

FOREWORD

By any standard 2025 was an extraordinary year. It began with the indiction of a Holy Year of Hope which saw millions on pilgrimage to Rome to visit the tomb of the Apostle and gain the Holy Year indulgence. In April, Pope Francis died after a pontificate of twelve years. He was followed by the election of Pope Leo XIV, an American from Chicago who has spent much of his life on the missions in Peru. None of the busy media commentators mentioned him in the context of the conclave.

Wars continued in the Ukraine and in Palestine where levels of atrocities were reached not seen before in history. In the latter conflict, the rules of conventional warfare were discarded and non-combatants deemed legitimate targets, be they in hospitals or approaching food distribution points which were no more than deadly traps set to fell the most vulnerable. To many, it would appear as though the war in Palestine had been conducted on an updated model of Edmund Spencer's *A View of the Present State of Irelande* in which Eudox and Irenius had merely changed names in order to peddle their scorched earth policy to a new generation. Despite *Nie wieder*, Europe, more concerned with economics and oil and gas supplies, lacked all moral courage to prevent such catastrophies, while some national governments made much noise but ensured that it remained without practical effects or retaliatory financial consequences.

This year also saw a presidential election in Ireland. It was of a type not previously seen or experienced. Rogue political elements sought to pervert the democratic process and leave the electorate with a Hobson's choice of candidates. Probably for the first time in the history of the State, members of County Councils were instructed by political parties not to give their approval to independent candidates. A spurious logic sought to justify this practice by insisting that independent candidates would militate against party candidates, notwithstanding that such had been the case in previous elections. In their abject compliance with party headquarters, these County Council members only further underlined their all but superfluous role both in the general and local democratic processes since much of their effective decision making in the County Councils has long been appropriated by County Managers and what little remained has now been usurped by central party headquarters. The reaction, however, of the electorate should serve as a warning to any and all rogue political elements that electoral gerrymandering will not be tolerated.

This year's Christmas magazine, in addition to its usual items of parochial and local interest, also contains an important assessment of the work of the German jurist

Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde (1930-2019). Much of his work concentrated on providing an intellectual underpinning for the role and function of the modern liberal democratic state and its interaction with society of which it must always be the servant. He was especially interested in its safeguarding from fascist and totalitarian take-over – such as had happened with the post World War I Weimar Republic in Germany. He affords the classic definition of the totalitarian state as one in which the state and all of its organs have become coterminous with one political party and its organs. He also points out that the modern liberal democracy cannot intellectually guarantee its fundamental axioms – put another way, it cannot be justified without reference to a moral system. These reflections may prove useful for us given some of the comments made by some political figures in the wake of the recent presidential election: e.g. one County Councillor, very obviously unfamiliar with Böckenförde's work, deemed it an attack on the state to spoil votes in the election and that those who did so ought to have all state aid withdrawn from them. Given that elections in this country are conducted on the basis of a secret ballot, it would be interesting to know of the methods that can lawfully be employed to ascertain the identities of those who chose to spoil their votes.

Our Christmas magazine delves once again into the rich historical patrimony of our parish and locality. An article describes the building evolution of the Franciscan friary in Buttevant from its foundation to its dissolution. The same house was also the burial place of the Norman de la Chapelle family that had extensive land holdings in the parish of Ballyhea. The family continues today under the name of Supple having passed through the Irish name of Séipéal.

Archbishop Croke of Cashel is well known to the GAA but perhaps less well-known are his missionary endeavors in New Zealand and his unabashed support for the land campaign of the late 19th. century, or indeed his local family connections.

At a very immediate level, we are fortunate to be able to publish an article on the firm of P&J Ryan of Ardnageehy, probably the first chain store business founded in Ireland and which developed a commercial model of supplying its chain of shops with goods all produced in-house and to the highest quality. During the height of its operation from 1920 to 1960 it provided much needed employment in the local area and salvaged many families from unwanted emigration.

We wish all our readers a very happy and holy Christmas and a more peaceful New Year in 2026.

Parish News

Baptisms In The Parish

December 2024-November 2025



*Danny Martin Scannell
Davey Tommy O'Neill
Stephen McCarthy
Daniel Philip Ryan
Indiana Bridget O'Neill
Jacqueline Bloom Meade Pollard
Finn Patrick Morrissey
Sienna Banuffi O'Flynn
Matilda Ann Murphy
Liam Michael Kerrigan
Rían Christopher Lyons*



Deaths From December 2024 - November 2025

Breda Hannon, (Née O'Connor), Doneraile & Newtown House Ballyhea.
Mary Fehilly, (Née Long), Charleville.
Tony Moylan, Cork
Lucy Murphy, Ballinagrath.
Mary Brassil, (Née Moriarty) Oxford & Sorrell.
Mary Blake, Bweeng.
Shonie McDonald, Scotland.
Denis Donovan, Castlemagner.
Kathleen O'Neill, (Née Mulqueen) Annacotty.
Pat Mooney, Bruree. & Ballycosgry
Jimmy O'Connell, Glenroe.
John Gleeson, Cooleens
Mary Leo. Charleville.
Patricia (Pat) Ring, Cooleens, & Pruntus
Joan O'Mahony, (Née Carey), Castlewrixon.
Elizabeth (Betty) Duloherly, Cecilstown.
Rev. James O'Kane Cushendall, Co. Antrim
Mary Moloney, Charleville & Effin.
Donal O'Brien, England & Ballymac, Effin.
John Foley, Charleville.
Joan Corbett, Pike Cross, Ballyhea.
Liam O'Callaghan.
Frank Quain, Charleville.
Fr. Michael O'Connor, Austin, Texas, & Newtown Ballyhea.
Theresa Murphy, Cobh.
Eileen Mackessy, Ballycosgry.
Kathleen Mulcahy, (Née Pitman) Bruree.

His Holiness Pope Francis.
Gerard O'Brien, Freemount,
Ann Goold, Cooline
Michael (Mike) Shanahan, Ardskeagh
John Anthony Keane, Ballynoran.
Gerry Quinn, Churchtown.
William (Billy) Ring, Charleville & Castlewrixon
Darragh Byrne, Ballysally, Charleville.
Michael (Mike) Fitzgibbon, Croom & Knightsgrove
Hugh Allen, Oxford.
Michael McMahon, Churchtown.
Jack Kelly, Gurrane.
John Crowley, Clonkeen.
Kieran Carey, Charleville.
Bishop Peter Elliott, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne.
Mary Leahy, Fanstown, Kilmallock,
Edmund (Ned) Hawe, Lackaroe, Liscarroll.
Michael Greaney, Pruntus.
Bridie O'Hanlon, Castlepook & Ballymac, Effin
Mary Teresa O'Sullivan, Feenagh.
Geraldine Guerin, Freemount.
Charlie Quinn, Churchtown, late of Ballycosgry



*Confirmation
In The Parish
25th March 2025*



Photograph courtesy of Ballyhea National School

5th Class

*Sophia Carey
Bronagh Curtin
Lauren Cussen
Grace Holton
Holly Kennedy
Robyn Manning
Grace Mortell
Amelia O'Leary
Pippa-Rose Watson
Savannah Williamson
Niamh Corley
Eilís Corley*

5th Class

*Jack Crowley
Jack Davern
Óisín Dick
Cillian Flynn
Harry Kearney
Noah Lilley
Patrick Moskal
Ryan Mulcahy
Michael O'Brien
Aidan O'Connor
Will O'Flaherty
Elliot O'Riordan
Gearóid O'Riordan
Shane Ryan*

6th Class

*Kate Barrett
Olive Buckley
Harlowe Foley
Hannah Goold
Ava Gore
Kate Kearney
Aoife O'Flaherty
Susie O'Neill
Elizabeth O'Riordan
Bronagh Walsh
Joe Crowley
Rory Crowley
Cathal Keogh
Sam McNamara
Brion Murphy
Tommy O'Neill
Harry Rea
Daniel Ring*



*First Holy Communion
In The Parish
10th May 2025*



Photograph courtesy of Ballyhea National School

Aoife Barrett

Lola Lilly Carey

Fiadh Curtin

Sarah Jane Hoade

*Rose Madigan (missing from the
photo)*

Joey McCormick Leahy

Andrew Murphy

Lauren O'Gorman

Ellie-Mae O'Halloran

Josie O'Riordan

Lucy Ryan

Ballyhea Parish Chronicle

2024 – 2025

DECEMBER 2024

1 December: The First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of preparations for Christmas.

8 December: Collection was taken for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

8 December: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was observed.

8 December: A social event for the parish was held to mark the retirement of Geraldine Egan from the office of sacristan.

23 December: Christmas sick calls were made.

24 December: A Holy Year was indicted.

25 December: The Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity was observed.

31 December: The Te Deum was sung in thanksgiving for all blessings during the previous year.

JANUARY 2025

1 January: The Solemnity of the Mother of God was observed.

6 January: The Solemnity of the Lord's Epiphany was observed. Masses were cancelled for a week due to a snow storm.

7. January: The storm brought down three slates from the south side of the church roof, damages the water goods and brought down the lead on both gables. Further damage was done to the water goods of the parochial house and of the new hall. An insurance claim was lodged with Allianz.

18 January: Mass for first Holy Communion class.

22 January: The Rev. James O'Kane died, RIP.

31 January: Grandparents Day was held with Mass at 10am followed by tea in the new hall.

FEBRUARY 2025

2 February: The feast of the Purification of Our Lady was observed and candles were blessed. Offerings of candles and oil were received.

2 February: The Indian community from Kerala held a Christmas/New Year social in the hall.

3 February: The feast of St. Blaise was observed. The blessing of throats was imparted after Mass.

13 February: A Board of Management meeting took place.

14 February: Mass was held for the first Holy Communion class.

27 February: Annual Christmas dinner for the teachers which has been deferred due to weather conditions.

28 February: The Lenten stations commenced.

MARCH 2025

5 March: Ash Wednesday was observed. Ashes were blessed and distributed.

7 March: Board of Management meeting was held.

12 March: First confessions were heard in the church.

13 March: Statue of the Sacred Heart was received into the church.

14 March: Lenten stations continued.

17 March: The Solemnity of St. Patrick was observed. A parade was held.

19 March: The Solemnity of St. Joseph was observed.

25 March: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Annunciation was observed.

25 March: The Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

APRIL 2025

5 April: Stations concluded.

5 April: Passiontide begins.

13 April: Palm Sunday on which palms were blessed and distributed.

17 April: Holy Thursday was observed.

18 April: Good Friday was observed.

20 April: The Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection was observed.

21 April: Pope Francis died. RIP.

27 April: Divine Mercy Sunday was observed.

29 April: The parish acquired a copy of Raphael's Transfiguration.

30 April: Blessing of the parish with Easter water.

MAY 2025

6 May: Works began on repairing damage to the church, new hall and parochial house caused by the bad weather in January.

8 May: Pope Leo XIV was elected.

11 May: The Sacrament of First Holy Communion was administered.

17 May: The White Fathers made a missionary appeal in the parish.

23 May: May devotions at the Holy Well.

26/28 May: Rogation Days were observed.

29 May: The Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension was observed

JUNE 2025

6 June: A Board of Management meeting of the school was held.

8 June: The Solemnity of Pentecost was observed.

10June: The parish acquired a thurible made by Charles Kendler.

11/14 June: Ember days.

17 June: An information day was held at the Charleville Park Hotel re. the M20 motorway. Observations were made concerning the distance of the proposed overpass from the church (180 yards); and its potential aesthetic impact as well as issues relating to vibration, light and noise. An observation was also made re. the church ruins at Ardnageehy.

19 June: The Novena to the Sacred Heart began.

27 June: Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was observed.

29 June: The Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul was observed.

JULY 2025

3 July: The parish acquired a copy of Guido Reni's Crucifixion of 1638. This copy was painted by the Cork painter Richard Lyster in 1848.

AUGUST 2025

15 August: The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was observed.

13 August: No progress can be reported a year after a reaching conclusion at a meeting held in Cobh in 2024 with the Bishop, the Vicars General and the diocesan solicitors to discuss matters relating to the tenure of parochial property at which it was agreed (a). that deceased trustees would be removed from folios held for the parish; (b). that new physical trustees would be nominated to all folios held for the parish; (c). typically, these would be The Bishop, The Parish Priest and two other persons nominated by The Bishop; and (d). any other arrangements with regard to folios held for the parish were to be rescinded and abandoned. In view of the lack of progress on the matter another solicitor is to be retained to execute the conclusions of the meeting of 13 August 2024.

15 August: The Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady was observed.

SEPTEMBER 2025

5 September: The Autumn stations commenced.

8 September: The feast of the dedication of the parish church was observed.

13 September: Members of the local Indian Community met in the new hall.

17/20 September: Ember days.

OCTOBER 2025

11 October: The Autumn stations concluded.

12 October: A cheque to Euros 1,000 was given to Archbishop Crotty to be applied to a charitable work of his designation in Nigeria.

17 October: Solar panels were installed on the roof of the new hall by Clean Energy Solar, Ballincollig. A grant had been made available by the Department of Rural Affairs in November 2024 but installation work stalled pending a certificate from the ESB. Application was made for the certificate in May and it was finally granted in October.

21 October: Board of Management meeting was held.

24 October: A presidential election was held.

28 October: A safeguarding questionnaire/audit was received by post. It was completed and returned to the Bishop.

28 October: A pipe organ was acquired for the church. It was given to the parish by the Loretto nuns, Fermoy. The instrument was dismantled by Mr. Pdraig O'Donovan and by him re-built in the church.

NOVEMBER 2025

1 November: The Solemnity of all Saints was observed.

2 November: The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed was observed.

9 November: Prayers for the dead were recited at old Ballyhea cemetery and at Cooline cemetery.

15 November: Second preparatory Mass for first holy communicants was celebrated.

16 November: Prayers for the dead were recited at Ballyhea new cemetery and at Imphrick.

24 November: The feast of St. Colman, diocesan patron, was observed.

23 November: The Solemnity of Christ the King was observed with a period of Eucharistic adoration followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Te Deum was sung.

24 November: The feast of St. Colman was observed.



The Franciscan Friary of St. Thomas à Beckett at Buttevant

The first Franciscan friars to arrive in British Isles landed at Dover on 10 September 1224. This group of nine friars was led by Agnellus of Pisa (1195-1236) and included Richard of Ingworth (+ post 1239), who would later become the first provincial of the Irish province of the friars. The initial group set up their first house in Canterbury and from there they established further houses in London and at Oxford. Over the next century, the order flourished, eventually expanding to 59 houses in England including foundations at Cambridge, Yarmouth, Worcester, York and Newcastle.

It is unclear when the Franciscans arrived in Ireland. Francesco Gonzaga, in his *De Origine Seraphicae Religionis Franciscanae* (1587) asserts that they were founded in Youghal in 1214 from Compostela. On the other hand, the thirteenth century chronicler Thomas of Eccleston, in his *De Adventu Fratrum Minorum in Angliam*, claims that the friars were first established in Dublin from England. Whatever the origin or origins of the Franciscans in Ireland, it is certain that the Irish province was formally established in 1231 at the general chapter of the order held in Assisi and Richard of Ingworth was appointed first minister provincial. In the wake of ongoing racial conflicts, the general chapter of the order held at Lyons in 1325 separated the houses of the Irish province into English and Irish communities. Notwithstanding the racial difficulties encountered in Ireland, the Franciscans flourished and had as many as 66 houses at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537. These houses were distributed throughout Gaelic Ireland as well as in the areas of the English settlement.

One of the earliest of the Irish houses of the Franciscans was the friary of St. Thomas à Beckett at Buttevant in County Cork. Luke Wadding (1588-1657), in his *Annales Minorum*, gives 1251 as the date of foundation for this house and David Og Barry as its founder. The friary was dedicated to St. Thomas à Beckett (1119-1170), martyred archbishop of Canterbury, who had been canonized by Pope Alexander III at Segni on 21 February 1173. The dedication signifies a close association of the cult of St Thomas with the Barry family – as was detailed by Geraldus Cambrensis (1146-1223), a brother of Philip de Barry, founder of Buttevant, in his *Expugnatio Hibernica*. The earlier Augustinian foundation made by the Barrys in North Cork, Ballybeg Abbey, was also dedicated to St. Thomas à Beckett.

In keeping with the strict principles of personal and institutional poverty characteristic of the early Franciscans, the initial friary church in Buttevant consisted of a simple rectangular structure, the eastern end of which was separated from the remainder of the building and served as a choir and sanctuary for the monks. It has been shown that the plan for the church consisted of an initial section for the sanctuary built to the proportion 1:1 followed by four successive sections built to the proportion 1: $\sqrt{2}$. The fourth section of building allowed for a structure somewhat longer than the present nave of the church. This may have included a portico or it may imply that the present gable of the church is from a later period.¹ (Fig. 1)

¹ Cf. Tadhg O’Keeffe, ‘The Sequence of Construction of Buttevant Friary Church in the Thirteenth Century’ in Eamonn Cotter (ed.), *Buttevant: An Medieval Anglo-French Town in France*, Carrig Print, Middleton 2013, pp. 83-

Grove-White gives the dimensions of the church as 149 feet 10 inches in length, divided unevenly between a chancel, measuring 57 feet 6 inches in length, and a nave, measuring 74 feet 4 inches in length and 24 feet 6 inches in breadth.²

As was common with early Franciscan foundations, it may have been preceded by a wooden structure, usually placed against the town wall to reduce building expenses, and built on waste or difficult sites. From the recent archaeological excavations in Buttevant, it now appears that the friary was built outside of the town wall, close to the northern gate. The site on which the friary was built was notable because of its steep incline towards the river Awbeg. While the site may have been waste ground, it has been suggested that it may also have been occupied by an earlier structure. The logistical problem of building on a sloping site was solved by the erection of a double or two-storied crypt beneath the sanctuary of the friar church. While this is a unique architectural feature among Franciscan houses in Ireland, it already had a precedent at the Franciscan friary in Great Yarmouth in England.³

By the Bull *Super Cathedram* of Pope Boniface VIII, issued on 18 February 1300, the Franciscan friars were accorded to the right to preach and hear confessions in their own churches. Preaching occupied a central role in the mendicant vocation. The *Regula Non Bullata* (1210), approved by Pope Innocent III, devoted an entire chapter to preaching and its importance for the followers of St. Francis. Up to 1300, however, the friars were permitted to preach only outside of the parish churches or at the market crosses. Having gained the right to preach in their own churches, these had often to be accommodated so as to take advantage of the friars' new found pastoral opportunities. Thus, many of the early Franciscan churches had preaching chapels added after 1300. In the case of Buttevant, a large almost square preaching chapel was added on the south side of the conventual church, access to which was through an archway opened in its south wall. For preaching purposes and to ensure that the congregation could hear the preacher, a square shaped preaching chapel was preferable to the long rectangular nave of the original church.

To the north of the church was the cloister, some 90 feet square, around which the conventual buildings were arranged. Father Donatus Mooney's Provincial Report of 1617/1618, conserved in the Bibliothèque Royale in Brussels, mentions that "the friary buildings were not well-proportioned, but they were spacious and numerous." Access from the cloister to the sanctuary of the church was through a door in the north wall. (Fig. 2)

In common with all of the early Franciscan churches, Buttevant did not have a bell tower. This reflects the primitive insistence on strict application of Francis' insight into poverty. The church building should also reflect poverty and simplicity. The norm was definitively incorporated into the rule of the Franciscan Order with the *Constitutiones Generales* published in 1260 following the general chapter held at Narbonne. One practical effect of the promulgation of the rule prohibiting the building of bell-towers in Franciscan churches was an alteration to the plans for the Franciscan church of Santa Maria in Ara Coeli in Rome. Begun in the same year as the friary

102; cf. Eamonn Cotter, 'The Archaeology of Medieval Buttevant' in *ibid.* pp. 11-13; cf. Tadhg O'Keeffe, *Medieval Irish Buildings 1100-1600*, Four Courts Press, Dublin 2015.

² Grove-White, James, *Historical and Topographical Notes*, Guy's Cork, 1909, sub Buttevant.

³ Cf. A.R. Martin, *Franciscan Architecture in England*, The University Press, Manchester 1937.

in Buttevant (1251), it was originally intended to have a campanile. Following the general chapter of Narbonne, the planned bell-tower was abandoned.

At a subsequent stage, a central bell-tower was built within the walls of the friary church in Buttevant – one of the earliest of its type in Ireland. It has been suggested that this may date from as early as 1278 or from a date proximate to the death of David Og Barry. However, given its proximity to the date of the general chapter of Narbonne (and the almost contemporary problem with the bell-tower of Santa Maria in Ara Coeli, it would seem more likely that the bell-tower in Buttevant dates from a period closer to 1300 and to the papal expansions of the pastoral ministry of the friars. Wendel records that the tower collapsed in 1819. (Fig. 3)

Pope Martin IV, with the Bull *Ad Fructus Uberes* of 18 December 1281, granted the Franciscans faculties to hear confessions and the right to have interments within the precincts of their houses, including their churches, to all who so desired it, the exercise of which, however, was subject to a quarter of any offering or legacy for such burial being reserved for and paid to the local parish. It was probably in virtue of this concession that the Friary church became the mausoleum of the Barry family. At Buttevant, the exercise of burial rights gave rise to interments in the friary church and cloister, and perhaps also on the external south side of the chancel since by 1540 the friary had a graveyard of about an acre and a half.

Something of the liturgical use of the friary church can be inferred from the lithograph graven by Anthony Chearnley (c.1740-1785) of the interior of friary published in Smithy's History of Cork (1751).⁴ The print shows the central tower still *in situ* above a slender arch giving a restricted view of the chancel with its high altar, sanctuary and choir which was accessed from the cloister through a door in the north wall. This part of the friary was, effectively, the private chapel of the friars. Generally, there was no public access to it.

On the west side of the central tower, two nave altars are shown, one at either side of the tower arch. These are the altars at which Mass would have been said for the lay faithful.

To the south, the lithograph shows the arch accessing the south chapel which was used for preaching. (Fig. 4)

Chearnley's lithograph also shows several chest tombs along the wall of the church as well as grave stones set into the floor of the church. Given the floor level as depicted by Chearnley, it could be inferred that the floor was several feet below the present level of the west door and reached by descending a flight of steps – an architectural feature common in Medieval Poitou and Anjou or at the Abbey of Fontevrault or at the Cathedrals of Bordeaux and Poitiers. (Fig. 5)

At the time of its dissolution, c. 1540, the examining jurors who assessed the property of the friary (William Coppinger, William Meagh, Nicholas Lombard and Thomas Vernon) certified that the Franciscan friary at Buttevant consisted of the friary church and conventual buildings with no surplus appurtenances; a garden and cemetery containing an acre and a half of ground worth 6

⁴ The lithograph was published in Smith's *History of Cork* (1752). Two versions of it, with minor variations, are known to exist, one by Anthony Charnley, the other by Daniel Corbett (fl. 1750).

shillings and 8 pence; and a watermill worth 30 shillings, bringing the total extent of its property to 36 shillings and 8 pence.

For almost a century after its suppression, the friary continued to operate under the friars. This was possible because the site was leased from the crown by Viscount Buttevant on the basis that it was his family mausoleum. The lease was renewed to Lord Barry c. 1615 and remained in the Barrymore estate until its sale to John Anderson in 1792 and subsequent acquisition by Lord Doneraile in 1835. In turn, Lord Doneraile gave the site of the friary as a site for the new Catholic church in Buttevant.

The *Brevis Synopsis Provincialis F.F. Minorum* compiled between 1626 and 1629 by Father Francis Matthews and preserved in the archive of the Irish Franciscan Convent of St. Isidore in Rome, makes two references to the friary in Buttevant. It recounts that "in the reign of Queen Elizabeth of England, the friars were at times expelled from thence; some were captured and imprisoned. Although the statues in the church were broken the church itself was left standing because of the tombs of the nobility therein; the convent buildings were, however, destroyed, and yet some of the friars have not ceased to live unto this day (1629) either in the convent or in its neighborhood. The original founder of the convent was Lord Barry, Viscount of Buttevant, whose family, which has now branched out into the Counts of Barrymore, and other most noble families, have their tombs in the same convent, in which also Lord MacDonagh and many nobles of adjacent estates have been buried from ancient days".

After the outbreak of the Irish Rebellion of 1641, the Franciscan community in Buttevant welcomed the Confederate Catholic army of Lord Mountgarret – one of the leading Catholic magnates in the south of Ireland. The guardian, Father Boetius Egan, accompanied the army and took part in the Confederate Parliament in Kilkenny in 1642. In the ensuing war in Munster, the Protestant commander, Murrough O'Brien, Earl of Inchiquin, assembled his English Parliamentary army in Buttevant and burned the friary church.

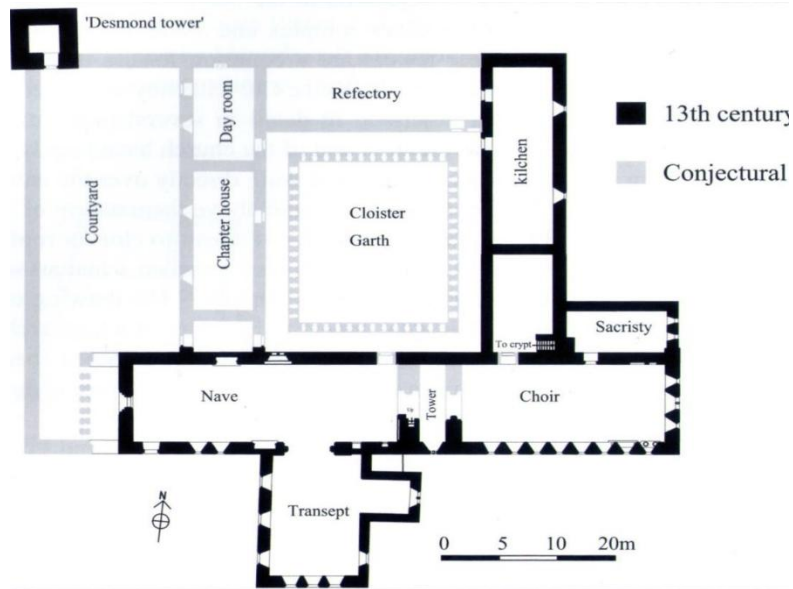
In 1850, a major restoration of the ruins of the friary church was undertaken by Fr. Cornelius Buckley, parish priest of Buttevant, assisted by the Cork architect Richard Brash and the antiquarian John Wendel. This work saved the east end of the chancel from collapse, cleared the rubble of the bell-tower (which had collapsed in 1819) from the nave, collected the fragments of monuments and other sculptural elements from the ruins of the cloister and set them into the rebuilt north wall of the chancel. The present aspect of the friary church dates from the restoration of 1850 – an account of which was given to the Cork Cuiverian Society by Wendel and a paper on the subject published by Brash in the *Journal of the Kilkenny Historical Society*.⁵

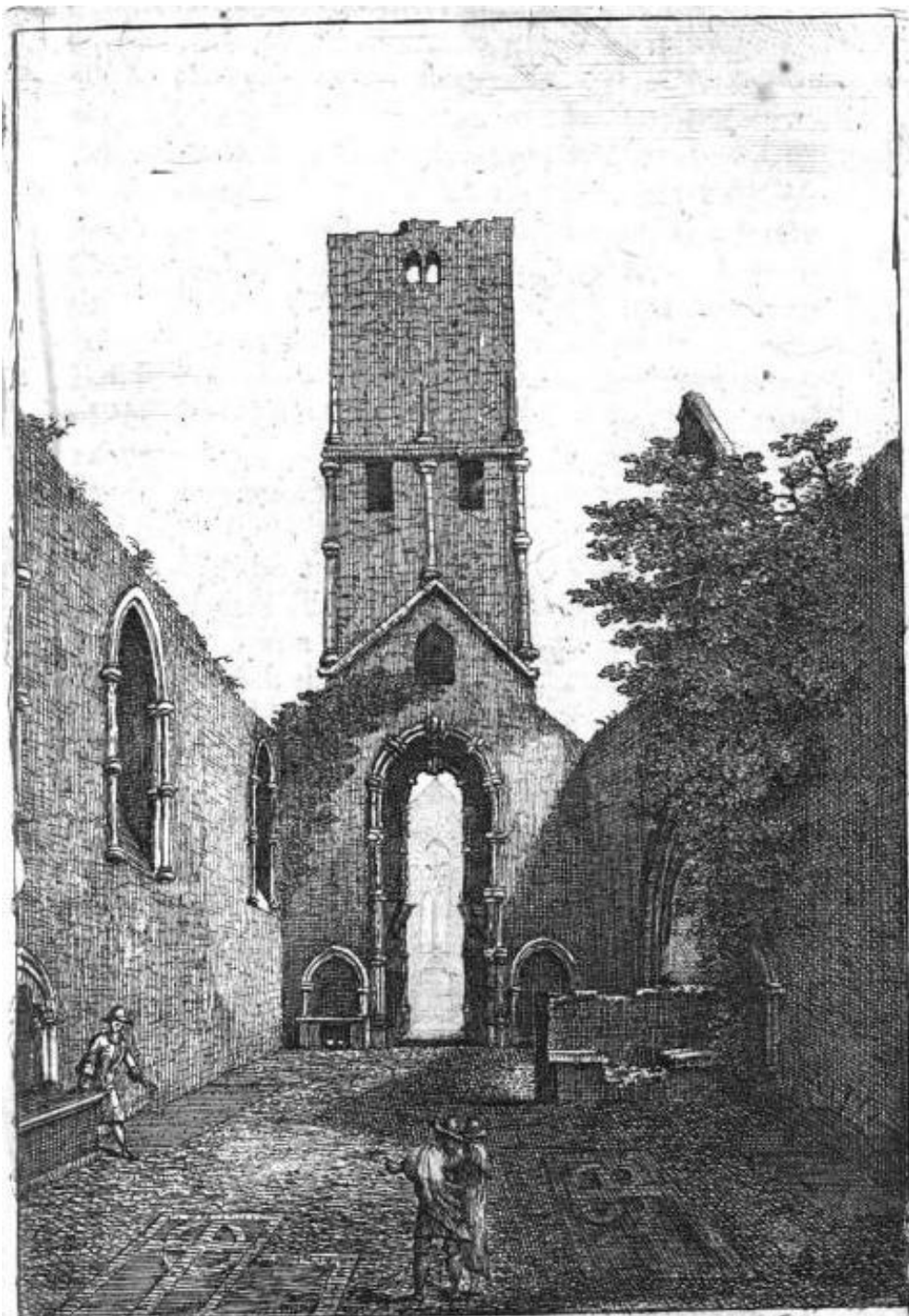
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1. The metrology of the friary church in Tadhg O'Keeffe in *Medieval Irish Buildings*.

⁵ Richard R. Brash: 'The Local Antiquities of Buttevant' in *Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society*. Vol. 2, n. 1. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 1852, pp. 83–96.

2. Plan and conjectural reconstruction of the Buttevant friary in Eamonn Cotter, *Buttevant: A Medieval Anglo-French Town in France*.
3. *A Medieval Anglo-French Town in France*.
4. Lithograph of the exterior of the Franciscan Friary, Buttevant, in Smith's *History of Cork* (1750).
5. Lithograph of the interior of Franciscan Friary, Buttevant, by Anthony Chearnely in Smith's, *History of Cork* (1750).
6. Interior of the Royal Abbey of Fontevrault looking towards the west door.





*The W Prospect of the Nave, Choir & Steeple of
Buttevant Abbey with St. Mary's Chappel
Auth: Chearnley Sculpt*



Guido Reni

1575 – 1642



Guido Reni

1575 – 1642

Guido Reni was born in Bologna to a family of musicians. At an early age he was apprenticed to the Flemish painter Denys Calvaert (1540-1619) where his fellow students numbered Dominichino and Albani. Eventually he moved to the *Accademia degli Incamminati* which had been founded by Annibale, Ludovico and Agostino Carracci and drew on the influence of Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian and Correggio. It would become the epicenter of the Bolognese school of painting of which Reni would, in time, become the principal exponent. In 1601 he joined Annibale Carracci in Rome for the fresco decoration of the Palazzo Farnese. His career as an independent painter began in Rome under the patronage of Popes Paul V, Urban VIII and the Borghese and Barbarini families.

In 1618 he accepted a commission to paint the ceiling of the chapel of San Gennaro in the Cathedral but returned to Rome soon after its completion. By 1620 he had returned to Bologna where he set up a studio which specialized in biblical and mythological subjects and to a lesser degree in portraiture. He died in 1642 and was buried in the Basilica of San Domenico.

The Crucifixion in San Lorenzo in Lucina was painted towards the end of his career and dates from about 1638. It was installed over the high altar of the church shortly after 1669 when the picture was given to the church in the will of marchesa Cristina Duglioli Angelelli, a Bolognese noble lady, who had settled in Rome in the parish of San Lorenzo in Lucina in 1643 following the assassination of her husband Senatore Andrea Angelelli.

A second version of the Crucifixion, painted in 1636, distinguished by a stark background and a white perisoma is in the collection of the Dukes of Este in Modena, while a third version painted about 1620 is in the collection of the Palazzo Pallavicini in Rome.

A copy of the San Lorenzo version was recently acquired for the parish church. It was painted by the Cork artist Richard Lyster (1828-1863) having been begun by him in Rome in 1848 during his sojourn in the city and completed in 1859.

Raphael Sanzio

(1483-1520)

Raphael was born in Urbino in 1483. His father was court painter to Federico da Montefeltro, first Duke of Urbino, and to his son Guidobaldo da Montefeltro, and formed part of the splendid ducal court that transformed an insignificant provincial city into one of the principal centres of European culture and civilization. Although he had not received a complete humanistic training, he did come under the influence of the Florentine neo-platonic academy of Pico della Mirandola and Marsilio Ficino. Trained initially in his father's workshop, he was subsequently taught by Perugino and was influenced by Pinturicchio, another of Perugino's pupils.

At the invitation of Pope Julius II, he moved to Rome in 1508. During this period he undertook many important commissions including the painting of the *stanze* and the *loggie* of the Vatican Palace. Julius II was succeeded by Pope Leo X in 1513 who continued to patronize Raphael. Together with Michaelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael would be considered one of the three leading exponents of High Renaissance.

The transfiguration of Our Lord was the last painting of Raphael and was begun in 1517 on commission from Cardinal Giulio de' Medici, the future Pope Clement VII. It was intended for the cathedral of Narbonne in France, indicated by the figures of Sts. Justus and Pastor, patrons of the cathedral, to the right of Christ in the upper section. The picture remained unfinished at the time of Raphael's death in April 1520. Eventually the Cardinal gave the picture to the church of San Pietro in Montorio in Rome which had been the monastery of Blessed Amadeus João de Menezes da Silva (1420-1482), a Franciscan mystic who was confessor to Pope Sixtus IV. Among his writings, published posthumously, was the *Apocalypsis Nova*, which was widely read and believed to have influenced the final composition of the picture which combines two separate but successive pericopes from the Gospel of St. Matthew as found in the *Apocalypsis Nova*. The upper part of the picture shows the glorious transfigured Christ on Mount Tabor, flanked by Moses and Elijah, accompanied by the apostles Peter, James and John (Mt. 17:1-8). The lower part of the picture features the healing of a demoniac (Mt. 17: 14-20). The various series of gestures linking the upper and lower parts of the picture serve to indicate that Christ's healing power derives from his divinity. In his *Le vite de' più eccellenti architetti, pittori, e scultori italiani, da Cimabue insino a' tempi nostri* Giorgio Vasari describes the Transfiguration of Raphael as "the most famous, the most beautiful and most divine" of his pictures. The original picture hangs in the Pinacoteca Vaticana since 1815.



Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde (1930-2019)

By Mirjam Künkler and Tine Stein



One of Europe's foremost legal and political thinkers passed away on February 24, 2019. Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde was more than the conventional scholar of constitutional law: he was a regular commentator on public affairs, an outstanding legal historian, and a decisive voice on Germany's constitutional court at which he served from December 1983 until May 1996. He held appointments as professor of Public Law, Constitutional History, and Philosophy of Law at the Universities of Heidelberg (1964-69), Bielefeld (1969-1977) and Freiburg (1977-1995). Böckenförde's writings on constitutional law have become classics in German legal training, ranging from contributions in legal and political theory, the history of ideas and European constitutional history, to the conceptual framework of the modern state, and thorny political and ethical issues including the

deployment of nuclear missiles and the ethics of genetic engineering. As a judge on Germany's Federal Constitutional Court, Böckenförde authored one of the highest number of dissenting opinions in the court's history, two of which, remarkably, became the basis for later majority decisions. His interventions as a scholar and a judge have shaped not only academic but also wider public debates from the 1950s to the present, to an extent that only few European scholars can match.

With translations into many languages and a new Oxford University Press-published English translation of many of his writings, Böckenförde's oeuvre is receiving growing international attention. As a testimony to a classic strand of German political and legal thought beyond Hans Kelsen and Carl Schmitt, his sharply analytical body of work helps audiences understand the liberal and secular state as dependant on conditions it cannot itself guarantee: chiefly, so Böckenförde, societal cohesion and a shared ethos that sustains commitment to the common good. He became famous for this latter formula ("the democratic state's reliance on conditions it cannot itself guarantee") which is widely known among European publics as "the Böckenförde dictum".

Böckenförde wrote as a political liberal, as a social democrat, and as a committed Catholic. As a Catholic, he was concerned with questions of social cohesion, political community, and the ethical foundations of the state: what holds society together, and whether the state should promote certain worldviews over others (a position he rejected). As a social democrat, he deeply

cared about not only political but also economic and social injustices. It was a duty of the democratic state, so Böckenförde, to address these injustices, and no political stability could be achieved without social and economic security. Moreover, he frequently reminded his audiences that the enjoyment of rights depends on certain socio-economic conditions. The right to education means little if the path to school bears existential danger. Ultimately, it was the state which might need to provide for these conditions if society does not. As a political liberal, Böckenförde argued fervently in favor of protecting the rights of minorities, especially of individuals who belong to religious minorities (defending the right of Muslim teachers to wear the headscarf, for example), and of guaranteeing the rights even of those who oppose the constitutional democratic system, insisting that individuals can be prosecuted only on the basis of violations of the law, not on the basis of a lack of *Gesinnungstreue* (publicly professed commitment to the liberal democratic order) – a stand which put Böckenförde at odds with the German civil servants law until the 1990s.

Three episodes highlight how these three different normative stands (liberalism, social democracy, Catholicism) have expressed themselves in his work. Böckenförde became publicly known with an article titled “The Ethos of Modern Democracy and the Church”, published in the Catholic monthly magazine *Hochland*. He was 27 years old and had just completed his second PhD (he held one in law and one in history). At a time when from the doctrinal point of view of the Catholic magisterium it was still unacceptable for Catholics to live in a secular state, Böckenförde argued that democracy and human rights were *the* legitimate form of political order from a Christian perspective, and he did so long before Vatican II adopted the same view. He again raised attention when in 1961, while working on his habilitation, he published an article on the role of the Catholic Church in tolerating and implicitly aiding the emergence of the Nazi state in 1933. The article was considered so explosive that several of his mentors strongly advised against publishing it before having attained a tenured position. Böckenförde went ahead nevertheless, and once the article was published, the Catholic Church saw itself compelled to convene an association of historians, the “Committee for Contemporary History”, to probe the young scholar’s outrageous claims. The committee ultimately confirmed all of his major findings.

As a liberal, Böckenförde made ground-breaking contributions to legal theory, especially in the area of fundamental rights doctrine. Starting with the *Lüth* decision of 1958, the Federal Constitutional Court decided that the fundamental rights enshrined in the West German Basic Law ought to radiate into all other spheres of law and that the state had the duty to ensure they were at the basis not only of the relationship between the individual and the state but also between the citizens towards one another. Böckenförde did not necessarily object to this view on normative grounds, but he did on methodological ones. In his article “On Grounding Law in Values”, he tried to show that it would be futile to do just that, to ground law in values, as this would require the development of reliable hierarchies of values for judges to be consistent. Since to date such hierarchies had not been developed (should liberty always be prioritized over equality? Could one develop reliable criteria for exceptions to this rule?), this view of constitutional principles would lead to nothing less than judge-made law. His analysis of how

constitutional rights after *Lüth* were no longer defensive rights against state intrusion only, but also rights embedded in an allegedly objective order of values gave rise to an entire generation of fundamental rights scholarship in Germany, of which Robert Alexy's account has become the most internationally prominent.

It is in the aftermath of this period, in the late 1970s that Böckenförde developed some of his most liberal-minded work. This was in the context of the emergence of radical leftist movements in West Germany, at the forefront the Red Army faction, which threatened to bring down the young West German democracy. The period began in 1974 with the famous *Grundwertedebatte* (debate on core values). Whereas the Catholic bishops argued that especially in times of social crisis, it was the government's duty to work towards a shared, common ethos, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt rejected this view in a famous speech of 1976, which had been ghost-written by Böckenförde and another Catholic intellectual. The speech titled "Ethos and Law in State and Society" emphasized that working towards a shared ethos was a task for society, and not the state. Böckenförde developed the stance taken in the speech further in his article "The state as an ethical state", which was the opening work to a series of five articles in which he probed what the state can and cannot do in times of crisis. Reflecting on the 1968 Emergency Laws that were active at the time in order to deal with the activities of the Red Army Faction, Böckenförde argued provocatively in "The Repressed State of Emergency," that the extant Emergency Laws enabled the erosion of the rule of law, justified by a war against internal enemies. He provided numerous examples of how exactly that had happened: how the state security services had violated attorney-client privileges, had illegally installed eavesdropping devices in the offices of nuclear scientists, and how judges' decisions had not been enacted due to interference by the domestic security agency. To preclude a further erosion of the rule of law, Böckenförde argued, a very tightly circumscribed state of emergency ought to be embedded in the constitution, of which he developed a blueprint. In two follow-up articles he then laid out why a democratic state must prove itself especially in how it deals with its internal enemies.

This period was followed by 12 years on Germany's Federal Constitutional Court during which he contributed to pathbreaking decisions in the realm of asylum, abortion, taxation and party financing. With his eleven dissenting opinions, he became one of the most frequent dissenters in the court's history. In two of these, his social democratic leanings come to the fore. One was his take on party financing, where he argued that a law that made donations to political parties deductible for legal persons (including corporations) violated the equality principle of the Basic Law's Article 3. He also dissented in the case regarding the net wealth tax where the majority had ruled that the fundamental right to property, in connection with other basic rights, imposed a general upper limit on taxation. In the majority's view, the cumulative burden of all income and net wealth taxes must not exceed fifty percent of net imputed earnings. Although he strongly defended the right to property otherwise, Böckenförde did not subscribe to the view of an a priori upper limit on taxation.

After his retirement from the court in 1996, Böckenförde's work turned to the topic of European

integration. Here his writings appear almost prophetic in light of contemporary challenges of populism and EU-scepticism. A fervent pro-European, Böckenförde warned that far too little was done to integrate the peoples of Europe on a cultural level – not to replace national belonging, but to complement it. He argued that Europe needed joint history text book commissions to transcend the nation-focused history curricula still in place in EU member states. He lamented that European publics still consumed their news almost exclusively through national media that were ill suited to promote a European public consciousness. The implications of the currency union were too little explained to EU citizens with the result, Böckenförde wrote in 1997, that once financial crises were to break out, European publics would be ill-prepared and therefore reluctant to put up the transfer payments such crises required. Importantly, Böckenförde argued, those advocating an “ever-closer union” (especially Germany and France at the time) would need to accept that other member states would never wish to pursue the same goal, notably Britain. Therefore, Böckenförde insisted, it did not help to simply aim at a “multi-speed Europe”, but one also needed to embrace the idea of a “multi-goal Europe”. The practical implications of this were that one would need to open different EU treaty mechanisms to different audiences and drop the goal of an ever-closer union for all member states. For example, he proposed that Turkey might eventually join the Euro group, but stay out of the political union of the EU. Britain on the other hand should be allowed to opt out of those mechanisms aiming at a closer political union, while remaining economically integrated. If Böckenförde’s suggestions of a “multi-goal Europe” had been more widely discussed when they were published, today’s Euro-sceptics might have less success in attracting support with arguments against an ever-closer union.

Whether at the national or European level, the rule of law and democratic procedures, so Böckenförde, cannot be sustained in the long term unless they are carried by people who consider themselves part of the same *demos*. Yet, many democracies suffer today from deep polarization, pandered by growing economic inequality and increasingly separate life-worlds with divergent cultural outlooks, nationalist versus cosmopolitan, particularistic versus universalist, and laissez-faire versus regulatory views of government. New culture wars have emerged accompanied by new nationalist populisms. Böckenförde’s writings on how plural societies need to, and can, come to a shared understanding of their responsibilities to one another as citizens, and which tools are at the disposal of the state in this undertaking, and which ones of society, are of central interest in this regard.

Mirjam Künkler and Tine Stein are the editors of Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde’s [*Constitutional and Political Theory: Selected Writings*](#), Oxford University Press, 2017. They have also guest-edited a special section on “Böckenförde beyond German Law” in the [*German Law Journal*](#), Vol. 19 (2), 2018, pp. 137-460, and special sections on “The Secular State, Constitution, and Democracy: Engaging with Böckenförde” in [*Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*](#), Vol. 25 (2), 2018, pp. 181-241, and on “Böckenförde as an Inner-Catholic Critic”, in the [*Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*](#), Vol. 7 (1), 2018, pp. 1-123.

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Ballyhea Preschool



The children of Ballyhea Preschool have had a very busy and exciting time during their first term. From Autumn adventures, fitness classes, road safety activities and baking, to a special visit from the Aisling, the local Guard, the children have been exposed to countless new experiences. Over the year, the Preschool has seen further improvements. The sensory room has now been completed, offering a safe haven for children to rest and reflect. Bollards have been erected to protect the children from passing traffic. The funds from our annual bake-sale provided the finances need to construct a boundary fence.

Recently, the Preschool has facilitated guest speakers in the areas of speech and language and play therapy, allowing the community to learn and interact with each-other.

In the upcoming weeks, the children will be entertained by Kidderama, a nationally recognised organisation that teaches children through the use of dance, gymnastics and countless other fun activities.





As ever, the staff and board of the preschool are extremely grateful for the continued support from the local community.

Photographs courtesy of Ballyheia Pre-school



Ballyhea National School



Junior Infants 2025



*6th class pupils of 2025, who did
the annual hike on the
Ballyhoura's to raise funds for
The Irish Cancer Society.*





Ballyhea N.S. boys' team who won the James Fitzgerald blitz after beating Shandrum N.S. in the final.

The event was hosted by C.B.S. Secondary School Charleville in memory of a great young hurler. Ballyhea N.S. Abú

Photographs courtesy of Ballyhea National School

A NOBLE BOY

MARY DOW BRINE (FL. 1878)

The woman was old, and feeble, and grey,
And bent with the chill of the winter's day;
The street was wet with the recent snow,
And the woman's feet were weary and slow.
She stood at the crossing, and waited long,
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng.
Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of 'school let out',
Came the boys, like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow, piled white and deep.
Past the woman, so old and grey,
Hastened the children on their way,
Nor offered a helping hand to her,
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir.
At last came one of the merry troupe-
The gayest boy of all the group;

He paused beside her and whispered low,
'I'll help you across if you wish to go'.
He guided the trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong;
Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.
'She is somebody's mother, boys, you know,
Although she is old, and poor and slow.
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother- you understand-
If e'er she be poor, and old and grey,
When her own dear boy is far away.'
And 'somebody's mother' bowed low her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said
Was, 'God be kind to the noble boy,
Who is somebody's son, and pride, and joy.'



A FAIRY POEM

By Patrick Weston Joyce



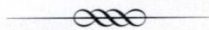
In a shady nook one moonlight night
A leprechaun I spied,
With a scarlet cap and a coat of green,
And a cruiscen by his side;
'Twas tip, tap, tip his hammer went
Upon a weeny shoe,
And I laughed to think of a purse of gold,
But the fairy was laughing too.

With tip-toe step and beating heart,
Quite softly I drew nigh,
There was mischief in his merry face,
And a twinkle in his eye;
He hammered and sang with a tiny voice
And drank his mountain dew.
I laughed to think he was caught at last,
But the fairy was laughing too.

Then quick as thought I seized the elf.
'Your fairy purse,' I cried;
'My purse,' said he, 'tis in her hand,
That lady at your side.'
I turned to look – the elf was gone.
Then what was I to do?
Oh! I laughed to think what a fool I'd been,
But the fairy was laughing too.



FROM IN THE SHADOW OF THE PAPS (DAN CRONIN).



Ballyhea GAA

Ryan Memorial Hall of fame award.

One of the most prestigious awards in Ballyhea Gaa club is the Ryan Memorial Hall of fame award. This fabulous trophy was presented to the club by The Ryan family in 1998 in memory of their parents Dave and Kit Ryan. There have been 20 recipients to date. This year's award winner was Eddie Sherlock.

Eddie came to work in the local meat factory in the mid 80's. It wasn't long before the loveable Dub got involved with Ballyhea juvenile Gaa club joining the committee in 1987. Eddie served as secretary of the juvenile club from 1988 to 1995 with Connie Brassill and in 1996 with Michael Byrne. He took over the role of juvenile club treasurer from 2001 to 2004.

Eddie also was PRO of the juvenile club from 1988 to 1990

He was a selector in football and hurling in all juvenile grades in the club during one of the most successful eras in the club's history where numerous titles were won in all grades in both codes. He was also a selector with Cork and Avondhu under age hurling teams winning the Dick Barrett shield in 1989.

Eddie organised a number of trips to Dublin for our juvenile teams. One of the most memorable being the 1990 trip to Erin's Isle club and getting our u14 team to Croke park to witness the Cork hurlers complete the first leg of the infamous double. On that trip were his nephew Jason and Neil Ronan, both going on to win senior all Ireland medals in the following years themselves. Eddie gave tremendous service to Ballyhea Gaa carrying players all over the county and further afield. He was very popular with the players and everyone in the club.

Eddie was a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award which he received on October 18th after the official opening of the new Astro turf pitch. Dave Ryan presented Eddie with the award on behalf of the Ryan family. Also in attendance were Eddie's sister Alice, nephew Jason, Sean Og O'Halpin and club president Billy Fitzgibbon.









Hall of fame recipients:

1998 Patrick McCarthy

1999 Jerome O Keeffe

2000 Michael Mortell

2001 Tom Morrissey

2002 Tim Griffin

2003 John Quinn

2004 Patrick Mortell

2006 Michael O Keeffe

2007 Joe Walsh

2008 Jack Russell

2010 Tom Crowley

2011 Thade Mortell

2012 Breda Crowley

2013 Michael Byrne

2014 Christy O Connor

2016 Connie Brassill

2017 Denis McNamara

2019 Neil Ronan

2024 Billy Fitzgibbon

2025 Eddie Sherlock

*Reeling in the years:
Ballyhea GAA 30 years ago:*

1995 will be greatly remembered in Ballyhea for our senior hurlers reaching the County final for the 5th time in our history and the 2nd time in 11 years.

Having won the Liam Breathnach cup in 1994 there was great optimism with Tony Moloney from Kilmallock in charge with Phil Ryan, Tom Morrissey and Sean Curtin. Tom Gleeson was club Chairman, Noel Hanley at club secretary, Denis McNamara and Chris Quinn were joint treasurers.

After a poor start to the league campaign 2 wins prior to the first-round set Ballyhea up for an emphatic win over Cork RTC at Carrowkeal Mallow 6-17 to 0-4.

Our lineout was Oliver Morrissey, Donal O'Riordan, Eamon Crowley, Michael Mackessey, Christy Hanley, Eamon Morrissey, Tommy O'Donoghue, Johnny O'Sullivan, Tomas O'Riordan, Aidan O'Connor (0-1), Paudie O'Connell (0-3), Alec Morrissey capt (1-0), Ian Ronan (2-4), Mikey O'Callaghan (3-4), Darran Ronan (0-5).

Sub used Neil Ronan.

It was a 6 weeks gap to our quarter final encounter versus Erins Own on July 30th.

On the lead up to this the Freemount and Araglen tournaments were won.

A powerful performance saw Ballyhea come out on top 1-14 to 2-10 at Fermoy against a very strong Erin's Own side that had won the title in 1992.

Noel Hanley came into midfield for this game. Our scorers were Darran Ronan 1-2, Mikey O'Callaghan 0-4, Ian Ronan 0-2, Alec Morrissey 0-3, Paudie O'Connell 0-2, Johnny O'Sullivan 0-1.

This set up a clash with East Cork divisional side Imokilly at Paire Uí Rinn. Jason Sherlock was in attendance for this game. It was only 12 months previous when he played his last game for Ballyhea, but some excellent performances in the summer of 95 saw him win a Leinster Senior football medal and help the Dubs defeat Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Despite trailing for most of the game Ballyhea advanced to the final. The introduction of young Neil Ronan who still hadn't reached his 16th birthday proved crucial as he set up Mikey O'Callaghan for the equalising goal and then fired over the winning point from an impossible angle to send the huge Ballyhea following delirious and secured another one-point victory 2-9 to 1-11. The team was unchanged from the side that defeated Erin's Own. Our scorers were Mikey O'Callaghan 1-1, Ian Ronan 1-0, Alec Morrissey 0-4, Johnny O'Sullivan 0-2, Darran Ronan 0-1, Neil Ronan 0-1.

There were Incredible scenes of joy on the pitch after the game as supporters celebrated another county final appearance.

On the lead up to the final there was a major injury concern over team captain Alec Morrissey who picked up a serious hand injury at the end of the semi-final. Excitement was at fever pitch in the



build up to the final. On the day Na Piarsaigh led by Tony O'Sullivan and Sean Og O'Halpin ran out 5-point winners 1-12 to 3-1. The Ballyhea team was

Oliver Morrissey, Donal O'Riordan, Eamon Crowley, Michael Mackessey, Christy Hanley, Eamon Morrissey, Tomas O'Riordan, Johnny O'Sullivan (1-0), Noel Hanley, Aidan O'Connor, Paudie O'Connell (0-1), Alec Morrissey capt, Ian Ronan, Mikey O'Callaghan (1-0), Darran Ronan (1-0).

Subs used Neil Ronan and Tommy O'Donoghue.

The juniors also had a successful year despite going out of the C'ship in the first round to Kilworth 2-15 to 1-8 at Kildorrery.

The team was David O'Keeffe, Sean Crowley, Mike Morrissey, Michael Mortell, Denis Mortell, John Galvin, Gary Buicke, Alan Mackessey, Tom Brassill, Aidan Crowley, Connie Brassill, Sean Curtin (jnr), David Copps,

Phil Ryan, John Mortell (Rathmorgan).

Scorers: David Copps 0-5, John Mortell 1-0, Aidan Crowley 0-1, Sean Curtin 0-1, Phil Ryan 0-1. This defeat put the juniors into the O'Leary cup competition for first round losers in the C'ship. In the quarter final a Jim Codd goal was crucial in a 1-10 to 0-9 victory over Castletownroche. Dromina were the opponents for the semi-final which ended all square but Ballyhea were victorious in the replay 1-8 to 1-5 at Liscarroll.

This set up a final with Liscarroll which was the curtain raiser to the North Cork junior hurling final between Kilworth and Charleville at Kilavullen. Liscarroll dominated for most of the game but a late rally by Ballyhea and a brilliant goal from Connie Brassill gave our lads a 2-point win 2-11 to 1-12.

The lineout was David O'Keeffe, Sean Crowley, Mike Morrissey, Michael O'Mahony, Denis Mortell, John Mortell (Beechwood Drive), Alan Mackessey, Tom Brassill (Capt), Aidan Crowley (0-3), Sean Curtin jnr, Connie Brassill (1-0), Barry Condon, John Mortell (Rathmorgan), Dave Ryan (1-1), David Cops (0-6). Subs used: Johnny O'Flaherty, Ray Ronan, Phil Ryan (0-1).

The Avondhu board also ran an Autumn league. Wins over Clyda Rovers and Fermoy set up a semi-final clash with Shanballymore which saw 3-10 to 0-3 victory. The final was played on Nov 19th at Doneraile where Ballyhea overcame Ballygiblin 3-11 to 1-5 to crown a memorable year for the club.

The line out for the Autumn league final was David O'Keeffe, Michael Mortell, Mike Morrissey, Michael O'Mahony, Denis Mortell, Ray Ronan, Barry Condon, John Mortell (Rathmorgan), Tom Brassill (Capt), Sean Curtin jnr (0-2), Connie Brassill (0-2), John Mortell (Beechwood Drive), David Cops (0-7), Dave Ryan (2-0), Pat Brassill (1-0). Sub used Aidan Crowley.

The junior selectors were Jerome O'Keeffe, Tom Crowley and Mick Cops.



More success came in 1995 with our u-21 hurlers. After defeating Newtown in the semi-final 0-16 to 1-10, we faced Kilworth in the final on Oct 22nd at Castletownroche. Goals from Darran Ronan (2) and Diarmuid O’Riordan helped Ballyhea to a 3-10 to 1-11 victory.

Our team was Oliver Morrissey, Pat Brassill, Michael O’Mahony, Gary Buicke, Barry Condon, Eamon Morrissey, Sean Curtin, Aidan O’Connor (0-2), Johnny O’Flaherty (0-3), Aidan Crowley, Darran Ronan (2-2), Neil Ronan (0-1), Ian Curtin (0-1), Diarmuid O’Riordan (1-1), Pdraig Morrissey. We were defeated in the county 1/4 final a week later by Glen Rovers 2-12 to 2-10 at Fermoy.



At juvenile level our u-13’s won the inaugural competition capturing the Ned Hawe Memorial cup defeating Charleville at Churchtown 2-6 to 0-4. The Ballyhea side was Conor Curtin, Kieran O’Riordan, Eoin O’Keeffe, Colm Hawe, Liam O’Connor, John Waters (capt), Timmy Shanahan, Declan Fitzgibbon, Ciaran O’Leary, John Paul Crowley, Edmund O’Regan (0-1), Jonathan O’Sullivan (0-4), Sean Coleman (2-0), John Hennessy (0-1), Conor O’Riordan. Subs: Barry Coleman, Maurice O’Sullivan, Owen O’Sullivan, Cian Ryan, Michael Morrissey, Mark Curtin, Harold O’Toole, Mark O’Donoghue, John O’Riordan, Martin O’Keeffe, Hugh O’Leary, Frank McNamara, Trevor O’Sullivan, David O’Riordan, Stephen O’Sullivan, John William O’Brien, Andrew Ring.

History was made during the year when Avondhu u-16 hurlers won the Munster inter divisional championship for the first time defeating Imokilly at Pairc ui Chaoimh 0-17 to 0-9. Neil Ronan lined out at centre back with Ian Curtin at centre forward. Stephen Dennehy and Tommy McNamara were also on the panel while John Mortell was a selector. The team also included the O'Connor twins Ben and Jerry.



Avondhu u-16 hurlers 1995. Munster champions.

1995 was also the year that Dublin won the all-Ireland Senior football title inspired by none other than Jason Sherlock. It was only twenty months previous that he lined out with Ballyhea in a thrilling victory in the County minor hurling league final. It was a proud moment for everyone involved in the club to see Jason achieve the ultimate honour in senior football.

Certainly 1995 was a memorable year for Ballyhea Gaa and one that is remembered fondly by everyone in the club.

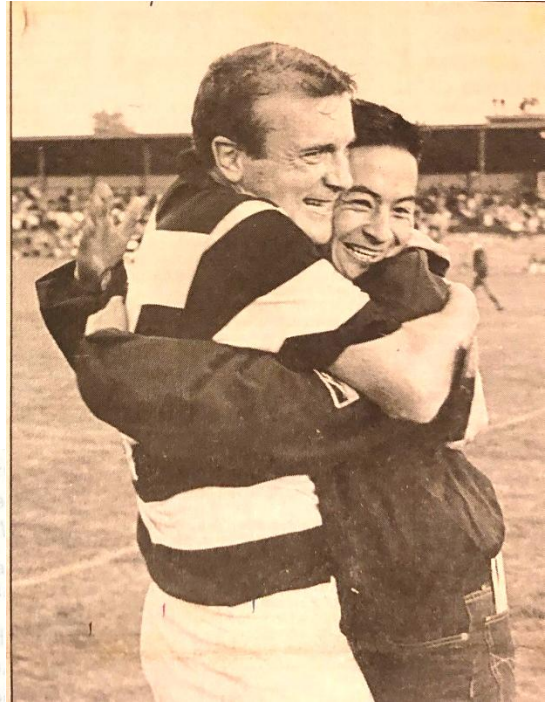
Tom Brassill receiving the O'Leary cup in 1995.





Senior selectors 1995: Sean Curtin, Tom Morrissey and Phil Ryan.

Mikey O'Callaghan and Jason Sherlock celebrate after county semi-final win over Imokilly



The Men of Ballyhea
 In days of old when men were bold,
 They fought the Landlord strong,
 Men were bought and souls were sold,
 Not knowing right from wrong.
 The tenant farmer had no rights,
 The labourer had no pay
 In front of all who fought their fights
 Were men from Ballyhea.
 The toil that men must do to live,
 Is good for heart and soul
 And charity that people give,
 Should be each persons role
 To plough the fields and till the soil
 To fight for friends in fray
 No men will ever play or toil
 Like the men of Ballyhea.
 In the sports field they always showed
 The might of brains and brawn
 Each record one by one they mowed
 Like grass mowed in a lawn.
 And in Croke Park they did appear,
 My God these men could play
 No team could ever kindle fear
 In the men of Ballyhea.

Ballyhea GAA 2025:

Senior hurling:

Our senior hurlers competed in division 5 of the Red Fm Senior hurling league and after a very good campaign winning 6, drawing 2 and losing just the one game we finished top of the league and gained promotion to Division 4. Unfortunately fielding an understrength side due to injuries, we lost out in the league final to Aghabullogue 5-14 to 1-9.

Our C'ship campaign started with defeats to Iniscarra and eventual finalists Castlelyons. This left us with a vital survival clash with Bishopstown in Buttevant in the final group game. Ballyhea gave an excellent performance to win

3-14 to 1-9 and maintain our senior status for 2026.

Claude Gough (coach), Jonathan O'Sullivan, Darran Ronan and Oliver Morrissey looked after the team.

The lineout was

Mikey Browne, Adam Barrett, Luke Hanley, Darragh Crowley, Caielan Cox, Jamie Copps, Tiernan Hanley, John Morrissey, Mce O'Sullivan, Luke Crowley, Kieran Morrissey, Tom Hanley, Eugene O'Leary, Gavin Morrissey, Pa O'Callaghan.

Subs: Dion Curtin, Dean Copps, Fionn O'Sullivan.

Scorers: Eugene O'Leary 2-4, Pa O'Callaghan 0-5 (4 fr), Kieran Morrissey 1-1, Mikey Browne 0-1 (fr), John Morrissey 0-1 (65), Luke Crowley 0-1, Tom Hanley 0-1.

Junior hurling:

Our juniors also had a decent league campaign and after 3 wins had a chance of qualifying for the final but lost out to Ballygiblin 3-16 to 1-14 in the final league game.

In the C'ship we defeated Liscarroll/ Churchtown Gaels 5-18 to 2-11 in the first round but lost to Kilworth 2-16 to 0-10 in round 2.

Team: Gearoid O'Shea, Conor Horan, Adam Horan, John Horgan, Stephen Dennehy 0-1, MI Morrissey, Donal Lynch, Patrick Daly 0-4 (3fr), Fionn o Sullivan 0-1, Jack Lynch, Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy, Sean Kelly 0-1, Dylan Barrett, Joseph Hickey 0-2, Kevin Copps

Subs: James Mackessey and Michael Mackessey.

U-21 hurling:

Our u21 hurlers lost out to St Dominic's (Glanworth/Shanballymore) 1-16 to 1-15 at Kildorrery.

Team:

Dylan Barrett, Tomas Crowley, Conor Horan, Dan Buckley, Eoghan Horan, Darragh Crowley, Evan Copps, Fionn O'Sullivan, Andrew Buckley, Patrick Daly 0-10 (8 fr), James Mackessey, Dion Curtin, Tiernan Walsh, Joseph Hickey 0-2, Daniel Mackessey 1-3.

Sub: Donal Lynch

Juvenile:

Another very busy year for our juvenile section with a number of trophies won. Our minors were very unlucky to lose the C' ship semi-final on penalties. But they bounced back to win the Rebel Og North Division 1 league defeating St Kevin's at Milford 2-26 to 5-13 in a cracking encounter.

Our u-16 hurlers won the C' ship shield final 4-18 to 4-11 defeating Liscarroll Churchtown Gaels at Milford.

The u-14 hurlers lost out to Charville in the C' ship Shield final 3-11 to 0-6.

Our u-12's reached both finals winning the football defeating Sliabh Luachra 6-7 to 1-4. In the hurling final we lost out to narrowly to Lee Gaels.

They made up for this winning the Jack O'Sullivan cup defeating Na Piarasigh in the final.

Our u-10's captured the Richie Murphy trophy beating Milford in a thrilling final after extra time.

It was another hectic year forget club, thanks to all players, mentors, club officers, parents, families, sponsors, supporters and any one that helped in anyway during the year.



Barry Kiely receiving the u-16 Div 1 hurling C' ship plate.



Ballyhea u-16 hurlers



Andrew Buckley receiving the minor league trophy



Ballyhea minor hurlers league winners 2025.



Jack O'Sullivan u-12 blitz winners 2025.



U-10 Richie Murphy blitz winners 2025,



During the year Ballyhea GAA lost three Valued Club Members:

Michael (The Brick) O’Sullivan R.I.P.

The death occurred in January of Club Vice President Michael (The Brick) O’Sullivan. A very keen follower of Ballyhea Gaa club as well as a great golfer. He helped the club out with organising numerous fund-raising golf classics. He got great joy especially seeing his grandchildren playing hurling and camogie with Ballyhea. A very well attended guard of honour was held at Holy Cross Church on the Friday night which showed how well liked he was within the club. Sincere condolences of the club are extended to Michael’s family. R.I.P. May he Rest in Peace.



Jack Kelly R.I.P.

Club vice president Jack Kelly passed to his eternal reward last July. Jack was a member of the Ballyhea 1955 county junior hurling winning panel. A very dedicated follower of Ballyhea teams and a great supporter of the club. His nephews the O’Connor brothers hurled with distinction for Ballyhea and now his grandchildren Connell, Grace, Lucy and Killian wear the black and white with our underage teams in hurling football and camogie. His other 3 grandchildren Eoin, Tom and Kate line out with their native Granagh Ballingarry carrying on the great love of GAA passed on to them by Jack. A large guard of honour was held at the club grounds and at his burial the day after. Sincere sympathy of the club is extended to Jack’s family. May he Rest in Peace.



Charlie Quinn R.I.P.

Great club and parish stalwart Charlie Quinn passed away on November 19th. Charlie served as Ballyhea Gaa club treasurer from 1965-1968, club secretary from 1970-1972 and also through the years was on adult and juvenile committees. He also served as a selector on various juvenile club teams. He was never found wanting when it came to fundraising for the club driving the length and breadth of the country. In the 80's when Jerome and Gerard O'Keeffe were recording Ballyhea C'ship matches, Charlie was the excellent commentator for these exciting games. He was on the committee for our first club history book "From Scoubeen to the Centenary" and he chaired the committee for the clubs second book "Keeping the flame Aglow".

He was also to the fore front in parish activities chairing the millennium committee and also chaired the history group which compiled the history of the parish. He was also to the forefront of Ballyhoura Harriers athletic club which looked after young athletes in the parish in the 80's.

A great character who will be sadly missed.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Esther, Pat, Anthony, Chris, Cliff and all his family.





Club development:

The club have embarked on putting in a new Astro turf pitch at our club grounds. The pitch is now laid with just the lighting to be completed.

This will be a great addition to our facilities. On Oct 18th we had an official opening with Sean Og O'Halpin and Jason Sherlock. Club President Billy Fitzgibbon, chairman Eamon Morrissey and hall of fame recipient Eddie Sherlock were also in attendance.

As part of the Clubs efforts to raise funds for our new astroturf area we are holding a major fundraising draw in conjunction with Ballyhea camogie club.

1st prize being a Ford Focus car or €30,000 cash. There will be 5 other prizes of €1,000 each. The draw will take place on Saturday January 3rd 2026.

Tickets cost €50 each with family offers also available as follows:

1. €300 Buy 6 tickets and receive 2 extra tickets free
2. €500 Buy 10 tickets and receive 5 extra tickets free and also your family will be named on a Friends of Ballyhea GAA & Camogie Club appreciation sign that will be erected at the club grounds.
3. For all those who have purchased tickets early, there will be an Early Bird draw for 2 tickets for the 2026 All Ireland Hurling Final and €500 spending money on Tuesday December 2nd.



Eamon Morrissey, Jason Sherlock, Eddie Sherlock, Billy Fitzgibbon and Sean Og O'Halpin at opening of AstroTurf.

*Photographs courtesy of
John Mortell*

Ballyhea Camogie Club – 2025



2025 was another remarkable year for Ballyhea Camogie Club, marked by both growth and success across all levels. With 149 registered members, including 126 players, the club continues to strengthen year after year. This growth reflects the dedication, commitment, and hard work of our players, coaches, and committee members, who together create an environment where young athletes can learn, develop the sport of camogie.

Incredible progress was made by our players with each squad gaining valuable experience and improving significantly throughout the season. This success is a direct result of the immense effort and commitment of our coaches, who consistently brought enthusiasm and encouragement to every training session and match.

The dedication and passion of both players and coaches were evident in the club's achievements across various competitions, spanning multiple grades and age groups. Their dedication to the sport, exemplary sportsmanship on and off the field, and relentless drive to improve have been truly commendable, and they continue to inspire everyone involved in Ballyhea Camogie Club.

Our **U6 girls**, along with coaches James o Shaughnessy and Laura Dundon, began their season at the end of March, training almost every Saturday morning right through to the October Bank Holiday weekend. It was another hugely successful and enjoyable season, with numbers staying strong in double figures, 13 girls in total. During the year, the girls took part in two blitzes — one hosted by Charleville and the other by Ballyhea Camogie. They played brilliantly on both occasions and had great fun throughout the day. A huge thank you to all parents for their commitment — having the girls at the field every Saturday, on time and ready to go, makes a massive difference. We're delighted with how the year went — the main goal is always to keep the girls smiling, learning, and loving the game. Roll on next season!



Ballyhea Camogie U6's 2025

The **U8 girls**, with coaches Claire O’Doherty and Geoff Watson, kicked off their season at the end of March, braving the chilly mornings with great enthusiasm (even if they were secretly hoping for some warm weather training). Over the course of the season, the team took part in blitzes in Newtownshandrum, Charleville, and Grenagh, and we also had the pleasure of hosting a blitz at home

in Ballyhea. Across all their games, the girls showed fantastic effort, teamwork and determination, never giving up and always giving their best right to the final whistle.

It was evident that all their hard work at training and practice at home is really paying off, with great improvement shown by every player throughout the season. We wrapped up the season on October 11th, and while some of the older girls were sad to finish their final U8 session, they’re already excited to move up and join the U10s next year. A huge well done to all the girls for their dedication and effort throughout the season — and a big thank you to parents for their continued support every week.



Ballyhea Camogie U8's 2025

Our **U10 girls** began their season in March, along with their coaches Aoife O’Flynn, Darren Ronan & Damian O’Gorman and continued to train twice a week, on Wednesdays alongside the U11s and on Saturdays. The girls showed great enthusiasm at every session, putting their skills into practice and enjoying every minute on the field.

Throughout the year, the team participated in numerous blitzes, visiting clubs including Newtownshandrum, Milford, Mallow, Banteer, Effin, and Charleville, with games held across various club grounds. The girls played with determination, teamwork, and plenty of smiles, making great progress along the way.

The U10s thoroughly enjoyed their training and games this season, and they are already excited and looking forward to continuing their camogie journey next year.



BallyheaCamogieU10 Team 2025

This year's **U12 team** and their Coaches Geoff, Gary and Claire, enjoyed an incredibly busy season. On the field, we took part in four group phases throughout the year. In phase 1 we came up against Aghabullogue, Ballincollig & Milford. All games competitively played and as they were our first games of the year, plenty to work on.

In phase 2 we played Fr O Neil's, Youghal & Eire Og. Some tough and tight games, which we came out the better on in all 3. Momentum was building and we played phase 3 against Rockban, Erin's Own & Clonakilty. The girls were really enjoying their Camogie at this stage, and confidence was flowing with some big scores being racked up.

Our final group phase 4 was a seeded group based on previous results. We came up against the strongest of the teams in the county at this stage - Blackrock, St Finbarrs, Castlemartyr, Clonakilty & Carrigaline. With the holiday season in full swing, we had to navigate the games as best we could, and came up against some very strong teams. The girls to their credit were never found wanting and always gave it their all.

We then played a final game V Watergrasshill based on our league position and just came up short after a very entertaining game. We'd like to thank the parents for driving around the county all year, and we look forward to getting back at it again in a couple of months.



Ballyhea Camogie U12 & U13 Teams 2025

The **Under 14s**, and Coaches Dinny, Marie, Sheila, Chloe, Diarmuid, had another very good year, showing huge improvement as the season progressed. We competed in the County A League where we drew with Kilbrittain, lost to Ballinora, and won our third game against Éire Óg.

The County Board introduced a new Summer League during June and July, ahead of the championship. We played three games, and had wins over Youghal and Blarney, and losing to Ballincollig. These matches were extremely beneficial in preparing the girls for championship action.

In the A County Championship, the girls put in outstanding performances, winning all our group games against Bandon, Youghal, and Sliabh Rua to qualify for the County Semi-Final. We faced Ballincollig in Ballyhea on the 12th October, but they proved too strong on the day and went on to win the County Final. **Our U15s** took part in Féile this year on Saturday 12th April in Milford. We were drawn in a tough group, but the girls gave everything they had across three games. We won against Fr. O'Neill's but were defeated by Milford and Blarney.

In July, we competed in the Avondhu League but unfortunately lost both games to Fermoy and Mallow.

We played the Avondhu Final on the 10th November against Fermoy in Fermoy, where we were defeated on the night on a scoreline of **4-7 to 2-4**.

We would like to sincerely thank all the girls for their effort, commitment, and dedication throughout the year.

We would like to thank all the girls for their effort, commitment, and hard work throughout the year. A big thank you also to the parents for their continued cooperation and support. Finally, special thanks to **Louise Keane** for providing first aid for us all season.



Ballyhea U14 Team 2025 (File Pic 2024) Ballyhea Camogie U15 Team 2025

Our **U16 team**, having won the U14A County Final two years ago, stepped up this season to compete in the Premier 2 Division for both League and Championship. The girls embraced the challenge and continued to develop strongly at this higher level of competition.

The girls enjoyed a fantastic league campaign, emerging strongly from a tough group that included Ballincollig, Éire Óg, and Cloughdub. They reached the league semi-final, where they narrowly lost to Carrigaline by just a single point, a superb performance that showed their determination and skill throughout the campaign.

In the Championship, the team recorded one win against St Finbarr's and were narrowly beaten in close contests against Milford, Kilbrittain, and Midleton. Despite the results, the girls were highly competitive in every game, proving that they fully belong at this level and continue to grow as a squad. Coaches Steve Keane, Roisin Killeen & Mike Keogh



Ballyhea U16 2025 (File Pic 2024)

Our **Minor team** and their coaches are currently preparing for the Minor B Championship Semi-Final, due to take place on Sunday, 23rd November. This team, along with their coaches Eamon Morrissey,

Dave Hickey, Chloe Keogh, and Audrey Morrissey, have put in a huge amount of determination and effort to reach this stage of the competition. We wish them the very best in the final stages of their campaign.



Our Intermediate Team returned to training in late January with three sessions per week, which included strength and conditioning as well as 8am Sunday morning sessions.

In the League, the Intermediates were graded in the Senior Grade and grouped with Cloughduv, Sarsfields, St. Catherine's, Glen Rovers and Éire Óg. Cormac ensured that the players were consistently provided with training focus points, mobility challenges and individual tasks aimed at improving strength, conditioning and skill levels. The league proved to be a tough challenge, but the players fought hard throughout every game.

For the Championship, we were graded in Premier Intermediate alongside Ballincollig, Enniskeane and Clonakilty. The girls battled hard in each match, but unfortunately the results didn't go our way this year.

We would like to thank **Cormac O'Rielly, Frances Killeen and John O'Rielly**, as well as our medical team **Breda Dundon, Audrey Morrissey and Gabrielle Walsh**, for their outstanding commitment and support throughout the season.



Photographs courtesy of Edel Barrett



Ballyhea Gun Club

Ballyhea Gun club is a small club in the Parish

It has been in existence for 50 years.

A celebration will be planned.

It came about from a meeting of 7 landowners in the Ballyhea Hall on the 12th October 1975

The purpose then was to found a gun club and develop game stocks on the preserved areas and this purpose remains as is today.

A chairman John Leahy RIP and secretary Jerome o Keffe RIP were elected.

Another meeting would be held on the 28th of October 1975 for

game license holders and the election of further committee members who were Vice Chairman John Ronan and Hon Treasurer Michael O Keffe RIP the president of the club was Tom Leahy RIP

The words Bio-Diversity and Eco Systems are much used nowadays but gun clubs including Ballyhea have been practising them for years. We have been restocking birds for years. Lots of trees have been planted many hedgerows are there as a result. These provide habitat for wildlife and routeways for movement. Food is provided by the berries of some hedges. Thus, other birds apart from game birds' benefit. Patches of ground are used for Game Crop/Grain which provides food and cover for birds and wildlife.



As part of the club and our commitment to regeneration of the various game species we created our own pheasant pen on land of one of the members. Unfortunately, the pen got destroyed in the snow in January 2025 when it was empty and thanks to the hard work of the club members the pen was rebuilt over Spring 2025.

250 birds are rearing annually both Hens and Cocks to boost the breeding season.

Of course, all of this would be impossible without the goodwill of farmers. For this we are grateful. We have strict rules about behaviours and limited times for shooting. Predators are kept under control.

All our members have to be members of the NARGC compensation fund. This ensures that farmers are covered for any damage. Members and gundogs are also covered. The NARGC cover applies to the Island of Ireland and Europe.



As well as the goodwill of farmers the club depends on the effort put in by dedicated members. These have never been lacking.

Covid upset a lot of sports but hopefully weather permitting will be back to normal.

New members are always welcome but they must abide by club rules and code of conduct. We are delighted to have some new members for the 2025-2026 season which is help club survival. Fund raising through the years has taken many forms e.g. clay shoots, dances, chicken suppers, raffles and in most recent year's poker classics and Grand National draws and Rugby World Cup draw most recently. Fund raising is essential for the club to survive. For 2026 we plan to do a Grand National Draw and a World Cup draw any support would be most welcome. All these have a limited time and new ideas have to be sought. Hard work by dedicated members and support from their families was and is needed.



Popular venues were the Deer Park, Greenwood Inn, Barrett Lodge, Buttevant Community Hall, Bridge Bar and Harp Bar.

A most popular musician was the late Johnny Barrett. Young and old enjoyed his singing and company.

Meetings were held in the Ballyhea Hall until it was destroyed by fire. The GAA Hall was our next venue then we moved to the Barrett Lodge kindly made available by Joan Barrett and the late Dan Barrett.

Later we moved between the Lodge, The Bridge Bar and the Harp Bar

Of recent years we have had our meeting in the Corbett Court and The Idle Hour.

Duck shooting opens 1st Sept and pheasant on 1st Nov the shooting season for game birds ends 31st Jan

There are too many people who have been officers of the club or members of the club to mention by name. But for them the club wouldn't have a past. The people of the present Are continuing their good work today

Though the club is not large there is a hardcore of hard working and dedicated officers and members who continue the ideals of the founder members of the 12th Oct 1975.

Current Committee - President Jim Murphy

Chairman Kevin Foley - Vice Chairman Ray Ronan

Hon Secretary Una Hickey - Hon Treasurer U Hickey & K Foley

Club Delegate Martin Lane and Conor Lane - Health and Safety Tim Dennehy

Ballyhea Gun Club would like to thank all the farmers for the permission to shoot over their land as only for them we wouldn't have a club.

Secretary Una Hickey

Photographs courtesy of
Una Hickey

P. & J. RYAN LTD OF ARDNAGEEHY LED THE WAY IN RETAIL TRADING



Above photos courtesy of Evelyn O'Keeffe.

In the 6th and final edition of Ted O'Riordan's Charleville and District Historical Journal in 1992 an article written by Charleville man, the late Michael Jones, posed the question: 'Was P & J. Ryan Ltd of Ardnageehy, Charleville, the first chain stores in Ireland?' The following is a reproduction of that article.

So, who was he talking about? To find out we must go back to 1920 when the brothers Patrick and James Ryan of Ardnageehy, Charleville purchased a retail shop in Charleville's Main Street, where the Centra Store now trades. There they sold groceries, bacon and provisions, and fresh vegetables, all the produce of their farm in Ardnageehy. The shop was an immediate success and towns people gathered to await the arrival of four wheeled horse drawn dray, loaded with farm produce, and driven by Thomas Kennedy, an original employee of the firm.

Michael Jones tells us that the Ryan brothers were progressive in their outlook and attitude to business, and two years later they opened their second shop in Mallow. As their business went from strength to strength, Mallow was followed by two shops in Cork City, two shops in Limerick City, and outlets in Kilmallock, Hospital, Bruff, Tipperary, Youghal, Newcastle West, Rathkeale, Listowel, Kanturk, Abbeyfeale, until by 1930 they had opened a total of twenty-two shops, including an enlarged outlet at their headquarters at Ardnageehy.

The rapid expansion of their shopping empire required the setting up of manufacturing facilities for their many and varied products, as well as a streamlined accounts and distribution system to service their chain of shops throughout Munster. These were put in place at their head office at

Ardnageehy, when they were fortunate in acquiring the services of Jim Meagher in June 1934, who devised an up-to-date accounts and handling system. He was so successful, that he was later co-opted to the company's Board of Directors.

At this stage they had established factories for the production of bacon, a butchery, bakery, and confectionery, the production of jams, along with vegetable grading facilities. At its peak the company employed a staff of 150, that included shop assistants, tradesmen, electrical and maintenance operatives, salesmen, lorry drivers, bakers, confectioners, bacon factory employees, farm managers, and their staff.

The bacon factory was processing around six hundred pigs weekly, producing bacon, sausages and puddings, and everything was for distribution to their twenty-two shops in Munster.

In 1946 they contemplated getting into bottled milk distribution to supply the North Cork region, but these plans had to be shelved due to the untimely death of the company's managing director. His death had a devastating effect on the company and heralded the demise of the company. It halted all expansion plans, to such an extent that in 1954, the company ceased trading after 34 years in business.

In answer to the question posed at the start of this article, it would appear, that it could be claimed that the P. & J. Ryan shops were indeed the start of the chain shops in Ireland, and the Ryan brothers were ahead of their time as business entrepreneurs. Their contribution to the economy of the area at a time of widespread poverty in the Ireland of the 'twenties and 'thirties and 'forties, when emigration was rife in rural Ireland, was very much appreciated.

Their business venture and acumen provided welcome employment for many families in the Ballyhea and Ardnageehy areas, and they are remembered to this day as forces for the good of the area. In fact, the Dawn Meats facility, that currently provides excellent employment in the area, is




housed in the premises originally set up by the Ryan brothers, and so their legacy has lasted to the present day.

Above photo courtesy of Evelyn O'Keeffe.

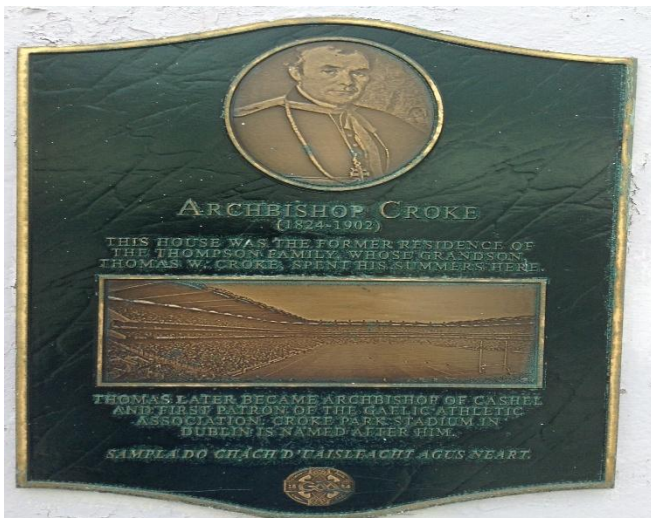
Archbishop Thomas William Croke (1823-1902)

Who was Archbishop Croke, first patron of the G.A.A., whose name is perpetuated in Croke Park?

Thomas William Croke was born in Dromin, Castlecork, in the parish of Kilbrin, Co. Cork, on Jan. 6th, 1823 and he was baptised on the same day in the Church of St. John the Baptist in Kilbrin.

Parish of <u>Ballyclough/Kilbrin</u> Diocese of <u>Cloyne</u>	BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
On examination of the Register of Baptisms of the above parish I certify that according to it <u>Thomas Croke</u> was born on the <u>6th</u> day of <u>January</u> <u>1823</u> and was baptised according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on the <u>6th</u> day of <u>January</u> <u>1823</u> in the Church of <u>St. John the Baptist Kilbrin</u> by the Rev _____ Parents <u>William Croke</u> <u>Isabella Plummer</u> Sponsors <u>William Croke</u> <u>Calc Ryan</u> Confirmed _____ Married _____ Given on the <u>23rd</u> day of <u>August</u> <u>2015</u> Signed Rev <u>Frank O'Hall</u>	
	
	VERITAS

His grandfather was a shopkeeper in Tralee. His grandmother was a Thompson.



(Plaque in Tralee)

From the records, on his paternal side, we know of three boys in the Croke family: Thomas who later became P.P. of Charleville, James who didn't marry and became a barrister in Australia and William, (his father) who had eight children.

William married a Protestant lady, Isabella Plummer, daughter of an aristocratic family, descended from the Knights of Glin. Her parents disowned her, following her marriage to a Roman Catholic in 1817.

After the birth of their first two children, William and Margaret, in Tralee, the family moved to Castlecor where William (the father) became the Land Agent or Manager of the Dean Freeman Estate there. The Dean Freemans were related to Isabella.

The family lived in the Agent's lodge, now called "Croke House."



Thomas William Croke was the third of eight children and the first of the family to be born in Castlecor.

His older sister Margaret and his younger sister Isabella were reared as Protestants, the religion of their mother. Later all three women became Catholics. The two girls became Mercy Sisters in Charleville Convent.

There were six Croke boys in total- William, Thomas William, James,

David, John and Daniel. The boys attended the local school supported by Major Dean Freeman. The subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and Latin. Their father died suddenly in 1834. At that time the children ranged from fifteen years to two years of age.

Their uncle, Rev. Thomas Croke, was the parish priest in Charleville at that time and he brought the whole family to live with him in the Parochial house in Chapel Street.



Thomas was educated in the endowed classical school in Charleville for about 5 years. He went to the Irish College in Paris in Oct. 1839 at the age of 16, where he studied Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law for six years and was above average intelligence.

At 22 he was too young to be ordained and went to teach English and Maths in the Irish College in Belgium. He moved to Rome for further studies at the Gregorian University where he won both the gold and silver medals awarded to the best student.



He was ordained in Rome in 1847.

When he was appointed professor of rhetoric at Carlow College, where he also taught Latin and Greek, he returned to a very different Ireland. The famine was at its height and people were starving. He sold his two prize medals, gold and silver, and donated the money to the poor. The following year he returned to the Irish College in Paris to teach Theology.

His older brother William had been ordained a priest and was a curate in Charleville. He died of famine fever and Fr. Croke, the parish priest and

his uncle, asked that Fr. Thomas William would be appointed to Charleville. He became a curate there until 1853.



(Original in Heritage Centre)

He then moved to different parishes in Cloyne- Midleton and Mallow. This was a time of great change in Ireland. The population had

dropped due to famine and emigration.

Cardinal

Paul Cullen had called the Synod of Thurles in 1850 and the church in Ireland was brought into line with Roman customs and Canon law.

Croke was concerned about the social and economic problems of the flock as well as trying to bring about a spiritual revival. He recommended that every clergyman organise a Tenant Protection Society in his own parish.

In 1857, his uncle James, a judge and unmarried, died in Australia and left him a large legacy of £19,000. In *Croke of Cashel*, by Mark Tierney, Archbishop Croke is quoted as follow “*An uncle of mine, an Australian Judge who died in 1857 made a man of me. In this respect I am really rich*”.

The following year, Dr. Keane, bishop of Cloyne, asked him to accept the post of first president of the new diocesan St. Colman’s College in Fermoy. He spent 7 years there and as a competent administrator he put the college on its feet.



He then became P.P. of Doneraile and Vicar General of the Diocese. While in Doneraile, he brought the Christian Brothers to the town, spent £700 on the parish church and repaired and enlarged the convent chapel for the Presentation Sisters. He also established a branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to look after the poor of the town.

In 1869 Dr. Keane, bishop of Cloyne, invited him to act as his advisor on theological Matters at Vatican 1.

The following May he was appointed as bishop of Auckland, New Zealand, where he became its second Catholic bishop, a ministry he led until 1874.

Auckland was in a terrible state financially. Croke left for New Zealand and went via New York, then by rail across the U.S. to San Francisco to visit his brother Rev. James.

Every church in Auckland Diocese was mortgaged, there were huge debts, pastoral and economic problems, a shortage of priests and people's faith had grown cold.

In Auckland Archbishop Croke brought about a devotional revolution. He was most untiring in the performance of his Apostolic duties, cleared the debts and opened Catholic schools.



(Original in Heritage Centre)

He also visited Australia from Auckland and spent three months with his sister, Mother Ignatius, who had founded the Mercy Convent in Bathurst. He also spent time with his two brothers David and John who were working in the mines and met with the Australian bishops.

In 1873, his uncle Thomas P.P. of Charleville died aged 90. Thomas Wm. had been appointed executor of the will and there was a

considerable amount of financial business demanding his attention in Ireland. His health was failing and he wrote to Bishop Kirby asking to be allowed return to Ireland. *“The work which needed most to be done had been done by me and anyone can now work the mission. I do not intend to return to New Zealand”*.

In 1875, he was appointed Archbishop of Cashel, a position he held till he died in 1902.



(Original in Heritage Centre)



(Thurles Cathedral)

His years there coincided with the Land War and the Home Rule Movement, the great social and political issues of the late 19th century. His social conscience was aroused by the events of those years and he sincerely believed that he had a responsibility and duty to speak out.

He had observed the serious economic position of the Irish farmers but the Irish Hierarchy as a body had not taken any public stand on the land question.

Parnell visited Croke in 1879 and asked him to support the Land League. Croke used his influence to encourage his fellow bishops and priests to support it and to be united and to save the country from another famine.

The Vatican was not pleased that he was involved in political affairs in Ireland and he was summoned to Rome in 1883. He got a cool reception from Leo X111 but returned *“Unchanged and Unchangeable”*.

Cardinal Cullen had brought about a religious revival in Ireland and a “cultural revival” was dreamed of in the founding of the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League. In Dec. 1884, Michael Cusack invited Croke to be patron of the G.A.A., an organisation created to promote Ireland’s traditional sports such as hurling and Gaelic football. A wave of Nationalism was sweeping the country and the people were prepared to accept Croke as their champion.

In 1895, his health was in decline and the following year he retired from public life.

On 22nd July, 1902 he died as a result of severe bronchitis and pneumonia. Thousands attended his funeral in Thurles, where he was laid to rest in a vault in the cathedral.



Little did the young lad, roaming the fields and roads of Castlecor and Kilbrin dream that one day Ireland’s National Stadium would bear his name and that Croke House, his birthplace, would become a tourist attraction.

For lots more information about Archbishop Croke and his family, you’re welcome to contact me, Sr. Bernadette Maria, in the Chapel Heritage, (Former Mercy Heritage Centre), Main Street, Charleville. P56YP79.

Visitors are welcome by appointment on 087-9007225.



Ballyhea Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others



On October 8th, 2025, 19 women from Ballyhea representing Cork County travelled to New York to partake in a 'Festival of Gaelic Football' hosted by New York Ladies GAA.

The Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative, is an innovative way to introduce mothers and other women to playing Ladies Gaelic Football.

The Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative sees women playing Ladies Gaelic Football in a fun, non-competitive and social environment. Gaelic4Mothers&Others provides an opportunity for women to get their recommended weekly exercise in a fun way while meeting other mothers in the area.

The initiative has proved hugely popular with women of all ages and has taken off in all 32 counties with success stories popping up all over the country, and most recently in International units.

The weekend began with an Opening party where 27 clubs representing their Counties gathered, it was so lovely to meet women from all over Ireland who were looking forward to a once in a lifetime event.

On the Friday morning, the energy continued as up to 700 participants took part in a 5K run/walk through a sunny and bustling Central Park.

Saturday was game day; the team travelled to Rocklands GAA in upstate New York to take part in a thrilling football blitz. Over the course of five competitive and fun-filled games, they faced teams from Rathmore (Co. Kerry), Railyard (Co. Kilkenny), An Carraig Mhór (Co. Tyrone),

Mullingar Shamrocks (Co. Westmeath), and a Mayo team based in New York. The atmosphere was electric, with plenty of skill, camaraderie, and laughter on display.

Huge credit is due to Rocklands GAA and New York Ladies GAA for organising such a well-run and enjoyable weekend. Their efforts created lasting memories for everyone involved.

Amidst the packed schedule, the ladies still found time to enjoy some sightseeing and shopping — rest assured, they didn't miss out!





Photographs courtesy of Deirdre Sheehan

Ballyhea Zumba

Since 2018, Fitness with Cedric have been bringing Zumba classes to the GAA Hall in Ballyhea. Every week for the past seven years (minus a small blip during Covid) Cedric Mahango has been teaching the women (and sometimes men!) of Ballyhea and the surrounding parishes how to shake their hips, and know their salsa from their merengue. Zumba is known all over the world as everybody's favourite exercise class as it pairs the energetic spirit of latin dance with moves designed to tone and strengthen the body. The music is uplifting, and the dances are designed so that everybody can take part, regardless of experience or fitness level. Fitness with Cedric has other Zumba classes in Milford and Newcastle West, but the Ballyhea class is the original one, and after relocating from Charleville in 2018 we haven't looked back! There is a great mix of ages in the class, and there are always new people coming to give it a go, as well as those who have been there since the beginning. There is a great social aspect to the class as well, a chance to have a quick chat between songs while you catch your breath! Earlier this year Anna McNamara, one of the dancers who had been with the class from the start, also qualified as a Zumba instructor, so we are now lucky enough to have two teachers who can alternate their classes and keep things fresh.

We are lucky to have such a longstanding, accessible class in our small parish, and it's great to see people making use of the opportunity, and getting fit while enjoying themselves.



Stair an Chamógaíochta in Éirinn



Tá stair shaibhir ag an gcamógaíocht, atá fréamhaithe go domhain i gcultúr agus i bhféiniúlacht na hÉireann. Cé go bhfuil an cluiche cosúil leis an iomáint ó thaobh rialacha agus stíle, d'fhorbair sé ina chóras neamhspleách a thacaíonn le rannpháirtíocht agus le spórt na mban.

Bunú Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael (1904)

I mí Aibreáin 1904, bunaíodh Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael (CCnG) i gCorcaigh. Ba é seo an chéad uair ar cuireadh rialacha caighdeánacha i bhfeidhm do chluiche na mban. Bhí ról lárnach ag ban-ghníomhaithe le linn na tréimhse náisiúnta, go háirithe iad siúd a bhí bainteach le gluaiseacht na hathbheochana Gaelaí agus le Cumann na mBan.

Forbairt sna 1920idí agus 1930idí

Le linn na tréimhse seo:

- Bunaíodh go leor clubanna nua ar fud na tíre.
- Eagraíodh comórtais idirchontae go rialta.
- Tháinig níos mó tacaíochta ó scoileanna agus ó choláistí.
- I 1932, imríodh an chéad Chluiche Ceannais Camógaíochta na hÉireann, agus tugadh ardán náisiúnta don spórt dá bharr.

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Leathnú agus Nuachóiriú (1950idí–1990idí)

- D'athraigh rialacha an chluiche de réir mar a d'éirigh sé níos dinimiciúla.
- Rinneadh iarrachtaí comhphárteacha le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (CLG) chun áiseanna agus stádas a fheabhsú.
- Cuireadh béim ar rannpháirtíocht óige agus ar fhorbairt scileanna.
- D'iompaigh Craobh na hÉireann ina phríomhimeacht spóirt do lucht leanúna na mban agus don phobal i gcoitinne.

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An Chamógaíocht sa Ré Nua

Sa 21ú haois, tá an chamógaíocht tar éis dul ó neart go neart:

Freastalaíonn sluaite mór ar Chluiche Ceannais na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

- Tá feabhas tagtha ar infheistíocht i gclár traenála, i mbonneagar agus i gcur chun cinn an chluiche.
- I 2021, tháinig CLG, Cumann Peile na mBan agus CCnG le chéile go straitéiseach i bhfeachtas comhtháite chun cothromaíocht sa spórt a chur chun cinn.

- Tá an chamógaíocht tar éis leathnú i measc na diaspóra, go háirithe i Sasana, san Eoraip agus i Meiriceá.
-

Tábhacht an Chluiche

Is cuid lárnach í an chamógaíocht de chultúr spóirt na hÉireann:

- Cuireann sí béim ar scil, ar luas agus ar chomhobair.
- Tacaíonn sí le mná agus cailíní sa spórt.
- Cuireann sí le hoidhreacht agus le féiniúlacht Ghaelach.



Community Council

Retirement Party

Huge thanks to Maurice O'Riordan, Maria Russell, James Browne, Breda Duane, Tommy Moloney, Michael O'Regan and Agnes Foley for all their years volunteering for Ballyhea Community Council



Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney

Village Clean up

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped this year. Seats were painted beautifully, flowers were planted, footpaths were cleaned, and hedges were cut, etc. Your hard work made a real difference.

While our number of volunteers has been low, we remain hopeful and look forward to starting fresh in 2026. Your support is truly appreciated.



Photograph courtesy of Bernadette Moloney



Trad Night

Ballyhea Community Council wishes to thank everyone who supported the Active Age Party fundraiser last Saturday. We sincerely thank all performers: Triona & Carl, The Odd Socks, Ger Wall, Ceoltóirí Clárach, Lena Edmonds, Margo Crean and the Set Dancing Group. Thanks also to MC Pat McAuliffe, Adrian Buckley (sound) and Mickey Moran (photography).



Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney



Community Alert

Ballyhea Neighbourhood Alert is preparing to introduce a powerful new community-safety tool to help our area stay connected, alert and protected.

Introducing the Cairde App, a free smartphone application developed by Muintir na Tíre that gives our neighbourhood added strength in keeping everyone safe and informed.

Why it matters

- You'll receive alerts from An Garda Síochána and our local alert group, delivered straight to your smartphone.
- The app includes a panic button, so you can alert designated neighbours or friends if you need help, with location details shared.
- If you use an older phone, you can still stay connected via the standard text-alert service by registering your number with Ballyhea Neighbourhood Alert.
- The more neighbours and friends who sign up for the Cairde App, the stronger our community becomes - more connected, more alert, more empowered.

Launch Event – Saturday 24 January at the Parish Hall

We are excited to announce that the system will officially launch on Saturday 24 January, at the Parish Hall. Muintir na Tíre will be present to label equipment and help kick-things off, and we'll also have participation from An Garda Síochána, the Fire Brigade and other community services on site.

Letters, Registration & Details of Label Equipment

Letters will be dropped to every household during December, with full details. What can be labelled: Items such as bicycles, e-scooters, garden equipment, hand tools, power tools, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart devices, trailers and other valuable items around the home or property.

If anyone does not receive a letter, please contact Phil Ryan (087 293 7465).

For further updates

Please keep an eye on the weekly Mass Leaflet and the local papers The Vale Star & Corkman for all announcements and community alert-group news.

Thank you for your interest and for being part of this new initiative.
Ballyhea Neighbourhood Alert Committee



Cork Penny Dinners



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Cork Penny Dinners.
Your generosity makes a real difference to those in need.



*Photographs courtesy of
Bernadette Moloney*



Active Age Party

Ballyhea Community Council hosted the Ballyhea Active Age Party at the Corbett Court in February. A wonderful evening was had by all. 2026 Ballyhea Active Age Party is on Saturday, 7 February 2026 in the Corbett Court.



Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney

Blessed Well

The continued recognition of Ballyhea Lady's Well is heartwarming, and we are deeply grateful to the volunteers whose care keeps it such a cherished place. Holy wells are a treasured part of Ireland's spiritual and cultural landscape, and it's uplifting to know that Ballyhea Holy Well remains one of the most beautiful and lovingly maintained in the country.

Thanks to the tireless commitment of local volunteers, this sacred site continues to be a place of devotion, reflection, and tradition. Sincere thanks as well to everyone who visits and helps keep the spirit of the well alive.

Thank you to the First Holy Communion class for attending Mass at the holy well, and to their parents, guardians, and teachers for preparing them so well. Thank you to Monsignor for a beautiful Mass, and to Triona and the choir for the beautiful music.



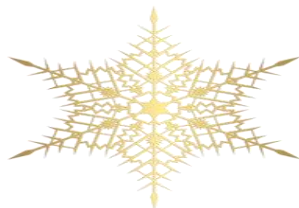
Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney



Tractor Run



The Ballyhea Charity Tractor Run was held on Sunday, January 5, 2025. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event for such a worthy cause. Funds raised were shared among Marymount Hospice, Milford Care Centre, and The Irish Hemophilia Society. The 2026 Tractor Run is set for January 4.





Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney



Jumper Day

Ballyhea Community Council would like to thank Ballyhea National School for hosting a Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for the Ballyhea Senior Citizens Party. We truly appreciate their support and community spirit.



*Photograph courtesy of
Bernadette Moloney*



St. Patrick's Day

A heartfelt thank you to all the community groups, parish and club groups, schools, organizations, businesses, and individuals who participated in this year's parade. Your creativity, energy, and enthusiasm made the 2025 parade a truly memorable celebration for everyone.



*Photographs courtesy of
Bernadette Moloney*



Photographs courtesy of Bernadette Moloney



The Big Snow



Photographs courtesy of
Bernadette Moloney

Photographs courtesy of
John Mortell



Photographs courtesy of
Bernadette Moloney

Photographs courtesy of
John Mortell





*Photograph courtesy of
John Mortell*

*Photograph courtesy of
John Mortell*





*Mary Flemming born 1863
 Baptised St. Mary's Church Ballyhea
 3rd August 1863
 Emigrated to New Zealand 1871
 Married William Hogan*

Her daughter.

*Descendant
 Mary Jalandoni, Australia.
 Joan Christie, New Zealand.*