN | 17 | JOHN HYNES | 33 | GERRY FLAHERTY | 50 | PAT CAHILL |
| 2 | TOM ROCHE | 18 | STEPHEN KILLEEN | 34 | DENNY REGAN | 51 | ANTHONY BRENNAN |
| 3 | MATTIE BRENNAN | 19 | RITA FENNESSY | 35 | GERRY DONOGHUE | 52 | RONNIE KILLEEN |
| 4 | ANTHONY DISKIN | 20 | JOHN FORD | 36 | RICHARD BURKE | 53 | TONY DISKIN |
| 5 | MICK CAHILL | 21 | PAT BOURKE | 37 | CHRISTY CUMMINS | 54 | PAUDIE WALSH |
| 6 | JACK BURKE | 22 | MARTIN DOWNEY | 38 | MARIE REGAN | 55 | PATRICK COUNIHAN |
| 7 | BRENDAN DOWNEY | 23 | JUNIE FINNEGAN | 40 | GERRY FAHY | 56 | MICHAEL CAHILL |
| 8 | JOHN DEMPSEY | 24 | JOHN FINNEGAN | 41 | BILLY KEANE | 57 | MARTIN MANNION |
| 9 | MICHAEL BRENNAN | 25 | TOM STAUNTON | 42 | JOE REGAN | 58 | GERRY HANNON |
| 10 | BRENDAN LONG | 26 | PADDY REGAN | 43 | THOMAS HYNES | 59 | EVELYN REGAN |
| 11 | MICHAEL BRODERICK | 27 | JOE KEANE | 44 | PAT HYNES | 60 | DECLAN KILLEEN |
| 12 | FREDDIE SMITH | 28 | COLIN FENNESSY | 45 | DECLAN SPELMAN | 61 | DERMOT KELLY |
| 13 | SEAN DEVLIN | 29 | EDDIE FENNESSY | 46 | BRENDAN SPELMAN | 62 | MARTIN CAHILL |
| 14 | JACK MCNEILL | 30 | BRIAN BRENNAN | 47 | JAMES COONEY | 63 | JOHN CAHILL |
| 15 | BRENDAN SAMMON | 31 | OLLIE FORD | 48 | MICHAEL GALLAGHER | 64 | MARY KILLEEN |
| 16 | NED CASEY | 32 | ERIC COUNIHAN | 49 | JOHN DISKIN | | |



Kilmacduagh.
Image credit: Colm Grealish

GUAIRE



Guair Magazine 2014 Issue 34

COVER: View of St Colman's Church, Gort, oil on canvas by Mavis Gormally.