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Little Angels School too small : claim

With the construction of the new Little Angels School due for completion by the end of the year, it's been claimed that the building is already too small and that an additional three classrooms are urgently needed or else children with special needs are going to be turned away.

Tomas Devine (right) who resides locally and is candi-

date for The 100% Redress Party in the local elections told the Tribune that his family has two children with special needs and already the new building will



have to turn close to forty children away when it is opened.

He said: "The Little Angels School is a great addition to the users but it

was built on a projection of demand that is over ten years old. My wife and family of five are acutely aware of the need for a new school and we welcome it. However, if the building is three classrooms short before it is completed, surely this issue must be addressed urgently."

Tomas is a resident of Gort
Contd. Page 2

Roadstone rules out concrete mix to North Donegal

A spokesperson for Roadstone Laghey has said that almost all parts of north Donegal are out of bounds for their delivery of ready-mixed concrete products.

by John McAteer

This effectively challenges the Councils own decision to construct social housing in North Donegal given the clarification that Roadstone Laghey cannot service this area with ready mix.

The Roadstone clarification is due to a time constraint from leaving the quarry until being poured onsite to ensure

strength, air content and serviceability.

"At a stretch, we could reach as far as Letterkenny, depending on the temperature levels. Otherwise all parts of the north of the county are beyond our reach due to travel and distance time limits," said a spokeswoman at Roadstone Laghey.

Their products include concrete for foundations: easy-flow screed for underfloor heating; pathways, yards and specified demands including major marine works in Killybegs.

A spokeswoman for Roadstone Laghey said there are no difficul-



ties delivering cement blocks to all parts of Donegal. All their products meet with full certification and testing guidelines.

The areas beyond the reach of the Laghey production includes Inishowen, the Finn Valley, all of the Milford electoral area and locations on the N56 through Kilmacrennan, Creeslough, Dunfanaghy, Falcar-

ragh along with the Rosses and Gweedore.

Cement Roadstone has 42 locations in Ireland and the company is amongst the largest in the world.

The Council has told the Members their decision on Social Housing contracts going to Roadstone Laghey is based 'on assessments by geologists'. They've identified 'negligible levels' of mica in the aggregates testing as carried out on concrete blocks from Roadstone.

The news has raised concerns for the Cllrs. with further queries likely to be raised at

this month's plenary meeting in Lifford. Further clarification is being sought on the status of Donegal's other indigenous quarries and the future of what is an industry with a substantial workforce.

Sources in the industry say that new stringent regulations and the added list of 'must do regulations' for geology testing and the costs involved has the potential to drive them out of business.

Cllr. Michael McClafferty has said the confirmation from Roadstone Laghey about 'time constraints'
Page 2



Declan Meehan with his husband Dr. Pádraig McGuinness at the launch of his Local Election Campaign at the Ray Community Centre on Saturday.

Decky Jordan to seek Council seat

As the 100% Redress Party moves to name numbers of election candidates in both Inishowen electoral divisions and Milford they've already confirmed they are also contesting the Letterkenny area with one candidate on the ticket.

Letterkenny man, Decky Jordan has emerged as a most likely Independent candidate in Letterkenny for the local elections.

He is a member of the Larkin/Blake family circle. His uncle, the late Dessie Larkin, was a member of Letterkenny Town Council from 1999 and a member of Donegal County Council up to 2014 when he opted out of politics to pursue a new career elsewhere.

Dessie and Ciaran Brogan were both elected to Letterkenny Town Council in June 1999 as members of Independent Fianna Fail.

Dessie had been co-opted on to the Council following the death of his father, James, in September 1998.

Now, a decade later, Decky Jordan is aiming to rekindle the Larkin legend of years past. We understand he's already put together a campaign team of more than sixty workers.... some are well known figures in the town and there's been a number of

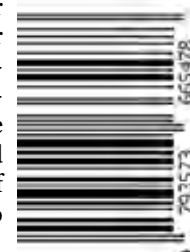
secret meetings of the steering committee in recent weeks.

Meanwhile a Burtonport man and former skipper of the world's biggest fishing vessel, 'The Atlantic Dawn' is seeking a nomination for the Glenties area on the Fianna Fail ticket. This should be a big boost for them, given that candidates are quite hard to find in this part of Donegal just now!

Inside this week's Tribune, Eamonn McFadden has an interview with John Reilly of Lackenagh, Burtonport who has contacted party delegates seeking their support at the selection convention. This is an interesting reading and Reilly has sent a copy of his letter to the media... always a good place to start.

He is aiming to run for the seat vacated by the passing of Cllr Noreen McGarvey at Christmas.

In Milford, Independent candidate Declan Meehan is also making waves - big ones and his campaign launch at the weekend in Ray has been the main talking point for every water cooler moment wherever two people are gathered in the name of democracy to
Contd. Page 2



Ann Cullen (née Sheridan), Rathmullan who played the Principal Girl in Mother Goose, the Ramelton Panto in 1965. She is pictured back in the Town Hall on Tuesday night with this year's Principal Girl Lizzie Haughey. Inset is Ann with Vera McElhinney (née Canning) during the 1965 production.
Photo by John McAteer

Papal Appointment

The Holy Father has appointed Downings born Monsignor Eamonn McLaughlin to the position of adjunct under-secretary of the Formation Office of the Dicastery for the Clergy in the Vatican.

Msgr. McLaughlin was ordained in June 2002 for the diocese of Raphoe and was awarded a licentiate in theology from the former John Paul II Institute in Rome. Since 2017 he has served as an official of the Dicastery for the Clergy.



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Roadstone rules out concrete mix to North Donegal

From Page One

adds to the problems already there for those who are planning to construct a house. He said the Roadstone Laghey 'time constraint on concrete mix' is understandable, but he queries why it was the Tribune, rather than the Council that alerted him to this news.

He said: "This news will leave more than half of Donegal with very difficult decisions about concrete mixes if they want to follow the Council's guidelines for their own projects. If Roadstone Laghey is the preferred option, I'd like to know what advice I should give my voters if they do not have that option available to them."

He is to put down questions to the Council seeking to clear up public concerns where those constructing a house wish to go along with the Council's own recommendations and if that is

possible where those people are not within the reach of Roadstone Laghey.

Members of the Council said they expect further clarification around the Council's decision and the uncertainties involved for the industry in Donegal. However, there are real fears that these new regulations, the cost for construction for the end user will become prohibitive because they have no way of meeting these additional costs.

We understand that a number of Mica damaged homes have already been rebuilt using a local company for concrete blocks and aggregate materials.

The Council statement says: "Certificates to demonstrate compliance with these specification requirements shall be provided by the concrete block supplier for the blocks and the aggregates in advance of delivery to site.

Samples of concrete blocks are taken from the depot of the nominated supplier in advance of delivery to site and again at random during construction, where the full suite of tests are carried out."

Private housing contractors point to increased costs all over the place: however the confirmation from Roadstone Laghey to the Tribune this week, ruling out their inability due to time constraints has added a new dimension to the situation.

However, 'the cost of requirements for compliance' and the 'random tests on site' has no clarity of costs involved.

Those in the process of building a private house are in the dark, not knowing that the Council regulation would have excluded the local quarry materials and now the distance factor from Laghey Roadstone has left very few choices.

Decky Jordan to seek

From Page One

talk politics.

And he's been out and about, on the Quay in Ramelton and on the Harry Blaney Bridge on Mulroy Bay. And if that is not scenic enough, watch this space for more next week. Meanwhile Independent Cllr. Pauric McGarvey rolled back the years in Ramelton Town Hall when he joined his sons Mason and Cody for the panto production of Moth-

er Goose on Tuesday night. Back in the day as a teenager he starred in the chorus line.

He will launch his election campaign in the Town Hall on Friday evening April 5th at 7.30pm.

You'll be most welcome to join the campaign because I'm hearing at the Pantomime that Ramelton must keep its Councillor.

Meanwhile in the EU Midlands North and West constituency, the

Social Democrats have announced that Rory Hearne will be their candidate. He is Associate Professor in Social Policy at Maynooth University.

He says if elected, he will stand up for the generation locked out by bringing the housing crisis to the top of the political agenda in Europe.



Right is Decky Jordan.

100% Redress Party announce first candidate

From Page One

na Greine on the Kilmacrennan Road and is self-employed and says he is busy fighting on social issues and intends to bring his election campaign to every doorstep in the town

The Little Angels project will create a new 4,430sqm single story special needs building, providing 20 special needs classrooms, a number of specialist educational, training, recreational and therapeutic rooms, toilets

and other ancillary accommodation, and the necessary circulation space. In addition 60 car parking spaces, a covered set down area and a variety of external hardsurfaced play spaces will be provided along with all associated siteworks for the development.

The new school will be built on land between the Donegal Hospice and the Business Park Road, very close to the current school building.

Letterkenny Tidy Towns consultation meeting

Letterkenny Tidy Towns is inviting the general public to come along to an open consultation meeting next week to allow them an opportunity to have their say and filter their suggestions and proposals into a three year plan.

"This will give all residents of the town the chance to be directly involved in what we will be doing over the years ahead," co-chairperson, Gerard McCormick pointed out.

The local Tidy Towns committee has appointed Billy Flynn - himself a senior Tidy Towns judge - from Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants based in Clones, County Monaghan as a consultant in the process.

"He's fairly familiar with the town and he came and met us as a group and is now reaching out to all the stakeholders that we work with within Tidy Towns, such as schools, County Council and all the local authority people and businesses, all the strands that we would touch base with over the year.

"He wants us to create an open consultation forum and the Mount Errigal Hotel has very kindly agreed to host the meeting."

That meeting is scheduled to take place next Thursday (21st) and will run for approximately an hour from 7.30p.m.

"We're inviting a cross section of the local community to come along to the meeting and have their say and tell us what we should be concentrating on. Billy will then filter that into the information that he knows we should be doing and what we currently are doing, what we have in the pipeline and what the public say.

"And he'll marry all that into the three year plan that we will work on bit by bit."

Added the co-chairperson: "An effective and realistic Tidy Towns plan is now a requirement for any high-scoring Tidy Towns group to make progress in the competition."

Pointing out that Letterkenny Tidy Towns has been a "national leader in this extremely com-

petitive movement" while continuing to be among the top-ranked towns in Ireland, Mr McCormick stated: "We want to make our place on the leader-board count for Letterkenny and for the people of the town.

"We invite you to come along and tell us what you think we should be doing for our town and its residents."

Among the projects they are working on, the local Tidy Towns committee - it boasts sixteen members - has been involved in a bio-diversity plan, the first part of which incorporates Sentry Hill, the Famine Garden, and Linear Park in Ballyraine. "We've been given recommendations of how we can make those three areas more bio-diversity friendly.

"This will be the start of a process where we will survey other areas and eventually create a bio-diversity corridor through the town," said the co-chairperson.

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Rough Park Ramelton: water scarcity a disgrace

Cllr. Pauric McGarvey has met with residents of nine houses at Rough Park in Ramelton where the supply of public water has been quite a disaster.

Cllr. McGarvey said "They have no water supply in their homes. They cannot put on the washing machine, dishwasher or even have enough to make a cup of tea at the best of times. They have a fear of breaking appliances. The families affected in this area have had enough.

Christmas morning they hadn't even water to make a cup of tea. The area is supplied by a group water scheme and was maintained by Donegal County Council. On handing over to Irish Water last January one thing that stood out to me was that the Council was to continue maintaining and ensuring these group water schemes were serviced and maintained until such times as they were taken over by Uisce Eireann.

I am calling on the Council and Uisce Eireann to come together to ensure they do what they need to do to ensure these homes and families have a constant water service.

In response to a motion from Cllr. McGarvey to Tuesday's Municipal District meeting the Council response was predictable, even if the water supply is not.

"Donegal Council Council has corresponded with Uisce Eireann and requested that they respond to the issue of Rough Park Ramelton as a matter of urgency."

2024 Donegal Half Marathon launched

This year's Donegal Half Marathon, which will be held in association with the Kernan Retail Group, will take place on Sunday, August 25th in Letterkenny.

The 2024 event was launched in Kernan's Bistro at Letterkenny Retail Park.

In his welcoming address, Chairman, Myles Sweeney, said it was fitting that the launch was being held on International Women's Day and during Women In Sport Week.

"We have been coordinating a lot of women's events over the past week across Donegal and we are trying to get even more women involved in this year's Donegal Half Marathon," the Donegal Sports Partnership Co-ordinator commented.

"The Donegal Half Marathon is a longstanding event and the brainchild of the late Dessie Larkin. We're delighted to have Mary here with us who is on the organising committee and representing the Larkin family. Dessie was a great friend of the marathon and a great friend of sport. He was really committed to sport in Donegal and his legacy lives on now through the Donegal Half Marathon," the chairman said.

Danny McDaid said: "I suppose we

don't shout enough about the history we have on our doorstep like the flax mills at New Mills. I don't think it's being pushed enough and it's up to people like us to promote it more. There will be up to 500 medals with the image of the flax mills at New Mills as its centrepiece handed out on race day and I think they will be a collector's item and invaluable in the years to come."

Mayor of the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District, Cllr Kevin Bradley, who started the 2023 Donegal Half Marathon, described the event as brilliant.

"It's a very, very good event and everyone competing were excited to be part of it all last year," he commented.

Speaking on behalf of Kernan's, Damien Daly said: "It's a privilege to be involved. It's six years now since we got the phone call from Dessie and we couldn't say 'no'. It has grown from then. It's a community event we can all look forward to over the next six months. On a personal note, I want to thank Cathal Curran on behalf of Kernan's for what he does for this event and other events outside of his working day. Thanks also to the committee for their ongoing efforts."

Helen McCready, winner of the Donegal Half Marathon in 2022 and 2023, told the launch that she ran the mara-

thon when the event was first held ten years ago in conjunction with the half marathon.

This year's race will have a 9.20am start. To enter visit <https://eventmaster.ie/event/9qPqhw5HWJ>



At the launch were back row, Eunan Kelly; Cllr Kevin Bradley; Brendan McDaid; Cllr Donal Coyle; Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and Cathal Curran, Kernan's Marketing Executive. Front row, Paul Harkin, Kernan's Bistro and Coffee House Manager; Damien Daly, Kernan's Retail Group Director; Mary Larkin, DHM Committee; Helen McCready, winner of the senior women's DHM title for 2023; Chantelle Grant, General Manager of Century Complex and DHM Committee; Danny McDaid, DHH Ambassador; Myles Sweeney, DHM Chairman, and Neily McDaid, chief steward.

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People's Document with the politicians

A joint campaign group of defective concrete homeowners are calling for support of the 'People's Document', which lays out a "true definition" of 100% redress.

The document has been sent to all public representatives in the Dail, Seanad and to local Councillors in Donegal.

It sets out four principles of 100% Redress and addresses areas where it's believed that the government's enhanced scheme falls short. The document calls for 'like for like' home rebuilds; a government managed, cost-free process with self-built opt out; inclusive supports for all those affected; and prevention of similar crises.

The document was finalised after a meeting of 800 people at the An Grianan Hotel. The initiative is led by campaigners Paddy Diver, Lisa Doherty Hela (100% Redress No Less), Lisa Hone, Tricia Doherty (MAG), Roisin Gallagher (Redress Focus Groups) and Michael Doherty.

Paddy Diver from 100% Redress No Less stated, "It was incredible to see so many people turn up for the meeting last Monday, it was standing room only, which sends a very clear message in itself - the DCB scheme is falling way short of what it needs to deliver. The Government have had two opportunities to get this scheme right and they have messed up because they refuse to listen to the people that are going through this

desperate situation. This is the People's Document because it reflects back what they know is needed to ensure no one is left behind."

Michael Doherty states, "We have gone through every single comment whether written or verbal and done our best to ensure that they are woven into the principles of the document and ensure the people's voices are heard. Every single public representative in the Dail and Seanad has received a copy of this document plus local Councillors in Donegal. We are also conscious of the full support of the Dail on 15th June 2021 when a 100% Redress Motion was passed unopposed. We had politicians from all over the country voicing their full support for 100% Redress on the stage at both mass rallies in Dublin and we look forward to their continued support in delivering a true 100% Redress as defined by the people."

A letter accompanying the People's Document asks all recipients for a written response by the Monday 25th March as to how the public representatives and/or their political party will support the principles and practical requirements detailed. In addition, politicians are invited to address a public meeting of homeowners on Tuesday 26th March, 7pm at the Gateway Hotel, Buncrana where they will have the opportunity to communicate their response.

Roisin Gallagher from Redress Focus Groups states, "What started as an avoidable problem is now a full blown disaster. It is a crisis affecting all corners of our society, needing full attention from all departments. The campaigners and the people have spoken - we will no longer accept half-baked efforts and crumbs from the table. We are resilient and determined to resolve this crisis through The People's Document. With the crisis escalating rapidly, the physical and mental health of those suffering is crumbling faster than our homes. The need for

supports to be put in place cannot be denied. Emergency funding must be provided for the Redress Focus Groups Support Hub Proposal." Lisa Hone, Chairperson of Mica Action Group states, "The People's Document, based on the lived experience of impacted homeowners, means there is no excuse for any politician not to understand what needs to be delivered in practical terms. Families victim to this crisis, which was none of their doing, still find themselves without a pathway forward and still having to campaign for true redress. The persistence of this situation is cruel, all politicians know that, even those that are apologists for the Government's two failed schemes.

Their response to the document and whether they attend the public meeting on 26th March will make their position very clear to homeowners, who will be able to exercise their vote accordingly," she added.

Glenwood retro-fit update

The tender for the retro-fit works to 51 houses at the Glenwood Estate in Glencar, Letterkenny has been issued with the deadline for expressions of interest being March 28th. The matter was raised at Tuesday's Municipal District meeting by Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh who was told that the works at Glenwood are scheduled to commence in either June or July.

No funding for Conwal footpath/cycleway

Cllr. Donal Mandy Kelly has been told that there isn't sufficient funding available to extend a cycleway and footpath from Conwal Graveyard to the Newmills Corn and Flax Mill. During Tuesday's Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District meeting the Fianna Fail Cllr was told that the scale and estimated cost of the project is greater than the funding currently available via the Footpath & Public Lighting Programme. Alternative sources of funding are being sought but as yet none have been identified.



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Horror of Scappaticci

Last week the North's police issued a report into Freddie Scappaticci. He wasn't named in the report 'Operation Kenova'. It was clear who he was. The report was like a spy novel where there are no good guys.

Above all, in this there is the trauma for families. In some cases the loved ones had been tortured before being murdered. More traumatic again, many of the families were Republican. They had made sacrifices. In some cases, those killed were informers. In others, they were not. Now, families face terrible truths. A British agent had got so far into the IRA to be head of internal security. Solicitor Kevin Winters has said this was joint enterprise between the British state and the IRA.

Yet more upsetting, families have found their loved ones could have been saved. Security services knew where they were being held. They knew they were to be killed. There was no rescue because that would have exposed Scappaticci. I can't imagine what that feels.

Many of those killed were putting themselves at risk to help the British state. Why is it not relevant. That state showed no duty of care. Any employer must show this towards their employee. Worst of all, it seems some were deliberately betrayed to Scappaticci to boost his credibility.

The IRA, too, comes badly out of this.

The IRA had initially denied Scappaticci was an agent. That's because it is an institution. Thus it acted like other institutions. The first reaction to the scandal wasn't about the victims. It was denying there was a scandal.

I don't support killing people for being informers. The IRA must face up to allowing Scappaticci to be judge, jury and executioner. British

Now, families face terrible truths. A British agent had got so far into the IRA to be head of internal security.

Solicitor Kevin Winters has said this was joint enterprise between the British state and the IRA.

and Irish courts are very far from perfect. At least there is some sort of legal process. Journalists can attend hearings and report what happens. Those wrongly convicted are sent to prison. They have a chance of appealing. If successful, they can be released.

Those wrongly accused of being informers can't be brought back from the dead. Some were wrongly accused because of grudges. In some cases their faces didn't fit. Some were vulnerable, for various reasons.

I dislike double standards. I do accept there was a different political background. However, Scappaticci was allowed to live. Killing him would have had political implications. It would also have been very embarrassing.

Let's remember, over the years the IRA 'disappeared' several fairly senior members. Former monk Joe Lynskey was an early member of the (Provisional) IRA in Belfast. He became a senior intelligence officer. In 1972 he tried to kill another IRA man. That was because he was having an affair with the man's wife. His fate was not revealed until the 1990s. Eamonn Molloy was quartermaster of one of the Belfast brigades. He was disappeared in 1975. The IRA did not make this known for another 24 years.

Thus the IRA, too, come out as hypocrites.

There is a wider political aspect to

this. The North's current Chief Constable, John Boutcher, was central to the investigation. I know little of Boutcher personally.

To me, the report raises a question. Has the British state produced a monster it cannot control? That is, the whole security apparatus in the North.

The Troubles produced that security apparatus. This became self-reproducing.

The various intelligence services were intelligence-led. That is, they weren't about solving crime. They were about gathering information. Scappaticci was head of IRA internal security. That was a key position. That enabled the British state to monitor the IRA campaign.

By their nature, security services were secret. They were under no scrutiny. They were independent of police and, to a lesser extent, of military.

They certainly reported to sections of the British Cabinet. By the nature of their reports, this could only go to some of the Cabinet.

We have to be careful about seeing conspiracies in everything. However, is this report at a time that suits? Scappaticci's handlers are retired, and even dead. Living members of the Establishment will be safe.

At present, the Troubles are being wound down. Dissident groups are unable to wage a serious armed campaign.

Is the huge security apparatus that

grew up round the Troubles now a danger? Has it gone out of control?

Let's remember Boris Johnson was removed because he was out of control. His behaviour, for whatever reason, was increasingly erratic. Security services can be a threat.

In the mid-1970s there was serious talk of a military coup against the British Labour Government of Harold Wilson. Two years ago, police in Germany discovered a coup plot. The plot involved senior army and police officers. The aim was to restore a right-wing monarchy.

When they feel they have to, the British Establishment is ruthless. Here we have had Bloody Sunday; the Ballymurphy, Springhill and New Lodge Massacres; and the Dublin-Monaghan Bombings. Those were mild compared to slaughter in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let's forget the guff. The British Establishment is not loyal to democracy. It is loyal to defending its own wealth and power.

But the Welsh socialist Aneirin Bevan explained its favourite strategy. He once said: "How can wealth persuade poverty to use its political freedom to keep wealth in power? Here lies the whole art of Con-



By Anton McCabe

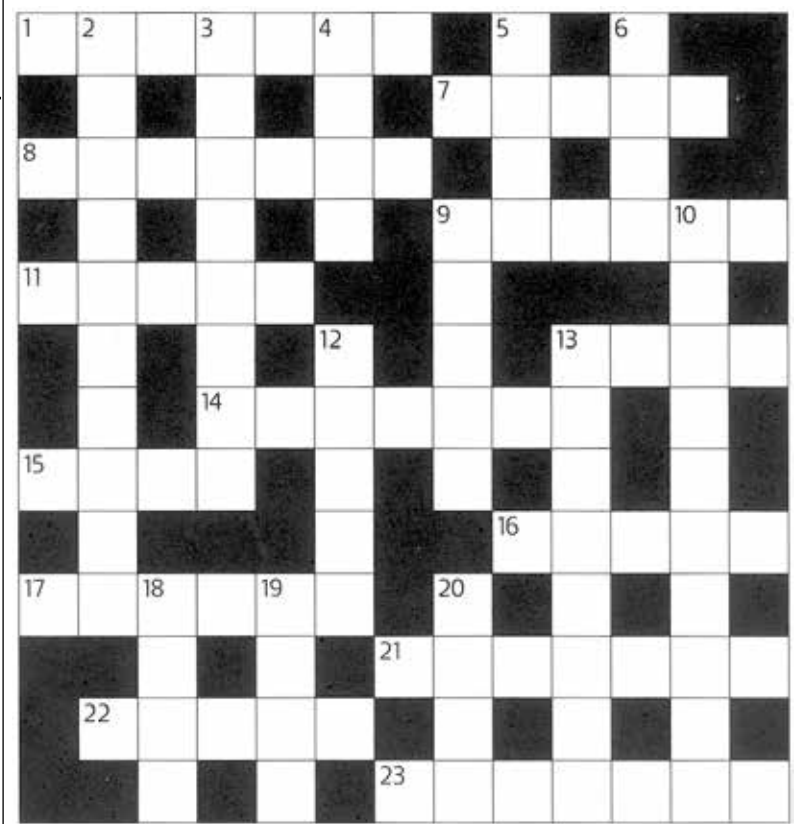
servative politics in the 20th century."

That strategy has generally worked. Universal franchise has existed in Britain for 106 years. The Conservatives have been in power for 73 of those years.

There is worse. In Britain and Western Europe, Governments are using democracy to restrict democracy. The invasion of Gaza is a big excuse to restrict rights to protest. Police have arrested people in France and Germany for wearing the Palestinian scarf.

Thus the Establishment will clamp down. But they want a number of hands on the levers of power. At times that means clipping the wings of politicians, or sections of the security forces, who have lost the run of themselves.

Tribune Crossword No. 1056



Across

- 1. Large rock (7)
- 7. Pale yellow (5)
- 8. US state, capital Montgomery (7)
- 9. Handsome young man (6)
- 11. June's birthstone (5)
- 13. Secure (4)
- 14. Type of rich cake (7)
- 15. Cathedral town (4)
- 16. Cite (5)
- 17. Slovenly (6)
- 21. Year-book (7)
- 22. Trunk (5)

Down

- 2. An oil bigot [anag] (10)
- 3. Brain operation (8)
- 4. TV-industry award (4)
- 5. Film director, ___ Zinnemann (4)
- 6. Daybreak (4)
- 9. Singer, ___ Stardust (5)
- 10. Enter surreptitiously (10)
- 12. Enlighten (5)
- 13. Drench (8)
- 18. Stole (4)
- 19. Sprint (4)
- 20. Edible shellfish (4)

Solutions to Crossword No. 1055

Across 1. Gondola, 5. Moss, 9. Sharon, 10. Crete, 12. Opera, 13. Contact, 14. Growth, 16. Collie, 19. Neglect, 21. Cower, 23. Owned, 24. Framed, 25. Alan, 26. Rendell. Down 2. Ochre, 3. Dormant, 4. Lunacy, 6. Overall, 7. Sweetheart, 8. Scan, 11. Gorgonzola, 15. Organza, 17. Orchard, 18. Stifle, 20. Eddy, 22. Wheel.

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221 Dacia Duster	231 Nissan Juke SV	2020 Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian Auto
212 Dacia Duster 4x4	231 Subaru Forester Auto	212 Opel Combo
212 Ford Galaxy Auto	221 Suzuki Vitara SZT	201 Peugeot Partner
211 VW Passat	221 Suzuki Scross Motion Auto	191 Peugeot Partner Professional
211 Audi Q3 S Line	221 Suzuki Vitara SZ5	191 Toyota Landcruiser SWB
211 Ford Focus ST Line	221 Suzuki Swace 1.8 Hybrid	2018 Peugeot Partner Sold
211 Kia Sportage	212 Suzuki Vitara 4x4 Auto	2018 Citroen Berlingo
211 Citroen C5 Aircross	212 Suzuki Vitara SZ5 Auto	
211 Hyundai Tucson Ex Plus	212 Suzuki Vitara SZT x2	
201 Ford Focus ST Line	212 Suzuki Scross SZT Auto	
201 Ford Focus Zetec	212 Suzuki Scross SZ4	
201 VW Golf Match Sold	211 Suzuki Vitara SZ5 Sold	
201 VW Tiguan Rline	211 Kia Rio K1	
201 Citroen C5 Aircross Sold	211 Suzuki Swift SZ5	
201 Renault Kadjar	211 Suzuki Swift SZL	
201 Audi Q2 Sport	211 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
192 Ford Kuga Titanium	202 Hyundai ix20	
191 Renault Captur	201 Mercedes Benz A Class Saloom	
191 BMW 520 M SPORT	201 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
191 Citroen Multispace	201 Suzuki Swift Attitude	
191 VW Golf	201 Ford Puma ST Line	
191 Nissan Qashqai	191 Opel Corsa	
191 Ford Focus ST Line x2	191 Toyota Yaris Auto	
191 VW Golf Estate Auto	191 Ford Focus Titanium	
181 Peugeot 3008 Allure	191 Honda Civic VTEC	
181 Suzuki Vitara SZT	191 Suzuki Ignis SZ3	
	181 Suzuki Celiro	
	181 Suzuki Swift	
	172 Suzuki Celiro Auto	
	172 Citroen C4 Cactus	
	171 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
	171 Nissan Qashqai Auto	
	162 Suzuki Swift	

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Jason all set for Glór Tíre debut next Tuesday

Next Tuesday, March 19th, there will be great excitement in the local country music scene when Ramelton's Jason McCahill makes his debut on TG4's popular music show Glór Tíre. He is one of two Donegal contestants taking part with Dunfanaghy's Chelsea Evans making her appearance the following week on Tuesday March 26th. Jason and Chelsea have already taken part in filming in Galway for the shows that will be screened over the coming weeks including a live show on April 9th where voters get to choose their favorite performer on the night. Jason said it has been a great experience taking part in the long running series, now in its 20th year. He is being mentored by Claudia Buckley and Chelsea by Jim Devine. Speaking ahead of the show next week Jason said it was great to have the oppor-

tunity to appear on Glór Tíre and that he is hoping for strong support when the live show is aired on April 9th. This is when his family, friends and fans, old and new, can get voting for the affable Ramelton man to help see him advance in the competition. This can only be done through the Glór Tíre app that is available to download through a number of platforms including Google Play Store and the Apple App store. Jason said recording was a great experience and being onstage with a full production team complete with cameras and lights was great. "It is great to get on the show. Claudia has been great. It was a class experience, even just to get a look at it all and how it is own. It was great to see the others perform as well and that helped settle the nerves in front of the TV cameras, but

when you're on stage you never notice them at all. You don't see the cameras because of the lights and it felt just as if you were playing in the town hall in Ramelton," Jason laughed. The week after Jason makes his debut it will be time for 19-year-old Chelsea Evans to make her first performance on the show and fly the flag for Donegal. Speaking ahead of the show Chelsea said she is "really looking forward to being on this year's show. I've been a fan of Glór Tíre for many years and to finally be able to take part is a dream come true". The longest-running and most successful country music series on Irish television is back for its milestone 20th season and will see eight emerging talents in Irish country music fight it out for the title of Glór Tíre Champion 2024, with each contestant mentored by some of the biggest names in Irish country,



Jason McCahill with his mentor Claudia Buckley. He will appear with Claudia this Sunday night in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny with dancing starting at 9pm.

St. Mary's Bazaar this Monday

Its back... for the first time since 2019 the famous St. Mary's Church St. Patrick's Day bazaar will be held on Monday the 18th in the Town Hall.

Starting at 3pm until 6pm there will be all the usual stalls and the Rickety Wheel will even get rolled out for the afternoon!

Also during the Bazaar the Church Fund Raising draw will be held and it has four great prizes to be won. First prize is 500ltrs of Heating Oil and then there are three prizes of €500 in cash. Tickets are now on sale at €5 and are available at the Church and in McFadden's Shop at Gamble's Square and also on the day of the bazaar.

All proceeds are in aid of Church Funds and the organisers with to thank their sponsors, Hugh Whoriskey, Lennon Lodge, Purty House, Bridge Bar, Shore Road Autos, Joe McDaid, Eunan Gormley, Paul Durning, Tom Murray, McFadden Minibus Hire, Tirconail Tribune, Kernan's Spar, Dunworths Cafe, Brian Callaghan, Paddy Tin-

St. Mary's Church, Ramelton St. Patrick's Day Draw

1st Prize: **500 Ltrs Heating Oil** 2nd Prize: **€500 Cash**
3rd Prize: **€500 Cash** 4th Prize: **€500 Cash**

Many thanks to our generous sponsors: Hugo Whoriskey, Lennon Lodge, Purty House, Bridge Bar, Shore Road Autos, Joe McDaid, Eunan Gormley, Paul Durning, Tom Murray, McFadden Minibus Hire, Tirconail Tribune, Kernan's Spar, Dunworth's Café, Brian Callaghan, Paddy Tinney, Dr. Cuffe, Dr. Hanley, Fr. Carney

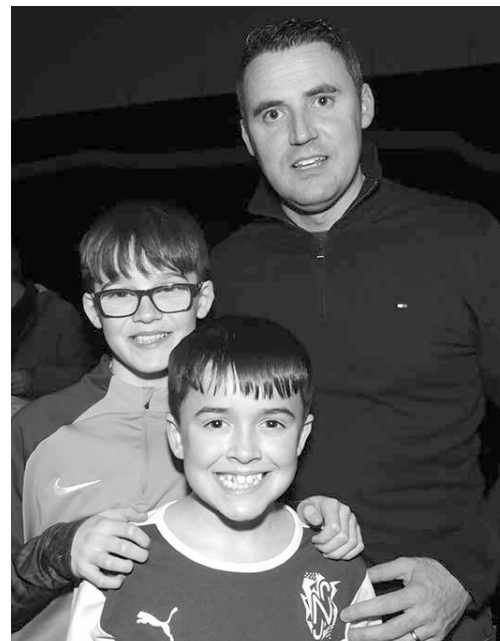
Draw will take place on Monday 18th March 2024
at the Bazaar in the Town Hall, Ramelton from 3-6pm. **Tickets €5**

All proceeds in aid of Church Funds Permit Granted
ney, Dr. Cuffe, Dr. Hanley and Fr. Carney.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the craic and you could be lucky and get your photo in the Tribune next week!



The wedding took place on Saturday in Ramelton of Regina Kerr and Ray Devenney. Regina is the daughter of Brendan and Frances Kerr, Castle Street, Ramelton. Ray is the son of Claire and Shaun Devenney, Newtowncunningham. Fr. Michael Carney officiated at the nuptials in St. Mary's Church. Bridesmaids were Francesca Peoples, Lisa McGlynn, Laura Peoples, Emma Peoples and Beth Kerr. Groomsmen were Thomas McKinley, Mark Dowds, Chris Dolan, Stephen Devenney and Paul Devenney. Page Girls were Ellie McKinley and Emily McWilliams. Robert Devenney and Cody Devenney were the Page Boys. The wedding reception took place afterwards in the Silver Tassie Hotel.



Enjoying Mother Goose in the Town Hall on Tuesday night were Cllr. Pauric McGarvey with his sons Mason and Cody and below, 5 years old Aria Ponsonby at the show on Monday night.



Country Market

Ramelton Country Market will be in Ramelton Town Hall from 10.30am until 12.00noon this Saturday 16th March. Order from our food producers on 087 9699715 for St Patrick's Day and Easter make sure to enter the kids Easter Bonnet competition you could win an easter egg. We will have lots of activity at our Easter Market. Come along, browse the market that boasts the best of local homemade food with our wholesome soups, cottage pies, lasagne, quiche, meat pasties, seasonal vegetables, breads, scones, sweet treats and also beautiful local made crafts, cards, natural soap, knitwear, woodturning and more. Meet up with family and friends at our Cosy Tearoom for a Tea/coffee and maybe a delicious Cheese Toastie, scone or sweet treat, everything to make your visit to our market relaxing & enjoyable. Loyalty cards are available at our checkouts & credit card payments are accepted. Ramelton Country Market gift vouchers are also available. Just enquire at our checkout or from any market member. We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

Jive with Paul

Paul McCahill is holding Jiving Classes in the Ramelton Community Centre every Wednesday night from 8pm to 9.30pm. Learn to jive, waltz, foxtrot and line dance with Paul and his team. Admission is €8 for Adults and €5 for children and all welcome.

St. Patrick's Dance

The Annual St. Patrick's Dance in the Milford Hall is being held on Saturday 16th at 9pm. Music is by Martin Duggan and John Cannon, so a lively night is guaranteed. This year the dance is in aid of Donegal Downs Syndrome

Association. Tickets are €10 and this includes entry for the prize draw. Refreshments will be served. So get your dancing shoes on and enjoy the craic.

Kerrykeel Parade

The annual St Patrick's Day Parade on again this year in Kerrykeel. It will be starting at 3 o'clock with live music after the parade and everyone is invited.

Ramelton SVP

As the cost of living crisis continues, many families will face impossible choices this winter. If you are in need of support, contact Ramelton SVP in confidence.

Crochet and knitting craft group

Crochet and knitting craft group has begun again and continues every Monday 10.30am to 12.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre behind the chapel. Everyone is welcome to come along and bring your current project or start something new. Enjoy the craic company and a cuppa. All queries to Myrtle on 0876825387.

Community Games registrations

Registrations for the Ramelton Community Games will take place on Thursday 21st March. The venue will be the Community Centre at 6.15p.m. All children who wish to participate in this year's games must register on this date. Parents need to accompany their children.

Upon A Star Drama School

Do you know someone who would be interested in helping out at the Upon A Star Drame showcase in Ramelton Town Hall on the 14th of April. The role would include supervising children backstage, helping with props and costumes and making sure everyone is on stage on time. Ideal for someone studying childcare, drama, or anyone who feels they would enjoy the position. Would also suit those in transition



P.J. Black, Shaun Boyce and John Diver who were at Old Trafford on Saturday to see Manchester Utd defeat Everton 2-0 in the Premiership thanks to penalties converted by Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford. It made it a very enjoyable weekend for the local Man Utd fans on the annual coach trip to Old Trafford.

year for work experience. Must be aged 16+ and available for a couple of Tuesday sessions at Ramelton Community Centre in March. If interested contact the group.

Little Ballers

The Little Ballers Toddler Foot-

ball continues every Monday in the Ramelton Community Centre for boys and girls aged from 3 to 5 years old. Group 1 are on from 5 to 5.30pm and Group 2 from 5.30 to 6pm. Call into the Centre for details.




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Members of the Children's Chorus at the opening night of the Ramelton Panto Mother Goose in the Town Hall on Monday night.

Voter registration urged - Cllr McClafferty.

Members of the public are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote after it was claimed that a number of the electorate found they were not registered to vote when they went to cast their ballot in last weekend's referendum.

Glenties Area Cllr. Michael McClafferty said he would "encourage everyone" to check the Electoral Register after last weekend many queries from concerned voters.

He explained: "I have had a lot of queries over the weekend in regards to people who never received a polling card for the referendum, or realised when they went to vote, they had been taken off the register."

He said there are a number of ways to ensure you are registered for the forthcoming local and European elections in June. You can register by logging onto www.checktheregister.ie and go to Apply Online to register.

He added you can also email franchise@donegalcoco.ie or phone 074-9172273 to make your vote count.

He added: "Many people turned up at their local voting booths only to be turned away as their name was not on the register as normal. This is people who are long term voters with no change in circumstances have been denied their right to vote in last Friday's referendum. I will be chasing up this matter seeking answers for these people as to why this has happened. This is unacceptable going forward for long term voters. I'd urge everybody ahead of the local Elections and the European Elections in June to get registered if you're a coming of age teenager or if you haven't voted in the past, or maybe returning home from working away the same apply get registered make your vote and voice count."



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Sun. 17th March -

Claudia Buckley



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Dancing 9-11pm €15 Pay at door

followed by music in McGettigan's Bar from 11pm.

Coming - 24th March - Jimmy Buckley, 31st March - Robert Mizzell

Work completed on St. Mary's NS one-way



Work has been completed on the Ramelton Safe Routes to School Active Travel Scheme that has provided a one-way system on Church Street from the Rectory Road Y-junction down past St. Mary's N.S. to the main Letterkenny Road. There are new footways throughout the scheme with appropriate controlled and uncontrolled crossing facilities to the school. It also includes a new front of school design in accordance with the NTAs 'Safe Routes to School' guidance doc-

uments and includes an amenity area (shared space) and extension for the current overflowing car park. A new pedestrian crossing will also be provided on the main Letterkenny Road with additional uncontrolled crossing points on both the R245 and Church Street to improve carriageway pedestrian crossing points to furthermore promote a shift from a car dependent society and encourage walking to school. The Council says the new improved infrastructure will benefit the local

community particularly those in the surrounding housing estates aforementioned. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme was developed in partnership with the NTA and Green-Schools in 2020 as a response to the need to support schools to increase walking and cycling to school. The new traffic system aims to address the existing poor or lack of facilities for active travel to link Scoil Mhuire NS to Ramelton Health Centre, St Mary's Church and adjacent

housing estates of Lennon Grove, Elm Court, Meadowvale, Chestnut Grove, The Steeples, St. Mary's Terrace and Cúl na Cille. With approximately 190 students enrolled at the school, the programme aims to relieve congestion at the school gate during drop off and pick up times and encourage a shift from a car dependent school by providing encouragement and support to students to opt to walk as a primary choice of transport.

Sinn Féin Public Meeting hears that this is

No Country for Young People under this Government

Sinn Féin organised a public meeting held on Monday night in the Parochial Hall in Carrigart.

Sinn Féin TD Pádraig MacLochlainn was in attendance with Maria Doherty local election candidate chairing the meeting. Pádraig gave an overview of SF policies in terms of Health and Housing and noted that there is no freeze in rent control in Donegal and that currently under government guidelines Donegal does not meet criteria to build social housing, which is just not acceptable on any level.

The meeting heard from the community on several issues. A huge issue that was raised in the community was Housing, in terms of the lack of social and affordable housing, the crazy price of rents and then the unbearable situation for so many families that are dealing with defective blocks in their homes, who not only have to vacate their family home but also can not find alternative accommodation. The resounding mood in the room was this Government is out of touch with its people, the disconnect is palpable. Again, the issue of the state of our roads and traffic concerns were raised.

Maria Doherty Sinn Féin local election candidate said that "our communities deserve better, years and years of under investment in public services like health and housing have brought rural communities like ours to a crisis point and with the forthcoming local election in



Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn with Maria Doherty.

June, the people have an opportunity to have their say. While we have FF and FG in power there will be no change, and what SF wants to do is offer hope and solutions to these ongoing huge issues".

The governments ongoing campaign to bring people home from abroad was noted as all about show. With nowhere to live and then the bureaucratic nightmare that is dealing with official Ireland who do not make any task easy.

A constituent outline their challenges of establishing themselves when they returned from living abroad with their young family, from waiting months to open a Bank Account, to a year to get Child Benefit, not to mention obtaining Car Insurance and then huge barriers put in place in terms of trying to obtain planning permission, this really is no county for young people under this current government and it really is not good enough. SF will continue to challenge and campaign for a better way.

Opening of the Scoil Eoin Baiste Polytunnel



As part of our application for our 7th Green Flag Aengus Kennedy visited the school this week & he officially opened the recently installed polytunnel. The polytunnel was purchased from funds raised by Veronica & Denis Mc Gettigan's Tractor Run in July last year. Included in the picture are Rose Mc Gettigan with Aengus, principal Breda McGeever and the Green Schools Committee.

North West 10k charity fundraisers

The three North West 10k charities have been busy over the past month organising fundraising events in the build-up to the big event itself on the Bank Holiday Monday the 6th of May in Letterkenny.

The three charities are the Kilmacrennan, Termon, Gartan, Churchill and Trentagh Community First Responders, Cara House Family Resource Centre and the Letterkenny Community Childcare Centre.

This Saturday there is an Easter Family Photoshoot in Cara House. Joe Boland the Chairperson of the Cara House Board of Management will be taking the snaps from midday to 4p.m.

Then on St. Patrick's Day there is a Breakfast Morning in Wilkins of Churchill from 10.30am to 1.30p.m. On Saturday week the 23rd of March there is a Spinathon in the Letterkenny Shopping Centre from 10am to 4pm.

There is a Bucket Collection at the Millbridge, Kilmacrennan on Monday 1st of April from 10am to 4pm.

The fundraisers continue on Thursday, April 4th at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Letterkenny where there will be a Fashion Show from 7.30p.m to 10p.m.

On Sunday, April 7th there is a Coffee Morning from 12 to 4pm in the An Craoibhin Termon. Arena 7 will host a Quiz Night from 9-11pm on Thursday 11th of April. At the Old Dunnes Stores on Saturday 20th April there will be ticket selling from 9am to 5pm. On Saturday 27th of April there will be a Night at the Races in the Swilly Inn Letterkenny from 8-10pm. A Ladies Night will take place on Friday 17th of May in the Letterkenny Community Child-

care Centre from 7.30-10pm.

The race will take place on Bank Holiday Monday the 6th of May in Letterkenny. Entries are being taken online for a charity event that has raised over €931,000 since the Northwest 10k started in 1997, benefiting 38 charity organisations.

Kilmacrennan, Termon, Gartan, Churchill and Trentagh Community First Responders are a new group setup at the end of last year with the aim of helping members of the public that suffer cardiac arrest or other medical emergencies. They aim to facilitate the installation and maintenance of AEDs for public access in the areas that they cover. This will be achieved through the CFR Group's trained volunteers. The Group will provide CPR/AED/CFR training to interested members of the public.

People are now being urged to get registered, get training and get the word out to support the Northwest 10k charities of 2024. Online entries are now being taken for May's event by going to www.njuko.net/nw_10k_2024 where runners and walkers will find all the information required.

Sponsorship cards are available from committee members and the benefiting charities.



A section of the attendance at the Sinn Féin organised meeting in the Carrigart Hall on Monday evening.

Retirement presentation to mark Neil's work at Ards Friary



On Wednesday at Ards Friary, Creeslough, marked a special day for local man Neil Brogan who retired from his role in the Rural Social Scheme after many dedicated years of service to the upkeep and maintenance of the tranquil haven. Members of the Ards community and Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) gathered to make a presentation to Neil, from Derryheff, to thank him for his dedicated work through the years. He had been working on the scheme for the last seven years and played an important role in the upkeep and maintenance of the friary and its surroundings in that time. A DLDC spokesperson stated: "On behalf of DLDC and the

Rural Social Scheme, we want to say a huge thank you to Neil Brogan for his unwavering commitment and hard work in supporting Ards Friary. "Over the past seven years as an RSS participant, Neil has been a crucial part of the Friary team, contributing to maintenance, enhancing the grounds, and caring for the gardens, graveyard, and walkways. "Neil, your dedication and hard work has helped to make Ards Friary an even more cherished place for everyone. As you step into a well-deserved retirement, we extend our warmest wishes for a future filled with happiness, health, and relaxation," they concluded.

Traffic safety concerns at Kilmacrennan N.S.

Following a motion from Cllr O'Donnell temporary speed ramps are to be installed at Kilmacrennan National School. Cllr O'Donnell raised the issue during Tuesday's Municipal District meeting. He said there had been ongoing concerns expressed by parents about their fears over vehicles speeding when they were dropping off and picking

up children from the school. He gave one example recently where a parent and a child had a near miss when attempting to cross the road from the school to their car. Following Tuesday's motion to the MD meeting, Cllr O'Donnell said he welcomed the Council's response in that they will install temporary plastic

ramps initially for a period to assess whether that measure reduces the average speed of vehicles. The motion was seconded by Cllr Liam Blaney. In their response the Council also said a safety review was carried out at Kilmacrennan N.S. last month. Following the review road markings were installed to improve vision lines at the school crossing.

No funding for Rathmullan one-way

There is currently no funding available to progress Rathmullan town one-way traffic system according to a reply received by Cllr Pauric McGarvey during Tuesday's Municipal District meeting. He was told designs for a one-way system in Rathmullan were prepared in 2017 and reviews have been

carried out to establish that they were in accordance with current NTA Active travel design requirements. In a written reply the Council: "There is currently no funding available to progress this project. A future application will be made to the NTA for funding to progress the project."

The late Charlie Boyle

The death took place at his home on Saturday of Charlie Boyle, Kilmore, Churchill. Aged 75 Charlie was a very well known and highly respected member of the local community. He was a former employee of Glenveagh National Park where he was a



popular member of staff and enjoyed meeting so many members of the public in his job as a bus driver. Charlie also had farming interests. Away from work he had a great love of music and dancing. He was also an avid sports fan and was proud of the achievements of his son Michael with Termon and Donegal including the All-Ireland title triumph in 2012. Charlie was a longtime member of the parish committee and was very much part of the project to upgrade St. Colmcille's Church nearly 20 years. He was also a member of the church choir. In his homily Fr. Michael McKeever spoke about Charlie being diagnosed with the Motor Neurone condition a number of years ago. He said that despite living with a very challenging health issue Charlie always remained positive and bore the illness great dignity and fortitude.

Charlie's remains reposed at the Eternal Light Chapel of Rest, Letterkenny on Saturday evening. Removal was from there on Sunday, to repose at the family home in Kilmore. Funeral was from there on Monday for Requiem Mass in St Colmcille's Church, Glendowan where Fr. Michael McKeever P.P. officiated.

Aine Boyle spoke about the symbols of Charlie's life that were brought forward by Mint Boyle, Marion Peoples, Gerry McNulty, Bernard Alcorn, Thomas Friel, Brendan Breen and Michael McDaid including a blanket for the care he received, photo of his beloved dog Jack, a C.D., Gartan clay, a tractor, son Michael's All-Ireland winning jersey and his retirement gift from the staff at Glenveagh National Park.

Readings were by Sally Anne Sherry and Maura Toomey. Prayers of the Faithful were by Sarah Neely, Mairead Crossan, Fabianna Hamilton,

Anne Tinney, Michael Duffy and Josephine Fitz Howard. Music and hymns were by Grainne Duggan, Helen Cannon, Donnelly Doherty and Timmy Boyle. Interment took place afterwards in Gartan Cemetery where Fr McKeever said the graveside prayers.

Charlie was predeceased by his parents Mickey and Sally Boyle, sisters Margaret McLaughlin and Frances Duffy. He is survived by his wife Dolores; son Michael and partner Fabiana; grandchildren Sophia and Chloe. Charlie is also survived by his sisters Kathleen Mullen (Pat), Mary Rose Williams (Mark) and Siobhan Göppert (Dietmar) and brother James Boyle (Grace); brothers in law Hugh McLaughlin and Joe Duffy, nephews, nieces, extended family members, carers, neighbours and many friends. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family circle

Funeral of Jean Elliott

The funeral took place on Friday of Jean Elliott (née Hamilton) Tullygay, Letterkenny. A native of the area, Jean was the last surviving member of that generation of the Hamilton family. As a young woman she emigrated to Scotland taking up employment in one of the sewing machine factories. When Jean returned home she worked as a housekeeper in a family home for a number of years.



Jean passed away on Wednesday of last week at Letterkenny University Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph in January 2020. Jean is survived by her family Jackie (Andy), Deirdre (Neil), Jarvan (Karen), Lyndon (Marie), Nichola (Brendan), Serena (Padraig), Noelle (David), Laura (Damien). She is also survived by her 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Deepest condolences are extended to Jean's family, neighbours and friends. Reverend Tommy Bruce officiated at the Funeral Service in Trinity Presbyterian Church, Letterkenny on Friday followed by interment in Gortlee Cemetery.

Deepest condolences are extended to the family circle.

Funeral of Anne Patricia Rose

The funeral took place on Saturday of Anne Patricia Rose formerly of Forest Walk, Swords, Dublin and Whitethorn, Gortlee. Anne Patricia who was a native of Brocagh, Cloghan passed away on Tuesday of last week at Hillcrest Nursing Home, Letterkenny. Prior to retirement she was a midwife at the Sheil Hospital, Ballyshannon.



Anne Patricia was predeceased by her brothers Cathal, Josie, Connie and Eunan. She is survived by daughter Carmel, sons Kevin (Jennifer) and Peter (Janice); sister Carmel Campbell (Dublin); grandchildren Robin, Faith, Ava, Luke, Nick and Zadie.

Anne Patricia remains reposed at her son Peter's residence Bracken Lea, Letterkenny on Friday. Fr Ciaran Harkin officiated at the Requiem Mass on Saturday in the Church of the Irish Martyrs. Interment took place afterwards in the family plot in Kiltteevogue Graveyard, Glenfin. Deepest condolences are extended to the family circle.

Funeral of Teresa Orr

The funeral took place on Friday of Teresa Orr, Upper Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny. Teresa passed away on Wednesday of last week at Brindley Manor Nursing Home, Convoy. Aged 78 she had worked on the household staff at Gallagher's Hotel and also St. Eunan's College. Remains reposed at The Eternal Light Chapel of Rest, Mountain Top, Letterkenny, on Thursday prior to removal to St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny for reception prayers.

Fr. Kevin Gillespie officiated at the Requiem Mass on Friday. Interment took place afterwards in New Leck Cemetery where Fr. Gillespie said the graveside prayers.

Teresa is survived by her sisters Mary Coyle (Strabane) and Margaret McCormack (Gwee-

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Coffee Morning in Carrigart

Mevagh Parochial Hall, Carrigart on Sunday 24th March from 12noon - 3pm with all proceeds in aid of Mevagh Parochial Hall.



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1st Prize - €100 Hamper

- 2nd Prize - Wine & Cheese Hamper Spons by Centra Carrigart
- 3rd Prize - €50 Meal Voucher Sponsored by Logues of Cranford
- 4th Prize - €50 Meal Voucher Sponsored by Carrigart Hotel

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ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND

Sat 16th March - Music in wee Bar

Gerry O

Sun 17th March - Music in wee Bar

St. Patrick's Day

Kealan Pritchard

5.30 - 7.30pm

Dancing in the Lounge - 9.30pm - 11.30pm

John Glenn & Brian Kerrigan

Bar Food, Restaurant & Take Away served

For details and bookings

call 074 91 53232

Coffee Morning in Carrigart

A Coffee Morning will be held in Mevagh Parochial Hall, Carrigart on Sunday 24th March from 12noon - 3pm with all proceeds in aid of Mevagh Parochial Hall. Tickets are on sale for the annual Draw at €5 each or 3 for €10. Draw will take place on the day. Prizes are 1st Prize - €100 Hamper; 2nd Prize - Wine & Cheese Hamper Sponsored by Centra Carrigart; 3rd Prize - €50 Meal Voucher Sponsored by Logues of Cranford; 4th Prize - €50 Meal Voucher Sponsored by Carrigart Hotel.

Good as New Sale in Carrigart

The annual Good as New Sale in aid of Holy Trinity Church will be held Hay Hall on Saturday 30th March and Monday 1st April from 11am - 5pm each day. All welcome.

Ballyraine development granted planning

Conditional planning permission has been granted to Theresa Tinney for the development of six houses in Cruach Na Cille, Ballyraine, Letterkenny.

Donegal County Council granted the conditional permission for the construction of six, two storey dwellings, all associated site works and connection to existing public services in lieu of previously approved layout granted under planning ref. no 15/50056.

done), nieces and nephews and a wide circle of family, friends and neighbours. She was predeceased by her mother Elizabeth, brothers Bobby and Jim and her sister, Elizabeth. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family circle.

Milford

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Helen Anderson, Aughanurson, Milford and family on the death of her mother Mary Herron, Welchtown, Ballybofey recently. Requiem Mass was held in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Glenfin with interment afterwards in Cill Mhuire Cemetery.

St. Patrick's Dance

The annual St. Patrick's Eve Dance will take place in the Milford Hall on Saturday 16th March from 9-11.30pm. Music is by Martin Duggan and John Cannon. Tickets are price at €10 which included prize draw entry and refreshments served. All proceeds are in aid of Donegal Down Syndrome.

Grey Rocks footpath replacement

Cllr Liam Blaney has been informed that works will begin on replacing the footpath at Grey Rocks in Milford sometime between April and June. Cllr Blaney received the response during Tuesday's Municipal District Meeting.

Mission Hall

Speakers at the Milford Mission Hall which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 8pm are as follows Sunday 7th April Mr. Eric Borland.

Bake Day

Swilly Mulroy Credit Union are holding their Great Irish Bake Day and Member Appreciation

More medals for Maeve McClean

Milford girl Maeve McClean produced a five-star performance over the weekend at an international swimming competition in Swansea. Maeve, a member of the City of Derry SC, competed as part of the Ulster Regional Squad in Swansea winning five medals. The event was attended by all four Irish Regional Squads. The Transition Year student at Mulroy College, Milford competed in the U17 age-category taking gold in the 50m Backstroke. She won silvers in the 200 Backstroke, 100 Backstroke and 50m Freestyle. Maeve also took bronze in the 100m Freestyle.

St. Patrick's Dance

Milford Hall

Saturday 16th March
9.00pm - 11.30pm

**Music by Martin Duggan
& John Cannon**

All proceeds in aid of
Donegal Down Syndrome

Tickets €10
(Including Prize Draw Entry)

Refreshments served.

Leinster success for Brian Boyce



Milford man Brian Boyce enjoyed double medal success at the Leinster Indoor Masters Championships last weekend. He was first in the 200m with a New Indoor Personal Best and he was also second in the 400m with a season's best. Brian is now heading to the European Indoors Championships.

Day again this year on Friday the 22nd of March in their Kerrykeel office. Everyone is invited to come along and there will be more details next week.

50/50 Winner

Congratulations to Mark Buchanan, Ramelton who was the lucky winner of €1000 in the Milford United February 50/50 Draw on Sunday 10th March.

Good Friday Golan Pad Walk

The annual Good Friday Golan Pad Walk will take place this Friday 29th March, meeting on Market Square at 5.30pm. There will be refreshments at the halfway point at Golan Chapel, as usual. There are collection buckets around Milford for donations and donations will also be accepted on the day at the starting point and at Golan Chapel. All are welcome! The event is again organised by the Milford Tidy Towns and Milford Care of the Aged, all money raised will be split between a chosen charity of the two groups.

Golf Society

The Hi-da-way Golf Society next outing will take place on the Old Tom Morris Links at Rosapenna on Saturday 23rd March. Contact Captain David Bonner 085 8320260 or Eugene McCafferty 087 7704149 for further details.

Confirmations

Confirmations 2024 will take place in the parish on Saturday 20th April for pupils at Scoil Mhuire, Milford, Scoil Cholmcille, Kerrykeel and Scoil Cholmcille, Drumman.

First Holy Communion in the parish will take place on Saturday 27th

April for pupils at Scoil Cholmcille, Kerrykeel, Scoil Cholmcille, Drumman and Scoil Mhuire, Milford.

Masses

Mass times in St Peter's Church, Milford this week are Thursday 14th March 10.00am, Friday 15th March 10.00am; Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm; Sunday 17th March at 11.00am.

Mass times in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kerrykeel on Saturday 16th March at 6pm.

Graveyard Mass Dates

The annual Graveyard Mass at Tully Cemetery will take place on Sunday 28th July at 3pm and Graveyard Mass at Milford Cemetery will take place on Sunday 4th August at 3pm.

Party Bookings at Gallowglass

The Gallowglass Community Centre is available for birthday party bookings on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as early evenings during the week. Contact the MDRC office for more info on 0749153736 or Emma Lou on emmalou@mdrc.ie.

Gallowglass Centre Activities

Baby & Toddler Group is on every Monday morning at 10am. €2 per family and everyone is welcome, whether they are parents, grandparents, carers or minders.

Games Night takes place every Monday evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm. Attendance is free and all ages are welcome. A great way to spend an evening.

Kids Crochet Classes take place on Tuesdays from 5.30pm-7pm. €30 per child for 4 weeks.



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Line Dancing is back on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm. €5 per person.

Pilates takes place on Wednesday mornings at 7am. Contact Claire on 08779515601 for more information. Block bookings or pay as you go available.

Adults crochet class takes place on Wednesday evenings from 7pm. Classes are €5 per person. Just turn up, everyone welcome!

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ture of two hand, line dancing and a bit of ceiling thrown in for good measure. Everyone welcome

FAI Ulster U17 Schools Final Report and Photo by Declan Kerr

Loreto Milford lose U17 decider

Abbey VS 1-0 Loreto CS Milford

There was no joy for Loreto CS Milford on Tuesday as David Butler's side suffered defeat by the narrowest of margins against Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town in the FAI U17 Ulster Schools Final played at the Letterkenny Community Centre. It was a hugely entertaining contest with both sides well supported from the sidelines by big numbers of students from the respective schools.

The decider's only goal came after the midway stage of the second from an Abbey free-kick that the Milford defence failed to deal with, the ball eventually being forced over the line at the Community Centre end of the ground by Eoghan Gallagher. Loreto Milford had shaded proceedings up until that but found Abbey keeper Lewis McCaughan in top form. He pulled off a string of fine saves in the first half and was Man of the Match. It's been a hugely successful week for the Donegal Town secondary school who won an All-Ireland Senior Schools GAA B title on Saturday. Kilmacrennan man Gavin Gorman was a member of the Abbey VS management team on Tuesday.

After being frustrated by the heroics of McCaughan in the first half, Milford hit the crossbar just after the restart. Ruairi Conaghan then teed up Rowan McGroarty for a shot that forced a corner. From Gavin McAteer's resultant set-piece McCaughan clawed the ball away at the expense of another corner. Butler's side kept pressing for an equaliser but found the Abbey defence hard to penetrate but on a few occasions were guilty of not being sharp enough in the final third.

Ironically McCaughan didn't have a serious save to make in the second half but was still commanding in his penalty area. Conor McLaughlin had a couple of efforts that were deflected out for corners by opposition defenders while a Shea Cannon shot went narrowly over the bar. Loreto Milford forced a series of corners in the closing stages but could find no way past the stubborn Abbey rearguard.

Loreto CS Milford - Dylan Sweeney Roulston, Rowan McGroarty, Michael Kerr, Ciaran Conaghan, Oisín McHugh, Ruairi Conaghan, Shea Cannon, Conor McLaughlin, Conor Gibson, Caolan McBride, Gavin McAteer. Subs: Fionn Cherwick, Charlie Gallagher, Caolan



Rowan McGroarty and Oisín McHugh close in on an Abbey VS player on Tuesday.

Scott, Adam Hosford, Shay Gibbons, Jude Burrowes, Johnny McAteer. Ref Dessie McLaughlin. Assistants Paddy Doherty, Barry Tourish.

Fundraiser launched for Coole Cranford Community Centre

The Coole Cranford Community Centre has launched a GoFundMe campaign aimed at raising €30,000 to complete essential renovations to the facility. This initiative comes after a €300,000 funding award from Pobal, requiring the community to



To meet their goal, they are reaching out to community members, local businesses, and anyone passionate about the community space to contribute to their GoFundMe campaign. Every donation, no matter the size, brings them one

step closer to achieving their vision. As a token of gratitude, the names of all contributors will be honoured on a Donor Wall, celebrating the collective effort that made the renovations possible. The renovations are not just an investment in the physical structure of the Coole Cranford Community Centre but an investment in the future of the community. The new facilities will enable them to host a wider range of activities and events, promoting community well-being and togetherness. For more information about the campaign and how you can contribute, please visit our GoFundMe page at <https://bit.ly/Coole-Cranford-Renovations> or visit their Facebook page for more information.

step closer to achieving their vision. As a token of gratitude, the names of all contributors will be honoured on a Donor Wall, celebrating the collective effort that made the renovations possible. The renovations are not just an investment in the physical structure of the Coole Cranford Community Centre but an investment in the future of the community. The new facilities will enable them to host a wider range of activities and events, promoting community well-being and togetherness. For more information about the campaign and how you can contribute, please visit our GoFundMe page at <https://bit.ly/Coole-Cranford-Renovations> or visit their Facebook page for more information.

“We are thrilled about the potential that these renovations hold for our community,” says Patrick Logue, Chairperson. “With the support of our community and donors, we can create a space that meets the needs of our community and continues to serve as a hub for connection, learning, and fun.”



Contractor Nigel Black with Yvonne Lynch, Michelle Brennan and Helen Carr at the Community Centre.



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~~~~~

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Thurs 14th March - **Shaun Cuddy & Brian Kerrigan**

Thurs 21st March - **Jack Larry**

Thurs 28th March - **Connor O'Donnell**

#### Easter Sunday Carvery Lunch

### Carvery Lunch

**€26.95**

Children 12 years and under €13

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For more information contact the hotel at 074 91-53313 or email [info@mulroywoodshotel.com](mailto:info@mulroywoodshotel.com)

## Milford AC in Derry



A drone photo by Prionsias Carr showing the trees which have been removed for the new Milford Athletic Club Track to the left of Maggies Burn.

Just an updated club result The proposed track location is on the first square of ground closest to existing car park, heading towards the first clump of trees.

1 Marty Lynch 7th overall 55.43; 2 Paddy Ryan 11th overall 56.29pb; 3. Stephen Devlin, 46th overall 1.02.46 pb; 4. Eoin Sheehy 1.07.46; 5. Danielle McNamee 1.11.04pb 9th fastest female; 6. Harry Boyce 1.14.42; 7. Hannah McCloy 1.23.53pb; 8. Francis Diver. 1.25.38; 9. Aine Whoriskey. 1.25.57; 10. Noelle Ryan 1.31.03 pb.

Most land to the left in the above photo is GAA owned and the land on the right running parallel with the stream (Maggies Burn) is Milford AC owned.

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Rich Tea Biscuits

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AVAILABLE AT MAPLE MILFORD THURS 14TH - WED 20TH MARCH

## Many More Offers in Store

Deli / Atm / Lotto / Off Licence / Parking

# Hyper-Suspicious

I got a message from a friend this morning. Her sister had been scammed - some scheme that gave hackers access to her Amazon account, from which they had bought several phones.

For some months there was hardly a day went past without some sort of scam call. It's not just calls, but texts from random numbers claiming to be your bank, or An Post, or DHL or whomever. It's easy to ignore them unless it is a message claiming to be from your bank, or if you were actually expecting a parcel! Then it seems all the more plausible. Last week my brother (who is reasonably tech savvy) posted a message in our family WhatsApp group: "Just a warning - think I'm being the victim of an attempted scam. It seems pretty

convincing." He had made a purchase which had seemed to be accepted and paid for. A while later he started to get messages asking him to verify the transaction, then an automated phone message warning that if he didn't confirm the transaction, his card would be blocked and so on. A day later my brother said, "They kept calling and calling yesterday." He googled the number and up came a website with a list of warnings about the number - along with some positive comments saying it was legitimate - the bank. My brother reported, "Amongst majority negative comments there were a few positive, but I presume that's the scammers. I blocked the number." He further commented on the apparent

devious nature of the scam, "The more sophisticated bit, I think, is that they have a transaction that did originate with me." Another day later, he posted this message, "Turns out it was all totally legit. Tried to pay for oil on the card today and it had been blocked." It was the bank after all, there was no scam, the bank was just doing its job. Of course it is better to be safe than sorry. Double check everything. Look up your bank's card helpline and ring it if need be. But it did make me think. We live in a world with a thousand and one scams going on. Offers that seem too good to be true. Cheap goods coming from China that vastly undercut the real thing, made from inferior materials and not fulfilling their function.

We are rightly suspicious of a 'good thing'. But maybe we can be hyper suspicious and miss out. The good news of Jesus is the best offer available. It promises the greatest gifts - forgiveness, cleansing, redemption, salvation and eternal life. But perhaps we've been bombarded with so many religious claims, false promises, fakery and dishonesty that we are hyper-suspicious and end up giving it all a wide berth. That would be a shame. Checking in with the bank would have shown my brother the truth. Checking the Bible's claims, the claims of genuine Christianity, will help you find the truth. Rather than avoiding everything, we should "test everything; hold on to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Mark Loughridge is one of the ministers in Milford Reformed Presbyterian Church. He can be contacted on 086 3907726 or [jmarkloughridge@gmail.com](mailto:jmarkloughridge@gmail.com) You can watch or listen online at [www.milfordrpc.org](http://www.milfordrpc.org)

## Food for thought



Mark Loughridge

Church. He can be contacted on 086 3907726 or [jmarkloughridge@gmail.com](mailto:jmarkloughridge@gmail.com)

You can watch or listen online at [www.milfordrpc.org](http://www.milfordrpc.org)

# Daisy Awards for LUH Nurses

Three nurses/midwives from Letterkenny University Hospital have been acknowledged for the meaningful difference they make in their patients' lives.

At a ceremony Ann Browne, Ann McLaughlin and Brenda Sandilands were chosen to receive a "DAISY Award" after being nominated by co-workers and patients. The DAISY award is a new initiative in LUH but the programme itself was established by an international not-for-profit organisation, the DAISY Foundation.

The foundation aims to recognise the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care provided to patients all over the world. The awards are in memory of J Patrick Barnes, who died at the age of 33 in Washington, USA.

Bonnie Barnes, Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation said, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognised for the super-human, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses and midwives at Letterkenny Univer-

sity Hospital are called on to do every day epitomises the spirit of The DAISY Award."

**Ann Browne, Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Paediatrics, Emergency Department**

Ann was nominated by her colleagues in the Emergency Department for her transformational leadership, knowledge and unwavering dedication to exceptional patient care in setting up a new paediatric pathway in the Emergency Department. Her nomination story commended her kindness to patients, parents and staff alike. Ann's colleagues were grateful for the commitment, enthusiasm and support she demonstrates daily and felt that these qualities were integral to the success of the new service in the Emergency Department

**Anne McLaughlin, Staff Nurse, Paediatric Ward**

Anne was nominated by a member of the public for the compassionate care received by his daughter on a number of admissions to the Paediatric Unit during a serious illness. He was grateful for the patient-centred care Anne provided to his daughter and described her as "an excellent member of staff and a credit to

the ward"

**Brenda Sandilands, Staff Nurse, Infusion Unit**

Brenda was nominated by a patient for both the skilful care given during bi-monthly visits to the Infusion Unit and the compassion she demonstrated when her nominator received some devastating news whilst in the Infusion Unit. Her kindness and the fact that she 'really cares' about her patients were commended by her nominator.

Dr. Anne Drake, Director of Nursing in LUH said, "I am delighted that LUH is participating in the DAISY Award program and that we have a mechanism to demonstrate our appreciation and gratitude for our exceptional nurses and midwives. Our nurses and midwives go above and beyond every day in challenging environments and make a profound impact on patient experience. I want to congratulate Ann, Anne and Brenda for their awards which are richly deserved."

Anne is encouraging the public to get involved, "DAISY awards are an ongoing initiative in LUH, throughout the year we will be selecting more recipients for the awards and nominations are now open for the next phase. I would encour-



Ann McLaughlin, Staff Nurse, Paediatric Ward; Brenda Sandilands, Staff Nurse, Infusion Unit and Ann Browne, Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Paediatrics, Emergency Department.

age anyone who has had a positive nursing and or midwifery experience in LUH to nominate their nurse or midwife, we would love to hear from the public, patients and families about what we mean to you." Nominations can be made at: <http://www.daisy nomination.org/4939>

# Rathmullan

## St Vincent De Paul

The local St Vincent de Paul are always available to help out in times of need. With the ever increasing energy and household costs, please feel free to contact any member of the Chapter for assistance on 087 69 82 822... Take note of the number! The Vincent's Charity Shop also takes donations of used small household items, bric a brac, books and clean used clothing. Opening hours are Wednesday and Thursday 11-3 and also on Saturdays

## Clean Coasts & Beach Cleans

The weekly Pier area and beach cleans take place every Wednesday morning, with equipment available outside the White Harte from 10.00am, and new volunteers are always welcome. Why not take a stand and lend a hand?

## Tidy Towns

Marvelous March is here, with Spring very much in the air and it's a month to celebrate all things Irish, despite the damp forecasted for St Patrick's weekend. Some of the bulbs planted in the grassy area adjacent to the Football pitches are currently in bloom, with the daffodils, muscari and crocus around the town gradually adding colour as well. Of course, native flowers like Dandelions, Willow,

Lesser Celandine, and Primroses are all emerging now too, and are an abundant source of nectar for the early bees. Anyone wanting to become more aware of Bio Diversity in their own gardens, and how they can help pollinators, just check out Biodiversity Ireland Website, and read all about the All Ireland Pollinator Plan there.

## National Tree Week 20-26 March

The Tidy Towns Committee once again in support of Climate Action obtained over 80 Tree saplings courtesy of Coillte, as part of National Tree Week 20-26 March. We had Silver Birch, Hazel, Common Birch, and Scots Pine which were all quickly snapped up. There are many environmental benefits of planting trees, especially in helping to combat climate change to offset our Carbon Footprint, so we're very grateful to those who will plant these trees in and around our locality. Anyone interested in finding out more about these native Irish Species, then check out [www.naturenorthwest.ie/](http://www.naturenorthwest.ie/) where Aengus Kennedy has compiled a series of small videos highlighting the different species.

## Hedge Cutting

Hedge cutting is now prohibited and any Public works involving the disturbance of hedgerows during this period may only be carried out for reasons of public health and safety only. Every effort must be made to ensure that best prac-



Pictured with Emma Murphy (Pieta) are Rosaleen McCollum and Eilís McGlynn, Rathmullan New Year's Day Swim, presenting Pieta House with a cheque for €1,906.13. This year's New Year's Day swim also funded Rathmullan Tidy Towns for the same amount.



Busy during the Changemakers Craft Classes.

ice is exercised in this regard. If necessary, reports of unauthorised hedge-cutting should be made to the national Parks & Wildlife service (see [www.npws.ie/contact-us](http://www.npws.ie/contact-us)) or the Gardai who have statutory powers to enforce the Wildlife Acts. The Heritage Council ([www.heritage-council.ie](http://www.heritage-council.ie)) has a very informative booklet 'Conserving Hedgerows' which covers topics including The Value of Hedgerows, Threats, Planting, and Maintenance.

**Changemakers Craft Classes**  
Many thanks to Inishowen Development Partnership for supporting these unique Craft Classes led by Moira McHugh of Perfectly Thrifted Interiors which are coming to a conclusion shortly, and have been thor-

oughly enjoyed by all the participants. The range of completed items have been amazing and all from easily accessible recycled items. It is anticipated that the Cross Border collaboration will take place shortly facilitated by Rathmullan The Way Forward CLG and the IFI Communities in Partnership Programme.

**Big Spring Clean -23 March**  
The Annual Big Spring Clean will once again take place next Saturday 23 March, with meeting time 10am. Outside the White Harte, where Bibs, Pickers, bags and gloves will be available, but in support of the circular economy, minimising waste and maximising resource efficiency, if you already have your own equipment, then please bring it along. We

# Grainne Shiels new MFRC manager

Downings woman, Grainne Shiels, has been appointed the new manager at the Mevagh Family Resource Centre. Hailing from a well-known Shevlin family she has been working at the Resource Centre for just over 22 years. During that time she worked as an administrator and also has been the welcoming face on the front desk for all who visited the centre in that time. Mevagh Family Resource Centre has grown and developed since its inception and now plays an important role as a community hub for classes, events, family support and a number of local businesses. Grainne says she is delighted to become the new manager and is looking forward to working for services that will benefit the local community and those who visit the area. She is the daughter of Peter and Mary Shevlin and the family are highly respected for the volunteering work they have done in their home community over many years. Married to Michael Shiels, they have three children Connor, Casey and Finn. Having completed her first week in the new role Grainne says she is looking forward to carrying on the work the centre is known for, as well as looking for new opportunities that can benefit local families and groups. She told the Tribune: "I've been here for over 22 years. I started my job on September 11th, 2001, a date we'll never forget. The Resource Centre opened in 1997 and then became a family Resource Centre in 2001. They were initially set up in Teach Bán before they moved here to the new centre. At that time it was totally different. The work was more community development whereas it became more family support work alongside a bit of community development. However, we are still dealing with a lot of the same people and doing more courses like parenting programs and stuff like that. The day-to-day community work is still really the



Grainne Shiels pictured with her colleagues Úna Collier, Pauline Collins and Shauna Boyce.

same. You get many of the same faces coming through the doors. I've been at the front desk here for the last 22 and half years." Her appointment has been broadly welcomed in the locality with many good wishes being expressed that Grainne's long service to the community made her the perfect candidate for the role. She stated: "It is great to be able to take on the role for the area as I have to live within this community too. You have to give people time and respect and it is always important to have that community support as it helps us in our work at the centre too. Since the news emerged that I got the job everybody I've met has been delighted for me so that is nice to hear". As she looks to the future she says she is looking to build on the good work done at the centre over the last two decades. "I'm looking to carry on our good work and I feel we do a lot in the community. We want to keep things going as they are but also add new programmes such as parenting programs and linking in with the right agencies. We also have

SEOLADH LEABHAIR  
le  
PRIONSIAS Ó CUILINN

NAN SCÉAL A BEATHA



Dé hAoine  
15ú Márta, 2024  
8 i.n.  
sa  
SÍBÍN CEOIL

Na Dúnaibh

Beidh Ceol agus Craic againn  
le  
Séan Mac Corraidh, Eunan agus Aoinna Speisialta

Beidh sóláistí ar fáil ar an oíche

FÁILTE ROIMH ACHAN DUINE  
BÍGÍ LINN!

to keep on top of the building, which is a big thing. We are lucky to have a centre like this but it is a big job to maintain it." Another priority for her is to have fibre broadband connected to the centre as not only will it benefit their family support work but also help those businesses and other services based

in the MFRC including the many people who use the digital hub shared workspaces, as well as the many visitors Dowings receives each summer. Outside of her family life and career, Grainne also plays a role volunteering as the secretary of local GAA club, CLG Na nDúnaibh.

# Mevagh St Patrick's Day Parade



Mevagh's annual St Patrick's Day parade preparations are well underway. Mevagh St Patrick's Parade has developed into a major attraction both in Carrigart and surrounding areas and gives everyone the chance to showcase the creativity we have in our local area. This is our 14th year and the event is growing from strength to strength and attracting international media coverage and this year we will be streaming the event live via our Facebook page 'Mevagh St Patrick's Day Parade'. Floats are coming fast, and we hope to build on the success of previous years. Prizes for winners, and also prize for best float as

Gaeilge. The parade will commence at 1pm and the ever popular John Bosco will be entertaining the crowd from 12.30pm. All vehicle floats to assemble at chapel car park from 12.30pm and walking groups from Logues Bar, Carrigart at 12.45pm. If you, your business, club or group are interested in taking part in this year's parade or helping out, please contact Maggie on 083 1444590/ Martin 087 1212352. Please note there will be traffic diversions in place around Carrigart from 12.15pm on St. Patrick's Day.



**Sinn Féin**  
**Night at the Races!**

Mulroy Woods Hotel, Milford  
Friday 15th March, 8pm

Fáilte roimh achan duine,  
All Welcome, Bígi Linn.



Maria Doherty

# In the land of Lame Duck Excuses the Bishops have their spake ...

*The Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality recommended replacing the wording on the Family with language that was not gender-specific. Their proposed text obligated the State to take reasonable measures to support care within the home and the wider community. Leo, look closer to the Cabinet table because the electorate hit you between the eyes with a massive vote of no confidence in your administration.*

Conveniently, the Dail is not sitting this week. In fact there are two sittings of the Dail between now and Easter. No time to linger on the referendum defeats: no time to consider the Supreme decision in favour of widower, Johnny O'Meara and his right as an unmarried father to the Widowers Contributory Pension: the Dail may not have a minute to consider the role of new RTE Chair, the Housing Crisis or much else. Obviously, the Dail will return after a lengthy break at Easter and they'll have calmed down from the stress of abandoning Ireland for the St. Patrick's Junkets Extravaganza. In fact, the Dail will only sit two days on March 20/21 and they're off again until April 9th.

In fact it is worth looking at how many days the Dail is scheduled to sit in the political year from September until the end of July. That's 335 days: guess how many of those days the Dail is sitting? Who said 95: that's 20.6% of our time and money to keep them in the manner that goes with high office, secretarial expenses, travel, subsistence, notebooks, pencils and mobile phones. And before you ask, the TD's get well remunerated for every day of the year.

Meanwhile at the battlefield of last week/s referendums, all the main parties were remarkably silent; remarkably absent. We'd have presumed that winning these votes was important in the brave new world of 'progressive' thinking and the government would be embarrassed around Europe if the nation said No.

The reality is that Europe is bemused at the fact that we need referendums on such basics as Family and Care. Many in Ireland would have been equally embarrassed.

Why do we need to nail down this legislation? After all, family and care is in a unique space that needs the most basic input from the government because the EU Convention on Human Rights is part of what we signed up to joining the EEC the very first day. And the UN Conventions are also there if needed.

## Beyond the bedroom door

The Bishops were always going to put their or into this debate because that is what they've always done, ever since Archbishop John Charles McQuaid gave them a unique voice in the construct of the Constitution in 1937

You've only to read their views in a press release the week previous to the voting with the warning: "Referendum will lead to a weakening of the incentive for young people to marry." What a statement. Nowadays, young people are free to make the decision that is right for them regardless of creed or class and long may they thrive into the future.

"The family is acknowledged as the place where generosity, tenderness, forgiveness, stabi-

ty, care, love and truth can best be taught and learned by children. We recognise, of course, that there are families in all our communities which are not founded on marriage. They form part of the reality of family life, which Pope Francis described as 'a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities with all the joys, hopes and problems,' said the Bishops

They claim that families are the glue of society, their welfare cannot be taken for granted, but must be promoted and protected by every appropriate means." Really!

Does that include protecting unmarried women in Mothers and Babies Homes? Magdalene Laundries? And protecting children from clerical sex abuse?

Do the Bishops extend their concept of family to unmarried mothers and their children?

The Bishops state: "The Constitution rightly qualifies the Family as a "moral; institution" and one that enjoys "alienable and prescriptive rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law."

It would seem the Bishops have no regard for the Supreme Court Ruling in January that upheld a constitutional challenge of a man who was denied access to the widower's pension because he was not married to his long-term partner.

However, Ireland through its Catholic ethos has, since 1937, chosen to have a foot in the bedrooms of the Irish nation.

This thinking of how best to control the Catholic flock is a faith based concept and some see it as invasion of their privacy and question if it is in breach of international conventions.

Why or how the Church ever wanted to control people's behaviour beyond the bedroom door does draw many reasons, many concerns and suspicions about their motivation? Was it merely to condemn normal people from doing normal things, or what in the name of God are the Bishops seeking?

## Landmark Supreme Court Ruling

This referendum was hardly needed given that the seven-judge court unanimously ruled that Johnny O'Meara is indeed entitled to the widower's pension despite the fact he was not married to his partner of 20 years, Michelle Batey, when she died in 2021.

Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell told the court that the distinction in the legislation between a married and unmarried couple was "arbitrary and capricious".

The family was represented by Flac (Free Legal Advice Centres).

The court ruled that the Oireachtas will now have to bring in legislation to give effect to this decision. It is understood that Mr O'Meara's payments will be backdated to when he first ap-



Votes being counted in the Aura Leisure Centre on Saturday.

plied for the pension.

The January judgment was eagerly awaited ahead of the Family referendum which sought to provide for a wider concept of family (i.e. not one only based on marriage) in the Irish Constitution.

Delivering judgment for the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell observed that "the payment is a social welfare benefit payable in the event of the occurrence of an event giving rise to a recognised need for support" and "cannot be easily characterised as a consequence of a status deliberately chosen".

He continued: "In general, it is notable that social welfare provisions, unlike succession or taxation rules, do not tend to distinguish between married couples and cohabitants. In the case of s. 124, bereavement and the impact of the death of a partner, both emotional and financial, is not in any way different whether the survivor is married or not."

Mr O'Meara, along with his three children, brought proceedings challenging the first respondent's refusal to grant him a widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's (contributory) pension.

Mr O'Meara was not married to the children's mother, Ms Batey, due to her negative experience with the breakdown of her parents' marital relationship. Although the couple had contemplated marriage following Ms Batey's breast cancer diagnosis, she contracted Covid-19 and died in 2021 before any arrangements were made.

Mr O'Meara subsequently applied for the pension which is payable pursuant to Chapter 18 of Part 2 of the Social Welfare Consolidation and his application was refused.

The Supreme Court unanimously found in favour of Mr O'Meara.

The court concluded that "Inasmuch as the section permits payment of WCP to be made to a

surviving spouse with dependent children, but refuses any such payment to a surviving partner of a non-marital relationship with dependent children, the section makes a distinction that is arbitrary and capricious and which is not reasonably capable when objectively viewed in the light of the social function involved of supporting the precise classification challenged and therefore fails to hold them as parents, equal before the law".

Diverting his focus to whether Article 41 should be interpreted in light of Article 42A, the Chief Justice noted that Article 42A "sought to put beyond doubt in the text of the Constitu-

tion what had been said in the case law - that the rights of children were the same irrespective of the marital status of their parents".

The court pointed out: "There may be good reasons to debate what the Constitution should now say, and indeed the Court was informed by the Attorney General in the course of argument, that proposals to amend Article 41 in this regard were under consideration, and proposals are before the Oireachtas as of the date of delivery of this judgment. But, the forum for any debate on what the Constitution should say in this or any other regard is not the Court."

Accordingly, Chief Justice O'Donnell made a declaration that s.124 of the 2005 Act is unconstitutional insofar as it does not extend to Mr O'Meara as a parent of three children, and made an order of certiorari quashing the first respondent's decision refusing Mr O'Meara the pension. I'd love to hear from the Bishops and their interpretation of the Supreme Court decision in relation to John O'Meara from Nenagh.

## At least Highland Radio turned up...

At the Aura Leisure Centre in Letterkenny we got the total sense of disconnect between the people and the politicians, they were all absent. We were there for Highland Radio's outside broadcast. And unlike the political parties or Government Ministers Highland Radio turned up and so did the panel. And we were delighted to be there to engage with the listeners.

And another good thing about local radio, they have a huge number of listeners and this is public service broadcasting. The show was produced by Caroline Orr and hosted by Greg Hughes and the panel was Mary T. Sweeny of Aontú; Paddy Rooney, Siobhan Cullen and myself. People told me they liked the debate and why not?

And despite the absence of the tally counters we managed just fine; no doubt we shall be back in the Aura on June 8/9th and you'll not want to miss a single moment of the extended coverage.

## Let's hear the Taoiseach

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has said he was unsure that the wording on care proposed by the Citizens' Assembly is stronger than the care amendment that will be put forward in the upcoming referendum.

The Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality recommended replacing the wording with language that was not gender-specific, and "obliges the State to take reasonable measures to support care within the home and wider community".

The wording being put forward in the referendum instead says the State "shall strive to support" the provision of care by family members to one another. That's why it was hammered.

Asked about the chosen wording, the Taoiseach said that "there is a different language that some people preferred".

Varadkar said: "And that was the state would take 'reasonable measures', but what's reasonable? Is that actually stronger? I'm not even entirely sure it is.



# Meehan campaign launch raises the rafters

As Declan Meehan got his local election campaign off to a thundering start at the Ray Community Centre on Saturday afternoon, it was somewhat reminiscent of the campaigning days of the late Neil T. Blaney in the nineteen seventies and eighties. Ever since then, nobody has come close - that's until now.

The big, big crowd raised the rafters in an amazing response to Declan Meehan's opening statement and there were ovations as the roof was raised with the response of a diverse crowd; some already well versed in the art of gathering in the votes. And the start of proceedings were delayed for ten minutes to allow the overflowing crowd to be seated.

Obviously, Meehan has put his challenge to win a seat up to all three outgoing Councillors and with many a good reason, in fact 1.8 million of them.

'The Full House' sign is effectively a sign of what's to come and Meehan has his homework well done and he's already attracted a wide constituency of support right across swathes of the Milford area.

This was not expected to be a big turnout: there was quite a bit of interest in the match between Man U and Everton, despite neither of them going anywhere and the Irish Rugby team was bidding for history at Twickenham... not for the faint hearted. That so many came to Ray for a campaign launch is a very big statement indeed. This part of Donegal has created a tradition down the years. That obviously has changed and Meehan has set out his stall in what was a great opening appeal to the electorate.

At the last local elections, Declan who was virtually unknown polled 677 first preferences and his ambition is to significantly increase his 8.7% well into double digits on June 7th.

Fiona Boyle one of the founders of the Ray Community Centre said she was given the honour of introducing her fellow Ray Committee member, neighbour and friend.

"Since Declan has taken over as chairperson, Ray has been developed even further with around €300,000 in grants secured, resulting in almost €500,000 worth of projects including the Ray Wonder Woodland, Community Garden and Astro pitch."

Declan is a community person and has got stuck in not just in Ray but he is heavily involved in projects in Milford, Rathmullan and Ramelton

providing support. In total he has achieved €1.8m in funding for the Milford electoral area as a whole.

From my experience I am very confident Declan will make an excellent Councillor. No job is too big or small for him - from writing difficult applications for funding to helping with the teas at social events. He is very reliable, intelligent, witty, creative, approachable and above all, his honesty.

If Declan says he is going to do something, my experience over the last 4 years has been that he will follow through with that. In addition he doesn't take credit for work that he isn't responsible for which I feel is unique in someone destined for political life!"

Declan Meehan said the Ray Community Centre means a lot to him having been involved for the past four years. It shows the ability of communities to come together to solve their own problems. Be it systemic problems and that when political representation becomes important and that's why he is putting himself forward.

"The bar has been set so low by our political representatives", he said.

"Social housing is being built in Donegal but not in the Milford Electoral Area. Why? We don't have the correct people at the table" he said.

"As a Mica affected homeowner the scheme does not meet the needs of anyone. It's a huge failing on part of the Government; it is inac-

cessible for many, due to the administration and the Council needs to be held accountable for it. Our three County Councillors are doing nothing about it. Once I get my teeth into it I won't give up" he promised.

On health he said the Milford Electoral Area is the only one in Donegal not to have received a new Primary Care Centre as part of the HSE Capital Plan. Indeed it has seen a reduction with the closure of the Kilmacrennan Health Centre and the Ramelton Community Hospital under threat.

"I accept that the Council does not have responsibility for health but I'm saying advocating for health and better facilities should be the work of the local Councillors. On community infrastructure I see very little development as all we hear from the Council is that it can't be done. Why?"

The Councillors are not doing enough. They take no for an answer. I won't take no for an answer" he



Declan Meehan with his husband Dr. Pádraig McGuinness, his mother Yvonne and family at his local election campaign launch in Ray on Saturday.



Ailbe Hordsman, Aoibheann Burton and Eamonn Friel showing their support for Declan at the launch.



Yvonne Meehan with Lisa Hiemstra, James and Eileen Gibbons at the launch and below a section of the large crowd.



Mary Rigby, Ka Marley and Shirley Ward at the launch.



assured the audience. "I also want to listen to you and I want you to approach me. I don't know everything and I don't pretend to. As an Independent I don't have to toe the party line and that's why I'm running as an independent and I am looking for your vote. I would encourage you to get involved and encourage others to get engaged and ask what have the other Councillors achieved in the past 5 years or indeed past 20 years.

Get involved in whatever way you can - we will get a job that suits you. If you want people's vote you have to engage with as many people as possible," Declan concluded in a speech reminiscent of the late Neil T. Blaney with ovations echoing across the Ray Centre.

The music before and after the launch was by Pat Muldowney and Caroline Coyle from High Heeled Converse and the MC for the launch was Rathmullan's Cormac Fagan who thanked everyone for attending and noted that there was a lot of people present from a wide area which is testament to Declan and Pádraig.

Cormac said we want someone who represents us and works for the community - who delivers on a day to day basis and we are very very lucky he has decided to run for the elections.

This launch was different in the level of enthusiasm, the participation and in recognition of Declan's Meehan's work in recent times that he has contributed €1.8m to local projects.

## A Rathmullan Woman in exile...

# He smells like an explosion in a perfume factory

Himself is gone to make a ceili with a few neighbours up the road and I'm on sheep watch. When he's plucked and pruned and smelling like an explosion in a perfume factory for mass on a Saturday night, he usually takes advantage of the occasion and heads off on a bit of a ramble. I love having the night to myself, the peace and quiet. It was one of the things I really missed during Covid when no one went anywhere and my sacred Saturdays were a distant memory. It's a brilliant chance to get a bit of this written or the homework for the creative writing class, without any interruption. I'm not a talker, I can go for hours without feeling any need to chat or make contact with other people, and Himself is the complete opposite, he can't stand silence and he could talk for the United Nations. He has to have the telly on and the phones going all evening. It's not easy being me.

I heard a WhatsApp message arriving after midnight the other night and I ignored it. Anyone who knows me knows that if it's important they need to ring because I don't suffer from FoMO (Fear of Missing Out) and I don't always bother to read messages till a lot later. I read it after breakfast the following morning and discovered that Mark (me bambino) had locked himself out of his apartment. He had to spend the night on the Baltic landing until the shop staff arrived in the morning. That's a mistake that he won't make again in a hurry! I expect there will be a backup set of keys cut, real rapid.

I was out last Thursday night with Patrick, a friend from Kilnaleck. We went to the Frolics, the annual stage production by the Ballyjamesduff Musical Society. It's a very enjoyable event; very well run and presented and my only tiny issue is that it goes on about half an hour too long for me. That's not the fault of the show, it's entirely down to the fact that it's always staged during lambing season, when my working day starts at 4.15am.

It's a grand night out, but dear bought the next day. This year they were doing a tribute to Tina Turner, Sinead O'Connor and Christy Dig-

*I think that the rain in Spain falls mainly in Ireland and if the heatwaves on the continent are anything to go by, I'd safely say they'd be as happy to have it back as we'd be to see the back of it. Still, it's only a short time till the clocks change and we'll know summer is coming when the rain gets warmer.*

nam, as well as the usual comedy sketches. By the time I had dropped Patrick home and returned to base, it was heading for midnight which left it a very short night. They say that you need less sleep as you get older, but I'm still at the stage where I need every precious second of my beauty sleep... and probably will for life.

I was rooting among the bags that hang on the hooks over the range the other day when I came across a treasure trove of seeds that I had harvested last year (or maybe years before). Some, like poppies, wall flowers and lupins, are still on the stems but there's a heap of loose seeds in the bottom of the bag and that's going to be a real lucky dip. I'll scatter them in containers and see what comes up when the weather settles a bit. We had a big slap of snow a couple of weeks ago and everywhere is saturated now. Remember when you used to be able to depend on the bitter, hasky east wind in March to dry everything out? You'd be skinned alive on St Patrick's Day at some ould parade, watching a heap of flashy tractors trundling past. Global warming seems to have done away with that altogether; now it's just global wetting. I think that the rain in Spain falls mainly in Ireland and if the heatwaves on the continent are anything to go by, I'd safely say they'd be as happy to have it back as we'd be to see the back of it. Still, it's only a short time till the clocks change and we'll know summer is coming when the rain gets warmer.

I'm looking forward so much to the end of the lambing, or at least to only having the stragglers to contend with. I miss getting up

to Rathmullan for my regular visits, especially during the house build. Thankfully I have a mighty team of fellas on the job and it's all progressing very well without me. I suppose it's a hard fact that life will go on perfectly well without any of us. The graveyards are full of folk that thought they couldn't be done without, and yet the world keeps on turning. It'll be good to get back and see the progress and maybe even reach a stage where I can think about the nice bits of the build, like paint and curtains and kitchens and furniture. And winning the bloody lotto to pay for it! We had a flying visit from Margaret (me Ma) the other day. She stopped off for lunch on her way from a holiday in her home place in Offaly back to Rathmullan. It was great to see her looking so well after a busy week's activities. She was hurrying to do some shopping en route and be home in time to vote in the referendum. I nipped down to Mountnugent later in the evening to cast my own vote. I don't know who's responsible for the voting register here, but they switched my vote from Kilnaleck to Mountnugent this year, without any input from me. I was a bit surprised, but it certainly made voting speedier as I didn't have to drive nine miles each way. On the other hand, it meant that I didn't drop in for a cuppa with either of my friends in Kilnaleck, which had always been a voting day tradition. No matter, life moves on, I'll visit them after lambing.

I had an interesting WhatsApp message from my sister Rachel a few days ago. She had forwarded it to me from the original sender,



Kate Carton

a researcher with RTE. She (the researcher) wanted to know if I would be willing to take part in a panel discussion about Finding Joy (in spring lambs). I would be happy to do it but I'm not sure that the sheep farmer is the best person to ask to extol the joyful, arty farty virtues of springing lambs.

Rising at 4.15am every night to shuffle out to the sheep sheds to deal with squalling newborns, while the wind whistles through the gap in my teeth because I haven't time to get the replacement tooth; my hands ache and tingle from carpal tunnel syndrome, and the saucer sized cold sore on my lip cracks and bleeds every time I let a slither of fucks into the sheep that decides to plop down on her arse while my arm is buried to the shoulder inside her. I cheer myself by telling the sheep that I'm going to eat her children, with roast potatoes and gravy. I do find great joy in the solitude of the small hours of the morning, when the world is mine alone and I can enjoy the night skies without disturbance.

Perhaps in a few weeks, when I've had an unbroken night's sleep and the said lambs are out gambolling in the spring sunshine, maybe then I'll find the joy in spring lambs. I love the physical work, and feel pride in the achievement of having a big, healthy crop with virtually no casualties, but the lambs are essentially commercial livestock units which will be on your tables in about 16 weeks. Now, it's still early by most people's standards but I have to hit the nest because no one told the sheep that in some cultures Sunday is a day of rest. But... it's also the day for the Sunday roast!!



Mr. Kieran McTaggart (Director of the Donegal Education Support Centre) presenting the winning cup to Joseph Dunleavy (Captain of the Glenswilly NS Debate Team).

## Glenswilly NS win Concern Debating

Glenswilly NS emerged victorious in the County Final of the Concern Primary Debates, held on Wednesday, March 6th.

The two participating schools, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Letterkenny, and Glenswilly NS, went head to head debating the motion: "The business sector has the most important role in achieving the SDGs in Ireland." The debate was of a very high standard and the pupils from both schools were excellent in proposing and opposing this motion. In the end the three adjudicators made the difficult decision that the school proposing the motion was carried, which meant that Glenswilly NS were the winners.

The event was organised by the Donegal Education Support Centre and the Director Kieran McTaggart commended both schools, the pupils and their teachers on their achievement and thanked the Principal Joseph Gallinagh and his staff for the warm welcome and for hosting it. This is the second year in a row that Glenswilly NS have won the county debate final and we wish them the very best of luck in the regional final.

## Households locked out of Mortgage Interest Tax Relief

Deputy Pearse Doherty has warned that struggling households have been unfairly locked out of any support under the government's Mortgage Interest Tax Relief.

The Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Finance said that hundreds of thousands of households will not receive any support under the government's tax relief with many seeing a massive increase in their mortgage interest costs.

He said "The government have failed households struggling with spiralling mortgage costs. Since the ECB began hiking interest rates, Irish mortgage interest costs have increased by a massive 64%.

"Figures released to me by the Dept of Finance show that 138,000 households that have seen their mortgage costs rise will be

locked out of the scheme because of unfair and nonsensical restrictions put in place by the government.

"There are also many households who will not receive any support with their mortgage costs because their incomes are too low.

"In October, Minister Donohoe promised a mortgage interest support for households that could not receive it through the tax system - where is it?

"Five months later and no such scheme has been announced by Minister Donohoe, Minister Humphreys or the Finance Minister.

"For over a year, Sinn Féin campaigned for the introduction of targeted mortgage interest relief to be applied at source."



Glenswilly NS Debate Team with the Principal Mr. Joseph Gallinagh, members of the Teaching staff and adjudicators.



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál Debate Team with the Principal Ms. Irene Simmons, members of the Teaching staff and adjudicators.



# This was a vote of no confidence in Government

*We are the disbelievers: the disbelieved and the disregarded in the higher halls of political opportunism, cast aside in the knowledge that we would merely obey the ringmasters of spin and make believe.*

*The Taoiseach will spin the referendum result to avoid his failures and to somehow hope that come the elections on June 7th, all will be forgiven.*

*However, in Friday's vote he was reminded that mothers and women can never be classed as gender neutral... Ireland's woke thinking will not downgrade that status.*

For the first time since February 8th 2020, the nation's electorate of 3.5 million had a vote last Friday in two referendums. For the first time in four years the people had a chance of delivering a verdict on an unlikely arrangement they did not directly vote for and the result speaks a million words and perhaps as many false promises.

What happened in the nation's polling stations was a brave act of courage by an electorate disillusioned and disconnected by the spin of government and make believe. In a quiet revolution, the nation's mindset collaborated in telling Varadkar and Martin some home truths about their leadership. A job well done and now it is time to ask if the country actually needed these changes at a cost of €20 million! And what happens next? Shall the disenfranchised remain so forever more? And what about the status of single parents? Or does the Supreme Court verdict on the O'Meara's family status in Tipperary count for anything?

In fact FG's Leo Varadkar made it clear after the 2020 election result that he would return to the backbenches to give him time to rebuild the party. And for Micheál Martin, I'd imagine he'd have been facing another general election rather than be in power with Sinn Fein... are they not lucky that Varadkar did a u-turn and bailed FF out of that prospect?

The rotating Taoiseach syndrome is quite the joke because it is merely about the power grab that continues to haunt Ireland's two main parties... bitter rivals down the year and now so close that they may look at a merger in the not too distant future.

Sinn Fein as the main opposition party has been left in the shade because they've only 36 seats against a government support base of over ninety seats. The politics of the Left in Ireland is not in a position of

strength to bring down the government.

That is part of our storied legacy of the past.

However, last Friday's vote was one of rejection of a government that has failed on the country's chronic failures to address health and housing as the cost of the National Children's Hospital has gone through the roof and all the electorate is turn down the nine o'clock as excuse after excuse is rolled out by members of the Government.

The Taoiseach will spin the referendum result to avoid his failures and to somehow hope that come the elections on June 7th, all will be forgiven. However, in Friday's vote he was reminded that mothers and women can never be classed as gender neutral... Ireland's woke thinking can never be allowed to downgrade that status.

They know fine and well that the electorate was waiting in the long grass for the referendums and it was time for a vote of no confidence: there is a silent anger: a disconnect and no trust in the system. And FF in particular has been surprised, perhaps not shocked because they actually have such trust in Martin that they'd like to canonise him with a top job in the EU but they've nobody else to lead them.

In Donegal these feelings are palpable and the Mica crisis has not gone away because the legislation that was rammed through the Dail clearly needs a total rewrite if the families are to get their homes replaced.

We are the disbelievers: the disbelieved and the disregarded in the higher halls of political opportunism, cast aside in the belief that we would merely obey the ringmasters of spin and make believe. The three-card-trick men have no place in politics and when Leo Varadkar says that he takes responsibility for the behaviour of the electorate, perhaps he should explain what he intends

doing about reversing Saturday's loss of the two referendums. The answer as always is that he'll simply forget about it and hope for a better result on June the 7th.

That boat has long since sailed on government leaders taking responsibility and they should stop treating the electorate as fools.

Was the outcome predictable or not? Obviously there is the arrogance of an inept government and a weak opposition brought about by the merger of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael while the electorate is left on the sidelines without a voice or a hope to have their voices heard on the political stage.

Obviously there was a message within the proposed changes and the fault line for failing to deliver that message rests with the three government leaders. The electorate stood well back from the debate because of the incoherence of wording on the ballot papers... It simply did not make sense. In such circumstances the public was guided by their own experience and voted no..... overwhelmingly.

There will be claims by different sides as to why these referendums were toppled. After all we voted in favour of marriage equality nine years ago and divorce and these new plebiscites were supposed to support these changes. However the nation did not need to hold its breath on Saturday with a massive landslide vote rejecting the Government proposals... or should that read the Green Party agenda? This is a party with a mere 7% of the first preference vote in the 2020 General Election. There is no doubt that the Greens have punched well above its weight ever since... until Saturday. Witness only the arrogance of Tanaiste Micheál Martin confrontation with stay at home mother and barrister Marie Steen on the referendums.

The Tanaiste said that the proposed amendment was not just about offering constitution-

al recognition to single-parent families, but other families that fall outside the current definition of "family" in the Constitution.

"I think the vast majority of people in Ireland ... know people in these situations, know couples who are not married but who have children for different reasons," Mr Martin said.

Marie Steen said the term "durable relationship" has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean "an intimate, romantic or sexual relationship between two people akin to marriage but not marriage".

On RTÉ's Prime Time on Tuesday of last week, she said the judgment was handed down by Ms. Justice Marie Baker, Chair of An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Ireland's independent electoral commission.

Ms Steen said that if this definition applies "then single parents are not included in this Government proposal" to amend the constitution.

Martin argued single-parent families "most certainly are included" in this. "Do you want to include children of different family types within the definition of family within the Constitution, single parents, unmarried couples who have children, grandparents raising their children and so forth, vote Yes to include them."

Steen then asked Mr Martin if he would tell "a Muslim man who has fled persecution to make his home in Ireland with his two wives and children that they are not in a durable relationship and that his family is not a moral institution?"

The Tanaiste said he was not "making comment on specific red herrings" but polygamous marriages are "illegal and the law prevents it".

Addressing Mr. Martin, Ms. Steen said: "You know that legislation can be overturned, the whole point about introducing a constitutional amendment is that it trumps legislation and if you give somebody new consti-



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## Comment

tutional rights, legislation can be overruled and declared unconstitutional".

Martin was well out of his depth and that was the general opinion.

And across the country's grand slam of hopes a true political walloping would emerge: The Family amendment No vote was 67.69% with 32.31% saying Yes.

Donegal as ever the forgotten county was as predictable in its solitary isolation from the radar of Government thinking: look no further than the Mica disaster... cue 800 hundred at the meeting in Burt last week.

There was never any doubt about Donegal saying No on both ballots: we don't do things in half measures. But again the Government has been saying No to Donegal's demands through the span of many governments and more than enough generations.

And if that was shocking, worse followed in Saturday's vote: The Care vote was No. 83.97% with 16.03% voting Yes. That's a No majority of 33,196.

In the Family vote on durable relationships the Donegal view is rejection. 80.21% voted No with Yes on 19.79%. The constituency has an electorate of 123,452 and the turnout was 39.99%.

We've lived with infrastructure neglect: political neglect: the legacy of neglect of families in mica infected homes. We faced the trauma of elderly and sick citizens leaving home in the middle of the night to see a consultant for ten minutes in Dublin or Galway.

That is utter neglect from a government whose weakest link is pandering to the wishes of all three party leaders in an inept and failed government. What a three way government has delivered is inertia that is out of kilter with the needs of a modern nation where the leadership has not set deadlines to end the health and housing crises.

So, given that kind of political legacy, our political destiny is to keep saying No until there is a strong enough voice in Cabinet to force the kind of change that really does make a difference and starts the much needed process of creating a new Constitution for the next generation.

On Saturday it was obvious within the first hour of the count that the electorate was handing the body politic of the nation a plastering and one wonders why and how the government managed to turn what should have been an easy win into a catastrophic defeat. Although it did take Leo Varadkar some time to find his composure before facing the cameras with the same blase comments that surly led to this defeat.

The three government leaders' mantra being whittled down to one... Eamonn Ryan and the Green Party agenda. Voters were already making that call for at least two weeks previously and the feeling out and about tended to suggest that Leo Varadkar and Micheál Martin seemed to be absent from the debate until the final days... on reflection this was not a bad idea.

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# 'Destination Gibbstown' invest

In 1937 the Land Commission divided the Gerard Estate in Gibbstown, Co. Meath into 22 acre farms, and among those to receive land were 59 Irish speaking families from the western counties of Cork, Donegal, Kerry and Mayo. They in turn, gave up their farms to be divided among those who remained in these congested areas. In Donegal the majority came from Fanad and there are still close ties between the two areas even to this very day.

A new bi-lingual book *Ceann Scribe Baile Ghib* (*Destination Gibbstown*) was compiled and edited by the Gibbstown Book Committee who dedicate this book to their courageous, spirited forefathers whose vision for a brighter future for their descendants led them to the plains of Meath. They brought with them their language, culture, traditions, heritage and faith.

## Fanad launch

The Fanad launch is in the Fanavolty Hall on Friday March the 22nd at 7pm, the Crolly Distillery West Donegal on Saturday March the 23rd from 6 to 7pm and it features each family's story as recounted by family members. No stone was left unturned when it came to researching their journeys.

Amidst the political backdrop of the 1920s and 1930s, Ireland grappled with the aftermath of the Civil War and sought to address land distribution and the restoration of the Irish language. Legislation was enacted, empowering the Land Commission to purchase vast estates for redistribution, easing congestion in the west while rejuvenating the Irish language. It was within this context that *Baile Ghib* emerged as a beacon of hope, fulfilling two intertwined objectives: providing fertile lands for those in the west and fostering the resurgence of the Irish language in the east.

Of the 59 households that moved to *Baile Ghib* and *Cluain an Ghaill* - 18 households came from Mayo; 21 from Kerry; 18 from Donegal (*Fánaid* and *Gaoth Dobhair*); 2 from Cork while two of the Donegal families returned home.

In Fanad those who moved were *Hannah Clinton, Ballynabrockey Daniel, Hannah McGarry and family, Cionn an locha Michael, Bridget Carr and Famly from Ballynacrick Ned, Bridget Carr, Cul Baic and family Johnny, Mary McAteer, Ballynacrick and family Thomas, Annie McAteer, Shannagh Dubh and family John James Boyle and Grace Callaghan, Toame Padraig, Máire Logue, Droim Mhic an Leadra and family Hannah Clinton, Ballynabrockey and her son John James Dan, Mary Ann Martin, Shannagh and family Johnny Mór, Hannah Shields, Ballure and family Neil, Annie Shiels, Dumhach Mhor and family.*

## Michael and Bridget Carr



On Good Friday, 26th March 1937, Michael (Mickey) Carr, his wife Bridget, nee Coll, along with their two sons James and John, left Fanad (above).

This was not the first time Michael left his native county. Born in 1893, he had crossed the Atlantic to the United States before he had reached his 18th year.

The notion of coming to Meath followed a Land Commission advertisement brought home from Ballymichael School by young James and John.

Rev. Fr Daly welcomed his new parishioners to Co. Meath, and even though it was Good Friday such was the power of the priest at that time, he was able to get Georgie Colwell, the proprietor, to open his

pub for refreshments and then the families were brought to their new homes.

Writing in the book, Michael Carr says "After moving from Fanad to Gibbstown, my grandparents and my father James and Uncle John worked hard on the farm in the early days in Gibbstown. The milk business, which they started, has now become the main enterprise of the Carr family over the years, with most of the family now employed in it. Emigration has been avoided, at least for now, and the grandchildren of Mickey Carr and his wife Bridget have set down roots close to home. Hopefully the next generation will continue the story."

## John James Boyle and Grace Callaghan

John James Boyle and his wife Grace Callaghan left their home in Toame with their five children, Jimmy, Charlie, Stephen, Tommy and Kitty and settled in Clongill, Donaghpatrick. The family was known as the Johnny Beags. The land in Toame is still called Johnny Beags to this day.

Jimmy inherited the home and farm after the death of his parents. He was James Carr's godfather, another son of Ned Carr. He married Sheila Callaghan from Ballyhiernan. They were known as the 'Mickey Dens'. A field in Ballyhiernan called 'Mickey Dens' field belonged to Sheila Callaghan's family at one time.



## Ned Carr and Bridget Carr

Ned Carr and his wife Bridget Carr (they had the same surname) left their home in Coolback, and moved to Clongill. Their children Bella and Mary (twins), Nellie and Ned Óg, accompanied them.

Ned Óg had been very friendly with Bridget Gallagher from Warden, near Portsalon, before he came to Meath. Both Ned and Ned Óg went back to Fanad to attend a family funeral. Ned Óg met Bridget again while there. A romance was re-ignited. Ned Óg stayed a month in Fanad and later married Bridget. Her Dad was known as 'James the Post'.

Ned Óg and Bridget had three children: Bridie, born on 21 November 1942, James on 24 November 1943 and Eddie on 6 January 1945. Tragically, Bridget died at home while in labour with her fourth child.

Less than two years after the death of his wife, Ned Óg died from TB. His sister Nellie died from meningitis. Bridie said she has memories of her grandad Ned with tears streaming down his face, remembering the deaths of his four family members within five years. Old Ned had also buried his daughter Sa-



Bridie Carr and her mother Bridget.



Bridie Carr, Bernadette Shiels and Sarah Gallagher. Sarah who had died aged 2 in Fanad before the family came to Meath.

## Hannah Clinton and her son John James

Hannah Clinton (nee McConigley) and her son John Patrick (John James) left Ballynabrocky, and moved to Clongill in 1939.

Hannah died in 1950. John later sold his house and farm to Johnna and Josie Shields. He bought a house belonging to Neddy Smith on Winchester Road near Oristown Church, towards the 'Stone Cross'. He remained single. John died on 11th September 1972, age 63. He is buried in Fletcherstown with his mother.

## The McGarry family

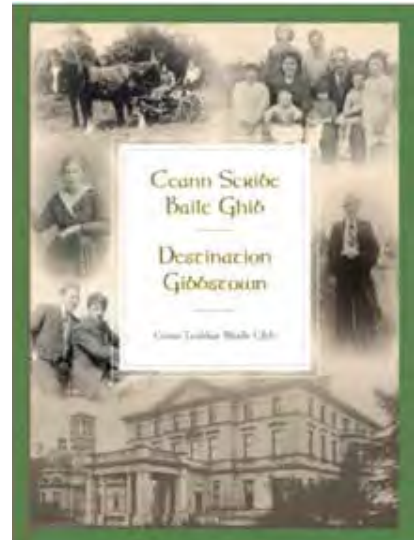
The McGarry, or McCarry family as they were originally called, came from Kinnalough (*below*). It was a frosty morning, and he could see the first beams of sunlight on Kinnalough. This was to be the last morning he would wake up in the cosy little house nestled by the lake. Everyone was excited, especially the younger ones, who were about to embark on an exciting new adventure in their lives. But Daniel and his wife Hannah were sad. He was almost 60 years of age, she was 47, and they were about to say goodbye to the place they were born and raised in. It would have been much easier for them, at that stage of their lives, to remain where they were in Fanad with their neighbours and friends and the only life they knew. But they were not thinking of themselves



An seanteach i gCionn an Locha, Fánaid, i 1990.



Arraheera with Fanad Lighthouse in the background.



The new book Destination Gibbstown and the area

of course, they were thinking of their family, the household and the future. The farm in Kinnalough was too small, and the land was too poor to sustain a big family. If they stayed in Donegal the family would have had no choice but to emigrate to Scotland, England or America, as the generations before them did.

The McCarry family, Daniel, Hannah and their children Mary, Eddie, John, Nellie, Michael, Henry and Jimmy, settled into their new home on the Mayo Road and soon began to learn new farming methods with help from the inspectors from the Land Commission. The children started attending Oristown National School, an English speaking school. With the addition of the Gaeltacht children, there were 180 pupils now crammed into two classrooms. Some did not understand a word the teacher spoke, however, and of course they only knew their prayers in Irish.

The success of the move from Donegal for the McCarry's and other families to Meath, despite the obvious difficulties associated with uprooting, is perhaps reflected in how well they adapted and contributed to their new community and how, to this day, their offspring are so embedded yet still retain a connection to Fanad and other parts of Donegal some 85 years on.

## Patrick Logue and Mary Lynagh

Patrick Logue was the son of Hughie Logue, and the family was known as the 'Paddy Hughie's'. He married Mary Lynagh from Golan and the couple moved to Canada. Returning from Canada, the family of six decided to avail of the offer and the four children attended Scoil Ultain.

In 1939 the fam... near Milford. H... the Logue home... All six siblings... who came to Gie... ford with his wi... buried nearby. F... family name in k... ie... Da... Mary... Dan Martin wP... Mary McAteer, JS... in Shannagh. H... Ballincrick. Daria... er Mary Ann jo... in Pittsburg. T... Two of their chil... there. They retu... they lived in a b... as a priest's hou... were priests and... had been respo... fifth room was... the porch. Four girls were F... Brid, Kathleen, tended Ballymi... Baile Ghib in IU... a... ni... lu... o... fr... th... n...

## Mary

Dan Martin wP... Mary McAteer, JS... in Shannagh. H... Ballincrick. Daria... er Mary Ann jo... in Pittsburg. T... Two of their chil... there. They retu... they lived in a b... as a priest's hou... were priests and... had been respo... fifth room was... the porch. Four girls were F... Brid, Kathleen, tended Ballymi... Baile Ghib in IU... a... ni... lu... o... fr... th... n...



(Thuas) Pósadh



The Martin family.

# Investigates the link with Fanad



Destination Gibbstown and the area in Co. Meath.

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Four girls were born to the family while in Fanad, Brid, Kathleen, Úna and Teresa. The children attended Ballymichael school before relocating to Baile Ghib in 1937. While in Fanad, Dan worked

with her father Tom and her brother Michael. She loved all animals, especially dogs and horses. She continued to work the land until she was no longer able. She loved music and was a beautiful singer.

Mary Ann sadly passed away in 2001 and she is buried in Gibbstown with her parents.

Auntie Teresa also attended Ballymichael school in Fanad. She then went to St Michael's school in Navan after she moved to Gibbstown. When she finished in Navan, she travelled to Belfast to train as a nurse. She nursed in Dublin and London.

Auntie Sheila was eleven years old when she came to live in Co. Meath. She went to school in Gibbstown

Castle and really enjoyed music, dancing and drama. She appeared on stage in Dublin with her sister Brid and the other children from Gibbstown Castle School. She married George McDermott from Wilkinstown, and they settled in Navan with their family. She was a very busy mum and had nine children. Sheila was a wonderful knitter and made beautiful Aran jumpers. She died in 2020.

Auntie Brid was six years old when she came to Gibbstown. She loved drama, poetry and music. She married Tony O'Reilly, and they settled in London where they had three boys. Tony sadly died as a young man and Brid had to rear her boys in very difficult circumstances. She worked hard but was happy in London and enjoyed the atmosphere and the busy pace of life. She is a wonderful woman and an inspiration to us all.

**Neil Shiels and Annie Carr**  
Annie Carr was born on 7 January 1895 in 'The Moss' in Fanad. At eleven, she emigrated to the US with some of her sisters. At the farewell party, she noticed Neil Shiels. She said that one day she would come home and marry him! Annie married Neil Shiels on 30 January 1910. They eloped and were married in Fanavolty Church. They settled in Doaghmore. Neil worked as a tailor and Annie as a dressmaker. Annie was tall, slim and very elegant. She loved jewellery. Neil was smallish and extremely tidy.

They had eight children: Mary, Eddie, Hughie, James, Maggie, Neil, Hannah and Bernadette. Neil was known as 'Neil the Tailor'. His father before him was better known as 'An Táilliúir Rua'. He too was named Neil. He and two others, Michael McElwee and Michael Heraghty, were responsible for putting an end to the tyranny of Lord Leitrim on 2 April 1878.

No one ever spoke about the event but today a fine monument stands at Kindrum in their memory. Every Easter Monday, Republicans gather at the memorial to remember the courage of the three Fenians.

Annie, Neil and their family left Doaghmore in April 1937 and settled on the Gibbstown Road. They

for McMahon Motors in Milford, and he also drove a mail van. Known as a great worker and a thrifty man, he farmed his land and he also worked as a caretaker in Brú na Midhe when he came to County Meath.

## Johnny McAteer and Mary Fealty

Johnny McAteer was known as Johnny an Ghréasaí. He was from Shannagh. He was married to Mary Fealty from Ballywhoriskey.

A neighbour of Johnny's remembers that all the furniture went ahead to Meath and that Johnny stayed the night with Cathy Martin's family. She said he cried all night at the thought of leaving Fanad. He was 42 when he left.

Johnny and Mary settled on the Gibbstown Road in the house that Owen McFadden and his wife Angela Armstrong live in today.

Johnny and Mary had two daughters, Catherine (known as Kitty) and Sheila.

Johnny was a committed republican. He was a well-known character in Gibbstown and always used the term "Buck" when referring to things that demanded emphasis! He died on 7 June 1979. He was 84 and is buried in Baile Ghib.

## Michael McAteer

Michael McAteer was born in Tirloughan, Carrigart. His father was Thomas McAteer from Fanad and his mother was Annie Boyce from Carrigart. He had four sisters: Mary Ann, Teresa, Sheila and Brid. When Michael was 2 years old his family moved from Carrigart back to Shannagh in Fanad to look after his granny, Sheila McAteer (nee McConigley). His father, Tom, had a travelling shop and he was also a part-time farmer.



Michael McAteer.

Tom was one of the men who travelled to County

Meath to look at the new farms. He was very impressed with the green flat land of the area. When he arrived back home to Shannaghdoe he made the decision with his wife Annie to take up the offer. Mary Ann, Teresa, Michael, Sheila and Brid were delighted to be living next door to the McFadden family. They all grew up together and remained great friends throughout their lives.

Michael McAteer was often described as the tall man with the big hat. He was known as a hard worker, and he worked in many labouring jobs across the county and beyond. He was well known as a lorry driver and drove the length and breadth of Ireland for Roadstone.

Michael remembered the many traditions and place names in Donegal from his childhood including the annual pilgrimage to the healing waters of Doon Well which had been a Mass rock during penal times. All the people from the area travelled to Doon from Fanad, in various forms of transport, on New Year's Eve and walked the last five miles to the well in prayer as part of their pilgrimage. He remembered the sense of excitement and occasion at these big gatherings. Michael took his own family to Doon Well many years later to pray for the sick and share the traditions of his people.

## The McAteer Girls

Mary Ann was 17 years old when she came to Gibbstown in 1937. She had attended Ballymichael school in Fanad. She enjoyed her school days and was very sad when she moved to Meath as she had to leave all her friends behind in Donegal. She worked very hard on the farm along



Mary Anne and Mickey McAteer.

with her father Tom and her brother Michael. She loved all animals, especially dogs and horses. She continued to work the land until she was no longer able. She loved music and was a beautiful singer.

## Neil Shiels and Annie Carr

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Hughie and James Shiels in 1935.

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Annie, Neil and their family left Doaghmore in April 1937 and settled on the Gibbstown Road. They



Neil Shiels the tailor.



(Thuas) Pósadh Sheila agus Paddy Ryan i séipéal Bhaile Órthaí. (Thíos) Cloch chinn Mary agus Kitty in Áit Ti Bric.



The Martin family.



Dan Martin's house at Ballynacrick now the home of the McConigley family.

Contd. Page 24



# Tirconail Tribune Archives:- 5th March 2004



20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago

20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago

## Council charges: funding cuts loom

As Donegal County Council meets in Lifford on Monday to make a decision on the controversial issue of the development contribution charges Cllrs. have already been advised that funding cuts will kick in if the existing charges are not increased.

However they are hardly likely to be impressed by a suggestion floated behind closed doors on Tuesday that buildings under 2,000 sq. feet be exempted from the new fees and that a flat rate of €3,000 be applied to houses above that level.

It seems that most new homes are well above this floor space and Cllrs. say that an exemption of around 2,500 square feet might be more acceptable.

However it seems unlikely they will go along with a proposal that a flat rate of three grand might be acceptable.

And in response to the farming lobby the Council officials have stated that the proposals for agricultural structures above 400 square metres is €36.

"This, says the Council's administration, "is considered reasonable and the scheme should be applied equally to the agricultural sector as to the first time buyers on the residential ladder."

According to our political soundings the majority of members are happy enough with the existing level of charges and some are inclined to go with the decision made in four other counties to leave well enough alone at this stage. And with the local elections looming on June 11th the Cllrs. will be anxious not to rub the electorate up the wrong side insofar as additional costs are concerned. The public is continuing to claim that this is only another stealth tax and a backdoor method of paying for benchmarking that is costing the local authorities a fortune.

The current proposal for a charge of €6,300 is like-

ly to be scrapped on Monday and it remains to be seen if any reduced figure above the existing one will be acceptable. The data presented on Tuesday was based on the figure of 6,300.

On that basis it has emerged that where applicants are constructing a house in rural areas currently paying a water connection levy of €380 this fee could rise to 3,900 in similar circumstances. There is a scale of increasing charges where sewerage and ancillary utilities are provided by the Council. It has also emerged that Monday is the cut off date for exemptions and only applications with a decision to grant will avoid any new charges.

However fears are being expressed that Capital funds allocated in the roads budget could be affected if increases are not brought in. The concerns are centred on the allocation of €50,000 allocated for footpaths in the county and some Cllrs. fear that this money could be seriously reduced if existing levels of charges are retained.

Tuesday's in house meeting in Lifford examined a number of issues raised during the public consultation process. A response was given to the 23 issues raised by the Members. They were also informed that at the end of January a total of €4.7 million remains to be collected in development charges and €5,504 million is being made available this year for a broad range of capital works.

The meeting heard that a lack of response from young couples points to the failure in the public consultation process. However Council officials defended their position saying that the scheme was widely advertised.

Only 28 submissions were made during the consultation process and few of these came from the general public. The Council presented a detailed response to the submissions on Tuesday. They have clarified



Shaun Callaghan (second from left) from Kerrykeel pictured with DJ Carey, Kilkenny Hurling All Star and Micheal O Muircheartaigh, Media Commentator and sportsman at the launch of Letterkenny Institute of Technology Sports Scholarships. Shaun was the recipient of the Soccer Scholarship for 2004 and is pictured with his father Donal and brother Fergus who is also a prominent member of the soccer team at the Institute.

## FF selects McDaid and O'Neachtain

The FF convention for the EU north-west constituency held in Roscommon on Saturday did not go exactly to the script as ordained by the National Headquarters in Dublin and effectively the west of Ireland sent a strong protest to Bertie Ahern over the shambles in which they found themselves.

Junior Ministers James McDaid and Frank Fahey were to be the two names on a dream ticket aimed at delivering two of the three seats to the party. O'Neachtain, according to a party poll stood no chance: but the grassroots voted with their heads. Effectively they were saying to Headquarters, 'shag you and your polls, we know better. And so it came to pass as O'Neachtain whacked Fahey into the ground. That actual result was 61% to 39. It was a long day in Roscommon town for the large contingent of Donegal supporters backing McDaid. He was unanimously selected and so the EU election bandwagon is now ready to be rolled out across the county on his behalf.

In his remarks an upbeat James McDaid told the crowded hall of one thousand supporters: "As you all probably know I had not, initially, intended to seek a nomination for the European Election. When people approached me soon after the General Election and asked me about running for Europe, I held back. We had, after all, in Donegal North East, an excellent result following a hard fought campaign superbly directed by that doyen of Election strategists Bernard McGlinchey.

These European Elections are becoming ever more important in their impact on the lives and prospects of all the people of the European Union from Donegal to Crete. The influence of the European Parliament on our political and economic life has grown enormously. With the accession of the new member states this year that influence will become even greater. It is vital that Ireland should have a strong, practical and realistic voice in shaping the deliberations and policies of that parliament.

## Commotions back with a bang

So Lloyd Cole and the Commotions are finally back in business. After twenty years in the garage the band has rolled out a world wide reunion tour. And the good news is they're coming to Ireland.

And why not since their bass guitarist Lawrence Donegan spent a whole year working for the Tirconail Tribune and wrote his best selling book 'No News At Throat Lake' on the night shift.

The band will play Dublin's Vicar Street on October 29th 30th and 31st and tickets are soon on offer.

If anyone out there was thinking of buying Michael Jackson's new album, don't bother. Save your money for the Rattlesnakes album by Lloyd Cole and the Commotions. It will be reissued later this year with a special bonus CD along with a pair of Lawrence Donegan's old underpants.



Members of the committee give the thumbs up at the PCC prom in the Milford Inn Hotel, Jennifer Johnston, Shauna Harley, Aoife Collins, Christine Wilson and Karen Sharkey with at back Claire McDevitt, Declan McFadden, Nicola Boyle, Damien Whoriskey and Donna Sweeney.



Teachers Ursula O'Connor and Frank Boyce and Students from Mulroy College, Milford were treated to a performance of The Cherry Orchard in the Abbey Theatre this week as part of the National Lottery's 'Act Up' initiative. Pic Mac Innes



Dana Rosemary Scanlon MEP pictured in the Falcarragh Nursing Unit with Josie Doohan, Falcarragh.

20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago :: 20 years ago

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## FF in dirty tricks game... FG

Fine Gael representatives in the Milford area have blamed Fianna Fail for playing a dirty tricks campaign after strange rumours took legs that Tommy Ryan of Kilmacrennan was about to pull out of the election race. Senator Joe McHugh said he had become aware on the rumour mill that the story was doing the rounds in FF circles and he was not really surprised.

Tommy Ryan and Noel McBride are the two FG candidates in the Milford area. They are battling to retain the party seat there and the Kilmacrennan Termon areas are vital to all parties in a very crowded field. The area already has Hughie McDaid of FF and Michael McBride all competing for a share of the vote. And in essence the outcome of this battle could well determine the destination of the final seat.

Tommy Ryan said last night that at no time did he ever consider withdrawing from the contest. He had become aware of the rumours and to say the least he was not all that surprised and it reflected a bit of desperation from FF sources.

He has been out canvassing this week in Glendowan, Rathmullan and Ramelton. He said he was shocked at the level of neglect of the infrastructure and the lack of any jobs potential in the whole Milford area. He said he entered the race to help consolidate the FG vote and to offer some new semblance of hope and balance in Milford where for generations the lack of investment

had been a disgrace.

At the same time the postponed Letterkenny FG convention for the county and town council elections will now take place on Sunday week. It is expected that several names will join that of outgoing Cllr. Jimmy Harte for nomination. Paddy Gildrea has already signalled his intent to run and it is expected that Joe O'Donnell will also be in the running.

The name of Tony Friel of Lifford may also come before the convention.

In the race for the town council Harte may be joined by Jimmy Haughey; O'Donnell and Churchill's Charlie McClafferty.

The Sinn Fein convention for Letterkenny takes place this Sunday in the Mount Errigal Hotel at 3pm. Local party members will select a candidate for the County Council and Sinn Fein Vice-President Pat Doherty will be the guest speaker.

Sinn Fein polled almost 1100 votes in this area in the 2002 General election. It has been confirmed that the well known, Lifford based community worker, Tony McDaid will seek the nomination at the convention. It is expected that SF will launch a strong campaign to win seats in both the Town Council in Letterkenny and County Council in the electoral ward that takes in Letterkenny, Manorcunningham, St Johnston, Raphoe and Lifford.

Gerry McMonagle is their candidate for Letterkenny Town Council.

## Cranford walk raises over six grand



Saturday was the day of the sponsored walk organised by Patrick Logue of Bog Cranford in aid of the Kerry Emigrant Group and it was a stunning success with over eighty people taking part.

The six mile walk from Logues of Cranford: up past Coole Chapel and the Mass Pad: back towards Cratlagh and the waterfall was set against the early spring snows on the mountains above our heads.

Some ran the course: others strode out at a brisk pace while the rest of us mere mortals chatted around every passing bend. I was along with former County Secretary Leonard Roarty and Declan Kerr of the Tribune's international news section. It was so exciting for all of us to get out in the fresh air... for a change. We chatted about the good old days on the Council and how things up in Lifford have changed forever.

But we had to get back to Logues before the soup went cold. And so we did. Needless to say it was a stunning success and we are all very proud of the achievements of Patrick Logue whom we never doubted for a single moment.

As I've written previously he organised the walk after his brother Con died in Birmingham shortly before Christmas.

The Kerry Emigrant Group had been of great help to Con and countless Donegal folk in the UK. This was Patrick's way of saying a very sincere thank you to them.

He actually began organising the walk immediately after Con's funeral. He'd never attempted anything like this before. We all expected that any amount over one thousand Euro would be a big bonus. As always Patrick put his heart and soul into the campaign and he personally visited hundreds of homes with a sponsorship card.

It is truly amazing that as I write this piece the fund has now exceed six thousand Euro. It only goes to show how hard work: commitment and a world of goodwill can make a very big difference. People were generous with their sponsorship and kind with their goodwill and in the end it was truly worth the effort. Back in Logue's Patrick thanked one and all for making the event so very special for him. He paid tribute to his friends and neighbours and we all went home, tired perhaps but genuinely happy with the success of this amazing sponsored walk.

In ten days Patrick is off to Kerry to hand over the money. So well done Patrick and we all know that your efforts will make a genuine contribution to the Kerry Emigrant Group.

## Youth project thrives in Ramelton



The Ramelton Community Youth Project has now been funded by until next year under Peace Two in co-operation with ADMCCPA and it is one of the most successful groups operating in the county.

It has been up and running for the past eighteen months and in that time it has gone from strength and that reflects two things. The professional direction and management along with a big local interest from the youth of the town. Last week Deborah Clawson who is in charge of the project gave us some of the background details of what is involved. She is assisted by Ciaran Gallagher who also shares his week with the Milford Youth Group.

The project is located in the front room of the Ramelton community centre and indeed this is the nerve centre of all its activities.

The objective, says Deborah is to provide an outlet both in recreation and activities for all the youth of the area and the group has a high dimension of education and exploring their own personalities: developing their strengths and community involvement.

To that end they are a sub-group of the local action group and have participated in various projects including the Christmas party up at the Silver Tassie.

The office is busy with a range of gear all over the shop. This emphasises the huge level of activity and I suppose a typical day is about the best way

of highlighting the amount of work going on behind the scenes.

There are citizenship nights for second and third year students on Fridays and this serves to underpin the role in society and how it relates to the youth: what it is like to live in a particular area of the parish. There are lessons in Irish and an activity programme where the group comes up with a team challenge: there is sport and art: guitar lessons and a variety of programmes for all to share their talents and experiences.

All age groups are catered for from ten years upwards and it also embraces the local school areas. There are full-scale debates and information and appropriate behaviour is also part of the agenda. There are various grinds and Ian McGarvey teaches dancing.

Sport also plays a big role in youth development while social living and group talks also play big role. There is a moral dilemma group and they also produce their own magazine, the second edition has been completed and it is a fair reflection on what the project is all about.

The Community Centre project is a hive of activity all day and evening long and it is now an established factor and facility in town. The youth are heavily involved and to that extent the success is copper fastened. And new members are always welcome to come along and join the club and be a vital part of an active and progressive organisation.

## Rathmullan honours Kathleen Toomey



Kathleen pictured with her daughters Maura, Grainne and Bridgeen in Huidies Bar, Rathmullan.

Huidi's Bar on the Pier Road in Rathmullan was the setting on Friday night when the community honoured Kathleen Toomey on the occasion of her retirement from St. Joseph's national school.

A large and representative crowd came along and it was a special evening for all concerned. Kathleen has served a generation of children up at the school and her retirement is well deserved...well earned.

Sally Turnbull was the MC and she reminded the crowd of how Kathleen had endeared herself to the many, many pupils she had taught since first coming to the town all those years ago. "We have all been beneficiaries of Kathleen's dedication," added Sally. The tributes and fine speeches came from the teachers: Board of Management and the Parent's Committee.

The evening began with a meal served up by the local ladies committee and a splendid cake baked and specially iced by Bernice Nadiiff was a central part of the scene. Fr. Francis McAteer who is indisposed sent his congratulations and best wishes

for the future. The presentation on behalf of the BOM was made by Eugene Sharkey and afterwards Kathleen returned her heartfelt thanks to one and all for their generosity and support over her many years in Rathmullan.

She recalled the various managers during her time: Fr. McAteer: Canon Finnegan: Dr. Patrick Muldoon. Frank Gallagher was vice-principal when she arrived at the school and there were many fond memories and great times. Great children: a tribute to their parents and upbringing and it had been a real privilege to have taught in St. Joseph's during the happiest years of her career. That career is now over: but for Kathleen Toomey and her family they can rest assured that she is deeply loved by the generations of her pupils who are now in many different places.

The big crowd and the level of support for the farewell function was testimony, if one was ever needed of how Kathleen Toomey's life and times in teaching have ingrained themselves into every sector of this community.

# Bia ag Caint

with Noel MacLiam

Go mbéidh achán duine breá agus folláin in anam agus croí. Tá mé ag toiseacht dearmad a dhéanamh ar an dorchadas sna tráthnónaí- ní go hiomlán, ach tá athrú mór ag tarlú agus nach maith an rud sin a fheiceáil? Caithfidh gur is sin an fáth go bhfuil mé ag smaointiú agus ag scríobh, b'fheidir go ró-luath, faoi bia agus cócaireacht a bhaineann le haimsir te. Níl mé buartha faoi seo, mar is breá liom a bheith dóchasach faoi na laethanta atá le teacht. Bíonn tú fada san uaigh! Bhuail mé isteach san siopa breá sin PE-TRA i Leitir Ceanainn cúpla rudaí a fháil mar bhí mé ag rith as Z'atar agus Ras al Hanout, na meascáin galánta sin a chuirim le gach rud, feoil nó glasraí. Tá an bheirt acu furasta a fháil ins na siopaí eitneacha agus, fosta, tá siad ag teacht isteach ins na hollmhargáí fosta, cosúil le Dunnes agus Tesco. Feiceann na hollmhargáí sin go bhfuil suim ag fás i gcónaí maidir leis na hearraí coimhíocha sin. Cosúil le achán rud nua, bíonn leis ar dhaoine na hearraí seo a cheannacht ar dtús, ach, de réir a chéile éiríonn siad gnáthach agus níos fusa le fáil. Sin mar tharlaíonn an fhorbairt, agus is breá an rud é sin. Coimhead súil amach ins na siopaí móra do na meascáin seo, nó déan mar a dhéanaimse féin agus buail isteach do na siopaí coimhíocha, áit a mbéidh achán rud ann duit. Bhí mé ar thuras go Béal Feirste i rith na seachtaine le cara do mo chuid agus chuaigh muid go hOllmhargadh Áiseach, áit án-mhór agus lán go béal le gach sort comhábhair ón Sí, An Ind, An Lár-Oirthear agus Meicsiceo. Bhí achán sort sillí ann agus anlainn teo le rabhadh sláinte orthu!

I ndáiríre! Bhí mé istigh san Ollmhargadh Áiseach píosa beag taobh amuigh Leitir Ceanainn, caoga slat ó Arena 7. Tá sé go hán-mhaith le neart comhábhair le fáil ann le béilí suimiúla a dhéanamh. Bain triall as! Sin an rud is fearr a dhéanamh. Tig leat turgnamh a dhéanamh le rudaí fosta, nó meascán pearsantacht a bheith agat. Mar shampla, tá rud ann a bhainim sult as. Déanaim stoc sicín, go díreach mar a bhí sé déanta againn roimhe. Úsáidaim cúpla pacastí de Ceathrú Sicín ó Lidl, cuirim sa phota iad le meacan dearg, seilire agus oinniún, uilig geartha go garbh. Cuir 4/5 lítear uisce istigh ann agus tógaim go suanbhruith é. Tógaim amach cibé screamh a thagann go dtí an barr agus ligim é suanbhruith go suaimhneach le 3/4 uaire. Cuir fríd criathar gach rud agus tá tú fagtha le



stoc galánta atá mar bhunús anraith iontach agus suimiúil Síneach. Is anois a thosaim leis na comhábhair eile. Cuirim isteach sinséar, úr nó picilte, anlann soighe, idir dorcha agus éadrom, sillí, gairleoig le blas a fhórbairt. Nuair atá mé sasta leis an anraith cuirfinn glasraí istigh, PAK CHOI mar shampla, ina dhiaidh sin cuirim feoil nó iasc ann, sicín galaithe nó bradán. Tá sé thar a bheith blasta agus folláin. Mar a dúirt mé, is turgnamh é seo, cé go bhfuil sé bunaithe ar oideas éigean- tá mé ag baint úsáid as an bun-oideas le mo chor féin a chuir air- faoi choinne an craic! Sin rud maith a dhéanamh sa chócaireacht, agus tá tú ag cleachtadh agus ag fáil taithí ar an cumas seo, agus caithfidh go bhfuil sin ag déanamh maitheas duit!

## ANRAITH SINSÉAR, GAIRLEOIG agus NÚDAL le PAK CHOI Ginger, Garlic and Noodle Broth with Pak Choi



Comhábhair  
1 tbsp ola olóige

3 seallóid  
1 dornán scailliúiní  
4 ionga gairleoig  
2 tbsps sinséar úr  
1.5 lítear stoc sicín  
2 tbsps anlann soighe

MODH  
Cuir ola sa phota ar mheántheas. Cuir seallóid istigh ann le 5bom. Cuir an chuid bán den scailliúiní, gairleoig agus sinséar sa phota, meascaigh le 2 bom. Cuir stoc isteach leis an anlann soighe agus ar aghaidh le 10bom. Cuir isteach na beacháin agus Pak Choi agus núdal agus ar aghaidh le 8 bom. Cuir amach agus maisigh leis



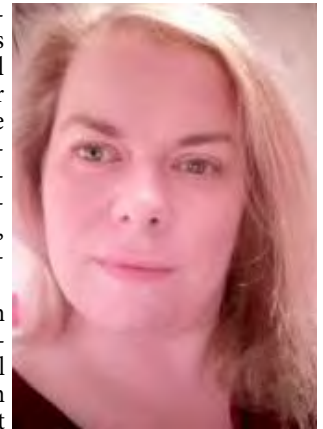
300g beacán  
200g núdal rise  
1 pak choi

an píosa glas ón scailliúiní.

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Ag toiseacht.        | Beginning        |
| Dorchadas.           | Darkness         |
| Ag tarlú.            | Happening        |
| Fáth.                | Reason           |
| Níos éadroime.       | Lighter          |
| Ró-bhuartha.         | Too concerned    |
| Dóchasach.           | Hopeful          |
| Uaigh.               | Grave            |
| Ag rith as.          | Running low on   |
| Siopa eitneach.      | Ethnic food shop |
| Ollmhargadh.         | Supermarket      |
| Earraí coimhíocha.   | Exotic goods     |
| Gnáthach.            | Ordinary         |
| Níos fusa.           | Easier           |
| Leisce.              | Reluctance       |
| Forbairt.            | Development      |
| Coimhead súil amach. | Keep an eye out  |
| Lán go béal.         | Full to the brim |
| Rabhadh sláinte.     | Health warning   |
| I ndáiríre.          | Seriously        |
| Turgnamh.            | Experiment       |
| Sinséar picilte.     | Pickled ginger   |
| Sicín galaithe.      | Steamed chicken  |
| Taithí.              | Experience       |
| Dornán.              | Bunch, fistful   |

## Donegal woman calls for support for Daffodil Day

Donegal woman and breast cancer patient, Edel Curran from Letterkenny is calling on her local community to go all in against cancer for the Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Day, which takes place on Friday, 22 March. In 2021, 41-year-old Edel Curran (right) from Letterkenny felt a lump in her breast. After numerous tests, scans and appointments, she was diagnosed with Oestrogen Receptive and HER2+ breast cancer.



Reflecting on her cancer experience, Edel said: "I am so glad that I trusted my

own instincts and pushed to get answers for myself. If something doesn't feel right in your body, or you have any doubts at all, get examined by a GP or Consultant. It's so important." "I would encourage everyone to please get out there on Daffodil Day, March 22nd, and show your support for those affected by cancer in your local community?"

The Irish Cancer Society is there to ensure that every person affected by cancer has a place to turn to, the support they need and the hope that there will come a day when no one in Ireland dies from cancer.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of the Irish public the Irish Cancer Society invests in ground-breaking cancer research and delivers crucial free support services for people affected by cancer, throughout Donegal. In 2023, your support provided:- Over 650 free lifts to bring Donegal based cancer patients to their treatment; Over 140 free counselling sessions to people living in Donegal; and almost 220 nights of free Night Nursing care to allow cancer patients in Donegal to die at home surrounded by loved ones.

Irish Cancer Society CEO Averil Power said: "Unfortunately, 1 in 2 of us will get cancer at some point in our lives. When Daffodil Day first began in 1986, just 3/10 Irish people survived a cancer diagnosis. Today, that has doubled to 6/10 people. And we at the Irish Cancer Society won't stop until 10/10 people survive a cancer diagnosis."

Visit [www.cancer.ie/daffodilday](http://www.cancer.ie/daffodilday)



# Big games for Rovers and Bonagee

The three top teams in Division 1 of the Donegal Junior League are in action on Sunday as the battle for promotion enters the final phase. Donegal Town and Bonagee are joint top on 31 points with 13 and 14 games played respectively. Letterkenny Rovers are three points behind but have three games in hand on Donegal and four on Bonagee. On Sunday mid-table Cappry Rovers host Donegal Town with the visitors aiming to stay on top by virtue of goal difference. Another mid-table side Lagan Harps host the other joint leaders Bonagee United. Again Jason Gibson's side should have enough to win the local derby.

The only one of the top three with home advantage is Letterkenny Rovers who take on another mid-table team Gweedore United. Stephen McConnell's men will be expected to take the three points. It looks at this stage as only these three sides will be in contention for promotion. The team that finishes third will be in the promotion play-off place with the top two going up automatically to the Premier. All fixtures kick-off at 1.00.

## Glencar Inn Saturday Division One

### Glenea lose to the Islanders

#### Arranmore Utd 3-0 Glenea Utd Res

On a bright but breezy day at Rannagh Park, Arranmore got back to winning ways with a comprehensive win over the visitors. The front four of Fionian O'Donnell, Paul Early, Damian Weber and John Roper all caused problems early on and it was Damian who opened the scoring. Glenn O'Donnell whipped a free kick into the box and Weber was at the back post to finish. Not long after the second goal came direct from a corner kick which was taken by Roper and flew straight in past Shaun McClafferty in the Glenea goal. Arranmore went into the break 2-0 up and shortly after half time they got their third. John Roper was played in but his shot was saved and O'Donnell was on hand to score a well-deserved goal.

#### Old Orchard Saturday Division Two

### A point for Cranford Res

#### Cranford Utd Res 1-1 Copany Rovers

A share of the spoils in Cranford Park with both sides failing to find a winner. Cranford started the strongest and were creating most of the chances and went one up after 35 minutes when Domhnaill Sweeney finished well into the bottom corner. Copany almost equalised before half time but were denied by a good save from Dean Fleming. It was even in the second half with both sides creating chances and Copany levelled with twenty minutes to go. Cranford pushed hard for the win-

ner and had most of the possession and chances but couldn't find the net.

#### Voodoo Venue Cup

### Lockart's penalty winning saves

#### Drumoghill F.C. Res 1-1 Kildrum Tigers Res (Drumoghill won 5-3 a.e.t. and penalties)

Ryan Lockhart was the hero for Drumoghill, saving two penalties in the shootout as Drumoghill advanced in the Voodoo Cup. The game ended 1-1 after full time and extra time with both teams playing some decent football throughout. The first half started with Kildrum having most of the possession with Drumoghill happy to sit in and counter attack and it was from one such attack that Drumoghill took the lead when Conor Gallagher raced through to put Drumoghill ahead on 60 minutes. Kildrum equalised with a header off the post on 75 minutes. Drumoghill though prevailed in the shootout.

### Robb nets hat-trick

#### Letterkenny Rovers Res 5-1 Fanad Utd Res

Letterkenny Rovers Res clinched a convincing 5-1 victory over Fanad United Res at Leckview Astro in a Friday night game under lights. They took an early lead with Conor O'Donnell converting a penalty after Jordan Nugent was fouled in the box. Johnny Robb extended the lead scoring two in the first half while Fanad goalkeeper Brian Gallagher made several notable saves. Fanad struggled to find their rhythm as Letterkenny dominated the game. Conor O'Donnell got a second just two minutes into the second half while Johnny Robb made it a hat-trick for himself. Fanad managed a late consolation goal from Keelan Kerr but it wasn't enough to overturn the Rovers dominance. The result sees Letterkenny Rovers advance to quarter final stages of the Voodoo Cup.

Fanad Utd - Brian Gallagher, Patrick Moffitt, Oisín Langan, Darren Lynch, Odhran Shiels, Conor Blaney, Caolan McElwaine, Paddy McGinley, Alex Gerwatowski, Dylan McBride, Darragh O'Doherty. Subs used: Shane Carr, Keelan Kerr, Sean Martin, Cormac Sweeney

### Glencar win local derby

#### Oldtown Celtic 1-4 Glencar Celtic

Glencar triumphed in the local derby in what was a classic battle between the sides. In a fixture that normally produces a close, tight affair, this spectacle was somewhat different and in the end Glencar progressed with showing a clinical edge in front of goal. Glencar took an early lead when Gio Peoples' header squeezed into the bottom corner. Oldtown battled to get back into the game and

spurned chances when Drew Connolly and Kevin McGrath couldn't keep their composure inside the box. Glencar were looking dangerous on the break and added a second through Pajo Rafferty when he fired home after a clinical counter attack. Gerard Patron's header was then cleared off the line just before the break to leave the score at 2-0. Oldtown began the second half in the ascendancy with Glencar playing defensively but also showing a threat on the break. The next chance of the game fell to Kevin McGrath after he was played through by a quick free-kick but Decky Mc Dermott in the Glencar goal made a fantastic save to deny him. McDermott again proved his worth when rushing from his line and saving from Tommy McLaughlin after he was put through by Luke Friel. Glencar got their third when a nice passing move was finished off by Pajo Rafferty for his second off the day. Oldtown to their credit still threw everything they had at Glencar and got a goal back when Kevin McGrath showed composure to finish to give Oldtown some hope with ten minutes to go. Joe Mc Carron added Glencar fourth from the penalty spot to secure the win for Glencar.

Referee: Con McLaughlin

#### Division Two

### Strand finish season with a win

#### Whitstrand Utd 3-0 Curragh Athletic

Whitstrand Utd took on Curragh Athletic in the final game of the season, looking to finish the season on a high. Whitstrand took the lead early when Michael Sweeney nodded the ball into the path of Ronan Sweeney who scored a contender for goal of the season, into the top corner from outside the box. Whitstrand continued on the front foot with Reece Thompson performing well and the pressure told when Michael Sweeney broke through and finished well off the inside of the post. Curragh settled into the game and had possession but Whitstrand were dangerous. The second half started in a similar footing and Whitstrand extended their lead when Paddy Sheridan broke through and finished well with his weaker right foot. Curragh almost got a consolation goal at the end but their striker put it wide and the game finished 3-0. Best for Whitstrand Ronan Sweeney and Reece Thompson.

Whitstrand Utd - Charlie Crerand, Ryan Sheridan, Paddy Sheridan, Kevin McCarr, Cormac Shovelin, John Heraghty, Ronan Sweeney, Paddy Walshe, Michael Sweeney, James Tourish, Reece Thompson. Subs: Adam Ward for Michael Sweeney 35 mins. Gareth Ferry for Ryan Sheridan 65 mins.

## Fixtures

Friday 15th March 8p.m.

Glencar Inn Saturday Division One  
Cappry Rovers Res v Keadue Rovers Res  
Kilmacrennan Cel Res v Arranmore Utd (8.15)

Saturday 16th March 1 p.m.

Brian McCormick Sports Premier Division  
Castlefin Celtic v Keadue Rovers  
Kilmacrennan Cel v Rathmullan Cel (7 p.m.)

Donegal Physiotherapy Division Two  
Raphoe Town v Deele Harps

Glencar Inn Saturday Division One  
Kildrum Tigers Res v Fintown Harps  
Oldtown Celtic v St. Catherines Res

Old Orchard Saturday Division Two

Copany Rovers v Ballybofey Utd Res  
Finn Travel Saturday Division Three

Letterkenny Rovers Res v Lagan Harps Res

Sunday 17th March

Brian McCormick Sports Premier Division

Gweedore Celtic v Swilly Rovers

Temple Domestic Appliances Division One

Cappry Rovers v Donegal Town

Lagan Harps v Bonagee United

Letterkenny Rovers v Gweedore United

## Results

Monday 4th March

Finn Travel Saturday Division Three

Drumkeen Utd Res 3-3 Bonagee Utd Res

Saturday 9th March

Glencar Inn Saturday Division One

Arranmore Utd 3-0 Glenea Utd Res

Old Orchard Saturday Division Two

Cranford Utd Res 1-1 Copany Rovers

Voodoo Venue Cup

Ballybofey Utd Res 4-3 Erne Wanderers

Castlefin Celtic Res 2-3 Bonagee Utd Res

Drumoghill F.C. Res 5-3 Kildrum Tigers Res (a.e.t. and Penalties)

Gweedore Celtic Res 0-2 Keadue Rovers Res

Letterkenny Rovers Res 5-1 Fanad Utd Res

Oldtown Celtic 1-4 Glencar Celtic

St. Catherines Res 1-4 Drumbar F.C.

Strand Rovers 7-1 Gweedore Utd Res

Sunday 10th March

Division Two

Ballybofey Utd 6-0 Dunkineely Cel

Whitstrand Utd 3-0 Curragh Athletic

Brian McCormick Cup

Lifford Area

Drumoghill F.C. 3-0 Lagan Harps

Kildrum Tigers 4-0 Lifford Celtic

Donegal Area

Drumkeen Utd 1-3 St. Catherines

Oscar Traynor Trophy Quarter Final

Donegal League 4-2 Leinster League

League of Ireland First Division

# Harps away in Wexford

Finn Harps play their second away league game of the season this Friday night against Wexford Youths at Ferrycarrig Park (kick-off 7.45). It's going to be an interesting contest as Harps are third in the table five places above Wexford but the hosts have played two games less. They are on three points from those two fixtures while Darren Murphy's men sit on seven from four matches. Harps go to the southeast on the back of their first loss of the season suffered against Cobh in Ballybofey on Friday night.

It was a reality check for the hosts after an unbeaten start to the campaign which included two wins and a draw. One of those victories was on the road against Longford Town in the first match and while a similar result would be the perfect result in Ferrycarrig Park, Murphy would be happy with a draw against a side that won 2-1 away to UCD on Friday night.

Wexford will have seen how Harps struggled to barely create a scoring chance against Cobh so they will certainly be aiming to take the three points against

the visitors.

Former Harps player Ethan Boyle is expected to be in the Wexford starting 11 again while Murphy will definitely be mulling over changes after the Cobh loss. Conor Tourish and Sean O'Donnell will be pushing to be in the first 11 so the places of Shane McMonagle and Patrick Ferry could be under pressure. Cork City who lead the table on goal difference host Bray Wanderers on Friday night. Treaty Utd who are second, travel to take on bottom of the table Longford Town.

# First defeat for Murphy's men

## Finn Harps 0-1 Cobh Ramblers

A flat Finn Harps performance on Friday night saw Darren Murphy's side suffer their first league defeat of the new 2024 season. Cobh Ramblers made the long journey south with a deserved first three points of the campaign thanks to a fine 24th minute Jack Larkin strike. Despite an improved second performance after emptying the bench Harps rarely tested the Cobh keeper. The narrowing of the pitch on both the Stand and Stranorlar sides of the ground appeared to work against the hosts on this occasion. No real explanation has been given for the alteration to the pitch dimensions other than it is within the specifications laid down by the FAI.

But as a result of the narrow pitch it was Cobh who benefitted putting Harps under a lot of pressure from long throw-ins and it led to the game's only goal. In the first half the ball was out of play with monotonous regularity especially on the Stand side. Murphy stuck with the same 11 that started against Athlone with the only change being on the bench with the inclusion of Conor Tourish for the first time this season. The former Letterkenny Rovers central defender had been out since pre-season with a hamstring injury.

Cobh started well and in the first minute, Matthew McKeivitt shot narrowly wide of the target and then the visitors had an even better chance when James O'Leary's low cross wasn't cut out and really David Bošnjak should have scored from a couple of yards at the far post. Another O'Leary cross saw Larkin head wide. Ramblers deservedly took the lead courtesy of Larkin's

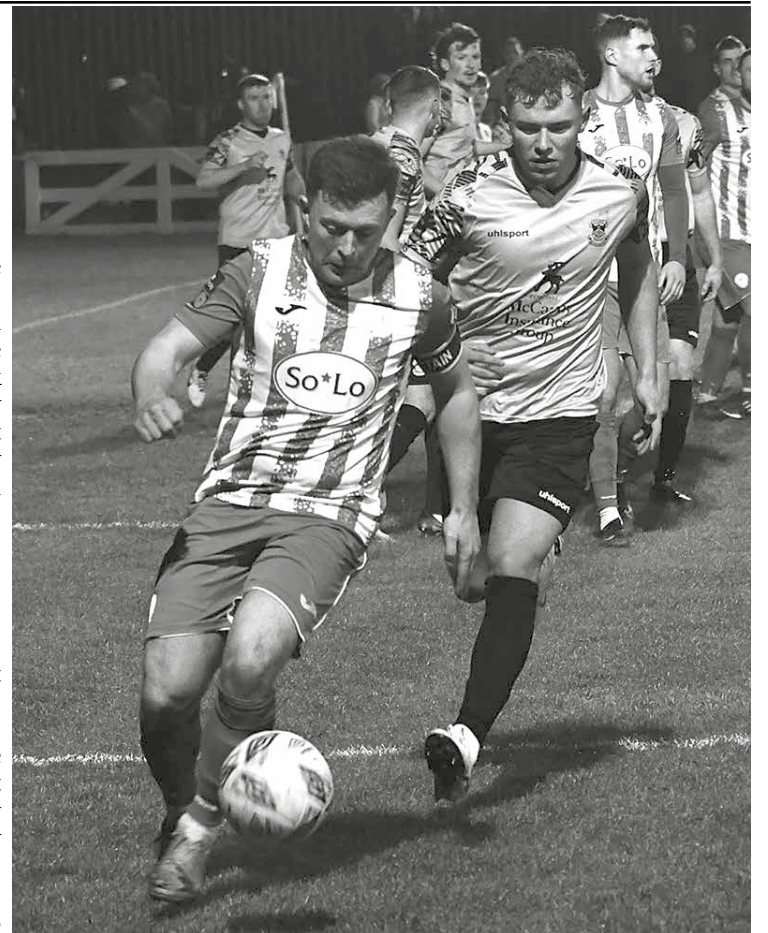
sweetly struck half-volley that gave Tim Heimer no chance at the town end goals following yet another Cian Browne throw-in.

Harps struggled to penetrate the visitors defence and there was frustration with the decisions of referee Oliver Moran that led to Darren Murphy being booked. There were also yellow cards for Success Edogun, Stephen Doherty and captain Tony McNamee. Sean O'Donnell's introduction did add a bit of attacking momentum that led to the creation of some opportunities including an effort from another sub Mark Mbuli that was deflected wide. McNamee did drive Harps forward and had a shot himself that went out for a corner.

O'Donnell came close to equalising at the end of normal time but in a rare bit of action keeper Darragh Burke was equal to the attempt. Into injury time and O'Donnell had penalty claims waved away by Moran and in play-backs afterwards that appeared to be the right decision. The referee also deemed that it was a simulation and booked O'Donnell

Finn Harps - Tim-Oliver Heimer; Jamie Watson (Chris Lotefa 81), Noe Baba, Matthew Makinson, Shane McMonagle (Conor Tourish 58); Stephen Doherty (Luke O'Brien 58), David Cawley, Tony McNamee, Max Hutchison (Sean O'Donnell 58), Patrick Ferry (Mark Mbuli 58); Success Edogun. Not used: Conor Walsh (Gk), Max Johnston, Darragh Coyle.

Cobh Ramblers: Darragh Burke; Cian Browne, Brendan Frahill, Nolan Evers, Jason Abbott; David Bošnjak (Beineón O'Brien Whitmarsh 74), Dale Holland (Pierce Phillips 80), Dean Lar-



Tony McNamee in action for Finn Harps against Cobh Ramblers.

kin, Jack Larkin, James O'Leary (Justin Eguaior 89); Matthew McKeivitt. Ref: Oliver Moran

## Lotto

There were no jackpot winners in the Finn Harps Super 4 Lotto draw for 7th March. The numbers drawn were 3, 8, 14, 15. The next draw takes place on Thursday 14th March and the jackpot is €10,000.

There were 6 match 3 winners this week winning €35 each:

Patrick McBride, Burt.

Seamus Roarty, Meendernasloe, Annagry.

Christine Henderson, Drumboe, Stranorlar.

Gerry McCready, Email Provided.

Fiona Henderson, Admiran, Stranorlar.

Harry Long, Barnes Rd, Ballybofey.

Enter via finnharps.ie

# 'Destination Gibbstown'

From Page 19

brought their dog Carlo with them. Eddie, their son, who was also a tailor, returned with his sister Hannah to Fanad around 1946.

Annie, Neil the Tailor, James and Bernadette returned to Moross in Fanad around 1950. Maggie emigrated to London but returned to the Shragh in the late 1970s.

Neil, Mary and Hughie remained in Gibbstown. Neil never forgot Doaghmore. The key to the old house they left in 1937 is nailed to the stable wall in the Gibbstown house to this day.

Neil the Tailor died on 25 February 1966. He was 83. Annie died on 26 September 1990. She was 97.

## Neil Shiels

Neil Shiels was born on 2 September 1922 in Doaghmore. The midwife was Mary Amelia McGloughlin who was a half-sister of Pádraig Pearse. Neil was baptised in Fanavolty Chapel.

Neil said they got thirty shillings a week for a year. They got 23 acres of land, three cows, two heifers, a horse and cart and all the agricultural tools they needed. They also got 20 hens and a rooster, two pigs, twelve sheep and an acre of bog in Mountainstown.

His parents worked as a tailor and a dressmaker. Pedlars went door to door selling the cloth they needed.

## Big Johnny Shields and Hannah Carr

Johnny Shields, his mother Kate Sweeney Shields, his wife Hannah Carr and their children Theresa, Cassie and Johnna left their home in Balloor in April 1937. Big Johnny, Theresa and Cassie travelled on the bus. The Land Commission provided a taxi for Kate who was 84 and for Hannah and baby Johnna. The taxi driver was from Shannagh and stayed the night in a hotel, before going back to Fanad the next day.

The family settled on the Donegal Road where Theresa's grandson, John, now lives.

The youngest member of the family, Sadie, was

born in February 1938. Kate Sweeney Shields died in September 1937.

Hannah Carr was one of eight sisters and two brothers. She was from The Moss in Fanad.

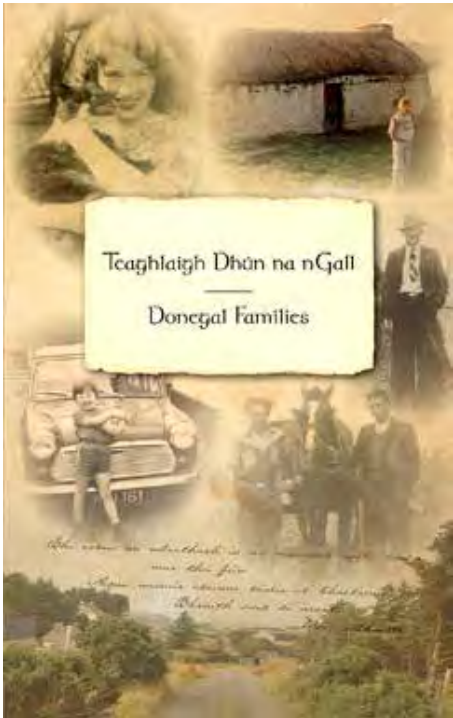
Hannah married Johnny Shields and they decided to go to the US. Hannah went ahead herself as Johnny had difficulty with his passport. Hannah and her daughter Theresa remained for six years in the US, returning in 1933. Her mother Mary Ann died in February 1937. Hannah's sister Annie was married to Neil Shiels, the tailor from Doaghmore.

Theresa went to Glasgow and trained as a psychiatric nurse in Gartnavel Royal Hospital.

Theresa and Mickey McGarry were childhood sweethearts. They married in England and had their home in Hither Green.

Big Johnny was a lovely singer and enjoyed dancing. House dances took place on a Friday and Saturday night on the cement floor, from 7pm till late at night, especially Friday night.

Shiels' home in Doaghmore, Fanad.



Jimmy agus Cassie de Brún, Connie Mac Pháidín, Tony agus Peter de Brún. Sa chúrla ar chlé, Bernadette Ní Shiadhail agus ar dheis, Máirín Ní Shiadhail.



Noeleen, Ann, Eileen, Hannah, Maureen and Neil Shiels.

Mary Moriarty and Mary Guiheen would come from Teltown, as both loved dancing. Kitty Begley, who was teaching in Cavan, would come to Gibbstown on the bus with her bike as she loved music and dancing too. She was a girlfriend of James Shiels for a while.

## Bernadette Shiels

Bernadette was born in Doaghmore but she left there as an infant with her parents Neil and Annie Shiels for Gibbstown. The scenery from those two homes could not have been more different – the Doaghmore house had a clear view of the Atlantic Ocean and was surrounded by rough and rocky ground compared to the flat and more fertile plains of Meath.

She was the youngest of eight children, Mary, Eddie, Hughie, James, Maggie, Neil and Hannah and had no memories of her life in Fanad.

In the book her grandson Fr. Liam Boyle regrets not being more inquisitive and not asking more questions or more precise details.

The house to which they moved was a home as well as being a place of business and was chosen due to its proximity to the main road. Her father was a tailor and her mother a skilled dressmaker.

The Fanad home of her parents was itself a place of both welcome and refuge in the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War, and we have seen how this was the case also in Meath, when they took in German refugees following World War 2 as part of Operation Shamrock in 1946.

This tradition of sanctuary

continued for many decades, once again in Fanad, where Bernadette, who truly sought to help others, put these virtues into practice. The words of Our Lord in the Gospels come immediately to mind; "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did it to me."

Neil, Annie and Bernadette, along with other members of the family, returned to Fanad in 1949 where they purchased a house and farm in Moross and that would be her home for most of the rest of her life. She married Dennis Shiels and had four children, Eileen, Ann (RIP), Michael and James. Bernadette remained a constant visitor to Gibbstown and maintained links with her family, friends and the community there. She passed away suddenly on 18th September 2019.



Bernadette Shiels.



The Shiels Family. Missing are Michael, Paul and Annie Curley.



# Local National Schools play role in new curriculum

Two local national schools have been playing a role in helping develop a new curriculum and they are encouraging the public to have their say in the programme. The pupils and staff of Ballymore National School, Dunfanaghy and Creeslough National School have been involved in the redevelopment of the primary school curriculum for the last number of years through their participation in the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's (NCCA) Schools Forum. Since 2018, the NCCA has been working with a network of over 60 schools consisting of primary, post-primary and preschools from across the country. Together, these represent the rich diversity of school contexts in Ireland. The teachers

and practitioners meet every 4-6 weeks as a 'Schools Forum' to guide and help shape the review and redevelopment of the primary curriculum.

Principal of Creeslough National School, Lorraine Starritt, has been involved in the Schools Forum since 2018 and said it allows for the opportunity to consider "big questions" on the future of the curriculum. She stated: "The Schools Forum provides a space where, parents and teachers have an opportunity to ponder big questions such as what we value in education, what its purpose is, how and what children should be taught, what's important in our current context and what the future might demand."

As a result of Creeslough National Schools' engagement with the Schools Forum, the pupils were involved in a pilot project for the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum.

Ms. Starritt explained: "The pupils and staff of Creeslough National School got to experience the new math curriculum in advance of its launch last September. This opportunity enabled us to delve deep into the new curriculum and provide invaluable feedback to the NCCA in advance of the curriculum being launched into every primary school in Ireland."

The Primary Curriculum Framework for all primary and special schools was launched last year by Minister of Education, Norma Foley. This framework sets out a new vision for primary education, as well as a structure for a new overall primary curriculum.

Cait Ni Chuireáin, Principal of Ballymore National School said the development of a new primary school curriculum impacts everyone and she encouraged others to get involved in

the ongoing consultation process.

She stated: "Following on from the launch of the Primary Mathematical Curriculum, the NCCA have moved on to the next phase of the redevelopment process and is now consulting on draft curriculum specifications in Arts Education; Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) in the Primary Language Curriculum; Social and Environmental Education; Science, Technology and Engineering Education; and Wellbeing. The development of a new primary school curriculum impacts everyone - children, parents, grandparents and teachers. It also has wider implications for society as the knowledge, skills, abilities and dispositions that children develop in primary school ultimately shape the kind of citizens they will become, and how they will interact and contribute to society



Ballymore National School.

in the future. Given the changes in society and advances over the past two decades, the importance for people to know about the consultation and to get involved cannot be overstated. The window for consultation is open until June 7th and I encourage everyone to engage in the consultative process." The consultation opened on March 6th, and will remain open until June 7th, and is open to all members of the public to have their say on the new proposals. Further information on the proposals can be found at <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/primary-developments/primary-curriculum-review-and-redevelopment/consultation-2024/>.



Creeslough National School.

## Rosapenna Golf Club

The Gents Four Ball Better Ball on Sunday the 10th of March resulted as follows: 1st L. Boyce & H. McBride with 48pts; 2nd M. Bradley & D. McBride(F) with 47pts; 3rd J. McHugh & B. Garrity with 46pts bot; Gross S. Conner & G. Toye with 40 gross pts; Front 9 S. Boyce & P. Fogarty with 23pts bot; Back 9 P. Boyce & J. McBride with 25pts bot. Two's - Seimi Connor x 2, Michael Gallagher Jr, Michael Kelly & Micheal Bradley (Snr)

### Winter Scramble Series

The final event of the Winter Scramble Season is planned for this coming Saturday the 16th with a scramble on both the Old Tom Morris Links & Sandy Hills Links, all entries are via the Resort website [www.rosapenna.com](http://www.rosapenna.com)

### Ladies vs Gents Match

The 2024 Ladies vs Gents Challenge Match took place on Saturday the 9th of March with the ladies team prevailing this year by a margin of 9.5-5.5 on the day. Well done to Claire Lenny and to her team of Ladies.

The results of the 4BBB were as follows - Ladies Claire Lenny & Sharon Bradley with 47pts; Gents John Feeney & Michael Kelly with 46pts. Many thanks to the trophy sponsor, Brendan McGee of McGee Insulation and to the Gents team Captain, Joe McHugh.

### Course Update

Play will return to the fairways from this coming Saturday the 16th of March with six inch placing in effect. The Sandy Hills Links will reopen for the 2024 season on Saturday the 16th with the member green fee set at €30.00 for all Old Tom Morris Links members. Any member that has a winter mat in their golf bag are kindly asked to return same to the Pavilion Golf Shop.

### Club Mixed Foursomes 2024

Entry is now open for the Club Mixed Foursomes Tournament 2024. Ladies & Gents should enter as



Pictured celebrating Mother's Day at Portsalon on Sunday 10th March are Deirdre Hensey and Ita Ward.

a pair to be included in a draw to determine playing partners. The entry fee is €10.00 per player payable upon entry with The Pavilion Golf Shop staff. Entries close on Sunday March 31st.

### Fixtures

Saturday 16th - Winter Scramble Series; Sunday 17th - Club Competition; Monday 18th - Scoil Naomh Brid Golf Classic c/o Rosapenna Golf Resort; Sunday 24th - Gents Easter Hamper; Sunday 31st - Club.

## Letterkenny

### Captains' Drive-in at Letterkenny Golf Club

On a beautiful Spring morning, there was a fantastic turn-out of club members, family members and friends who gathered to be with Letterkenny's Captains Paul Carr and Anne Flannery and Club President, Ed Margey for the Captain's Drive In on Sunday 25th February

Earlier in the day, players and supporters were treated to a lovely spread of tray-bakes which were organised by members. A huge thank you is extended to all those who provided the tasty treats and also to Noreen and her staff for the beautiful food later in the day

### St Patrick's Day Competition

The next big event in the diary for the Ladies is the St. Patrick's Day competition on Saturday 16th March with an alternative day on Monday 18th March.

### Fashion Show

A Fashion Show including 3 course lunch in association with The Gray Room will be hosted in Hunters Bar & Restaurant at Letterkenny Golf Club on Saturday 23rd March at 2pm.

## Letterkenny Ladies

The 25th of February was the date which marked the official start of the incoming club captains year. After both captains split the fairway with their opening drives, members took part in a Texas Scramble format competition where all team participants were chosen at random. This added to the fun format competition. Victors on the day were Marty McMullan, Mark Maguire, Laurence Duggan and Elaine Russell with a nett return of 50 points.

1 shot behind in second place was Dominic Deeny, Clifford Malone, Hugh Doherty and Deirdre McCarron. Shaun Duffy, Matthew Carlin, Gareth McNern and Bridie Gildea claimed 3rd place with 52 points. Everyone at Letterkenny Golf Club wishes Lady Captain Anne and Captain Paul a very successful and enjoyable year ahead.

## Portsalon Ladies

Lady Captain Noreen, and the ladies wish to congratulate and send good wishes to our ladies Hon Secretary Anne Speedie on her appointment as President of Moyola Park Golf Club in Castledawson. It is an incredible recognition of Anne's dedication and enthusiasm for the game of golf, as she becomes the very first



Club Captains Suzanne Gallagher & Enda McClafferty and Joe McHugh presenting John Feeney & Michael Kelly with the 1st place prize in the 4BBB (gents section) during the 2024 Ladies vs Gents Match.

Lady President of Moyola Park Golf Club. Her commitment and experience to ladies golf in Portsalon Golf Club has been in evidence for many years. Deirdre O'Toole took the honours on Sunday from Lady Captain Noreen with 9 Pars and a super Birdie on the 7th.

There will be a St Patrick's weekend Open for Ladies and Gents on the 18th March.

Any lady wondering if they have qualifying cards in for the Captain's Day of the Links on the 28th March, can check the list on the board in the Ladies Locker Room. 3 cards or more are required to qualify. Anyone who has 2 cards or less, or indeed joins the links on the Captain's Day will compete for the non-qualifying prizes. The 2's pot is divided evenly between anyone who records a '2' on a Par 3, regardless of their qualifying status.

Pick up your fixtures list for 2024 in the locker room.

Pack your beloved mats away from St Patrick's weekend, as we move back to playing on fairways which have benefited wonderfully from the winter rest.

Keep your eyes open for the Club Matchplay singles competition list in the locker room, as it is hoped to get it up & running in April but that is subject to change at the moment.

### Results

Sunday Members 10th March - 1st Deirdre O'Toole 38 pts; 2nd Noreen McConnigley 37pts.



Captain Paul Carr, Lady Captain Anne Flannery and Club President Ed Margey pictured with Vice-Captain Declan Burke and Lady Vice-Captain Pauline Curley at the Captain's Drive In at Letterkenny Golf Club



Club Captains Suzanne Gallagher & Enda McClafferty and Joe McHugh presenting Claire Lenny with the Ladies vs Gents Trophy for 2024 as the Ladies emerged victorious by a margin of 9.5 to 5.5 on Saturday March 9th.



Claire Lenny (Ladies Team Captain) & Joe McHugh (Gents Team Captain) being presented with the annual Ladies vs Gents Trophy at Rosapenna Golf Club by the sponsor Brendan McGee of McGee Insulation.



Club Captains Suzanne Gallagher & Enda McClafferty presenting Claire Lenny & Sharon Bradley with the 1st place prize in the 4BBB (ladies section) during the 2024 Ladies vs Gents Match.



### Victory for Donegal in Manchester

Colleen Langan pictured at recent St. Patrick's Day parade in Manchester City Centre. Colleen is a grand daughter of Catherine Langan originally from Ballure in Fanad and Eileen Langan is her mother. Currently residing in Manchester, my family and Colleen were thrilled to participate in the parade alongside the Manchester Donegal Association. The Donegal Association entered a float into the Parade and the Donegal float emerged victorious, earning recognition for its captivating display of vibrant green and gold, complemented by the resonating melodies of traditional Donegal songs emanating from our speakers.

### Sheachtain na Gaeilge sa Fanad



Snámh le chéile do Sheachtain na Gaeilge i bPort an tSalainn; Swim morning in Portsalon for Seachtain na Gaeilge



Tráth na gCeist le Gaeltacht Bheo Fhánada do Sheachtain na Gaeilge sa Fanad Lodge; At the Table quiz for Gaeltacht Bheo Fhánada in the Fanad Lodge for Seachtain na Gaeilge were above, Aoife McElwaine, Sally-Anne Talbot, Eimer Friel and below Brendan Friel, Neil McElwaine, Mairead McAteer, Aisling McElwaine, Aine Henaghan

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**RÁS 5K**      **DÉ SATHAIRN 16Ú MÁRTA 2024 | 11:00r.n FÁNAID**

Walk, Roll, Run, Have Fun!  
Siúl, Roll, Rith, Bíodh Spraoi agat!

No Entrance fee - Donations on the day. All donations will be matched by MOWI.

Registration by 10:30am at Dins Shore, Rinboey entrance ready for 11:00am start.

100% of all proceeds in aid of Tamney Health Centre Comfort Fund

MOWI     

**Seachtain na Gaeilge**      **le enérgia**

**Seachtain na Gaeilge**      **Gaeltacht Bheo Fhánada**

**15Ú MÁRTA**  
**OICHE CHEOIL**  
9I.N  
Fanad Lodge

**16Ú MÁRTA**  
**RÁS 5K**  
LE MOWI & FANAD ACTIVE GROUP  
10:30R.N TRÁ DIN  
Ceardlann Cré le Denise Ionad Pobl Thráigh a Loch. 2-9in

**17Ú MÁRTA**  
**PARÁID NA FÉILE PADRAIG. AN CHEATHRÚ CHAOIL**  
S.I.N

Tuilleadh Eolais ó Sally-Anne 0864048180 nó Eimer 0861078197



# Portsalon Pier deadline postponed again...



Minister Charlie McConalogue during a visit to Portsalon Pier on Friday accompanied by Senator Niall Blaney and Donegal County Councillor, Liam Blaney.

The deadline for completion of repairs to the structure at Portsalon Pier has been postponed once again. Originally scheduled to be finished for the end of October 2023, that date was pushed to March 26th. The completion date is now moved forward until 'the end of April and this has added further urgency ahead of the tourism season. As a consequence of this further delay, there are renewed concerns about the summer tourism business for the industry in Fanad. While there was a general acceptance of the project not being completed until March 26th the community did expect this deadline to be met given that the tourism business has been interrupted since last July.

Joseph McMenemy, the contractor in charge of the €1.5million project told a meeting in Portsalon in January that his rationale was based on the progress already made in the ten weeks prior to Christmas. The Council's senior marine engineer, Cathal Sweeney said this was 'an extremely challenging job' where structural difficulties were first raised 25 years ago. The Council had carried out works ten years ago but much more was needed. He was confident the job would be completed on time. "We will have a safe, secure and stable structure that will withstand another fifty years. The width of the pier will also be increased. However, more needs to be done and we will always be involved in Portsalon... we will

never leave it" he stated. While this was a positive meeting there was a sharp edge in the room as Cllr. Blaney and tourism promoters in Portsalon aired contrasting views. Portsalon Pier is one of six Donegal marine infrastructure projects that was allocated a combined total of €8.276 million in a funding package announced by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, in January. Speaking following a visit to Portsalon Pier earlier this week, Minister McConalogue said: "I'm delighted to see these major repair works taking place. The investment of €1.425 million in Portsalon Pier means that this vital piece of local infrastructure will be in place and will serve the area for many generations to

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come. He stated: "It's certainly going to be a different summer this year in Portsalon compared to last year. When Portsalon Pier reopens it will provide new and exciting opportunities for the coastal community which has also played its part in this much needed project. It will see the start of a new beginning for Portsalon and its famous pier which has proven such a popular destination for visitors - from home and abroad - down the years," the Donegal Minister added. The other five Donegal projects allocated funding by Minister McConalogue under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme for 2022-2023 were Rathmullan, €3,800,000; Burtonport Quay Wall, €1,425,000; Bunbeg, €1,140,000; Poraleen Quay Wall, €855,000 and Port Inver Slipway, €323,000.

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**Rosnakill, Fanad Area**

**Tel 087 4582937**

**50th Wedding Anniversary  
Thank You**

We would like to extend sincere thanks to all our family and friends who attended our recent 50th Wedding Anniversary celebrations in the Silver Tassie Hotel especially those who travelled from America and Australia for the occasion.  
Thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts and messages of good wishes on the occasion, your kindness is very much appreciated.

*Francie and Eileen McVeigh*

## Kerrykeel Parade on Sunday

The annual St Patrick's Day Parade on again this year in Kerrykeel. It will be starting at 3 o'clock with live music after the parade and everyone is invited. **Mowi 5k** Mowi would like to wish all the couch to 5k participants the best of luck as they take to the road this Saturday in the Mowi 5k fun run/walk. The Fanad Active group, in conjunction with Mowi, commenced a 9 week couch to 5k back in January where over 40 people came 3 nights per week, under the keen eye of their trainer, Kevin Logue to get more active. This weekend will give them the chance to put their training to the test. The run (or walk) will take place this Saturday, 16th March from Dins Shore at Rinboy, Fanad. Gathering at 10.30 for an 11am start, the course is a straight road directly to Mowi factory in Rinmore. Everyone

is welcome to come out and join us. Donations for the event will be collected for the Tamney Health Centre Patients Comfort fund. This fund was established in 2018. It provides support to members of the local community, who are not always in a position to cover the additional costs of accessing healthcare provisions outside of the normal provisions. All donations will be matched by Mowi - so the more raised, the bigger the overall donation. Gaeltacht Bheo Fhánda will be joining us on the day, sponsoring some plaques - dón chéad fear agus chéad bean. Refreshments will be served in Rinmore. Beigi linn. **Annual Coffee Morning in Glenvar School** Please join us any time after 11am on St Patrick's Day for our coffee morning in aid of small animals. Sweet treats, bric a brac and raffle! You can browse the stalls, have a

chat and a nice cup of tea! **Easter Saturday Fundraiser in aid of Tamney Patients Comfort Fund** On Saturday 30th March the first event is a walk around the Colmcille Trail leaving Portsalon Carpark at 10am. There are three loops within the trail of 3, 5 or 8km and you can choose which best suits you. Following the walk there will be a dip at Portsalon Pier at 12 noon. Donations to the Comfort Fund, which provides much help to our community, are welcome for participation in these events. At 7pm there will be a Family Quiz Time in the Stores Bar and entry fee is 5€ per person or 20€ per Family. A fun morning and evening in Portsalon is promised and all while helping a very worthy cause. **Irish Cancer Society** Elizabeth and Valerie Gallagher would like to invite all members of the community who would like to

donate to the annual Daffodil Day Irish Cancer Society fundraiser to join them in Tamney Hall from 5pm - 9pm on Thursday 14th March. They will be selling merchandise for Daffodil Day. All welcome. **Bake Day** Swilly Mulroy Credit Union are holding their Great Irish Bake Day and Member Appreciation Day again this year on Friday the 22nd of March in their Kerrykeel office. Everyone is invited to come along and there will be more details next week. **St. Patrick's Dance** The Annual St. Patrick's Dance in the Milford Hall is being held on Saturday 16th at 9pm. Music is by Martin Duggan and John Cannon, so a lively night is guaranteed. This year the dance is in aid of Donegal Downs Syndrome Association. Tickets are €10 and this includes entry for the prize draw. Refreshments will be served. So get your dancing shoes on and enjoy the craic.



Foireann Peil na mBan Ghaeil Fhánda a d'imir in éadan Naomh Conaill i gComórtas Peile na Gaeltachta Dé Domhnaigh.

## Further nominations for April's Garden

Following on from two prestigious award nominations in recent months Portsalon based author, Isla McGuckin, has now been nominated in the The British Book Club Award for her book April's Garden. The children's book, penned by Isla and illustrated by Catalina Echeverri, is shortlisted in the 'Book of the Year - 'Discover' section. The British Book Awards take place on Monday, May 13th, 2024. They detail: "Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2023 and



selected as one of the Children's Books Ireland's picture books for 2023, April's Garden is the debut from Isla McGuckin, who appeared on last year's "New Voices" panel at the Children's Books Ireland International Conference. Exploring poverty, homelessness and displacement, the story is sensitively illustrated by Catalina Echeverri and published with teaching notes to provide discussion points in classrooms." Originally from Sheffield, Isla has been living with her family in Portsalon for almost 20 years.

# Mevagh FRC

Mum & Baby Yoga/Pilates - commencing Monday 8th April, 10am to 11am, this course will run for 5 weeks and is FREE. Suitable for babies from 6 weeks to pre walking. Call the centre on 074 9155055 or email info@mevaghfrc.com. Mevagh Gardening Group - a few plots are

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available at our Community Garden at Magherabeg, Downings. Consists of one bed inside polytunnel & one raised bed outside. Reasonable annual fee applies. If interested in joining our group please contact Pauline at Centre. TUS Community Employment Scheme (19½ hrs) Administrative Assistant - A vacancy exists at Mevagh FRC for an Administrative Assistant. Experience an advantage. Candidates must be in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance for at least one year. To confirm eligibility or for further details, contact Aine Uí Rabhartaigh on 087 2366912 or email a.uirabhartaigh@udaras.ie

Busy Bees Parent & Toddler Group - meet every Friday from 10am-12pm. Play with new toys, meet other parents, have fun. Refreshments provided. €3 per family.

Do you need support on how to use your smart phone, tablet or laptop? Donegal ETB are offering free one-to-one support for individuals on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm. Contact the centre on 074 9155055 for more information or to secure an appointment.

**Other Notes:**  
Yoga Kindly - class continues on a Saturday morning at 9:45am in the Resource Centre. Contact Brigitte on 087 0653333 for more information.

## Planning Notices

**Donegal County Council  
Drumany, Letterkenny**

We, P.J. & Majella Sweeney, on behalf of Archview Lodge Nursing Home, intend to apply for planning permission for development at Drumany, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in the townland of Drumany. The development will consist of planning permission to construct an extension to Bedroom No.3 to front & side of building and retention planning permission for (1) extension to Bedroom No.7 to side of building, (2) en-suite extension to Bedroom No.21 to rear of building, (3) increase in size of en-suite to Bedroom No.4 to side of building with all associated site works. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority at the County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of

receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

**Donegal County Council**

I, Sean Brogan am applying to Donegal County Council for permission to construct new dwelling house, domestic shed and install wastewater treatment system at Trentagh, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in the townland of Rathdonnell. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority, County House, Lifford during its public opening hours. Submissions or observations in relation to the development may be made to the planning authority in writing, on payment of €20, within five weeks beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the authority.

**Donegal County Council  
Saint Eunan's Court, Convert Road,  
Letterkenny**

I, Martin McGettigan am applying to Donegal Coun-

## Acknowledgement

**Flynn  
(Née McKemey)  
Jane 'Derry'**

We, sisters and our families would like to acknowledge and express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who offered their condolences and prayers at the passing of our beloved sister Derry. We know and feel truly blessed to have such love and support from you all.

Anna, Margaret, Doreen and families.



## In Memoriam



**Coyle  
Paddy  
Glasgow /  
Downings  
17th Anniversary**

In loving memory of Paddy a dearly loved husband, father and grandad who died on 18th March 2007.

*Although we smile  
and make no fuss  
No one misses you  
more than us  
Gone are the days  
we used to share  
But in our hearts  
you are always  
there.*

Sadly missed by wife Bridget and family.

Remembering my brother Paddy on his 17th Anniversary.

*Each of us in our  
own way  
Have special  
thoughts of you  
today  
No longer in our  
lives to share  
But in our hearts  
you are always  
there.*

Sadly missed by your brother Micheal, sister-in-law Helen, your nephew Daniel and your niece Mandy.

**Anniversary Mass  
on Saturday 16th  
March at 6.00pm in  
St. John the Baptist  
Church, Carrigart.**



**Deeney  
Craig Edward  
Creeve / Dublin  
26th Anniversary**

In loving memory of our darling son Craig Edward who died 17th March 1998 aged 3 1/2 months, also remembering his grandmothers Margaret and Lily and granddad Eddie and Tony, also his dear uncle John, RIP.

*St. Patrick's Day  
comes with  
sad regret  
The day, the time we  
shall never forget  
A tribute of our love  
to a son so dear  
So close in our  
hearts each day  
of the year  
We will always have  
our memories Craig  
to cherish and to  
hold of a beautiful  
son more precious  
than gold.*

Deeply loved and sadly missed by Mammy, Daddy and sister Aisling xxx.

*A silent thought  
a little prayer  
For someone special  
in God's Care.*

Always remembered by you aunt Ann and Neily, cousins Paul, Marie, Sharon, Conor, James and Philip.



Fr. Anthony Briody pictured above with pupils from Cashel NS and below Tamney NS after he confirmed them on Saturday. Photos by Martin Fleming.

and such Submissions or Observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the Application. The Planning Authority may Grant Permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to Grant Permission.



Pupils from Fanad received Sacrament of Confirmation last week from local priest Anthony Briody in St. Columba's Church, Massmount. He is pictured above with pupils from Drumfad NS and below Doaghbeg NS.



**In Memoriam**

**McDaid**

Willie and Ellen  
Glenleary, Ramelton  
8th and 19th Anniversaries



In loving memory of Uncle Willie and Auntie Ellen.

Always remembered by The Gallen family, Rathmullan.

**Anniversary Mass in St. Mary's Church, Ramelton on Sunday 17th March at 11a.m**



**Friel**

Willie  
Termon / Dudley  
13th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear husband and father.

*Treasured thoughts of one so dear often brings a silent tear The years roll by but the memories last*

Loved and missed dearly by wife Kathleen and children James, John, Maria and Jeanette and families.

**Anniversary Mass on Saturday 16th March in St. Columba's Church, Kilmacrennan.**



**McNaught**

Etta  
Aughavennan,  
Rathmullan  
4th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear mother who died on 17th March 2020.

*Quietly today your memory is kept No need for words, we will never forget As thoughts go back, as they often do We treasure the memories we have of you.*

Sadly missed by your son Tommy, Siobhan and family, Ballybofey.



**Ferry**

Eamonn  
Carnamuggagh  
Upper, Letterkenny  
1st Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who died on 27th March 2023.

*A man so popular, Do you remember his smile? A heart of gold Do you remember his style? A presence about him that turned dark into light A funny way of saying things, that always turned out right*

*Now we are left lonely and sad, But we had the pleasure to call him Husband, Dad, Grandad, Brother, Uncle and friend.*

*My life's been full, I've savoured much Good friends and family and a loved one's touch So laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we shared together Smile, think of me, Pray for me.*

Always remembered by his loving wife Teresa and family.

**Anniversary Mass on Friday 22nd March at 7pm in St. Joseph's Church, Rathmullan.**



**Logue**

Susan  
Skreen,  
Kilmacrennan  
3rd Anniversary

In loving memory of Susan, a dear wife, mother and grandmother, who died on March 19th, 2021.

*Silent thoughts of our time together Hold memories that will last forever Wherever we are, whatever we do We will always love and remember you.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by your husband Michael and all the family.

**Anniversary Mass will be held in St. Columba's Church, Kilmacrennan on Sunday 17th March at 11am.**

Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the Offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and that a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

**McNaught**

Etta  
Aughavennan,  
Rathmullan  
4th Anniversary

In loving memory of my dear mother Etta who departed this life on 17th of March 2020.

*Time changes many things but never the memory that this day brings Remembering you is easy, I do it every day*

*Missing you is that feeling that never goes away Time may hide that sadness like a smile can hide the tears But memories hold you very close despite the passing years.*

Lovingly remembered by your son Robert, Aughavennan, Rathmullan.



**Herraghty**

Peggy  
Downings  
Died 15th  
March 2019  
Rest in Peace Mum

*She never failed to do her best, her heart was true and tender*

*She worked, and toiled for those she loved and left them to remember*

*We sat beside your bedside, our hearts were crushed and sore*

*We did our duty to the end until we could do no more In tears we watched you sinking*

*we watched you fade away And though our hearts were breaking, we knew you could not stay*

*You left behind some aching hearts that loved you most sincere*

*We never shall and never will forget you, Mother dear.*

Mum we love and miss you always your loving sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grand children xxxx

*Loving and kind in all her ways Upright and just to the end of her days Sincere and true, in her heart and mind Beautiful memories, she left behind*

*Everyday in some small way memories of you come our way Though absent, you are always near*

*Still missed, loved and always dear.*

You'll always be with us in our hearts, may God bless your soul - sadly missed by your sisters Brid and Kate and your brother Joe and their families x

*Death leaves heartache no one can heal, memories are treasures no one can steal Some may forget you now that you are gone but we will remember no matter how long*

*You will always stay loved and remembered in every way No verse can ever say how much we miss you every day*

May your soul rest in peace - sadly missed by your sister-in-law Bridie, Molly, Nellie and Tess and families xxx

*Also remembering our loving father Jimmy who died on 11th August 2014 - may he rest in peace*

xxx

**Acknowledgement**

**Shields**

Charlie  
High Glen, Carrigart

The family of Charlie Shields would like to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with us on our great loss.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and neighbours who attended the wake and funeral and sent sympathy and Mass cards. For those who telephoned, travelled long distances, sent floral tributes, cards and messages of condolences, we are truly grateful. To our neighbours and friends who helped with teas and organised parking at the wake, and to those who provided food for the family, we couldn't have asked for better people around us.

We offer thanks to Fr. Pat Davis for conducting the service and burial and to Fr. Ferry who prayed with Charlie in hospital.

A special word of thanks also to Susan Gallagher for the beautiful music during the funeral Service.

To all those in Letterkenny University Hospital, and especially the staff and doctors in the Renal Unit, who looked after Charlie during his illness we are grateful for your care. We'd also like to thank Charlie's GP, Dr Gerard Lannon who took great care of him while he was still at home.

To Seamus Gallagher, thank you for your sensitive and professional handling of arrangements and thanks also to those who dug and prepared the grave. To the Hall Committee who organised the refreshments after the burial and to Logue's of Cranford who provided the food, we'd also like to express our gratitude.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

**The Month's Mind Mass for Charlie will be held on Monday 18th March at 10.00am in St John the Baptist, Carrigart.**

**Toye**

Chris  
Mount Marian, Milford.

The family of the late Chris Toye would like to thank all those who sympathised with us on our recent sad loss. We would like to thank everyone who attended the wake and funeral, sent messages of condolences, Mass cards, floral tributes and those who brought food to the house.

Thank you to all Emergency Services, Dr. Tom Nunan, thank you to Fr. Stephen Gorman for the beautiful Requiem Mass and Margaret McAteer and Choir for the beautiful music and to the Undertakers Patrick Sweeney and Paul Sweeney for their professional service and their dignified manner in carrying out the funeral arrangements.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

Rest in Peace Chris.

**Chris' Month's Mind Mass will take place on Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Milford.**

**Planning Notices**

**Donegal County Council**

I, Darren McHugh am applying to Donegal County Council for permission for the development of a dwelling and associated works at Devlinmore, Carrigart, Letterkenny, County Donegal in the townland of Devlinmore. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority at County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, during its public opening hours and that a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**Donegal County Council**

**Croaghan, Ramelton**

We, Patrick & Michelle Deery are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for an attic conversion to dwelling house previously granted under planning permission Ref No. 21/51944 that has commenced on site & construction of new domestic garage at Croaghan, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. The

**Donegal County Council**

**Glenalla, Milford**

We, Mark & Naomi Begley are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for alterations & extension to dwelling house previously granted under planning permission Ref. No. 23/51336 at Glenalla, Milford, Co. Donegal. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the Offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and that a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

**Donegal County Council**

**Bunnagee, Letterkenny**

I, John Barry am applying to Donegal County Council for Planning Permission for the following development: 1. Construction of a new building to provide a Warehouse Storage facility with a floor area of 5,753sq/m. 2. Construction of a new separate Office Building to serve the development with a floor area of 167.4sq/m. 3. Provision of a new foul sewer connection to an existing Sewage Treatment System located in the applicants adjoining yard. 4. Provision of storm water drainage including the installation of a Stormwater interceptor. 5. Provision for a new water connection to the office building from the adjoining public water main. 6. Provision of on-site carparking. 7. All associated site development works. at Bunnagee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in the Townland of Bunnagee. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its Public Opening Hours at County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal. Submissions or observations in relation to this development may be made to the Planning Authority in writing, on payment of the prescribed fee, within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt of the Application by the Planning Authority.

**Teach Mhicí win Cloughaneely and District Darts League**

Cloughaneely District Darts League sponsored by Terry Properties results for week 22 - 7th March are Maire Rua's A 3 v 3 Strand Bar; Shamrock B 4 v 2 Billies D; Teac Jack 5 v 1 Maire Rua's B; Billies C 2 v 4 Billies A; Billies B 1 v 5 Dixons; Teach Mhicí 3 v 3 Shamrock A.

The league season has finished with champions Teach Mhicí finishing the season on 102 points, 6 points clear of Billies A on 96 with third place Shamrock B a further 4 points back on 92. Shamrock A claimed a 3-3 draw away to Teach Mhicí to secure the final Cup place as the same four teams are set to face off for the second year in a row.

Teac Jack's Eamon Gallagher finished the season strongly as

he struck for three 180's, but it was David Flood who topped the most 180 table as he landed once more to finish with total of 12, one clear of cousin Ryan after a titanic and fro battle all season.

John Flood claimed his 21st win of the season to seal the 3rd edition of the Tony McCauley trophy, as well as claiming the most high checkouts with 7. Noel McGinley's fine finish of 160 was enough to claim the league's highest checkout prize for 2023/24.

A great league from all involved and best of luck to all teams as the Cup and Shield competitions are set to begin.

All fixtures, results and tables can be viewed on the CDDL Facebook page.

**MEMORIALS**  
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# Dunfanaghy's St. Patrick's Day Parade

It's that time of year again, to paint the town Green... come along and celebrate as the Irish do best!

Anyone who would like to get involved in any way or for stalls please contact Bernice on 0876704445 or email [dunfanaghfestivals@gmail.com](mailto:dunfanaghfestivals@gmail.com).

New this year - it's The Leprechaun Leap - 5k Walk / Run - Prizes for the best dressed Leprechaun. Leaving Holy Trinity Church - Haggart and back down to the Hall. 10am Registration for a 10:30am start. Traditional Live Music live in the Square from 1-3pm. Marching Bands, Food & Craft stalls. Free kids Disco at the Market House from 2:30pm, Face painting, games and much more.

### Fairtrade Fortnight

The annual Dunfanaghy Fairtrade fortnight is ongoing with a number of events planned. Local business Revive in the Square is holding a coffee morning in the shop on this Friday 15th March from 11-12.30.

Thanks to Change Makers Donegal for supporting this event by providing the amazing Patsy Toland as a speaker on the day.

Additional Fairtrade events relating to Dunfanaghy include: Family event 25th March 11-1 at The Workhouse. Short films in cinema room whilst @Dunfanaghy FRC highlight chocolate production and tasting

and offer information on egg production - some easter eggs to give away.

Local resident Gill will engage in Cookie baking using Fairtrade ingredients with children from one of our local schools.

### Coffee Morning in aid of Motor Neurone

The Sterritt Family are holding a tea day on Sunday the 24th March in the Ozanam Centre from 10am-3pm. All money raised on the day will be donated to the Irish Motor Neuron Association of Ireland. Everyone is welcome and all support for this very worthy cause would be very much appreciated.

### The Workhouse

The Workhouse is re-opening on Saturday, the 16th of March, at 10am. This will mark the 29th re-opening of the Workhouse. The staff are eager to welcome back visitors and kick-off the start of its yearly operations of March to December, where there will be a plethora of events, tours and a welcoming atmosphere.

### Holy Trinity Bowling Club

The Ida Robinson Perpetual Shield was played for at Holy Trinity Bowling Club last week. The winner was Robert Robinson with the Runner up being Kevin Carolan.

### Doe Swimming Club

Doe Swimming Club's final night

of swimming lessons at the Aura Leisure Centre is on Saturday 16th March, before the end of year Gala next week. Bus 1 leaves Dunfanaghy Square at 4:45pm. Supervising parents are Patrick Durning and Kath Dunn Donnelly. Bus 2 & 3 leave Creeslough chapel carpark at 5pm. Supervising parents are Paul Sweeney and Kelly Ward on Bus 2 and Pat Hartigan and Angela McFadden on Bus 3. Buses returning to Creeslough at approx 8.20pm and Dunfanaghy at approx 8.30pm.

The end of year swimming gala takes place next Saturday 23rd March at the Aura. Parents / siblings / family members are welcome to attend and cheer on our members from the spectator's gallery as they compete for medals and trophies and celebrate a great year of swimming. Refreshments will be served on the evening!

### 5K Run and Walk

Local girl Niamh Corcoran from Kill is part of a group of nursing students going to Uganda from ATU St. Angela's. They are bringing supplies for the BKU orphanage and school, Noah's Ark and the community clinics. All donations will go directly to the source where they're most needed. As part of our fundraising Niamh is holding a 5K walk/run on Saturday 6th April leaving St. Michael's GAA Pitch at 12 noon. The registration is from 11am with refreshments afterwards in the Clubhouse, the girls would love to see a big crowd on the day, and if you are unable to make it but would still like to donate we have a go fund me page <https://gofund.me/812cf0e2> For more information contact Tommy on 0864054343 or Marie on 0860682449 or 0838533657.

### St. Patrick's Dance

A St. Patrick's Dance in aid of the Donegal Downs Syndrome Association will be held in Milford Hall on Saturday March 16th from 9 until 11.30pm. Tickets are priced at €10 which includes Prize Draw entries and the music is by Martin Duggan and John Cannon. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

### Muckish Railway Walk

Dunfanaghy Youths FC are holding a 5km Walk along the Muckish Railway Walk on Easter Monday at 11a.m. Money raised will be for two great charities - Mental Health Ireland and Jigsaw Donegal. We would love it if everyone came out to show their support. The Walk is suitable for all ages. Registration from 10.30a.m. leaving from Muckish Sand & Gravel car park. (F92N2R4) Any queries or information can be had from Marie Duffy [marieduffy2@gmail.com](mailto:marieduffy2@gmail.com) or 0876372344.

### Dunfanaghy Youths Golf Classic

Dunfanaghy Youths FC are holding a Golf Classic on Friday 5th April. For more details contact [info@dunfanaghygolfclub.com](mailto:info@dunfanaghygolfclub.com) or Mary on 9136335 for Tee Times and Sponsors.

### Dunfanaghy Jazz and Blues Festival

Calling all artists - we're back in 2024! As we get the wheels turning on this year's event (September 12th to 16th) we're putting a shout out to bands and artists looking to play this year's festival. With over 70 gigs to fill over 4 days we are just looking to make the booking process easier to ensure the best line-up possible for our music loving fans. Message us via Facebook or Instagram between now and St Paddy's weekend if

your interested. Arrive 'n' Jive Arrive 'n' Jive takes place in the Outback at

**Tribune**  
**Tel. 074**  
**91 53600**

## Herraghty wins Donal McCafferty Trophy at Ballymore Bowling

Congratulations to Denis Herraghty the winner of the Donal McCafferty trophy on Monday evening last at Ballymore Parish Centre bowling club. Dennis also won the player of the year. Well done Denis. Unfortunately, due to a leg in-

jury Daniel was unable to play. Thanks to Tommy Mc Kinley who opens the hall and puts on heating every night and Charlie Mc Kinley for all his help every night also. A few people missing on Monday evening last due to

unforeseen circumstances. Thanks to all members for their commitment to the club, without you there would not be a bowling club. We are still playing every Monday and Wednesday evening 8pm to 10pm.



Denis Herraghty receiving the Donal McCafferty Trophy and the Player of the Year Award on Monday night in Ballymore.

## A Voice For You

Cllr Michael  
McClafferty

Glenties Electoral  
Area Councillor

Cathaoirleach  
of Glenties  
Municipal District

Please contact me on any issues in the our constituency

Tel - 086 3935048

Email: [michaelmclafferty@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:michaelmclafferty@donegalcoco.ie)



Prize winners at the Bowling in the Ballymore Centre on Monday evening.



Denis Herraghty winner of the Donal McCafferty Trophy at Ballymore Centre pictured with members who took part in the competition.

## JS Farm Services

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## Chelsea Evans to perform on Glór Tíre

Country Singer Chelsea Evans is a competitor on the 20th Season of Glór Tíre. Mentored by the one of Irelands top Entertainers Jim Devine, Chelsea says she is "really looking forward to being on this years show. I've been a fan of Glór Tíre for many years and to finally be able to take part is a dream come true".

Chelsea, from Dunfanaghy will be on the episode broadcasted on the 26th March on TG4 at 9:30pm. At only 19, Chelsea has already released her debut album "Where I Belong" and has been traveling across the country singing at various gigs and events, sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in country music. After receiving "female artist of the year" at the Irish Radio awards in Carlow, Chelsea is looking forward to the new experiences and opportunities that Glór Tíre will bring. Chelsea is also releasing a brand new single soon, recorded in Harmony Recording Studios in Letterkenny.

Patsy Dans Bar every Tuesday from 7.30-9.30pm. There is jiving, line dancing with odd waltz thrown in. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge with all donations appreciated and all monies raised will go towards the Dunfanaghy Christmas Lights.

**50/50 Draw**  
Congratulations to Chris Byrne Hornhead who won €380 in the Dunfanaghy Youths 50/50 last week.

**St. Michael's Mini Lotto**  
There was no Jackpot winner in the Lotto on Sunday. The numbers drawn were: 2,4,7,9,15,18. There was no match 5 winner. 19 people matched 4 and their names were drawn. The winner of the €100 was Sandra Dempsey 2 Friel's Chalet Birch Hill Creeslough. This week's Jackpot will be €5600.

# St. Patrick's Day Parade in Falcarragh

This year's St Patrick's Day Parade will take place on the day, Sunday 17th, at 3.30pm. Assembling at St. Fionáns Church Car Park. Floats from businesses, community groups, schools and individuals are welcome and encouraged to join with our local bands and MC Denis Doohan in the parade. Your participation matters.

### Junior Band

The winning numbers in the Junior Band Lotto last week were 1-5-8-9-11-17. Séanna Jackson, Julie McBride, Hannah McGee each received €35 each. This week's jackpot is €6,950.

### Ionad Naomh Fionán

Congratulations to Madge Lynch, Meencarrick who won the 50/50 prize this week of €1038.

Classes this week include: Bingo, chair aerobics, circuits, gymnastics, Irish dancing, ballet, Pilates jiving lessons and bowls. For information contact us on 0749165750 or email ionadnf@gmail.com.

### SVP Energy Support Scheme

SVP have been 'gifted' a number of Energy Vouchers which can be used to assist people with their electricity costs. These vouchers may be used at retail outlets with the Payzone facility. The following electric companies accept the vouchers: Pay As You Go; SSE, Bord Gáis, Electric Ireland, Calor, Prepay Power, Pinery, Flo Gas, Energia and Kaizen. Billpay: SSE, Bord Gáis and Electric Ireland. Anyone needing help with their electricity bill should contact us as soon as possible on 0871443464.

### Cros Cnoc na Naomh

The annual Church Gate Collection will take place before all Masses on 23rd / 24th March. We hope to keep the

lights going on the Cnoc na Naomh Cros during the year. It's a sign of hope for all on land and sea. Cúidigí le seo. All help is appreciated.

### Cursillo

Cursillo Lenten Retreat in Ards Friary Fri 22nd to Sun 24th of March. This retreat is for members of Cursillo and runs from 7pm on Friday until after lunch on Sunday. The liturgies will be led by Fr Laurence Kettle, Spiritual Director. To book please contact Pat Slattery on 087 9374001 cost: €160.

### Pobail Le Cheile

Please do not leave donations outside Siopa Pobail when the shop is closed. Please contact us if you need to leave donations outside the opening times - 91 80111/086 455 7519.

Siopa Pobail opening times: Monday- Closed; Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 10am-5pm; Thursday 10am-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday Closed.

Paisí Le Chéile Parent and Toddler Group on Thursdays at Garradh Cholm Cille from 10.30am-12pm.

Fáilte Isteach English Conversation group are back at Garradh Cholmille on Friday mornings from 10.30am-12noon.

### GOAL Coffee Morning

Pobail Le Chéile is hosting a coffee morning on Friday 15th March in aid of GOAL Ireland. GOAL is an international humanitarian response agency established in Ireland over 40 years ago. Coffee morning will be in Ionad Garradh Cholm Cille from 10.30am-12noon. There will be a fun fashion show at the start. Fáilte roimh achan nduine.

### ARTSPACE

The Spring Art Exhibition will launch on Friday night, 5th April. The local artists who are taking part in the Spring Exhibition-Seamus Doohan, Kathleen Sharkey, Brendan

Sweeney, John Connaghan and Nóirín Ní Mhianáin. Come join us on the 5th April between 7-9pm for the exhibition launch. Meet the artists and view their works. They'll be wine and cheese and music!

Singing Group with Candy from the Song House on Tuesdays at Garradh Cholmille 7pm-9pm.

Mediation Sessions with Theresa Kavanagh fortnightly on a Friday at Garradh Cholm Cille from 7pm-8pm. Next session will be on Friday 22nd March. Free (donations welcome).

### Cloughaneely Appreciation Award

Attention all clubs and volunteer groups in Cloughaneely! Sports, culture, charities etc. We would like to celebrate the efforts of all involved on Friday 19th April... If you haven't heard from us and would like to be included, please get in touch with us by emailing the following info Club/ Group name. Contact person and number.

Short description of club/group activity. Photo which represents your group or activity. This is an over-18s event (which will include those who coach or run events for young people) clochcf2024@gmail.com.

### Pobal Eascarrach

Pobal Eascarrach are looking for new committee members to help continue with the running of the Resource Centre. If you feel that you have new skills and ideas, please contact us.

Line Dancing with Margaret each Thursday at 10.30a.m. Cost €3. Art Class with Owenie Ó Duibhir through Irish every Thursday from 7-9pm. Fee: €5 per class. Register at pobaleas@gmail.com or 9180571.

### Thursday Café

Come in for a coffee or a cup of tea in Aras Begley 10-11.30am every Thursday.

# Tommy Curran taken by surprise!

Tommy Curran was present in Amharclann Ghaith Dobhair on Wednesday night for the adjudication and presentation of prizes at Féile Scoilrámaíochta Ghaith Dobhair, the local schools drama festival organised by An Cumann Scoilrámaíochta, to take photographs for the local newspapers of the prize winners as he has been doing for over 35 years. He was taken by surprise just before the adjudication when it was announced that he himself was to be the recipient of a special award for his outstanding contribution as a local reporter and photographer for the local newspapers, the Donegal News and The Donegal Democrat, for the past 40 years. He was presented with a special award, a Druid Craft Achievement Award, with the engraving: Tomás Ó Cuireáin - As do shaothair iriseoireachta sna páipéir áitiúla - Féile Ghaith Dobhair

2024. (for your journalistic work in the local papers)

Noel Ó Gallchóir, the Festival secretary, presented the award to a shocked Tommy and referred to his excellent, comprehensive, accurate and consistent reporting of local matters in the weekly Gaoith Dobhair Notes in the local papers since 1984. He spoke of the thousands of Tommy's photographs published in the papers down the years. He made particular mention of the special full page or two page features covered by Tommy on a regular basis - local festivals, special birthdays, anniversaries or family celebrations, important milestones in the parishes of Gaoith Dobhair and Gort a' Chóirce, and interesting and notable stories of local importance. He also spoke of the many personal, well researched and moving obituaries that Tommy has written in the papers each week

which have been a great source of comfort to the family and relatives of the bereaved. He praised his style of reporting and writing and his contribution to the life of the parishes of Gaoith Dobhair and Cloich Cheann Fhaola. He also spoke of Tommy as an obliging, charitable, and pleasant person.

The public response to Tommy being the recipient of the award was extremely positive as the comments on social media indicate. People from all over the country commented that he was more than a worthy recipient of the special award for his consistent, accurate and well researched reporting of local events for the last 40 years in Gaoith Dobhair and Cloich Cheann Fhaola.

Well done Tommy and we hope that he has no intention of putting his camera or pen aside anytime soon!

Comhghairdeas leat, a Tommy!



Noel Ó Gallchóir presenting Tommy Curran with a special award at Féile Scoilrámaíochta Ghaith Dobhair for his excellent reporting and photography in the local papers for the past 40 years, with Dónal Ó Cnámhsí, Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga.



Michael Langan County Star and Special Guest Cathal Sweeney Senior Team Manager the Young Cathal Sweeney presenting Martin McElhinney Packie O'Neill new Club Secretary presenting outgoing Secretary Ann presenting Max Roarty with the Under 21 Player Senior Award to Paul Johnston with the Senior Player of the Year Award at the St. Michael's Presentation. at the St. Michael's Presentation. Michael's Presentation. Marie Kelly with an Appreciation Award at the St. Michael's Presentation. Also in the photo is Chairman Liam McElhinney.

# Scenes from the St. Michael's GAA Senior Presentation in Roses Bar in Creeslough on Saturday night



Main Club sponsor Lorcan Roarty, Rose's Bar presenting the New Club Strip for 2024 to Club Captain Liam Paul Ferry at the St. Michael's Presentation.



Members of the Under 21 C Winning side pictured at the St. Michael's Presentation with Team Manager Jamie Hunter and Selectors Peter Sweeney and John Flynn.



Michael McFadden presenting the Reserve Player of the Year Award to Max Roarty at the St. Michael's Presentation held in Rose's Bar, Creeslough last weekend.

# St. Patrick's Day Parade in Creeslough

Creeslough will host their Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday and everyone taking part in the Parade to meet in the field behind the Chapel at 11am. Parade will start at 12 noon. Please note the following points:-

In the interest of safety and in order to get the Parade on to the Main Road, it would be appreciated if everyone wishing to watch the Parade move up the Street and leave the area around the Chapel clear for the Parade to exit.

Please cooperate with Gardaí and stewards. There will be disabled parking next to the Post Office. Children must be supervised at all times.

Prizes for the best floats and best decorated windows. There will be a bucket collection to help with costs.



Lorcan Roarty and Stephen Doak at the Creeslough Community Clean Up.

## Creeslough Markets

Creeslough Community Association are looking forward to hosting their first Creeslough Market in the new Community Links Hall on this Saturday 16th March from 11am until 3pm.

They would like to see as many stalls as possible take part and if you would like to take part contact by DM or call them on 0872923102 or email info@creesloughcommunity.com.

Among the stalls taking part on the day will be Candles, Crafts, Clothing, Skincare, Local Art, Pottery, Jewellery and much more. Everyone is welcome.

## Ciorcal Cómhra

Please note that the last Ciorcal Cómhra evening for this term will be Tuesday, 19th March. Classes will resume in the Autumn. Thanks to everyone for attending. Míle buíochas chuig ár múinteoir, Séamas.

## St. Michael's Mini Lotto

There was no Jackpot winner in the Mini Lotto on Sunday. The numbers drawn were: 2,4,7,9,15,18. There was no match 5 winner. 19 people matched 4 and their names were drawn. The winner of the €100 was Sandra Dempsey, 2 Friel's Chalet, Birch Hill, Creeslough. This week's Jackpot will be €5600.

## 50/50

Congratulations to Chris Byrne Hornhead who won €380 in the Dunfanaghy Youths 50/50 last week.

## Muckish Railway Walk

Dunfanaghy Youths FC are holding a 5km Walk along the Muckish Railway Path on Easter Monday at 11a.m. The club want to bring members of the community to walk, chat and connect with each other while raising awareness about mental health. Money raised will be for two great charities – Mental Health Ireland and Jigsaw Donegal. We would love it if everyone came out to show their support. The Walk is suitable for all ages. Registration from 10.30a.m. leaving from Muckish Sand & Gravel car park. (F92N2R4) Any queries or information can be had from Marie Duffy marieduffy2@gmail.com or

0876372344.

## Retreats in Ards

There will be a Cursillo Lenten & Friendship Retreat in Ards Friary for Cursillo Members only from Friday 22nd (7 pm) - Sunday 24th March (after lunch). The liturgies will be led by Fr. Laurence Kettle, Spiritual Director. To enquire or to book a place, please phone Pat on 087-9374001.

## Two Hand & Line Dancing

Two hand & line dancing in Massinass Hall every Tuesday 8-10pm. Men & women welcome. No partner needed. Dance teacher is Celine. It is great fun and exercise. Beginners are very welcome.

## Shop and Coffee Dock

The shop and coffee shop at Ards Friary are closed for renovations. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Community Links Hub

The Creeslough Community Links Hub is open Monday to Friday and offers a variety of

classes. Please call into the hub to find out more between 9:30am - 4:30pm or contact us at info@creesloughcommunity.com or 087 292 3102.

## Cursillo

There will be a Lenten retreat in Ards Friary for Cursillo members only from Friday 22nd of March to Sunday 24th.

A special time of prayer and friendship.

## Muckish Drama Circle

Muckish Drama Circle is back. Rehearsals are now ongoing and as usual will showcase the local talent! Look out as Ellen Druce will be scouting for musicians and storytellers.



A local Ukrainian Family helping out the Creeslough Community Clean Up.

**Pictured are groups taking part in the Community Cleanup in Creeslough on Saturday morning.**



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

## PLEAN DO SHRÁIDBHAILE AN CHRAOSLAIGH

Cuireadh Oscailte chuig Ócáid Seolta Phoiblí

7pm Déardaoin 21 Márta 2024

@ Halla Mhás an Easa, An Craoslach

Tugann Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Meitheal Oibre an Chraoslaigh agus Cumann Pobail an Chraoslaigh, arna thacú ag ARUP, cuireadh duit chuig seoladh an Plean do Shráidbhaile an Chraoslaigh i Halla Mhás an Easa, An Craoslach, Déardaoin 21 Márta 2024 ag 7pm.

### Seo a leanas clár na hócáide:

- 7pm - Fáilte agus aitheasc oscailte
- Aoichainteoirí ina dhiaidh sin
- Sólaistí ina dhiaidh sin

Beidh an Plean do Shráidbhaile an Chraoslaigh ar fáil le hamharc air, i bhfoirm dhigiteach agus i bhfoirm cóip chrua, ag an ócáid seo. Beidh baill de chuid ARUP agus de chuid Fhoireann Deartha na Comhairle i láthair chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt agus chun tuilleadh eolais a thabhairt le linn am na sólaistí. Beidh tuairisc chun dáta ar fáil fosta ar Thionscadal Athnuachana Pobail an Chraoslaigh.

**Is cuireadh oscailte é seo agus tá fáilte roimh achan duine.**

Fá choinne tuilleadh eolais déan teagmháil leis an Fhoireann Athnuachana agus Forbartha, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ag:

Rphost: [regeneration@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:regeneration@donegalcoco.ie)  
Guthán: 074 9153900.

## CREESLOUGH VILLAGE PLAN

Open Invitation to Public Launch Event

7pm Thursday 21st March 2024

@Massinass Hall, Creeslough

Donegal County Council, the Creeslough Working Group and the Creeslough Community Association supported by ARUP invites you to the launch of the Creeslough Village Plan in Massinass Hall, Creeslough on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7pm.

### The format of the event is:

- 7pm - Welcome & opening address
- Followed by guest speakers
- Followed by refreshments

The Creeslough Village Plan will be available to view in both digital and hard copy format at the event. Members of the respective ARUP and Council Design teams will be present to answer any questions and give additional information during the refreshments. An update will also be available on the Creeslough Community Regeneration Project.

**This is an open invitation and everyone is welcome.**

For further information please contact the Regeneration & Development Team, Donegal County Council at:

Email: [regeneration@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:regeneration@donegalcoco.ie)  
Tel: 074 9153900.



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



**ARUP**



Hughie Carr out and about at the Clean Up.



Majella McFadden, Emma Ryan McGarvey, Chloe McGarvey and Teasie McGarvey working at the Clean Up



James and Tony Carroll above and Michael and Grace Ann McDermott helping at the Community Clean Up.



# GAA Club News

## Termon

### St Patrick's Day Parade

The Minor Board have been asked to take part in this year's St Patrick's Day Parade in Letterkenny. All our underage boys and girls are welcome to participate. It starts at 3pm and everyone is asked to wear club colours /jerseys/hats/flags/face paints etc. Parents are welcome to walk the route also. Meeting at Mr Chippie at 2.45pm this Sunday.

### Senior Ladies

The senior ladies hosted Ardara at the Burn Road on Sunday, in the opening game of the Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta competition. It was great to see some young girls make their debuts for the senior team, and give good accounts of themselves on the day. Termon won comfortably, with goals coming from Ciara McGarvey, Niamh Boner, Maeve Brady and Lauren Gallagher. All the girls played well, including Sophie Curran.

### Senior Men

The senior men host Kilcar this Saturday 16th March in their latest Gaeltacht fixture at 3pm. The winner will progress through to the Donegal finals weekend in Cloughaneely. The reserve men will also be at home for their Junior Gaeltacht fixture will Milford. The game starts at 11am St Patrick's Day.

### Thirds

The Club are hoping to field a third men's team again this year. Anyone that has played in the past and are interested in finding out more, contact 086 6082512.

### Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others

A G4M&O players meeting is planned for Friday 15th March in the Lagoon at 7.30pm. Anyone interested can contact the Facebook page, text your name and number to 0863229519.

### Lotto

Lotto Results 10/3/2024 - No's drawn 6, 18, 23, 24. There was no winner of the €7450 Jackpot. John Harkin was the Match 3 winner of €80. Annie Ferry and John McDaid won €10 euro in the Lucky Dip. Next week's Jackpot €7500

### Club 300

The March draw winners for Club 300. €1,000 ~ Patrick Gildea, Gildea hairdressing, Letterkenny. €500 ~ Chris McNulty, Journalist, Donegal Democrat. €300 ~ Kieran Greene, London. €200 ~ James McGinley, Milford.

## Glenswilly

### Gaeltacht

Our senior men got off to a winning start on their first outing of the year under new management. A brilliant team performance from a youthful Glenswilly side secured a 2-14 to 3-8 win over Na Dúnaihbh on Sunday. Well done to Eoghan Scott, Aiden Friel and Oran Canning who all made their senior debut.

The senior ladies travelled to Mountcharles to play their first competitive. The girls put in a great effort but were unfortunately defeated by St Nauls.

### Ciorcal Comhrá Ghleann tSúilí

Ciorcal Comhrá Ghleann tSúilí our Irish Language conversation group continues every Tuesday at 8.15pm in the clubhouse. Faigh blas don Ghaeilge i rith Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus ansin bígí i Wilkin's don Phreab-Ghaeltacht Dé hAoine 22 Márta.

### Bingo and 50/50

Bingo continues every Wednesday in the hall, 8.30pm. Over €2000 in prizes guaranteed every week. 50/50 draw occurs every Wednesday night. Congratulations to last week's winner John Browne who won €300!

### Bingo Easter Special

Wednesday 27th of March at Glenswilly GAA Hall with a 8.30pm start. €500 on Games 9, 10 and the Jackpot Sheet. All other houses €100, all lines €40! Free draw for an Easter Hamper for all players on the night!

## Chloich Cheann Fhaola

### Lotto

The numbers drawn were 4,7,9,10,13,18. We had 2 match 5 winners. Congratulations to Emily Duggan and Brian Geaney who win €50 each. The jackpot is now €6,350.

### Campa Cásca

Beidh Campa Cásca ar siúl ón 25-28 Márta ó 9:30-2r.n. Do pháistí ó 6-12. €40 do pháiste amháin, €70 do bheirt agus €100 do thriúr. Tuilleadh eolais & Clárú: Caolán at 086 358 3874.

### Buíochas

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le Pádraig Coyle, Diarmuid Coyle, Fionn McGinley, Josh Scanlon, Ethan Friel, Peter Kelly, Shaun Curran agus Stephen Curran a bhí amuigh ag díol an lotto le coicis anuas.

## St. Michael's

### Awards Night

The Club's annual Awards night was held in Rose's Bar in Creeslough on Saturday. This year we celebrated our Under 21 winners and they were present-

ed with their medals by Michael Langan who also presented Max Roarty with the Under 21 Player of the Year Award. Among the other Award winners were Andy Ward who was presented with the Young Reserve Player of the Year by Special Guest Michael McFadden who also presented Max Roarty with the Reserve Player of the Year Award. The Young Senior Player of the Paul Johnston Year was presented by Special Guest Senior Team Manager Cathal Sweeney who also presented the Senior Player of the Year Award to Martin McElhinney. The MC was Liam McElhinney who paid tribute to long serving Members Shaun Langan and Ann Marie Kelly who stepped down from their positions as Development Officer and Club Secretary. Ann Marie was then presented with an Award of Appreciation by new Secretary Packie O'Neill and Chairman Liam McElhinney. Shaun was unavoidably absent on the night. At the end of the evening the new 2024 Senior Jersey was presented to Liam Paul Ferry by main sponsor Lorcan Roarty. This was a very successful event and the Club would like to thank Rose's Bar for hosting the evening and to Nearby Creeslough Supermarket for sponsoring the trophies.

### Mini Lotto

There was no Jackpot winner on Sunday. The numbers drawn were: 2,4,7,9,15,18. There was no Match 5 winner. 19 people matched 4 and their names were drawn. The winner of the €100 was Sandra Dempsey, 2 Friel's Chalet, Birch Hill, Creeslough. This week's Jackpot will be €5600.

### Minor Board/LGFA

St. Michael's Minor & LGFA Board are delighted to participate in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Creeslough and Dunfanaghy again this year.

All underage and LGFA players are invited to join in the parade and wear their club colours with pride on this great day. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### Under 14's

A thrilling clash in the Comortas Peil na Gaeltachta, our U14's played Downings. The game started with both sides locked in a tense battle, with Downings utilized the wind advantage to launch relentless attacks, testing St. Michael's defence. Despite the pressure, St. Michael's defence, led by Rory Boyce's heroics in goal, limited Downings to a mere point and two goals, including a penalty conversion after Boyce's initial save. Rory made some great saves in nets and was very impressive with his kickouts. Harry Branch consistently outmaneuvered his opponents to claim possession and started some fine passing moves out of defence which St. Michael's moved the ball up the wings and ultimately where slotted over the bar. St. Michael's managed to score an important 5 points against the wind and so went in just two points down at half time, score Downings 2-1 to St. Michael's 0-5.

Trailing by just two points at halftime, St. Michael's made strategic changes, introducing Shane Moore and Lorcan Boyce to bolster their attacking line. With the wind at their backs, St. Michael's seized control, orchestrating swift movements from defence to attack. All forwards played well there but a special mention to Seve Roarty who was showing for the ball for nearly every move. St. Michael's got two goals which were well taken by Oisín Sweeney and Aaron McGinley. Another St. Michael's goal chance rattled the crossbar. Despite Downings' resurgence in the final quarter, Rory Boyce's steadfast goalkeeping ensured St. Michael's held on for a hard-fought victory, 2-12 to 3-4.

## Baile na nGalloglach

### Lotto: 5/3/24

Numbers : 15-21-27-31. No Jackpot winner. €50 Lucky Dip winner is Bridie Mc Hugh, c/o Bingo.

### REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON

Registration for Club Membership must be paid on the Clubforce App or at the link <https://member.clubforce.com> by 31st March. We would encourage as many members as possible to download the App as this is our main platform for Membership, Lotto and Club communications.

### EASTER CAMP

The Club Easter Camp for Primary school children is running again this year from 26th to 28th of March from 10am to 1pm daily. The cost is €50 for the first child and €40 for siblings and each child receives a goodie bag. You can register via the Clubforce link/App. The closing date for registration is Sunday next (17th March).

### LOTTO ROTA:

Sat 16th March, Maple, Milford - Joe Mc Nulty and Anne Marie Hannigan.

### RESULTS AND FIXTURES

#### U14 Boys

Our U14 boys had a great 6-10 to 2-10 victory in their first pre-season outing at home to N Muire - their next game is at home to St Michaels in the Gaeltacht championships on Friday 22nd March at

## Division 2

# McGuinness wants to secure promotion

Donegal will aim to extend their unbeaten run in Division 2 on Saturday when Jim McGuinness brings his Donegal side to Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow to take on struggling Kildare (throw-in 5.00).

A victory should confirm Donegal's promotion back to the top flight. They are currently joint top with Armagh. A win will put Donegal onto 11 points. Cavan who are third and currently on seven points can mathematically catch them but it will be a tall order. As it stands Donegal and Armagh are in pole position to be promoted. Kieran McGeeney's side hosts Cavan also on Saturday evening. McGuinness's men will have just one league game remaining after Kildare and that is against Meath in Ballybofey on Saturday week the 23rd of March. Barring a complete meltdown in those games Donegal will be looking at a league final against Armagh.



Then full attention will turn to the championship quarter-final against Derry in Celtic Park.

For Saturday evening's game Brendan McCole is unlikely to feature owing to a toe injury that kept him out of the Louth match. McGuinness might make a couple of changes in the relative comfort of having already secured their Division 2 status and at same time push on to make sure of promotion. Still a few players like Carndonagh's Conor O'Donnell, Jason McGee of Cloughaneely and St. Eunan's man

Niall O'Donnell to return having not been involved at all in the league campaign. It's a totally different story for Kildare who need to defeat Donegal and also win their final game to have any chance of staying in Division 2. Glen Ryan's side has lost all five games so far in the 2024 campaign.

### 5.30pm.

#### U16 Girls

Our U16 girls start their 2024 league campaign on Monday next (18th) with an away match to Termon at 4pm. Ádh mór a Chailíní.

#### U13 Girls

Our U13 girls have a home match against Glenswilly on Sunday 24th March at 10.30am.

### Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta

Beidh foireann sinsir CLG Baile na nGalloglach ag taisteal go CLG An Tearmainn Dé Domhnaigh chun imirt i gComórtas Peile Sóisir na Gaeltachta. Caitheamh isteach ag 11am.

### GOOD LUCK

The Club wish the best of luck to Finn Coll who is a member of the squad and SP Barrett, Kevin Mills, Darren Nash and Conall Mc Fadden who are all involved with the Donegal U20 team who face Cavan on Wednesday in the Ulster U20 Championships.

## St Eunan's GAA

### St. Patrick's Day Kids Disco

Childrens disco on St. Patrick's Day in the clubhouse with music and craic for all the family from 5.30-7pm. All are welcome after the parade. Traditional music upstairs from 7pm to 8pm with a hamper raffle with proceeds going to St Eunans Camogie.

### Sunday Morning Skills Academy

The Sunday Morning Skills Football Academy is back on Sunday March 24th from 11am to 12.15pm. This is for Boys and Girls aged 4 to 10.

### Easter GAA camp

There will be an Easter GAA camp in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th. This is for Primary School Children and the cost is €50 per Child. To register please check out the St. Eunans GAA Social media channels.

## Na nDúnaibh

### Torthaí Lotto

Torthaí Lotto ó oíche Luain is chuaigh thart. Na huimhreacha a tarraingíodh ná: 8 12 14 agus 22. Char bhain duine ar bith an pota óir agus bhí na trí uimhir acu seo leanas: Suzanne Uí Ghallochóir, Bridget Coyle, Julie Watson, Sharon Shields, Helena Mhic Giolla Bhríde, Paula McConigley, Alicia Nic Phóidín, Manás Doherty agus James Logue. Gheobhann siad €20 an duine. Tá €5,700 sa phota óir don chéad tarraingt eile. Thig na ticéidí a fháil ar líne ag : <http://.ly/NDLotto> nó sna gnáth áiteacha.

### Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta

Bhí an mí-ádh ar an dá fhoireann Dé Domhnaigh nuair a fuair Gleann Fhinne an bhuaidh ar fhoireann na mBan sa bhaile agus fuair Gleann tSúilí an bhuaidh ar na fir sa baile.

### Cluiche na mBan.

Cé gur imir na mná sár-chluiche bhí an bhuaidh ag Gleann Fhinne le pointe amháin. Ba seo an chéad chluiche ag cuid de na girseachaí ar an fhoireann Sinsir. Maith sibh. Súil againn go mbeidh biseach go luath ar Annie Mc Groddy a gortaíodh sa chluiche.

### Cluiche na bhFear.

Rinne foireann na bhFear an turas go Gleann Súilí Dé Domhnaigh ach bhí traidhfhil dá gcuid imreoirí as láthair. Sin agus eile cha raibh idir na foirne ag deireadh ach na cúpla pointe.

### Sraith Peile na Paróiste.

Leanfaidh Sraith Peile na Paróiste ar aghaidh Dé Sathairn ag 3pm.

### Peil agus Cispheil.

Beidh CLG Na nDúnaibh agus Hoops na Maoile Ruaidhe (Cispheil) ag nascadh le chéile le cúplaampa a chur ar bun le go bhfaighidh na páistí taithí ar na scileanna a bhaineas le peil agus cis-

pheil. Campa dhá lá a bheas anseo ar an 25ú/26ú Márta ón 11am go dtí 1.30pm. Thig leo seo a bheith páirteach: Páistí Faoi 8 (a rugadh 2016/2017) +Páistí Faoi 10 (a rugadh 2014-2015).

Ná cail amach ar an deis iontach seo le eolas a chur ar scileanna spóirt eile. Cláraigh anois mar go bhfuil áiteacha teoranta.

### Easter with the Stars.

Over the Easter holidays we will be hosting a very exciting 4 Day Easter Football Camp, from Tues 2nd April to Fri. 5th. We will have some of the biggest names of the GAA world joining us over the week, with Donegal stars Peadar Mogan, Oisín Gallen and Niamh McLaughlin coming along, while 2 of Derry's heroes, Conor Glass and Shane McGuigan will also be part of the cast.

The camp is open to boys and girls 7-14 and will run 10am-2pm. Advance bookings can be made via text contact 089 4355843 Entry fee on the day €80, with an early bird rate of €75 for early online bookings. Also there is a free pair of Gaelic Gloves for the first 100 online bookings.

## Gaeil Fhanada

### Lotto Results 10/03/2024

Numbers: 6, 14, 15, 19, 24. No jackpot winner. €100 Winner: Hughie McGinley. This week's Jackpot: €5,750

### Cluichí na Seachtaine Dé Luain, 18ú Márta

#### Cailíní Faoi 16

Gaeil Fhanada v Red Hughs 4:00

### Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta

#### Nh Conaill 3:09 (18) Gaeil Fhanada 2:10 (16)

### In diaidh am breise

Bhí ardchluiche sna Gleannta maidin Dé Domhnaigh idir mhná Ghaeil Fhanada's agus Naomh Conaill. Ar an drochaur, ní raibh an lá linn ach bhí an fhoireann agus an bhainistíocht breá sásta leis an taispeántas. Róisín Nic Fhionnghaile, Niamh Nic Daibhead (1:00), Tori Ní Ghallochóir, Olivia Ní Fhrighil, Mairéad Ní Fhrighil, Aoife Ní Ghiobúin (0:01), Caitlín Ní Eireachtaigh, Eiméar Ní Ghiobúin, Iseult Ní Mhathúna, Rachel Nic Suibhne (0:01), Lauren Nic Giolla Chearra (0:03), Jessica Ní Cholla (1:00), Hannah Ní Shíadhail (0:04), Eibhlín Ní Shíadhail, Mairéad Ní Cholla. Ionadaithe: Méabh Ní Dhubhthaigh, Michelle Ní Dhochartaigh, Méabh Nic a tSaoir, Rachael Ní Fhríl, Gráinne Ní Bheaglaioich, Samantha Ní Ghallochóir.

### St Patrick's Day Parade

We're looking for members for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kerrykeel. Meeting at the green in the top of St. Bridget's Terrace at 2:30. (Look for the Gaelic nets).

### Congratulations Mark & Shannon

We'd like to extend our warm congratulations to Mark and Shannon Dorrian on the recent birth of their son Dáire.

### Ceardlann Gaeilge don Ardeist

Coiste Gaeilge Ghaeil Fhanada are organising a workshop for Leaving Certificate students who are preparing for their Irish oral exam this Thursday, March 14th at the Community Centre in Traigh a Locha, from 7-9pm. Open to all Leaving Certificate students in the club catchment area. Register with Micheál in advance on 0872993207.

### Le Chéile

The final Le Cheile cash draws of this edition will take place this weekend and we have two prizes of €1000 up for grabs.

### Ceann Scribe Baile Ghib - Destination Gibbstown

Coiste Leabhar Bhaile Ghib invite you to their book launch: Ceann Scribe Baile Ghib Destination Gibbstown on Thursday, March 22nd at 7pm in Fanavoly Hall.



Mia McFadden and Amy Greenberg



Sarah McGinley and Niamh Sweeney



Kevin Bradley, Mayor of the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District pictured with members of the Letterkenny Model United Nations committee members at the Conference last week.

# Loreto Letterkenny hosts Model United Nations conference

The Letterkenny Model United Nations conference 2024 was held in the Mount Errigal hotel on the 6th and 7th of March. LKMUN is a model United Nations conference that brings students together from local schools to debate and discuss current global affairs. Delegates get the opportunity to voice their

country's opinion, make and vote for amendments and resolutions all while making alliances and making speeches to contribute to the debate.

**by Jennifer Chudley, Riona McFadden & Katie McShane**  
**Photos by Noreen McGlynn**

Over 160 delegates took part from Loreto Letterkenny (the organising school), Loreto Milford, St Columba's College, St. Eunan's College and Errigal College. LKMUN got off to a great start on the first day. The event was opened by a guest speaker, Ursula Crossan, from the SRI Executive. Ursula spoke about gender parity and the progress that has been made within the UN over the past decade. She also provided excellent insight into the pros and cons of the use of AI in the recruitment process for various companies. These issues would soon be discussed, accompanied by enthusiastic and passionate speeches 'for' and 'against' from each delegate, based on their country's beliefs.

the delegates. Most notably the delegate of Qatar's engaging amendment and the debate that followed. The second and third resolutions proved equally lively with the delegate of China, Erin O'Donnell, submitting a resolution on the question of integrating AI and the delegate of the Russian Federation, Orla Cotrell submitting a resolution on the question of secular governments. These resolutions provided a lively platform for discussion.

The annual Roise Quinn Spirit of LKMUN award was given to Loren Connelly (Loreto Milford), the delegate of Qatar. Each year, this award is given to the delegate who shines through over the two day event, speaking passionately about each issue and showing enthusiasm involved in discussion.

This event was organised by the LKMUN committee, under the guidance of Mrs Teresa Winston. The committee consists of 5th and 6th year students from Loreto Letterkenny, including Jennifer Chudley, Katie McShane, Riona Mc Fadden, Áine Richardson, Niamh Sweeney, Emily Crossan, Ava O'Connor, Phoebe Carson, Sarah Henry, Caoilfhionn Lafferty, Ellen Griffin and Beibheann Lafferty. Ms Noreen McGlynn was Head of Media and was helped by Lucy Grant and Ella Tobin. We would like to thank the admin staff, who were, over the two days, led by Sienna Doherty, Head of Admin and Ms Nicole Mc Laughlin. Thank you

to our sponsors Highland Bakery, Castlegrove and Ronhill, as well as the Mount Errigal and their staff. We look forward to next year's event.



Loren Connelly - The Roise Quinn Spirit of LKMUN Award winner.



Shruti Oommen, Katie Sheridan and Sophie Ellis



Orlaith Cottell, the most likely to become a real UN delegate receiving a certificate.

The resolutions debated proved divisive, especially in the case of the delegate of Humans Rights Watch, Hannah Patten's resolution on the question of women's rights, which was intensely debated amongst



Arya Satheesh Nair and Meera Sudheesh



Hannah McGrory and Aisling O'Connor



Teacher Ms. Teresa Winston pictured with Letterkenny Model United Nations committee members last week.



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**COMÓRTAIS EARCAÍOCHTA**

Tá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar lorg iarratas ó iarratasóirí cáilithe do na poist seo a leanas:

- **Cléireach Oibre / Cigire Tógála**

Tá sé beartaithe ag an Chomhairle painéal d'iarratasóirí cáilithe a chruthú óna líonfar folúntais de réir mar a thiocfaidh siad aníos.

Is é an dáta deiridh fá choinne foirmeacha iarratais comhlánaithe a bheith linn ná 12 meán lae: **Dé Máirt, 2 Aibreán 2024.**

Tá Foirmeacha Iarratais agus Tuilleadh Eolais ar fáil ag [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Ní ghlacfar le hiarratais a gheofar mall.

Is fostóir comhionannas deiseanna í Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

**RECRUITMENT COMPETITIONS**

Donegal County Council is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the following position:

- **Clerk of Works / Building Inspector**

The Council proposes to form a panel of qualified candidates from which it will fill vacancies as they arise.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 12 noon on: **Tuesday, 2nd April 2024.**

Application Forms and Further Details are available at [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

No late applications will be accepted.

Donegal County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**SR AUTO & AGRI PARTS**  
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Milford Retail Park - 074 91 53567  
[srautopartsdonegal@gmail.com](mailto:srautopartsdonegal@gmail.com)

**Hydraulic Hoses**  
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**Opening Hours**  
Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm  
Saturday 9am - 5pm

**Glenree FC Soccer Exhibition in 'The Carrigart'**  
Glenree FC and Loreto CS Milford have joined up to present an exhibition of soccer memorabilia in "The Carrigart" next Wednesday, March 20th. It forms part of the Glenree Sports Club's 50th anniversary celebrations and a book that is being compiled about its history going back to 1973. The exhibition will run from midday until 2pm. Memorabilia, scrapbooks, artifacts and videos etc will be on display. At 1pm a few short presentations will take place where the aforementioned organisations will outline the benefits of sport for young and old and the pathways possible for talented players to reach a high standard. The Exhibition is open to the public and refreshments are available from noon.

Uachtarán Pádraig O'Grady i mbliana. The results from Captain's Drive-In Scramble; 1st: Ger Doran, Francis Boyle, Bill Murdock & Frank Honan 58.3; 2nd: Chris McCallion, Michael Gallagher, Pat Maguire & Seamus McGee 59.2; 3rd: Darragh Geaney, Paul Ferry, Michael Dolan & Brendan Sharkey 59.7; Nearest the Pin Garrick Wood; Longest Drive Neil McMullan. Best Beginner: Johnny Rua Gallagher. Thank you to Michael McClafferty from the Strand Road Bar & Kitchen for sponsoring the event. Results from 18 Hole Singles Stableford Sunday 10th March; 1st: Vincent Collum (23) 44pts. Great shooting by the Club Captain! We have a number of competitions over St Patrick's Weekend; Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th Open 4 Ball Better Ball Stableford play either day. This is kindly sponsored by BATCH Falcarragh and we congratulate BATCH for celebrating 5 years in business this week and wish them the very best. Maith sibh. On Monday 18th March

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**March Sales**

Sat 16th March - **Weanling Sale (Heifers only)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 14th March from 8.00 - 8.30pm

Mon 18th March - **Sheep Sale** 7pm

Sat 23rd March - **Weanling Sale (Bulls only)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 21st March from 8.00 - 8.30pm

Wed 27th March - **Cattle Sale** 12noon

Sat 30th March - **Weanling Sale (Heifers only)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 28th March from 8.00 - 8.30pm

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there will be an 18 Hole Scramble draw for partners at 10am all welcome. Our 2024 Golf Membership rates can be found on our website with a direct debit link for monthly payments. Cloughaneely Golf Club welcomes new members. We offer excellent greens, a great test of golf and you will receive a warm welcome from us. Cuireann Cumann Gailf Chloich Cheann-fhaola fáilte roimh bhail úra - fir, mná agus daoine óga. Tá na táillí bliantiúla ó Eanáir go Nollaig iontach réasúnta. Tá plásóga den scoith ar an chúrsa, bainfidh tú sult agus sásamh as é a imirt agus cuirfear fáilte mhór romhat.

**Cloughaneely Golf Club Drive In**

There was a fantastic turnout for the 2024 Captains Drive-In last Saturday. It was great to see so many new faces and a great buzz around the golf club. Gach rath ar Cháitín an Chlub Vincent Collum, Caiftín na mBan Róisín McGee agus



Competitors at the 2024 Captain's Drive-In last Saturday at Cloughaneely Golf Club.

Oscar Traynor Cup quarter-final

Report and Photo by Declan Kerr

**Super win for Donegal League**

**Donegal League 4-2 Leinster League**  
The Donegal Junior League booked a place in the semi-finals of the Oscar Traynor Cup after a thrilling win over Leinster in Ballyare on Sunday. It was a hugely entertaining contest with both sides showing a real will to win over the 90 minutes. John Francis Doogan's side demonstrated resilience in a roller coaster encounter after letting a two-goal lead slip in the second half. Paul Boyle put the hosts back in front and Letterkenny Rovers man Joel Gorman's free-kick goal on 74 minutes gave the visitors a mountain to climb and Donegal held on for a deserved victory. Doogan's men will now play the Sligo-Leitrim League for a place in the final. That game is scheduled to take place at a neutral venue at the end of

the month. The home team conceded two penalties with Blake Forkan saving the first one before the half-hour mark when the score was 0-0. Then just past the hour mark the keeper was deemed to have committed a foul that led to Leinster making it 2-2. Doogan made three personnel changes from the Inishowen win with James Doherty, Mark Forker and Shane McNamee all starting. But it was the young visitors side that started the game well and were really stretching Donegal early on. The hosts had a let-off when Forkan's short pass was intercepted but the keeper made amends with an excellent save. At the other end a Mickey Funston flick-on saw Eddie O'Reilly slip Shane McNamee through but his low shot was cleared off the line. Leinster then had a big chance to take the

lead after Donegal lost possession in the middle of the park. The move ended with the impressive Dean Sutcliffe being fouled by Joel Gorman. Ref Barry Maxwell awarded the penalty. However, Forkan guessed correctly going low to his right to push away Reece Kavanagh's spot-kick. It was end to end stuff with the outstanding Aidy Delap putting O'Reilly clear but away keeper Scott Kavanagh narrowed the angle well to push the ball away at the expense of a corner. Donegal got the first goal when skipper Mattie Crossan reacted quickest to a Gorman free-kick lifting the ball over the keeper who did get a hand to it but not enough to prevent the hosts from going 1-0 up. Leinster did mount a couple of promising attacks but couldn't carve out a clear cut chance to get back on

level terms before the break. Donegal started the second half on the front foot with an O'Reilly lob forcing Kavanagh into a save at the expense of another corner. But, the home outfit did find the net again on 52 minutes when a smart Delap turn saw the Rathmullan man find Funston on the right and his low cross which took a slight deflection found the unmarked O'Reilly at the back post for a tap-in. Leinster were back in the contest nine minutes later when Forkan was adjudged to have pushed Calvin Rodgers and for the second time in the game the keeper was facing a penalty. This time Scott Cleary converted the spot-kick. Soon the visitors were back on level terms when Sutcliffe found the net after an initial attempt was well blocked by Forkan. Donegal responded quickly and were ahead again on 65 minutes. McNamee forced a corner and Gorman's subsequent delivery was headed high into the net by Paul Boyle. The hosts then got a crucial second goal on 74 minutes following a foul on O'Reilly wide on the left wing about 30 yards out. Kavanagh allowed Gorman's free-kick to slip through his hands for a soft goal. There were chances at either end in the closing stages with Kyle Murphy and Calvin Rodgers going close for the visitors while Delap and subs Zach Gorman and Nathan Plumb all brought good saves from Kavanagh. Donegal League - Blake Forkan (Letterkenny Rovers); James Doherty (Kilmacrennan Celtic), Brendan McCafferty (Keadue Rovers), Paul Boyle (Keadue Rovers), Matthew Crossan (Kildrum Tigers); Joel Gorman (Letterkenny Rovers), Adrian Delap (Letterkenny Rovers), Mark Forker (Keadue Rovers) Mickey Funston (Bonagee Utd) Eddie O'Reilly (Fanad Utd) Shane McNamee (Swilly Rovers). Subs: Zach Gorman (Letterkenny Rovers for Funston 65 mins; Kevin O'Donnell (Rathmullan Celtic) for McCafferty 70 mins, Christy Conaghan (Letterkenny Rovers for Forker 77 mins, Nathan Plumb (Letterkenny Rovers for O'Reilly 82 mins, Lee McMonagle Letterkenny Rovers for McNamee 88 mins. Subs not used: Darren McElwaine (Fanad Utd), Mark McCauley, Gareth Doherty (Letterkenny Rovers), Mark Anthony McGinley (Letterkenny Rovers).



The Donegal Junior League squad prior to Sunday's Oscar Traynor Cup quarter-final.

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