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Guaire is a community-based magazine and depends on community support and involvement.

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Letters and comments will be greatly appreciated. We thank all our advertisers for their support, without this help Guaire would not exist.

Cover Photo: Sylvie Linnane, All-Star, 1985.

EDITORIAL — 21st ISSUE

Peadar Ó Conaire stepped down as editor of Guaire after the publication of the Christmas '85 issue. In doing so, he brought to an end a period of outstanding service to Guaire, that began with the first issue in October, 1978. Peadar was a joint-editor

of the magazine during the early years and had been sole editor for the past four years.

Peadar gave generously of his time and energy, to ensure that Guaire would continue to appear regularly to the people of Gort and the surrounding parishes. His enormous contribution, both as editor and writer of articles, has largely gone unrecognised. His calm, gentlemanly and friendly chairmanship of Guaire meetings endeared him to all who attended. When prospects for a forthcoming issue of Guaire seemed bleak, and panic was setting in among the editorial board, Peadar would remain cool, and as if by a conjuror's trick, the magazine would be published on time and to its usual high standard.

Peadar decided not to make any direct contribution to this issue of Guaire. However, his advice and encouragement have been of great benefit to the new team. We look forward to Peadar's involvement in, and contribution to Guaire in future issues, and thank him sincerely for his dedicated and unselfish work during the past eight years.

We hope that we have approached the high standard set by Peadar, and that our readers will enjoy this issue of the magazine.

Pius Murray

CONTENTS

Out and About	2-13
Sylvie Linnane	14-15
Kiltartan Old National School	15
Down Memory Lane	16-17
Picture Parade	18-19
The Glynn's of Gort	20
Rallying in Gort	21
Gort I Hardly Knew You	22-23
Gort River	24
Picture Parade	25
Children's Page	26-27
Poetry Page	28
The Vanished Cornerboy	29
Milestone	30
Industry in Gort	31

OUT AND ABOUT

GORT COMMUNITY CENTRE

In the past few weeks, the Complex has really taken off in a big way. The Committee sought and obtained a Manager of high calibre in Mr. Paul O'Halloran. A well-organised and efficient person, Paul has taken to his task very professionally. This is obvious from his classes, and his method of running and organising events.

There are numerous events being run to help you enjoy your leisure time. In Badminton, the Husband and Wife competition went down really well with Michael and Patty Cahill's team emerging victorious over a very game Michael and Maura O'Grady team.

In the final of the snooker competition, Tim O'Driscoll overcame a strong challenge from the ever youthful Christy McNevin, in a close final. The Berry Coen cup is well under way in billiards, at time of writing.

The complex was host to a challenge match in snooker, between Galway and Limerick, in which the home county emerged winners on the final black ball. It is hoped to make this challenge an annual event.

The first ever presentation of prizes went to the winners and runners-up of the Squash Competition—Michael Cahill who overcame Martin (Monty) Kerins in a close senior final and Barry McNevin who overcame Pat Flaherty in the junior final.

The Boxing Club had a very successful season with three local boys taking Connacht titles, namely



Could it be a legal problem for Gort Community Centre? Sgt. Gerry Sheehan and solicitor Colman Sherry work it out watched by John Roche and Patsy Hehir.

Anthony Coppinger, Gerry Donovan and Roger Carey. These boys were on show at a highly successful Boxing Tournament, held in the complex.

A fashion show was also staged at the Centre with models from St. Colman's Vocational School. The proceeds went to the centre, and to those concerned we say thank you!

A Multi-Gym was purchased for those who strive for greater fitness. The local ladies are at present deriving great benefit from their keep fit classes.

It is hoped that the Centre will run a Summer Camp when the school summer holidays commence.

This activity is being arranged to offer your children fun, entertainment, and the opportunity to make new friends.

The Centre is now an integral part of our community, and is there for the good and enjoyment of everyone; so let's use it and make it and our Community a success!!!

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OUT AND ABOUT

GORT AND DISTRICT SHOW SOCIETY

This year's Show will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday, 30th August, 1986. The Show Society, last year had the privilege of organising the very first activity of any type to be held in the Community Centre and despite last year's bad weather there was a very good entry and attendance. With all the work done in the Centre in the meantime, this year's Show promises to be even better.

There will be classes in Home Produce, Garden Produce, Flowers, Handcrafts, Confined Children's and Post Primary Sections, as well as a Dog Show. The Show schedule giving details of Classes, Prizes, Rules and Entry Forms will be available in late July/early August and entries for all Show Classes, except Dogs, close on 23rd August.

The Show Society invites local people and voluntary organisations to put on Displays of Handcraft, Art, Photography, etc. and Trade Stands by local businesses are also welcome by arrangement.

It is hoped to have a number of side attractions and new ideas for Show Day '86. New members are always welcome.

"Show Day is a great day out for all the family".

GORT CAMOGIE CLUB

As Gort Camogie re-awakens from its winter hibernation another challenging year is eagerly anticipated. Following its outstanding successes



Christy McNevin at work at Gort Community Centre.



Séamus Glynn at work on the heating system for Gort Community Centre.

in 1985 the junior team has been promoted to senior ranks—this brings its own problems, but with the guidance of the trainers and selectors, it is hoped to maintain last year's performances. The club has lost some players but the nucleus of last year's team remain with us, and this combined with the new players, who have joined recently, should ensure success.

Let us not forget our underage teams who have not had all the success they deserved. Hopefully, this will be their year!

Officers:

Club President: Peadar Burke
Chairman: Norman Rochford
Secretary: Bernie Linnane
Treasurer: Anne Murray
P.R.O.: Jerry Sheehan
Trainers: Michael Linnane and Jerry Sheehan
Selectors: Michael Linnane, Jerry Sheehan, Frank Connors and Norman Rochford

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OUT AND ABOUT

GORT RUGBY CLUB

At a Meeting last December in Kilroy's Bar, it was decided to organise a trip to one of Ireland's "Away" matches; the venue Twickenham, London, the match England v Ireland. Eventually 12 R.F.C. members decided to travel, all rigged out with free Tennant's Lager bags and expensive club jumpers. When the cars left the Square to take us to Shannon, a memorable week-end, got underway.

The Gort R.F.C. were to play a challenge match in London but due to snow, which left the pitch unplayable, this did not come off. The International match was disappointing from an Irish point of view, as we saw last year's Triple Crown winners being pushed all over the field, and beaten by a superior English pack. This did not kill off the Gort spirit, with some voices being heard singing into the early hours of the morning. Others were just as happy to spend some time admiring the old buildings down in Soho or the bright lights of the West End.

On Sunday morning it was a tired but still singing group that left Heathrow for Shannon and home, some loaded with duty free drink and cigarettes, others with crystal chandeliers! Some lost their tickets and passports, some even forgot to come home, but, when the group did eventually make it back to Gort (just before closing time on Sunday night) they all, I hope, brought memories of a very enjoyable week-end. So up with the glasses and here's to next year.



Gort R.F.C., Connacht Junior Cup winners. Back row (left to right): T. Reilly, S. O'Grady, A. Ford, J. Lally, J. Nolan, R. Joyce, M. Mullins, D. Duffy, L. Fahy. Front row (left to right): G. O'Donnell, B. Kilroy, P. Ryan, J. Kilroy, G. Piggott (Captain), J. Lee, M. Kilroy, S. Carty.

The travelling party was Gabriel Piggott, Seán Mullins, Michael Mullins, Gerry O'Grady, Sean Joyce, Leonard Quigley, Colman Keane, Dermot Duffy, John Melville, Sean O'Grady, Paul Ryan and Michael Slattery.

GORT BOXING CLUB

Gort Boxing Club drew the curtain on the 1985 season with the Club Disco which was held in the magnificent Images Nite-Club, and hosted by John Sullivan. Needless to say the young boxers, and their friends had a ball—thank you John!

At the function, the annual club

awards were presented to the following:

Clubman of the Year: Roger Carey (Senior) for his unstinted efforts on behalf of the club.

Most Improved Boxer: Gerard Donovan—County and Connacht title-holder at 39 kilos.

Trainer's Prize: Young Barry McNevin—the most dedicated member of the club during the year.

Gort Boxing Club members won 7 County Championships, 3 Connacht Championships, and participated successfully in numerous tournaments, during the year.

OUT AND ABOUT



Antoinette Fennessy with the brass knocker from the back door of Lady Gregory's Coole House. (W. M. Quinn)

Lady Gregory's Knocker

Antoinette Fennessy, Church Street, holds the brass knocker which once adorned the back entrance door to Lady Gregory's Coole House.

Antoinette is presently completing a three year teaching contract at Ndima Secondary School in Zimbabwe, Africa.

The following is an extract from a letter she wrote home.

"Just spent the last few hours out in the sun, my hands sweating and even leaving marks on the school papers. Haven't seen Ronan (Cotter) yet, but he has written to me. I'll be seeing him soon at the Teachers Conference.

Greeting people here is a very important part of their culture —

everybody shakes hands when they meet.

Hilary (Marlborough) and I are going to the Honda Valley, which is exotic and then to Lake Kanisha.

I have visited many clothes shops but there is nothing reasonable to be found. I am going to buy a small gas cooker and fridge. It will be great to have a fridge. It will make me the most popular person in Ndima".

John and Kathleen Waters

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OUT AND ABOUT

GORT, COOLE AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB

After a lapse of several years the Gort Coole and District Angling club was revived last year at a meeting in the Credit Union Hall attended by a large number of enthusiastic anglers. All records and accounts of the old club were handed over to the new committee under the chairmanship of Gerry Williams. Many old members were present and gave freely of their experiences of the way the Gort River has been run down over the years. What were once clear healthy waters are now a threat to health of animal and human alike due to needless pollution. Water, where trout once flourished is now infested with pike and smells of methane and ammonia. What was once an amenity is now a threat. The new committee have set themselves the daunting task of rehabilitating the river downstream from the town, as it is here that pollution is rampant. Surveys are being undertaken to establish the extent of the pollution, and to marshal the expertise of all the relevant authorities in order to restore the river to its former healthy state.

The river upstream from the town to Ceann na hAbhann is in good condition and needs only minor upgrading to make it a fisherman's paradise and a valuable local amenity. Recently the club spent over £400 stocking the river with 1,000 yearling brown trout from Roscrea Hatchery. This received wide publicity locally and people were asked to respect this



Prizewinners and friends of Gort and District Anglers Club.

section of the river to give the young trout a chance to settle in. It was with horror and revulsion that the anglers learned that the contents of a septic tank was dumped into the river at a place known locally as "The Island". The river was found to be strewn with toilet paper, with a layer of sludge settled at the bottom acting as a continuous source of pollution and poison for all forms of life including human.

Surely the lowest depths of degradation must be reserved for the culprit. The incident was reported and is being investigated.

The long-term aim of the club is to provide the people of the town and district, and visitors, with a stretch of healthy well-stocked water.

During the past twelve months a number of pike fishing competitions were held, they were well attended and enjoyed by all.

The club is most grateful to owners of land along the river for allowing members to use their property and we assure them in return that every care will be taken to respect their rights and wishes.

OUT AND ABOUT

GORT AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Club Officers, 1986:

Chairperson: Johnny Spelman
Vice-

Chairperson: Heather Smith
Hon. Secretary: Gretta Roche

Hon. Treasurers: Padraic Giblin and Anne Walshe

P.R.O.: Josephine Helly
Consultant: Dick O'Gorman, B.Agr.(Hort.)

The club was very active during the year with good attendances at monthly lectures and demonstrations. The Annual Outing took those interested to Killruddery Estate, Bray, Co. Wicklow, to the Alpine Garden Society of Ireland's 1st Annual Show. A visit to Kiltiernan Country Markets en route, was most informative and the reception given to our members was breathtaking.

There were large entries to the Vegetable and Ornamental Gardening Competitions, and the high standard all round, impressed the judge.

The club held lectures on

Ornamental and Vegetable Gardening, during the year, to cater for everybody's needs. Thanks to all lecturers for their support.

Recently a very worthwhile Flower Arranging Course was held. The course was under the guidance of Phyllis Flanagan, Oranmore.

One could not conclude, without wishing our founder and former chairperson Michael Bermingham and his wife Eithne, well in their retirement in Dún Laoghaire. Michael strove to make the club the success it is!

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Welcome to Fr. Martin Coen, C.C., on his return to his native Gort. Farewell to Fr. Liam Power and best wishes on his appointment as Parish Priest of Kilchreest.

GORT I.C.A.

Gort I.C.A. had a very busy season starting with their win in the County Junior Dancing Championship, which was held in Caherlistrane. Great credit is due to Mrs. Attracta O'Dea, who prepared the team.

Gort I.C.A. staged a one act play, "Goodbye Kate", ably written by Sean Leahy, at the Eleanora Gibbon Competition, which took place in Galway. Gort did not win but their marks did the guild proud. This play, together with a variety concert was staged in the Convent Hall, Gort, to a full house. The whole night's entertainment was comprised of parish talent and was most enjoyable.

A very successful Cake Sale was held on St. Patrick's Day. During February, March and April art classes were held. These were expertly conducted by Mrs. Josephine Ward. The guild, which is one of the oldest in Co. Galway, celebrated its 38th birthday in May.

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OUT AND ABOUT

GORT GOLF CLUB

Gort Golf Club enters its 10th year in its new setting at Loughyshaughnessy, on lands formerly owned by the late Paul Halvey. Last year the Club House was given a major face-lift and is now one of the most beautiful in Ireland. Its position, relative to the course, is ideal, as eight of the nine greens are visible from the lounge.

Gort Golf Club was originally founded in 1924, and is today as vigorous and as thriving as ever it was; this is a major tribute to its members and to the attractiveness of the game itself, when one considers that it is the only voluntary organisation that has survived in the parish for so long.

The club would welcome new members, both male and female. The cost of joining need not be a deterrent. Those who think they could not master the game are welcome to become Pavilion Members. This would entitle them to attend the numerous social occasions held in the Club House during the year, and to come to watch the game being played to a very high standard.

Gort Club Officers 1986:

President: Tomás O'Quigley
Captain: Paddy Grealish
Vice-Captain: John Forde
Secretary: P. J. Brennan
Treasurer: Pat Craddock
P.R.O.: Paddy Maloney

Ladies Section:
Captain: Frances Spelman



Lady Captain Frances Spelman and Captain Paddy Grealish

Vice-Captain: Breege Piggott
Secretary: Mary Coen
Treasurer: Sheila Duffy
P.R.O.: Nuala Spelman

PRESENTATION ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN C. MURPHY SOLICITOR

The towns people of Gort gathered at Sullivan's Royal Hotel on Thursday the 3rd April to mark the retirement of one of Gort's leading citizens, John C. Murphy. Mr. Jack Murphy commenced practise as a Solicitor in Gort in the 1940's. He is a native of Lisheen, Gort, Co. Galway. After establishing his practise he married Nuala Fahey a daughter of one of the Town's leading Businessmen, Bartholomew Fahey. Two of Mr. Murphy's family followed in their father's footsteps and now practise most successfully in Galway City.

Mr. Murphy was active in every Group and Organisation in Gort and South Galway. The Chamber of Commerce, Gort Golf Club, the Bridge Club, the Town Park Committee, to name but a few. It was only fitting that the people of Gort should honour in some small way a man who had contributed all his time and energy in such an unstinting fashion.

The function was attended by many people from Gort and Kinvara. Mr. Joseph McInerney of Gort in the role of Master of Ceremonies ably introduced the speakers to those present. The assembly was treated to a wide variety of personal remembrances of Jack Murphy as a Solicitor over the years, cycling to Kinvara during the War and attending Auctions. travelled from Lahinch to attend and

OUT AND ABOUT

spoke of his firm friendship with Mr. Murphy and of his admiration for him as an honourable member of the legal profession.

Charles Foley, Solicitor, recounted fondly the friendship between his father, the late Charles Foley and Jack Murphy and the close association between the Murphy and Foley families. Justin Sadleir, Solicitor, paid tribute to John Murphy as a Solicitor and colleague.

Mr. James A. Corless of Kinvara spoke with affection of the many memories of Mr. Murphy in the Kinvara area.

Mary Larkin, Solicitor, spoke of the kindness and assistance extended to her by the Murphy family since she took over the practise of John C. Murphy & Co. She said that she and most especially Teresa Tannian and Mary Carey wished to be associated with all the tributes paid to Mr. Murphy on the occasion.

The assembly was also addressed by Gerard Keane of Gort who presented Mr. Murphy with a Coloured Portable Television Set on his retirement. Mrs. Chris Shaughnessy of Crowe Street,

presented Mrs. Nuala Murphy with a bouquet of flowers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Murphy thanked the gathering for the presentation and assured all present that the Murphys will continue their long association with the town of Gort.

Mary Larkin

KILBEACANTY AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB

The season got off to a quiet start due to the wintry weather. Those, who

braved the elements, were rewarded with some very respectable catches.

The club's priority for 1986 is the further upgrading of the Beagh River.

The club will also get to work on the re-surfacing and general development of the Russane Road, which is the main access road to the river. The road is in a disgraceful condition and it is hoped that local public figures will exert their muscle and loosen the purse strings for its repair. We'll be watching them!



Young fishermen of the Kilbeacanty and District Angling Club.

P. J. HAWKINS

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OUT AND ABOUT

MICHAEL BERMINGHAM

Michael and Eithne Bermingham moved from Gort recently, to take up residence in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. During their six years stay in the town, they had been very actively involved in various local organisations and clubs.

Michael founded Gort and District Gardening Club in 1980. The club has been holding regular monthly lectures since, on various aspects of ornamental and vegetable gardening. Michael was founder member of Kiltiernan Country Markets (Co. Dublin), and when he arrived in Gort he saw the need for a similar organisation in the town and he set about establishing it.

Gort and District Show Society grew from the Gardening Club, The show, which is held annually on the last Saturday in August, was located in the vocational School from 1981 to 1984 and in the new Community Centre in 1985. Michael was Chairman of the Show Society for the first three years. His unflinching ability to get sponsorship and subscriptions from a variety of business people and individuals,

helped greatly to establish the show on a sound footing and as an annual event.

Michael's motto when looking for help for any voluntary organisation was: "Go to the top and when you get there, you don't take no for an answer".

Michael was very aware of the need for youth employment in the Gort area. With this in mind, he organised a

seminar on youth employment under the auspices of Gort Chamber of Commerce, and held in the Vocational School, Mr. Niall Greene, Chief Executive of the Youth Employment Agency, was one of the main speakers at the seminar.

Michael also organised a conference on local resources, held in Glynn's Hotel. Thomas Roseingrave, a native of Gort, was the chief



Michael and Eithne Bermingham, pictured at their farewell function, which was held in Springs Nite Club.

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OUT AND ABOUT

contributor. Gort Community Development and Employment Council was founded shortly afterwards. The council organised a training course, for about fifteen local boys and girls, held in Sullivan's Hotel. A number of these trainees subsequently found full-time employment.

Michael believed in making use of the Statutory bodies such as AnCO, the Y.E.A., the County Development Team, etc. for the maximum benefit of Gort, whether it be by way of financial aid, training or guidance.

Michael was P.R.O. for the Friends of Orchard Centre during his time in Gort. He organised a very successful golf tournament and card drive for which he got sponsorship from Calor Kosangas. He also gave, voluntarily, woodwork classes, to the trainees at the centre.

Michael was a member of the editorial board of "Guairé" for many years. His support and work for it was based on his belief in the value of the magazine to the community of Gort. He was a man dedicated to the community in which he lived.

However, it was not a question of all work and no play for Michael and his wife Eithne. Both could play a good round of golf and were prominent members of Gort Golf Club. Eithne served a term as Ladies Secretary and Michael served as President. Michael's organisational ability was of great benefit to the club.

Apologies to the organisations, clubs and societies of which Michael and Eithne were active members, but

which failed to get a mention in this brief appreciation. On behalf of all we wish Michael and Eithne well in their new home in Dún Laoghaire. We look forward to seeing them again soon. There will always be a "Céad Míle Fáilte" for them in Gort.

GORT BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club has concluded its 1985/86 season. The Club President, Paddy Piggott, entered into his position with great enthusiasm. Paddy's Christmas Prize Competition, was much appreciated by the members, and by the charities who

benefited. The outcome of the President's Prize was awaited with interest.

Winners were:

- 1st: Joe Muldoon;
- 2nd: Justin Sadleir;
- 3rd: Elizabeth Burke;
- 4th: Nora O'Connor.

The most improved pair were Rita Landon and Elizabeth Burke.

Upwards of forty members have availed of the club's entertainment since last September, in the comfort of Glynn's Hotel. If there are any card players out there who wish to join the opening session of 1986/87 season, next September, they will be very welcome.



Dudley Solan, Manager, Bank of Ireland presents a colour T.V. to Eamonn Lynch to mark the occasion of Eamonn's retirement as Bank Porter after 38 years of dedicated service.

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OUT AND ABOUT

ATHLETICS—SOUTH GALWAY ATHLETIC CLUB

The Track and Field Championship season will be in full swing by the time these notes appear in print. It is in these events the South Galway Athletic Club excels. The Club as a unit does not get wholeheartedly involved in Cross Country. This is all the more reason why the performances of Irial Conroy and Richard Landon at County and Provincial level, with the minimum preparation are to be applauded. While praising the performances of our young athletes and rightly so, I think its about time we give some thought or recognition to the men behind the scenes. I refer in particular to Dan Casey and Jimmy Hickey who have given their time and energy to running the Club. They leave no stone unturned in insuring that every thing is done in such a professional-like manner. It is this type of unselfish dedication that has kept the Club to the forefront during the past decade. When one hears of Cospoir and the Government Dept. responsible for the promotion of sport, one wonders where they function, what they promote or where the money goes. The South Galway Athletic Club is run with the very minimum expense and yet I doubt if either Cospoir or the Dept. know they even exist.

Another bone of contention with this writer is the serious decline in the promotion of Field Events. While I am not in favour of break away or splinter groups, it may now be the only answer. We had first of all athletics

under the same umbrella as the G.A.A. and then moving away to run their own affairs, then the cyclists breaking away from the main Athletic Association and the new groups prospered in each case without any serious effect on the main organisations. Similarly, I feel Field Events could prosper by movement!

GORT AND DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Gort and District Musical Society was held on the 26th March. The outgoing Chairman Mr. Pat O'Donnell reviewed

an active and highly successive year. The Annual Fashion Show was held in April and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. Gerry Macken's Big Band graced the boards once again for our fundraising dance in October. We sincerely thank all those who supported our fundraising ventures, because without your help throughout the year our "panto" would never reach fruition.

We were very fortunate this year to secure the talents of Colman Keane as our producer, he was ably assisted by Marian Diviney. The orchestra and chorus were again under the Baton of the very talented Mary Kealy, and Lily



National School pupils from the Ardahan area who won prizes from Gort & District Show Society for successfully suggesting new classes and ideas for the 1985 Show. Back row (left to right): Ronan Stankard, Michael Sylver, John O'Neill. Front row (left to right): Emer O'Doherty, Margaret Geoghegan.

OUT AND ABOUT

Slevin filled the role of choreographer. Many new faces joined the ranks of this year's cast and chorus, and new talent is still most welcome. The Committee are at present preparing for the forthcoming year.

One notable change is that this year's Fashion Show will now be held in September instead of May as heretofore.

The following are the officers elected for the 1986/87 season.

Chairman: Bernie Costello
Vice-Chairman: Colman Keane
Secretary: Réne Brennan
Asst. Secretary: Della Lally
Chairperson:
Finance Comm.: Annette Lally
P.R.O.: Ann Gallagher
General Committee:
 Celine Mullins, Ingrid McGrath, Niall Finnegan, Kieran Reddy, Pat O'Donnell, Paddy Moloney, Bridget O'Regan, Catherine Riordan, Eithne Lally and Vera Killeen.

GORT YOUTH CLUB

Since the last issue of "Guairé" the Youth Club has changed its residence to the new Community Centre. The Club meets here every Friday night and holds various activities, including Squash, badminton, and Table Tennis. At present we are participating in a First Aid Course under the direction of the Red Cross from Galway.

The Club has competed in the inter-club federation games—we got to the final of the Connacht Under 19 Debating Competition which was held in Sligo on March 23rd. Unfortunately we were beaten by a team from Collooney, Co. Sligo. For this trip we were very much indebted to Mr. Colman Sherry, who brought us to Sligo. On the way back we stopped and prayed at Knock—it was felt we might have done it on the way up!

The Club held a fast in aid of Gort Social Services, which once again was very well supported by the people of Gort. The members and committee of



Prizewinners of Gort Community Centre Squash Competition: (Left to right): Michael O'Grady, Committee; Martin Kerins, Runner-up Senior Event; Micheál Cahill, Winner Senior Event; Pat Flaherty, Runner-Up Junior Event; Micheál Breathnach, Committee Chairman; and in front Barry McNevin, Winner of Junior event.

the Youth Club would like to thank all those who have helped us during the year, a special word of thanks to Jim Hickey who has been as ever our staunchest ally.

Junior Selectors: Gerry Finn
 Michael Linnane
 Joe Pete Hehir

Under 21 Manager: Paddy Cooke
 For the under age section of the club the following officers were elected:

GORT G.A.A. CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Gort G.A.A Club was held on the 22nd January, and was well attended by its members. The following Officers were elected:

Life President: Joe Pete Hehir
Chairman: Brian Brennan
Secretary: Declan Spelman
Treasurer: John Melville
P.R.O.: Patsy Hehir
Senior Captain: Gerry Linnane
Under 21 Captain: John Commins
Senior Selectors: Noel Mullins
 Paddy Fahey
 Paddy Cooke

During the past year great progress was made in coaching under-age teams and a solid base is being laid for future senior teams in our parish.

At Senior level the club intends to make a bold bid to win the under 21, Junior, and Senior titles. Gort have a wealth of talented hurlers who hope to make 1986 a memorable year for the club.

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SYLVIE LINNANE — ALL STAR 1986

EARLY YEARS

NEXT to my wife and family there is nothing that I enjoy more than a good game of hurling. It has dominated my life for as long as I can remember, and with seven brothers and five sisters, one was never short of opponents!

Hardly an evening passed that we didn't have a game in the fields at home and many is the hard game that was played amongst ourselves with no quarter given or expected from brother or sister alike!

One must remember of course, that in those days there were no counter attractions as is the case today. T.V. was in its infancy and Radio 2 was not even heard of! Youngsters today have a lot of sports and activities to choose from, in my time hurling was really the only past-time. One simply never went anywhere without one's hurley, getting cows or whatever, it was always in evidence.

In my local N.S. (Killamoran) hurling was very much encouraged by the Principal, Toddie Byrne. During the last year at school I played at centre half-back on the school team, which won the County seven-a-side title. I graduated to the Gort under 12 team and gained experience from then on through Coiste Iomana Competitions. As I started playing competitively at a very young age, my mother was always worried that I'd be "killed", but there was no stopping me! My father used to laugh and reassure her that I was well able to look after myself but she never quite believed him, and even today she's still the same... She's my number one supporter though and at every match she's always there!

Influence

Mickey Connaughton, a cousin of mine and a former county player and selector probably fuelled my enthusiasm for hurling at senior level initially. He used to bring me along to training sessions and matches. I greatly admired John Connolly and Padraic Niland of Ardahan.

Minor and Senior

No more than many lads before me, I dreamed of an All-Ireland medal, but being from Galway you more or less believed that this was unattainable, shades of the "curse" and all that! I first played for Galway, at centre field, in the All-Ireland Minor Final against Kilkenny in 1973. We were beaten by a point, having been two points up with only 30 seconds to go when Kilkenny found the net! That was one of my

earliest and most bitter disappointments although in retrospect even that paled in comparison to the All-Ireland defeats to Offaly in 1981 and 1985. In 1974 I reverted to the half-backs for Galway minors and it was not until 1979 that I more or less got a permanent place on the Senior panel. (I made my "debut" initially in 1976 as a substitute in the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny. This was another game Galway should have won but the day was not to be ours. It gave great hope though, both to the team and Galway supporters... maybe next year...)

All-Ireland 1980

1980 came and I got my marching orders in the semi-final against Offaly. I remember I missed the radio sports news the following week when my term of suspension was announced, and my mother-in-law told me as a joke that it was four weeks. I spent a sad few moments thinking I'd miss the final before she let me off the hook! Yes indeed, 1980 was certainly a memorable year for me. Other years have brought rewards of their own, but 1980 was special and will always remain so. How do you describe an All-Ireland Final? Tension, excitement, nerves, anticipation are all words that spring to mind. The dressing rooms in Croke Park prior to a Final are a hive of activity, with



Sylvie Linnane—alert and ready to spring into action, with Kieran Kingston (Cork), in the Oireachtas Final 1985, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

officials, selectors, etc. . . all in attendance. The smell of new jerseys and last minute cigarettes is everywhere . . . The players themselves who normally make plenty of noise are strangely quiet and we all listen attentively to the last minute advice from Cyril Farrell. Finally, the waiting is over and its time to go . . . out through the long dark tunnel and into the sunlight and the roar of the crowd as we emerge. Everyone knows that at the end of the day there can be only one winner.

In 1980 I started on Fr. Fitzmaurice and just before half-time, Limerick made a switch and for the remainder of the match Brian Carroll was marking me. Brian was a tougher customer entirely but that day he suited me just fine. I suddenly knew we couldn't be beaten when with four minutes to go, John Ryan pointed from a Finbar Gantley pass to put us four points ahead. Jimmy Cooney was obviously of the same mind as he shouted over to me and raised his fist in triumph! We could see the crowd too had the smell of victory, already they were outside the wire preparing to invade the pitch, some had already succeeded and the Guards and officials were kept busy. When the final whistle blew it is quite impossible to describe the feeling of euphoria that suddenly engulfed Croke Park. The trip home the following day was certainly a twelve hour marathon as we did not reach Galway city until the early hours of the morning. I remember in all the excitement thinking of my late father, a keen hurler in his day, and how proud he would have been to see one of his sons bring home an All-Ireland medal. It would be difficult, even impossible to ever recapture the feeling that followed the 1980 All-Ireland win.

Awards

One of my favourite awards is the B&I award which I received for my performance against Limerick in the two All-Ireland semi-finals of 1981. In that year also I received the Galway Sportstar Award. The All-Star Award, I thought I might have made it in 1981, but, can say that it came as a welcome surprise in 1986 after the disappointment of the All-Ireland final! This year I think we have a good team and having seen Noel Lane raise the Railway Cup, there is nothing I'd like more than see him do the same to the McCarthy!

SYLVIE LINNANE — ALL STAR 1986

Gort

In 1981, I fulfilled an ambition long held when I captained Gort to their first County Championship success in 47 years, when we beat the mighty Kiltormer. My father was a member of the Gort team that last won the County Championship in 1934. In 1983, Gort were successful once again when as no hopers they went out and beat Castlegar, and came so near to winning the All-Ireland Club Championship. The All-Ireland Hurling Sevens won by Gort in 1983 was also a notable victory for the Club.

Fate certainly smiles on some hurlers, when one remembers all the fine players from the Gort area who were never fortunate enough to win any of these awards. However I think it is true to say that men like Josie Gallagher and Tadhg Kelly with their skill and example probably laid the foundations for our wins.

Community Centre

With the arrival of the new Community Centre in Gort, (which must surely be one of the best things

to hit south Galway in a long time). I have taken up the game of squash. I enjoy it immensely and of course it's a great way of keeping fit! The centre has something to offer to everyone and is a marvellous amenity in the town.

With three sons, yes, I would certainly like to see them playing hurling. They'll certainly get plenty of encouragement from me!

Footnote

Sylvie Linnane has been appointed captain of the 1986 All Stars Team.

KILTARTAN OLD NATIONAL SCHOOL

By DICK BURKE

THE old National School at Kiltartan was opened in 1892, and served the area up to 1959. It was in this school that the Kiltartan Branch of the Gaelic League was founded in 1893 by W. B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, Edward Martin, Monsignor Fahey, and others.

The very attractive features of the building are attributed to the Gregory family of Coole Park.

The following item appeared in the journal "The Irish Builder" Vol. 32, No. 76, dated August 15th, 1890:

"The Commissioner of Education has approved the design, prepared by Francis Perse, for a two-roomed school at Kiltartan, Co. Galway. The building will be faced in cut limestone, the quoins, including door and window opens, will be of red ruabon bricks with diaper brickwork on the gables.

A feature of the design is the open arcade of segmental brick arches on brick piers. The ornamental portion of the design has been presented by the Rt. Honorable Sir William H. Gregory of Coole Park, Gort".

At that time Francis Perse, Surveyor, was building a residence in the Gort Workhouse for the Gort nuns.

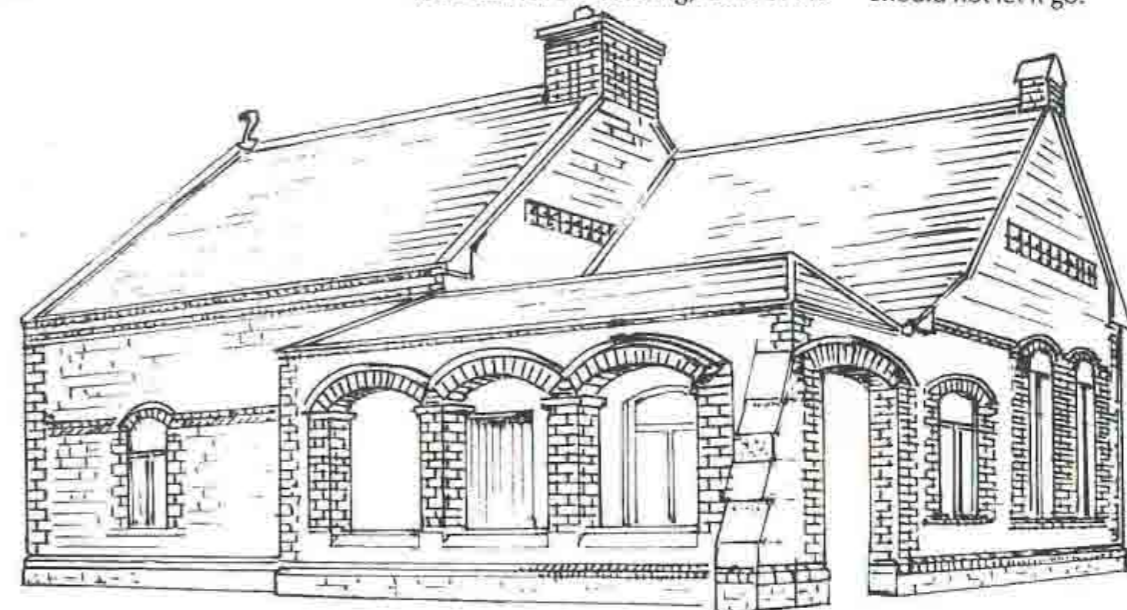
The open arcade porch would appear to have been an addition to the original design, which has at least two weak design features (sometimes inevitable when additions are incorporated); one being the horizontal valley and the other, necessity for including the buttress, which was intended to restrain pressure from the segmental arch. The latter precaution seems to have been somewhat less than adequate.

Though specially designed bricks were cast for the building, some of the

brick laying was not of a high standard, notably in the pillars of the porch. This aspect is interesting considering the high quality of the rest of the brick work and stone work. One very interesting point in the ornamental floral scroll brick course at window head level is that the butt joints follow the curve of the motif in the bricks.

The diapers mentioned are square bricks with a floral relief set in the gables.

It is obvious that such an attractive building could only have been provided as a "schoolhouse" in Kiltartan or elsewhere, with the influence, which the Gregorys seemed to have at their disposal, being brought to bear on the architectural design. It would appear to be a building worth preserving as a very worthwhile part of the heritage of Kiltartan. It can also serve as a little community centre in Kiltartan. We should not let it go.



DOWN MEMORY LANE



Teacher and pupils of Boys' N.S. in the early '20's. Back Row: Mr. Peter Brady, N.T., T. Kelly, T. Sheedy, J. Deely, M. Coen, T. Prendergast, J. Brennan, P. Cahill, T. Walshe, T. Brennan, D. Shinnors. (Middle row, seated) T. Macklin, J. Carty, J. Kennedy, E. Treston, J. C. Molloy, D. Callanan. (Front row) J. Burke, T. Griffin, G. Keane, J. Hanrahan, P. Broderick, W. Kilroy, P. O'Sullivan.



Confirmation class, Convent N.S. 13/4/1967. left to right (Back row) Marian Mulcaire, Ethelle Griffin, Mary Cunningham, Margaret Counihan, Mary Reilly, Anne Loughrey, Carmel Counihan, Mary Killeen, Josephine Hassett, Dolores Keane, Celine Carty. (Front row) Mary Moloney, Marian Glynn, Colette Griffin, Dorothy Kilroy, Dympna Nolan, Judy Quigley, Jacqueline Murphy, Susan Liston.



Reaper and Binder cutting Paddy Lally's corn in 1944. Left to right: Tom Howard, Pat ("Tiny") Connolly, John Glynn, Mick Cahill, Mick Brennan.



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Miss Agnes O'Grady's business premises at The Square, Gort. Later purchased by Mr. Michael O'Grady and today "Springs" Bar and Disco. How old is this teabag advertisement?



The late Michael O'Regan, talented craftsman of Ennis Road, Gort with one of his many creations, a horse and jockey. Where is it today?



Pateen Donoghue, Kilmacduagh, who was one of the Connaught Rangers, who mutinied against British atrocities in Ireland in 1920, far away in India. this rare photograph was taken in India in 1919.



Ballyturin N.S. (Old) c. 1938-'39. Teachers: Mrs. Hynes and Mr. Tony Mulligan. Five Allens in this photograph.

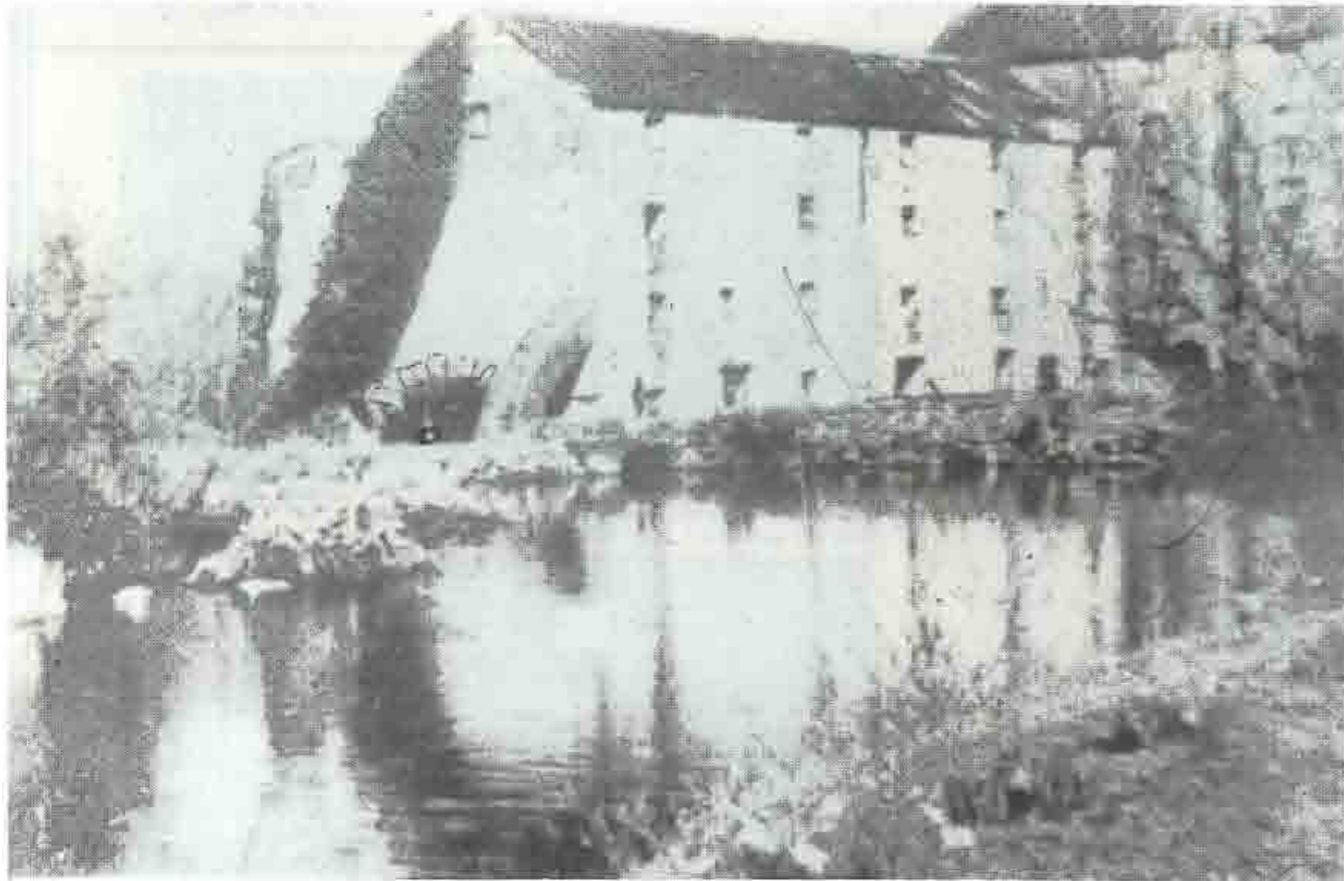


Kilmacduagh Team of 1930. left to right (Front): Martin Burke, Mick Roche, Miko Kelly. (Centre) Willie Leech, Matto Nestor, Fr. Frank Quinn, Matto McGrath, Walty Kerans. (Back) "Power" Geraghty, Johnny Leech, Peter Grealish, Patrick Casey, Mick Quinn, Colie Darcy, Jim Stanford, John Grealish.



Taken in convent grounds, 1940; left to right: Michael Cummins, C. Lavery, Jack Hynes, Mr. Lahard, Paddy Lally, Mr. O'Beirne (Forester), Miriam Donnellan, Kathleen Lynskey, (Priest unknown).

PICTURE PARADE



Above: The Old Water Mill, Gort, erected 1806 — Demolished February, 1985 by Gort Farm Mart.
(This photograph was taken around 1965).



Damien McGrath concentrates at the billiard table watched by Liam Gillane.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Kilmacduagh | 9. By |
| 2. Is | 10. Saint |
| 3. The | 11. Colman |
| 4. Site | 12. In |
| 5. Of | 13. The |
| 6. A | 14. Fifth |
| 7. Monastery | 15. Century |
| 8. Built | |

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PICTURE PARADE



Where will all the prizes go? Possibly the topic at the County Ploughing Championship. Left to right: Ollie Kerins, Michael Carr, Patrick Connolly, Michael Flaherty



General view of construction site of new houses at Crowe Street, Gort.

THE GLYNNS OF GORT

By FR. M. COEN

THE GLYNN family shops comprised of those buildings which now house the Allied Irish Bank, the Punch Bowl, O'Shaughnessys and Griffins. In their early days, they had the reputation of amassing considerable wealth through smuggling through the Kinvara area. They secured their extensive property in the Square and Barrack Street in 1817 and by 1850, John Glynn was considered a suitable husband for Ellen Walsh (sic), the daughter of a Loughrea solicitor and the grand-daughter of Lord Trimleston. They combined a measure of snobbery with profound Catholicism. They had eleven children, two of whom we deal with now.

Patrick McMahon-Glynn (1855—1931) was the eldest and he was educated at Blackrock College and Trinity College before being called to the Bar, in 1879. Finding progress in the Bar very slow, he emigrated to Melbourne, Australia the following year. In 1883 he became editor of the "Kapunda Herald" and at the same time, he was elected to the South Australian State Parliament. In 1897 he was elected to the Federal Parliament. He is regarded as one of the leading politicians who worked successfully for the union of the Australian Federation. In 1909 he was appointed Attorney-General and in 1919,

Minister for Foreign Affairs. His last portfolio was that of Home Territories. Meanwhile he had developed a prosperous law firm and he was noted for his humour, eloquence and learning until his death in 1931.

His younger brother, Joseph, after Blackrock and Trinity qualified as a solicitor, and developed prosperous practices in Gort and Tuam. He became Crown Solicitor in Co. Galway and was knighted. In keeping with family tradition, he became head of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Ireland, and he also wrote a life of Matt Talbot.

On the death of her husband, Ellen Glynn continued to manage her prosperous business while at the same time she engaged in public affairs, such as the provision of an organ in the church in 1885. She was the most generous lay subscriber.

At least some of her large staff lived in, and were treated with exemplary kindness. Among her apprentices were Martin Coen of Ballycahalan and Henry O'Shaughnessy of Rinerush, both of whom she regarded as very honest and hardworking, and both of whom went on to establish their own businesses. Martin Coen at his death in 1926 left £100 to the Glynn family in case he had ever defrauded them.

Tommy Glynn had charge of the bar which was advertised as follows:

*Glynn's stout is good no doubt,
In either wood or bottle,
His bass ales never fail,
To quench a thirsty throttle,
His rum and wine are very fine,
They make the weary frisky,
And never a draught was ever quaffed,
To equal Tommy Glynn's whiskey.*

A fine biography has been written on Patrick McMahon Glynn by his grandson, Fr. Gerard Glynn-O'Collins, S.J. an eminent professor of the Gregorian University, Rome. He has also published a volume of his letters. Would it not be appropriate that a plaque should mark the birthplace of these two outstanding Gortonians?

In 1919 the Munster and Leinster Bank opened in the Glynn premises, with Mr. G. P. Brooks as first manager.

The subsequent managers were:

John Kearney	1922
G. S. Ross	1923
W. H. Conway	1939
J. T. Keohane	1947
Patrick Barrett	1960
M. G. Liston	1968
Michael Durand	1979
John O'Connor	1984



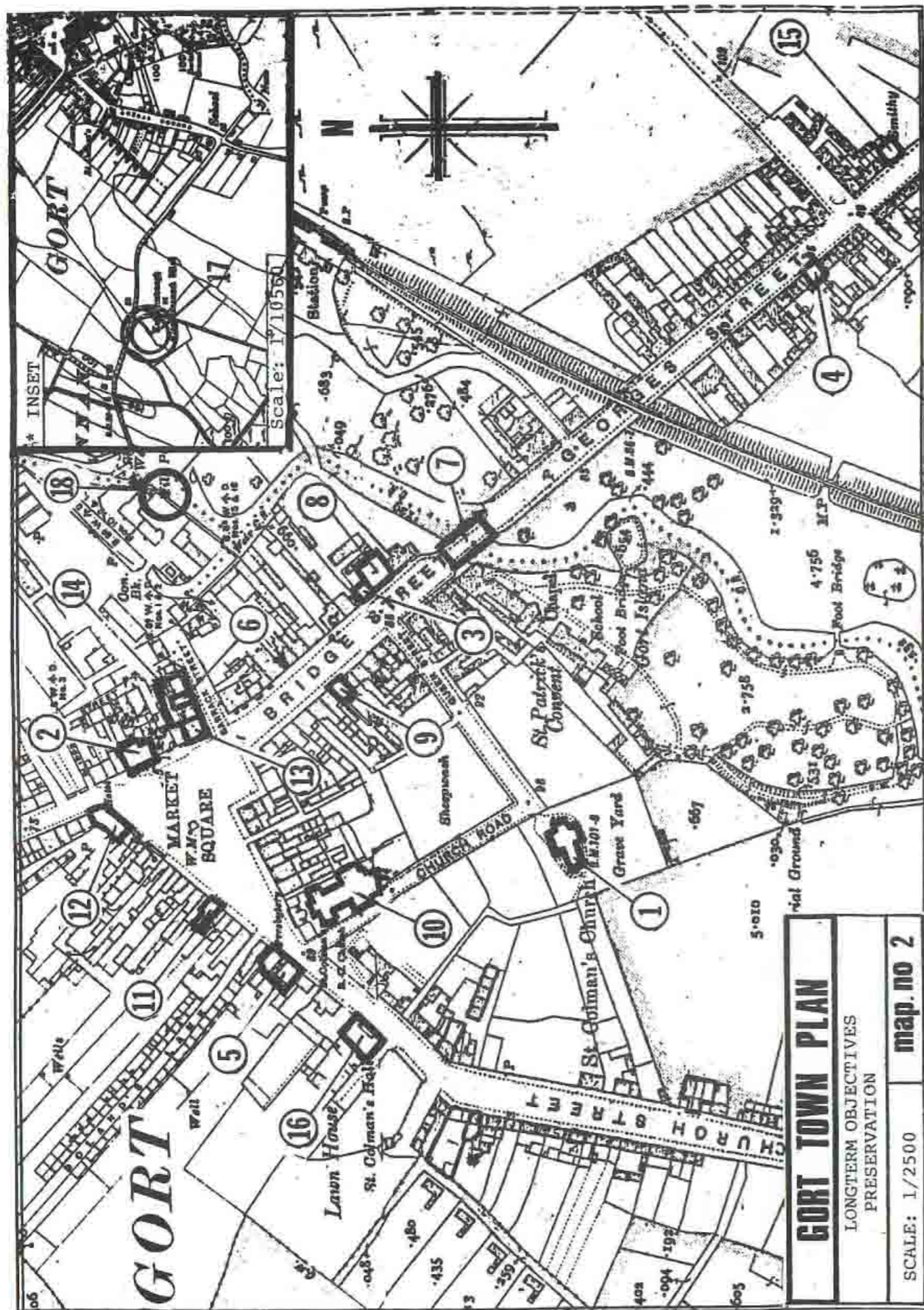
RALLYING IN GORT



Peter Leonard, who was up with the leaders when mechanical trouble forced him out of this year's Galway Rally.



Dónal Morrissey on right, Managing Director of Clarenbridge Crystal, who sponsored this year's Galway Motor Rally and David Marcus on left, take a break during the rally—both are former Gort residents.



GORT I HARDLY KNEW YOU

"A town of international importance—one of the best nineteenth century Irish provincial towns. The overall standard of buildings is very good, and because of the unity of the town it is difficult to pick out individual buildings as being better than any other". Great praise indeed, and one would surely be forgiven for wondering at the location of this wondrous-sounding place, but, surprise surprise it is none other than our own Gort as described by An Foras Forbartha in their Preliminary Report on areas and sites of Historic or Artistic Interest 1975!

Gort, as we know it today, was built in the early 1800's on a plan laid out by Lord Gort. There was, however, a pre-Norman settlement, which was located on elevated ground adjacent to the present town square; no significant visual evidence of this now remains, but the area in question would appear to be that now occupied by the landmark, O'Grady's Restaurant, Paddy Piggott's, Miko Carr's, Gillane's, etc.

In the above mentioned report, The Church of Ireland, (Library) Piggott's shop (Georges Street), and Barry's shop, are classified as being of national architectural importance. Also given the same status are, The Court House, Tom Kilroy's Shop (John Quinn now lives there) and the pair of three-storey houses opposite the Catholic Church (in other words the old "Priests' Houses", now owned by Tomás Ó Quigley and Frank Glynn, M.R.C.V.S.

The Office of Public Works and U.C.G., who are presently doing an archaeological survey of County Galway, has refurbished a report on the Gort area, and have recommended a list of sites and items for preservation; these include:

- Tobermacduagh Holy Well at Ballyhugh;
- Circular Mound enclosure at Cloonahaha;
- Mound in Sisters of Mercy lands at Lavally;
- St. Patrick's Graveyard, Lavally;
- Cashel and oval enclosure at Rindifin.

Again listed of national importance are:

1. Gort Library, former Church of Ireland and Graveyard 1810.
2. Court House 1815—with its Church-warden windows.
3. Brady's shopfront—Bridge St.
4. Piggott's shopfront—Georges Street.
5. Two three storey houses opposite Catholic Church.
6. Tom Kilroy's shopfront—Barrack Street.
7. The Water Bridge—19th century.
8. Roche's garage and house, 3 bay—2 storey house with two chamfered-block round headed doorcases.
9. Burke's Drapers and Outfitters shopfront.
10. Catholic Church, hard gothic style in rusticated limestone, 1825.
11. T. Lally shopfront on Square—presently occupied by Frank and Eileen Lally.

12. Sullivan's Hotel, The Square.
13. O'Shaughnessy's, The Square—a square-headed doorcase.
14. The houses of Barrack Street. Classified as of local interest:
15. The Forge in Georges Street.
16. St. Colman's Hall.
17. Tobermacduagh, Holy Well, Ballyhugh.
18. 14th/15th century window and possible doorway of Gort Castle.

Galway County Council proposes under its County Development plan to conserve and/or preserve the above items for posterity, this is good news, but we would be conscious of how long these plans take to come to fruition, and therefore be aware of the value of what has been left to us, and our duty to protect it. Knowledge of this heritage should also help us develop our sense of Community, and this, in the first year of the South Galway Community Centre could be of real value!

Another area mentioned for preservation is the site of the former Cavalry Barracks—now used as a store—because of its possible archaeological interest.

The source of most of the above information is mainly from a letter of Galway County Council to Mr. Oliver Roche, re the proposed Development Plan for the town of Gort, and graciously loaned to this writer by Mr. Roche. As I said at the start—"Gort I hardly knew you!!!"
By Blow-In, Circa 1941.

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GORT RIVER

GORT RIVER, if one can really give it a definitive name, rises not far from Jos. Egan's famous mountain-top hostelry in Derrybrien, on the Gort-Portumna road.

A small spring in the mountain bogland, it babbles over a rocky bed for some miles, before gaining volume and momentum from the multitude of drains emanating from the hundreds of acres of forestry, which enables the landscape for many miles, in what was, only a short few years ago, a drab, uninviting panorama of dreary bogland, stretching as far as the eye could see. Once the haunt of grouse and duck, then denuded of game by the greedy sportsmen, and indifferent farmers, who burned the heather and gorse each year during the nesting season, in their annual fight to hold the land already reclaimed from reluctant Nature. Now the Department of Lands is urging conservation and preservation, as it patiently changes starkness into beauty, and restocks its plantations with game. Through this virgin forest slides and rushes alternately, the humble beginnings of the Gort River.

By the time it reaches Inchamore, it has widened into a typical mountain stream of short rapids, and deep dark pools, alive with the elusive, speckled mountain trout, the cock pheasants crow loudly along its banks, near the fast maturing plantations of spruce and pine, and the nimble squirrel bounds away through the treetops. On the still, clammy evenings, the nightjar calls his eerie cry on the more deserted slopes of mountain, where he is called, colloquially, the Goat-Sucker. An abundance of bird life, from the lowly wren to the dashing hawk, and croaking raven, fills the surrounding noise-free terrain.

Our stream now drops, through the poetically-named Derrawee, Chivy Chase, Derreen, and Killafin, Lough Cutra, the largest private lake in Ireland. Westward stands the massive and scenic pile of Lough Cutra Castle, surrounded by a mantle of all that is beautiful, in greenery and freshness. Eastwards is the now lonely hill of Ballyturn, where once the coaches rolled to a now stark-eyed mansion, and where occurred the infamous Ballyturn ambush.

Towards the north-eastern end of the lake, the river flows out to Russane and Beagh, and after a short distance begins, what one might call its "disappearing act", which is so aptly described by Samuel Lewis in his "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland", published in 1837.

I quote: "It passes through a deep ravine, 'til it reaches "The Ladla", a precipitous hollow, clothed to the water's edge with large trees, where it flows under a perpendicular rock. About 100 yards from this spot, it reappears in the "Punchbowl", a circular basin about thirty yards in diameter, and at least fifty deep; a pathway leads down the sides of this pit, which is very steep and clothed with trees.

"After flowing about three hundred yards from the 'Punchbowl', it emerges, takes the name of the Blackwater, and after running rapidly for a short distance, again disappears. At the 'Beggarmen's Hole' a smaller circular basin, than the 'Punchbowl', it is again visible and soon afterwards enters the 'Churn', which is like an extremely deep well, ten feet in diameter, a quarter of a mile from the 'Churn', it reappears from under a beautiful arch, formed by Nature in the rock".

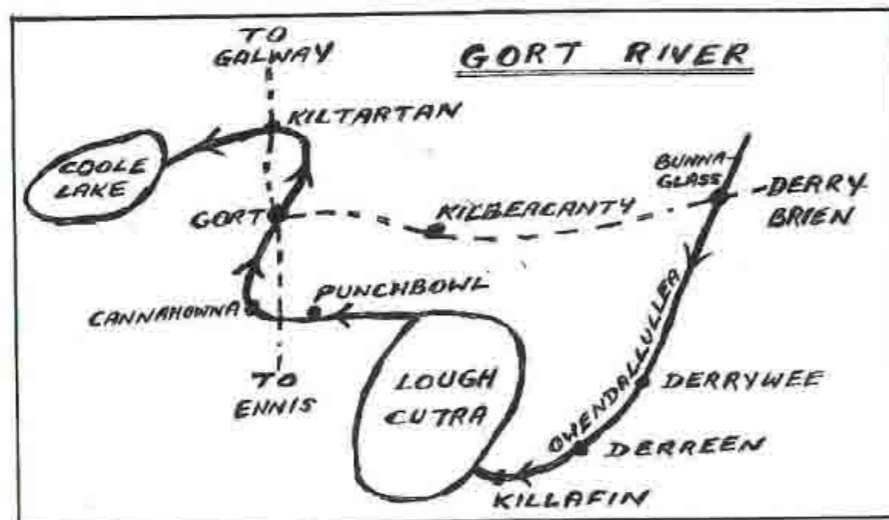
This natural cave, from which the Gort River emerges is named "Ceanna-habainn" or the "head of the river". From here it meanders to "Big Hopes" and "Small Hopes", natural swimming holes, availed of down the years by the youth of the town. Through the Convent of Mercy grounds, where a scenic island stands, and then under a bridge built in 1771, it curves around to Hynes' mill, which it serviced for many years. Then comes quickly into view, the island, which was once King Guaire's stronghold, later a military barracks, and now a commercial store. From here, Gort is left behind, as the river proceeds leisurely to Kinincha—the "New River", created to save the town from flooding in the winter—the "Island", the "Poplars", the "Mill

Pond", with its long deserted mills. Then on to "Lucy's Weir", another remnant of a mill at Hanlon's, the "Flat", and on to Castletown, where once again a "disappearance" takes place.

The river rises again behind Kiltartan Church, not far from Sir William Gregory's huge vault, and last resting place, to perpetuate Lady Augusta Gregory's dream of always having a Gregory in Coole. This stretch of water, more often known as the Kiltartan River runs for about half a mile downstream, where it again goes underground at the "Natural Bridge", and bursts forth in a deep, menacing pool, on the far side, to vanish once again, after a swift run of a quarter of a mile. The next appearance is in Raheen woods, and in a small crater in the open fields, before rising again, some few hundred yards away, where it takes the name of the "Raheen River", before flowing into Coole Lake, now part of an extremely scenic and picturesque National Park, and a Wildfowl Sanctuary. Here was written "The Wild Swans of Coole", and still here today, these royal birds give inspiration to the nature-lovers of the present era.

But whence our river? Down into the vast subterranean, limestone passages, which honeycomb Coole Lake and Doolough. Perhaps to Caherlissane, to vanish once again, and to emerge eventually out in the seabed, many miles away at Dunganree Castle in Kinvara, and also in Currenree five or six miles to the west.

From an article by the late John F. Counihan, Crowe Street, Gort, graciously given to "Guaire" by his wife Mai.



PICTURE PARADE



Scenes from the past at the County Ploughing Championships which were held on Robin Lahiffe's land at Ballyhugh, Gort.



CHILDREN'S PAGE

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Compiled by Johnny Spelman and Michael Cahill

Enter and you could win £10

1. In what year was the Church in Gort Built?
2. On the plaque on Thoor Ballylee a Gort forge is mentioned. Which forge?
3. The initials AE appear on the autograph tree in Coole. Who was A.E.?
4. In which years have Gort won the Co. Senior Hurling Championships?
5. A Gortman represented Ireland in an International Fishing Competition in 1982, who was he?
6. Name three species of wild duck?
7. Name the great middle-distance runner from Beagh parish who held five Irish titles in 1946?

8. Which family had the statue of Christ the King erected in The Square of Gort?
9. In what years did Gort R.F.C. win the Connacht Junior Cup?
10. Who is the patron Saint of Kiltartan?
11. Who was made Honorary Life member of Gort Golf Club in 1985?
12. Name five varieties of potatoes?
13. What is the height in feet of the tower of Kilmacduagh — to the nearest foot?
14. In what year was Kilbeacanty hurling field officially opened?
15. Name three species of fish found in the Gort River?

Rules:

- (1) Put your answers on a postcard.
- (2) Hand in your entry to any member of the Editorial Board.
- (3) Closing date is 1st September, 1986.

- (4) First all correct entry drawn from a hat will be the winner.
- (5) Notice of draw and result will be published in Parish Newsletter.
- (6) Answers and winner's name will be published in next issue.
- (7) GUAIRE Board members not eligible to enter.



WORD PLAY

Take a word that's fairly easy to draw; e.g. BELL. Then dress it up and see what you get!

Now try some for yourself.

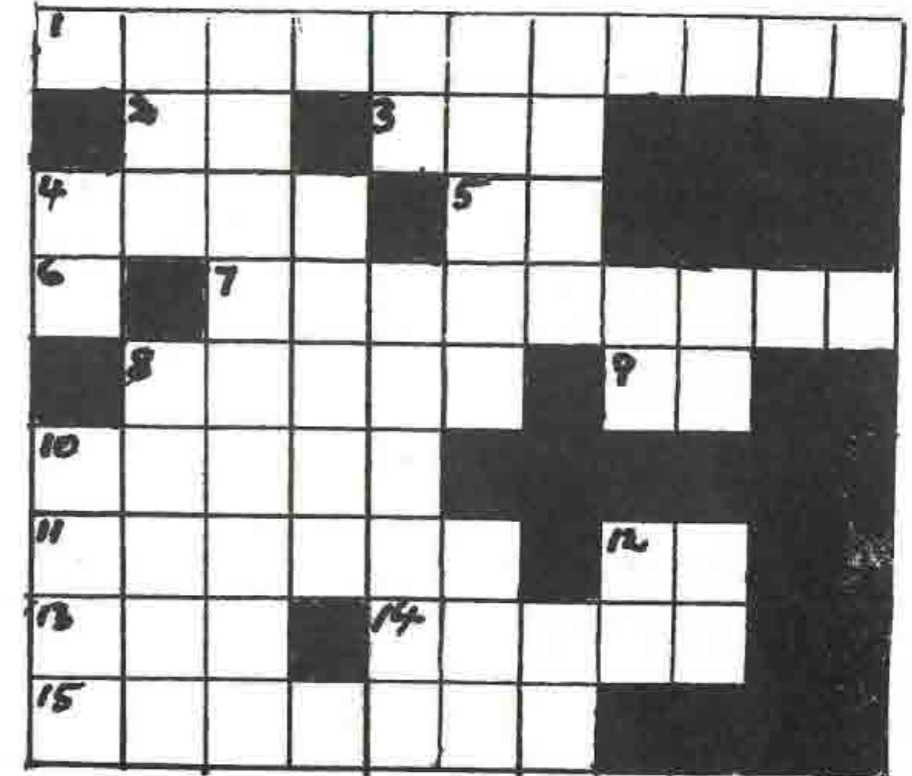
CHILDREN'S PAGE

CROSSWORD

Starting from the top the answers to the clues to read a sentence of local interest.

CLUES

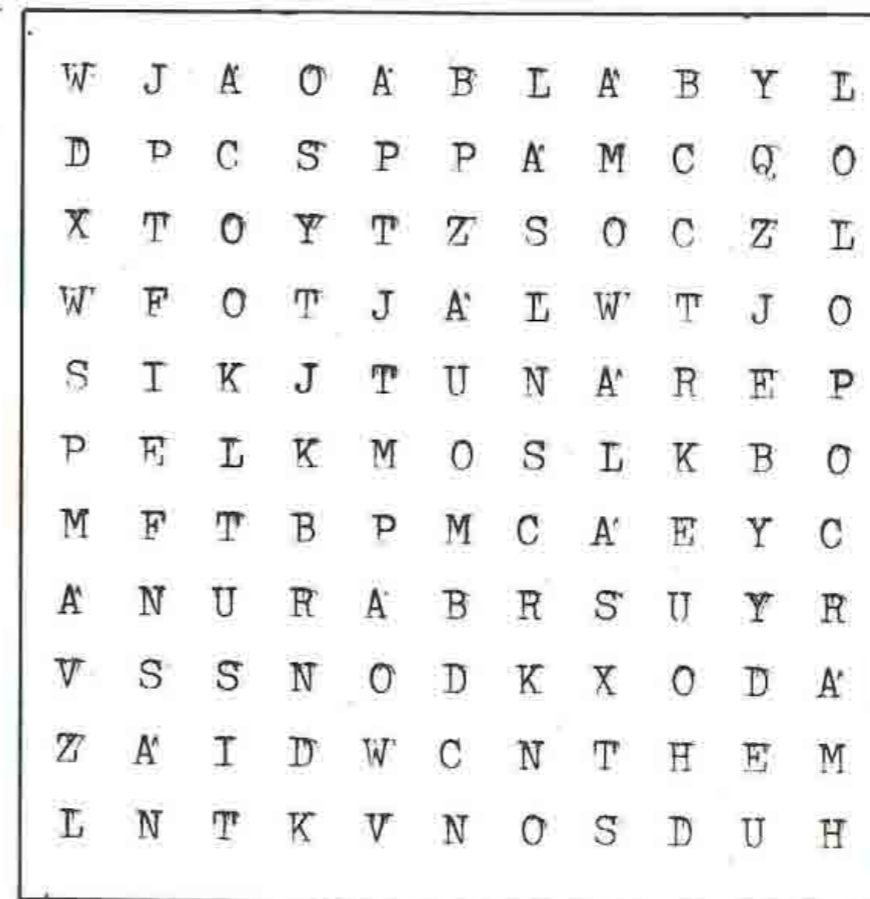
- (1) Well-known Townland
- (2) Verb
- (3) Article
- (4) Plot
- (5) Preposition
- (6) Article
- (7) Abbey
- (8) Erected
- (9) Preposition
- (10) Holy man
- (11) Name
- (12) Preposition
- (13) Article
- (14) After fourth
- (15) Hundred years



WORD PUZZLE

Find the following list of Explorers in the Word Square. They read in many directions.

- BALBAO
- COLUMBUS
- COOK
- CORTES
- DIAZ
- DRAKE
- HUDSON
- MARCO POLO
- SCOTT
- STANLEY
- TASMAN



POETRY PAGE

THE TRAVELLING MAN

By Mark SCULLY

I met him first, when a little small lad,
And all I knew, was he looked so sad;
But he tugged at his cap, and he smiled at me,
And beckoned me close to his camp to see;
The home of a travelling man.

My roof he said, is the sky says he,
and the air I breathe, is pure and free,
The Sun above, give me heat and light,
While the moon, and stars, guide me by night;
Says he, just a travelling man.
I need no house of stone and sand,
Nor suits, nor shirts, nor waistcoats grand.
I'm free as the breeze as I make my way,
I leave where I'm shunned, where I'm liked; I stay,
Says he, just a travelling man.

He took me then, in a rough hewed hand,
But his touch was gentle, as he eyed the land,
And he hummed a tune to the song of the birds,
And he did'nt need to use any large, large, words
This man; just a travelling man.

He brought me then, 'long the lanes and road,
And you'd see the lines, where he worried enough.
And he told me too, that he'd help, if he could,
If ever I felt I'd like if he would
This man; just a travelling man.

His wind worn face was rivered and rough,
And you'd see the lines, where he worried enough.
The scars on his hands, bore proof of his life,
As a cast out man, whose troubles were rife;
This man; just a travelling man.

I wondered how he, a man of his kind,
Could look so happy, with ease of mind,
This man who wandered the mountain trails,
And spoke no ill, of his fellow males,
This man; just a travelling man.

I thought of this, as I knelt at Mass,
And thought of the man, that I oft-time pass,
I thought of this kind and gentle man,
And it dawned on me, as my mind so ran,
That Christ, Himself; was the travelling man.

DIRGE FOR THE OLD WATER-MILL

By W. M. QUINN

Too late I cried, for years I tried,
To save the Water-Mill.
But farming men whose kith an' kin
And granddads long ago
Depended on that grand old Mill,
Driven only by the free fast water's flow,
Have bulldozed a loved tradition,
That they never can replace.
The Mill is gone—I bow my head
In sorrow and disgrace.

SPRING

By JOHNNY COUNIHAN

At last, dull Winter's gone away,
And Tempest's tongue shall quietened be,
For now 'til Autumn's golden death,
We hear the lazy, droning bee.
The birth of all rich Nature's gems,
Begins again with zephyrs cool;
The sun no longer weakly shines,
But pours into this earthly pool.

Just watch and see the sticky buds,
On naked trees begin to sprout,
In readiness to don again,
The raiment lost in Winter's bout.
The very hedgrows seem alive,
As they rustle in the breeze,
And whisper from their leafy souls,
To their friends—the lofty trees.

The birds because of Winter's ire,
'Til now have feared to sing,
But now that Spring desires song,
They chant until the green woods ring.
Each feathered denizen begins
To fashion in his coming brood,
In bush and barn and trees that sway.

The yellow primrose festoons all,
The glades and grassy banks;
The snowdrop shyly droops its head,
And daffies dance in ranks.
The daisies dapple all the fields,
And are gazing to the skies,
While flitting in the sparkling sun,
Are the blitheful butterflies.

No introduction such as this,
To warm friendships can exist,
In worldly circles between men,
Save only on "friend" Nature's list.
How proud the Summer ought to be,
To come in Spring's entrancing train,
And find all Nature fresh and green,
Awaiting sun for Autumn's grain.

ON THE ROAD TO LOUGHREA

By SEAN LEAHY

I stood in the graveyard, and watched the yew trees
as they swayed too and fro, to a hefty north breeze.
I could not discern, where my old friend lay,
In that lonesome old graveyard, on the road to Loughrea.

O why are our poor, forgotten by all,
We would bury those people, on the spot where they fall.
Our Lord, he must love them, as he was that way,
So we leave them unmarked, on the road to Loughrea.

I see no statues, or crosses all round,
Just a heap here and there, risen up from the ground.
A marker of stone, o'er the spot where they lay,
Is their headstone or statue, on the road to Loughrea.

We must have our pride, or has it all gone,
Maybe I'll remind you, in the words of this song.
So let's all get together, and do what I say,
And build a fine cross, on the road to Loughrea.

THE VANISHED CORNERBOY

By SEAN LEAHY

IN my youth, a noted member of every town, was the cornerboy, alas gone are such people, where to, one will never know, as there are still as many corners in every town as there were at that time. The cornerboy was your average man, married, single, young or old. There was no exam to pass to qualify as one, they came from all shades of life, and in all shapes and sizes.

They usually rambled to their favourite corner at or about 7.30 in the evening: looked up and down the street, then with a yawn leant back against the projecting corner and waited. Each Cornerboy would surely brandish a cigarette "butt" behind his left ear, hanging at an unusual angle and was very accurate with a spit. He could pick off a fly walking on the pavement ten feet away—practice!

He would often straighten up to his full height, do a few steps in his wellington boots, then back again to

his previous position, waiting for something to happen. Nothing did usually, so he eventually became bored. If you passed close to him you would most likely hear him humming some local ditty, or whistling through his left nostril. Then a second of the species would arrive, he did the same thing, stretched, yawned, looked around did his little dance and settled into the corner.

Both would light up their "butts" inhaling deeply sending clouds of smoke halfway across the street. Now they started relating their days experience, comparing notes, and telling one another lies. Scratching came next; they never used their hands, as hands were tucked deeply in their overcoat pockets, they used the corner with great accuracy, scratching places where no hand could reach, each leg scratched the other! Some poor unfortunate female might pass, and the comments and rude remarks that followed her should never be

repeated; on her return journey she usually went on the other side of the street, with a face as red as a newly baked beetroot, much to the amusement of the cornerboy.

At last the eating started, the staple diet of the cornerboy was the apple, usually taken from a local orchard. With great bites they swallowed apple after apple and the "core" became a mighty missile for some hatted gentleman who might pass without giving them the usual "Good evening gents". Those who passed thus usually ended up with the "core" stuck to his pole. By this time there could be six or seven at the corner, making it impossible to assert who threw the half eaten apple, you were better to keep going, or you ended up the centre of their joke for the night. I often wonder where they vanished to, it's as if the corner opened up and swallowed them.

Another piece of the changing face of Ireland.

THE SUPERNATURAL IN KILBEACANTY

By M.P.M.

THERE IS a small wood by the side of the road in the parish of Kilbeacanty that has long been associated in the popular imagination with fairies, spirits and other manifestations of the supernatural. At various times people have reported seeing some strange sights at this spot, which to the casual observer is just an unexceptional stretch of country road.

I would very much like to know what the percipient saw or sensed in the incident of which I propose to tell now, but my curiosity will never be satisfied, because that percipient was a horse.

A husband and wife, whom I shall call Darby and Joan, were one night on their way home from Gort, where they had been shopping. Their conveyance was a mare and cart. Night had only just fallen, and Darby, Joan and the mare were pleased, as they approached the wood, that they were nearing their destination.

All was serene with our travellers as the staid old working mare ambled along. Darby sat near the mare's flank, holding the reins, and Joan had a seat in the middle of the cart—over the axle was the recommended place. Darby was quick to notice when the mare,

with ears forward, stopped suddenly and snorted. Then she started to back. She was actually shrinking away from something that neither Darby nor Joan could see. Darby rushed forward and strew his arm across her neck and spoke caressing words to reassure her. She responded to the extent that she stopped backing, but the next minute she plunged forward and seemed about to break into a gallop. Darby held on to her head, all the time murmuring words of encouragement. He restrained her to a trot, and as they got further along from the wood, he succeeded in getting her to walk, but she was not her usual calm self until they arrived in their own yard.

What was it, I wonder, that made the old mare, normally a most placid creature, so frightened and upset? We all know that a horse has far keener senses of hearing and smell than we possess. Is it too improbable that it may also possess a capacity to sense the presence of things altogether beyond the range of our perceptions? At the moment, we do not know; perhaps we never will know.

It is curious how some many odd happenings have come to be associated with what is otherwise an unremarkable and undistinguished

part of the road. The next incident that I am going to relate took place, many years later, at the self-same spot where the old mare was so badly frightened.

Two sisters, young and vivacious, were staying as guests with a family in the neighbourhood. One night a woman from the next townland came to pay an informal visit. When she left to go home, the two visitors and another girl of the same age offered to convey her part of the way home. On the way back the three girls linked arms. Just as they reached the small wood I have mentioned, the girl in the centre became conscious that the two Limerick girls on either side were keeping closer to her and that they had fallen silent. This did not surprise her, for she thought they might be feeling a little nervous, being unaccustomed to country roads at night. After they had passed the wood, they relaxed their grip and asked who was the woman who had been walking behind them. Just as they were passing the wood, the two girls said, a woman appeared on the road walking behind them, and at the end of the wood, she disappeared.

The girls had never heard anything of the road's reputation, and I'm sure they heard nothing of ghosts from their host.

MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following on the birth of their new family members:

- John Paul Pio Glynn to Seamus and Martha, Rindifin;
- Eimer Marie O'Ragan to Patrick and Brid, Corker.
- Paula Bernadette Gavin, to Gerard and Pauline, Cloonahaha
- David James Hannigan to James and Betty, Galway Road;
- David Noel McCann to Patrick and Angela, Newtown;
- William Michael Reilly to John Joe and Bernie, Georges Street;
- Noel Aonghus Nestor to Noel and Mary, Church Street;
- Danielle Bernadette Lally to John and Bernadette, Newtown;
- Aoife Martha Cradock to Patrick and Ann Marie, Cloon;
- Celine Margaret Walsh to James and Ann, Garryland;
- Colm Beartlaif O Griallais to Pádraig and Máire, Rindifin;
- Siobhán Ann Quinn to Michael and Eileen, Roo.

DEATHS

Since our last issue of "Guaire" we have been sadly bereaved. To the families, relatives, friends and neighbours of the following we extend our sincerest sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

- Mary Ann Moylan, Roo;
- Martha Halvey, Ballybane;
- Patrick Forde, Tarmon;

- Margaret Collins, Loughrea Road;
- Christy Minogue, St. Colman's Terrace;
- Eddie Quinn, Roo;
- Maureen Hanrahan, The Square;
- Margaret Carroll, Roo;
- Nan Hardiman, Georges Street;
- Agnes Monaghan, Lavally;
- Paul Halvey, Ballybane;
- John Hynes, Kiltartan;
- Eileen Burke, Glenbrack;
- Rosie Hynes, Church Street;
- Eddie Fennessy, Newtown.

MARRIAGES

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the happy couples who were married in the parish since the last issue of "Guaire".

- Patrick Brady, Inchaboy to Margaret Burke, Georges Street;
- Eugene Fitzgerald, Renmore to Teresa Counihan, Georges Street;
- Edward Delaney, Shantalla to Margaret Donovan, Coole;
- John Shaw, Ennis to Mary Christina Nolan, Rineen;
- William Kelly, Ardrahan to Catherine Shaughnessy, Rinerush;
- Donal Noone, Ballinakill to Eva Burke, Georges Street.

INDUSTRY IN GORT

TOPFORM Limited is a Company incorporated in Ireland with its Factory on the Tubber Road, Gort. It is engaged in the manufacture of postformed laminate covered products.

Its principal product is the kitchen worktop, mainly used in fitted kitchens. However, it does manufacture tops for table and bench sets, door panels for kitchen units, wardrobes, toilet cubicles, wall panelling, etc., etc.

The Company exports products mainly to the U.K. However, it also sells in Ireland—both North and South. It has a sister Company in Bradford in the U.K. It sells to this Company and it services Gort sales to

the U.K. Until recently both topform Ltd. in Gort and Topform Worktops Ltd. in the U.K. were wholly owned subsidiaries of Amherst Industries Inc., a Canadian Company based in Ontario. In 1985, Irish interest took a controlling share in the Company.

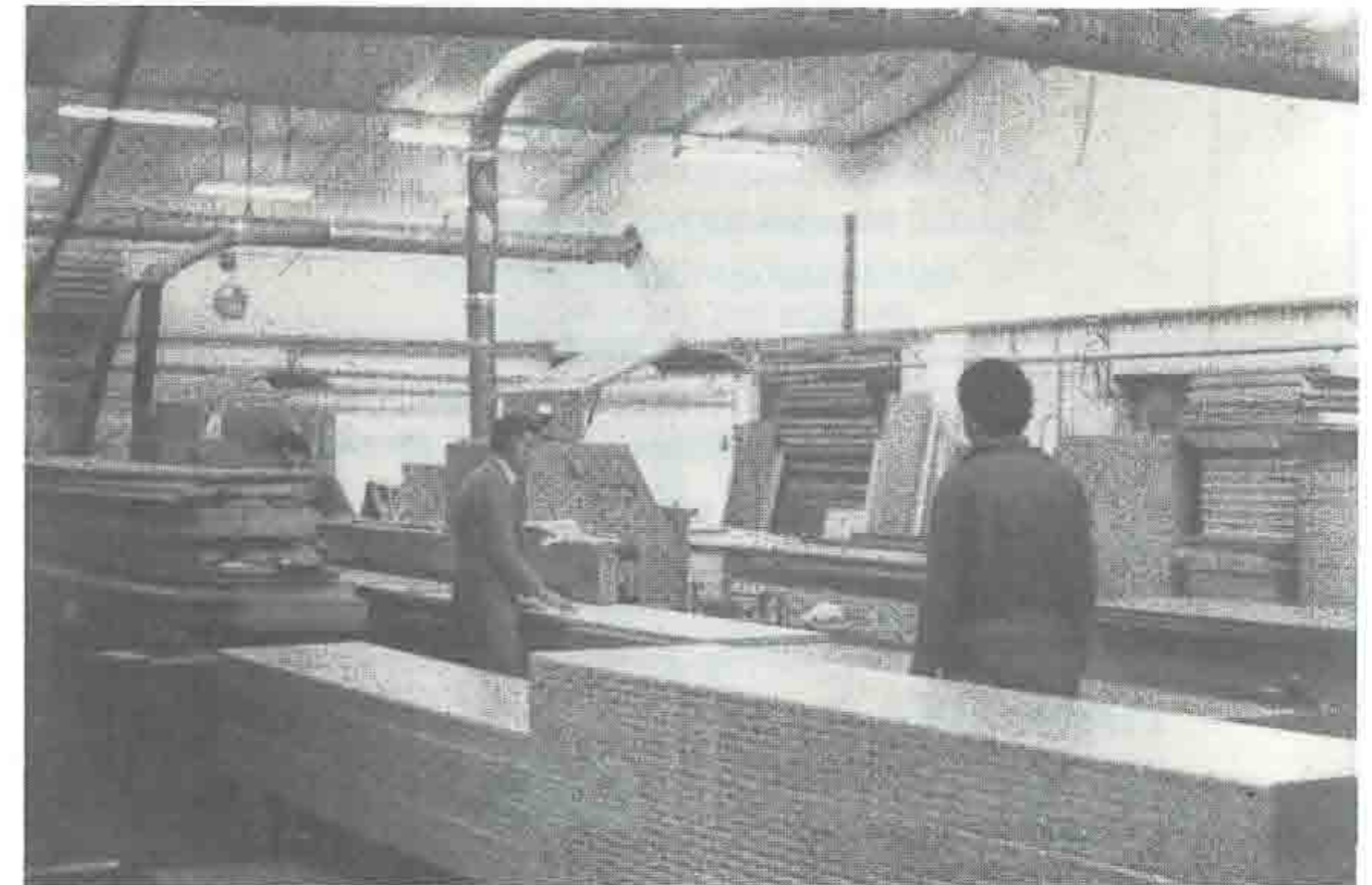
Topform Ltd., under the direction of its new owners, installed new machinery in October, 1985. This allows for greater output and a wider range of products with improved quality.

Topform is one of the largest suppliers of worktops and possibly the largest producer in Ireland. It mainly sells bulk quantities of full length

worktops, but also services the local kitchen manufacturers with their special requirements.

The Company now employs 24 people from Gort and surrounding areas. However, due to increased sales and production it is hoped to increase employment in the near future. This is an encouraging sign.

Topform Ltd. hopes to continue supplying its customers with the quality of service and product that is needed in today's competitive world. The Company also hopes to remain an integral part of the Gort Community and by its existence to contribute to the overall economic wellbeing of the area.



The worktops are then stocked for packing or for cut-to-size orders.

SEE THE REST

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