



# Ringling endorsement for Peoples Document

Michael Doherty of the Mica Action Group said the fact that a thousand people came to the Inishowen Gateway Hotel on Tuesday to universally approve The Peoples' Document is a ringing endorsement for the campaign.

"That is testament that huge progress is being made in finding a solution to the crisis that has destroyed people's homes and their lives and this is a campaign that cannot be allowed to fail the people," he stated.

He was happy with the political response and numbers of issues were raised that will be followed to a conclusion by the Leaders Group within MAG.

He also welcomed the contributions from the politicians and noted that they had three full weeks to keep the date of the Buncrana meeting clear in their diaries.

Asked if the absence of a number of Oireachtas Members was significant he said that was their problem and it does not in any way

diminish the great response from the people of Donegal or the families forced to live in damaged homes.

Sinn Féin's Padraig MacLochlainn and Pearse Doherty sought confirmation that the big corporate developers and others would be prevented from 'cashing in' on the deal for Mica Redress.

Michael Doherty (pictured right) told the Tribune these were points well made and would be fully developed and addressed in good time for the general elections.

Declan Kerr was among the huge crowd for the two and a half hours meeting.

He writes, "While there was universal endorsement of the document across the political divide and plenty of promises of its delivery the Committee is certainly taking nothing for granted. Michael Doherty said there were no signs that the current Government is going to make changes to the scheme adding that at departmental level the objective ap-



peared to make the process as difficult as possible for the homeowners.

Doherty said a change of Government appeared the only hope of delivering a true 100% Redress Scheme. Sinn Féin were represented at the meeting by their two Donegal TDs Padraig MacLochlainn and Pearse Doherty who both pledged to make the Peoples Document a priority if they form part of the next Government. Also in attendance were Deputies Joe McHugh of Fine Gael and Thomas Pringle who also endorsed the document. McHugh said he had lost the Party Whip

over his stance that the scheme was not fit for purpose and had been effectively 'butchered'. He told the meeting that when his initial six-month expulsion had expired he was invited back into the Party by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar but had declined as there was no change in the Government position on the scheme.

Among the Cllrs in attendance were Pauric McGarvey, Michael McClafferty, Michael McBride, Kevin Bradley, Martin McDermott, Paul Canning, Johnny McGuinness, Martin Farren, Barry Sweeney, Nicholas Crossan, Gerry McMonagle, Albert Doherty, Jack Murray and Terry Crossan. Also present were a number of County Council election candidates including Mary T Sweeney and Liam Mulligan (both Aontu) along with Charlie Ward and Thomas Devine (100% Redress Party), Michael McLaughlin (Labour) and Declan Meehan (Independent).

Michael Doherty said he was inclined to believe that even with all its faults there was a go slow approach with the current scheme at both Council and Department level which was hugely frustrating for homeowners trying to make applications. In a more general context he said that while prioritisation in a true redress scheme had to go to private residences, there must not be any exclusions. That meant that issues regarding rental properties and community buildings had to be addressed as well. As well as the actual defects of the buildings the Peoples Document also highlighted the need for support for people who have suffered physical and mental ill-health as a result of the Mica problem.

"The way we have been treated has been terrible. You wouldn't treat a dog like that. The Government has been playing lip service to us and only a trickle of people have got redress so far. Professional

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## Mental Hospital strike 100 years ago



Next Monday, April 1st marks the 100th anniversary of the big strike that took place at the Tironaill Mental Hospital in Letterkenny. It would be reported in media outlets in different parts of the world.

On the 1st April 1924 over 100 employees withdrew their labour and marched out the gates of the institution leaving just seven employees to look after more than 600 mentally ill patients.

As the dispute garnered worldwide interest, there were a series of violent incidents between the striking staff and those employed to replace them. Shots were heard on Letterkenny's main street and Gardai baton-charged the crowds to maintain order.

After fourteen days the striking staff members were all sacked and their pensions rights cancelled out. It was a lost generation and many of the younger staff emigrated whilst others fell on hard times and destitution. The dispute generated ill feelings in the town for many decades later.

Local historian, Hugh Devlin, said it was a strike that captured

the public imagination and divided opinions.

The extraordinary story of the strike will be commemorated by the Donegal Historical Society on Sunday 9th June when Mr. Devlin will give a talk on the subject at the County Museum, Letterkenny, and during a walk around the grounds of St. Conal's Hospital.

The hospital had first opened in May 1866 to provide a place of refuge, care, and psychiatric treatment to the population of Donegal. Then known as the Donegal District Lunatic Asylum it was built to provide accommodation for 300 patients. In subsequent years it was enlarged in response to increasing demand until it had in excess of 700 patients by the early 20th century.

Many factors would combine to increase the costs of running such a large institution and by the end

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The 1,000 strong crowd at the Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on Tuesday night.

Photo by Declan Kerr.



# Creeslough €13m Village Plan unveiled

The Council's Director of Service, Liam Ward has told a Creeslough meeting that a funding application for €13 million for the new community project has been prepared and submitted in February. He said that planning permission has been secured.

Fr. John Joe Duffy said it was now important the project and the required funding received strong support from the government now and on into the future.

A large crowd gathered in Massinass Hall, Creeslough on Thursday night for the event to showcase the new Village plan for the area.

Following a number of public consultation events in the village over the last year and a half, the report into the regeneration of the area was compiled and presented to the audience.

The event was hosted by Donegal County Council, Arup, the Creeslough Working Group and the Creeslough Community Association.

The Council's Liam Ward welcomed the 100 strong audience to the event and highlighted that the newly produced Village plan document was the work of a number of agencies who enjoyed a high level of input and consultation from the local community.

Mr Ward said it has taken a broad effort within the local community who have come together in the aftermath of the October 7th tragedy in which ten people died.

He paid tribute to the members of the Council who have worked on the project and terms of planning and preparation.

He also paid tribute to the members of the Creeslough working group and the Community Association for their role and helping to facilitate the events and meetings and public consultations that are now contained within the new village regeneration plan.

He highlighted that one of the major needs identified early on was the requirement of a communal space where people can gather and come together for various social community and sporting occasions.

Fr. John Joe Duffy of the Creeslough Community Working Group thanked all the members of the Council, Arup and the Oireachtas for their assistance and bringing the project to this point. He added that the new community centre will also be a place where healing and counselling can also take place as the area and its people, particularly in the bereaved, can receive this support needed on into the future.

He said this would be a new "beating heart" of the community and explained the need for the facility that can help people deal with the trauma of just over a year ago was necessary in the future on what may be an "intergenerational" need within the community for years to come.

Representing Arup, Maire McNamee, said that the plan was made possible by the high level of engagement between the local community and the various groups and agencies involved.

She said that she had not seen such high level public interaction on such a community project and that the new regeneration plan contained the ideas fed back to them during the public consultations. She added while the community centre



Fr. John Joe Duffy, CC addressing the audience at the launch.



Matthew Byrne of the Creeslough Community Association making a presentation to Maire McNamee, Agnes Monaghan and Hannah Sheridan of Arup.

is one of the first steps of the plan, many other ideas are contained within the document, as well as information and resources on how to progress these projects on and into the future. She urged everyone to read and engage with it as many of the plans contained within it will be driven by the community in the future.

She said the need for a communal space was strongly identified across the community, but particularly by young people who are looking for a central place to gather and be with others within their community.

Matthew Byrne of the Creeslough Community Association also thanked the huge input from members of the Council and highlighted the significant role played in producing the regeneration plan for the village by global consulting firm Arup.

He highlighted that their input took place across

their offices in Ireland, the UK, Madrid and Los Angeles, and saw the input of 34 different individuals within the company.

He added that over 1,400 submissions were made by the local community during the consultation events.

This work, he added, was completely 'pro bono', with no cost incurred for any of their input which they offered in the aftermath of the tragedy. He explained one of the main reasons for this was because the company employed locally based members of staff, Agnes Monahan and Hannah Sheridan.

Matthew then made a presentation to the Arup representatives for their role in assisting the project.

Other speakers on the night included Deputy Joe McHugh, Cathaoirleach of the Council Martin Harley, as well as Cathaoirleach of the Glenties Municipal District, Cllr Michael McClafferty who all welcomed the plan and offered good wishes to all involved.

After the event concluded the guest speakers and the audience of over 100 people, enjoyed refreshments provided by the Community Association and it gave everyone an opportunity to view and discuss the plans which were displayed on boards in the hall on the night. A digital version of the plan is also available on the Council website.



A section of the attendance at the unveiling of the Creeslough Village Plan.

## New €1.4m project at Letterkenny Community Centre

Work on a major new €1.4 million development at Letterkenny Community Centre is set to begin this week. The first sod was turned by Cllr Kevin Bradley, Mayor of the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District, on Wednesday afternoon. The new building, with two new state-of-the-art dressing rooms, will be built beside the existing astroturf (4G) playing pitch which has been a huge success since it was completed in 2019.

Funding for the project is coming from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, who has approved a grant of €300,000 and a further €100,000 from the Dormant Accounts Fund, with Donegal County Council providing a grant of €200,000.

The balance must be met by the Community Centre, and a number of fundraising initiatives are in the pipeline. The community building will be suitable for public events, meetings, and functions and will be able to host events for up to 70 people. It will also be available for birthday parties. There are also plans to erect a stand in the future.

Lee Downey, chair of the Board of Management at the centre, said: "We would like to give thanks to Minister Humphreys and other local public representatives that worked hard to ensure we get this funding."

Liam O'Donnell, centre manager (pictured), explained: "The community is growing and there is an urgent need to expand and refurbish our



facilities. The development includes a new changing facility and new community room at Pearse Road, with plans to add a viewing stand for our soccer pitch at a later date."

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## Two local restaurant make McKenna Guide Top 100

Two local restaurants have been featured in the McKenna Guides top 100 Best Restaurants in Ireland. The Olde Glen Bar in Glen, Carrigart, featured in an impressive sixth place in the top 10 in the recently compiled guide.

The only other Donegal restaurant to feature in the top 100 was Fisk in Downings.

Sally and John McKenna have been compiling their popular guide on the best in Irish cuisine since 1992.

Speaking of Downings Chef, Ciaran Sweeney, they hail him as "gifted" and his departure from Dublin to his native shores in Donegal in recent years has "simply added depth to the unique terroir-based food" he cooks.

They highlight his use of local ingredients including crab from Burtonport, Mulroy Bay scallops, and cabbage from Gortahork, which forms part of some of the signature dishes he is becoming renowned for.

They even cite the "emotional impact" of his dishes that makes dining in the Olde Glen "transcendent". They state: "This is some of the finest cooking in Ireland, expressive of its place, and a pure joy to eat".

Also on the list is Fisk, located next to the Harbour Bar in Downings run by couple, chef Tony Davidson and Lina Reppert.

The guide highlights: "Davidson has shown that he has few peers when it comes to cooking fish and shellfish. He is a true maestro, alive to the nuances of the day's catch and artfully creative in getting the seafood to be its best".

They add that by bringing the flavors of the world to the heart of the popular seaside village he is showcasing the best of local ingredients with global imagination.

Speaking of Fisk they state: "Go to Downings and sail the globe".

## Termon Cleanup weekend is here

Termon Cleanup group has organised its annual cleanup for this Easter weekend. As most of the roads around Termon all lead to scenic and beautiful parts of North Donegal it's important that a good image is created for the tourists and visitors that pass through the area.

It's expected that all previous volunteers will assist and new workers will be very welcome this year. Some refuse bags may be had in Gracies Stores or Sweeney's Shop.

Organisers Eddie Harkin and James Treaty are hopeful that the weather over the weekend will be favourable for the local community to come out and assist in the cleanup. While no specific day over the weekend is planned due to the recent adverse weather conditions it is hoped that all roads will be covered prior to the planned pickup commencing at 6pm Easter Monday. It's important to exercise safety with the wearing of yellow jackets/bibs and safety gloves.

## Cleaner role sought by Dunfanaghy Tidy Towns

Dunfanaghy Tidy Towns committee say that while they have received funding to have the public toilets reopened in the village for the forthcoming tourist season but unless they get a cleaner in place soon this will be in jeopardy.

They recently issued a statement saying that while Donegal County Council have overall responsibility for public toilets, their group has taken over the cleaning and maintenance in a bid to ensure this important service is kept open during the holiday season. They say without Dunfanaghy Tidy Town's involvement the public toilets will be closed. They stated: "As you may be aware, the public toilets are the responsibility of Donegal County Council. Six years ago the council were going to close the toilets as they have done in other towns. At that time DTT stepped in to keep the toilets opened and maintained but overall responsibility still lies with DCC. During the past year DTT has secured funding to fix the roof and paint inside and outside. We have secured funding to reopen for the 2024 season and are now urgently looking for a cleaner in order to be able to reopen the facility. We feel this is a very important amenity for the town and are now asking for your help." They say anyone looking for more details can contact 0868826044



# Two released in Creeslough tragedy probe

Two men arrested on Friday in connection with the explosion in Creeslough Village on October 7th, 2022 have been released without charge. The men, both described as tradesmen in their 50's, were questioned at separate garda stations in relation to their work on a gas installation at the site where ten people died and several others were seriously injured. The two men were arrested by gardaí investigating alleged offences contrary to the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 and were detained under the provisions of Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984. Following questioning they were released without charge, Gardaí confirmed on Saturday morning the investigation is "ongoing with the intention of submitting a file to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions".

Gardaí said the investigation into the explosion is continuing. The probe, which is the most complex undertaken by gardaí in recent years and involves over one thousand lines of inquiry, is being coordinated from Milford Garda Station. It is led by local gardaí in the Donegal Division, supported by the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation and other agencies, including the Health & Safety Authority & the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. The Irish Times reported at the weekend that there are several "people of interest" that Gardaí are intending to interview in their investigation, as they assess if there is any criminal culpability involved in the case. It is understood there has been no suggestion that any deliberate actions were taken to damage the gas system.

# Packie Bonner to unveil Gorey Curran memorial seat

Republic of Ireland legend Packie Bonner has been confirmed as the Special Guest to unveil a seat in memory of the late John 'Gorey' Curran that has been facilitated by the Letterkenny Community Heritage Group. The unveiling will take place on Wednesday 3rd of April beside the Oldtown Bridge at 7pm. 'Gorey' Curran was a stalwart of junior football in Donegal. He was a lifelong member of Letterkenny Rovers and had a special interest in the development of the youth game. So much so that one of the youth cups in the Coun-



ty is named in his memory. 'Gorey' was also involved at national level being a member of the FAI Junior Committee. Letterkenny Community Heritage Group Chairperson is delighted with the news that Packie Bonner has accepted the invitation to do the unveiling to a man that he knew very well over many years. Earlier this month the Heritage Group got the go-ahead from the town engineer to put up a seat beside the Old Town bridge in memory of John Gorey Curran and his contribution to football in Letterkenny.

# Letterkenny Tidy Towns making new 3-year plan



Letterkenny Tidy Towns Co-Chairperson Brian McCormick with Letterkenny Chamber President Claire McDonagh, Ann and Kevin Blake of Blakes Barr and Coláiste Ailigh Principal Johnny Sweeney.

The Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee is getting to work on a new 3-year plan and on Thursday night that project took a further step forward with a public meeting in the Mount Errigal Hotel. It was a forum for brainstorming ideas and hearing from the public about their thoughts on the future for the town. Even the most successful Tidy Towns groups need a plan, says Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee Chairperson Gerard McCormick. The plan will help to guide the organisations actions and set out key projects for the next three years.



Margaret Cullen and Joe Gallagher. The plan will help to guide the organisations actions and set out key projects for the next three years.



Some of the entertainers from the Letterkenny Memories night held in the Station House.

## Friends AGM

The AGM of the Friends of Letterkenny University hospital will take place on Monday, the 15th April at 7pm. The venue is the Conference Room, on floor A in LUH. Anyone who is interested in supporting the work of the Friends of LUH is most welcome to attend.

## Letterkenny AC Notes

LAC's Ciaran McGonigle was in action in Perth in Scotland when he partook in the SRI Chinmoy Race series. Ciaran set an Irish record for the 100km race running 6hours 50minutes 28seconds. An outstanding achievement in this elite category of athletes, the ultra runners. LAC would like to express our sincere condolences to Club members Eunan and Jenny Kelly and family on the death of their daughter Lorna in London. Go ndéana Dia trácaire uirthi.

## Irish Guide Dogs Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning in aid of the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind will take place in the Station House Hotel, Letterkenny on this Thursday 23rd May from 10.45 am. to 12.45. Meet our puppies! Learn about volunteering and puppy raising. Win a holiday in our raffle!

## Cathedral Quarter to host Easter Craft Fair

Letterkenny's vibrant Cathedral Quarter is set to host its inaugural Easter Craft Fair, promising a delightful fusion of creativity, culture, and community spirit. Scheduled to take place in Conwal Parish Church Hall on Easter Saturday, 30th March from 12 noon to 4pm, the event is a celebration of local artisans. The Easter Craft Fair serves as a platform for talented crafters, artists, and makers to showcase their unique creations, ranging from hand-crafted jewellery to intricate textiles, captivating paintings to artisanal homeware. With over 20 exhibitors confirmed, attendees can expect a diverse array of high-quality, locally produced goods, perfect for those seeking one-of-a-kind treasures or special gifts. The Easter Craft Fair is free to attend, making it the perfect family-friendly outing over the Easter weekend. There will be a raffle draw on the day with tickets costing €2 each or three for €5. Prizes include an Easter Cake by Linda Donnelly, a €20 voucher for Amanda Hair Studio, Manorcunningham, an Easter Egg and two bottles of organic wine. There are a small number of tables left for exhibitors and if they would like to participate, ring 086 345 2457.

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# Harris will be Continuity Varadkar

Leo Varadkar is still something of a hate figure for Unionists and some British Conservatives. Jim Allister called him "venomous Varadkar." Boris Johnson summed up Conservative attitudes: "Why isn't he called Murphy like the rest of them?"

Simon Harris was clearly the anointed successor. Everything points to him following the same line.

Mind you, that line has been as simple as shooting at an open goal. British Conservative Governments have made a mess of Brexit for nearly a decade. They have presented themselves as the worst type of 'Little Englander'.

Varadkar reflected a big part of the identity of the (Southern) Irish state. This was born from a revolt against British rule. Much of that state was part of England, then the United Kingdom (UK) for 750 years. Dublin was an English city since 1170. That was almost 450 years before Belfast existed.

Such closeness produces a touchiness. Part of the identity is that the Southern state is not Britain.

Fine Gael shares that identity. There has been a perception that Fine Gael was less Nationalist than Fianna Fáil. Sometimes, even, there was a perception of being pro-British. The history, though, is far more complex. Fine Gael can out-nationalist Fianna Fáil when necessary. For example, Fianna Fáil under De Valera stayed in the British Commonwealth. Fine Gael was the main party in the Inter-party Government which withdrew in 1949.

Northern political commentator Chris Donnelly identifies as nationalist. In his Irish News column, he wrote: "Yet (Varadkar's) legacy will also include deftly managing the Brexit crisis to avoid a hard border on the island, whilst also firmly repositioning Fine Gael as a more authentically pro-Irish unity party just at

*Simon Harris raised a cheer from the faithful when denouncing the tricolour being placed on the coffin of Pearse McAuley. On one hand that was anti-Sinn Féin. On the other, he was whipping up that section of Fine Gael which sees themselves as recapturing Republicanism from Sinn Féin.*

the time when serious planning and preparation for unity are beginning." Like Varadkar, Harris has placed himself on that wing of Fine Gael which sees themselves as Republicans. He is from Greystones in North Wicklow. Greystones is seen as a middle-class commuter town. That is generally, not completely, true. Official surveys indicate the town has a couple of fairly deprived areas. While Harris is Varadkar's preferred successor, he is different. Harris was born with no silver spoon. His father is a taxi driver, his mother a special needs teacher. He dropped out of third-level education. The best description would be a genteel boy, not posh.

His home territory is not seen as particularly Nationalist. It's not like the Border Counties. Nor does it have the history of Kerry or Cork. Like many places, though, you don't have to scratch too deep to find a strong Nationalist streak. And now we come to the paradox of recent years. Fianna Fáil has better relationships with Unionism than Fine Gael.

Micheál Martin is a strange contradiction. Martin is from a working-class part of Cork. His father was a bus driver. More, the father was a founder member of the National Bus and Rail Union (NBRU). This was a militant split-off from the old Irish Transport and General Work-

ers Union (ITGWU, now SIPTU). Like many of his generation, Martin attended a Christian Brothers school. He was in the first generation of his family to enter third level.

Varadkar is very different. He comes from a relatively privileged background. His father was a doctor. He attended King's Hospital. That is one of Ireland's poshest schools. Then he studied medicine at Trinity College. However, he seems to have a better feel for attitudes on the street. Sometimes such a feel can be positive, other times less so.

I can't understand why there is such a difference. (In my defence. I studied psychology at university for a year. I failed, dismally).

Harris's background is nearer to the street. From the start he has been pushing the buttons. He is about stressing core Fine Gael principles. He has spoken about law and order, backing small business, and immigration. He raised a cheer from the faithful when denouncing the tricolour being placed on the coffin of Pearse McAuley. On one hand that was anti-Sinn Féin. On the other, he was whipping up that section of Fine Gael which sees themselves as recapturing Republicanism from Sinn Féin. Thus he is very different to the late John Bruton. Bruton came from the tradition of the old Irish Parliamentary Party.

Harris will have to use his rhetoric.

This is going to be a rough election for Fine Gael. The party is 13 years in Government. One-third of the Parliamentary party is retiring. Some are relatively young. That's a sign of poor party morale. There is a danger sign for Harris, too. Simon Coveney is not retiring. That suggests he may still have leadership ambitions.

For Harris, very bluntly, there are no votes in being soft on the DUP or British Conservative Governments. So I expect him to continue to be greener than Fianna Fáil.

As to being hard on the DUP, that's not as easy as it used to be. Emmna Little Pengelly is not old-style DUP. You will wait a lifetime to hear her insulting the Pope. Fortunately for Harris, the likes of Sammy Wilson and Ian 'Baby Doc' Paisley can be guaranteed to shoot their mouths off. They will, thus, push the buttons of Nationalist Ireland. Unlike the real old-timers, they won't insult the Pope. But they will do enough. A few attacks on Harris will help him.

The negative image of the DUP is burned into much of the Southern



By Anton McCabe

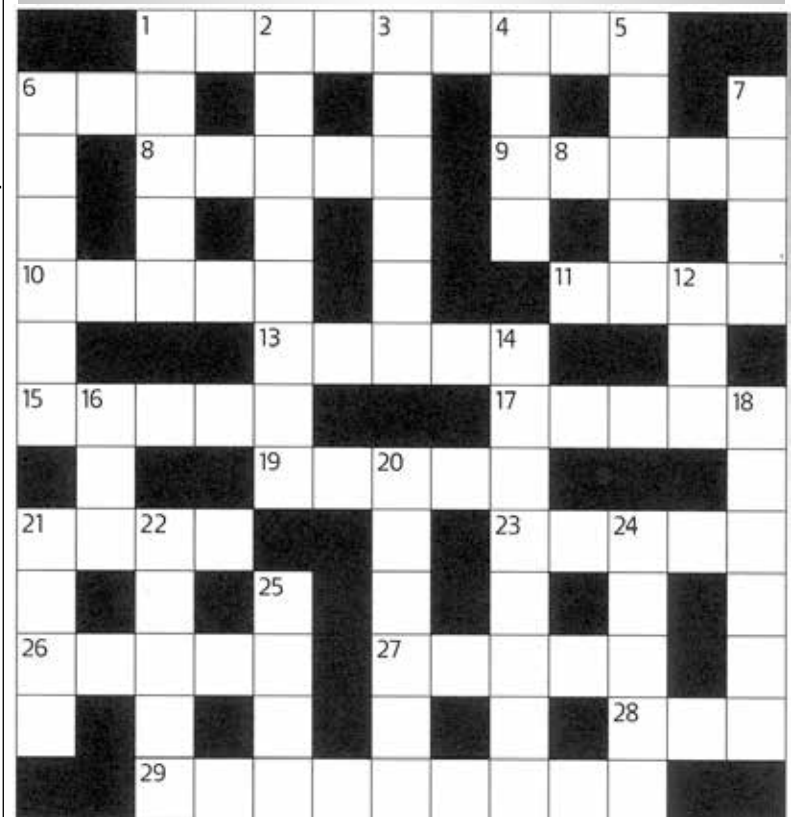
electorate. Yes, the party is improving its image. Sensible members recognise it has much improving to do.

As regards the British Government, that is in chaos. The attitude to the Irish Government is not as crass as under Johnson. Britain used to pride itself on diplomacy. Little is evident in recent dealings with Ireland.

Meanwhile, the North has relatively settled. There are, though, very much two communities. The Catholic/Nationalist community is sensitive because of past wrongs. The Protestant/Unionist community feels a double minority, in Ireland and the UK.

To all that background, Harris will have a honeymoon. How long for?

## Tribune Crossword No. 1058



**Across**

- 1. Butterfly pupa (9)
- 6. Commotion (3)
- 8. Wake Up Little \_\_\_\_, song (5)
- 9. Abrupt (5)
- 10. Shopper (5)
- 11. Flowers holder (4)
- 13. Stupid (5)
- 15. Sceptic (5)
- 17. Furious (5)
- 19. Ancient tax (5)
- 21. European mountains (4)
- 23. String instrument (5)
- 26. Collier (5)
- 27. Lethal (5)
- 28. Eternity (3)
- 29. Bestowed (9)

**Down**

- 1. US sitcom, The \_\_\_\_ Show (5)
- 2. Inhibit (8)
- 3. Midday nap (6)
- 4. Medieval instrument (4)
- 5. Middle Eastern country (5)
- 6. Middle Eastern language (6)
- 7. Lake (4)
- 12. Snow-runner (3)
- 14. Lift (8)
- 16. Actor, \_\_\_\_ Brynner (3)
- 18. Fire-breathing monster (6)
- 20. Type of dessert (6)
- 21. Charitable donations (4)
- 22. Hysteria (5)
- 24. Anointed (5)
- 25. Smirk (4)

**Solutions to Crossword No. 1057**

Across 1. Pharaoh, 4. Wiser, 7. Acquire, 8. Duped, 9. Louder, 12. Esoteric, 15. Tolerate, 17. Recoup, 18. Graft, 21. America, 22. Peron, 23. Apparel. Down 1. Pugilist, 2. Recede, 3. Hail, 4. Weed, 5. Sceptre, 6. Rend, 10. Relax, 11. Dover, 13. Campbell, 14. Bloater, 16. Acacia, 18. Grip, 19. Tarn, 20. Vera.

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212 Dacia Duster 4x4	221 Suzuki Vitara SZT	201 Peugeot Partner
212 Ford Galaxy Auto	221 Suzuki Scross Motion	191 Peugeot Partner Professional <b>Sold</b>
211 Peugeot Active premium	221 Suzuki Scross Motion <b>Sold</b>	191 Toyota Landcruiser SWB
211 Renault Captur	221 Suzuki Vitara SZ5	2018 Peugeot Partner <b>Sold</b>
211 VW Passat	221 Suzuki Swace 1.8 Hybrid	2018 Citroen Berlingo <b>Sold</b>
211 Audi Q3 S Line	212 Peugeot 3008 GT line Auto	
211 Ford Focus ST Line	212 Suzuki Vitara 4x4 Au <b>Sold</b>	
211 Kia Sportage K3	212 Suzuki Vitara SZ5	
211 Citroen C5 Aircross	212 Suzuki Vitara SZT x2	
201 Ford Focus ST Line	212 Suzuki Scross SZT Auto	
201 Ford Focus Zetec	211 Kia Rio K1	
201 VW Tiguan Rline <b>Sold</b>	211 Suzuki Swift SZ5	
201 Renault Kadjar	211 Suzuki Swift SZL	
201 Audi Q2 Sport	211 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
192 Seat Leon FR	202 Hyundai ix20	
192 Ford Kuga Titanium	201 Mercedes Benz A Class Saloon	
191 Renault Captur	201 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
191 BMW 520 M SPORT	201 Ford Puma ST Line	
191 Citroen Multispace	191 Opel Corsa	
191 VW Golf	191 Toyota Yaris Auto	
201 Nissan Qashqai Accenta Premium	191 Ford Focus Titanium	
191 Nissan Qashqai <b>Sold</b>	191 Honda Civic VTEC	
191 Ford Focus ST Line x2	191 Suzuki Ignis SZ3 <b>Sold</b>	
191 VW Golf Estate Auto	181 Suzuki Celiro	
182 Peugeot 2008 Allure	181 Suzuki Swift	
	172 Suzuki Celiro Auto	
	172 Citroen C4 Cactus	
	171 Suzuki Vitara SZT	
	171 Nissan Qashqai Auto	
	162 Suzuki Swift	
	151 Suzuki Swift GLX	
	142 Mitsubishi Lancer	

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**SPAR** RED VALUE

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**NESTLÉ** Pouch Range See Shelf for Information

Offers available from 21.03.24 to 10.04.24

Return



# Ramelton

### Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to Ursula McConigley and family, Moorefield on the death of her sister Mrs. Kay O'Kane, Claudy, Co Derry on Saturday afternoon. Her funeral took place in Claudy on Tuesday.

### Table Quiz

The Derry & Donegal Presbytery Choir are holding a Table Quiz in the Makemie Hall, Ramelton on Saturday 6th April at 7:30pm. Everyone welcome.

### Country Market

Ramelton Country Market will be in Ramelton Town Hall from 10.30am until 12.00noon this Easter Saturday 30th March. Order from our food producers on 087 9699715.

Easter activities at the market include a kids Easter Bonnet competition 1st prize an Easter egg and 5 runner up prizes, also a mini Easter egg hunt.

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 and 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.

### K Club chef post for Gary

Ramelton native Gary O'Hanlon has taken up a prestigious Executive Chef position at the exclusive K Club in Kildare. Gary is the son of John and Anne O'Hanlon, Ardrummond Road. Gary had previously been Executive Chef at The Condor Luxury Private Estate in the Noire Valley south of Paris.

### Wedding

The wedding took place on Friday 15th of March of Cathal Diver, Rectory Road, Ramelton and Aisling McGettigan, Kilmacrennan in Harveys Point Hotel, Donegal Town. Cathal and Aisling are currently on their honeymoon in Japan.

### Swilly Rovers lotto jackpot winner

The Swilly Rovers Jackpot of €1,500 was won on Monday night by Johnny Din c/o Lennon Lodge. Numbers drawn in Lennon Lodge were 1, 9, 12 and 22. No 3 number winners. This week's jackpot is €500.

### Community Games Art and Handwriting results

The Ramelton Area Com-

munity Games held their Art and Handwriting competition finals last Thursday evening. The finals took place in the Community Centre.

### Handwriting

Girls U10 - 1. Lucy Coyle; 2. Nessa Shine; 3. Alannah Friel

### Art

Girls U8 - 1. Alannah Friel; 2. Shannon McDaid; 3. Orla Callan

Girls U10 - 1. Lucy Coyle

Girls U12 - 1. Eryn Meenan; 2. Ella Coyle

Girls U16 - 1. Neha Shine

### 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, fox-trot and line dance with Paul and his team. Admission is €8 for Adults and €5 for children and all welcome.

### 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.

### Yoga with Jane

Yoga with Jane classes restart after Easter, call her on 086 8367776 to book or for details or visit Jane Watt yoga on FB

Gentle Yoga in the Kerrykeel Old-school Community Centre starting on Thursday 11th April from 10-11am for 6 weeks and the cost is €60.

Chair Yoga in the Gallowglass Centre, Milford starting on Thurs 11th April from 12-1pm for 4 weeks and the cost is €40 (Chair Yoga is also running in Letterkenny on Wednesday evenings)

Yoga in Ray Community Centre starting on Saturday 13th April, from 10-11am. The cost for the 5 weeks is €40 and it excludes Bank Holiday Saturday.

### 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.



Sean and Seamus Crawford of Crawford Construction presenting children from Scoil Mhuire Ramelton with their new athletic vests which they kindly sponsored.



Patsy Gallagher has retired from the Ramelton Community Employment Project with colleagues who wished him well on his retirement.



Ramelton Men's Group pictured visiting Teach John Mici Bán, Carrigart last week.



Garvin Boyce, Finn Valley AC, recorded a new personal best on Friday at the European Masters Indoor Athletics Championships in Poland. In an M50 1500m heat, his time was 5:14.06 just missing out on a place in the final.



Prizewinners in the Ramelton Community Games Art and Handwriting finals in the Community Centre.





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Repayments Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly spread over 5 Years	Weekly Repayments	Monthly Repayments
Loan Amount		
€10,000	€45.05	€195.74
€15,000	€67.58	€293.55
€20,000	€90.10	€391.40
€25,000	€112.63	€489.25
€30,000	€135.15	€587.10
€40,000	€180.20	€782.80

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**Drumboe Easter Commemoration**  
1916-2024

**Sunday 31st March 2024**

Assemble 3pm  
Johnson's Corner, Stranorlar

Main Speaker:  
**Chris Mc Manus MEP**  
Chair:  
**Maria Doherty**



**Bigí Linn**

HONOUR IRELAND'S PATRIOT DEAD.  
**WEAR AN EASTER LILY.**



**VOTE No.1**

**LOCAL ELECTION 7th June 2024**

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INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR  
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Launch of **local election campaign** on **Friday 5th April at 7.30pm** in the **Ramelton Town Hall**

All welcome and refreshments served  
Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

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**Easter Rising Commemoration**  
1916-2024

**Easter Monday 1st April 2024**

**Sinn Féin Mevagh Joseph Duffy Commemoration**  
Assemble 12.30pm, Old Graveyard beside Carrigart Chapel

**Sinn Féin Fanad, Fanad Patriot Commemoration**  
Assemble 3pm at Patriots Monument, Kindrum Fanad



Speaker **Maria Doherty**  
**BIGÍ LINN**

HONOUR IRELAND'S PATRIOT DEAD.  
**WEAR AN EASTER LILY.**

**CHECK THE REGISTER**  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK AND SEE IF YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE




**Shandon Hotel Portnablagh**  
**Cabaret & Dance**

**Saturday 6th April**  
Mick Flavin, John Glenn,  
Noelle Shevlin and Brian Kerrigan  
Doors open 9pm Show 9.30pm to 12 midnight




**The Clanree Hotel Letterkenny**

**Country Sundays Sun. 31st March - Robert Mizzell**

Doors Open 8.30pm. Dancing 9-11pm €15 Pay at door followed by music in McGettigan's Bar from 11pm.  
Coming - 7th April - Patrick Feeney





# Arrests as drug hauls found in Letterkenny and Ramelton

A significant amount of illegal drugs were recovered in Letterkenny and Ramelton at the weekend following an investigation by gardai.

The Donegal Divisional Drugs Unit detained a person for the purpose of a search on Sunday March 24th in the Letterkenny area and a quantity of cannabis was subsequently found.

They then conducted a follow up search in the Ramelton area and they located cannabis valued at €25,000, MDMA valued at €840, Ketamine worth €600 and Cocaine with a value of €210.

Two people were arrested and charged to appear at Letterkenny District Court this week. Gardai have urged the public to contact them if they suspect drug dealing is taking place in their locality.

They stated: "This seizure forms part of Operation Tara. The focus of Operation Tara is to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute drug trafficking networks, at all levels - international, national, local - involved in the importa-



tion, distribution, cultivation, production, local sale and supply of controlled drugs".

# Chelsea sails through her Glór Tíre debut



Dunfanaghy's Chelsea Evans after getting through to the Glór Tíre semi final on Tuesday night with Gerard Gormley and host Aoife Ní Thuairisg.

Dunfanaghy singer, Chelsea Evans, put on an impressive performance to get the nod from the judges on her debut on TG4's Glór Tíre on Tuesday night.

Chelsea sang a couple of numbers including a duet of Brett Young's 2017 hit, 'In Case You Didn't Know' with her mentor Jim Devine.

At the end of the show when she and fellow contestant, Gerard Gormley, from Tyrone stood before the judges it was Chelsea from Horn Head who came out on top and she sailed through to the show's semi finals.

Chelsea, who is the youngest contestant on the show said her debut performance was a "dream come true".

Speaking to the Tribune she stated: "I'm absolutely delighted and over the moon with how it went. Even to get this far and get through to the next round definitely is an honour and a dream come true. I'm excited now to get the campaign going and see how it goes."

She will now enjoy a spell to take part in the forthcoming live show on April 9th without the pressure of facing elimination as she will

skip through to the live semi final and, fingers crossed, the live final.

Speaking of her duet performance she stated: "It's a more modern Country song and would be known especially by the younger generation of Country fans. Jim and I thought, that, because I'm the youngest on the show, to bring it back to the more modern sounds, and that suits me."

On April 9th she will perform along with the other seven contestants but say she can do so with less pressure than those fighting for survival on the show.

This will include Ramelton's Jason McCahill who performed last week and will be looking for a strong vote to see him progress to the semi finals. Chelsea explained: "It'll be nice to perform without the pressure as I don't really have to worry about it and can just enjoy it, but then the pressure will kick in again."

Country music legend, TR Dallas, commended Chelsea for a faultless performance in her solo and duet performances before the judges sent the Dunfanaghy to a deserved semifinal berth. The voting takes place via the Glór Tíre app.

# Mary Lou visits Donegal



Darragh and Charlie McClafferty of the Beach Hotel in Downings pictured Mary Lou McDonald, Deputy Padraig MacLochlainn and Milford SF candidate Maria Doherty.



Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald with Maria Doherty, Deputy Padraig MacLochlainn and supporters outside Siopa Na Dunaibh.



Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou MacDonal with local election candidates Ulick Hughes and Sandra Haughey in Letterkenny and Maria Doherty, Milford EA and supporters during her visit.

tion candidates and the Raphoe Community Playgroup.

The party leader met with local election candidates Maria Doherty in Downings, Ulick Hughes and Sandra Haughey in Letterkenny and Tony McDaid in Raphoe.

Pearse Doherty said "As always, it's great to have Mary Lou McDonald in the county and to update her on the major issues going on in this part of the country. We met with staff and parents of the Raphoe Community Playgroup and found the situation they find themselves in to be totally unacceptable. This is a building that the community fundraised to build in 2000. Now it has been condemned through no fault of their own. They must leave in June and so far, there has been no response from government.



Mary Lou MacDonal with a young supporter in Downings.

Deputy Mac Lochlainn added "The people had one message for us. They want change and they want a general election now."

# Sweeney welcomes the appointment of Harris

Last weekend in Athlone saw the selection of Nina Carberry and Maria Walsh as the Fine Gael candidates for the European elections in June however, Fine Gael also confirmed its new leader to be Simon Harris. Milford Fine Gael candidate Aaron Sweeney was in attendance saying "It was great to be in Athlone to see our party choose two excellent candidates for Europe but to also see Simon Harris chosen as the next leader of our party and next Taoiseach."

"This was a great day for our party which saw it renewed and re-energised ahead of the upcoming elections in June. Simon Harris has put the focus back on our party's core values such as law and order, a focus on enterprise and equality of opportunity, all of which I want to see a focus on for the Milford area." Sweeney concluded: "When speaking with Harris, I also stressed how his government urgently needs to



Aaron Sweeney with Fine Gael leader Simon Harris in Athlone on Sunday.

prioritise addressing the issues with the current Mica redress scheme and finally deliver 100% redress for Mica families throughout Donegal as they have suffered for far too long. This is something I will press again when I meet Minister Harris at our Ard Fheis on the 6th of April."



# Netflix scouts Ramelton for new Lisa McGee series

A new comedy series from Derry Girls creator Lisa McGee is due to start filming in Northern Ireland over the summer and the location scouts have been in Ramelton this week. They are scouting for a venue to film a few scenes and told locals that they loved the Gamble's Square and the Mall areas of the town. "How to Get to Heaven from Belfast" is an eight-part series following a group of school friends who now lead very different lives in their late thirties. When the show was first announced, it promised to take its main character from their na-

tive Belfast to "the mythic wildness of rural Donegal and right across Ireland". When complete, the comedy will be broadcast on Netflix who says its a "clever, chaotic TV writer Saoirse, glamorous, stressed-out mother of three Robyn and dependable, inhibited carer Dara have been a tight-knit group since school. Now in their late 30s, but still as close as ever, these three friends are about to embark on the most thrilling adventure of their lives. When an email arrives, telling them about the death of the es-

tranged fourth member of their childhood gang, Greta, a series of eerie events at her wake set them on a dark, dangerous and hilarious odyssey through Ireland and beyond as each tries to piece together the truth of the past. A show about friendship, memory and what happens when life doesn't turn out quite like you'd expected."

With the series due to start filming this summer, it is likely to be next year before it hits television screens.

Ramelton is well used to big TV productions with the Hanging Gale, featuring

the McGann brothers based there in 1995 and numerous smaller productions in the years since.

## Mental Hospital strike 100 years ago

From Page One

of World War 1 the hospital was experiencing financial difficulties. Hugh Devlin said it had become the most expensive hospital in Ireland to run and in December 1921 the Board of Management, at the suggestion of Donegal County Council, wrote to Dail Eireann to send in an inspector to enquire into the financial and general working of the institution.

Owing to the outbreak of the Civil War no enquiry would take place until October 1923. When the enquiry was held it reported 'that the administration of the hospital was slack to an extraordinary degree (with resulting extravagance) and that several of the officers were not carrying out their duties efficiently; that the nursing staff, from a lack of supervision, had an imperfect sense of their responsibilities' and that the high cost of maintenance was not due to a high standard of care and treatment".

In forwarding the report, the Minister pointed to the necessity of immediate steps being taken to reform the management and bring about re-trenchment. Several senior officers of the hospi-

tal resigned. The response of the Board of Management was to unilaterally impose a 10% pay cut on all staff from 1st April 1924.

"The Irish Mental Hospital Workers Union, of whom the hospital staff were affiliated, threatened strike action if this went ahead. The matter would be further complicated by the appointment of a stone mason to the position of Head Male Attendant, whose terms and conditions required him to cease being a member of the Union, something that his predecessor was not required to do.

At 7am on Tuesday morning 1st April the male and female staff assembled in front of the hospital, and with music playing and banners flying, they marched out the main gate to commence a strike.

Inside of the building seven staff remained, including the Resident Medical Superintendent, the medical doctor, clerk, storekeeper, land steward, and the Head Male Attendant and Head Female Nurse. Patients were organised into work-groups to look after each other, and they showed remarkable resilience under unprecedented cir-

cumstances.

Initially the strikers' picket was a good humoured and cordial affair, but as days passed, and the hospital management offered employment to "outsiders" to replace them, the atmosphere became more embittered and acrimonious.

Meetings in support for the strikers were organised throughout the county in towns including Letterkenny, Milford, Carrigart, Lifford, Castlefin, Ballybofey, Donegal Town, and Ballyshannon, and were well attended.

After two weeks, the strikers were informed that they were dismissed from their employment and their pensions were declared forfeit. At a meeting in support of the workers in Letterkenny, Mr. O'Connor, union organiser, said they would blockade Letterkenny before the dispute was over. Local firms refused to handle goods destined for the hospital in sympathy with the strikers and deliveries were stopped at the entrance gate.

The hospital management persevered in their determination to hold out and they eventually succeeded in their objectives. The strikers were

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**EASTER WEEKEND**

Sat 30th March - Music in wee Bar

**Cillia**

Sunday 31st March -

Dancing in the Lounge - 9.30pm - 11.30pm

**Thomas Maguire & Fhiona Ennis**

**Bar Food, Restaurant & Take Away served**

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faced down and eventually defeated, with many of the younger members emigrating, and older members fell on hard times and destitution. The strike generated ill feelings in the town for many decades later.

### Death of John Kelly

The funeral took place on Sunday of John Kelly, Gortnalaragh, Termon. Aged 70, John was born in the townland of Drumoughill, in the Termon Parish. In his homily Fr. Martin Chambers said John was a much loved father and devoted grandfather. He was predeceased



by his parents Patrick and Nora and his sister Nora. John is survived by his wife Frances, son Patrick and daughters Colleen and Dara; grandchildren Sheá, Cian, Seanán and Seán; daughter-in-law Lorraine; son-in-law Terence. He is also survived by his siblings Peggy and Patrick, brother-in-law to Charlie, Donnie, John and Jacqueline and by nephews and nieces Gary, John, Patrick, Sean, Christopher, Sarah, Mairi and Shaun.

Fr. Martin Chambers officiated at the Requiem Mass on Sunday in St. Columba's Church, Termon. Guards of Honour were performed by the Termon Sheepdog group, the Termon GAA Ladies and students from PCC Falcarragh. John was laid to rest afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

A much loved man, John will be sadly missed by his family, friends and neighbours. Deepest sympathies are extended to the family circle.

### The late Philomena McEwen

The death took place on Monday of Philomena (Mena) McEwen at her home in Oaklands Park, Letterkenny.

Mena's are reposing at the family home in Oaklands Park. Funeral Mass is at 11am on Thursday, 28th March, in the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Letterkenny followed

by burial in New Leck Cemetery, Letterkenny. Mena was predeceased by her husband John and daughter Noreen. She is survived by her family Geraldine, Seamus, Eileen, Roisin, Kathleen and



Sean. She is also survived by her sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchild, nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Deepest condolences are extended to the family circle.

### The late Lorna Kelly

The death took place on Monday, 18th of March of Lorna Kelly, North Kensington, London and Ashleigh Close, College Farm Road, Letterkenny. Lorna passed away at the St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London.

Lorna is survived by her parents Eunan and Jenny, her brother Luke and her sister Helen. She is also survived by her close circle of friends, her aunties and uncles, Cathy and Tom (Scotland), Peter (Dublin), Rachel (Dublin), J.G and Anne (Letterkenny), Jim and Theresa (Letterkenny), Martin and Mary (Letterkenny), her cousins and extended family, her colleagues from the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare and the Palace of Westminster, London and her beloved cat C.P.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalised. Deepest sympathies are extended to the family circle.

### The late Eileen McTeague

The death has taken place of Eileen McTeague, late of Derryart, Creeslough, and formerly of Helensburgh, Scotland.

She passed away on Tuesday at Donegal Hospice surrounded by her family.

Predeceased by her husband Jim McTeague she is survived by her children Noreen Frost, Jim, Patrick and Michael. Eileen was also a much loved mother in law, Grandmother of seven and will be missed by her extended family and friends.



There will be no wake and the house will be private.

Cremation Service will take place at Lakelands Crematorium, Cavan on Thursday, 28th of March at 3.30pm that can be viewed live on www.churchservices.tv/lakelands with password Crem28T.

### Funeral of Patricia O'Donnell

The funeral took place on Saturday of Patricia (Patsy) O'Donnell (née Crawford), Foxrock, Dublin and formerly of Lifford and Carrigart.

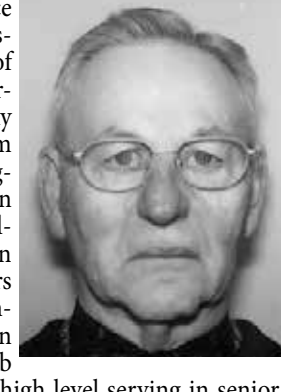
Patsy passed away on Wednesday the 20th of March at St. Vincent's University Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband Kevin and infant son David. She is survived by her family Paul, Karen, Nick and Anne; son-in-law Frank, daughters-in-law Hilary and Carin, grandchildren; Stephanie and her husband Steven, Eva and her partner Seán, Lucy and great-grandchild Louis, sisters-in-law Crona and Mary, brother-in-law, P.J., extended family and friends.

Patsy's remains reposed on Friday at home. Funeral Mass took place on Saturday in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock followed by cremation committal prayers at The Garden Chapel in Mount Jerome Crematorium, Harold's Cross. Deepest condolences are extended to the family circle.

### Death of Brian Evans

The death took place at his home on Tuesday 19th March of Brian Evans, Fycorrenagh, Letterkenny and formerly from Birmingham, England. Aged 87, Brian and his wife Molly came to reside in Letterkenny 25 years ago. He had been involved with Aston Villa Football Club for many years at a high level serving in senior board roles. Brian got to know the local football fraternity in Letterkenny and enjoyed his regular chats with the Rovers men in the town.

Brian is survived by his wife Molly (née McCarron, Drumbarnett, Manorcunningham), nieces



and nephews and a wide circle of family, friends and neighbours. Remains reposed at the Eternal Light Chapel of Rest, Mountain Top, Letterkenny on Friday evening. Private cremation will take place later. Deepest sympathies are extended to the family circle.

### Interment of ashes of Eva Gallagher

The interment of the ashes of Eva Gallagher, of Perth, Western Australia and formerly Carrigart took place on Monday.

Eva died in Australia on December 31st 2021. She was the wife of Jerome Croskery, Australia. Eva was the daughter of the late Gerard and Maud Gallagher who used to own the Post Office in Carrigart. She was also the sister of Donal, Angela, Noel, Damian and the late Canice. Eva was a cherished Godmother and aunt and is sadly missed by all the family.

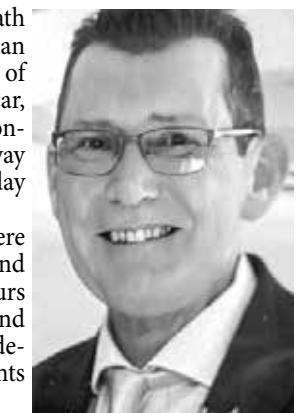
Fr. Danny McBrearty officiated at the Requiem Mass in St. John the Baptist Church, Carrigart, on Monday. Eva's ashes were interred with her parents in the family grave. Deepest condolences are extended to the family circle.

### The late Brendan Carron

The sudden death has taken of Brendan Carron formerly of "Fatima" Glencar, Letterkenny and London. He passed away in London on Friday March 22nd. Many tributes were paid by friends and former neighbours in Letterkenny and beyond. He is predeceased by his parents Vincent and Mary.

He is survived by his sons Vincent (London), Brendan (London), daughters Roisin, (Dan) Kent, Nicola (Letterkenny), sisters Geraldine, (Danny) Falcarragh, Fidelma (Letterkenny), Donal, (Deborah) Headford, grandchildren, Aunt Margaret (Dublin), nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, cousins and many friends in Donegal and London.

Funeral Arrangements will be announced later.





# Milford

## Death of Cahal McFadden

The death took place on Sunday in Áras Uí Dhomhnaill Nursing Home, Milford of Cahal McFadden, The Square, Milford. Cahal was aged 72 years and predeceased by his parents Mary and Patrick, and brother Patrick. His remains were removed to the home of his brother Aneas in Upper Mount Marian on Sunday evening.

Cahal spent most of his young life in Milford, working with his mother serving food at their home on The Square. During the summer months he would move to Portrush to help his Aunt Rosie in her Guesthouse business for the busy season where he was very popular with the visitors and made many friends over the years.

During his life Cahal cared for many family members in their later years and as history repeated itself he was very much cared for and supported in his final years by his family circle. Cahal was a regular visitor to the Tribune office and he was immensely proud of the paper. A copy was brought to the altar during his funeral Mass.

Cahal moved to Dublin with his sister Annmarie for a number of years before returning to Milford due to illness and in October 2022 he took up residency in Áras Uí Dhomhnaill Nursing Home in Milford. Cahal was a very caring and friendly person who enjoyed the company of people and socialising and this remained very evident during his 18 months in Áras Uí



Dhomhnaill where he was visited constantly on a daily basis by his many relatives and friends.

His Funeral Mass took place on Tuesday morning in St. Peter's Church, Milford celebrated by Fr. Stephen Gorman, CC Milford. Cahal had a great love for his family and he would have been proud of their involvement in his Funeral Mass, carrying mementos of his life to the Altar, Readings, Gifts, Prayers of the Faithful and Reflection. Burial afterwards took place in Milford Cemetery.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his brothers Aneas and Margaret, Upper Mount Marian, John and Mary, Drumbern, Brid and Michael, Tipperary, Annmarie, Dublin, sister-in-law Anne, Letterkenny, nieces, nephews, cousins and large circle of relatives and friends.

## Death of Kenny Lynagh

The sudden death took place of Kenny Lynagh at his home at Moyle Hill, Milford on Tuesday 26th March. Kenny was in his early 40's and predeceased by his father Jim in 2015. Kenny was educated at Drumman National School and Loreto Convent, Milford and spent a lot of his early working life in the hospitality sector in hotels and



bars in Letterkenny. In 2015 Kenny trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) where he continued to work with his colleagues with Lifeline Ambulance Service based in Letterkenny.

His Funeral Mass will take place this Thursday in St. Peter's Church, Milford at 11am. with burial afterwards in Tully Cemetery.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his son James, mother Mary, sister Marie, brothers John, Dessie and Damian, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins, extended family and friends.

## Death of Gabriel Boyle

The death took place at his home of Gabriel Boyle, 28 Grey Rocks, Milford and formerly of Buncrana on Friday 22nd March. Gabriel and his family moved to Milford many years ago and was a friendly, quiet person and good neighbour at Grey Rocks Estate, he was a plumber by trade. He was predeceased by his brother Johnny, Ramelton in 2017.

His Funeral Service took place at Letterkenny Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon and Cremation at Lakelands Crematorium, Cavan at a later date.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Iris Carroll-Boyle, sons Casey and Quinn, brother Jimmy, sisters



Nora, Mary, Bernie and Annette, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, uncle, aunts, relatives and friends.

Sympathy is extended to Claire Callaghan, Moyle Road on the death of her sister Mrs. Kay O'Kane, Claudy, Co Derry on Saturday afternoon. Her funeral took place in Claudy on Tuesday.

## Wedding

The wedding took place on Saturday 23rd March in St. John the Baptist Church, Carrigart between Craig Ingram, Fycorranagh, Letterkenny and Laura Boyce, High Glen, Carrigart. Craig is the popular proprietor of Hay's Shop, Main Street, Milford and is the son of Linda and the late Noel Ingram, Fycorranagh, Letterkenny. Laura is the daughter of Jim and Mary Boyce, High Glen, Carrigart. Bestman was Gary Ingram and groomsmen were Darren Hay and Shea Ferry.

Bridesmaids were Susan Boyce, Stacey McGarvey and Claire Brennan. Flower girl was Éabha Ingram and page boy was Mason Ingram, children of the bride and groom.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Fr. Stephen Gorman, CC, Milford with the reception held in Ballyliffin Lodge and Spa, Ballyliffin and the couple are spending their honeymoon in Galgorm Castle.

## Good Friday Walk

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and John Cannon for the great music and thank you to Josephine for, once again, manning the door. Last, but by no means least, to everyone who came along on the night we sincerely hope you enjoyed yourselves. The total amount raised, after expenses, was €1,220.

## Employment Support

DLDC Employment Support can help long term unemployed to get back into full time employment, identify training opportunities, prepare CV and fill out application forms and much more. So if you wish to avail of our service: The Outreach Officer will be in attendance in Milford & District Resource Centre on next Wednesday the 3rd April from 2-4pm. No appointment necessary. Further enquiries to Mary on 087 9926681.

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Milford girl Jasmine Barrett Doherty who won an All Ireland High Jump gold medal at the weekend. Jasmine, a member of Finn Valley AC pictured here with her dad John. Her jump was a Personal Best of 1.47 at the National Juvenile Indoor Championships in Athlone.

# Milford Tennis Club

## Men's singles competition

Saturday March 23rd saw 8 hardy bucks battle it out in challenging weather conditions. Despite the weather exciting close matches were had and eventually Izhmail triumphed in the main competition with Serhii a worthy runner up (pictured above left receiving his prize from Cliff Hayley) and Kenny pulled it out of the hat after a close fought match with Luke in the plate (left).

Sincere thanks to Hay's Shop and Maple Store Milford for their kind and generous sponsorship.





# Milford AC Juvenile Presentations



Noel Kilpatrick presenting the Milford AC Overall Juvenile Athletes of the Year awards to Violet McGuckian and Walter Dill at the Club's Presentation in the Mulroy Woods Hotel last week. Also included are coaches Philip McGovern and Kathleen Harrison.



The Milford AC Under 12 award winners at their presentations in the Mulroy Woods Hotel with coaches Kathleen Harrison and Joe Boyce.



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~~~~~

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Milford AC U6 and 8's award winners at their presentations in the Mulroy Woods Hotel with Club Chairman James Gibbons and coach Nicola McAuley.



Phia Friel winner of the Milford AC U10 Cross Country Special Recognition Award with Philip McGovern.

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Milford AC U10's award winners at their presentations in the Mulroy Woods Hotel with coaches Philip McGovern, Nancy McNamee and Noel Kilpatrick.



# Ticked Off?

If there's one group of people you don't want to pick a fight with it might just be corporate lawyers. If you infringe upon their client's intellectual property then you'd be ready for an expensive fight.

Nike is one mega-corporation that is known to litigate when someone strays a little too close to its branding.

While most of their attention is focused on those in the footwear and apparel market, I can't help but wonder what its lawyers make of Iceland's latest Easter offering.

In case you missed it, the supermarket chain has announced that in addition to selling traditional hot cross buns, it will also be stocking a version with the customary cross removed and a tick, not entirely unlike the famous Nike swoosh, included in its place.

Given that the American company doesn't seem to have a baked goods division, its lawyers are unlikely to start any bunfights over these developments.

But what about Christians? Some in the media (knowing that controversy drives clicks) have certainly tried to talk up a supposed sense of disgruntlement over the move. So are Christians outraged by this sacrilegious removal of a cherished religious symbol at such an important time of year? Are we feeling thoroughly ticked off?

The simple answer is no. Rather than being upset, most people I know will merely roll their eyes and then move on.

Clearly Iceland's new Nike-esque product is motivated by a squeamishness about offending those from

a non-Christian background. Some might find this aversion surprising given that the cross has adorned churches, jewellery, graveyards, and flags for hundreds of years. Yet ironically Iceland's squeamishness is closer in spirit to the original message of Jesus' crucifixion.

One thing's for sure: you wouldn't have dreamt of decorating baked goods with a cross in the first century. Crucifixion was a ghastly and a humiliating thing; even the very word "cross" would not have been uttered in polite company. Crucifixion was reserved for the scum of society; it was the most contemptible fate imaginable.

So imagine the shock and scandal that gripped the world when Christians began to spread their message of God himself coming into the world, living

as a man, and dying a shameful death on the cross. Is it any wonder that Paul described the message of Christ's crucifixion as "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles"? (1 Corinthians 1:23)

Given the prevalence of the cross today we are somewhat inured to its scandalous connotations. Yet Christ's crucifixion remains an offensive message when we understand its true implications.

If we could be saved in any other way then surely Jesus would not have subjected himself to such agony and disgrace. The fact that he went through with this shameful death points us to an inescapable truth: we cannot save ourselves. All of our best efforts and most virtuous deeds are of no value whatsoever when it comes to

## Food for thought



Jonny McCollum

atonement for our sin. Therein lies the true scandal of the cross. Yet baked into this scandal is the very real hope of rescue and forgiveness.

## Rathmullan

### Tidy Towns

We extend a hearty welcome to all Easter visitors, returning family members and day trippers, but please remember to treat Rathmullan village and beach with respect, and please do not litter or dump rubbish indiscriminately. If the bins are full, then just take your rubbish home again or to the Council Centres run by Bryson Recycling. CCTV cameras are in operation and offenders will be prosecuted. If you'd like to help our Volunteers keep Rathmullan tidy, then the Clean Coasts Stand is at the entrance to the Car Park, so why not pick up a Picker and do a 2 minute quick clean? Why leave it to everyone else? Children love it, and every little helps, just small steps leading to a cleaner environment and beaches we can all enjoy.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Big Spring Clean has been deferred until 20th April, and we look forward to your support at that time. The Annual Sustainability Fair will take place on Sunday 21st April, and this year the emphasis will be on Repair Workshops, and Upcycling, with more details nearer the time.

### Beginners Conversational Irish Classes

Anyone learn Irish at school and just want to have a bit of fun refreshing their knowledge, while meeting up with other likeminded people? Might even help understand the children's / grandchildren's homework? Then the proposed Beginners Conversational Irish Classes might be the answer? Depending on response, these Classes will take place in late May, Early June, 086 2804555 for registration and more details.

Rathmullan Celtic 50/50 Draw

The monthly draw will take place this Easter Saturday, and congratulations to last month's winners Leron Cullen and Ama Kavanagh. Tickets are available from Revolut: Enda McElhinney, on 086 401 9256, Cain Connolly on 086 348 9941 or Mark Curran on 086 873 2749.

### Daffodil Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who attended, supported, gave donations or Raffle Prizes and helped out in any way last week for the Coffee Morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society organised by the Rathmullan Women's Group, which was held in the Ozanam Centre last Saturday. A fantastic amount of €2,900 was raised with donations still being accepted for this very worthy charity.

### Beaches & Dunes for Climate Adaptation

A unique training course regarding understanding what causes Coastal Erosion and how can we reduce it, as well as how we 'take action' along with other fascinating information, will be taking place next week in Fanad. Anyone interested in participating in this 2 day module (6 April & 8 June) should contact Leave No Trace Ireland 01 905 9009 or events@leavenotracerireland.org to hear more about this.

### Eco Atlantic Adventure Camps Rathmullan

Eco Atlantic Adventures are now taking bookings for Beach Bootcamp Sunrise workout, starting 29th April 6 am for Monday/Wednesday/Friday in 4 week blocks. Their classes suitable for teens 13+, running 3-5pm Monday to Friday, will begin 1st July. Activities include kayaking, SUP, Pier Jumping, Archery & each games. Booking essential for both these courses, contact Hugh 086 2250599.

Save the Date - Inch Mile 31st August

Gartan Open Waters in association with Swim Ireland and Donegal Sports Partnership have opened the bookings for this unique event <https://eventmaster.ie/event/nGLJtpIH0v> as well as the Kinnegar 500m. Early bird discount of €5 (code EARLYBIRDS) before end of month. Any queries or difficulty just contact Karen (087 2214988) or Keith (086 0885459). Thanks to sponsors Mowi Ireland, Donegal Oil, Kinnegar Brewery and Crossan Transport as well as Lough Swilly Ferry Service for their support.

### St Joseph's N.S. PA Fundraising

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent fundraising events (Come Dine with me, La Fheile Padraig Lon Ghaelach, Draw, etc), and the Committee are very appreciative of all the businesses and individuals who contributed prizes for the Raffles and events. The support has been amazing, and well over €10,000 has been raised for School Funds. Raffle Draw Prize winners were Sheila McAteer, Joanne Murphy, Cathal Doherty, Norma O'Brien, Shay Downey, Jack Lynch, Bronagh Boyce, Micheala Gallagher, Matthew Friel, Katie Patten, Connie Callaghan and Ronan Murphy.

### St Vincent De Paul

This time of the year can be difficult for many people especially with the recent spate of bad weather and cold. The local St Vincent de Paul are always available to help out in times of need, so feel free to contact any member of the Chapter when confidential assistance is needed on 087 698 2822. Don't forget that the Vincent's Charity Shop also takes donations of used small household items, bric a brac, books and clean used clothing, and also stock a huge selection of clothing for that wintry day too at very reasonable prices or upcycling for a new spring outfit. Opening hours are Wednesday and Thursday 11-3 and also on Saturdays.

## Cranford AC News

### Caolan honored at the 2023 Juvenile Star Awards in Mullingar

Four of our Under 13 boys took part in the All Ireland relays indoors which were held in Athlone on Saturday. Congratulations to Matthew Giles, Tarlach Duggan, Oisín Mc Hugh and Charlie Rodgers. Well done boys. Faolan Caldwell also competed in the high jump. This is a new event for Faolan and will only improve as he continues to practice. Thank you to Eamon & Claire for travelling to Athlone and also to the parents of our young athletes.

Congratulations also to Caolan McFadden who received the County Juvenile Star Award held in Mullingar recently. Caolan's Coach Eamon Giles and his parents, Danny & Terri also attended the awards ceremony.

Our next outing will be the All Ireland Indoor Nationals on the 6th & 7th of April. Best of luck to all our athletes taking part.



## Urgent call for Creeslough safety barriers - Harkin

Concern over the safety of drivers on the N56 at Drimmaraw, Creeslough has prompted calls for the immediate installation of safety barriers. Aontú local election candidate, Mick Harkin in Creeslough, said the situation is a "tragedy waiting to happen". He stated: "It is only a matter of time before a vehicle and its occupants come to grief on this stretch of road." He claimed locals are up in arms at the danger posed on this dangerous section due to the sheerfall from the road over the verge.

He stated "There's only 150mm of a yellow line between the roadside and a 5m of a drop. Only good fortune has prevented a fatality here so far. This part of the road lacks the protection of a metal safety barrier, even though traffic here is extremely fast-moving. There is not even an

earthen embankment between the road and the potential 20 foot plummet over the precipice by any car that loses control especially on a wet or icy surface."

The Glenties Electoral Area candidate added: "I demand that council authorities immediately carry out safety measures at the scene before we have a major tragedy at this spot. The installation of a crash barrier would be the main ask. However, prevention sometimes is better than the cure. The widening of the road and appropriate speed calming road features and warning signs would be a most welcome addition. Action must be taken pronto and I call for Donegal County Council to place this on their high priority list and sort out this hazardous situation once and for all."

## 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.

## Social Dance in Carrigart Hall

The monthly Social Dancing in Mevagh Hall Carrigart continues on Friday 5th April from 9.30 - 11.30pm. Music is by Stillwater, admission is €10 and light refreshments served. All welcome.

## Carrigart Boxing Tournament

The Carrigart Boxing Club stage their annual boxing tournament on Thursday, the 28th of March Holy Thursday at the Downings GAA Centre with 14 quality contest down for decision and some top quality young guns exhibition bouts as well. As usual this is a night not to be missed with Carrigart ABC big hitters vs strong Ulster Select. Admission €8 and children €5 with first Bell 8pm.



Caolan McFadden after receiving his award with Eamon Giles and proud parents Danny and Terri McFadden.



Faolan Caldwell, Tarlach Duggan, Charlie Rodgers, Oisín McHugh and Matthew Giles





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## County title win for Scoil Cholmcille Drumman

# 'The First Lucks Penny at Milford Mart'



It was a historical day in Drumman NS recently when Joe Gatins (President of the Donegal Historical Society) came to the school to present 5th and 6th class with 'The John McCreddie Memorial Shield' as they are overall county winners in 'The Donegal Historical Society Schools Competition.'

The children were asked to create a project around an old photograph; this turned into an interesting adventure for the boys and girls in Drumman and indeed the wider Drumman community. The children along with

their teacher Maura Martin engaged in a wonderful learning experience exploring 'The First Lucks Penny at Milford Mart' with the help of parents, uncles, aunts, neighbours, current staff, past staff and of course pride of place goes to the help received from the Drumman grandparents.

It turned out that Drumman had and has a lot of connections to the mart and these connections are now recorded in this wonderful project. We had grandparents on the committee which started the mart, grandparents that attended the fairs in Milford and then subsequently the mart, grandpar-

ents who worked in the mart and plenty of grandparents that both bought and sold animals in the mart! The children worked tirelessly on the project creating interview sheets and carrying out the interviews with family members which gave some interesting insights into the memories of Milford Mart throughout the years.

It was very interesting that the children managed to even locate photos taken before



and after their project photo. Well done to everyone involved in this project.

Joe Gatins noted that he himself remembered the day Milford Mart opened and he enjoyed reading the links the children had with the mart through family members.

The children and their teacher would like to thank everyone that gave their time and assistance to them so willingly to complete this project.

Left - Joe Gatins (President of the Donegal Historical Society) presenting "The John McCreddie Memorial Shield" to the 5th and 6th Classes at Drumman National School.

## MacManus to address Drumboe Easter Commemoration

Sinn Féin MEP for the Midlands North West Constituency, Chris MacManus, will deliver the main oration at the Annual Easter Commemoration in Drumboe on Easter Sunday. The main commemoration commences at 3pm at Johnson's Corner in Stranorlar on Sunday 31 March, proceeding to the monument on Main Street, Stranorlar. Speaking in advance, he said: "I am honoured to

deliver the main oration at the Annual Easter Sunday Commemoration in Drumboe, where we remember all those who gave their life in the struggle for Irish freedom. Irish republicanism today stands strong, proud and just as determined to deliver on the ideals of those patriots who came before us. We stand closer than ever to achieving their vision of a true Irish republic. Earlier this year, a national-

ist, republican First Minister in the North put the final nail in the coffin of the orange unionist state, founded on inequality and discrimination, now gone and never to return.

"In the south, Sinn Féin stands ready to lead the next government and deliver the real change demanded by the people after more than 100 years of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael in power.

"Across the state, hundreds of Sinn Féin candidates seek election to county and city councils on the 7th June this year, ready to deliver in their communities, for their communities. I stand ready, along with five other EU election candidates, including Michelle Gildernew from Fermanagh, to represent the interests of ordinary people and to bring a proud Irish republican voice to the EU parliament."



## A Rathmullan Woman in exile...

# My experience in a Mother & Baby home

*(Girls names have been changed to protect identities)*

Last week saw the opening of the Mother and Baby Redress Scheme. As a so-called survivor of one of these institutions, as obviously is my son Mark, I spent years doing what I do best and postponed thinking about it until it became unavoidable. In order to survive this life, I have put a lot of issues into secure boxes and locked them in the furthest recesses of my mind because they were too damaging, painful and potentially destructive to deal with at the time.

Being forced to take refuge in an institution for homeless mothers and babies was one of those issues. Owing to complications around his birth I had lived in Rathmullan with my family for about nine months after having Mark. However, as I was a volatile and temperamental person at best, and even more so when I had an infant to care for it was decided that it was in the best interest of the family as a whole if I returned to Dublin. There were four other children in the house at the time, including two foster children, and the needs of the dependent, younger children had to take precedence.

Hunting through the accommodation section of the Evening Press I found a flat share in the upper half of a house in Terenure with another single mother. She had two children and needed someone to share the rent and the bills. It was a difficult situation, having two families sharing a few upstairs rooms, especially as she used to get me to mind her kids when she went "down to the shop" at night for fags; and wouldn't arrive back till all hours, three sheets in the wind. The arrangement became unbearable when the father of her children was released from a psychiatric hospital and moved into the flat. He was an unpredictable person and I was very uneasy living in the same house as him, so we spent much of the day out walking the streets and the evenings in the safety of our room.

A distant relation offered Mark and me a spare room in her home in Sandymount, until we could source alternative accommodation. In the 1980s it was very difficult to find landlords who would accept lone parents. This was shortly after the Kerry Babies incident and the death of Ann Lovett, and the holy Catholic Church ruled the Irish roost with an iron fist. In Britain the "No blacks, No Irish" signs were not uncommon outside flats to let, and in Dublin it was "No children".

I placed an advert in the Evening Press, stating clearly that I was a single parent looking for somewhere to live and was delighted when a couple in Donnybrook replied and offered me a flat.

They had previously converted their garage into a self contained unit for their daughter and it was empty since she had married and moved to a home of her own. It was a grand flat and we moved into what was our fourth home in under a year. OK, so it had no bath or shower and I washed the baby in the kitchen sink along with our clothes. It had no window to the street and all we could see was the back hedge, which meant that we lived in absolute isolation when we were indoors, which was a lot when you have a one year old baby. There were no mobile phones then and not everyone had a house phone; certainly not lower end rental accommodation.

To contact anyone entailed loading the child

*For a number of years, Kate Carton has been a regular contributor to the Tribune's pages. However, behind those thousands of column inches is a story that she's now decided to share with you. It is her experience in a Mother & Baby home. In the 1980s it was very difficult to find landlords who would accept lone parents. This was shortly after the Kerry Babies incident and the death of Ann Lovett, and the Holy Catholic Church ruled the Irish roost with an iron fist. We are privileged that Kate has chosen to share her life as a single parent and I recommend that you read it ...*

into the buggy, gathering change for a pay phone and then walking the streets till you found one that wasn't vandalised or being used as a flop house for junkies or winos. Isolation was a big problem before phones became widespread. Despite the domestic shortcomings it seemed that at last life would settle down, now we had a home. Which it did... for about six weeks; until my landlady heard (from someone she was chatting to at Mass) that my son's father was a married man. She promptly took out an eviction order against us on the grounds that I was a prostitute using her flat to pursue my trade. Given that the only three men who ever entered the flat were my father, Vincent De Paul and Mark's father, I don't think I was running a very successful enterprise. I started the search yet again for a home for us and I can still feel the fear, the knot in my stomach when I recall some of the bedsits that were available to single mothers. They were horrendous, frightening, filthy pits; some of them fire hazards and many of them below street level in basements with rising damp and no natural light. More than one landlord suggested "coming to an arrangement" in lieu of some of the rent. If you had a child you were obviously a slut and up for anything.

I turned to Cherish, the charity for unmarried mothers, to get help and they referred me on to Threshold, the homeless charity. Threshold felt that they could bring a case against my landlord for letting an unfit property because there was no bath or shower in the flat. However, when they looked into it further they discovered that there was no planning permission for the garage conversion and they were unable to take a case involving a property which legally didn't exist.

Someone somewhere suggested that I needed a social worker and offered to put me in touch with the district nurse. I point blank refused to engage with the Health Board or any state run organisations, I didn't trust them. Few single mothers trusted them. I was referred to Barnardos, an autonomous childcare service and was assigned a social worker called Miriam. She approached my landlord to see if the eviction order could be retracted, but they were adamant that as soon as the summer court recess was over the order would be processed. With housing for single mothers almost nonexistent the only option remaining was to apply for a place in a Mother & Baby home as the whole issue was having a detrimental effect on my mental health and we desperately needed a home.

Again, I refused to have any dealings whatsoever with any Catholic institutions, and was fortunate to get a place in one of only two (I think) non catholic homes. We were allowed

to stay for a year, although it was actually thirteen or fourteen months later when we left. Mark was a little over a year old when we finally had a secure home for a while. For me and for the other girls in that home, it was a haven, a place of safety and relative peace. It's not that it was a wonderful house; with everyone sharing two baths and two toilets, it wouldn't be acceptable nowadays, but it was so much better than what went before it.

Of course there were problems, as there always will be when several households from diverse backgrounds share a small space, but we usually sorted our own differences, rarely requiring outside help. It was a year's respite where we were encouraged to study or work and become independent. I was eventually housed by Dublin Corporation on the top floor of an inner city block of flats. By that time Mark was attending a day nursery for three hours in the morning (also provided by the Mother & Baby home), leaving me free to do cleaning and housekeeping for wealthy women around Ranelagh.

After leaving the Home most of us went on to make lives for ourselves, some got married, some went abroad and some didn't survive. Mary died when her bedsit went up in flames, leaving her daughter an orphan to be raised by her grandparents in Clare. Margie was so severely beaten by her boyfriend that she was permanently brain damaged. Her son was raised by her parents and her several subsequent children were taken into care at birth. May was reported for leaving her son alone in the flat while she went to the pub. He was taken into care for a year before she was allowed to have him back again under supervision.

I went on to have a very chequered life with many ups and downs; happy times and deep regrets, great love and desperate despair, but my time in an Institution for Mothers and Babies was never a bad time. In that respect I was one of the lucky ones.

It was a disgrace and a shame on Ireland and society that we had to resort to homeless hostels for refuge. We were second class citizens and we feared the health board, the social workers and most of those in authority; anyone who could have our children taken away. It was a hard and unforgiving world in the eighties, the isolation and the loneliness of the country girls in Dublin destroyed some of us. Not many people now in their 30s or 40s could imagine an Ireland where being pregnant outside marriage was cause for gossip and shame; most in this age of instant communication could not envisage a time where communication with home was an ordeal, frequently unsuccessful.

Did I deserve it? Maybe. Did I provoke it? Probably. Would I do it all again? I don't



**Kate Carton**

know. I have a brilliant son, of whom I am endlessly and absolutely proud. Mark is without doubt my greatest achievement in life; a wonderfully strong, kind, loving and level man, despite what I dragged him through. He is a credit to himself. I have a lot of scars, mentally and emotionally; a lot of anger and bitterness inside me. I will probably be a psychiatric outpatient on anti depressants for the remainder of my life, but life is one hell of a lot better now than it was.

I have spent years in therapy and counselling and most of the time now I'm in control of the dragons, but occasionally the dragons win for a while. What of Mark's father? That's another story for another day and perhaps not mine to tell. Suffice it to say that he was as good a father to Mark as it was possible for him to be under his circumstances until his death. I loved him, he loved me and we both loved Mark.

I wouldn't be who I am now if I hadn't gone through what I did, and I've reached a stage, at long last, where I'm happy with who I am and where I'm going. The clashes and controversies are probably not over, I'm not ready to toe the line yet, but my future fights will be chosen by me, on my terms and I will, as always, take the consequences, whatever they may be. Finally... The Mother and Baby Institutions were not all bad all the time. They saved some of us from a society that was worse.

The following is an extract from

## "The Invitation"

a poem by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

*I want to know if you have touched the centre of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shrivelled and closed from fear of further pain.*

*I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it, or fade it, or fix it.*

*I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own; if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, be realistic, remember the limitations of being human.*

*I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself. If you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul.*

*If you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy.*

*I want to know if you can see Beauty even when it is not pretty every day. And if you can source your own life from its presence.*

*I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand at the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, 'Yes.'*

## Blaney promises a positive campaign for Europe

Senator Niall Blaney, is promising to fight a positive campaign to win a seat in the European Parliament in June.

He said: "Our effort will be characterised by energy and drive to reach as many people as possible in Midlands-North West. It will be a positive campaign as, frankly, voters want to hear what I can offer them and their families and are switched off by unproductive shouting matches.

We cannot and must not be side-lined in the share-out of funds to do what's needed to create balance to regional development.

Farming sustains the Midlands-North West, but too often our young people leave for opportunities elsewhere. A more sympathetic planning system is required to make it easier for the offspring of rural Irish families to stay at home. Too often, planning stands in

the way of allowing children to build on family land and that leads to a brain drain where rural Ireland and the family are the big losers.

"A significant issue in this election is immigration. Thousands of newcomers are in the constituency, victims of brutal wars and oppression. We rely heavily on immigrants in our health service, tourism and other areas. But such is the level of the influx that towns and cities in this constituency are at bursting point, particularly when it comes to accessing health and education services.

We haven't the capacity to cope. Those here who are performing vital roles, and who have arrived legitimately with the approval of the State, I say you're most welcome. Many refugees are unable to work and want to gain employment. The rules are unnecessarily harsh and have to change.



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# Bia ag Caint

with Noel MacLiam

Tá fáilte roimh achán duine ar ais go dtí ár spás féin. Caithfidh mé a rá gur bhain mé sult as Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá na Féile Padraig. Bhí mé ag seinm ceoil ar an Lá mór sa Bridge Bar i Ráth Mealtáin, ón 6 go dtí a 8 a chlog; deas luath, agus mar sin bhí páistí agus daoine fosta ann le chéile, ag ithe agus ag ól agus ag éisteacht leis an Ceól agus na hamhráin Is breá liom na glúintí uilig a fheiceáil le chéile ag glacadh páirt sa chomhlúadar; bhí sé iontach spéisialta gach duine ag bualadh le chéile ag ócáid mar sin.



hann san nuachtán The GUARDIAN na Sasana. Tá colún aici : THE PERFECT..... Má tá tú ag iarraidh oideas ar mhias claiseach, mar shampla BOLOGNESE, cuir isteach The Perfect Bolognese agus gheobhaidh tú í. An modh oibre atá aici ná go ndéanann sí comparáid eadar oidis éagsúla scríofa ag Chefs mór le rá agus cuireann sí na modhanna uilig le chéile le oideas 'foirfe' a chuir chun cinn. I mo bhariúil tá sí i measc na daoine is fearr atá ann. Bainigí triall aisti, a chairde Ghaeil!

## CRAICEANN PRÁTAÍ FEISTITHE Loaded Potato Skins



Bhí se go hiontach sibhialta ar fad fosta, caithfidh mé a rá, le gach duine dea-mhúinte agus cairdiúil, agus óiche bhreá ag achán duine. Luaigh mé riamh cé chomh maith agus atá an bialann thuas staighre sa Bridge Bar, agus tig leat ithe sios staighre fosta má is mian leat, réiteach atá sasuil do gach duine i mo bhariúil. D'amharc mé ar an biachlár bialainne arís, agus, mar is gnáth, tá sé iontach suimiúil. Tá tú ábalta sólaistí deasa a bheith agat agus tú ag fáil deoch. Tá an béim ar bhia na Spáinne agus an Fhráinc. Mar shampla tá TAPENADE le fáil, taos galánta deas déanta le olóigí dubha, capras, gairleog agus ola olóige, le hithe ar arán brioscach. Tá almóinn rósta goirt ann atá foirfe le gloine fiona nó leanna. Ach, bí cúramach, cuirfidh siad tart ort agus seans go mbéidh gloine eile de dhíth ort!

Chonaic mé daoine ag ól gloine leana agus ag gráinseáil ar na miasanna seo agus cuma breá sasta orthu, caithfidh mé a rá. Tá rud iontach sibhialta ann a bheith ábalta rud éigean blasta a bheith agat, má's feidir déanta agat féin, agus tú ag caitheamh ama le cairde nó clann. An rud is mó leis na miasanna beaga seo ná na blasanna am mheascadh le chéile, milis le blasta, tirim le fliuch; mar shampla liamhas SERRANO le cáis gorm agus slísín piorra ar chipín manglaim, é milis agus goirt agus blasta ag an am céanna. Fosta, tá tú ábalta cuid mhór a dhéanamh gan mórán airgid a chaitheamh.

Tá tú ar lorg blas suimiúil le codarsnacht eadar na comhábhair. Bí crúthaíocht agus crógach! Rud maith le déanamh is é sin taighde a dhéanamh duit féin- gabháil ar líne agus cuardach a dhéanamh cén saghas miasanna atá le fáil ann. De réir a chéile gheobhaidh tú amach faoi suiomhanna agus scríobhneoirí a thaitníonn leat. Sampla maith duit is i bean darbh ainm FELICITY CLOAKE a scríob-

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**Modh**  
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píosa cáis leis agus ceangáil suas le ruachán agus cipín manglaim. Cuir amach.

Ag seinm ceoil. Playing music  
Glúintí. Generations  
Ag bualadh le chéile. Meeting up  
Comhlúadar. Company of people  
Sibhialta. Civilised  
Déan-mhúinte. Well-mannered  
Cairdiúil. Friendly  
Luaigh mé. I mentioned  
Má is mian leat If you wish  
Réiteach. Solution  
Sásúil. Satisfactory  
Sólaistí. Delicacies  
Béim. Emphasis  
Capras. Capers  
Almóinn rósta. Roasted almonds  
Bí cúramach. Be careful  
Ag gráinseáil. Nibbling  
Cipín manglaim. Cocktail stick  
Goirt. Salty  
Ar lorg. Looking for  
Crúthaíocht. Creative  
Crógach. Brave  
Gabháil ar líne. Go online  
Cuardach. Search  
Suíomh/anna. Internet site/s  
Modh oibre. Method of working  
Mór le rá. Well known, famous  
Comparáid. Comparison  
Cinneadh. Decision  
Uachtar géar. Sour cream  
Cáis chéadair. Cheddar cheese  
Duilleog ruacháin. Rocket leaf

## Donegal Sports Partnership allocated €437,887

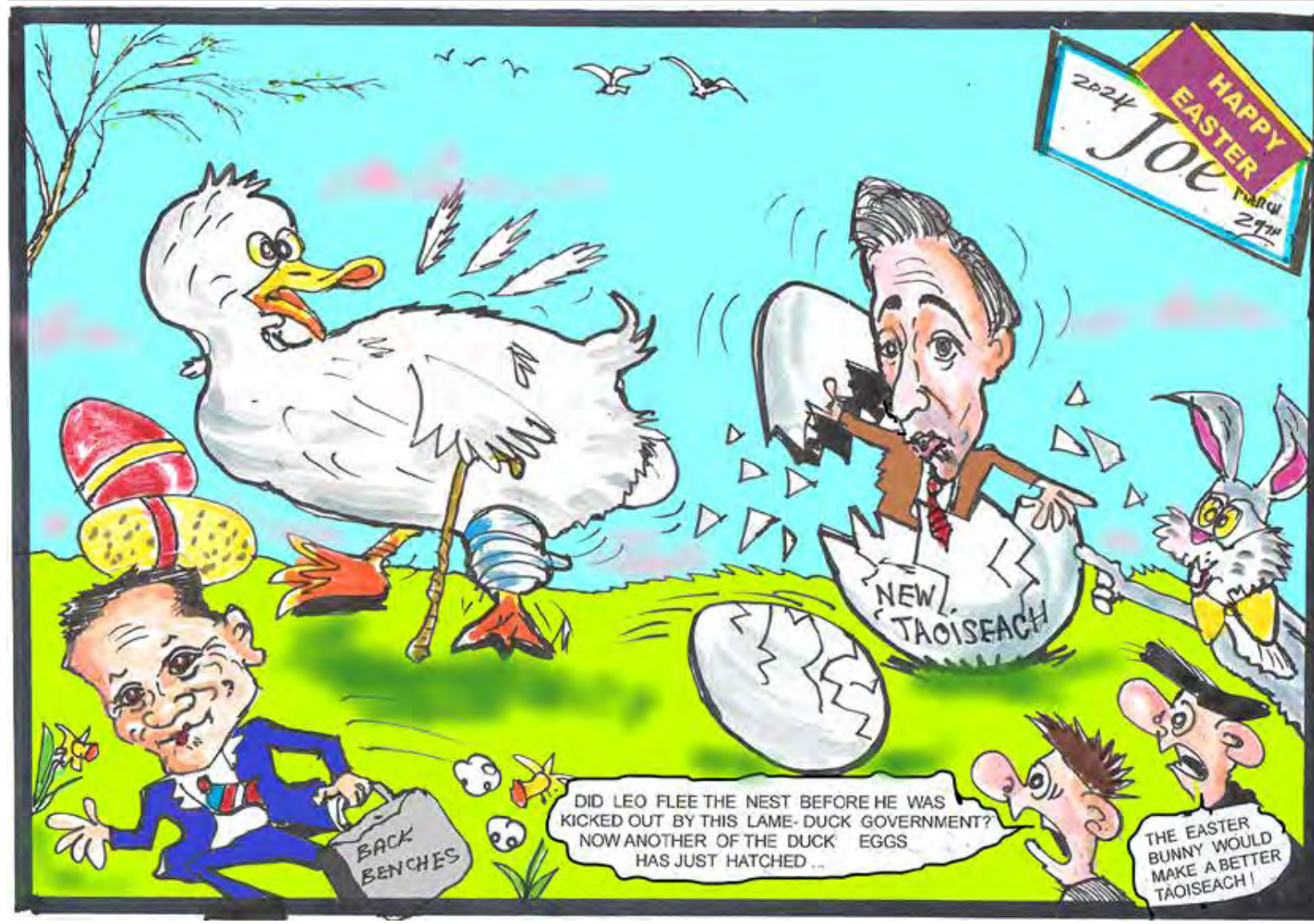
Donegal Sports Partnership has been allocated €437,887 in core funding through Sport Ireland for 2024. The local organisation will also receive €7,000 for Women in Sport.

Welcoming the announcement, Charlie McConalogue, said: "This is a significant investment in Donegal Sports Partnership which does tremendous work in our county. The total allocation of €444,877 is the fifth highest in the county and increase of €60,000 on last year's allocation. This latest investment will help assist the team at Donegal Sports Partnership to continue the tremendous work they do throughout our local communities."

"Since it was established in 2001, Donegal Sports Partnership has worked hard to deliver programmes to increase participation rates, particularly in the hard-to-reach groups by providing high quality training and coach education programmes. Sport and physical activity have always been key features of life in Donegal, and Donegal Sports Partnership plays a vital role in promoting a wide selection of programmes that are inclusive and contribute to people's physical and mental well-being."

"This continued increase in core funding for sports bodies demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting Irish sport," Minister McConalogue said.

"It will ensure that sport bodies can continue to provide valuable opportunities for everyone to participate in sport, in line with our National Sports Policy. It is vital that organisations like Donegal Sports Partnership continue to receive government support to allow them to continue the excellent work they do for so many groups, clubs, and individuals," he added.



DID LEO FLEE THE NEST BEFORE HE WAS KICKED OUT BY THIS LAME-DUCK GOVERNMENT? NOW ANOTHER OF THE DUCK EGGS HAS JUST HATCHED ...

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# Successful Ulster Schools Drama Festival

A very successful Ulster Schools Drama Festival drew to a close on Wednesday evening at An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny.

The festival was run by An Cumann Scoil-drámaíochta, the national association responsible for promoting schools drama all over the island of Ireland. A total of 26 school plays made it to the Ulster Final with over 800 students participating on stage last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The plays were performed over the two days by primary and post primary schools and youth groups from throughout Donegal – from Gaoth Dobhair, Cloich Cheann Fhaola, Rann na Feirste, Gleann Fhinne, Éadan Fhionn Fraoich and Bun an Phonail. There were also schools from all over the province of Ulster including counties Derry, Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone and Monaghan.

The director of the festival, Noel Ó Gallchóir, noted: "It was one of our most successful festivals to date, and it was brilliant to see the number of young people attending and speaking Irish". The audience were treated to some top class entertainment with both a mix of newly written plays by both teachers and students along with some older productions like 'Peter Pan', 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory' to name a few.

Paul McAvinchey from Co. Armagh, who was warmly praised in his role as adjudicator, announced the results at the awards ceremony. He commented 'It is clear that schools drama in Ul-

ster is extremely strong at present and in great health. Congratulations to all the children, teachers and parents on promoting the Irish language'.

The overall best drama was 'Mac Tíre na Draíochta' from Scoil Chnoc na Naomh in Doire Chonaire near Gort an Choirce. Their drama was a newly written play by Louise Nic Giolla Chearra. The best male actor award went to 'Franc' Micheal Joseph Mac Pháidín from Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola.

The best female actress award went to 'Mairéad' Niamh Nic Pháidín from Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair.

The best production of a newly written play went to Siobhán Uí Dhúgáin with 'Faoi Bhois An Chait' from Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola.

The sectional winners were:

Roinn 1: Scoil Iorball Sionnaigh, Muineachán An Táin Bó Cuailgne

Roinn 2: Scoil Chnoc na Naomh, Doire Chonaire \*Mac Tíre na Draíochta

Roinn 3: Gaelscoil na gCrann, An Ómaigh Tragóid na Titanice

Roinn 4: Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola \*Faoi Bhois an Chait

Roinn 5: Scoil Oilibhéar Pluincéad, Rann na Feirste \*Labhair an Teanga Gaeilge

Roinn 6: Scoil na Crannóige, Gaoth Dobhair \*An Turas

Roinn 7: Gaelscoil Ultáin, Muineachán Peter Pan

There was a number of special awards:

Córagrafaíocht: Damhsa na nEalaí, Clann Lir, Scoil an Choimín, Gleann Fhinne

Córagrafaíocht/ Úsáid stáitse sa Mhairséal: An Táin Bó Cuailgne, Scoil Iorball Sionnaigh

Ard-Chaighdeán an Cheoil: Táin Bó Cuailgne—ó a Dhia! Bunscoil Phádraig, Crois Mhig Linnáin

Bomaite Speisialta Drámaíochta: An Cóta Mór ag Teach chun Beatha, Airnéal, Scoil Éadan Fhionn Fraoich

Óg-Aisteoir is Fearr: Buachaill: Ultán, Tragóid na Titanice, Gaelscoil na gCrann, An Ómaigh

Óg-Aisteoir is Fearr: Cailín: Méabha, Táin Bó Cuailgne - Ó a Dhia! Bunscoil Phádraig, Crois Mhig Linnáin

The 12 Ulsters Winners that have been nominated for the National Final in Mullingar from 17-24 April.

Scoil Taobhóige, Leifear Séarlaí agus an Mhonarcha Seaclaíde Bunscoil Phádraig, Crois Mhig Linnáin Táin Bó

Scoil Chnoc na Naomh, Doire Chonaire with their newly written 'Mac Tíre na Draíochta' who won the Best Production award at Féile Uladh in An Grianán.



Máire Uí Chonghaile from Scoil an Choimín receiving a special award from Aodh Mairtín Ó Fearraigh, RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta at Féile Uladh for 'Clann Lir'.

Aodh Mairtín Ó Fearraigh, Regional Head of RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta with members of the cast of 'An Turas', Scoil na Crannóige, Gaoth Dobhair who won their section at Féile Uladh.



Cuailgne—ó a Dhia!

Scoil Iorball Sionnaigh, Muineachán An Táin Bó Cuailgne

Scoil Oilibhéar Pluincéad, Rann na Feirste

\*Labhair an Teanga Gaeilge

Gaelscoil Ultáin, Muineachán Peter Pan

na gCrann, An Ómaigh

Tragóid na Titanice

Gaelscoil Uí Néill, Oileán an Ghuail

An Sionnach Glic

Scoil Chnoc na Naomh, Doire Chonaire

\*Mac Tíre na Draíochta

Scoil Chonail, An Bun Beag

Trí náid síos ag leath ama

Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola

\*Faoi Bhois an Chait

Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair

Arís Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair

Tá dóigh thart ar achan rud

Aodh Máirtín Ó Fearraigh, Bainisteoir Réigiúin RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta, presented the awards and spoke of his younger days participating in dramas at national school and all the fond memories.

A thank you to the sponsors:

Meitheal Pleanála Teanga an Iar Thuaiscirt, TG4, Ealaín na Gaeltachta and RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta for their continued support.

Thanks also to the staff of



Karen Friel, Micheal Joseph Mac Pháidín and Siobhán Uí Dhúgáin from Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola with Aodh Mairtín Ó Fearraigh, RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta with their 3 awards at Féile Uladh.



Scoil Oilibhéar Pluincéad, Rann na Feirste with their newly written musical, 'Labhair an Teanga Gaeilge' who won their section at Féile Uladh and were nominated to the National Festival.

the An Grianán Theatre, who provided us with a platform to showcase our festival, and were always so helpful. Well done to all involved!

More photos from the festival can be found on [www.facebook.com/thallis-abhus](http://www.facebook.com/thallis-abhus)



The cast of 'Faoi Bhois an Chait', Pobalscoil Chloich Cheann Fhaola who won their section and the award for the best production of a new play at Féile Uladh, and gained a nomination to the National Festival.



Aodh Mairtín Ó Fearraigh, RTÉ Raidió Na Gaeltachta and Louise Nic Giolla Chearra, Scoil Chnoc na Naomh who won the award for Best Production at Féile Uladh with the adjudicator Paul McAvinchey.



# Fine Gael's top ministers line up... to escape!

*The new Fine Gael generation that became Varadkar's style and spin saw so much of their important grassroots support base vanish without any trace. Great workers, campaigners and election organisers are gone and there is an urgent need to recruit a new local dynamic around the 43 constituencies. They're the ones that Simon Harris must win back. With the local elections looming ever closer, FG here in Donegal is struggling to put enough candidates in the field to increase their numbers on the Council in Lifford.*

*Simon Harris must turn take back more than Ireland's flag....*

Last week's incredible 24 hours in the world of Fine Gael politics was about as much as people could take. Because it was only ever going to be Simon Harris to grasp the hottest of pokers to be the new Taoiseach and FG party leader.

And that despite his very poor record as Minister for Health that led to the Taoiseach calling a general election in January 2020. He knew the vote of no confidence in Harris was one he could not win: the preference was a February election that would see FG losing another fifteen seats.

On Sunday the coronation was completed in Athlone with Harris hammering Sinn Féin and this went down well with elements of the national press and the blue rinse brigade.

He promised to repay his party supporters with blood, sweat and tears. The sort of hard graft one hears wherever McAlpine's Fusiliers is the soundtrack.

In 2011, he was elected as a TD for Wicklow. As the youngest deputy in the 31st Dáil aged 24, he quickly came to public attention and in 2014 was elected as a Minister of State in the Department of Finance. As part of his meteoric rise, he was appointed Minister for Health in 2016, and remained there until June 2020.

His time in this portfolio came with a rake of controversies. He was at the helm in 2018 when it emerged that over 200 women had developed cervical cancer after receiving incorrect smear results. Some 162 of these women had not been told their smears were incorrect. Some of them died.

Then in April 2017 Minister Harris confirmed the Government has approved the investment required to enable the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board to award

the construction contracts for the building of the main child-ren's hospital on the St. James's Hospital campus and the two Paediatric Outpatients and Urgent Care Centres on the Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals sites. This decision means that the project can proceed without delay. Construction of the new children's hospital will commence within weeks.

Minister Harris said: "Today is a huge step forward for the children's hospital project, ending years of doubt as to whether it would ever be built. Today, there is no more doubt. This hospital will be built. Our children have waited a long time for this new hospital but there is light at the end of the tunnel now. I anticipate that the new hospital, which will serve all of the children of all Ireland, will open in 2021, with the two Outpatient and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly opening well in advance at the end 2018 and the first quarter of 2019".

Why are we still waiting?

He studied journalism for a year at DCU and I'd imagine he may need to go back there to deliver on FG's hopes and aspirations. He also said he would be going back to the "decent, hardworking grassroots" of Fine Gael. Has anyone told him who they are and if they can be contacted?

And Harris made "empty promises" as Minister for Health to children with scoliosis, a campaign group has claimed.

Scoliosis is a condition which means a child's spine begins to curve sideways. In 2017 as the Health Minister, Simon Harris said waiting times for surgery were "appalling".

"We're going to fix it. We're going to make sure by the end of this year, no child waits in this country

longer for a scoliosis procedure than four months."

Seven years on, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Paediatric Advocacy Group founder Amanda Coughlan said little has changed since then. "We had more empty promises from Stephen Donnelly and Simon Harris. We have been consistently beating this drum since 2016; we wrote to Simon Harris when he was Minister for Health in 2016 to highlight not only the orthopaedic issues that were being faced by our children. But also the urology issues that were being faced by our children."

One parent who knows only too well how serious the condition is is Tony Foley, whose son Ronan Foley waited three years for scoliosis surgery.

Mr. Foley described his son as an "inspirational young man" and now at the age of 18 he is "doing very well". When Ronan was diagnosed with scoliosis at the age of 12, they were told he needed surgery within three months.

"Time passed and time passed and it went on to a year and a half, nearly two years and we decided we can't wait any longer. We had to do something about it, so we started up a media campaign to try and get the thing rolling as much as we could." Although his son is now doing well, Mr Foley said: "Here we are seven years later from the situation and it is still as bad as it was then. Successive Governments and successive Ministers for Health and the situation is still the same and it's very disheartening."

Now the new Taoiseach, the last one standing in the race to replace Varadkar has told the nation he's prepared to serve and we collectively wish him well.

However, the same issues dominate the headlines. Housing: Health: Waiting Lists: Homelessness, Ukrainian refugees without a place for a bed: Student Accommodation: the Infrastructure: they are all crying out for funding in a country with a wealth of money - yet the vital services are struggling to stem the tide of demand and with many hospitals reporting overcrowding, it would seem the clock has stopped ticking a decade ago.

But that is now the business of Simon Harris whose been in cabinet for so many years Last Wednesday they'd all lined out to pay tribute to Leo Varadkar, his seven years in the sun now gone and then all thoughts

turned to who'd take on the job. But really, who'd ever want to lead a party that has lost 41 TDs since 2011? And there's no escaping the reality that they've also lost over 351,000 voters in those years. So that makes FG a party on a downward spiral and who would want to be in the vanguard of their new Project 2040? Not a task for the faint hearted, but Simon Harris does have a highly promising past. As Leo Varadkar turned back to Government Buildings for the last time as party leader last Wednesday, the media circus was instantly naming only one man for Taoiseach. It was going to be a one horse race with the experienced senior ministers having the common sense to step away.

Paschal Donohue who'd spent most of the past five years saying no to ministerial requests to spend money (maybe even for a mica solution in Donegal) was not up for a run to the top of the ladder. Simon Coveney had already walked away and the numbers were dwindling by every passing hour. For one frightful hour I'd have put good money on Jennifer Carroll MacNeill stepping into the breach. But she's a mere novice in politics: a first time deputy and a very junior, junior minister. But if need be, she might be tempted.

Those still in the hunt were Helen McEntee and Heather Humphries and Simon. Suddenly McEntee was backing Simon and thereby avoiding an embarrassing demotion. What would Heather Humphries have done as Taoiseach? At least she knows how to talk to the electorate and could have been the catalyst to rebuild a run down party structure.

Hark back to 2017 when Leo Varadkar was the promised son, set to deliver a new beginning for FG. The party was being rebooted, reimagined as Leo, all style and little else, led his team to the nearest gym. Slick, trendy, on message and rebooted. This was the new FG that got up early in the morning and they'd emerge as a slimmer, fitter team.

That was never going to happen because Leo was very new era. Soon the grassroots of the party realised that their role was virtual only, surplus to requirements, but they could turn up for branch meetings, even if those they elected, sometimes were absent. It sure was the birth of the FG whizz kid generation, jetting off to Brussels and the USA for a never-ending agenda



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## Comment

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of meetings. Meanwhile the core base of the party was left to wonder what was going on. Never mind the fact that in the 2016 general election FG lost 26 seats but the slump in grassroots support was worse. The proactive branch era of Fine Gael took a hit when Paddy Harte lost his seat in 1997.

However, Enda Kenny brought his own persona to the party. He was equally at home in Donegal on a Saturday at midday having lunch with the local party stalwarts or in Churchill on a Friday evening putting up a pint for everyone in the bar.... That all did count come the elections.

The new Fine Gael generation that became Varadkar's style saw so much of their important grassroots support base gone. Great workers, campaigners and election organisers are gone and there is an urgent need to recruit a new local dynamic.

They're the ones that Simon Harris must win back. With the local elections looming ever closer, FG here in Donegal is struggling to put enough candidates in the field to increase their numbers on the Council in Lifford.

Simon Harris must take back more than the national flag...

The question is can the new FG Taoiseach achieve more in one year than Leo Varadkar had achieved in his seven years as party leader and most of the time as Taoiseach?

In a year's time we will have answers to all the questions. The optics might be different, the emphasis on areas of most concern may well take on an extra urgency and in the coming months the mettle of Harris will be tested on the doorsteps as the nation votes in two important elections.

Fine Gael was reduced to 35 seats in 2020 and with a tsunami of experienced deputies quitting, it is possible that few may have a change of heart with Harris offering them a better deal should he return to office after the general election.

And so to Athlone for the party's ratification of their two EU candidates in the EU elections.

But the comments of veteran Mayo's Deputy Michael Ring were being processed all morning in the media.

Ring, a former rural affairs minister had earlier hammered the direction that Fine Gael had taken under Leo Varadkar.

"We are not a left-wing party, we are a centre party and Fine Gael has to move back into the centre again, and more to the right. We need to go back to core issues, law and order, we need to be doing more on law and order.

We need to go back to small businesses and farmers and we need to forget about a lot of these social issues we have been raising over the last few years that have been annoying people and upsetting people."

Deputy Ring told Simon Harris that he needed to go back to Fine Gael core values.

Harris, who will never be mistaken for a leftie, is keen to hammer home that despite all of his own talk of renewal, revitalisation, and reinvigoration, he was happy with the last 13 years of Fine Gael rule.

And herein lies a crux because he's seen as more in the mould of Varadkar and the FG grassroots may have to wait a year longer for the aspirations of Michael Ring to be considered. But the test for Mr Harris won't be how well he can preach to the choir but can he fill the pews to turn up the sound of a Sunday morning in traditional homes where the gospel of FG still shines?

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# Gibbstown comes home: 'An inc

*Nobody can echo that proud sense of Irish freedom more than Máirín Shiels whose grandfather, the legendary, 'An Tailiúr Rua' from Doaghmore was part of that small band of Fanad Patriots that put their lives in peril to assassinate the Third Earl of Leitrim on Tuesday morning April 2nd 1898 at Cratlagh Wood. Today's generation owes just about everything to those gallant men - we are surely standing on the shoulders of giants in Irish history that continue to echo around the hills and valleys of our native land.*

For the many that came to Fanad on Friday night to welcome home the migrant families from Gibbstown, the local Community Centre resonated with a sense of pride, passion



Paddy Carr is presented with a copy of the book by Michael Shiels.



Sisters Margaret Dorrian and Mamie Curley.



Tom Sweeney from Omagh and Paddy Carr.



Brendan, Maria and Gerard McAteer.

and the yearning to foster the Irish language.

**by John McAteer**

It was a night where pride in the native language spoke a million words in tribute to an earlier generation who made the brave decision to leave home, perhaps never to return. Some of them knew no other language and would not have travelled outside their own parish before leaving everything to seek a better life in Gibbstown.

Those memories, the very strong links so deeply rooted in Fanad and Gaoth Dobhair of the nineteen thirties, are the stuff of dreams for a new generation with babies in their arms when, for one night only, Fanad wrapped its collective heart and soul around their special visitors from Gibbstown.

The fifty year old hall never was more resplendent in the county colours of Meath and Donegal and the place rocked to the memories of the generations, the names and the traditions of those who departed to establish Gaeltacht colonies far from home. And the local community came out in big numbers in heavy rain and gales to ensure that the welcome was well worth waiting for 87 years. And it was... and more!

The crowd lingered to visit the display of old photographs of the thatched cottages and the homes and families that the migrants left behind.

The fine old townlands: the family names were all there: the Shiels connection, the McCarrys, Carrs, Clintons, Boyle and Callaghan. And the many McAteers: some of whom we met on Friday night. The legendary 'Johnny Mac an tSaoir' from Baile Uir, a sage with wisdom to match his age. A wise man, of a generation from An Gorta Mór, the hunger and poverty and mass emigration. He was 104 when he died and we heard about the family lineage, the thatched home on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, the few cattle on the small holdings, fishing in the currachs.

The new book is in hardback and its as Gaeilge agus Bearla and in time it will become the family bible as new generations connect with their ancestors from this part of Donegal. The book's authors were Máire Ní Chonchúir, Máire Nic an tSithigh, Eilín Nic an tSithigh, Máire Uí Chasaide, Máirín Ní Shíadhail, Anraí Mac Garaidh.

Harry McGarry's contribution on Friday night set the scene for the return of the Gibbstown community and their sense of pride in being back in Fanad amongst

their own. Speaking in the fluency and flow of Irish he outlined the history of the migrant colonies in Meath and the political landscape of the era that led to the migrant colonies and their sense of pride in being a proud Gibbstown Gaeltacht.

Harry's own family was from Kinalough and he recalled the morning of their departure with frosty shafts of sunlight coming through the window. It would be the final time he woke up in the little cottage nestling on the lake shore. He referenced the families that left Fanad that fateful day: those family steeped in Gaelic folklore, Eddie Daniel Neidi, the John Mhanais family, Johnny Mhor Shiels, the Paddy Hughie's and those

identities that gave them a sense of their own history and a place that would always be home to them

Mr. McGarry said: "They left their cherished homes and families, their fishing and working the land. It was a brave commitment to their children to give them a better way of life," he added.

Mr McGarry said those that left home were 'special people and that's why so many from Gibbstown are here tonight.'

Their first school was not Irish speaking: there were 180 children crammed into two classrooms. It would take quite some time before they got their own Gaeltacht school. That was real progress and they adapted to a new way of life and today they are delighted with the progress achieved.

Friday night was a homecoming with the families of Meath migrants coming back to join the heritage that has given them their own unique identity, the sense of belonging and being welcomed home to the laughter, the goodwill and the music of the bodhran, the tin whistles and the accordions.

A night to reminisce and to remember with nostalgia but one of a sense of quiet goodwill as those fourteen families from Fanad and four more from West Donegal came back to their roots. It was a night where extended relationships were explored, new friends were made and Paddy Sheamais Carr, a very local connection in Baile an Chnoic agus Seanach Dubh was honoured and proud to launch 'Destination Gibbstown' and to reminisce on the Fanad landscape his own family circle left behind. He made a fine speech, full of history, remembering his own father Barney, now 92 and resident in Dublin. Barney was five years old, the son of Mary and Paddy, like so many of the generation that lived in a small thatched house.

Among the crowd at the Community Centre was Mick Meenan from Ladden. He's now a sprightly 94 and he saw the Doaghmore bus passing by his doorstep on Good Friday morning in 1937.

Those thatched cottages were unique abodes and while families struggled for many years to earn a living, the big takeaway was the sense of friendship, the meitheal where families shared horses to work the land. They also shared fresh produce, milk and much more.

Life was more simple because people were equal: equally poor. But in that alone there was a sense of sharing and caring: where the hearth fire and the kettle forever on the crook with an open door always there to welcome any and everyone that might pass their way.

Paddy Carr said it was "an incredibly emotional moment for everybody. It is a remarkable story, a beautiful publication. The one thing that I take from it is the courage and the hope of the migrant families".

He added: "They left home that morning and the bus that brought them was full of hope. Tonight is a celebration and Baile Ghib is a very special place, enriched by all your families." he added.

Nobody can echo that proud sense of Irish freedom more than Máirín Shiels whose grandfather, the legendary, 'An Tailiúr Rua' Shiels from Doaghmore was part of that small band of Fanad Patriots that put their lives in peril to cross Mulroy Bay at dawn in a small rowboat to assassinate the Third Earl of Leitrim on Tuesday morning April 2nd 1898 at Cratlagh Wood.

Their actions ended the era of landlordism in Ireland and freed the poverty stricken community from the grip of tyranny and oppression. Today's generation owes



Paddy Carr, Marion NI Fhearraigh, Harry McGarry, Fiona Shiels, Máirín Shiels



Deirdre Callaghan, Harry McGarry, Máirín Shiels and Kathleen M.

just about everything to those gallant men - we are standing on the shoulders of those giants in Irish history and bravery that continues to echo around the hills and valleys of rural Ireland.

And nowhere was this more evident than here in the heartland of the Fanad Peninsula. Neil Shiels Doaghmore, Michael Herraghty Tullyconnell, Michael McElwee Ballywhorisky - they were but honest and poor men with a sense of justice and freedom in their souls, burning brightly for brighter



Marion NI Fhearraigh receiving a copy of the book.



Members of the Fanad Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Group providing the music.



Fr. Liam B.



# An incredibly emotional moment'



Harry McGarry, Fiona Shiels, Máirín Shiels and Con Begley.



Harry McGarry, Máirín Shiels and Kathleen McConigley.



Marion NI Fhearraigh receiving a copy from Grainne Duffy.



Fr. Liam Boyle with Seamus Dorrian and Aishling Dorrian.

times ahead.

The migrants would have come past the Celtic Cross to the Fanad Patriots at Kindrum Cross Roads as they passed by on their way to an emotive homecoming on Friday night. You could sense the tug of the heartstrings of belonging here in Fanad and the desire of being part of this night as a big group of musicians played the Irish melodies that are hundreds of years old, but a vital link in that very authentic chain that joins us as a truly Gaeltacht sense of being the bearers of a tradition that is hundreds of years old.

The winds and the hailstones battered off the the Community Centre at Traialocha on Friday night as Máirín Shiels spoke from her truly republican heart of what it truly meant to be part of the Gibbstown Gaeltacht, their sense of belonging and being among the first born generation of the migrants is very special.

Máirín said that in the early days life was not easy and they met with hostility from the local communities. She recalled that one of the earlier migrant families had a fatality when an eighteen year old youth fell out of a tree and was killed." The family could not get a burial plot anywhere to bury him and Peadar O'Ceallaigh cycled to Government Buildings on three consecutive days seeking a solution. The bereaved family carried the coffin all the way to Kilbride where he was laid to rest in an unmarked grave."

This was an evening that might never have happened but for the passion of members of the Gibbstown Gaeltacht community who've written an amazing book that traces the background of all 59 families that made the journey into the unknown: and for the Fanad families that departed, it was within a week of the departure on Good Friday in 1937.

And the Gibbstown community came back to Fanad and Donegal in strength on Friday evening and to join with their own kith and kin in an emotive welcome home.

In the 1930s in Meath the Irish Land Commission undertook a social project. Several large farms were acquired and tiny patches of the poorest land in the west of Ireland were exchanged for twenty-two acres of the best in the east. The government's objectives were, firstly, to relieve congestion on the western seaboard, and secondly, to create an Irish-speaking microcosm in the Pale, 40 miles from Dublin, from which Irish would spread out



The McAteer's from Gibbstown and Fanad at the launch of the book.



Sections of the attendance in the Fanad Community Centre on Friday night.



and reverse the language's centuries of decline.

The Gibbstown immigrants came from Donegal, Mayo, Kerry and Cork and initially, experienced difficulty in understanding each other because of dialect differences.

This book, written in Irish with an English translation, is based on family photographs, oral histories and archival sources. It records the effects migration had on the fortunes of the families, their initial amazement at the lush grassland and broad meadows of Meath, and the process of integration with the communities they found themselves among.

It is a story of hardship and courage, and a testament to the pioneering spirit of a generation that took that step into the unknown to give the next generation a chance for the future. It was a brave decision but one that continues to make Gibbstown and Rath Cairn proud to speak the Irish language and proud of their forebears who gave them this opportunity of a new life.

Eighty seven years is a very long time in the life of a small community: the Donegal-Gibbstown link is all the more precious and history does not diminish the importance of its legacy and its beating heart was there for all to see over the weekend. The West Donegal book launch was in the Crolly Distillery on Saturday evening.

And as the celebrations ended on Friday night, presentations were made to Máirín NI Shadhail, Marion NI Fhearraigh, Harry McGarry and Paddy Carr.



Colm Keyes and Frances McCarry.





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## Controversy at FG convention

As the FG conventions for the Letterkenny Town and County Council elections came to a dramatic end at Gleneaney House on Sunday night the meeting heard scathing and highly controversial remarks from Cllr. Sean Maloney in relation to the running of the country at both local and national level.

He ranged across the events that have shaped the nation under Fianna Fail and 'named the names' national and local whom he alleged were in full control of almost every situation in political life in this part of the island.

And nobody or no institution was spared. It was a night to remember in Donegal's colourful tapestry of political legend.

And only moments earlier the crowd heard the FG north west EU candidate Madeline Taylor Quinn warn that the 24 hour A&E emergency cover at Letterkenny General Hospital will disappear with the implementation of the Hanly Report.

In the most controversial passage of his remarks Maloney referred to the alleged culture of corruption: the names of those who've come under the spotlight of tribunal and party scrutiny: the role of FF in the greater plan of Irish political life and what he called, 'the handlers and the fixers who control everything that moves'.

The names of those who've been summoned to the Flood Tribunal and many others came up from Maloney whose speech was designed to set pulses racing in legal circles down at the Four Courts.

And his descriptive language was couched in terms so full of libel intent that could never fit into print: not even in the Tribune.

With reference to one specific claim we asked Supt. John Farrelly the Head of the Garda Press Office in Dublin for an opinion. "You are not real-

ly serious, are you?" he commented.

Madeline Taylor-Quinn told the convention delegates: "The facts are these," says she, "Fianna Fail has signed off on the Hanly Report and until they rescind it the hospitals in Letterkenny, Sligo, Roscommon, Ballinasloe and Ennis will lose their vital 24 hour cover for accidents and emergencies. Fianna Fail is attempting to fool the people, we cannot let that happen."

She went on to say that Hanly is now government policy and press statements by the Health Minister 'stand for absolutely nothing'.

Maloney who was called from the body of the hall to the microphone said it was great to see such a big crowd and hearing such fine speeches.

"But we are not going anywhere if you go home and do nothing else. The campaign starts tomorrow morning and unless we get out there on the doorsteps and work night and day we are doomed. We have to get our act together because Fine Gael is not connecting with the young people, and that's our problem. We must get our message across to the electorate and we must show the young voters we have something to offer them because Fianna Fail has nothing," he added.

Turning to various other hues of his opinion he said that Fine Gael was honest: had integrity: was above board in every respect and that message must be conveyed to the people as never before. "We must let it be clearly known we are not a bunch of crooks and thieves and gangsters: we are not stealing millions from the public: we are honest and upright and Jim Higgins and myself paid a heavy price for our exposing garda activities in the McBrearty case," he suggested.

Terminology relating to a façade of corruption: gangsters: swindlers: crooks: thieves: services of the nation and planning decisions lit up the con-

vention hall as the crowd waited and wondered what might be coming next. This in effect was Maloney's political swan song and he used the occasion to write his memoirs into the annals of the Fine Gael party. And he was applauded by a section of the crowd as he raised the temperature with the profile of his remarks.

Then he turned to Independent Fianna Fail. Repeating his comments from the meeting in Lifford on the development charges he once again said IFF was 'the mudguard of FF' and he was astounded they should back these penal levies.



Pictured at the Fine Gael convention in Letterkenny on Sunday were Senators Jim Higgins and Joe McHugh with Madeline Taylor Quinn and the candidates Charlie McClafferty, Paddy Gildea, Jimmy Kavanagh and Cllr. Jimmy Harte.

At the heart of Sunday night's Fine Gael message was the subtext that they must not be taken in by the campaign to send Dr. James McDaid to Eu-

ropes since it was what Donegal needed most at this critical juncture in our history. Speaker after speaker referred to the FF spin and they claimed it was all designed to get Fine Gael voters to cross party lines and vote McDaid so that he would depart the national political scene.

The ball on this game plan was thrown in by Cllr. Jimmy Harte who said that McDaid had been demoted from the Government Front Bench.

"He was downgraded to a junior minister and I hope he's downgraded again. I don't like this crap that McDaid is on the way out: don't fall into that trap," said Harte.

And Senator Jim Higgins who chaired the convention said it was somewhat odd that in the 1999 Euro elections Fine Gael had 16,000 votes in Donegal.

"Joe McCartan only got four thousand of these votes. Obviously Pat the Cope Gallagher got the other 12,000 and we must not allow that to happen ever again," he stated.

## Hospitals Sports and Social Club has 1100 members



Terry McDonald, Colm Friel, Laura Kerr, Paddy Bond and Joan Byrne, members of the Sports and Social Club Committee.

On Monday March 29 Mary Davis of the Special Olympics Council will be in Letterkenny to launch a major two million Euro programme for the old Chapel at St. Conal's. The project will cater for those members of the community with special needs. It will also provide services for other aspects of the hospitals service and this is where the Sports and Social Club comes in to the wider picture. In former times the chapel could accommodate over eight hundred people: but nowadays with the disappearance of institutional care the place is no longer needed and in recent times it's been used for a variety of other purposes.

It is a very worthy and ambitious project and already the group has a substantial amount of funding in place through their own efforts. The idealism is that grant aid and support mechanisms can

now kick in and make the project a much awaited reality.

On Tuesday afternoon we met with the executive members of the Hospitals Sports and Social club to hear what is going on and what makes them tick.

Terry McDonald is Chairperson: Paddy Bond is Vice Chair: Joan Byrne is Assistant Treasurer: Laura Kerr is Secretary: and among the group was committee member Eamon Friel from Rathmullan. Ann Thomas who is Treasurer was absent due to a visit to Italy. Eamon McCafferty who is PRO was also absent due to work commitments.

Terry McDonald explained the pros and cons of their group. They were established some years ago: in 1995 in fact to give the community working across such a large campus a chance to meet: to socialise and to provide a platform

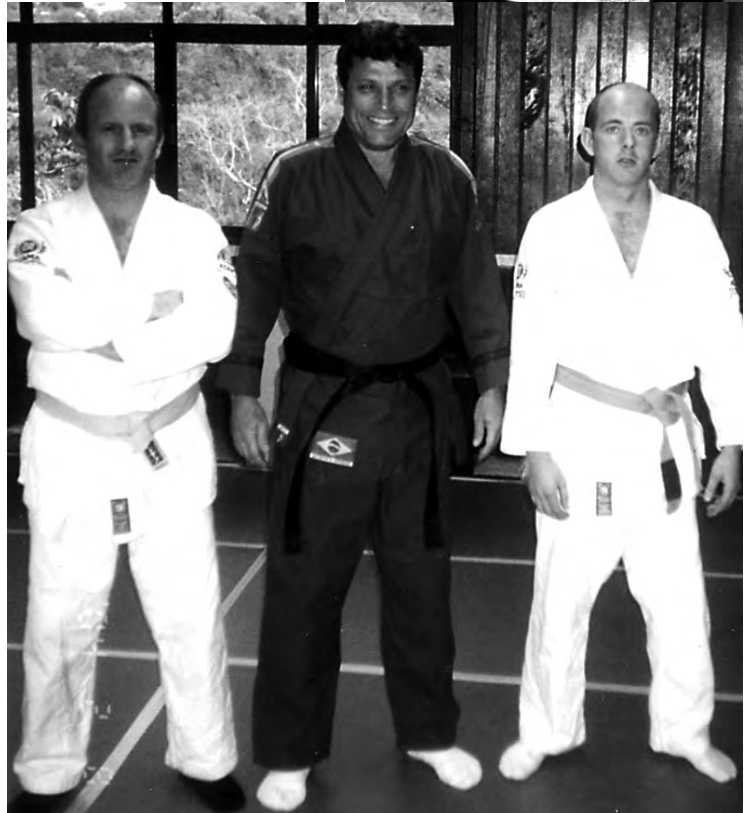
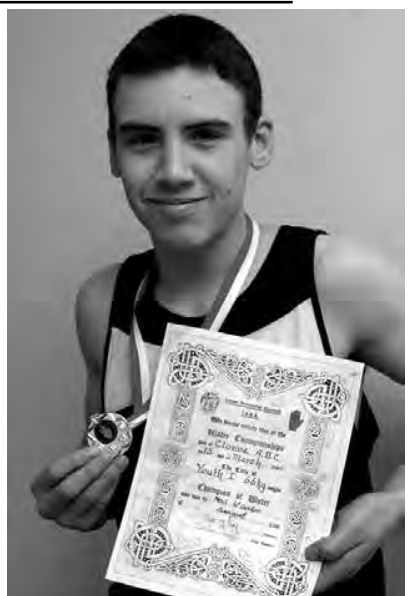
for getting familiar. People like Seamus McIntyre: Ella Mulhern and Liam Duffy of the ambulance service played a major role in those formative years.

Over those years they have raised funds for a number of local charities on an annual basis along with getting decent discounts from a range of more than fifty business premises around the locality. In 2003 the Club presented three grand to local voluntary charitable committees in Letterkenny area.

The Club has a wide remit as Paddy Bond explains. In their first year they had 150 members and ever since it has grown steadily to become a very big influence within the service. The Club is open to everyone within the hospitals and they try to offer a range of services: sport and activities to embrace all interests and pastimes.

## Carrigart Boxing News

On Sunday 7th March Noel McCarron (pictured right) competed in the North West Zones in the 66kg Youth 1 section. He stopped D. McCafferty from Dunkineely in the second round. On Saturday 13th March he boxed in Coalisland to win the Ulster Championship beating Declan Trainer, St. Bronach's, Co. Down, who was last year's Irish champion. Noel now travels to Dublin this Friday to compete for the All Ireland champion title. Also on Friday night Gerard McCarron, Seamus Gallagher and John Doherty will compete in Donegal Town.



The Lion and his two loyal cubs.... Carley Gracie (The Lion of the Gracie family) 8th Dan black belt in Gracie Ju-Jitsu after grading John McAteer to Purple Belt and William Toye to Blue Belt at his training camp in the mountain of Rio De Janiero





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# Council response 'utterly pathetic'

MacLochlainn

The Buncrana SF Cllr. Pdraig MacLochlainn has described as "utterly pathetic" the response from Donegal County Council in relation to his comments earlier this week on turnkey housing schemes in the county.

MacLochlainn has made allegations in relation to what he says is a situation where legal pursuance is being followed by the Council over unfinished works in Letterkenny and at the same time a further multi-Euro scheme has been awarded to the same client elsewhere.

A statement from the Assistant County Manager and Director of Housing, Liam Kelly has rejected aspects of MacLochlainn's comments but it accepts they are "pursuing a number of developers regarding compliance with planning conditions relating to road surfaces etc. He said that with regard to turnkey schemes in other locations referred to by MacLochlainn a number of minor complaints have been made.

"This is not unusual and the complaints are being dealt with by the Council in accordance with normal practice," adds the Assistant County Manager. Mr. Kelly said no issues have been raised in relation to another development referred to by the SF representative in the Inishowen area and the scheme is progressing satisfactorily. Responding to Liam Kelly's statement MacLochlainn said that it was 'utterly pathetic and completely avoided the core questions he'd raised'. MacLochlainn said in relation to the problem on a Letterkenny estate the residents group had been campaigning for the past eighteen months to have essential infrastructure works completed and these works just had not happened. Liam Kelly knows exactly the problems to which I'm referring and it is a bit rich of him to come out with such a pathetic statement in these circumstances.

He has totally ignored my core question and I'm challenging him again in public to come up with a satisfactory response."

Cllr. MacLochlainn says there are many other turnkey schemes left in a similar situation and the Council already has details of some. A further 'snagging list' of problems is now being compiled in a number of areas and he's demanding urgent action from the Council to find solutions.

MacLochlainn said "After all one has to ask the Council if it is a good enough practice to allow schemes to be occupied for months and in some cases for years and they are not completed. I have visited a number of such schemes and they've been left in a disgraceful condition. Roads are not finished: there are difficulties with joinery: energy: plumbing and many other unresolved issues. Is the Council satisfied with the standard of completion in all cases? And if not what action have they been taking?"

MacLochlainn says he's been promised an urgent meeting with Council officials this week on the issue.

"This whole episode will be of serious concern to residents who have fought long and hard to have their developments completed as agreed with roads surfaced, trees planted, traffic calming measures and road signs erected.

I have received widespread complaints from residents in turnkey housing in Letterkenny, Raphoe, Newtown and Buncrana. I find this absolutely disgraceful when you consider that the contractors are receiving the full market price for their houses."

He concluded "The council has serious questions to answer over their turnkey policy. Are they learning nothing from the problems that have been brought to their attention so far?"

## Ten year contract for Highland

The BCI has announced the signing of a ten year contract with Highland Radio Ltd to provide a local sound broadcasting service for North Donegal. Highland Radio began broadcasting on March 15th 1990 and ever since they have continued to lead the listenership stakes with a phenomenal success rate among its franchise area and into Tyrone and Derry and the Shaun Doherty Show five mornings a week remains the most popular chat show on any of the nation's local radio stations.

Packie Keeney, Chairman, Con Friel and Michael McGinley, Directors represented Highland Radio at the signing. Conor J. Maguire, and Celene Craig signed on behalf of the Commission.



Knockalla who won the senior section when they defeated Gleneely in the Cranford Indoor Final.



The Gartan ladies who defeated Milford to win the ladies section of the Cranford Indoor Football on Friday.



Hugo Duggan, chairman of the Milford Park Development presenting the first prize of €31,740 in their 600 club draw to Sally Ann and Molly Treaty, Drimmaraw, Creeslough with at back Pat Curley presenting second prize of €19,000 to David McLarnon, Grey Rocks, Milford and Fergus Friel presenting 3rd prize of €6,350 to Liz McGinley, Loughnakey, Milford.

## Successful end to Milford Park Draw

The 24th and Final Draw in the Milford Park Development 600 Club Draw was held on Friday night in the Milford Inn Hotel where €68,000 was given away. This marks the end of a very successful two year fund raising venture which saw the completion of Phase One of the project including the pitches and with Phase Two (the dressing rooms) also near completion. Phase three of the project is an indoor athletics arena for which the committee is currently raising the finance to commence the project.

The Chairman of the committee Hugo Duggan welcomed everyone to the draw and said that the whole locality should be happy with what has been achieved to date. He paid tribute to the staff of Milford IRD who administered the draw including Maria, Yvonne and Caroline and Kenny Bradley. He singled out Elaine McFadden and Declan Williams for their work on the first application and ticket promotion as well as Jane Quigg and Bernie McConigley.

Hugo also thanked the contractors including PJ Black, Martin McHugh, McGavigans Plumbing, Sean Hegarty Pitches, Paul Henry Painter and Michael McCafferty for the tiling.

He said that the funding would have been no good without matching Lotto funding and they were very lucky to have Dr. James McDaid as Minister for Sport who allocated €454,000 to the project.

This project is unique in that it incorporates three difference clubs, the Gaelic, soccer and athletic and the soccer club was represented by club chairman Martin Rarity who spoke on behalf of the club. He began by telling a 'funny' joke about Man Utd. Naturally this drew howls of laughter from... (himself!)

He said that it was a very exciting time for the club both on and off the pitch and they are proud to have come together with the GAA and athletic clubs to make Moyle View what it is today. We are there to provide an outlet for young people in the area and he urged more involvement from parents now that the facilities have been provided.

Joe McNulty spoke on behalf of the GAA club and said that in 2001 when they launched the draw people said they were mad but he was delighted with the success it has turned out to be and he praised the many ticket sellers and he singled out Frank McGettigan for his help and drive in the ticket selling. He also thanked the IRD, the contractors, architect John Masterson and said he was proud to bring anyone there now to play a game at facilities comparable with anything else in the county.

Speaking on behalf of the Athletic Club John Fitzgerald thanked all the ticket buyers and sellers, the IRD and the organising committee for their tireless and sometimes thankless work. He said that there are plenty of talented athletes around the area and encouraged them to get involved in sport.

Hugo Duggan made a presentation to Rita McConigley Moyle View who attended each of the 24 draws.

Hughie McDaid speaking on behalf of his brother Dr. James who was away representing Ireland in Singapore for St. Patrick's Day said that Dr. McDaid was delighted to be in a position to secure funding and he said that the organising committee deserves great credit for their work on the project. He said that the Phase 3 application has been lodged and that no stone would be left unturned in the future to secure funding.



Successful students who completed an introduction to computers in Kilmacrennan with course tutor Deborah McGinley.





Groups enjoying the St. Patrick's Dance in the Milford Hall where the music was by Martin Duggan and John Cannon and all proceeds went to Donegal Down Syndrome.



Donegal Junior Football League

# Mariners can extend league lead

The Ramelton Mariners can go six points clear at the top of Division 2 with a home win over struggling Ballybofey Utd on Saturday. The match is being played at the Mariners designated home venue The Flagpole in Rathmullan with a 1pm kick-off. Ballybofey are third from bottom of the table. Ramelton rivals who are second in the table have no game this weekend. So a Mariners win would put them on 43 points and six ahead of Swilly with both sides then having three fixtures remaining. Dunlewey are four points further behind Swilly and are now realistically looking at the promotion play-off spot with games also left for them in the league. Only two fixtures go ahead this weekend due to the Donegal Junior League's Oscar Traynor Cup semi-final in Athlone on Sunday.

## Temple Domestic Appliances Division One

### McLaughlin's Bonagee hat-trick

Lagan Harps 2-3 Bonagee United  
Bonagee picked up three vital points when they overcame a stubborn Lagan side in the Community Centre thanks to an Aidan McLaughlin hat-trick. Bonagee got off to a flier when McLaughlin finished well after four minutes. Bonagee pressed but Lagan defended stubbornly. Lagan went close when Ciaran Quinn was too high with a free. Lagan then grabbed an equaliser when Conur Crossan found Oisín Harkin out wide. Oisín cut in before firing a screamer to the back of the net. Bonagee responded and Aidan McLaughlin converted two crosses on thirty-three and thirty-nine minutes to put them clear. Bonagee again dominated possession in the second half with Michael Funston and Jordan Armstrong pulling the strings. Lagan dug in and restricted them to a few clear chances. When they did get in Michael Toner pulled off a fine save. Lagan went close on eighty minutes when a Philip Doran lob defenced John Carr to scramble it out despite crashing into the post. Lagan grabbed a lifeline when Ciaran Quinn got on the end of a free and finished well. Lagan almost grabbed a point in the final minutes when keeper Michael Toner headed narrowly wide from a corner. Referee: Alistair Gourley.

## Glencar Inn Saturday Division One

### Welcome win for Kilmac

Kilmacrennan Cel Res 3-1 Kildrum Tigers Res  
On an evening more befitting late November instead of late March it was a case of Friday Night Lights at the Letterkenny Community Centre where the home team ground out a three valuable points in their efforts to maintain their Division One status. Both teams, to their credit, were determined to play football despite the inclement conditions and it was Kildrum who hit the front after 10 minutes, an inswinging corner was poorly dealt with by the home defence and as the ball bobbed loose it was Kildrum winger Aaron Temple who reacted quickest and poked home from 6 yards. Minutes later a good reflex stop from the home keeper prevented Kildrum from doubling the lead and this spurred the home team into action. Midfielder Steve McDaid had a free kick brilliantly tipped over by Aaron Hepburn in the Kildrum goals and minutes later he was at it again, somehow turning a goalbound shot from Ethan Doherty around the post. From the resulting corner Kilmacrennan equalised, a handball on the line saw referee Con McLaughlin point to the spot, issuing a red card to a Kildrum defender in the process, and Eoghan Quinn coolly despatched the spot kick to leave it level at the break. With a man advantage the home team pushed hard to get a second goal and were rewarded 15 minutes into the 2nd half when a swift counter-attack found Ethan Doherty on the edge of the

box. He cut inside and his deflected shot found its way to the back of the net. Kildrum started to go direct after this, allowing Kilmacrennan to hit them on the break and after strikes on goal from Oran Gallagher, Ciaran McCormack and Ciaran Cassidy it was the latter who settled the game with 10 minutes to go. Another quick counter-attack found Cassidy out wide and he danced past two defenders before calmly slotting home to cap an impressive performance from him and his team. Kildrum were well served by their keeper Hepburn along with Gareth Colhoun and Aaron Temple with the home team putting in a strong battling performance with Owen Browne, Steve McDaid and the two Ciaran's (Mc Cormack and Cassidy) particularly impressive. Kilmacrennan Celtic Res - Emmet Maguire, Owen Browne, Mark Gallagher, Odhran Gallagher, Steve McDaid, Mickey McDonnell, Eddie Doherty, Reuben Grimes, Eoghan Quinn, Ethan Doherty, Ciaran McCormick. Subs: Ciaran Cassidy for Quinn h-t, Danny Sandilands for Ethan Doherty. Not used: Toby Taylor, Ciaran Conaghan, Seamus Ferry, Niall O'Regan for Danny Sandilands 78 mins. Referee: Con McLaughlin

## Old Orchard Saturday Division Two

### Darren on the double for Milford

Castlefin Celtic Res 2-2 Milford Utd Res  
Castlefin and Milford played an entertaining draw on Saturday. Robert Patterson and Lee Kennedy goals for Castlefin either side of a Darren McLaughlin equaliser kept the home side in the lead. McLaughlin again equalised from the spot midway through the second half. Milford Res: John Matthews, Adam Campbell, Shane McFadden, Jordan Ryan, Ciaran Gibbons, Eoin O'Donnell, Kilian McBride, Darren McLaughlin, Corey Lee McConigley, Ciaran Blaney, Niall Murray. Subs Adam Hosford for Niall Murray, Darren McAteer for Ciaran Blaney, Ultan Blaney for Adam Campbell. Unused Jacob Campbell, Gavin Riney, Kyle Gibson, Daihi Rayes, Aidan McGettigan.

### Hewitt hits Mariners winner

Ramelton Mariners 1-0 Dunlewey Celtic  
The Mariners continued their good form and remain favourites to take the league title with a hard fought 1-0 victory at home to a tough Dunlewey Celtic side who kept fighting right to the end. Mariners scored early on with Shay Callan-McFadden playing a super through ball for Evan Hewitt who opened the scoring in the 10th minute. The game opened-up after that with both sides having good periods of possession and working both keepers. The second half was much the same as both teams tried for the next goal, but it was the single goal for the Mariners that separated the teams. Ramelton Mariners - Peter O'Donnell, Conor Ferguson, Eoin Ferry, Stephen Bryant, Eoin Roulston, Jonah Serrina, Aidan Connolly, Kyle Burke, Shay Callan McFadden, Fionn Robinson, Evan Hewitt. Subs used: Myles Mulgrew for Eoin Ferry, Luke Morgan for Shay Callan McFadden, Paul Gallagher for Fionn Robinson. Not used: Conor Gillespie, Oisín Sweeney, Bailey Kane, Callum Robinson.

### Daniel's Swilly double

Swilly Rovers Res 3-0 Drumoghill FC Res  
Swilly Rovers Reserves secured a 3-0 victory against Drumoghill Reserves, continuing their pursuit of promotion. Swilly took the lead on 12 minutes when Daniel McAteer gracefully maneuvered past the visitors defence to score. Thirty minutes later defender Darragh McDaid scored stylishly from close range, doubling their lead. Despite battling hard, Drumoghill struggled to create many chances. Former Swilly player Christy Smith and utilised

his experience to support the younger players. Swilly sealed the win on 80 minutes when Daniel McAteer netted a solo goal, rounding the keeper to finish with finesse.

Swilly Rovers - Barry Gallagher, Michael Kerr, Darragh Fennell, Tony Gallagher, Darragh McDaid, Ryan Moore, William Buchanan, David Craig, Jordan McDaid, Daniel McAteer, Ryan McDaid. Subs used: Marty McDaid, Edan Bradley, Daithi Cavanagh, David Lockart. Unused: Jamie Lee Blaney. Referee: John Duffy.

## Finn Travel Saturday Division Three

### Final fixture for Rovers and Fanad

Letterkenny Rovers Res 4-1 Fanad Utd Res  
In the final clash of the Letterkenny Rovers Finn Travel Saturday Division Three league season, the champions, Letterkenny Rovers, squared off against Fanad United at Leckview on Saturday. Fanad graciously welcomed the title-holders onto the pitch, forming a guard of honour as they entered. The match burst into life early on, with Letterkenny Rovers asserting their dominance just 7 minutes in, as Adam Murphy unleashed a strike from 25 yards, finding the back of the net with precision. Fanad's resilience was evident as their goalkeeper, Brian Gallagher, thwarted a close-range effort from Artem Tymoschenko after 12 minutes. The champions continued to press forward, with Darragh Morrison doubling their lead in the 37th minute, courtesy of a well-executed assist from Pavlo Shevanick. However, Fanad United refused to give up, as Dylan McBride tested the opposition defence with a shot just wide of the mark in the 40th minute. Their perseverance paid off just before halftime, with Cormac Sweeney pulling one back for Fanad, converting a free kick from outside the box in the 44th minute. As the teams regrouped at halftime, Letterkenny Rovers held a narrow 2-1 advantage. The second half saw Rovers maintain their attacking impetus, with Fanad goalkeeper, Gallagher, producing a fine save to deny Pavlo Shevanick's left-footed strike in the 48th minute. Letterkenny Rovers extended their lead in the 55th minute, as Darragh Morrison capitalised on a deflected shot from Jordan Nugent, giving his side a commanding 3-1 advantage. Despite Fanad's efforts to claw their way back into the contest, including opportunities for McBride and Ferry in the 70th and 83rd minutes respectively, they were unable to find a breakthrough. In the dying moments of the game, Adam Murphy turned provider, setting up Jordan Nugent for Letterkenny's fourth goal in the 90th minute, sealing a comprehensive 4-1 victory for the champions concluding their league campaign on a high note.

Fanad Utd - Brian Gallagher, Cormac Sweeney, Caolan McElwaine, Daibhid Lynch, Shane Carr, Dylan McGlone, Dylan McBride, Keelan Kerr, Caolan Gibbons, Ryan Moffitt, Sean Martin. Subs used: Ethan Ferry, Darragh O'Doherty

## Brian McCormick Sports Premier Division

### Heavy loss for Kilmac

Kilmacrennan Celtic 0-4 Kildrum Tigers  
Kilmac were missing a couple of players including the influential Paul Bradley as they suffered a heavy home defeat at the Letterkenny Community Centre on Sunday. However Sean 'Budge' Sandilands side are in a safe mid-table position with just two league fixtures remaining for them in the Premier Division

## Fixtures

Saturday 30th March 1pm

Division 1  
Arranmore v Keadeu Rovers

Division 2  
Ramelton Mariners v Ballybofey Utd

## Results

Thursday 20th March

Temple Domestic Appliances Division One  
Lagan Harps 2-3 Bonagee United

Friday 21st March

Glencar Inn Saturday Division One  
Kilmacrennan Cel Res 3-1 Kildrum Tigers Res

Saturday 23rd March

Glencar Inn Saturday Division One  
Donegal Town Res 3-2 Glenea Utd Res  
Fintown Harps AFC 4-2 Cappry Rovers Res  
St. Catherine's Res 5-1 Arranmore Utd  
Strand Rovers 3-2 Glencar Celtic

Old Orchard Saturday Division Two  
Castlefin Celtic Res 2-2 Milford Utd Res  
Cranford Utd Res 0-3 Drumbar Utd  
Gweedore Celtic Res 2-0 Ballybofey Utd Res  
Ramelton Mariners 1-0 Dunlewey Celtic  
Swilly Rovers Res 2-0 Drumoghill FC Res

Finn Travel Saturday Division Three  
Bonagee Utd Res 4-3 Gweedore Utd Res  
Drumkeen Utd Res 0-8 Erne Wanderers  
Letterkenny Rovers Res 4-1 Fanad Utd Res

Sunday 24th March

Brian McCormick Sports Premier Division  
Keadeu Rovers 4-2 Gweedore Celtic  
Kilmacrennan Celtic 0-4 Kildrum Tigers  
Rathmullan Celtic 1-1 Castlefin Celtic

Temple Domestic Appliances Division One  
Cranford Utd 0-3 Bonagee United  
Gweedore Utd 4-2 Convoy Arsenal  
Letterkenny Rovers 5-2 Letterbarrow Celtic

Ulster Shield  
Cockhill Celtic Res 5-1 Oldtown Celtic

this season.

Kilmacrennan Celtic - Eoin McGettigan, Danny Sandilands, Owen Browne, Chris Flanagan, Terence Shiels, John Sandilands, Caolan Curran, Paul Johnston, Gerard McGranaghan, Conor Black, Sam Harvey. Subs used: Mark Gallagher, Ethan Doherty.

## Supersub salvages point

Rathmullan Celtic 1-1 Castlefin Celtic  
Honours even at the Flagpole Field as Castlefin and Rathmullan exchanged stoppage time goals at the end of either half in what was a largely forgettable afternoon by the Seaside for the footballing purist. The visiting side nipped ahead in first-half stoppage time, Sean Kennedy converting from close range after Rathmullan failed to deal with a set piece into the box. Castlefin looked as though they had done enough in the second half to keep an impotent Hoops' attack at bay, but they weren't counting on super-sub Paul Friel rising to the challenge of levelling matters deep into stoppage time. In the end, a point apiece might just about have been the fairest outcome.

Rathmullan Celtic - Shea McBride-Friel, Kevin O'Donnell, Alan Boal, David Miller, Gareth Temple, David Edwards, Eoin Sheridan, Mark McAteer, Charlie McAteer, Conor Temple, Kevin Doran. Subs: Oisín McMenamin for G Temple h-t, Paul Friel for Doran 65 mins, Gavin O'Donnell for Edwards 80 mins. Not used: Eamonn Sheridan. Referee: Marty McGarrigle

# McConigley is new Rovers Chairperson

Letterkenny Rovers stalwart Dessie Kelly stepped down as club chairman at last Wednesday night's Club AGM. Kelly who has been in the post for the past 24 years has been succeeded by Eamonn McConigley. The former Fanad Utd player and manager has been involved with the Leckview Park Club for over a decade. He had a spell as the Rovers Ulster Senior League manager and was in charge when they reached the FAI Intermediate Cup Final in May 2016.

The Club paid tribute to Dessie Kelly's commitment to football in the town for over 60 years. "We would like to thank Dessie for his outstanding loyalty, hard work, and dedication shown over such a long period of time.

With Eamonn stepping up from his position as vice-chairman, Dessie will now take on this role therefore maintaining his presence on the committee".

The Officer Board elected was as follows:  
Honorary President: Victor Fisher  
Honorary Vice President: Gerry Meehan  
Chairman: Eamonn McConigley



Vice Chairman: Dessie Kelly  
Secretary: Eric White  
Assistant Secretary: Michael Duffy  
Treasurer: Brian McCormick  
Assistant Treasurer: Shane McMorrow  
Public Relations Officer: Donagh McMorrow  
Assistant Public Relations Officer: Eddie McGrath



Fanad man John McElwaine, one of Donegal's finest ever footballers signed for Bradford City in 1979. Also included at front are Gerry Coyle (Gweedore Celtic) and Joe McGrory (Buncrana Hearts) who also put pen to paper for Bradford that year. Included at back are Fanad Utd manager Fr Mick Sweeney and Derry man Eddie Davis who was a Bradford City scout at the time.

John McElwaine had also been attracting attention from Manchester Utd and had featured for the Republic of Ireland Youth team. He had previously enjoyed success with PCC Falcarragh and a national title with the Donegal Youth team managed by Richie Kelly. When McElwaine returned home from Bradford, he had a spell with Finn Harps before returning to Fanad for the start of the Ulster Senior League in 1986. John started out in midfield before in his latter years going to centre-half where he also excelled.



# Successful Glenree soccer memorabilia exhibition

As part of Glenree United FC's 50th anniversary celebrations the Club hosted an exhibition of soccer memorabilia in the Carrigart Hotel last Wednesday afternoon. It was a team effort with main organisers Myles Gallagher and John Friel being assisted by Loreto CS, Milford

Transition Year students.

A large crowd attended including local Glenree academy players, some of their parents/grandparents, and former players. Also in attendance were Finn Harps manager Darren Murphy, players Matthew Makinson and Max Hutchinson, Marketing Officer Aidan Campbell and kitman Dougie McNulty along with the FAI Regional Coach for Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath Trevor Scanlon.

Two recently appointed employees of Gteic Carrigart and Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga Limisteir an Tuaiscirt Mary Sweeney and Michelle NicPhaidin were also present. Both organisations are very supportive of Glenree FC and the TY students. Taha Yousif spoke on behalf of his fellow students and Loreto Milford introduced the event. He thanked all those who had contributed to the hosting of the event.

John Friel interviewed Kaylagh Sweeney, Rowan McGroarty and Conor Gibson who are attending Loreto Milford and are members of the Finn Harps Academy.

FAI Regional Coaching Manager Trevor Scanlon congratulated Glenree on their 50th Anniversary and pointed out that it wasn't an easy journey down

through the years due to emigration and other factors. He encouraged volunteers to get involved with their local clubs, because without them, clubs like Glenree would not be in existence.

Loreto Milford Naomh Orla Ty class have entered a National Young Social Innovators competition, working with Glenree FC. Ms Roisin Coyle is the student co-ordinator and she praised the mentorship received from the Glenree Club.

David Ladley, Chairperson of Glenree Utd FC Academy was unavoidably absent, but his address was read by TY students, David McGinley, Laragh Blaney and Alfie Good. "Thanks to Tony and the Carrigart Hotel for hosting this event, and to all those who generously contributed their baking talents to provide treats for our attendees. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the commendable efforts of Myles Gallagher and John Friel in chronicling the rich history of Glenree Sports



John Friel, Mylie Gallagher and Joe Cullen with memorabilia at the Glenree Sports Club event in the Carrigart Hotel.



Pat Dugera and Bernie McLaughlin with old football boots from the early days of Glenree F.C.



Jacob Campbell, John McLaughlin and Taha Yousiy.



Donal Gallagher and Fiona Shiels with Mary Leahy Sweeney from Gteic Carrigart



Casey Reid, Laragh Blaney and Emelia Friel helping out at the exhibition



Michelle Wilkin, Roisin Coyle (Loreto CS Milford TY Coordinator) Tanya and Bobby Roberts-Browne and Denise Doherty.



Ryan McElhinney with a former Glenree player Daniel McGroddy along with his wife Sarah.

Club spanning over 50 years. Their dedication to this project, particularly in the absence of social media and internet resources, is truly remarkable.

Special recognition is also due to the TY students at Loreto who, under the guidance of Mrs. Roisin Coyle, diligently assisted in the research efforts, scouring through old newspapers to uncover mentions of Glenree."

"People like Bernie McLaughlin and Mick McGettigan to name just two people that were the backbone of the team for decades and held the club together through good and bad times deserve recognition for all they did for the club. The likes of John J McGettigan who took over their mantle in the noughties and beyond meant that we still have a club today and recognition should also be given to the likes of Daniel McGroddy, James McHugh, Frances

Caldwell and others who started the academy and to a large amount of kids involved is a testament to their hard work. There are lots of others that could be thanked but as a club we are always grateful for whatever help we can get.

I've made friends for life playing in the various teams, listened to the stories of the men I used to watch play, Like which of the Friel brothers was the best, how good the likes of Paddy Fenny and John Sweeney were, how tough were Brendan

Vaughan and Martin McGroddy. Memories of Brian McLaughlin coming over from Celtic to play in a couple of summer cups. Then playing in a successful team going from Division 2 to premier in the Donegal League within 3 years. Winning the first division along the way. Playing with some really talented players like Daniel McGroddy, Michael "Lads" Gallagher and Seamus McLaughlin. Those are the memories that are only appreciated as you get older."



Aouse McGroddy, Dearbhla McGroddy, David McGinley, Labhaoise McFadden, Charlie Wheeler and Bobby Halpin



Taha Yousiy with Amanda, Caroline and Amy McLaughlin.



## Rosapenna Golf Club

Sunday 24th March the Easter Hamper on the Old Tom Morris Links - Category A (<12) - John Doran (9\*) 41pts bot; Category B (13-18) - Frank Cullen (18\*) with 43pts; Category C (19+) - Liam McConigley (20) with 39pts; Gross - Sean Boyce (4\*) with 33 gross pts. Two's - Chris Breen, Brendan Roache, John Boyce, John Doran, Denis McBride, Marty Carlin, Eddie McGroddy & Kieran Galagher.

### Gents Section Competition Prizes 2024

2024 Competition Prizes will take the form of Golf Ireland Vouchers or other retail vouchers. Regular competition placing payout will take place quarterly. Two's payout will take place every six months unless you have been a competition winner, when it will be added to your quarterly payout. Payout can be requested at any stage from the competition secretary David Ladley, either by text message 083-867-4416 or email competitions@rosapenna.ie.

Vouchers will be emailed to all prize winners unless requested otherwise. Golf Ireland Vouchers can be redeemed in a number of local outlets such as the Pavilion Golf Shop, Boyce's Centra Carrigart, Kernan's Carrigart etc and most golf retail shops. Golf Ireland Vouchers can also be redeemed against annual Resort Golf Fees. Competition payout will be 60% of entrance money on that days competition, broken down into the various placings on the day. Two's payout will be 100% of money collected, divided equally depending on the number of twos scored on that days competition

### Ladies Section Results

Saturday the 23rd of March kindly sponsored by Bank of Ireland - Winner Sheila Breen (15) 31 pts; Second Aisling Cullen (35) 30pts; Category A Dymna Kelly (22) 29pts; Category B Bernie Ladley (32) 24pts March - Sunday 31st - Club Competition.

April - Sunday 7th - Club Competition; Saturday 13th - Rosapenna Senior & Junior Scratch Cups; Sunday 14th - Club Competition; Sunday 21st - Club Competition; Sunday 28th - Club Competition.

## Portsalon

### Members Free Sub Competition

This weekend is the annual Members Free Sub competition, on Sunday 31st March, open to all members that have paid or part-paid their 2024 subscriptions. Easter Weekend there will be plenty golfing action, with a Ladies & Gents Open scheduled for Monday 1st April.

### Bar & Waiting Staff required

The bar and restaurant is looking to recruit staff for the busy summer season ahead, with positions available for full and part-time staff. Contact Roisin Gibbons or email: admin@portsalongolfclub.com to express interest.

### Results

Wednesday 20th March - Winner: Liam Blaney (24) 45 pts; Runner-up: David Bonner (8) 41pts; Gross: Kevin Boyce (7) 32 gross pts; Third: John Shields (19) 40pts. Saturday 23rd March - Winner: Mick McGlynn (27) 33



Claire Ferry, Runner-Up Ladies & Gents Open on the 18th March at Portsalon Golf Club.

pts. Sunday 24th March - Gents - Winner: Martin O'Reilly (21) 44pts; 2nd Philip Durning (9) 43 pts; Gross: Stephen Connolly (6) 36pts; 3rd Kieran O'Neill (19) 42pts.

### Portsalon Ladies

Lady Captain Noreen McConigley will welcome ladies to the Captain's Day of the ladies winter links on Thursday 28th March. There has been an excellent field throughout the winter from clubs all over the county. Ladies who have never entered the Winter Links may enter the Captain's Day and play as non qualifiers.

The Portsalon Golf Club bar & restaurant will be open from 11am serving tea, coffee and scones. Roisin and her staff also have a delicious early bird menu and à la carte menu for post golf.

The members sub competition will be played on Sunday 31st March. With a chance to win a free membership for 2025, victory would be sweeter than an Easter chocolate egg.

The new handicap system will take effect from 1st April for all clubs, so those entering the Ladies and Gents Open on Easter Monday in Portsalon will see their new handicap reflected on their card.

Congratulations to Claire Ferry who came 2nd after BOT in the Ladies & Gents Portsalon Open on the 18th March. Her excellent score of 39 points included 6 Pars and a Birdie.

Deirdre Hensley made a welcome return to the winners enclosure on Sunday 24th March. Having landed the perfect shot on the 16th green, she dropped the putt for a fantastic birdie, and recorded an excellent 37 pts. Claire Ferry was pipped on a BOT again, with another super score of 37 pts.

### Results

Weekend 24th March Results: 1st Deirdre Hensley 37 pts BOT; 2nd Claire Ferry 37 pts.

### Dates for your diary

28th March : Captain's Day Ladies Winter Links Open; 31st March : Members Sub Competition; 1st April : Ladies & Gents Open; 5th & 7th April: Members qualifiers for Donegal Shield.

## Letterkenny Golf Club

Prizegiving was held in Hunters Bar & Grill on Wednesday the 20th March with prizes presented for the following - Texas Scramble 4th February S. Lynch, B. Mullen, M. Carlin and P. Carlin 54 points; St. Bridget's Day Open on 05th February 1st Seamus Lynch (18) 39points, 2nd Gareth McNern (24) 39pts; Wednesday Open 7th February 1st Mike Sneddon (28) 40 points, 2nd Matthew Carlin (20) 39pts; Saturday Open 10th February 1st JP Clarke (10) 42 points, 2nd Hugh Hamilton (25) 41 points, 3rd Gabriel Mc Nulty (18) 40 points, Cat 1 Adrian Flanagan (11) 40 points, Cat 2 Paul McElDowney (17) 40 points, Gross Martin Gallagher (7) 39 points; Sunday Open on 11th Feb - 1st / Ryan Tyrrell (9) 44 points, 2nd T.J Brown (25) 43 points. Wednesday Open 14th Feb - 1st Dave McGowan (5) 40 points; Saturday Open 17th Feb 1st Paul Mc ElDowney (17) 41 points, 2nd Noel Duggan (19) 38 points; Sunday Open 18th February - 1st Kevin Kiely (8) 44 points, 2nd Dave McGowan (5) 38 points, Gross Kevin Rafferty (2) 35 points; Wednesday Open on 21st February 1st Joe Blake (9) 35 points, 2nd Charlie M Patton (23) 34 points; Saturday Open on 24th February - 1st Pluincead O'Fearraigh (22) 40 points BOT, 2nd BOT. Adrian Daly (16); Gross Kevin Rafferty (2) 37 points; Wednesday 28th February 1st Martin Gallagher (7) 39 points, 2nd Dave McGowan 37 points; Sunday Open 3rd March - 1st Fergal Finn (26) 39 points, 2nd Rory Kenny (13) 38 points, Gross Kevin Rafferty (2) 32 points; Wednesday Open 6th March - 1st Charlie M Patton (23) 47 points, 2nd Jimmy Gleeson (23) 38 points, 3rd Gareth McNern (23) 38 points, Gross Joe Blake (9) 28 points; Saturday Open 9th March 1st Kevin Roche (19) 41 points, 2nd Anthony Delap (19) 40 points, 3rd Fergal Finn (26) 40 points, Cat 1 Mark P McNulty (14) 38 points Cat 2 John Hession 40 points, Gross Robert McElhinney 31 points; Sunday Open 10th March - 1st Laurence Duggan (25) 45 points, 2nd Mark P McNulty (13) 43 points; Wednesday 13th March 1st Tommy Greally (17) 41 points, 2nd Pluincead O'Fearraigh (22) 38 points, Gross Shaun Duffy



Pictured at the recent Prizegiving at Letterkenny Golf Club are Standing L to R: John Hession, Mark P McNulty, Charlie M Patton, Fergal Finn. Seated L to R: Tommy Greally, Paul Carr - Club Captain, Kevin Kiely.



Pictured at the recent Prizegiving at Letterkenny Golf Club are standing L to R: Noel Duggan, Joe Blake, Martin Gallagher, Darragh McMenamin. Seated L to R: Malcolm Crawford - winner, St. Patricks Cup, Paul Carr - Club Captain and Kevin Roche.

(5) 32 points; Saturday Open 16th March 1st Paddy O Gorman (22) 44 points, 2nd Seamus Lynch (17) 41 points, 3rd Kevin Roche (18) 41 points, Gross Shane Scanlon (6) 34 points; The St. Patricks Day Cup 1st Malcolm Crawford (24) 46 points, 2nd Shaun McGlinchey (29) 43 points, 3rd Mark P McNulty (12) 43 points, Cat 1 and Gross Darragh McMenamin (2) 41 points, Cat 2 T.J Brown (24) 42 points. Bank Holiday Open on 18th March - 1st Mike Sneddon (26) 36 points, 2nd John Hession (21) 36 points.

## Letterkenny Ladies

The golf season is well underway for the Letterkenny Ladies with an 18 hole competition on Good Friday 29th March or an alternate day on Easter Sunday 31st March. Ladies are asked to select one of the dates to play. Captain Anne Flannery is looking forward to seeing you all on the fairways over the Easter weekend.

### Donegal Shield Qualifier

Due to the inclement weather, it has been decided to postpone the Qualifier for the Donegal Shield. It will be rescheduled for Sunday 7th or Tuesday 9th April. Ladies are asked to select one of the dates to play and the Donegal Shield takes place on Saturday 20th April.

### Fashion Show

A lovely afternoon of fine food and high fashion was enjoyed by all on Saturday 23rd March at the Gray Room Fashion show. Thanks to all who supported this event.

## Cloughaneely Golf Club

On Good Friday 29th March, there is a 9 Hole Scramble draw at 5pm sharp all welcome. There will be a Table Quiz in the Strand Road Bar and Kitchen after at 8pm with quizmaster Denis 'dandy' Doohan. On Saturday 30th March the annual Donal McGinley Memorial 9 Hole Scramble starting @ 1pm. Donations welcome proceeds to Bluestack Special Needs Foundation Falcarragh Branch. Open to Ladies and Gents with beginners welcome. On Easter Sunday there will be an 18 Hole Singles Open and on Easter Monday is an 18 Hole Team Scramble draw at 10am.

2024 Golf Membership rates can be found on our website payment is due by this Sunday 31st March and 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 Cheannfhaola fáilte roimh bhaill úra - fir, mná agus daoine óga. Tá na táillí bliantúla 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.

## Paul McGinley visit to Dunfanaghy

Ryder Cup Captain and great friend of Dunfanaghy Golf Club, Paul McGinley took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the club's young golfers. Paul presented the winner of the Paul McGinley Cup, Lucas Wood with his trophy. Paul also chatted to the young golfers and posed for some photos, making it a memorable day for our juniors and their parents. Thank you Paul for taking such an interest in the future of the club.



Paul presented the winner of the Paul McGinley Cup, Lucas Wood with his trophy



Junior Golfers from Dunfanaghy Golf club pictured with Paul McGinley at the recent Awards Ceremony.



# Classrooms and pitch opened in Downings

Thursday was a special day for Scoil Naomh Bríd in Downings as they opened their new SET Rooms (Special Education Teacher support rooms) and pitch. Former Education Minister Deputy Joe McHugh performed the opening of the classrooms while GAA Manager Jim McGuinness opened the new pitch.

Former staff and Boards of Management joined the current members for the occasion and School Principal Eamon Catterson welcomed everyone.

He said "Today is a very special day for SNB. A new chapter in the story of our school. A chapter full of endless possibilities, growth and success. It is with immense pleasure that we extend our heartfelt thanks to Joe McHugh, our former Minister of Education, for his instrumental role in guiding us towards the development of our new extension. His help was invaluable."

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas agus buíochas ó chroí a ghabhail le Coiste na dTuistí agus Pobal na nDúnai-bh mar gheall ar an tacaíocht agus an t-airgead a thógann siad chun cuidiú le forbairt na scoile go rialta. Idir na Golf Classics a bhí an ag an deireadh seachtaine, Crannchur na Nollag, an rása 5k a bhíonn a reachtáil ag na Coiste na dtuismitheoirí, an oíche mhór a reachtáil Mairead agus Damien dúinn

sa Síbín ceol, tá muid thar a bheith buíoch daoibh uilig.

Ní achan scoil atá an phribléid acu páirc peile a bheith acu ar leac dorais na scoile. Bhí muid ag fá-nacht ar an pháirc seo le blianta fada agus ar ndóigh tá sé doiligh a chreidmheáil go bhfuil an lá seo buail-te linn agus go raibh deá thoradh ar an scéal. Cé go bhfuil CLG na nDúnai-bh ag teagasc na scileanna, beidh seans anois ag na páistí cuir leis na scileanna sin atá foghlamithe acu ar an pháirc úr.

I dtús báire, ba mhaith liomsa buíochas ó chroí a ghabhail le Seamus Ó Gallachóir a d'fhág an pháirc bhreá seo againn innu. Thuig Seamus go maith an tábhacht agus an bhuntaiste a bheadh ag an pháirc seo i saol na bpáistí agus beidh muid buíoch do go deo ar shon a bheith tuiscineach, cinéalta agus cuidiúil.

"For years, Bríd Byrne and Terri Martin, our former principals, along with Fr. Charlie Byrne and the Board of Management, tirelessly pursued the dream of expanding our school football pitch. Now, thanks to the efforts of Seamus Gallagher, our Chairperson John Casey and his father Frank, alongside their team at Rosapenna, with special recognition to Brian Doherty, Chris Breen, and Eddie McGroddy, this dream has become a reality. We are grateful to our



Former Education Minister Joe McHugh TD opens the new SET Rooms at Scoil Naomh Bríd Downings last Thursday with school principal Eamon Catterson. Photos by Martin Fleming.

sponsors Brendan McGee, Eamon McClafferty, Ciaran McClafferty, Seamus Herrity, Darragh McClafferty, and Rosguill Park, who generously sponsored our brand new goal posts. Additionally, go raibh mile maith agat don chomhlacht McBride Fishing for also helping in making the nets. We finally have our very own Pairc an Chrócaigh.

in a game refereed by County Player Niall O'Donnell.

Following the official duties refreshments were served in the school.



Jim McGuinness with the teaching staff of Scoil Naomh Bríd in Downings.

It is only fitting that we welcome Jim McGuinness to officially open our Páirc Peile today. His presence serves as a beacon of motivation for our páistí, reminding them of the transformative power of sport and the importance of dedication and hard work in achieving their goals. Jim, your remarkable achievements on the field and your dedication to the values of sport serve as an inspiration to us all."

After cutting the tape and posing for photos with Jim McGuinness the pupils enjoyed their first match on the new pitch when the 5th and 6th Classes played



Donegal GAA Manager Jim McGuinness pictured with pupils at Scoil Naomh Bríd Downings.



School principal Eamon Catterson with guests speaking at the opening.



Pupils from Scoil Naomh Bríd Downings with Donegal GAA Manager Jim McGuinness after he officially opened their new pitch on Thursday.



# High Seas at Portsalon



Gale force winds and high seas damaged the ongoing construction work on Friday afternoon when workers were forced to abandon the scene. The dramatic picture was captured by Mary Doherty who had been swimming nearby.

## Dawn Mass at Glenvar Crosses

The Easter Sunday Dawn Mass will take place at the Crosses in Glenvar on Easter Sunday at 6.30am and everyone is welcome to come along.

## Portsalon Dawn Service

There will be a Dawn Service on Portsalon Beach on Easter Sunday morning, 31st March at 7am (meeting at the car park). Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

## Easter Service Times

Easter Service times in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kerrykeel are Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6.30pm; Good Friday, The Lord's Passion 5.00pm; Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil at 9.00pm. Easter Service times in St Peter's Church, Milford are Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8.00pm; Good Friday, The Lord's Passion 3.00pm; Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil at 7.00pm; Easter Sunday Mass at 11.00pm.

## Fanavolty Dancing

Two hand and ceilidh dancing will resume in Fanavolty Hall on Tuesday 2nd of April. Everyone welcome for a good night's enjoyment and exercise.

## John J McGinley Memorial Cup

The annual John J McGinley Memorial Cup, Married Men v Single Men, will take place in Rabs Park Kerrykeel on Easter Sunday, kick off 6.30 pm.

Now in its 21st year it has been decided that this will be the final year. Having lost a out on a couple of years to Covid, it currently stands at 9 games each, so it's all to play for on Sunday evening.

## Yoga with Jane

Yoga with Jane classes restart after Easter, call her on 086 8367776 to book or for details or visit Jane Watt yoga on FB Gentle Yoga in the Kerrykeel Oldschool Community Centre starting on Thursday 11th April from 10-11am for 6 weeks and the cost is €60.

Chair Yoga in the Gallowglass Centre, Milford starting on Thurs 11th April from 12-1pm for 4 weeks and the cost is €40 (Chair Yoga is also running in Letterkeny on Wednesday evenings)

Yoga in Ray Community Centre starting on Saturday 13th April, from 10-11am. The cost for the 5 weeks is €40 and it excludes Bank Holiday Saturday.

## Coffee Morning

A fundraising Coffee Morning will be held in the Rossnakill Community Hub on Sunday the 7th of April from 10am to 1pm. Dr. Margaret Gilligan and Maria Howard are travelling to Zambia for two weeks in April. They are asking for donations to improve the infrastructure, healthcare and education systems for the orphanage they are visiting.

## Easter Saturday Fundraiser in aid of Tamney Patients Comfort Fund

On Saturday 30th March the first event is a walk around the Colmcille Trail leav-

ing 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.

## Fanad SVP

If you are experiencing difficulty the local branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is willing to help. If in need, contact the Society on 0877003732 regarding any financial problem. All matters dealt with in confidence.

## Rossnakill Hub

Following courses will commence after Easter break (pending bookings).

Digital Photography with Shaun Egan, Tues 9th of April. 7- 9pm.

Beekeeping with Paul Doherty, Wed 10th of April. 7.30- 9.30pm.

Cake decorating with

Where food matters

www.ripplesrestaurant.net

Kerrykeel, Tel: 074 9150110

Open for Lunch, Dinner  
A la Carte and  
Take Away Service

Contact Tel 074 91 50110 for bookings and Enquiries

## Eamonn Scott Funeral Directors

Fanad & Letterkeny

- 24 Hours Service
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Care & compassion, every step of the way

## KNOCKALLA CARAVAN PARK, PORTSALON

Are looking for Staff  
for the 2024 Season

Interviews will be held  
in the coming weeks.

Please Send CV by email to  
info@knockallacaravanpark.com  
or call 086 8326060

## HOUSE TO RENT

Fanad Area

Contact 087 458 2937

## Leave No Trace workshops

Fanad has been chosen as one of only two workshop locations in Donegal for coastal experts from the University of Galway and Leave No Trace to explain the potential local impact of climate change on our beaches and

coast and what we can do to limit the damage.

It aims to equip participants with essential knowledge and tools to ensure the longevity and health of local sand dune systems. The training courses will take place at five loca-

tions along the Wild Atlantic Way between April and June and be delivered by Susan Adams from Education for Sustainability CLG.

The Fanad workshop dates are April 6th (theory) and June 8th (practical). For fur-

ther information see the Fanad Coastal Group Facebook page or the organiser Dr Noel Doyle 01 9059009.

If you wish to attend please email noel@leavenotraceireland.org.



Faces in the crowd at the Gibbstown Homecoming on Friday night in the Community Centre.



## Kerrykeel '71 Cards

Kerrykeel '71 FC Cards continues in the Village Inn, Kerrykeel every Monday at 7.30pm.

## Cards in Glenvar

Cards continue in the Old School Glenvar every Thursday at 7pm. All welcome. Beginners welcome.

## Fanad thanks for reunion night

We would like to thank all those who helped with last Friday night's function for the Gibbstown Homecoming: the committee members were John Shiels, Kathleen McConigley, Deirdre Callaghan, Patricia and Lawrence Shiels, Fiona and Hughie Shiels, Michael Shiels, Michael Sweeney, Patrick Shiels, Ronan McElwaine and Sean Begley. Thank you to the Gibbstown committee, especially Maureen Shiels, Harry McGarry, Eamonn, and Maura Ferry, Con and Mags Begley, for their invaluable support.

A big thank you to the members of the Fanad Comhaltas group for the musical entertainment and to Patricia Shiels for providing refreshments

The speeches on the night showed the emotion of what Fanad means to our exiles, none moreso than our own Paddy Carr (Sheamus). Thanks to MC John Dorrian and the photographers.

Thanks to Downings GAA and Kerrykeel Tidy-Towns for supplying bunting for the occasion and to Martin Clinton who created the presentations.

A wall plaque was presented from Fanad to the Gibbstown community

Grainne Duffy was presented with a copy of the book and it will remain as a historical record in Cashel school. Thanks to the Community Centre Committee for their help.

Copies of the book are on sale in Ballylar Post Office priced at €35.



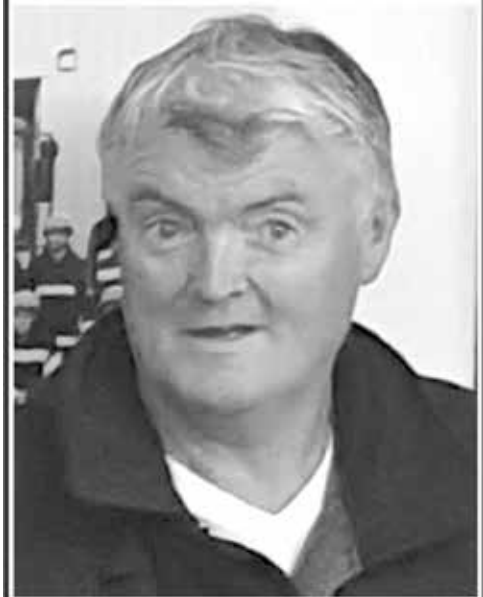
## Flower Centre granted planning

A Letterkenny Garden Centre has been granted planning permission for the construction of a residential unit for staff accommodation. Donegal County Council previously granted conditional planning permission for the development to Clive Alcorn of Alcorns Flower & Garden Centre, Loughnagin, Letterkenny on April 27, 2023. An appeal was lodged on May 22nd, 2023 by Dr Ann McDaid. Among the Grounds of Appeal listed was the planned construction would overdevelop the site, also the loss of privacy, noise disturbance, devaluing their property and impacting on the views previously enjoyed. An Bord Plenala granted permission with revised conditions citing that existing commercial development on and adjacent to the current site would not injure the amenity of property in the area.

## Planning Appeal refused in Downings

An Bord Penanla has refused the construction of a house in Kinnalargy, Downings after a planning appeal hearing. The planning appeal was lodged against the building of the house in Kinnalargy, Downings after Declan McCrory had been granted conditional planning permission for the development by Donegal County Council on October 12th, 2023. The planning appeal was lodged by Paul Fox November 02, 2023. The grounds of appeal included previous planning history at the location, its eligibility for a rural dwelling, alleged inappropriate design and building regulations, and traffic concerns. Refusing the application the Board stated: "Having regard to the extant permission for a dwelling on the applicant's landholding, taken in conjunction with existing and permitted development in the area, it is considered that the proposed development would contribute to an excessive density of suburban type development in a rural landscape that is designated in the County Development Plan 2018-2024 as being of 'High Scenic Amenity'. The proposed development, if permitted, would result in the expansion and consolidation of a suburban pattern of development in the rural area, would further erode the rural character of the area, would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and, accordingly, would be contrary to the provisions of policies RH-P-2 and NH-P-7 of the Co. Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

**Do ya think I'm sixty?**  
Happy Birthday from Thomas



### Planning Notices

#### Donegal County Council Doagh More, Kindrum, Fanad, Letterkenny

We, Holly and Paul Heraghty, are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for development at Doagh More, Kindrum, Fanad, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, in the townland of Doagh More. The development will consist of the construction of a detached dwelling house, with garage and connection to new septic tank and all ancillary site works, boundary treatments, site access, connection to public services and all associated site works and landscaping. 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 the permission subject to or without conditions, or may re-

League of Ireland Division 1

## Busy weekend for Murphy's men

Darren Murphy faces the first weekend of double fixtures with Finn Harps in the League of Ireland Division 1. Harps make the long journey to Limerick on Friday night to take on Treaty Utd (kick-off 7.45) and then on Bank Holiday Monday evening they host Bray Wanderers at Finn Park (kick-off 5pm). It will stretch the manpower on a pretty much part-time squad. So it will be interesting to see whether the manager is able to do any rotation of the starting 11s for the two matches in the space of 72 hours. Murphy looks like he is going to be minus Max Hutchinson for some games due to an ankle injury that forced the English man to come off before half-time in the Kerry game on Friday night. Mark Mbuli will be another doubt having missed the last match due to an abdominal injury. On the plus side Ryan Rainey was an unused sub on Friday night and is sure to see some game time this weekend. Likewise Adam Duffy was on the bench for the first time this season against Kerry and may see some action in either Limerick or Finn Park.

## Harps not happy with point

Finn Harps 0-0 Kerry F.C.

Not surprisingly Finn Harps manager Darren Murphy wasn't happy with a draw against second from bottom Kerry F.C. in Ballybofey on Friday night. While the hosts had a fair share of possession their performance in the final third of the field was poor. The visitors did have chances and could easily have left Finn Park with their first win of the season. Kerry came north with just two draws from five games. Murphy's men missed a big chance on Friday night to close the gap on leaders Cork City who drew away to Treaty Utd. Treaty were joint second with Harps going into the games. A win for Harps would have put them clear in second and just a point behind Cork. Treaty has a game in hand on both teams. There has to be a little worry at the home form as Murphy's men have played four times in Ballybofey and there has just been the one win that came against Athlone while there has been two draws and a defeat.

The manager made three personnel changes for Friday night with Shane McMonagle, Patrick Ferry and Max Hutchinson all starting while Ryan Rainey and Adam Duffy were both in the matchday squad for the first time this season. Academy goalkeeper Ronan Callaghan from Ballybofey was also promoted to the matchday squad for the very first time with the two other netminders Oisín Cooney and Conor Walsh on international duty with the Irish U17s and U19s respectively. Mark Mbuli was ruled out with an abdominal injury while Noe Baba was absent to be with a family member in hospital in Dublin. The home side had the best early chance when Success Edogun latched onto a through ball from Tony McNamee and lifted the ball over former Harps keeper Antonia Tuta but Samuel Aladesanusi did ever so well to get back and clear the ball off the line at the river end of the ground. Patrick Ferry had an effort deflected narrowly wide and the same player had another attempt just seconds before the break that was pushed away by Tuta who had also tipped Shane McMonagle's header onto the crossbar. Harps forced a series of corners in the early stages of the second half but Tuta was generally in command with a number of clean fetches while he also saved from Jamie Watson. Udeze for the visitors and Edogun both shot wide in the closing stages while Ronan Teahan's attempt was stopped by Heimer. Deep into injury Kerry spurned a big opportunity to bag three points but Cian Brosnan fired wide when he should have at least tested the Harps netminder. The final whistle was greeted with boos from a section of the home support not happy that Harps couldn't collect the three points against a bottom of the table side. Finn Harps - Tim Heimer; Conor Tourish, Jamie Watson, Matthew Makinson, Shane McMonagle; David Cawley, Tony McNamee, Max Hutchinson (Stephen Doherty 42), Luke O'Brien (Sean O'Donnell 65), Patrick Ferry (Chris Lotefa 82); Success Edogun. Subs not used: Ronan Callaghan, Ryan Rainey, Adam Duffy, Darragh Coyle, Max Johnston. Ref: David Dunne.



Finn Harps Max Hutchinson in action against Kerry's Ronan Teahan on Friday night.

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Finn Harps - Tim Heimer; Conor Tourish, Jamie Watson, Matthew Makinson, Shane McMonagle; David Cawley, Tony McNamee, Max Hutchinson (Stephen Doherty 42), Luke O'Brien (Sean O'Donnell 65), Patrick Ferry (Chris Lotefa 82); Success Edogun. Subs not used: Ronan Callaghan, Ryan Rainey, Adam Duffy, Darragh Coyle, Max Johnston. Ref: David Dunne.

### Lotto

There were no jackpot winners in the Finn Harps Super 4 Lotto draw for 21st March. The numbers drawn were 11, 23, 27, 28. The next draw takes place on Thursday 28th March and the jackpot is €10,000. There were no match 3 winners this week. The match 3 prize next week will therefore be €400.

#### Donegal County Council Massreagh, Kilmacrennan

I, Hugh Fields am applying to Donegal County Council for retention permission to retain and complete dwelling house under construction at Massreagh, Kilmacrennan, County Donegal in the townland of Massreagh. 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, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, County 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 of the application by the authority, and such submission or observation will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application.

#### Donegal County Council Aughnish, Ramelton, Letterkenny M.D.

I, Gavin McBride, am applying to Donegal County Council for Retention Permission for 1) Construction of Sun Room to Side of Existing Cottage, 2) Re-position of

### In Memoriam



**McGettigan  
Madge**

**Glenree, Carrigart  
15th Anniversary**

In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who died on 25th March 2009.

*We cannot bring  
the old days back  
When we were  
all together  
The family chain  
is broken now  
But memories live  
forever.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by her husband Mick, sons Michael and Patrick, daughters Anne, Bridie, Mary and Margaret, sons-in-law Rob and Seamus.

*It broke our hearts  
to lose you  
But you did not  
go alone  
For part of us  
went with you  
The day God  
called you home.*

Miss you always  
Granny from Frances, Linda, Gary, Joe, Chelsea and Jaxon.

### Prayer for Publication

**PRAYER TO THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN  
(Never known to fail).**

Oh Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me that herein You are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. (Make request). There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Sweet Mother I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted. **KTM**



**Murphy  
Pat  
Kerrykeel  
2nd Anniversary**

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grand father who died on 1st April 2022.

*Though your smile  
is gone forever  
and your hand  
I cannot touch  
Still I have so many  
memories of the one  
I loved so much  
Your memory is my  
keepsake with which  
I will never part  
God has you in His  
keeping, I have you  
in my heart.*

Forever loved and always missed by your loving wife Bernice.

*Our thoughts are  
always with you in  
a very special way  
Not only on your  
anniversary but  
every single day.*

Rest in peace Daddy and Granda - Ciara, James, Callum, Cillian, Ailish, Seamus, Michelle, Eoin, Shay, Cáolan, Donal, Tricia, Oisín, Rory, Emmett, Aine, Michael, Fiona, Emmaléi and Faélan.



**Sweeney  
John  
Gortnaskeagh,  
Kilmacrennan  
31st Anniversary**

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and granddad who died on 1st April 1993.

*Quietly today your  
memory is kept  
No need for words  
we will never forget.*

Always remembered by Margaret and family.

External Porch on Front Elevation of Existing Cottage during Renovation and Refurbishment Works of Existing Cottage, 3) Construction of Velux Rooflight to Front Elevation, 4) Conversion of Side Storage Shed into Living Accommodation, 5) Upgrade of Existing Septic Tank, 6) Excavation and Removal of substantial quantity of material from site, tip and level on land adjacent the Existing Cottage at Aughnish, Ramelton, Letterkenny M.D., 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, County House, Lifford 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.



**In Memoriam**



**Doherty**  
Jim  
Legnaoory,  
Kilmacrennan  
12th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and Granddad and great Granddad who died on the 1st April 2012.

*They say there is a reason, they say time will heal  
Neither time nor reasons will change the way we feel  
Gone are the days we used to share but in our hearts you are always there  
The gates of memories will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows*

Loved and missed every day by your wife Kathleen, six sons, two daughters, six daughters-in-law, son-in-law, 21 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



**Duffy**  
Willie  
Ballymagowan,  
Kerrykeel  
4th Anniversary

In loving memory of a beloved husband, father and grandfather who left us on 3rd April 2020.

*Willie, our memories of you are the things that last from day to day  
They can't be lost, can't wear out and they can't be given away  
So in our hearts, Willie, you will always stay  
A silent thought a quiet prayer  
For a special person in God's care.*

Loved and missed dearly by your wife Philomena, sons, daughters, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Mass offered.



**Gallagher**  
John  
Rossnakill  
17th Anniversary

In memory of John Gallagher, Rossnakill who died on the 1st April 2007.

*You toiled so hard for those you loved, you said goodbye to none  
Your spirit flew before we knew, your work on earth was done  
We miss you now our hearts are sore  
As time goes by we miss you more  
Your loving smile your gentle face  
No one can fill your vacant place  
Your life was love and labour  
Your love for your family true  
You did the best for all of us  
We will always remember you.*

Always loved and remembered by your wife Mary and family.

*We are sending a special message to arrive on the wings of a dove  
Stamped with love and kisses, the address is Heaven above.*

Always remembered by your grandsons.



**McGlinchey**  
Rita  
Ballaghderg,  
Letterkenny  
12th Anniversary

Treasured memories of a dear sister Rita who died 20th March 2012.

*Time passes memories stay quietly remembered every day,  
No longer in our lives to share but in our hearts you are always there.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by your brother John, Mary and family.



**Gallagher**  
Peggy  
Derryhassen Beg,  
Downings  
3rd Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear sister Peggy who died on 30th March 2021.

*Our thoughts are always with you in a very special way  
Not only on your Anniversary but every single day.*

Loved and remembered by sisters Mary Ann, Dublin and Fhaoin Binn, Derryhassen and Gracie, London and nephew James and family, London.

**Anniversary Remembrance was held on Saturday 23rd March in St. John the Baptist, Carrigart.**



**McGee**  
Mary  
Garrygort, Milford  
1st Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother who died on 31st March 2023.

*Dear Mary  
So gently, you slipped away  
But forever in our hearts you stay.*

With cherished memories and much gratitude for all you gave with such love, from Danny, Dolores and family, Patrick, Marguerite and family and Geraldine.

**Anniversary Mass will take place on Sunday 31st March at 11am in St. Peter's Church, Milford.**

during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application.

**Donegal County Council**

**Corry Td, Portsalon**  
We, Adrian and Louise O'Dalaigh are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for reconstruction of and extension to existing dwelling and decommissioning of existing septic tank and installation of waste



**Gallagher**  
Michael  
Cranford  
29th Anniversary

In memory of our son Michael who died on 2nd April 1995.

*No special day is needed for us to think of you  
For you were very special and we thought the world of you  
We hold you close within our hearts and there you shall remain  
To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.*

Loved and sadly missed by Mum and Dad

*No matter how life changes, no matter what we do  
A special place within our hearts is always kept for you.*

Loved and sadly missed by brothers Joe, Martin and Kevin, sisters Bridget and Carol, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, niece Aoiheann and nephews Michael, Connor, Eoghan, Cillian and Oisín.



**Jackson**  
Hannah  
Aughadrenna  
16th Anniversary

In loving memory of Hannah who died on 25th March 2008.

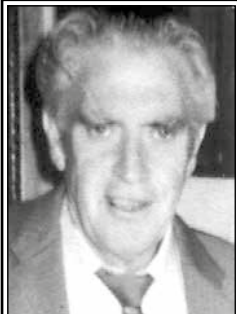
*A silent thought  
A little prayer  
For someone special in God's care.*

Loved and missed by nephew Art and family.

water treatment system and upgrading of existing percolation area at Corry Td, Portsalon, 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, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, County 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 of €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.

**Donegal County Council**

**Magheraroarty, Creeslough**  
We, Timothy Gibson and Eimmer Bianconi Gibson are applying to Donegal County Council for permission to erect a domestic garage/studio ancillary to my approved dwelling house and all other associated site development works at Magheraroarty, Creeslough, County Donegal in the townland of Magheraroarty. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a



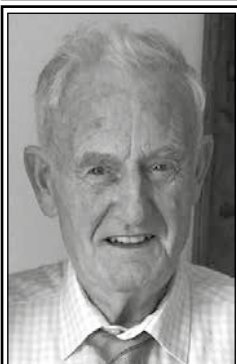
**McGinley**  
Pat  
Tonbane, Fanad  
24th Anniversary

In loving memory of our dear brother who died on 23rd April 2000.

*A beautiful life came to an end, you died as you lived,  
everyone's friend  
Life is not measured by how long you live, it's the person you were and all that you give  
We miss your smile, your joking ways, we miss the things you used to say  
And when old times we do recall, that's when we miss you most of all.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by your sisters, nieces and nephews at home and abroad.

**May your soul rest in peace.**

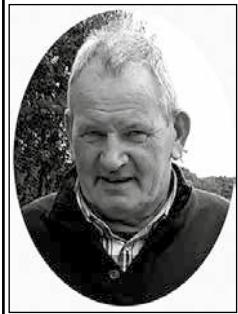


**Shovelin**  
Eddie  
Clondallon,  
Rathmullan  
4th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who died on the 2nd April 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.*

Loved and sadly missed by your wife Kathleen and all the family.



**O'Donnell**  
Pat  
Ballykeeran,  
Kilmacrennan  
3rd Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear brother, uncle, grand uncle and friend who died on 2nd April 2021.

*Of all the special gifts in life however great or small  
To have you in our lives was the greatest gift of all  
May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear  
"We love and miss you Pat and wish that you were here"  
A silent thought a secret tear keeps your memory ever near.*

Always remembered by your brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, grand nieces and grand nephews.

**Anniversary Mass on Sunday 31st March at 11am in St. Columba's Church, Kilmacrennan.**



**Russell**  
Frances  
Lacknacoo,  
Churchill  
10th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear Nana who died on 28th March 2014.

*No matter how life change, no matter what we do  
A special place within our hearts is always kept for you.*

Sadly missed by Tara, Ryan and Joe.

**McFadden**

**Bernie**  
67th Anniversary

In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother Bernie who died on 27th March 2018.

*A mother is special and so is her name  
Without one to love life is never the same*

*But as long as I live I will always be glad, grateful and proud of the mother I had.  
No matter what I do I will never forget those precious years the ones I shared with you  
You always had a smile to share time to give time to care  
A loving nature, kind and true  
These are the memories I have of you.*

Always remembered by Dom.

*A golden heart stopped beating  
hard working hands at rest  
It broke our hearts to see you go  
God only takes the best.*

Always remembered by Declan.

*We hold you close within our hearts  
and there you shall remain  
To walk with us throughout our lives  
until we meet again*

Loved and missed by Nicky, Ria and Caden

*My Mum  
A thousand words can't bring you back  
I know because I tried  
Neither can a million tears  
I know because I cried  
love and miss you Mum  
more than words can say.*

Love and miss you every day Ann

*Time changes many things  
Forever the memory this day brings  
Remembering you is easy, we do it every day.*

From Donna, Paul and family.

*Sadly missed along life's way  
Quietly remembered every day.*

Always remembered by Anthony and Margaret.

*No longer in our life to share  
But in our hearts, you're always there.*

Always remembered by Mark.

*You left us beautiful memories  
your love is still our guide.  
Although we cannot see you  
you are always by our side.*

Never forgotten, love Frederick, Stef and Boys

*I am so grateful that you were my Grandma. You have filled my life with so much love and precious memories.  
You will always be loved and forever missed.*

Loved and missed Lisa and kids

*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

Loved and missed every day Nikita

*Remembering you is easy  
I do it everyday; but missing you is a heartache that never goes away.*

Loved and missed always Zita, Martin and girls.

**MEMORIALS**  
**Mark Daly DALYSTONE**  
Headstones, Inscription, Restoration  
Accessories & Chipping  
**BALLYARE, RAMELTON**  
074 - 9116712 / 087 2244882  
Web; dalystone.ie Email; dalystone@live.ie

layout of permitted second floor apartment, and raising of the rear annexe to provide for bedroom accommodation at this level.

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, within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the application.

**Planning Notices**

**Donegal County Council**

**Drumnahoagh, Letterkenny**  
I, Michael Donaghey am applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for a new entrance to serve permitted development in lieu of existing entrance on to the N56 road including all associated site works at Drumnahoagh, Letterkenny, Co Donegal in the townland of Drumnahoagh. 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

**Donegal County Council**

**Corry Td, Portsalon**  
We, Adrian and Louise O'Dalaigh are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for reconstruction of and extension to existing dwelling and decommissioning of existing septic tank and installation of waste

**Donegal County Council**

**Magheraroarty, Creeslough**  
We, Timothy Gibson and Eimmer Bianconi Gibson are applying to Donegal County Council for permission to erect a domestic garage/studio ancillary to my approved dwelling house and all other associated site development works at Magheraroarty, Creeslough, County Donegal in the townland of Magheraroarty. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a

**Donegal County Council**

**19-21 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny**  
We, Glenview Catering Ltd are applying to Donegal County Council for planning permission for development at 19-21 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, in the townland of Letterkenny. The development will consist of alterations to a previously granted planning application reference no. 20/50106. These are to include: (1) Alterations to internal layout of permitted first floor apartment. (2) Alterations to internal



## Dunfanaghy

### Easter Ceremonies

The times of the Easter Ceremonies locally are: Holy Cross Church Dunfanaghy: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm, Good Friday 3pm Celebration of The Lord's Passion, Stations of the Cross at 7pm, Easter Saturday 8pm Vigil Mass of the Resurrection, Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection at 10am and 11.30am.

Holy Trinity Church Dunfanaghy: Wednesday 27th March Service at 8.15pm, Maundy Thursday Service 8.15pm, Good Friday 10.30am, Service at 8.15pm, Easter Day Holy Communion at 10.30am.

Dunfanaghy Presbyterian Church: Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am. Carrigart Presbyterian Church: Good Friday Service at 7.30pm.

St. Paul's Church Raymunderdowney: Good Friday Service at 12noon, Easter Day Holy Communion at 12noon.

St. John's Church Ballymore: Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm, Easter Day 10.30am Holy Communion.

St. Columba's Church Cashel: Good Friday Service at 7.30pm.

### Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to Willie and Gloria McKinley, Purl on the death of Gloria's brother Les Phelps in Washington.

### Dunfanaghy Country Markets

The Dunfanaghy Country Market has reopened for the season and are under the Green Gazebo every Saturday from 10am until 1pm. A wide selection of home baking, handknits and crochet

personalised crafts, jewellery, vegetables and flowers. Pre-orders can be taken through their Facebook page.

### Daffodil Day 2024

The Annual Street collection was held on Friday 22nd and on the morning of Saturday 23rd March realising a sum of €2,167. Also, the teachers, parents and friends of Holy Trinity NS held a Coffee morning and raised €383.

The organisers would like to thank Boyce's Centra and Moore's Shop for the use of their premises, the volunteers for their time and enthusiasm. Most importantly thanks go to everyone for their financial support.

### Cabaret Dance

A Cabaret Dance will be held in the Shandon Hotel on Saturday 6th April featuring Mick Flavin, John Glen, Noelle Slevin from Downings with backing from Brian Kerrigan. Admission is €15 and the doors open at 9pm with Dancing from 9.30pm until 12 Midnight. More information from the Hotel on 9136137 and everyone is welcome.

### Table Quiz

There will be a Table Quiz in Molly's Bar in Dunfanaghy on this Thursday Nite the 28th March in aid of the Festivals Committee.

### DLDC Employment Outreach

DLDC Employment Support can help long term unemployed to get back into full time employment, identify training opportunities, prepare CV and fill out application forms and much more. So if you wish to avail of our service: The Outreach Officer will be in attend-

ance in The Family Resource Centre on Wednesday 3rd April from 10am to 12noon. No appointment necessary. Further enquiries to Mary on 087 9926681.

### 5K Run and Walk

Local girl Niamh Corcoran from Kill is part of a group of nursing students going to Uganda from ATU St. Angelas. 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.

### Muckish Railway Walk

Dunfanaghy Youths FC are holding a 5km Walk along the Muckish Railway Walk on Easter Monday at 11a.m. The club want to bring members of our 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. 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. This is a 4 Person Team event with the prizes to include: 1st to 8th Place, N/Q Prize to the Ladies. Prize Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. There will also be a raffle and the Entry Fee is €100 per person. For more details contact [info@dunfanaghygolfclub.com](mailto:info@dunfanaghygolfclub.com) or Mary on 9136335 for Tee Times and Sponsors.

### Dunfanaghy Public Toilets

As you may be aware, the public toilets are the responsibility of Donegal County Council. Six years ago the council were going to close the toilets as they have done in other towns. At that time DTT stepped in to keep the toilets opened and main-

## 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: [michaelmcclafferty@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:michaelmcclafferty@donegalcoco.ie)

tained but overall responsibility still lies with DCC. During the past year DTT has secured funding to fix the roof and paint inside and outside. We have secured funding to reopen for the 2024 season and are now urgently looking for a cleaner in order to be able to reopen the facility. We feel this is a very important amenity for the town and are now asking for your help. Please share this information and contact 0868826044 for details or interest in the position. Without DTT involve-

ment the Public toilets will be closed. - *Dunfanaghy Tidy Towns committee.*

### 50/50 Draw

Congratulations to John McNulty who won €360 in the Dunfanaghy Youths 50/50 last week.

### St. Michael's Mini Lotto

There was no Jackpot winner 1 in the St. Michael's Mini Lotto. The numbers drawn were: 1,9,12,13,17,20. The two Match 5 winners were Una McGinley and P.J. McLaughlin, Ards.

## DUNFANAGHY YOUTHS F.C.

PRESENT THE

# MUCKISH 5KM RAILWAY WALK

IN AID OF MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND & JIGSAW

WALK, CONNECT & CHAT WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY.

ALL WELCOME AND SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES.

EASTER MONDAY AT 11AM. REGISTRATION IS FROM 10.30AM. LEAVING FROM MUCKISH SAND & GRAVEL CAR PARK F92N2R4.

FOR ANY QUERIES OR DETAILS CONTACT MARIE DUFFY ON [MARIEDUFFY2@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARIEDUFFY2@GMAIL.COM) OR 0876372344



Well done to St. Michael's player Shea Sweeney and Ryan Toye who played on Saturday last with the Donegal Under 15s Development Team.



5 Lambs which were born to the same Ewe on the farm of Paul Wilkinson in Purl, Dunfanaghy on Sunday, which is a new record for the area.



Doe Amateur Swimming Club held their end of year swimming gala in the Aura last Saturday and pictured are the children and adults who attended. It was a very enjoyable evening and the children put on a great spectacle wonderful children we are so proud of the progress you have made throughout the year and look forward to another swim season next year!



## Creeslough

### St. Michael's Mini Lotto

There was no Jackpot winner in the Mini Lotto last weekend. The numbers drawn were: 1,9,12,13,17,20. The two match 5 winners were Una McGinley and P.J. McLaughlin, Ards who both bought their tickets online. This week's Jackpot will be €5800.

### Cabaret Dance

A Cabaret Dance will be held in the Shandon Hotel on Saturday 6th April featuring Mick Flavin, John Glen, Noelle Shevlin with backing from Brian Kerrigan. Admission is €15 and the doors open at 9pm with Dancing from 9.30pm until 12 Midnight. More information from the Hotel on 9136137 and everyone is welcome.

### 50/50

Congratulations to John McNulty who won €360 in the Dunfanaghy Youths 50/50 last week.

### Easter Ceremonies

The times of the Easter Ceremonies locally are: St. Michael's Church, Creeslough: Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass of The Lords Supper,

8.30pm 10pm Time of Prayer; Good Friday 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 6pm Stations of the Cross, 8pm to 9pm Prayer around the Cross; Holy Saturday 8pm Easter Vigil Mass; Easter Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am.

Ards Friary: Holy Thursday 9a.m. Morning Prayer with Office of Readings, Confessions 10a.m. - 1p.m. and 2-4.45 p.m. 5p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Holy Hour; Good Friday 9a.m. Morning Prayer with Office of Readings, Confessions, 12Noon Stations of the Cross, Confessions 1-2.45p.m.; 3p.m. Solemn Celebration of the Passion. Holy Saturday 9a.m. Morning Prayer with Office of Readings, Confessions 10a.m.-1p.m. and 2-5.30 p.m. Vigil Mass at 7p.m.

Easter Sunday : Mass at 9a.m. Confessions 2-5.30p.m. Mass at 5.30p.m.

Holy Cross Church Dunfanaghy: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm, Good Friday 3pm Celebration of The Lord's Passion, Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Easter Saturday 8pm Vigil Mass of the Resurrection, Easter Sunday Mass of

the Resurrection at 10am and 11.30am.

St. John's Church Ballymore: Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm. Easter Day 10.30am Holy Communion.

St. Columba's Church Cashel: Good Friday Service at 7.30pm.

### Blessing of Oils

Blessing of Oils (Chrism Mass) The Chrism Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Boyce and the priests of the Diocese at 11.00 am on Holy Thursday in the Cathedral. Everyone who can is encouraged to attend.

### Muckish Railway Walk

Dunfanaghy Youths FC are holding a 5km Walk along the Muckish Railway Path on Easter Monday at 11a.m. We want to bring members of our 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.

### 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 & 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 from 9:30am-4:30pm and offers a variety of classes and groups including the following: Walking Group for all levels every Thursday morning @1pm/ Men's mobility on Wednesdays @12-1pm / Baby well being every Wednesday from @11am-12pm Book Club on Mondays @ 6pm-7pm. Foróige Youth Participation Group 16-21 year olds Mondays 5pm-6pm. Please reach out to info@creesloughcommunity.com or 087 292 3102 for more information or to



## School Transport Bus Escort required for Scoil Mhuire Creeslough

**Starting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

**Term time only. 12.5 hours per week (2.5 hours per day).**

**Must be available mornings and afternoons.**

**Please email your CV to [office@scoilmhuirecreeslough.ie](mailto:office@scoilmhuirecreeslough.ie).**

**Tel. 0749138282**

register for a course/ class.

### Muckish Drama Circle

Muckish Drama Circle is back. Rehearsals are now ongoing for their show I'm The One for You in the Massinass Hall on Thursday 25th,

Friday 26th and Saturday the 27th of April. As usual will showcase the local talent with this comedy play by Jimmy Keary! The show starts nightly at 7.30pm and tickets are now available.

## Cloughaneely

### The late Gerry Sweeney



The community was saddened by the recent sudden death of Gerry Sweeney, Glasgow and Ray, Falcarragh. He was predeceased by his parents Bella and James.

Sympathy is extended to his wife Aisling Sweeney (nee Duggan), daughter Shannon, son James, brothers Manus, John, Michael and sister Marie, mother-in-law Rose and father-in-law Seamus, sister-in-law Lorraine and brother-in-law Martin, nephews Jamie and Christopher, niece Melissa and all his extended family and friends.

His remains reposed at his sister-in-law Lorraine Duggan's home in Clonbara, Falcarragh and Funeral Mass took place on Wednesday in St Fionan's Church, Falcarragh with burial taking place afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

### Death of Stephanie Hearne

There was widespread regret and

sadness in the area recently on hearing of the peaceful death of Stephanie (Steph) Hearne, Ballyboes, Falcarragh and formerly from Kilkenny. Steph was just 36 years old and was a well known and respected member of the local community.

A native of Mooncoin on the Kilkenny Waterford border she moved to live in the area with her partner Emmy Doherty, a number of years ago.

Deepest sympathy is extended to her mother Mary, brothers John, Barry and Brandon, sister Laura, partner Emmy, sisters-in-law Mary and Marie, brother-in-law Nicky, nieces, nephews, extended family, neighbours and friends. Easter Sunday in Falcarragh

There is a full lineup of entertainment in Falcarragh on Easter Sunday from 2pm until 5pm. Events get underway with a parade featuring vintage cars and tractors. There will also be music on the street with John Cannon and Martin Duggan with Special Guest Chelsea Evans who is taking part in this year's Glor Tire.

### Junior Band

Lotto Results and there was no Jackpot winner. Winning numbers 1-7-8-9-16-19 Conor McGinley Meencarrick €100. This week's jackpot is €7050.

### Ionad Naomh Fionnán 50/50

Congratulations to Sheila Coyle, Dunfanaghy who won the 50/50 prize this week of €1052.

### Easter Ceremonies

The times of the Easter Ceremonies locally are as follows: Pobal Chríost Rí Gort A' Choirce: Déardaoin 7 i.n. - athrí ama, Déardaoin na Comaoineach, 29.03 Aoine 3 i.n., Seirbhís Aoine an

Chéasta agus adhradh na croise, 30.03 Satharn 9i.n. Searmanas Bhigil na Cáscá. 31.03 Domhnach 9 r.n. Domhnach Cáscá. 31.03 Domhnach 12.30 i.n. Baisteadh 31.03 Domhnach 11 r.n.

Naomh Fionán: Holy Thursday 28th 7:00pm Mass of The Lord's Supper; Good Friday 29th 3:00pm Solemn Liturgy of The Passion; Holy Saturday 30th 9:00pm Easter Vigil; Sunday 31st 9:00am Aifreann Domhnach na Cáisc 11:00am Mass for Easter Sunday.

St. Paul's Church Raymunterdowney: Good Friday Service at 12 noon. Easter Day Holy Communion at 12 noon.

### 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. Anyone needing help with their electricity bill should contact us as soon as possible on 0871443464.

### Pobail Le Cheile

Paistí 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 Cholm Cille on Friday mornings from 10.30am-12noon.

Singing Group with Candy from the Song House on Tuesdays at Garradh Cholm Cille 7pm-9pm.

Mediation Sessions with Theresa Kavanagh fortnightly on a Friday at Garradh Cholm Cille from 7pm-8pm. (donations welcome).



Pictured are participants in the Fun fashion show in aid of GOAL at the Failte Isteach English Conversation Group in Falcarragh. Event organisers were Pobail Le Chéile staff Ellen Bennett and Marie Ferry. Thanks to all the models and all who helped to make the event possible. Thank you to all who supported the Fashion Show.



Denis Whoriskey Ellen Bennett Marie Ferry Rosemary Grain Willie Dohhan Manus O Domhnail.



Ellen Bennett Rosemary Grain BIDDY Dohhan Tiffany Ferry Maire Gallagher Pól Penrose Finch McGilvery.



## An tSean Bheairic hosts Vibrant Art Exhibition on Good Friday

An tSean Bheairic is delighted to announce its upcoming art exhibition, set to take place on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The exhibition will serve as a platform to celebrate the remarkable talent nurtured through the art painting classes conducted by the talented Joe McClafferty. This is a free event. The event promises to be an evening of creative inspiration, showcasing the diverse array of local talent that has flourished under the guidance of Joe McClafferty. Attendees will have the opportunity to admire and ac-

quire artworks produced by the dedicated participants of his winter art classes, generously funded by the Donegal Education and Training Board.

With a myriad of styles and mediums on display, ranging from vibrant abstract compositions to intricately detailed portraits and breathtaking landscapes, the exhibition is sure to captivate art enthusiasts of all tastes. Oil, watercolour, coloured pencil, and ink are just a few of the mediums that will be featured, highlighting the versatility and skill of the exhibiting artists.

Joe McClafferty, a seasoned artist with a lifelong passion for painting, expressed his pride in the dedication and creativity demonstrated by his students. "I am so proud of all of my students and the hard work they have put into their art. This exhibition is a great opportunity for them to showcase their unique styles and creative talents," remarked McClafferty.

An tSean Bheairic art students invite the community to join them on Good Friday for an evening of artistic celebration. Complimentary wine and nibbles will be provided, adding to the convivial atmosphere as attendees peruse the inspiring collection of artworks.

The artists in attendance are: Sheila Dohhan, Eamonn Toye, Frankie Ferry, Aine Ferry, Charlotte Ferry, Brendan Sweeney, Andrea Cox, John Conaghan, Bríd Penrose Boyle, Seamus Dohhan, Frances Russell, Geraldine Dohhan, Ellen Russell, Mai Friel, Janet O'Donnell, Anne Walsh, Christine Brennan, Marie McFadden, Ann High, Donal Mc Gee.







Scenes from the Coffee Morning organised by the Sterritt Family in The Ozanam Centre in Dunfanaghy on Sunday. Photos by Moses Alcorn.



# GAA Club News

## Glenswilly

### Senior Men

The Senior men progress to the semi finals of the Gaeltacht after a victory over Dungloe on a score-line of 1-16 to 2-7 on Sunday.

Next up is the opening game of the All-County Division 1 League on Easter Saturday against Glenfin to Pairc Naomh Columba. Reserves throw in at 4pm followed by the Seniors at 5.30pm.

### Minor Board

The minor boys opened their league campaign with a 2-11 to 1-7 victory over St Eunan's on Sunday. A short trip into O'Donnell Park was followed up by a solid team performance, with goals coming from Conor Kelly and Shane Tinney. Next up is a home game to Cloughaneely on Monday 1st April, throw in 7pm.

The U16 Boys travelled to Magherafelt on Saturday to take part in the Ulster GAA U16 Tournament. The boys won all 7 of the games they played! The U16 League starts this Friday the 29th of March. The Division 1 team host St Eunan's while the Division 2 team travel to O'Donnell Park, both games throw in at 5pm.

### Ladies Board

The Senior Ladies made the journey to Carndonagh on Sunday for their first game of the O'Reilly's Division 2 League. A good team performance ensured a victory of 2-6 to 1-5.

The U16 Girls travel to Naomh Columba on Tuesday 2nd April, throw in 7pm.

An Easter disco will be held on Friday the 29th of March in the Club hall! Kids of all ages are welcome to join us for an evening of music, games, spot prizes and more. Entry is €5 per child!

The draw for the Easter Draw will also take place on Friday!

### Ciorcal Comhrá Ghleann tSúilí

Ciorcal Comhrá Ghleann tSúilí our Irish Language conversation group in Glenswilly GAA Club continues every Tuesday night at 8.15pm in the clubhouse. No need to be fluent, it's just a chance to casually practice your Irish. All levels welcome.

### Bingo and 50/50

Bingo continues every Wednesday in the hall, 8.30pm start! Congratulations to last week's 50/50 winner Amy Rodgers who won €250!

## St. Michael's

### All County Leagues

The all County Leagues will get underway on Saturday week the 6th April with both teams travelling to take on MacCumhails in Ballybofey. The Reserves game is at 4pm with the Seniors throwing in at 4.30pm.

### Mini Lotto

There was no Jackpot winner last weekend: The numbers drawn were: 1,9,12,13,17,20. The two Match 5 winners were Una McGinley and P.J. McLaughlin, Ards who both bought their tickets online. This week's Jackpot will be €5800.

### Minor Board LGFA

#### Well Done

Well done to Shea Sweeney and Ryan Toye who played on Saturday last with the Donegal Under 15s Development Team, maith sibh a bhuaichillí.

### Minor Boys

Congratulations to our Minor Boys team for kicking off their season with an impressive 5-point triumph on the road against Robert Emmets this morning.

Robert Emmets 3-7 St. Michael's 2-15

Next game is set for Monday 1st April.

### NRB U18 Division Three Round 2

St Michael's v Naomh Mhuire Conmhaigh

### Under 6's and Under 8's

Training for our Under 6 and Under 8 gaelic football groups for 2024 continues this Saturday at 10:30 at the bridge. New members welcome.

Children born in 2016 or 2017 are under 8. Children born in 2018 or after are under 6.

### Under 16's

The u16s are away to Red Hughes on Good Friday at 5pm.

### Under 12 Girls

Our u-12 girls train Wednesday at 6.15 for 6.30pm start. We'll go then again on Friday evenings at same time.

### Under 14's

The u14s played the second round of the Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta against Milford last Friday in terrible conditions. Performers of the night were Jake Alcorn, Harry Branch and Aaron McGinley. The start of the league on Wednesday the 3rd April, at home to St Eunan's.

### Under 10 Boys

Our Under 10 boys have a blitz in Falcarragh this Saturday at 10.30 start.

### Under 10 Girls

Training on 6.15-7.30 Wednesday. No training this Sunday for Easter.

### Senior Ladies

The Senior Ladies made the long journey to Malin, to start their League Campaign off on Sunday losing 4-09 to 1-09.

## Chloich Cheann Fhaola

### Comhbhrón

We extend our deepest condolences to club chairperson, Martin Duggan on the passing of his brother in law, Gerry and we extend our condolences to all of the Sweeney and Duggan families at this sad time.

### Comhghairdeas

Ba mhaith linn comhghairdeas a dhéanamh le Fionán Coyle a d'imir d'fhoireann Faoi 15 Dhún na nGall ag an deireadh seachtaine agus iad ag imirt in éadan Doire.

### Buíochas

We would like to thank Michael Fitzgerald, Séanna Jackson, Eamon Sweeney and Gerry Maguire who were out selling lotto tickets at the weekend.

### Comhghairdeas

The local draw for the National Club Draw was made recently and congratulations to the following who won prizes.

€500 - Mairead Mulhern, Ardsbeg

€100 - Pauric and Eadaoin Lynch

€100 - Orlaith Curran

€100 - Jaxon Gallagher, Dunmore

€100 - Denis McGee, Derryreel

€100 - Julie Campbell, Derryreel

Tá muid buíoch do gach duine a thug tacaíocht dúinn!

### Lotto

The numbers drawn were 3,9,11,12,14,16. We had 21 match 4s. Congratulations to Damien McCrossan who wins €100. The jackpot is now €6,450.

### Club 100+

Comhghairdeas leo seo a leanas a bhain duaiseanna: €500 - Seán Seosamh Mac Pháidín

€100 - Aodh Mulhern, Hugo McFadden, Ciaran McFadden, Derryreel, Ciaran Collins agus Sally Duggan

### Sraith Faoi 16 na gCailíní

CCF: 6-9 Cill Chartha: 2-11

## Gaeil Fhanada

### Lotto Results 24/03/2024

Numbers: 13, 15, 16, 21, 25. No jackpot winner.

€100 Winner: Kate McGrenaghan. This week's Jackpot: €5,850.

### March Grab a Grand

Tickets are currently on sale for our March Grab a Grand.

### Cluichí na Seachtaine

Dé hAoine, 29ú Márta

Buachaillí Faoi 16 - Sraith Roinn 3

Na Dúnaibh v Gaeil Fhanada 5:30

Dé Sathairn, 30ú Márta

Sraith Roinn 2 - Cluiche Tacaíochta

Gaeil Fhanada v An Tearmann 4:00

Sraith Roinn 2 - Sinséar

Gaeil Fhanada v An Tearmann 5:30

Dé Domhnaigh, 31ú Márta

Peil na mBan - Roinn 1

Gaeil Fhanada v Naomh Conaill 10:30

Dé Luain, 1ú Aibreán

Buachaillí Faoi 18 - Roinn 2

Gaeil Fhanada v Gleann Fhinne 7:00

Dé Máirt, 2ú Aibreán

Cailíní Faoi 16 - Roinn 4

Gaeil Fhanada v Nh Mhuire Conmhaigh 6:30

### Seniors & Reserves begin league campaign

The senior and reserve sides face into their first fixtures of the new league campaign as they welcome Termon to Portsalon at 4pm and 5:30.

### Ladies host Naomh Conaill

The Senior ladies are in action this Sunday when they host Naomh Conaill at 10:30am.

### Senior Ladies

Aodh Ruadh 1:10 Gaeil Fhanada 2:05

The crowd at Páirc Uí Shíadhail were treated to an entertaining and sporting contest on Sunday, but a spirited Gaeil Fhanada performance just wasn't enough as Aodh Ruadh came through by two points to seal the win. Rosheen McGinley will be particularly satisfied with her performance between the posts while Tori Gallagher and Mairead Coll also played well. Eiméar Sweeney was very good, while Shauna Howe's three excellent blocks in the closing stages were very impressive.

Gaeil Fhanada: Rosheen McGinley, Shauna Howe, Tori Gallagher, Méabh McAteer, Caitlin Heraghty, Maggie Friel, Jessica Coll, Eimear Sweeney (1:00), Eimear Gibbons, Rachel Sweeney, Iseult Ní Mhathúna (1:01), Siobhan Sweeney, Hannah Shiels (0:03), Caoimhe Walsh, Mairead Coll (0:01). Méabh Duffy for Caitlin Heraghty, Rachael Friel for Caoimhe Walsh, Michelle Doherty for Eimear Gibbons, Caoimhe Walsh for Rachael Sweeney, Eibhlín Shiels for Jessica Coll.

### Minors record opening day victory in Milford

Gaeil Fhanada 3:09 Baile na nGallóglach 1:13

## Division 2 League Final

# McGuinness going for league title

How much that both Donegal and Armagh put into Sunday's Division 2 League Final will really only be known when the game is over at Croke Park (throw-in 1.45). It is the curtainraiser to the Division 1 decider between Dublin and Derry. For Jim McGuinness it is a big opportunity to bank his first piece of silverware just seven months after taking charge of Donegal for the second time. Kieran McGeeney has been a long time in charge of Armagh with not a lot in the way of success to show for his endeavours apart from an Ulster Championship title.

It may just be the case that Donegal have more hunger to win Sunday's Final bearing in mind that their chances of advancing in the provincial championship are rated as slim against Derry on Sunday April 20th at Celtic Park. When the two sides met at the Athletic Grounds earlier in the Division 2 league campaign it ended up a draw



Meath's Harry O'Higgins being chased down by Oisín Gallen.

## Top of Division 2 for Donegal

### Donegal 1-18 Meath 1-10

The Donegal senior footballers completed the Division 2 league campaign unbeaten after a six-point win over Meath at MacCumhail Park on Saturday night. Jim McGuinness's side only dropped one point in the seven games and that was the away draw against Armagh who they will play in Sunday's league final. Donegal had 10 different scorers but the downside was the injuries picked up by Paddy McBrearty and Ryan McHugh.

The visitors got the perfect start with Cathal Hickey finding the Donegal net from the throw-in with just 16 seconds on the clock but there were 28 minutes on the clock before Meath got their first point. Donegal's first score didn't come till the 12th minute courtesy of St. Eunan's forward Shane O'Donnell. James Conlon had the chance of a second Royals goal but Shaun Patton made a good save.

10 minutes before the break, McGuinness's men hit a purple patch with four points in a two-minute courtesy of Oisín Gallen twice, Jamie Brennan and Aaron Doherty. Gallen, sub Jeaic Mac Ceallabhú and Hugh McFadden tagged on further scores for the hosts. Meath did post a couple of points but then lost Adam McDonnell to

Well done to the lads who recorded a hard fought win over Milford on Sunday at Moyle View Park. A brilliant second half performance in particular from the lads, and a special shout out to Killian Friel for a number of important saves.

Killian Friel, Darragh McElwaine, Eoghan Logue, Jamie McAteer, Caolan McElwaine, Niall Toland, Shane Carr, JP Gallagher, Christian Gibbons, Declan Brougham, Cormac Dunleavy, Daibhid Lynch, Darragh O'Doherty. Harry Blaney for Niall Toland.

### €770 for Donegal Down Syndrome

As it was World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday, the proceeds from the gate at Sunday's ladies game of €770 was donated to Donegal Down Syndrome.

### Ladies on County Duty

It was another busy week for our County players over the weekend. Clare Friel started in nets for the

between McGuinness's troops and the hosts. Paddy McBrearty has been ruled out of Sunday's decider with a leg injury that was scanned in Dublin on Monday. Ryan McHugh is also a doubt after coming off during the Meath game with what appeared to be a shoulder injury.

Brendan McCole is also unlikely to feature having missed the last few games with a toe problem while Carn's Conor O'Donnell is still out with a hamstring problem. On the plus side Muff's Caolan McColgan came on as a sub on Saturday night while St. Eunan's man Niall O'Donnell got more game time. He could start against Armagh but it's more likely to be Jack McKelvey who came on for the injured McBrearty against Meath. The changes will be kept to the minimum. It will be interesting to see just how physical Armagh are and what way McGeeney sets up against Donegal who topped the table at the end of the campaign.

a black card for a late challenge on Oisín Gallen. Ryan McHugh and Shane Walsh exchanged points late in the half leaving Donegal four in front at the break (0-10 to 1-03). Ruairi Kinsella and McHugh swapped points after the restart. Aaron Doherty, and Ciaran Thompson both split the posts. Then Doherty set up Jamie Brennan to net the Donegal goal. Thompson and Gallen put Donegal nine clear before losing Caolan McGonagle to a black card. However the hosts finished well with further points from Thompson and sub Luke McGlynn

Donegal - Shaun Patton; Mark Curran, Stephen McMenamin, Ciaran Moore; Ryan McHugh 0-2, Caolan McGonagle, Peadar Mogan; Hugh McFadden 0-1, Aaron Doherty 0-2; Shane O'Donnell 0-2, Ciarán Thompson 0-3, 2fs, Jamie Brennan 1-1; Patrick McBrearty, Oisín Gallen 0-4, Dáire Ó Baoill. Subs: Jeaic Mac Ceallabhú 0-1 for McBrearty 19 mins; Niall O'Donnell for Ó Baoill h-t; Caolan McColgan for McHugh 44 mins; John Ross Molloy and Luke McGlynn 0-1 for McMenamin and McFadden both 54 mins. Not used: Gavin Mulreany, Ronan Frain, Ronan Gallagher, Donal McBride, Philip Doherty, Odhran Doherty.

Ref: Paddy Neilan (Roscommon)

senior side, Rachael Friel and Méabh McAteer were on minor duty while Aoihbhinn Callaghan, Amy McAteer and Clodagh McAteer were at the U14 Festival of Football in Tyrone.

### Siobhan on Division 1 duty in Armagh

Siobhan Coyle took charge of the Ladies Division 1 clash between Armagh and Dublin on Saturday. Another big game in the bag for Siobhan and her Gaeil Fhanada umpires, John Cushnan and Hughie Shiels.

## An Tearmainn

### County Players

Well done to our players Shannon McLaughlin, Evelyn McGinley and Jodie McFadden who lined out for the Donegal senior ladies in their win in Tipperary on Sunday. The Donegal minors also

Contd. Page 34



# GAA Club News

From Page 33

beat Tyrone at the weekend, well done to Maeve Brady, Siobhan Cameron and Niamh Boner.

## Senior men

The new All County League Division 2 season starts for our senior men this Saturday 30th March with both sides taking on Fanad Gaels in Portsalon. The reserves game is at 4pm with the seniors at 5.30pm. Good luck to both teams this campaign. **Minor**

The minor boys are at home on Friday evening against Gaioth Dobhair at 5pm at The Burn Road.

## Academy returns

The club's academy for boys and girls U6 to U10 returns this Saturday 30th March.

The U6's at the Kilmacrennan Community Pitch at 10.15am.

The U7/U8's at the Burn Road at 10am. The U9/U10 Girls at Kilmacrennan Community Pitch at 11.30am. The U9/U10 Boys at the Burn Road at 9.45am. Details of coach contacts to pre-register are available on the club's socials.

## Underage Presentations

The U16 girls had their presentation from last season recently. They were presented with their Division 2 county medals. Meave Brady, Niamh Boner, Kate McCafferty (u14) and Cayla McFadden (u14) were recognised for the involvement at county level. Muireann Reidy was named Players Player of the Year and Niamh Boner was Player of the Year.

## Mothers & Others

Mothers & Others returning 12th April, new members welcome. 7-8pm at the Burn Road, Contact Declan for details on 086 202 9851. It's a fun way for ladies over 25 to go out have some fun while exercising and making new friends in a non-competitive environment.

## Lotto

Lotto Results - 24/3/2024. No's drawn were 1, 19, 25, 27. There was no winner of the €1500 Jackpot. There were two Match 3 winners of €40 each - Dan Connaghan and Frances Gallagher. The €10 Lucky Dip winners were Anne Doherty and Barney Boyle. Jackpot for Sunday 31st March will be €1550.

## St Eunan's

### Easter GAA camp

There will be an Easter GAA camp taking place next week in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny on April

2nd, 3rd and 4th. This is for Primary School Children and the cost is €50 per Child. For more information and to register please check out the St. Eunans GAA Social media channels.

## LGFA

Hard luck to our Senior ladies' team who narrowly lost by one point to Glenfin on Sunday morning in O'Donnell Park - St Eunans 1-08 Glenfin 3-03. The Senior ladies next match is away to Moville on Sunday March 31st at 10.30am.

## Senior Football (Men)

The All-County League Division starts this weekend for our senior men's teams. Our seniors and reserves are away to Kilcar on the first weekend.

Division 1 - Kilcar v St Eunans in Kilcar, Saturday March 30th, throw in time 5.30pm.

Division 1B - Kilcar v St Eunans in Kilcar, Saturday March 30th, throw in time 4pm.

Under 18 (Boys) Division 1 and Division 3 - Round 2 League fixtures

St Eunan's U18 Division 1 boys started their league campaign last Sunday (March 24th) losing at home to Glenswilly 1-7 to 2-11.

Under 18 Division 1 - Sean MacCumhaill v St Eunans in Sean MacCumhaills, Monday April 1st, throw in time 7pm.

Under 18 Division 3 - St Eunans v Robert Emmets in O'Donnell Park, Monday April 1st, Throw in time 7pm.

Under 16 (Boys) Division 1 and Division 3 - Round 1 League fixtures

Under 16 Division 1 - Glenswilly v St Eunans in Glenswilly, Friday March 29th, Throw in time 5pm.

Under 16 Division 3 - St Eunans v Glenswilly in O'Donnell Park, Friday March 29th, Throw in time 5pm.

## Club Lotto

The Club Lotto draw takes place each Monday evening. Tickets can be purchased online through our Club website or from Adrian Shields.

## Sunday Morning Skills Academy

The Sunday Morning Skills Football Academy continues this Sunday March 31st from 11am to 12.15pm. This is for Boys and Girls aged 4 to 10. See St Eunan's GAA Social media channels for more details.

## Hurling

The Hurling Academy continues each Friday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in O'Donnell Park, this is for

children from 5 to 12 years of age. Hurls and Helmets are provided. New players are always welcome.

## Donegal Senior Football Team

Best wishes to the Donegal Senior Mens team and management who play Armagh in Croke park on Easter Sunday March 31st at 1.45pm in the Allianz League Division 2 final.

## Contact

Anyone wishing to get appropriate matters included in the Club notes please email them to the PRO by 10pm on Sunday night at pro.steunans.donegal@gaa.ie

## Baile na nGalloglach

Lotto: 19/3/24

Numbers : 1-9-18-22

No Jackpot winner. €50 Lucky Dip winner is Danielle Kelly, Rathmullan.

## LOTTO ROTA:

Sat 30th March, Maple, Milford - U10 Boys.

## RESULTS AND FIXTURES

### Senior Men

Our Seniors and Reserves get their Division 2 League campaign starts on Saturday evening (30th) with away fixtures against Ardara. Throw in for Seniors is 5.30pm and Reserves at 7pm.

### Minor (Under 18) Boys

**Baile Na nGalloglach 1-14 Fanad Gaels 3-10**  
Our first home league game ended in a 2 point defeat in a game where the lads will be wondering how they ended up losing. The game was 13 a side which resulted in an open attacking game for the good crowd attending. Milford were on top from the beginning and led by 7 near the end of the 1st half but conceded a goal right on half time. They continued to lead until a few minutes to go when Fanad got ahead for the first time in the game.

The lads will rue missing a host of clear goal chances in both halves which ultimately cost them victory.

Next game is on Monday April 1st at home to Letterkenny Gaels.

Strong performances on the night from all 18 players used but especially Martin Buchanan, Sean Black, Rory O'Brien, Conor McLaughlin and Shay Gibbons who had a fantastic 1st half. Rory O'Brien 1-06 (5f); Shay Gibbons 0-05; Adam Morgan 0-02; Conor McLaughlin 0-01.

### U14 Boys

Our U14 boys had a good win at home to St Michaels in the Gaeltacht championships on Friday

last on a scoreline of 9-5 to 3-9.

### U13 Girls

Our U13 girls had a challenge match at home to Glenswilly on Sunday last. It was a very good team performance.

Our U13 girls who played against Glenswilly on Sunday last.

### U12 Boys

Training continues in Ray Astro on Mondays from 5.45 -7pm. New players are welcome to attend.

## Ghaeil Leitir Ceanainn

The adult hurlers of CLG Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn welcomed St. Fionnbarr's of South Derry last weekend in the opening game of the Ulster League. This was a historic game for St. Fionnbarr's as it was their first competitive game for their adult team. In a titanic struggle Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn won by a single point, 1-16 to 3-9. This game started the Ulster Hurling league 2024 and we look forward to a great year. Well done to all involved. Buíochas mór do Choláiste Ailigh as an pháirc agus na háiseanna. The senior and reserve footballers get their league seasons off to a start this weekend. First up the reserves make the short journey to O'Donnell Park on Saturday with a throw in time of 2pm.

Then later in the afternoon the seniors travel to Moville to take on Bun an Phobail. Throw in 5.30pm.

The U-16 girls continued their season with an away game against Baile na nGalloglach last Tuesday evening. The girls welcome Termon to Páirc na nGael next Tuesday for Round 3 of the Division 2 League.

Winter training for U-12 girls continues on Sunday mornings from 11-12noon on the Astro at Aura. New players are always welcome. Contact Ursula Gallagher 0857085323 for more information.

Underage boys football training continues every Friday evening from 5.30pm-6.30pm at the Astro at Letterkenny Rovers Leckview Park.

This training is for boys in the 2012, 2013 & 2014 age groups. We are especially looking forward to welcoming new faces.

Contact Declan on 086 075 1980 for more details.

U10 Hurling training continues every Sunday at 11am on the Aura Astro. New players and players from neighbouring non Hurling clubs are welcome to come along and try it out.

Dual Nursery U-7/U8 Hurling and Camogie Training is on Thursdays 6pm in Colaiste Ailigh Hall. Contact Brendan on 087 2845307 for more details.

Bingo continues every Monday evening at the Arena 7 with €2,760 up for grabs.

# Termon U16's presentation

The management and girls from the 2023 Termon U16 team got together recently for a belated presentation



The U16 Team with manager Brian Trearty and assistant Caroline Friel.

of their county medals and awards. Newly appointed chairman James Whoriskey welcomed everyone and said a few words of congratulations and encouragement for the season ahead. He thanked the sponsors: McHale Muldoon solicitor's, Kieran and Niamh Friel for the training tops, Hugh Treaty the Podman for sponsoring a set of playing jerseys. The girls were treated to some lovely food supplied by Lisa and Johnny McCafferty and the Lagoon staff. The girls were presented with their medals, and then the individual awards were handed out.

They were:

County representation in 2023, at U14 Kate McCafferty and Cayla McFadden

U16 Meave Brady and Niamh Boner Players player of the year: Muireann Reidy

Player of the year, nominated by Shauna Kelly, now residing in Australia: Niamh Boner

Brian Treaty, team manager spoke about the work the girls have put in and the unsocial hours sometimes that they and their parents have been

out for training and be taken to and from games.

He thanked Chairman James for his support and speech and presentation. Hoping for another successful year on the pitch again in 24.

Also a special mention to Carla from Spain, who played with the team last season, but has now returned to her home in Spain, where she continues to play Gaelic football.

Everyone was thanked for coming along and being part of a great team in 2023, and hopefully more of the same in 2024.

The full squad are as follows: Orla Cunningham; Grainne Gallagher; Niamh Boner; Laoise Duggan; Lucy Treaty; Grace Doherty; Rocha McLaughlin; Aoibhe Quinn; Kate McCafferty; Alisha Gallagher; Cara McGettigan; Grace Strain; Roisin Whoriskey; Aoife Cameron; Aoibhinn Boyle; Brid McGettigan; Casey Reid; Carla Bialbo; Bridin Friel; Lucie McGarvey; Roseann O'Donnell; Meave Brady; Muireann Reidy; Ava Friel; Cayla McFadden; Hannah May Sweeney; Lauren McCaul; Leah O'Gara.



Meave Brady received her award for representing the County at U16 level last season.



Cayla McFadden received her award for recognition on representing the County from Brian Treaty.



Kate McCafferty receiving her award for recognition on representing the County



Muireann Reidy received her award as players player of the year '23.



Niamh Boner, who received the player of the year award along with an award for her representing the county also.



# 1000 attend Mica meeting

From Page One negligence has to be investigated. We will need the support of other Counties affected by Defective Blocks in order to make the Government deliver a true 100% scheme" Mr Doherty said. MEP Luke 'Ming' Flanagan in a message to the meeting said a Public Inquiry had to be held and every effort had to be made to avoid such a situation occurring again. Thomas Pringle said it was not on for politicians to be blaming the Departments for the failure of the scheme. "I have no faith in this Government to sort this out and they aren't interested in doing so. Padraig MacLochlainn pointed to the irony of the Government describing the scheme as a good one when over a 1,000 people are clearly unhappy with it. If Sinn Fein is in the next Government MacLochlainn said his Party would deliver a true

100% Redress Scheme. Cllr Martin McDermott, who is Chairperson of the Council's Defective Concrete Blocks Committee, said he was fully endorsing the Peoples Document. "We are trying to fix some of the stumbling blocks in the current scheme. I think we can work with the Council Chief Executive on some of these issues. We will try to make changes but that needs help at a higher level. I fully endorse the Peoples Document," he said. Speaking on behalf of some of the Independent Cllrs, Nicholas Crossan said they were backing a true 100% Redress Scheme. And he told the meeting that his fellow Independent Cllr Pauric McGarvey's house, is being demolished this week. Aontu's Mary T Sweeney and 100% Redress Party member Tomas Devine also endorsed the Peoples Document. Pearse Doherty slammed the Hous-

ing Department over its failure to act on 0% bridging finance that had been secured from the banks. He described the current scheme as 'shite'. Affected homeowner,



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### March Sales

Sat 30th March - **Weanling Sale (Heifers only)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 28th March from 8.00 - 8.30pm

### April Sales

Mon 1st April - **Sheep Sale** 7pm  
Sat 6th April - **Weanling Sale (Bulls only)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 4th April from 8.00 - 8.30pm  
Wed 10th April - **Cattle Sale** 12noon  
**No Sale Saturday 13th April**  
Mon 15th April - **Sheep Sale** 7pm  
Sat 20th April - **Weanling Sale (Mixed)** 11am  
Booking in on Thurs 18th April from 8.00 - 8.30pm  
Wed 24th April - **Cattle Sale** 12noon  
**No Sale Saturday 27th April**  
Mon 29th April - **Sheep Sale** 7pm

## Divers Hardware

Kilmacrennan Road, Milford  
Tel. 074 91 53474

### Easter Holidays

The shop will be closed on  
Friday 29th March and will  
re open on Tuesday 2nd April.

## Ferry Hedge Cutting



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Gar McDonnell, Ramelton addressing the meeting on Tuesday night. Photo by Declan Kerr.

Gar McDonnell who resides in Ramelton said he was sick and tired of politicians making promises before elections and when they were over nothing happened. "I am going to be on blood pressure tablets for the rest of my life. I am €100,000 out of pocket to build a new house because of this. I am on my knees and really struggling. Please give us something to believe in," Mr McDonnell pleaded. Joe Morgan who resides in Ray, Rathmullan spoke about the EU delegation visit to Donegal to see first hand the extent of the defective concrete blocks crisis. He said there were hopeful signs that within the next year the Commission will take further steps on a report that has been adopted regarding the Irish Government's handling of the crisis.

In summing up at the end of Tuesday night's meeting Michael Doherty said that the people needed hope that brighter days were ahead but he added the reality still has an air of scepticism. The group has the Peoples Document 'oven ready' for legislation that they say cannot be amended by Department officials. Clearly they want the current Government to act on it now but at the same time accept that doesn't look like happening.

# Election campaign trail see more nominations

A number of campaign launches for the local elections are due to take place in the next two weeks. They include Cllrs John O'Donnell, Michael McClafferty and Pauric McGarvey. Not all interested parties have finalised their election runners and rumour abounds that not all outgoing Cllr. are running again.

In recent days, Buncrana man Fionán Bradley has been selected to run for Fianna Fáil in the Buncrana area for the seat vacated by Cllr. Rena Donaghy. Bradley was elected ahead of Gemma McGrory-Fitzgerald, the only other contestant at the convention.

In the 2019 campaign, FF polled 37.3% followed by Sinn Fein on 26.2% with Indep. Cllr Nicholas in third place on 14% and Fine Gael got 10.1%. It is a five-seater. In 2019 the quota was 1,412: expect that be over 1,600 in June.

Ramelton Cllr. Pauric McGarvey will launch his campaign in the Town Hall on Friday week at 7.30. Among the guests are Independent Senators Gerard Craughwell and Sharon Keogan.

Independent Cllr. Michael McBride will launch his campaign to retain his Council seat this week for the Letterkenny area. On Friday his first launch is in Kilmacrennan Hall at 4pm and on Saturday in Wilkin's Bar Churchill at 5pm.

He first became a Cllr. in May 2011 and he has focussed on many local issues, originally in the Milford area and later in Letterkenny. He's been campaigning for the reopening of Kilmacrennan Health Centre and said the response to his queries from the HSE has been vague and disappointing. He hopes to establish over the weekend the issues around its closure and also that of Churchill. He has a long-standing interest promoting small business enterprises and is familiar with the pressures and demands in construction and in housing.

He told the Tribune: "During my time I am pleased to say that I have helped achieve the following. Helped to bring university status to the college in Letterkenny. Proposing a full transport hub for Letterkenny which will be delivered as part of the URDF programme. Strongly advocated for greenways and their maintenance in our county, Letterkenny to Burtonport. Have supported numerous local organisations and sports groups, he has been a strong voice for the mica affected families, Consistently voted against the rise in property tax and business rates. Many roads projects, street lighting, footpaths, and water projects."

## 100% Redress Party seeks radical changes

The 100% Redress Party has now named four candidates and it's expected that more will follow shortly.

Tomas Devine, Chair of the Party, will seek a seat in Letterkenny. Self-employed, Thomas is a father of five and two weeks ago he raised concerns in the Tribune saying the new Little Angels School near his home is already too small, even before it is opened.

"Although our major focus is on securing a genuine 100% redress scheme for all those affected by defective concrete products, we will also be campaigning on housing, health and tourism. We also want to give hope to our young people who are leaving our shores in their plane loads. To restore confidence in our democracy, it's also vital that we bring openness and transparency to politics," he said.

The 'Party' has announced Ali Farren as its second candidate to represent the party at the local elections in June 2024.

Farren, who is also the Party's Public Relations Officer is seeking a seat in the Carndonagh area.

Mr. Farren said: "As a proud Inishowen man born and bred and I'm a community centre manager and a tourism business owner. I've long been a campaigner for local issues and a vocal champion for all that the region has to offer.

Having experienced firsthand how the mainstream parties have failed the victims of the defective concrete block crisis, I helped form the 100% Redress Party in late 2023, along with other equally concerned and public service minded members of the community.

The crisis has affected the entire community of North Inishowen - directly and indirectly - and the 100% Redress Party is seeking a mandate to speak on everyone's behalf."

Eamonn Jackson from Milford (right) will run there. He said: "Ten years ago, when I helped set up the Mica Action Group, I could not

have imagined running for Council, nor could I have imagined that my family, like many others, would still be living in the same crumbling homes.

The fact that a decade has gone by and we are still without a 100% redress scheme or a positive turnaround in this space, truly highlights the necessity for a new and more impactful political voice, one who will not stop until we see change. The Government parties have failed the people of Donegal and must be challenged, and I believe this challenge begins in the Council Chamber." Eamonn is also an active member of both the Mulroy Soccer Academy and Fanad Gaels GAA club.

Charles Ward who was until recently a key committee member of the Mica Action Group is the party candidate in the Stronarlara area. "The opportunity to advocate and fight the continued injustice being dished out to every individual by local and national government in its handling of the Defective Concrete Crisis, means that hope for Donegal has not yet been completely extinguished."

Charles is originally from Arranmore Island, has lived in Drumkeen since building his dream home over 20 years ago. A Healthcare worker at a Convoy Nursing Home and father to four children, Charles is married to fellow campaigner Angela Ward, an Assistant Principal in the Finn Valley area and PRO for the Mica Action Group.

## New era for Labour!

A new name entering the political landscape in the Glenties Electoral Area is Jimmy Duffy. The Rosses native from Carrickfinn is running for the Labour Party and is following in the footsteps of former Labour County Councillor, Seamus Rodgers. Jimmy has been working closely with the tireless community activist Seamus for a number of years and is now set to carry the Labour banner forward in west Donegal. In fact "Continuing the

Rodgers Legacy" is a central theme in his campaign as he enters the race for a seat for the first time.

## SF's Brian Carr takes up council seat

Sinn Féin's Brian Carr (pictured below with Pearse Doherty) has officially been co-opted onto Donegal County Council. The motion was proposed at Wednesday's meeting at the council. The Glenties native will replace the outgoing Councillor, Marie Therese Gallagher.

Back in February, Marie Therese Gallagher announced that she would not be seeking re-election to the council. She has served on the council since 2007.

Carr was also selected to contest the upcoming Local Election in June for Sinn Féin at a convention on February 27th. The new Councillor was given a warm welcome to the Chamber by fellow councillors and senior council staff.

Cllr Brian Carr added "I firstly want to thank my friend, Marie Therese Gallagher, for handing me the reins and giving me this opportunity. Marie Therese has set the standard for what a County Councillor in this area should be and I plan to continue where she left off. can't wait to get the sleeves rolled up and get to work for the people of this area. It is such a great honour to be representing my local area on the council."





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