Milltown Newsletter **MAY 1997**



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MILLTOWN – LLANDDAROG Town Twinning 1997

Editorial

Welcome to the May issue of the Milltown Newsletter which also happens to be the first of this calendar year. It seems to be only a few weeks since the Christmas publication was on sale yet incredibly we are almost halfway through the year. Spring has come and gone and summer is almost here.

We hope you like our cover picture which features the crest of Milltown and Llanddarog the Welsh town which is now twinned with us. The official singing took place in Wales some time ago and the Irish singing took place recently when representatives from Llanddarog came here for a memorable visit.

That weekend trip by our Welsh friends came too late to cover in detail in this issue but we will have photos from it in our next Newsletter. Among the items that we have included are a school photo from Milltown girls N.S. in 1929, poems by our regular contributor Paddy O'Grady and young Kelly Anne O'Toole (aged 8), an interview with our hot seat guest Ellie Fitzpatrick, our usual socia land personal column and photos from the concert staged by Belmont N.S. last Christmas.

We also have photos of the Milltown football teams which won county titles at junior level in 1961 and senior in 1971. Both squads were honoured at the club social earlier this year. Regrettably we must comment on the deaths of Christy Molloy and Luke Hehir two men who made a lasting mark on Milltown life for many years. Tributes to both appear in this issue.

Kelly Ann O'Toole

We wish to congratulate Kelly Ann O'Toole of Carnageehy N.S. on her magnificent achievement in having her poem MOLES selected as one of the top 100 from a massive entry of 44,000 in the Telepoems '97 Nationwide Competition. We are delighted to publish her poem in the Milltown Newsletter. Well done Kelly Ann. The entire community is proud of you.



Moles

Moles dig holes and holes Moles dig holes all around Moles dig holes and holes Moles dig holes in the ground.

I saw a little hole And I took a little peep And what I saw in the hole Were baby moles asleep

Their eyes were closed And they were deep asleep They had little noses And little tiny feet

The were really quiet And they didn't make a sound Not even a squeak In the place they were found

Kelly Ann O'Toole (Aged 8) Carnageehy N.S. Milltown, Co. Galway.

The Hot Seat

Full Name: Ellie Fitzpatrick. Born 1910 at Ballyglass.

Favourite T.V. Programmes: Glenroe, Live at Three, The Lotto

and loves listening to Irish Music on the radio.

Favourite Actor/Actress: Miley, Dinny and Biddy.

Favourite Colour: Blue.

First Day at School: I went to Belmont National School, and walked three miles there and back. I was taught by Sheila

Heaney for the first few classes and then by Michael Acton.

Earliest Memory: What I really remember is the bad snowfall of 1947 which lasted

from February to May.

Favourite Food: Chips and Chicken Nuggets, I would eat them anytime day or night.

First Job: I stayed at home and helped around the house and on the farm. I used to help with the saving of the turf, and often turned it out with the ass and baskets. I used to always help with the slitting of the potatoes.

Favourite Song: Give an Irish Girl to Me.

What was your greatest regret: No regrets, worked hard.

Biggest changes you have seen over the years: The change over from oil lamp to the electricity, and the motor car. I used to drive into Claremorris in the ass and cart – ah but they were the happy times.

First Dance: I went to Taylor Rhattigans with my best friend Julie Oates, we also went to dances at Ballyglass and Ballindine and walked to all of these places.

Favourite Quotations: "You're the strap" -" You oul Bess".

Persons you most admire: My neighbours Alice O'Connor and Bridie Devane who are very good to me.

Favourite Drink: I love to drink a good glass of buttermilk, I'd prefer it to any mineral

Favourite Pastime: I used to enjoy knitting socks and I also enjoyed baking, especially boiled cakes.

If you won the Lotto: I would look after my nieces, nephews grandnieces and grandnephews and all that are near and dear to me.

Ellie was from a family of ten - four boys and six girls.

Ellie would like to thank Kathleen her niece, her grandnephews and grandnieces and all who care for her so well.

Milltown Girls National School 1929

R.I.P., Mary Ellen Shaughnessy, Sarah Macken, Katie Lohan, R.I.P., Mary Ellen Coyne, Nellie Hughes, R.I.P., Maggie Ruane, R.I.P. Middle Back row, left to right: Delia Hughes, Winnie Varley, R.I.P., Winnie Hughes, R.I.P., Delia Farragher, R.I.P., Maggie Coyne, Delia Greaney, row, left to right: Bridie Long, Mary Delia Fitzpatrick, Nellie Fitzpatrick, Maggie Carney, Bina Casserly, R.I.P., Unknown, Unknown, Mary Maggie Varley. Front row, left to right: Margaret Mannion, R.L.P., Nora Healy, R.L.P., Mary Julia Rhatigan, Mai Connolly, Delia Monaghan, Unknown, Kathleen Monaghan, Unknown, Della Varley, Nora Duggan, R.I.P., Cissy Singleton, Mai O'Donnell, Lilly Hughes, Unknown, Margaret Keane, R.I.P., Nora Donnellan, R.I.P., Margaret Reilly, Monica Reilly, Mary Heneghan, Annie Varley, Delia Donnellan, R.I.P.,

We would be grateful for any help in identifying the "Unknowns" in the above photo. If you can help please contact any member of the



CHRISTY MOLLOY

The Milltown Newsletter and indeed the entire community was deeply saddened by the recent death of Christy Molloy. Christy was a true and cherished friend of our humble publication both as a contributor and giver of encouragement and he was always ready to impart items from his vast lore of local history and great general knowledge for the benefit of our readers.

Many people have to die to be truly praised but this was most certainly not the case in this instance. If ever a man didn't have an enemy in the world it was Christy Molloy. Always ready to help either during his long and popular teaching career or a a friend to individuals or organisations his role in Milltown life will be appreciated long after his death.

An exemplary Catholic he set an example for all who knew him both young and not so young. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Breda, son Jarlath, daughters Mary and Anne and grandchildren in their sad loss.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh an anam dilis.



Why I would like a Community Centre

2nd PRIZE WINNERS OF COMPETITION

CATEGORY 1

Second Class (37)

I would like to have a pool table, a basketball net, indoor football, table tennis and karate lessons and judo lessons and boxing lessons, and plays with people acting, and films on Sunday afternoon, and kiddies disco. I would like all of these games because on a wet day you could play indoor, and on long winter nights instead of watching television it would be a nice place to go because you could meet your friends and make new friends and have good fun.

CATEGORY 2

Fourth Class (111)

When I just heard that a new Community Centre was to be set up in Milltown one question popped into my mind. Were there going to be more activities for young children in it? The nearest sports clubs are over eight miles away. Some people might disagree with this because Milltown owns a pitch, tennis and basketball courts and a playground. But where are we supposed to go when it rains? A Community Centre would make an ideal spot. Indoor games such as basketball, table tennis, and indoor soccer should be held during wet weekends. For those who do not like sports, chess clubs, drama clubs and dancing clubs could be arranged. If Milltown could try and do this it would be brilliant.

CATEGORY 3

Sixth Class (163)

I think there are many reasons why Milltown should have a Community Centre. Firstly in a rural area it is essential that there are facilities to suit every age group, from the very young up to the elderly. Building a Community Centre in Milltown would bring a new identity to the area and would be a meeting place for people in surrounding areas to meet up and take part in different activities. Here are some examples:

People like to do physical training and exercise which is very important to

keep themselves fit. To do this they need facilities to work out. We need a Community Centre to provide facilities. Irish dancing and set dancing are part of our heritage. Most people take an interest in dancing at some stage of their lives. In Milltown we too could learn it if we had a Community Centre. Sometimes we may need to raise money for our local schools, churches or some other deserving cause. If we had a Community Centre we could raise money by having a sale of work, a benefit dance or any other event that could help raise money. There are many elderly people living in our area. Many of these people live alone. If we had a Community Centre we could entertain these people by having card games and bingo for them. The elderly people could meet their friends for a chat and a cup of tea. They might prefer to do some knitting, crochet or arts and crafts. Many people are very talented at these range of activities and it would be nice if others did the same. Nowadays many young people are unemployed. They have nothing to do all day so many of them end up in pubs or on the streets. If we had a Community Centre these people could become involved in the running of the centre and give them a fresh start in life.

We need a Community Centre in Milltown for our teenagers. A youth club would be very useful in the area. We can see how successful these are in other areas like Kinconly and Garrymore. There is no reason why Milltown can't be the same. With three national schools in the area there is no scarcity of young people. We could have Scór na nÓg and other talent competitions for the younger age group. These are the reasons why a



Social and Personal

BIRTHS

John and Carmel O'Donnell, Cartron
Padraic and Ann Coyne, Musicfield
Michael and John Long, Carrownageehy
Martin and Maura Oates, Carrownageehy
Martin and Mary Teresa O'Toole, Carrera
Martin and Mary Teresa Hett, Kilmacnella
Gary and Kathy Donnellan, Gurrane
Padraic and Grace Feerick, Kilgeurin
Collette and Derek Healy
Noreen and Bernard Maloney, Carrownageehy
Eamonn O'Donnell and Maria McDermott

Adrian
Laura
Jennifer
James
David
Paula
Shauna
Sam
Kyle
Rebecca
Megan Samantha

ENGAGEMENTS

Dolores Costelloe, Belmont and Martin Thompson, Kildare Rosario Heaney, Ballyglass and John McGreal, Westport Clare Ryan, Milltown, and Fergal O'Connor, Kildare Mary Brogan, Dillionbrook, and Francis Walsh, Gort Francis Brogan, Dillionbrook, and Sandra Corley, Castlebar Sean Burke, Curraghderry, and Teresa McGrath, Kilbannon Mary Kirrane, Lurgan and David Fahy, London Nora Connolly, Russellstown, and John Ryan, Carrowmoneen Marie Connolly, Russellstown, and Martin Niland, Moylough Kieran Fahy, Cloonagh, and Andrea Lyons, Castlebar.

MARRIAGES

Michael Diskin, Cloonagh, and Margaret Shaughnessy Michael Ryan, Milltown, and Marie Luz Gil Perez, Spain Marian Varley, Gurrane, and P. J. Kavanagh, Roundfort Jimmy Noonan, Cloonagh, and Kathleen Connolly, Kilgeurin, Declan Fitzpatrick, Carnageehy, and Mary Clare O'Connell, U.S.A. Don McCormack, Kilgeurin, and Bernie Costelloe, Brooklawn Edel Heaney, Ballyglass, and Damien Gleeson, Limerick Ann Oates, Coarrownageehy, and Thomas Hughes, Roundfort Tina Murphy, Ballyglass, and Ivan Heffernan, Kilconly Emer Shinners, Belmont, and Eric Cleary, Logboy, Mayo Martina O'Toole, Ballyglass and Jarlath Jennings, Hollymount Martin Mullins, Belmont, and Margaret Gannon, Foxford Eithne Kelly, Carrarea, and Raymond O'Brien, Galway Jimmy Kirrane, Dillonbrook, and Martha Hughes, Kilmaine Helen Kelly, Cartron, and Brendan Gildea, Dunmore. Kevin Carney, Parkroe, and Marie Bermingham, Irishtown

DEATHS

Mrs. Kathleen Forde, Mr. Mike Hannon, Mr. Paddy Forde, Mr. Jim Burke, Mr. Tom Ryan, Mr. Joe Mallon, Mrs. Nora Burke, Mrs. Jane Gill, Mr. Patrick Hession, Fr. Tom Rhatigan, Fr. Mick Acton, Joseph Donelon, Mrs. Kathleen Noonan, Mrs. Freddie O'Donnell,

Mrs. Nancy McGagh, Mr. Luke Hehir, Mr. Jim Connolly, Mr. Toddy Feerick, Mr. Martin Singleton, Mr. Jim Feerick, Mrs. Nellie Walsh, Mr. Christy Molloy,

Mrs. Eileen Delaney, Mr. Martin Walsh, Miss Julia Walsh, Mr. John Walsh,

Liskeavy Ballyglass Belmont Banagher Kilgeurin Milltown Liskeavy Ballyglass Ballyglass Bawnmore Belmont

Milltown Cloonagh Dauris

Liskeavy Kilgeurin (in Tuam)

Drim (in Dublin) Kilgeurin Davris Kilgeurin Liskeavy Cartron

Pollaturick Liskeavy Liskeavy Liskeavy



BY SEAMUS P. CAHILL



THE HALF-PENNY WAS ORIGINALLY AN IRISH IDEA WHICH WAS BORROWED BY KING EDWARD II IN BRITAIN IN 1280.



THE SHETLAND PONY IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF ALL HORSES? WHEN FULLY GROWN, IT STANDS FROM 32 TO 46 INCHES HIGH!

THIS SOLID GOLD HAT FOUND IN COLTIPPERARY IN 1692 IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN USED AS A CROWN BY THE ANCIENT KINGS OF IRELAND!





PRINCE PHILIP, WHO IS MARRIED PRINCE PHILIP WHO IS MARKNED TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND, WAS BORN IN M21 ON THE GREEK ISLAND OF CORFU! IN 1947 HE REMOUNCED HIS TITLE AND RIGHTS OF SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF GREECE, AND PAUD ÉS TO BECOME A BRITISH CITIZEN!

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS WERE TAKEN AT THE CONCERT STAGED BY THE CHILDREN OF BELMONT NATIONAL SCHOOL







We are Survivors

(For those born before 1945)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, plastic, Xerox, contact lenses, videos, frisbees, and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes.....and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought "fast food" was what you ate during Lent, a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM Radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt or men wearing earrings. For us "time sharing" meant togetherness, a "chip" was a piece of wood or a fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts and "software" wasn't a word.

Before 1945 "made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams. "Stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker bus to the bus depot. Pizzas, Mc Donalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, "grass" was mown, "coke" was kept in the coal house, a "joint was a piece of meat you ate on Sunday and "pot" was something you cooked in. "Rock Music" was a fond mother's lullaby, "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a "gay person" was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while "aids" just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make.

No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today. BUT By the grace of God.....we have survived.

HALLELUJAH!!!!!!!>

Sent in by Maureen McCormack, Kilgevrin.

Belmont N.S. Reunion

The reunion of past pupils of the old and new Belmont N.S. will take place on Sunday 1st June. It will commence with Mass at 3 p.m. It would be appreciated if you notified as many past pupils as possible about the event. There will be a display of old photographs, so if you have any of the school and former pupils and teachers, please forward them to the school. They will be carefully dealt with and returned after the 1st June.

Reflexology

Reflexology is a branch of alternative medicine. It can be traced as far back as 2330 B.C. in Egypt. Modern reflexology aims to treat the individual as a whole , incorporating body, mind and spirit, endeavouring to get to the root cause of the disease and treating this, not the symptoms.

The human body is amazingly resilient. It usually takes on an enormous amount of abuse before manifesting signs of disease and will respond extremely well if treated kindly. There is no such thing as an instant cure - it is a healing process. A desire for health and a willingness to let go of disease is of vital importance to any healing process.

In our modern lifestyles, we are susceptible to tension, fear and anxiety. This leads to stress. Approx 70% of disorders can be related to stress and nerve tension. Reflexology helps to reduce the effects of stress by inducing deep relaxation. It is a powerful antidote to stress. A relaxed body can heal itself, and reflexology is a guaranteed method of relaxing the body and balancing the system.

Almost every person, however young or old, will enjoy and benefit from reflexology. Pressure is applied to areas of the feet using specific thumb and finger techniques: A session will last 45mins-1hour: For an appointment ring Siobhan Molloy 087 2344783.

MAYFLOWERS

Darkness is soon falling on this May night as we speed along the highway. The area is Knockmore, green vegetation in the fields, daisies, white flowers tinged with red with yellow centre are numerous, dandelions a plant which is boiled by herbalists for kidney disorders. Gorse or furze the scourge of farmers is in full bloom with yellow flowers, having a sweet scent, nettles boiled in water for the blood.

Calm peaceful flowers in all their splendour, living their brief lives almost unobserved by the naked eye. A lesson for humanity. Each one causing no problems. Suddenly a high hill appears, its summit is pure rock. The beauty of nature.

The sun resembles a yellow golden ball as it sinks behind Beleek Forest beside the Moy. On giving it a thought, a stark reminder to humanity of the great powers, it was created. The orbit gives heat and light to the planets.

Another day has ended in the Western World. The sun is also giving that signal as it sets, giving a calming effect as it awaits another day.

The sun outlives the fresh faced flowers also all people give it a thought. Brief moments compared to its millions of years.

Enniscrone is fine this May night, a well kept seaside resort with good seating accommodation for sea lovers.

Three teenage girls are taking a stroll on the sand in discussion. Lets hope they will be in Ireland in fifty years time, unlike the thousands of yearly emigrants leaving by plane, ship, to labour in foreign lands. No one is solving the problem.

The visit is over for me as we journey through Pontoon of the lakes and boats on our way to Castlebar.

A refreshing experience ended.

by Paddy O'Grady

LUKE HEHIR, Tuam and Milltown

Since our last issue the death took place of Luke Hehir a founder member of Milltown G.A.A. club and for many years a player, selector and administrator. Although he lived for a number of years in Tuam his loyalty to his native parish never wavered and he made no secret of his pride in all Milltown teams. He was also a talented musician and a great supporter of Irish culture in all its forms. We reprint in full this beautiful tribute which was written by an anonymous friend and published by the Tuam Herald.



It was with deep shock and overwhelming sadness that we learned of the death of Luke Hehir, St. Joseph's Park, Tuam. Luke was a native of Milltown and moved to live in Tuam in the early 1980s.

To have Luke as a friend was to have a true and special friend. He was loyal, faithful and patient, and he had a very special way with people. Luke loved people and people loved him. One always felt special and unique when in contact with Luke. He always brought out the best in a person. He was kind and generous, especially to anyone in trouble. He loved music, Irish traditional was his favourite and he could bring out many beautiful tunes and melodies on the tin whistle and accordion. Music flowed in his blood. He also had a deep appreciation for drama and poetry. He had many secret talents, many of which we are unaware. He also loved sport, Gaelic football and horse racing. He was also a devout Catholic, a man who was very close to Christ. A great family man, he loved his wife and children deeply and they held a very precious place in his heart.

Luke was always willing to help, whenever help was needed. He was a member of the Milltown G.A.A. club, and served the club as chairman, selector and team manager. He had a passionate love of football and Milltown. He was instrumental in the founding of the football club in Milltown.

I had the great privilege of knowing Luke and our association goes back many years, particularly through football. Luke has now reached the sunset of life. He was one of the greatest men I ever knew. It is with much regret that we mourn his death. May the Good Shepherd hold close to his heart all those who mourn Luke. May his gentle soul rest in peace until he receives his final triumph over death with Christ. Luke shall walk clothed in white with the Lamb of God because he is worthy to do

This day we honour and salute you Luke, you shall never be forgotten. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

(Anon.)

The Milltown Junior Football Team which was honoured at this year's Social in recognition of their historic County Title win in 1961. It was the club's first ever win at adult level. The

Back row, left to right: Tom Brennan, Paddy Coen, Pat Naughton, Jarlath Connolly, Sean Burke, Liam Octigan and Paddy Forde. Middle row, left to right: John Concannon (for his father Sean, R.I.P.), Frank Mullarkey, Sean Birmingham, John Waldron, John Front Row, left to right: Oliver Brennan, Tony Ryan, Noel Tierney, Sean Brennan, Jim Saunderson, Pat Feerick, Padraic Heneghan, John Joe Brennan, James Walsh, John Joe Murray, Miko Feerick, Pete Brennan and Jim Boyle. function was held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock



Also honoured at the same function was the team which brought Milltown its first ever Senior Football Championship crown in 1971.

Back row, left to right: Tom Nestor, Oliver Brennan, Eamon Brennan, Joe Waldron, John Waldron, John Blake, Tom Brennan, Frank Mullarkey, Jim Farragher, Pete McGrath, Frank Walsh, Sean Loftus, Miko Feerick, Michael Gilmore and John Joe Brennan.

Front row, left to right: Tom Boyle, Noel Tierney, Billy Burke, Sean Brennan, Michael Delaney, James Varley and Jarlath Connolly.





GREETINGS FROM

MILLTOWN GUN CLUB

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all farmers for their co-operation during the year.

ALL MEMBERS ARE FULLY INSURED

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME