



# TUAIRE



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Guaire thanks all its wonderful sponsors who have been so generous since the beginning. The following were kind enough to advertise in this the 9th number of Guaire. Walsh's Bar, Lough Cutra Garage, Michael Cunningham, Finnegan & Co., P.J. Hawkins, Angela Corcoran, Roger Fahey's, Frank Finnegan, Piggotts Travel Agency, Diamond Fireplaces, Bernard Coen & Son, Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland, O'Connor Plant Hire, Christy Fennessy, The Local Inn, Waters', Sean Duffy, Hair by Hilary, Corner Confectionary, Golf Sports and Trophy Centre, Fallon's, Rochford Insurances, Val Wallace, O'Grady's, Lee's and Colman Keane. Without their generous help Guaire would not exist.

# Galway Triumphant

*Special Correspondent*

"Hurling is alive" reported one newspaper amid the scenes of jubilation that greeted Galway's victory in the All Ireland Hurling Final. It was a win that captured people's imagination, for it was a game that had a significance far beyond a hurling match.

This victory brought fireside superstitions to an abrupt end; old curses have lost their spells and leave in their wake, new optimism and confidence. Finally, on the 1st Sunday in September 1980 Galway hurlers showed their power and smashed the weak county label. The West is truly awake.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Galway versus Limerick is an unusual pairing in All Irelands. Over the years both teams have had to give way to the Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary domination. Both teams fought with skill and determination and proved a fitting occasion for Galway eventual triumph.

It contained many memorable highlights, Bernie Forde's opening burst when he side stepped two defenders and shot the sliotar right footed to the Limerick net, the elegance which Noel Lane showed in picking off his vital points at top of the left; the tenacity and well placed ground striking of Sylvie Linnane and above all that timeless moment when the McCarthy cup was presented to Joe Connolly.

This was a fitting reward for the tremendous effort and dedication that both selectors and players put in.

It was a moment that supporters dreamed about and brought exiles home. It was poignant that Mick Gill, one of the great men in

Galway hurling history died soon after. Mick was a member of the last Galway team to win the All Ireland, back in 1923. Ar dheis Dé a anam.



*Sylvie Linnane*

### GORT WELCOMES HEROES

It was a proud moment when Sylvie Linnane lead his county colleagues in a victory parade through Gort. The team was given a civic reception and a large crowd turned out to honour their heroes.

On behalf of the team, John Connolly spoke of the fine tradition of hurling in Gort and paid tribute to former county stars Josie Gallagher and Sean Devlin, to Sylvie Linnane and to up

and coming stars in Pierce Piggott and Gerry Lally in the town.

### HURLING NURSERIES

Six members of the Galway panel attended schools in Gort — Steve Mahon, Finbarr Gantley and Sylvie Linnane are past pupils of St. Colman's Vocational School, while Noel Lane, Bernard Forde and Ger Curtin are former pupils of Our Ladies College.

The game of hurling has been strongly promoted in our local Schools. In a relatively short period teams from the tech and College have established a proud tradition and stand as equals among such famous names as St. Peters, Wexford; Farran Ferris, Cork and St. Kieran's, Kilkenny.

Back in 1978 a dream came through when St. Colmans (Vocational School beat Enniscorthy to win the All Ireland Vocational School final. Two members of that team, John Moylan (captain) and Joe Callinan have since gained county recognition in minor grades.

In 1973 another dream almost became reality when Our Lady's College just failed to St. Peters, Wexford in the All Ireland Colleges Final. From that team Noel Lane, Bernie Forde, Ger Curtin, Pat O'Connor and G.P. Fahy have gone on to win County honours.

Fr. Maher speaking after Kilkennys win over Galway in the 1975 All Ireland warned that "if Kilkenny are to win All Irelands in the future special attention must be paid to encourage the game among the young lads in the county". In this respect Galways hurling standards owes much to the way it is promoted in our schools.

Presentation to **Canon Quinn**



Canon George Quinn

C.C. Gort 1942 – 1948  
P.P. Gort 1971 – 1980  
Retired June 1980

On Tuesday, September 2nd 1980, a committee formed from representatives of the various organisations in Gort Parish together with several hundred parishioners assembled in the auditorium of the Convent of Mercy, to make a presentation to Canon George Quinn on the occasion of his retirement as parish priest of Gort.

Mr. Micheál Breathnach, Chairman of the Canon Quinn retirement committee presided. Canon Quinn was presented with an oil painting of Kilmacduagh executed by local artist Mrs. Kitty North and also with plans relating to proposed development of the Church field to be named Canon Quinn Memorial Park. This project was the unanimous wish of the parishioners.

Canon Quinn's abiding interest in the welfare of the parish, his love of nature and his historical expertise were recalled. All his parishioners wish him a long and happy retirement.

Members of the Canon Quinn Presentation Committee:  
Back row from left: Michael Mulkeré, Micheál Breathnach, Fr. L. Power and Tommy Minogue. Front row from left: Mrs. May Brennan, Mrs. Mary Donnellan, Mrs. Nuala Murphy and Mrs. Mary Treston. (Seamus Conway and Michael Cunningham also served on the Committee).

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**Canon George Quinn as Curate in Gort**

*Desmond Coen*

When Canon George Quinn arrived in Gort as the new junior curate, it was war-time and our movements were restricted as the cars were off the roads, but in our leisure time we made our own fun.

In the summertime we camped at the horse-pump in Coole and he joined us there on many a night as we cooked sausages on sticks by the camp-fire, telling us strange and wonderful ghost stories, for, even though he was the new curate he was a boy at heart and made light of cycling home from Coole at midnight.

We bought a small sailing-boat which we berthed at Tarrae Pier and sailed first in Kinvara Bay, venturing into Galway Bay as we

became more proficient. To get to and from the sea we cycled 10 miles each way. Even after the strenuous cycle, he would dive off the pier and swim a half mile out into the bay – a feat unessayed by any of the rest of us.

During the winter the Opera Society, which he founded, flourished. Each season brought a new opera varying in theme and humour from "The Duke of Plazatora" to "Poor Little Buttercup". The colourful characters therein and the ushers ("crows") who donned tails and white ties for the occasion, created an atmosphere in the packed Town Hall which enthralled the spectators.

The little intimate Oyster parties

he gave for us in the top sitting-room of the old Parochial House in the days leading up to Christmas are really something to recall. We will always remember with delight the night he produced a full tin of Jacobs Polo Biscuits made with pre-war White Flour. How well they tasted after the biscuits of war-time brown flour!

He introduced us to light classical music through his delightful selection of records and his radio-gram, which emitted a tone so mellow I doubt if it could be equalled by any of today's specialised equipment.

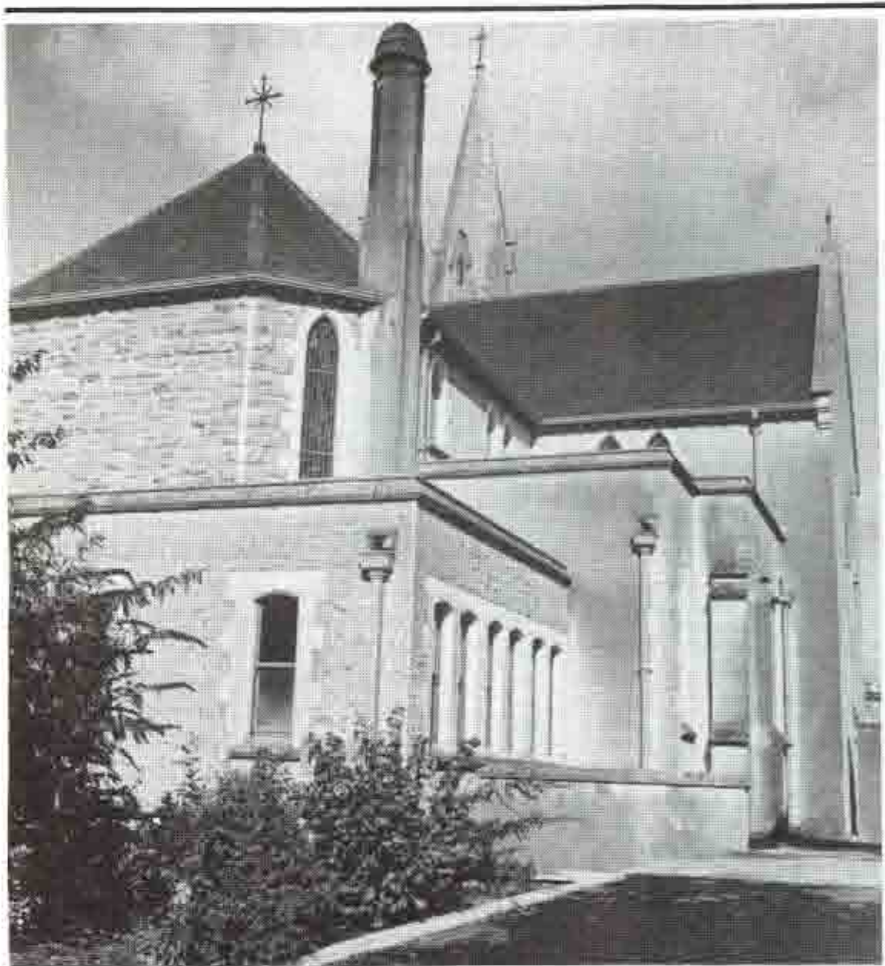
This is the way I shall always remember him, thoughtful, cheerful, lively, active and ever-ingenious.



The cast of H.M.S. Pinafore performed in Gort as far back as 1944.

Back row from left: Kathy Piggott, Mary Roche, Chrissie Hughes, Marie Geaghan, Agatha Piggott, Mary Cusack and Noreen Lambert. Second Row: Eddle Treston, Jim Corbett, Ignatius Piggott, Josie Gallagher, Jack Kilroy, Paddy Shaughnessy, V. Rev. George Canon Quinn (then C.C.), Joe Keane, Paddy Lally, Garney Griffin and Tom Lambert.

Front from left: Peter Brady, Tom Finnegan, Lily Broderick, Johnny Howard (mascot), Pakie Broderick, Lily Spelman, Tom Shaughnessy, May Hanberry.



A rear view of St. Colman's Church. Fr. O'Halloran was installed as P.P. in this Church on Sunday 21st September.

## THE MAKING OF A P.P.

Gort's new parish priest is Fr. Alf O'Halloran. He served as parish priest of Moycullen from 1971 to 1980 and, in the six years prior to that, was President of St. Mary's

*by a Special Correspondent*

College, Galway. He is a modest unassuming man who will fill the office of parish priest of Gort with dignity and distinction.

In the weeks prior to his nomination his name did not figure in any of the numerous dispatches. This was surprising as so many names were doing the rounds, every priest from Liscannor to Rosmuc appeared to have his hat in the ring

for the 'plum' parish of Gort. Sources for this endless and time-honoured speculation were rarely disclosed but in no way did that deter or hamper the grapevine.

"Fr X is to be our new P.P. He is lovely and will go down very well with the people". (The qualities required to go down well with the people were not specified but an essential prerequisite would be the ability to negotiate the Sunday Liturgy in 35 minutes or under). "I believe Fr. Y. is coming. The Mrs. heard it at coffee this morning. Isn't he a bit old for it now? Why don't they send us a young man?" An example of the sensus fidelium

at work but not penetrating through to the corridors of power.

### THE RUN-UP

The characters of all prospective pretenders to the throne of King Guaire were well and truly appraised in the run-up, many suffering most dreadful assassination in the process. Did a man exist who could be all things to all men, or even all things to the Christians of Gort? If he did he would have to (as well as perform his traditional priestly functions) play golf, bridge, go racing, join the Chamber, train under lights, praise the Lord, meet the people that matter and keep his eyes and ears closed most of the time. In short "a man apart".

As D Day (September 9th) approached speculation became even more rampant. "It is Fr. O. I heard it from a Canon of long standing and he should know". "No no, it is Fr. P. He asked the Bishop for a change and he is getting Gort. He is very lucky". Not even the historic achievement of Galway bringing the McCarthy Cup across the Shannon could quell the rising tide. And what if nothing happened on September 9th? Could Gort continue shepherdless?

This doubt proved to be unreal for news of the appointment broke in the forenoon of Tuesday, September 9th. It was first heard in a local store but remained unconfirmed until white smoke was seen rising into the autumn air from two well known ecclesiastical houses in the town (one in Bridge St., the other in Crowe St.) Gort at last had a new shepherd. Praise the Lord. Deo Gratias.

Fr. O'Halloran came among us on September 21st. He deserves our prayers and support. Is é ár nguí go mbeidh beatha, sláinte agus fad saol aige i measc Críostaithe sean-pharóiste Naomh Cholmáin.

## GORT

# Autumn Festival

*by our Festival Correspondent*

The 1980 Gort Festival was the best to date. It was the 4th festival staged in the Gort region and all associated with the undertaking were unanimous in stating that it was the most successful, socially, entertainment wise and financially.

The highlight of the Festival was, without question, the Industrial Parade staged on Sunday 17th August. The Judges were most impressed with the number and quality of the Floats and the following won prizes:

Keane's, Bridge St. - "From Yew to You" - most appropriate to one's business.

Gort Gun Club - Fowl Display - Most unusual.

Junie Finnegan - Credit Squeeze - Most topical.

Mick Cahill - Threshing Mill Outfit - Most antiquated.

David Curley - "Gort Pool Site sold" - Most humorous.

Athenry - Siamsa - Most cultural.

James Lee - 50th wedding anniversary - Best overall float.

The Wild Rose of the Festival was Marianna Nestor, Kilmacduagh. A Wexford holidaymaker in Gort, James White won the Gay Bachelor Award, being chased home all the



Marianne Nestor, a telephonist from Kilmacduagh, who was selected as Gort's Wild Rose at the Festival.

way by Michael Carroll Roo.

The Festival was opened by Mrs. Mary Bennett, Chairperson of Ireland West, who highlighted the importance of small local festivals. On the Sunday of the Festival, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce (who organised the Festival), Mícheál Breathnach, posed the question: Did the town of Gort want a festival? Were the business people of the town prepared to take it over and run it themselves?

The Festival featured numerous competitions, Baby Show, Car Treasure Hunt, Hurling 7-a-side, Golf, Basketball, Tractor reversing, Dog Show (one of the festival highlights, over 100 dogs competed), 4 mile road race, Tug of War and Fancy Dress.

The organising of a festival requires hard work and dedication. The Chamber of Commerce deserve the thanks of the people of Gort for successfully organising the 4th Gort Autumn Festival.

## ANGELA CORCORAN

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High class grocery, fruit and confectionary - keen prices. Personal attention.

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Bridge St., Gort

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Drop in if you are passing.

# Success at Last

## U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

The near misses of Gort GAA ended on the 28 September when finally a county championship was brought home. Gort defeated Meelick/Eyrecourt at Tynagh to become the u-21 county champions. The match was due to have being played two weeks beforehand but was postponed because of the waterlogging of the Loughrea pitch. The players all keyed up for the match were told of the postponement less than an hour before the starting time. The county board's carelessness provided a wasted trip towards Loughrea for many players and supporters.

The title campaign nearly ended for Gort in the first match. The referee managed to put a point for Gort down for Peases. When the final whistle blew the Pearse's lads congratulated the Gort lads. Then the referee declared Peases the winners by a point and all hell broke loose. Finally it was decided to replay the match. Gort put their second victory in Athenry beyond doubt to advance to meet Castlegar.

## CASTLEGAR OVERCOME

The cup was won the day Gort beat Castlegar. Gort never held back in a tough and hard fought encounter. With Castlegar beaten there was no stopping them now.

Next to Loughrea and a clash with Mullagh in the semi-final. Mullagh never looked like they could defeat Gort despite a county class display by Johnny Murphy, the Galway minor left half forward. A final place was sealed when late in the second half Gerry Linnane broke through from the centre forward position to smash in a goal from twenty yards.

## FINAL HURDLE

A one o'clock start and a long and

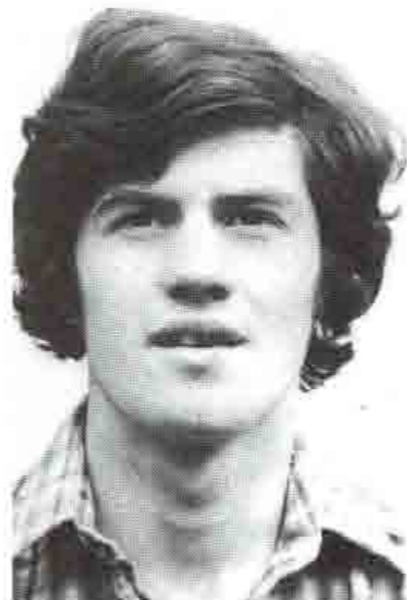


John Lally who came on to the team for the final and played a fine game in the midfield position.



Frank Shaw who played an outstanding game in the final from the wing back position.

winding road to Tynagh halved the number of supporters that started to Loughrea two Sundays previously. A rare weather occurrence provided a perfect day for hurling. With rousing encouragement from captain Pearse Piggott, Gort took to the field first. A sizeable support cheered Meelick/Eyrecourt onto the field many minutes later. There was no wind to blow the blue and white Meelick/Eyrecourt flags - their team's performance failed to fill them either. The Gort power unit was the half back line of Colie Roche, Pearse Piggott and Frank Shaw. Any clearances by Meelick/Eyrecourt bounced off the Gort half back wall to the forwards who scored freely in the first half. Any ball that went over the all was collected by a safe full back line who gave the opposing full forwards no chance. When half time came the game was heavily in Gort's favour with a score of 3-4 to 0-0.



Pierce Piggott who captained the successful Gort team.

Meelick/Eyrecourt came more into the game in the second half when Gort lost their dominance in midfield. The ball began to flow more freely to their forwards and consequently they scored first in the second half. Midway through the half Gort moved Dermot Duffy to centrefield and that move more than balanced the exchanges. Had the game being closer Gort would have been frustrated by many missed points in the second half. Their big lead ensured that they never really mattered.

## JOE PETE HAPPY

Had the margin of victory been closer, the fulltime whistle roar would have been louder but for both sets of supporters the issue was decided much earlier. After many years of waiting, Pearse Piggott collected the county cup in the centre of the field. Supporters filled the dressing rooms afterwards to give after match congratulations.

Joe Peter Hehir said that he had waited many years for a county championship and that now this win was to be the basis of a senior three in a row. Pearse Piggott urged the team to stay together and fight for their place on the senior team. He said that he wanted to see 30 or 40 over at Senior training next year

and then maybe they would win the county championship.

## HOME COMING

When all was done the team swept to Ballinasloe promising a reunion at Aughrim afterwards. The team victory march began at the famous battle site with much noise and the

waving of team jerseys. A bonfire on the Loughrea road signalled the entry into home territory. Team and supporters paraded the town gloating in victory after their previous starvation. Then the cars headed for Glynn's Hotel. The victory march was over the celebrations had begun.

## FÉILE NA nGAEL

Enda McInerney

This years Féile na nGael was held in Co. Galway for the first time since the competition began ten years ago. The event is sponsored by Coca Cola each year. Its aim is to motivate the Youth of Ireland to respect and love the game of hurling as part of our tradition and heritage; and to provide incentives to perfect the art and skills of the game.

One team from each county in Ireland came to a parish in Co. Galway for one week end. On Friday the 4th of July the teams from each of the counties came to Ballinasloe, and speeches were made to the teams by Aubrey Higgins and many more of the organisers of the Féile. On Saturday, the hurling games began. The team that came to Gort was Turin from Westmeath. The players were put up in a number of houses in the parish.

On Sunday, all the teams came to Galway for Mass, and a parade. There were prizes for the best dressed team in hurling and camogie. The Mass was held in the grounds of St. Mary's College and



Enda McInerney who captained the Gort Féile na nGael team.

the chief celebrant was Bishop E. Casey. After the Mass, the parade was held from St. Mary's College to Páirc an Phiarsaigh where all the finals were held. Gort and all the other southern teams were in division II; Laois were the winners of that group. On Sunday, evening the teams went home to their counties. It was a very successful week-end. Gorts panel

was: Gerard Mahon, Peter Melville, Enda Moloney, Sean Connolly, Kieran Helebery, Ken Murray, Nial Cunningham, Enda McInerney, Thomas Melville, Patrick Lally, Gerry Kelly, Kieran Egan, James McMahon, Martin Connolly, Kieran Egan, Norman Rochford, David Coen, Dermot Flaherty, Brendan Gleeson, Thomas O'Driscoll.

## Michael Cunningham

### Gort

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# Fleadh na nGael

Fleadh na nGael is a new national festival organised by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. The Connacht Branch of Comhaltas is responsible for the siting and organization of the Fleadh which is designed to motivate the participants towards a greater use of Irish. Whilst the main thrust of the movements activities relates to Irish traditional music, song and dance. Comhaltas also is a cultural movement in the general sense being concerned with our heritage in a broad context. Last Spring, Gort had the honour of been chosen as the venue for this national event which was the first of its kind to be held in the town.

## LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

The Gort branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann organised a special committee taking in other branches and organizations in the town whose task it was to prepare for this national festival which was to be held on the 25/27 July. The committee consisted of: President — Rev. Fr. Power, C.C. Chairmain — Michael Cunningham, Vice-Chairman — Milo Mullins, Secretaries: Mrs. T. Moloney, Mrs. O'Dea and Terry Clarke, Treasurers: Paddy Jordan, Christy Fahy, and Mícheál Ó Hógáin.

P.R.O. — J. P. Cusack. Every assistance was given to this committee by the Ard-Chomhairle. An Stiúrthóir Iontaobhaí, Labhrás Ó Murchú, Domhnall Ó Catháin and John McCracken visited Gort on many occasions. It was necessary to raise £3,000 before the festival and in order to achieve this, special Irish nights were held. Also a number of donations were given

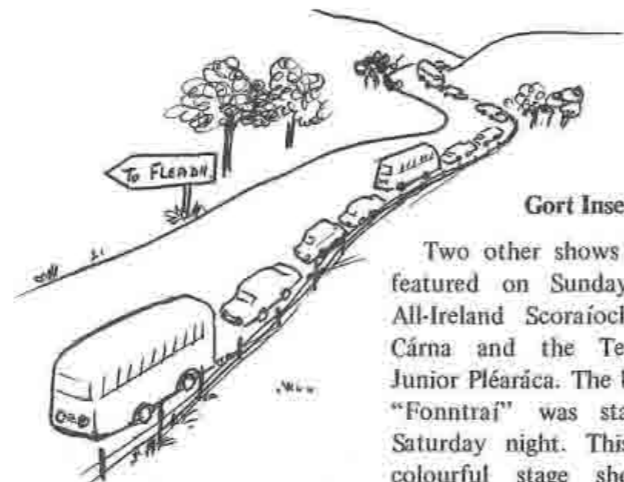
from other branches in the province, a very successful church gate collection was held throughout South Galway and business houses in the town contributed generously. A complete programme was organised for the week-end.

## OPENING

On Friday July 25th the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, T.D. officially opened the first Fleadh na nGael in Gort. On that opening night the Minister stated: "It is well known that our language and traditional music are intertwined." This was obvious in the many stage performances such as the opening concert which featured sean-nós singers such as Seán 'A' Donncha, Máire Nic Dhonncha, Peadar Mac Donncha, Séamus Ó Dufaigh and Tomás Eoin. The Fear a' Tí was Pádraig Ó Dufaigh.



Chairman of the Fleadh Committee Michael Cunningham.



Gort Inse Guaire 1980

Two other shows in Irish were featured on Sunday night. The All-Ireland Scoraíocht champions Cárna and the Teampleglantine Junior Pléaráca. The bilingual show "Fonntaí" was staged on the Saturday night. This was a very colourful stage show featuring twenty leading musicians, singers and dancers. The "Toonagh" and the "Tulla" provided the ceol for the céilithe and there was a Fleadh Club each night which among the many items included Seisiúin groups from Tralee, Ennis, Kilkenny agus an Cheathrú Rua. On Sunday afternoon, there was a parade and Aeríocht which defied the weather and brought the music on the streets.

## IRISH MASS

Bhí Aifreann i nGaeilge maidin Dé Dómhnaigh. This Irish Mass was prepared by Rev. Fr. Glynn C.C. and also by Mr. and Mrs. Long. A choir of young people all from Gort sang at the Mass — their long hours of preparation were much in evidence as the singing of the O Riada Mass was beautiful. The highlight of the week-end was the All-Ireland Finals of Ceol an Gheimhridh and there was satisfaction all round at the high percentage of provincial qualifiers who turned up. The venues for the various events were the Classic Ballroom, Our Lady's College, Sullivans Hotel and Glynn's Hotel.

Since the foundation twenty-nine years ago, Comhaltas has clung tediously to its original aims in a period of great cultural and social change. The officials were very pleased with the great effort and hard work by the Fleadh Committee and the other people who contributed to the Fleadh.

# CHOIR PRACTICE

Noreen Corcoran

Passing St. Colmans Church on a Friday night, you might be surprised to hear heavenly voices penetrating the night air, but, a trip inside would do you no harm at all. Here, at eight o'clock every Friday night an average of thirty people meet. The basic aim is to pick and practice hymns for Sundays Mass.

On and off, as far back as I can remember there has been a choir in Gort. Older people will tell you about the beautiful choirs Gort has had down through the years. They will tell you of a time when Gort had one of the best choirs in the West, but, they will also tell you that it was a combined effort. The choir wasn't just left to one section of the community, it was a joint effort with all the clubs in the town involved. The barriers were broken between the different age groups and backgrounds. The people of

Gort were united in one aim — perfection of the choir and it certainly paid off.

## ANTHONY BRENNAN

For a while the choir died, but, rose again under the direction of the nuns. A few years ago it was revived again. At that time, Gort Youth Club took as one of its activities, singing, we then decided to devote our time to learning hymns under the guidance of Anthony Brennan. When it was felt we were ready, we began to sing at eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday. Though the choir has changed its appearance slightly, the basic format is still the same.

At the moment, four different sheets have been printed. Each one contains all the hymns for that days Mass. The same sheet is used on three consecutive Sundays so as to let the people become familiar with

the hymns. To date, this hasn't been too successful. People don't seem to realise that the choir is only supposed to act as a nucleus, a powerpoint, a foundation to be built on.

It is hoped that more people will join the choir. Anyone wishing to join just has to attend the practice in St. Colmans Church at eight o'clock each Friday night and be at eleven o'clock Mass each Sunday and Holy Day. The choir is under the direction of Fr. Enda Glynn, assisted by the Liturgy Choir Group. Surely in a town the size of Gort, with a population of over a thousand people there are more than 30 willing to be part of one of the most self-satisfying organisations. As Shakespeare said, "Music hath a far more pleasing sound when shared", and he certainly had the right idea.



Some members of the Choir:  
Front row from left: Fiona Hickey, Joan Hallinan, Jacqueline Fahy, Pamela Jordan, Sheila Cunningham, Deirdre Reddy, Cora Fahy and Geraldine Moloney.  
Middle row: Anna Kelly, Bernadette Moloney, Sharon Morrison, Louise O'Connor, Noreen Corcoran, Ingrid McGrath, Mary Reddy, Brid Fallon and Maureen O'Connor.  
Back row: Eva Martyn, Susan Joyce, Jennifer Duffy, Avril Duffy, Noreen O'Regan, Deirdre Connolly and Carolin McGann.  
Choir Organist Mary Moloney.

# JEWISH LIFE

Elizabeth Joyce

Catholic Ireland with its religious tolerance generally appears to know little about other sects which exist in this country. This article is intended to inform you more about the Jewish sect – a religion older than Christianity itself but more than this, it is not only a religion or a creed, it is a whole culture, a race, a people truly set apart.

There are only two notable Jewish communities in Ireland which are in Dublin and Limerick. Thus most of us will never get to know a Jew! When one thinks of Jews, three things come to mind. They are rich, mean and have peculiarly big noses! Surprisingly this is quite an accurate description!

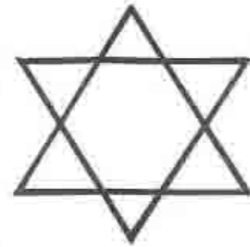
As they are clever and resourceful they are a very successful race. We would consider them rather stingy perhaps because we are not as concerned as they are about being financially independent. Jews have an inbred quality for economising which helps them to accumulate great wealth and also prevents them from spending much of it. Some people claim they can identify a Jew by merely looking at his nose and this is quite often true.



### TRADITIONS OF EATING

All the rules and regulations which were made over 2,000 years ago for Jews still exist today.

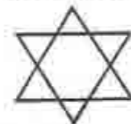
Jews cannot eat any poultry, pig-foods or indeed camels since these animals do not have hooves nor chew the cud! Only fish with scales and fins are allowed thus excluding eels and shellfish.



*"I will take you as my own people and you shall have Me as your God"*

(Exodus Ch.6 :7)

The eating of meat of animals that died naturally or were injured before death is forbidden. There is a special method of slaughter which causes the minimum of pain to the animal and allows the maximum of blood to escape. A special slaughterer is trained and qualified to do this. Afterwards, certain forbidden fats are removed. This all means that Jews have to go to a special butcher called a kosher butcher to buy their meat. The meat is dearer than at ordinary butchers. The housewife has to soak the meat before cooking to drain away still more blood!



In the Old Testament there is a quotation, "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk." Therefore the mixing of meat and milk products is absolutely prohibited. They may not be cooked or eaten together. In a Jewish house, separate cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery have to be kept for these two foods.

### RESPECT FOR SABBATH

On the Sabbath, Jews must not carry out business, handle money or tools, walk on grass, use electrical and gas appliances or carry anything – not even a mere

handkerchief! The women and children are separated from the menfolk in the synagogue. Women must dress femininely, definitely not in jeans and must wear something on their heads such as a scarf. Men must wear little caps. Women are felt to be inferior to men and there is no role for them in the religious ceremonies.

We may laugh at these restrictions but we must remember how long they have been in existence for. After all things were very different 2000 years ago. For this reason some Jews who consider these rules too harsh for modern society have formed their own brand of Judaism known as Liberal Judaism. However, most Jews remain Orthodox though not necessarily obeying these restrictions.



### BARMITZVAH

The highlight of a Jewish boy's life is the celebration of his barmitzvah. A barmitzvah requires great spiritual preparation by the boy (who is usually 13 years of age) and it celebrates the beginning of his manhood. After the ceremony there are great celebrations like at

our weddings. Liberal Jews have a batmitzvah for girls but Orthodox Jews still do not recognize that girls should have a similar celebration.

In the Jewish calendar there are many festivals which are very colourful. There are also many holydays, the most important being Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. It is a day of prayer and fasting. Afterwards the Jews go to a park and throw bread into a lake which signifies the throwing away of their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Judaism is much more than just religion. They are a private people who bring their way of life with them everywhere they go. They never really integrate fully into society. Jews consider themselves first and foremost as Jews and then as citizens of the countries in which they live. The only country in which their true roots lie is Israel.

The fact that Jews are clever, wealthy, successful and are an independent minority has led them to being persecuted many times down through the years. The most notable persecution was the persecution by Adolf Hitler when six million Jews were cruelly

slaughtered. To this day Jews have not forgotten this Holocaust. In fact, some Jews commemorate what they call Crystal night when the Nazis began their campaign of persecuting them.

The Jews deserve our every praise and admiration for they have remained as loyal as their forefathers to their faith and have always stood by their principles even in times of persecution.

### ST. COLMAN (Feast 29 Oct.)

Dear Saint Colman we implore  
Your blessing and your aid,  
Before the Lord Almighty's  
Throne  
Our prayers by you be laid.  
Our hearts go out to you today  
Our own dear Patron Saint  
Be with us all the days to be  
When we are ill and faint.

Your hold, pious, upright life  
In this the Vale of Tears,  
Be it for us, a guiding light,  
To lead us through the years.  
Until we reach our Home above  
Now free from earthly ties  
Where we'll enjoy eternal bliss  
With you above the skies.  
"Corker"

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Puncture repairs welcome

Congratulations to the Galway hurlers for their All Ireland success.

## A TRIBUTE TO "SONNY"

When "professional politicians" and much vaunted academics will be forgotten, John "Sonny" Mullins will be remembered as the dynamic perfectionist in the structural and traditional field – a big man physically – with an equally big heart – whose benifience was countless – from his help to exiles at Tavastock Crescent in Londons Camden Town to the many bereaved who still hold debt to his "funeral generosity".

"Sonny" was a dynamic perfectionist – a great friend to one in need.

As a builder, he had the brilliance – the envy of great architects – and his flawless wormanship is still visible today. One grand example is Mr. Gerry Heenans (ex N.T.) White House at Chuch Street, Gort, built in 1936.

Said David Flaherty, who recently painted and papered the house – the papering needed no trimming, so perfect was the plaster work. No doubt he was assisted by the great paster worker – his brother in law, Pete Sheehan.

Peter Sheehan, like Mick O'Loughlin of Kilbeacanty were Masters of the Throwel. I, myself am happily a man of many diverse occupations – ex-editor, house painter and paper hanger, photographer and furniture dealer – but the two greatest craftsmen in my diverse career, were Mick O'Loughlin and Pete Sheehan. I embellished "Sonny's" pub with my inadequate brush and like the "Southern Star", Sonny kept his eye on me and I on him, and emerged life long friends.

### FOUR BALLROOMS

"Sonny" in 1949 erected from a



*Sonny Mullins with his well loved fiddle accompanied by Patrick Nestor on the Tin Whistle at his pub "Keane's Corner, George's St.*

boggy foundation one of Ireland's best designed ballrooms – The Classic today, then the Gort Garage (now occupied by Mr. Michael Cunningham) and later the Kincora Ballroom at Lisdoonvarna; the Moher Inn Ballroom outside Lisdoonvarna and seeking pastures new, the Eagle Ballroom at Merlin, opposite the Merlin Hospital – despite long litigation by high powered vested interests – he obtained a dance hall licence.

It failed, due to no fault of Sonny's and was perfectly designed – later passing into the ownership of Mr. Coen and eventually to "Galway Crystal" factory, now redundant.

But Sonny was a man of ability and most unusual gifts – if only ... I still think that of myself – but like the late great Sonny, have not great regrets.

### TRADITIONAL MUSIC

"Sonny" was a builder of excellent talent. The semi-detached house, two doors from the Classic Ballroom was my own home for 5 years. I purchased it from "Sonny"

for £950 and later sold to the Forestry Department for £1,050 and is now occupied by the Cox family.

The attached house occupied by Mr. Colin Diviney was of late sold for £12,000. Such goes inflation! "Bowsie" Fogarty, the tailors house beside me at Church Street, Gort was over two years on offer by Mr. McInerney, the Auctioneer – eventually knocked down at £240 to Mr. Michael Roche of the garage opposite.

I would love to have bought it, with its open fire and small garden, but that was 1969, when I had to patch the tyre on my decrepit bike to save buying a new tyre for 70p. Later, too late, I inherited an American legacy – £4,000 (the equivalent of £40,000 to day).

I demolished the lean-to shed where I lived happily and now am straddled by a 4 bed sitter dwelling which I hate each day more and more. If only the "legacy" never

came, I'd be happier in my lean-to shed – which recalls my cherished friends transfer – Paddy Nolan, the cobbler, was transferred by the well inspired "do-gooders" – the Social Service Corps – to a lovlrier house across Crowe Street ... and of all things beside "Auntie May".

Paddy never experienced a days happiness in his "Social Uplift". We sipped pints 365 nights each year together, but he always regretted the "big turf fire" in his workshop – for in his new found "grandeur", he plied his trade in more unhappy surroundings – away from the wholesome fire at his back.

### A LOVER OF MUSIC

To revert to "Sonny" he purchased Keane's Corner Pub in 1968 at Georges Street, Gort and with the aid of "dedicated artists" – Jack Mullins – Michael O'Regan (the carving genius); Christy Minogue – the insatiable thirst quencher, Patrick Nestor and myself, the constant pint drinker (behind Sonny's back) we transformed the old fashioned pub – counter on the road-side to counter of on the left side and produced mid sweat and porter to the mecca of traditional musicians.

"Sonny" did more for traditional music in South Galway than any other single person. Keane's corner became the Mecca for traditionalists – resident or journeymen.

Joe Cooley was a regular honoured guest at Keane's Corner (now Luke Kelly's) – not the Dubliner's Luke.

To be a lover of Irish music and balladry was your sure passport to "Sonny's" generosity.

When he sold out Keane's Corner he retired to his loved Lisdoonvarna and passed away last July, but the quiet charisma and broad smile will live on – and rightly so.

W.M. Quinn, Gort.

## GUAIRE ART GROUP

*Kitty North*

During August the Guaire Art Group mounted the first Exhibition of Students' Art to be held in the town. This we were able to do with the kind permission of Mr. T. Shaskey, County Librarian and much appreciated help of Mrs. Brennan.

The pictures were hung on specially designed screens beautifully made by Dick Burke, the cost of which is being covered by contributions from members of the Group. The pictures were created in a variety of styles and mechnics, including charcoal, oils and graphic design.

The Exhibition attracted a great deal of interest, everyone who saw it seemed amazed at the amount of latent talent in the town and several of the exhibits are now brightening various homes in Gort.

### ART WEEK

Also from 1st – 6th September this enthusiastic Group had a wonderfully instructive week attending an "Oil Painting Workshop" under the skillful guidance of Anne Tallentire, late of the "Irish School of Landscape Painting". The Group is greatly indebted to the Sisters of Mercy who so kindly put their art room at our disposal and who supported our efforts in every possible way, not



*Mrs. Kitty North.*

forgetting the huge bag of rags with which Sr. Celsus staggered into the room, closely followed by Srs. Angela, Noreen, John, Paul and Peter their sunny smiles a joy to behold. We greatly missed having Sr. Damian with us but trust that she will be able to join us before too long.

During the week Anne gave three demonstrations, one Still Life in Oils, a Landscape in Acrylics and a beautiful study of Wild Flowers also in Oils. We were all spellbound as these lovely pictures took shape before our eyes, in what appeared to us "next to not time".

This was Anne's first visit to the Burren and she fell completely under its unique spell, especially viewing it with an artists eye she urged as all to take our paints out (weather permitting) and record our canvas the lovely and interesting things that surround us, not forgetting the Wild Flowers. This we hope to do, and next year's Exhibition should bring to the Library pictures of such rare beauty that the good people of Gort will be astounded.



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The new P.R.O. of Gort Drama Group  
Joan Flannery.

### Gort Amateur Dramatic Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Gort Amateur Dramatic Society was held on Tuesday night, 9th September in Sullivan's Hotel.

The attendance was very satisfactory but it was agreed that many more new members would be very welcome to attend. It is intended to hold weekly meetings on Tuesday nights at 9.00 in Sullivan's Hotel.

A new date has been set for the Society's Senior One Act Plays Festival, usually taking place in April each year. This will now take place in November whereas a decision has been deferred as to a date for the Junior Plays and Concert Items.

Officers for 1980-81 are: Chairman - John Finnegan; Secretary - Bernadette O'Callaghan; Treasurer - Tim O'Driscoll; P.R.O. - Joan Flannery.

### All Ireland

Galway's success in the All Ireland Hurling final is chronicled elsewhere in this magazine. The scramble for tickets was hectic this year and many stalwart supporters were forced to watch the game far from the comfort of the stands and

# out and about

from poor vantage points. One Galway supporter who didn't travel until Sunday morning, waiting back for the Co. Minor Semi-Final between Gort and Mullagh on the Saturday night, (what a night to fix a match for?) was asked what kind of ticket he had. His reply was interesting: "I have no ticket. Sure I go to all the matches. I saw Limerick beat them 21 points last October and I saw them play Cork in Páirc Uí Chúiv. 'Tis only those who don't go to matches that get tickets".



\*Congratulations to Bernadette Linnane and Celina Carty on their recent marriages in St. Colman's Church, Gort. Bernadette married Billy Greally and is now living in Claregalway. Celina married Bernard Tonge and has settled in Dublin.

\*Congratulations to Colman Counihan who recently graduated from U.C.C. with a B.D.S. degree. He is son of Mrs. May Counihan, Crowe St., Gort.



\*Pat O'Toole will be missed from Gort by his many friends in St. Colman's Vocational School and throughout all South Galway. He has taken up a new appointment in

Moneenageesha Vocational School, Galway. His wit and personality enlivened many a gathering. As well as being a top class teacher he was an outstanding hurling trainer, coaching Gort Vocational School to All Ireland success in 1978.



The outgoing Secretary of An Taisce, Mrs. Mary Donnellan, pictured at her desk in the Crane where she spent many worthwhile hours in the last two summers.

### Taisce

\*The Annual General Meeting of the Gort Branch of an Taisce was held on September 15th. The new Chairman for the coming season is Michael Cunningham and Mrs. Mary Cahill, Coole, was elected Secretary. Brendan Long was re-elected Treasurer. At the meeting tribute was paid to the outgoing Secretary, Mrs. Mary Donnellan, by Mr. North for her trojan work for an Taisce in Gort.

### Senior Citizens

70 senior citizens from the Gort

region enjoyed a day's outing to Lisdoonvarna on Saturday 20th September. Sr. John and Sr. Celsus from the local Convent of Mercy organised the outing which included a visit to the famed Spa Wells, a beautiful meal hosted by Chris Rush at the Moher Inn and song and dance enjoyed by all. The Tuesday night meetings of the Senior Citizens Club are expected to start soon.

### Forest Walk

140 people enjoyed a walk through Coole Forest on Sunday 14th September. The walk was directed by Jack Farrelly and Joe Lillis and was a great success. The highlights of the walk were the description of the Old Tree (No. 4 in the Nature Trail) which died recently after a 200 year life span; secondly the description of the Lime Kill and thirdly the history of the first wood planted in Coole by the Free State Government in 1929. (Its life cycle of 50 years is at an end and it is now being felled and converted into timbers).

Participants in the walk travelled from Galway and Ennis for the occasion. The group also included some Dublin visitors.

### Community Games

Congratulations to Colin and David Casey on their wonderful achievement in the All Ireland Community Games finals held



Colin and David Casey who won All Ireland medals at the All Ireland Community Games Finals in Mosney in September.

recently in Mosney. Colin won a Silver Medal in the Under 8,80 metres and David won a bronze medal in the Under 10,60 metre hurdles. Both boys qualified for the Finals by winning gold medals in the Galway Community Games finals. David will be eligible to compete in the same grade next year.

Gort had a very successful year's participation in the Community Games. In the Galway finals they won 2 gold, 17 silver and 2 bronze. They were narrowly beaten in the Soccer (Girls) Co. Final and they also qualified for the Camogie Semi-Final in their first year in the competition.

### Get Together

On Friday 5th September representatives of all Galway Youth Clubs including Gort and Kiltartan attended a function at the Westpark Hotel, Portumna. The aim of the meeting was to encourage the members of each youth club to get to know members from other Clubs - to discuss and share ideas. Miss Finola Kirwan from the National Federation of Youth Clubs attended.

### Youth Club

The A.G.M. of Gort Youth Club was held on Friday, September 12th. A welcome visitor was Fr. Michael Carney who came to thank the young people for the excellent manner in which they kept the College Hall throughout the year. This was a positive gesture by Fr. Carney and one that the young people greatly appreciated. Youth Club officers for 1980 are:

Chairperson: Eamon Fennessy.  
Secretary: Noreen Corcoran.  
Treasurer: Ann Gallagher.  
P.R.O.: James Fahy.

College Representative: Christopher Crowley.

Vocational School Rep.: Patrick Flaherty.

Convent Representative: Noreen O'Regan.

\*Kiltartan Youth Club has also elected its officers for the coming year.

Chairperson: John Melville.  
Vice-Chair.: Marie Melville  
Secretary: Irene Gill.  
Treasurer: Brian Murray.  
P.R.O.: Una Burke.

This Club is under the direction of Mrs. Gretta Cafferky and Peadar Burke.



\*Gort was well represented in the Galway Minor and Under 21 Hurling teams this year. Patrick Nealon, Dermot Duffy and Frank

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Shaw were on the minor panel and Pierce Piggott, Gerry Lally and Gerry Linnane were on the Under 21 panel. Both teams were narrowly defeated in the All Ireland Semi-Finals. Next year a Gort player is expected to captain the Co. Under 21 side.

\*Sr. Celsus Fahy has commenced a one year Theology course in Maynooth and she will be missed by her many friends in the Gort area. Two new nuns have been posted to the Convent - Sr. Noirín Concannon and Sr. Raymond Feeney.

### Golf

A successful year for the Ladies section of Gort Golf Club culminated with the Lady Captains Prize won by Mrs. Sadie McInerney with the excellent scores of 65 and 58. Runner up was Mrs. Eithne Bermingham. A very enjoyable social followed. Though few in

number the Ladies are perhaps the most vibrant members of Gort Golf Club.

### Liturgy Group

Gort's main contribution to the concept of Laity Week was the



Mrs. Sadie McInerney accepting the Lady Captain's Prize from Mrs. Marie Fennessy, Lady Captain in Gort G.C.

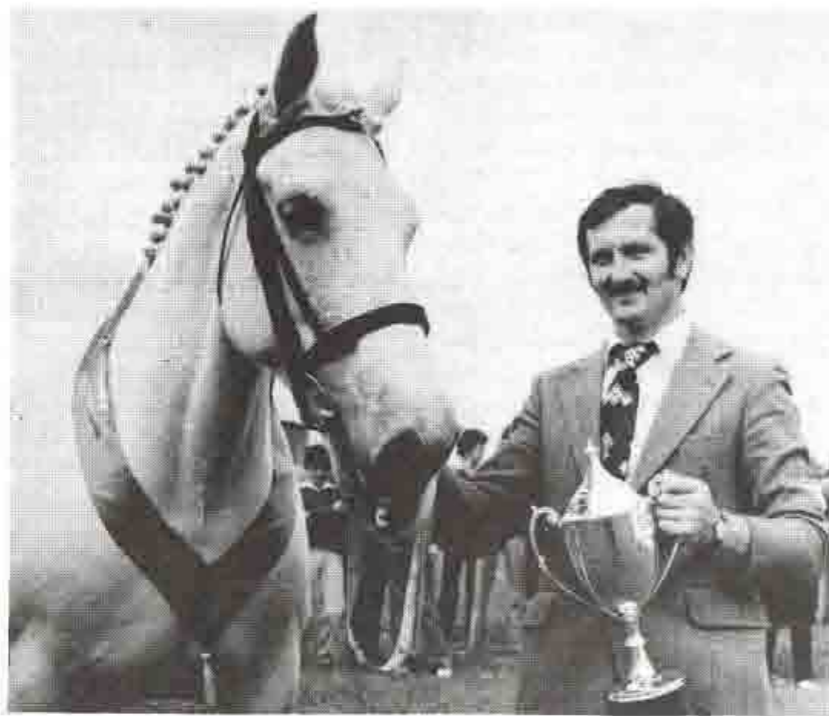
setting up of a Liturgy Action Group for Gort parish. The idea is to get more lay people involved in the day to day life of the Church.

Three small groups have been meeting in an effort to improve the Sunday liturgy: a group for Mass readers, a group to help the Choir and a group to organise the Sunday collections. The response has been moderately encouraging and the effort should improve the quality of the Sunday Liturgy.

Do you want to help? If you do please contact any of the priests or Mrs. Kitty Cunningham (Readers), Mrs. Bridie Long (Choir), or Stephen Fahy (Collectors).

### Gort Soccer Club

Gort Soccer Club came into being on 20th September at a meeting in St. Colman's Hall. All youngsters in the Gort area will be catered for. The main reason for the instigation of this Club is the need to give a competitive atmosphere to youngsters who may not be in a position to participate competitively in other sports found in the town - e.g. hurling, golf, rugby. The Club team is now a member of a Galway League. Team Manager is Mr. Fred Smith and team coach is Niall Finnegan.



Bernard Stanford and Ballybane Grace - success again in 1980.

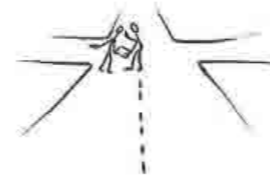
## Youth Week 1980

Joe Roche

Planning for Youth Week started two months beforehand. It was the first such venture taken by Gort Youth Club since it was re-organised in 1978. As it was our first such venture we decided not to overcrowd our programme, confining ourselves to about two activities per day.

### Day 1 - Treasure Hunt

A group of over 30 youth club members gathered in the Square for the Treasure Hunt. The route was down Crowe St. to Kiltartan and the old road to Labane. The puzzles were not too difficult and most competitors made it home to the finishing line in Coole Park without too many anxious moments where they enjoyed some refreshments.



### Day 2 - Soccer

The venue was St. Colman's Park and two competitions were run off simultaneously, one for boys, the other for girls. Fred Smith, the new Manager of Gort F.C. presided and a great day's entertainment was enjoyed by over 40 players.

### Day 3 - Obstacle Race etc.

This was not matched by Moscow '80 for the stretch of the legs. Excitement was high as the names were drawn from a hat, boys against girls in some cases.



### Day 4 - Car Wash

This caused a stir in the town. Teams of four washed all the cars in the town from the top of George's St. down to the Square. Many car owners and onlookers were pleasantly surprised to discover that there were no strings attached - no payment for work was allowed.



Joe Roche the highly efficient Treasurer of Gort Youth Club 1979-80.

### Day 5 - Basketball

The girls here took precedence over the boys. Our Lady's College Courts was the setting and Darina Fahy's team won. What a week for Darina. She was surely the sportsperson of the Week.

It goes almost without saying that a Disco topped off the week.

### Postscript:

A further Treasure Hunt was held in July. Kinvara was the location on this occasion and the puzzles were more difficult. Brendan Long who drew up the Rout is a harder task-maker. This one was most rewarding. The sponsors deserve thanks.

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## COMMUNITY GAMES

### The winning of an All Ireland Medal

*Michael Killeen*

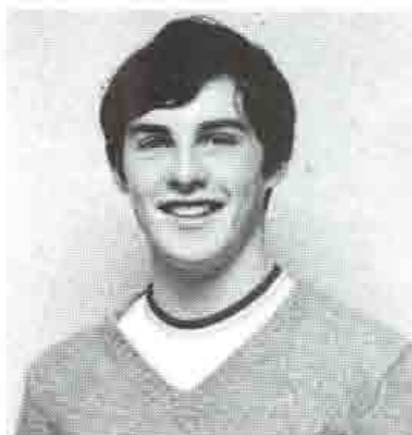
On the 21st July 1980, I, Michael Killeen represented the Shanaglish area in the county finals of the community games held in the greyhound track, College Rd., Galway. I was among fifteen competitors from different areas in the county vying for the honour of representing Galway in the All Ireland finals of the Community Games in Mosney, Co. Meath in September. I was taking part in the u-17 6 miles marathon which was to be run around the immediate area of the greyhound track.

At approximately 3.15 p.m. we lined up for the start of the race. Beforehand, we were paraded in front of the large crowd which had gathered to see the finals. Our course was as follows; one lap of the track, 5 miles on roads nearby and we had one further lap to do before we finished.

#### First taste of success

After a few minutes waiting we were off. The start was pretty slow to what I was used to so I decided to go from the start. I had taken up the lead by the time we departed the track. Once I headed out the gate I knew I had it won and I maintained the lead until the finish. After we had finished some photographs were taken of myself and the runners-up and then we were presented with our medals. It took a while to sink in but I knew I was heading for Mosney and possible success!

Before Mosney certain preparations had to be made such as meetings to be attended, certificates to be handed in, and numerous other formalities before I



*Gold in Mosney - Michael Killeen.*

could represent both Shanaglish and Galway in the marathon.

#### Mosney

At long last the day to depart for Mosney finally arrived. We departed from dear old Gort and made the long journey to Mosney. We left on a Saturday, the day before the race because we had to be there for a preview of the race. That is, to see the course we would have to take during the race. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather we were informed that it had to be cancelled.

Rather unhappy with this situation, my mother and I (it was my mother who accompanied me) commenced looking for accommodation. It wasn't easy but we eventually found some.

The big day arrived at last bright and sunny. We had breakfast, went to Mass and then departed towards our goal that being Butlins where I would be among competitors from all over Ireland seeking to be the one which would carry off the gold medal.

We came together all of us and we were shown the route which we were to take. After that we had time to warm up and exercise and try to calm the nerves. I knew a few of the boys I was to run against and it helped to calm the nerves and not feel too left out.

Then it was announced that John Treacy, Eamonn Coughlan, and Hugh Russel had arrived. This caused a lot of excitement which I need not tell you!

#### The Big Moment

Then the big surprise came for us. None other than the Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey was to be the official starter. After a little bit of protocol we were off and out into the country. The start was much faster than Galway but I still found it a comfortable pace. We got a great cheer as we left the track. The course we had to take was on the same sort of basis as Galway so I knew what it would be like. The odd thing about it was that after a while I could not complain about the pace as it was so fast and anyhow I was the one that was setting it!

Nevertheless I felt good and I knew I was capable of winning it. The further we went the longer the gap between myself and the following group grew. But I must admit it was none too soon when I entered the track again but the rousing cheer I received bolstered me and I crossed the line a comfortable winner.

I was delighted by the way people reacted to my victory and it felt good to have achieved what I

had. It was the proudest moment of my life and all the training and hard work had been worth it.

#### Interviewed for T.V.

Another surprise was in store for me however! I was to be interviewed on television for a T.V.

series called "Anything Goes" which is to be shown soon. It was a big thrill for me and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

When the interview was over we were presented with our medals. It was a great feeling to have done so well and I feel it was the greatest

achievement I had yet. There was a great welcome for me when I arrived home. I was delighted that I had fulfilled my own and everyone else's hopes. One thing is for sure, there is nothing better than being successful when you really want to be.

## Shanaglish A.C.

*Michael Killeen*

#### Proud Tradition

The parish of Shanaglish just outside Gort has always been noted as a stronghold of athletics. The club was founded in 1944 and it has gone from strength to strength since. It was the Egan family with such men as Lal Forde and John Mahon (R.I.P.) who first made the name of Shanaglish famous throughout the country. The Shanaglish sports is also very well known throughout the country and the day of the sports is always looked forward to by many.

Today the tradition is carried on by a new generation of athletes. And without any stretch of the imagination they have done the club proud. In the past months the club has won a record amount of titles and almost every member of the club has at least one All-Ireland medal apiece which in itself is a notable achievement.

The members of Shanaglish A.C. are as follows: Ignatius Landers, Oliver Landers, Tony Walsh, Kieran Monaghan, Martin Killeen, Frank Rock, Michael Killeen, Gerard Keating. There are also many juveniles in the club also.

It is with great dedication and training that these people have made the club as well known as it is. Many days and nights have been spent by the members training for competitions which they as individuals or as a team were going to compete in. Many times they had to train under very adverse



*A promising group of Athletes from Shanaglish A.C.*

*Front row from left: Ignatius Landers, Tony Walsh, Michael Killeen and Gerry Forde.*

*Back row: Oliver Landers, Gearoid Keating and Kieran Monahan.*

conditions but nevertheless they persevered and in doing so obtained more honours for the club.

Some of these athletes were further honoured by representing their country in various international races both at home and abroad. One of them made history by being one of the youngest, if not the youngest athlete of all, to represent Ireland at senior level at the age of sixteen! He made further history by being the first Shanaglish athlete to represent his country.

The first All-Ireland championship medal was also won during this period. Happily it was

the first of many! Every day there was something new happening concerning the club. New victories, publicity, etc. The name of the club was appearing regularly in the newspapers. The country was reading of the clubs exploits and everyone was now aware of where, once again, Shanaglish was!

#### Unity and Team Spirit

But it was not just a one man or two-man achievement. The club worked together as a team. They ran in competition together, they trained together, discussed tactics, and so on. Their secret to success was in the way they worked together like a sort of 'family'. In this way they worked very well as a team and individually they ran better because they had each others support.

#### Polish Coach comes to Sean Eaglais

The club had been very lucky. The club has now a long list of success to its credit and the name of Shanaglish commands great respect wherever it is mentioned or where the club takes part in competition.

Though dedicated club members we have had the good fortune of having the services of one of the worlds greatest coaches when he came to Shanaglish for one week in August. It was a great honour for the club when Mr. Spignilf Orywal of Poland put at our disposal his services. It was such a great honour

for us because he was the man who trained the great steeple chaser Malenowski who won a gold medal in the steeple chase at the Moscow Olympics this year.

Through his guidance we have improved even more and through his coaching we are more improved and will undoubtedly obtain more honours for the club thanks to his experience. As you can see the Shanaglish Athletic Club has had many success during the year. Thanks to dedication and training this has been possible. But dedication and training were not the only ingredients of success. A great deal of credit must go too to these who have coached as, provided transport, looked after our welfare, and stuck with us in the unpleasant as well as the pleasant times.

#### Thank You

A sincere thanks goes also to those who showed interest and support in the affairs of the club. Our thanks go to the people of Gort and Shanaglish for the interest they have shown.

Thanks goes also to the Gort R.F.C. and G.A.A. club who have kindly put their facilities at our disposal. Without these facilities our training would have been much more difficult. The members of the club are deeply indebted. Once again many thanks!

During the year the pupils of Kiltartan National School gave financial assistance to some medical students who were going to work in hospitals in Nigeria. The following is a letter which the students recently wrote to the Kiltartan pupils. It was nice that they hadn't forgotten them.

Adoka,  
Sept. 9th

Dear Pupils,

Last March, the 15th, a group of medical students were pushing a bed from Galway to Limerick, in an effort to raise money to go to third world countries this summer, to do voluntary work, and get medical experience. You gave us a can of money as we passed. Thanks.

Now two of us are in Nigeria, working in two small bush hospitals, run by the mission nuns, Holy Rosary Sisters. Given the facilities available they do a fantastic job, for the people here. The people in this area are of the Idoma tribe. Most of them are poor farmers, who produce just enough for themselves, with a little left over to sell in the local markets.

The amount of sickness here is staggering, most of it brought about by malaria, and lack of good food. Especially now as it is the wet or as the people call it, the "hungry season". Any medical help, is appreciated out here, but more important education is needed, as prevention is better than cure. There are many Irish people out here working in mission hospitals and schools. The children here went back to school yesterday, though many did not make it because of the rains. No doubt you will say, "aren't they lucky". But no, they will travel huge distances on foot, to get to school as they really want education.

Well thats all. Thanks again for helping us and giving us a chance to come out here.

Umah,  
Yours sincerely,  
Kieran McHugh  
Michael Helly, 4th Med. U.C.G.  
Umah = Idoma for thank you.

P.S. I hope Galway won the All Ireland on Sunday.

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Back row from left: Mrs. Chris Shaughnessy, Mrs. Cahill (Mrs. Finnegan), Mary Cusack, Lilly Spelman, Josie Hoarty.  
2nd row: Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Bridie Hickey, Annie Roche, Kathleen Lally, Lucy Lambert, Mrs. Birdie McGovern, Georgie Daly.  
Front row: Mrs. Nina Mitchel, Nora Moylan, Mary Roche, Eileen Lally, Maura Barry, Renee Shaughnessy, Lilly Gibbs

#### RESULT OF AUTUMN DRAW TO BOYS SCHOOL

1st Prize: £50 — P. Ó Conaire, Coole.  
2nd Prize: £30 — Paul Roche, Church St.  
3rd Prize: £20 — Mary Barrett, Lisatunna, Ardahan

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Mr. Harry Lydon presenting the Galway Crystal vase to Mrs. Luke Kelly, Gort, whose husband's dog "Góirtin Max" won the Lydon Puppy Stake, at Galway Greyhound Track. With them in the picture (from left): Mr. Luke Kelly, owner of the winner; Master Luke Kelly and John Ward, Bord na gCon.

# PADDY HEHIR reflects on LADY GREGORY & Coole House

In this interview with Peadar Ó Conaire



Paddy Hehir today in his beloved Coole.

**What age were you, Paddy, when you first started working for Lady Gregory?**

I was eighteen years old. My brother used to work there, and when he died I got his job. That's well over fifty years ago now.

**What sort of work did you normally have to do?**

The first job every morning was to milk the cows. They used to be kept in the fields behind the house (since planted). If the weather was cold I'd have to put down fires, which was no easy task because there was a fireplace in most of the rooms of the big house. Fire-wood had to be drawn regularly. Drawing water was another big job – I'd be a hell of a long time driving the horse round and round, till a maid would ring a bell up at the house to let me know the tank was full. A water pump was installed in latter

years. There was no spring water anywhere near the big house. Often I brought a can of drinking water down with me in the morning. Cleaning the chimneys was my job too. Every Sunday I had to bring the maids to Kiltartan church in the side-car. Once a week (usually on Fridays) Lady Gregory would send me to Gort for messages. She used to deal in three shops, mainly Gerard Keane's, Bartley Finnegan's and Paddy Lally's.

**You mentioned cows earlier, Paddy. Did Lady Gregory keep any other farm animals?**

Yes, she was a bit of a farmer in her own way! She always kept sheep, donkeys and horses. She had a great horse called "Sarsfield". She had a lot of land – five acres in the front lawn alone, man! We used to save over 20 acres of hay down by the river. She had forty acres of land

beyond the river in Lisheeneranagh. It was later divided between the people of Cranagh.

Lady Gregory knew a lot about vegetables. I used to plant different types in the orchards for her. She used to instruct me in the right methods of planting them. She always tended to the flowers herself. She was a keen gardner.



**I always heard she was very nice to children. Is that true?**

Definitely! She used to bring two bags of apples down to Kiltartan

school every autumn for the pupils.

She used to buy huge barm bracks (the size of half the table) in Gillane's bakery and give a good thick slice to any child who might come to the house.

At Christmas she'd have a Christmas tree in the barn for the children. The tree would be full of 'di-di's' and she'd give gifts to all the children. If a child sang a song in Irish he got a half crown. That was big money in a child's hand in those days!

**Tell me about the people who used to call to Coole house.**

She kept an open house. Everyone was welcome, the pauper as well as the gentleman. I remember Jack Yeats very well. Many's the time I polished his boots and brought him to Gort in the side car. He'd stand to you too – a real gentleman he was! W.B. Yeats was quiet and never bothered with anyone.

The not so famous called there too – people like Mike Power, the basket maker from Crowe Lane, Pádraig Niland, the story-teller, and

old Curley the piper.

I remember a beater carrying one of Mike Power's baskets full of pheasant on the day of a big shoot. Lady Gregory never bothered to go shooting, but Miss Ann was 'a good shot'. We'd all have a big meal of pheasant, woodcock and bottled stout the day after the shoot. I remember the white terriers and gun dogs very well. Lady Gregory erected headstones for her favourite dogs – not where the head-stones are now, but in a circle under an old oak tree (the trunk is still there to be seen in the picnic park).

**Did the gentry do any fishing?**

Very little, but Coole lake and river became famous for eels in the 40's. Mattie Summerville from Clonbur sent eels from Coole to foreign countries. I remember Martin, my brother, bringing crates of them to Gort Railway Station in 1946-'47. Back in Gregory's time the Murphy's of Cranagh used to catch eels in Coole. One of those Murphy's made the stone seat (Mattie's father in Roxborough).

**Do you remember Lady Gregory's funeral?**

Why wouldn't I? Wasn't I carrying the coffin! It was the way she wanted it – those who worked for her, Lawrence Dooley, Peter Glynn, John Diviney and myself had to carry her coffin. I am the only survivor of the four.

**The house was knocked sometime afterwards.**

Yes. It was sad to see it go, but things were different in the country in those days. It would be a great attraction in Coole now. Three life size statues remained in the house for some years after the rest of Lady Gregory's effects were removed by her relatives. I used to mind them on Sundays for fear they'd be damaged. The whole house was pulled down eventually, and the stones used to build garden walls, sheds and so on. Indeed, some of the stones from Coole House can be seen in the old walls behind Brennan's house in the avenue.

A sad end to the great big house of Coole.

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## The Turkey Plucking Competition

The birds they were purchased in  
Dublins fair town,  
It was Colins the Mayor, that carted  
them down,  
They were stacked in the Lounge,  
in bundles of ten  
O wait for the pluckers at the Gort  
Local Inn.

The pluckers appeared and sat on  
the stools  
Then Pat in his glory he read out  
the rules  
Saying when I say go, and not until  
then  
will the plucking commence at the  
Gort Local Inn.

And if now by chance you should  
injure the skin  
you must stitch them together, and  
make new again,  
Dr. Joyce will be present, to  
witness your skill  
and his word is final at the Gort  
Local Inn.

The sound of the gong, got the  
match on its way  
and you never saw feathers fly high  
as that day.  
Three cocks for Flaherty and Leahy  
three hens  
The betting was mighty at the Gort  
Local Inn.

Matt O' Dowd kept his head and  
plucked away fast,



Sean Leahy.

*On the 23rd of December the annual turkey plucking competition was held at the Local Inn, entrants were from all over, but as you can see by the below, that Gort won the day.*

He won't come in first, but he  
won't be the last,  
with strokes like a painter he filled  
up his bin  
Half time now said Pat at the Gort  
Local Inn.

Then a shout from the crowd put a  
halt to the match  
Micky Roach had ripped one and  
stuck on a patch,  
It has to be stitches said the bold  
Willy Quinn  
They disqualified Micky at the Gort  
Local Inn.

Joe Clancy played tunes, and Vinny  
sang low  
but the feathers got caught in the  
fiddlers bow

Hand me my resin and I'll clean it  
again  
And I'll play through the contest at  
the Gort Local Inn.

Paul Keighrey got mad he was  
down in his luck  
he had practiced on chickens and  
an old mallard duck  
His thumb rose a blister, what a  
terrible sin  
He sure lost his chances at the Gort  
Local Inn.

One hour and a half, and the match  
still went on  
the crowds they had gathered and  
started a song  
Full time said Pat Burke now lay  
down your hens  
We will soon know the winner at  
the Gort Local Inn.

O Dowd he had six and Flaherty  
eight,  
Leahy had nine, and taught he was  
great  
Then Fiona appeared she had  
managed the ten  
She had won by a bird at the Gort  
Local Inn.

The feathers were gathered and the  
party began  
there was dancing and playing  
everyone sang  
But I am in training this year again  
for the plucking competition at the  
Gort Local Inn.

## GORT COOLE & DISTRICT ANGLERS CLUB

In conjunction with the Gort Festival, the club ran a coarse fishing competition in the Gort River. On the morning of the competition the river was in flood which is not very suitable for spinning, but despite this setback three of the clubs stalwarts brought in a good catch to take the following prizes. 1st: Patrick Griffin, 2nd: Jack Williams and 3rd: Seamus Moloney. After the competition the prizes were presented to the winners. The juniors in this particular competition failed to register but their credit continued to fish to the last minute despite being handicapped in difficult fishing waters.

On the 31st of August, the club ran its first big competition in Coole. There was an open and closed competition and also a special class competition for juniors. Over 40 anglers took part and again conditions were difficult as the lake was very high. Prize winners in this competition were as follows: Senior Open Competition: 1st prize - Thomas Minogue, 2nd Prize - John Cusack, 3rd Prize - Michael Quinn, Labane.

Junior Competition: 1st Prize - Ken Carr, 2nd Prize - Billy Glynn and 3rd Prize - D. Munroe, Oranmore.

The prizes were presented to the winners in the car park after the competition which was also enjoyed by the many visitors to Coole on the day of the competition. The club sponsored a special draw after the competition which was won by a prominent club member, Cyril Piggott.

The club chairman, T. Minogue, thanked the many business people



Some Gort fishing enthusiasts:

From left: Jack Williams, John Cusack, Tommy Minogue, Patsy Cusack, Shane Minogue, Tim O'Driscoll and Vincent Moloney.

who had presented prizes to the club, and subsequently thanked them again in the Gort notes of the Connacht Tribune. Inadvertently one of the donors was omitted from this list and the club now wish to thank Pearse Piggott and Sean Duffy for their presentation of two very beautiful Cups.

The following members have done trojan work in assuring that our local rivers are well stocked with trout and have annually given their time to clean the river, Vincent Moloney, Jack Williams and Dermot Kerans. These members are presently negotiating a stock of one thousand fingerling trout for release in the Gort river.

Thousands of people annually on their way through Gort stop and observe the beautiful river and its surrounds as it winds its way through the town, however, they are often confronted with the sight of broken bottles, cans, old buckets and occasionally dead cats. All these can be viewed from the bridge and I would appeal to people to desist from such habits.

The club membership is now over 70 and membership is open to all who wish to join.

The club have been invited to compete in a novel coarse fishing competition for turkeys which will take place sometime in December. Details of same will be circulated when available.

Further competitions will be run off as soon as the water level drops. However, it may be decided to run a competition in some other nearby lake or river.

I would again appeal to anglers to return the small species of coarse fish to lakes and rivers. We are indeed grateful to participants in our competitions who have observed our rules and returned the smaller species to Coole Lake. There are no unlimited stocks of coarse fish in Coole as most of our members and visitors fish in this lake, hence this appeal to return as many fish as possible.

The club wish to express a vote of thanks to Fr. Enda Glynn for the very kind amount of space allotted to us in the Guaire magazine.

For top quality meat call to

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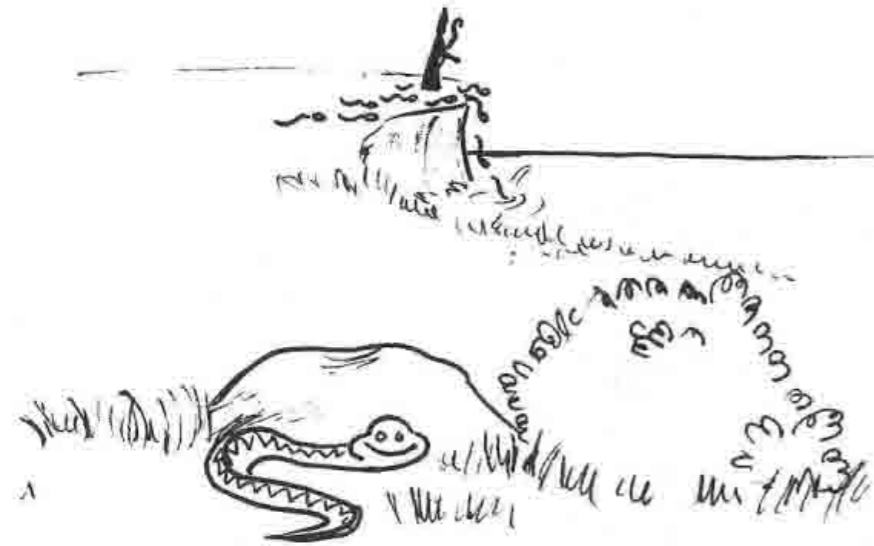
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also The Vogue, George's St.



## Snake Seen in Roo

Michael Quinn at Roo got up one morning last August and as he opened his front door he spotted an unusual object on the ground. He bent down to give it a closer examination. It looked to be a

snake, grey in colour and rather short for a snake.

Because a snake was a very unusual thing to find, especially in Ireland, he decided to contact the zoology department in University



Michael Cooley

College Galway. He put it into a container of water, while they sent a man from Galway to examine it and to bring it in to do some tests on it.

The snake was 9" long and light grey in colour. They said it was perfectly harmless and they called it the Silver Snake.

They said it was very unlikely a native of Ireland and it was probably shipped into the country in a crate or a box of some sort.

They also asked if anyone should spot anything similar in the area to contact the department immediately.

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## The Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of "The South Galway Star"

Now I am at last converted to the theory of re-incarnation, as "Phoenix Like" the "Star" has found "re-birth" from the once mortal ashes of a "prodigal babe" — prematurely entombed in an "accepted" "forgotten limbo".

I was never enthralled by its "brilliance" or depressed by its "short-comings".

I was but the unwitting central character in a once crowded stage — when adulation and derision was the diverse lot of my insatiable enthusiasm.

But, if this re-birth should afford some small measure of interest and joy — therein lies my belated fulfilment.

Do I regret or enthuse?

My thoughts are a mixed metaphor!

I recall 1972 when we organised a presentation to mark "The Golden Jubilee" of my most cherished and lovable friends arrival in Gort — Paddy Nolan, the cobbler — whose services are now greatly missed ... too late alas.

For "Social" or thoughtless reasons, the presentation proved purile.

My doggerel in the appeal cards then, I still recall:

*Posthumous praise is useless;  
It's the help we give today —  
No use when you're in Heaven,  
To hear the ould wans pray.*

The spoken word can pierce, depress, elevate or pass on, but the written line is an everlasting memorial that may influence, for good or evil, generations yet unborn.

Go néirí an bóthar libh go léir.  
W. M. Quinn.



W.M. Quinn with a re-print of his first every "Galway Star" — dated March 4th 1950. Amazed? Unimpressed? Sad? Happy? Who can say!

### POETRY READING IN GORT 1980

Our poetry contest of the year 1980,

Will go down in the annals  
As not bein' too greatly  
In favour of those who love the Muse —

But of rollicking revellers  
Who more love the booze.  
For I am a poet of literary fame —  
Yet never one glass did I tilt to my name.

I write poetry surpassing the famed  
William Butler  
Or Scottish Bob Burns,

Or Behan, the curser.  
Yet still it is great  
To overcome ramparts  
And find solace tonight.  
In the kindly Tom Lamberts.  
For our generous host Tommy  
Is willing to fill —  
Be you dosser or wealthy  
Right up to the brim.  
I'm not grouching at all.  
'Cause no prizes I've won  
But look forward to Tommy's  
I'm a bright '81.

W. M. Quinn

## CALLING ALL POTENTIAL RECORDING STARS

This is a half-sung, half-recited ballad which was inspired by one of the Top Twenty – "The Coward of the County". Maybe it is autographical?

My ballad tells of the fate which was mine, or maybe your own favourite son, now, or in the future? Who knows?

### I'm A Simon Worker Now (sung)

I was born in the lush lands of Meath,

A house so big with rooms,  
I didn't know them all –  
The apple of my mothers eye,  
My dad, a great big tweed clad guy  
Was at my beck 'n call.

Speak  
We had a hunter in the stall,  
To follow the hounds and foxes  
Thrilled by the bugle call  
But that's not all.

Sung:  
To Clongowes College I was sent,  
And then to Trin-a-taw  
The apple of my mothers eye  
For posh great father's pride 'n joy  
I was destined for the Law.

Speak  
But I opted out from Trin a taw  
And became a pavement bum,  
The tinselled tree at Christmas,  
The Yule logs burning bright  
Were now in my sad stupor 'ur  
Just an awful nightmare night.  
I dosed in some derelict building  
And slept in the grime and dirt,  
A hopeless, hateful human  
I didn't have a shirt.  
Yet once I was the favoured boy  
The apple of my mother's eye

My great big Dadda's hope and joy  
Reduced to a wayside bum,  
Just one of life's unwanted scum.

(Chorus) sung:  
Then I didn't give a damn,  
Couldn't care less  
A derelict was me  
Stretched in my mis a ree  
A wayside bum.  
the lowliest sum  
I hadn't got a shirt  
Encased in dirt,  
A sight they didn't want to see.

(Speak)  
But thank God for that Simon  
worker  
I'll never know his name  
Twas only late I knew  
I cursed his great endeavour  
And the soup in his eyes I threw.

(Sung) Chorus  
For I didn't give a damn  
Couldn't care less  
A derelict was ME  
Till he lifted me up  
From the grime and the dirt  
Now, a happier life I see.

(Speak)  
And now I'm a Simon Worker  
Aloof from that awful life  
I work my day and draw my pay  
With a happy loving wife,  
And each night on my rounds I go,

Lifting them up from the grime and  
the dirt  
And help their mis-a-ree.  
For once was I the favoured boy  
Could You end up like ME.

(Chorus) (Sung)  
Then I didn't give a damn,  
Couldn't care less,  
A derelict was ME,  
Till he lifted me up  
From the grime and dirt,  
Now a hopeful life I see.

Speak:  
So give heed to the Good  
Samaritans  
Or the Simon Community  
Who knows in his life  
Of suffering strife  
But you'll be one like ME.

Note: A prize of £20 will be awarded to the best tape recording of "I'm a Simon Worker Now" by a male singer with Guitar accompaniment if possible.

Last date for receipt of tapes – November 10th 1980.

Disco night will be announced later. Post or bring tapes to me: W. M. Quinn, Gort,  
P.S. Tapes will be returned to entrants after the final adjudication, and artists may change rhythm or lyric to suit themselves.

FOR REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ONLY

(e.g. Kettles, Fires)

Contact **Val Wallace,**

Galway Road, Gort.

### BRAVE PATEEN DONOGHUE

He joined the Connacht Rangers,  
For there was little else to do,  
And they posted him to India  
For the British little knew  
For the brave man from Ireland  
They had in Pateen Donoghue.

He was loyal to his officers,  
He did his duty true  
Till a letter came from Ireland  
T'was only then they knew  
That back in dear old Ireland  
The Tans in brutal glee  
Were torturing his countryman  
Said Donoghue – "We'll be Free".

Six thousand miles from Ireland  
Beneath the Indian sun  
He helped to raise the green flag  
And throw down the alien gun

They threw him into prison  
In a far off torrid cell  
And for two years and many days  
His life was worse than hell;  
But he'd pledged his troth with  
Éireann

And the British could not subdue  
The valient spirit, good Pat  
No matter what they'd do.

Chorus:  
All praise to those Connaught  
Rangers  
Far away 'neath the Indian sun,  
Exposed our cause and risked their  
all



Bridgie, sister of Ranger's Mutineer Pat Donoghue, says her beads at the Temporary Wooden Cross erected over his grave at Kilmacduagh Cemetery.

That Ireland's fight would be won,  
But to Pat we paid a tribute  
'Cause he proved so staunch and  
true,  
And his noble breast is now at rest  
At Hallowed Kil- mac- duagh.

Note: A prize of £20 will be awarded to the best tape recording of above ballad – with guitar or banjo plus kettle drum accompaniment if possible. Last date for receipt of tapes – November 10th 1980. Disco Night will be announced later in local papers. Tapes returned.  
W. M. Quinn, Gort, Galway.

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