



**Milltown u-16 team, League and Championship Winners 1998**

**Back row left to right : Cathal Blake, Brendan Molloy, Michael Feerick, David Hennon, P.J. Kelly, Keith Nestor, Paul Costello, Edric McEvoy.  
 Middle row : John Concannon (trainer), Brian Diskin, Darren Mullahy, Brendan McGrath, Ciaran Murphy, Joseph Lavelle, Ross McEvoy, John Devane, Paul Farragher, Tony Murphy (manager).  
 Front row : Daniel Farragher, George Flannery, Fergal Nicholson, Diarmaid Blake, John Feerick (captain), Paul Varley, Dermot Forde, Barry Brennan.**



shield, and bonfires blazed outside virtually every house en route. Amazing the nto think that this whole scenario would be repeated the following Friday when our u-16s produced the most scintillating display of attacking football and goal scoring as was ever seen by a Milltown team at any level. Headford was the venue for the clash with a strongly fancied Oughterard team, but a goal hungry Milltown team simply blew the Westerners away on a score-line of 5-6 to 0-9.

It truly was incredible to be in Headford that evening to watch what was unfolding. Every time the boys in blue attacked they looked like scoring and the six forwards on view - Keith Nestor, Brendan McGrath, Brian Diskin, Fergal Nicholson, John Devane and Daniel Farragher absolutely tormented their direct opponents. The Milltown scorers in the final were ; Brendan McGrath (2-1), John Devane 1-3, Fergal Nicholson 1-0, John Feerick 1-0 and Darren Mullaghy 0-2.

Joseph Lavelle's astute kick-outs in goal were vital to success and the full-back line of David Herson, Diarmaid Blake and Dermot Forde worked wonderfully as a unit. The half-back line of Paul Costello, Darren Mullaghy and Barry Brennan were nothing short of class, while at midfield Paul Farragher's ball winning beautifully complemented the tireless team captain John Feerick's running ability. The forwards' story is well documented and who will ever forget Brendan McGrath's second half goal which started with Diarmaid Blake on his own goal-line before working its way through five other Milltown lads and finishing with McGrath's unstoppable drive to the Oughterard net.

Again this was much more than a fifteen man effort. Ross McEvoy, a colossus all year for the u-16s, was cruelly denied a starting place through injury, but

## GAA REPORT

his hour would come only a week later in the county league final. Ciaran Murphy was another star performer on whom lady luck refused to shine, a long term injury denying him the chance to shine as he has so often in the past. Each and every one of the substitutes must also take great pride in what they did for the pride of the parish this year. Team manager Tony Murphy and trainer John Concannon deserve a lot of praise for having their charges in such outstanding shape and form. Well done also to Ryans who sponsored a lovely set of specially designed polo shirts for the entire panel.

It really was a hectic week, but we all knew there was one more game to come on the following Friday, September 4th. That was the County u-16 B League final between Milltown and Dunmore in Tuam Stadium. Could our lads lift themselves once more and claim the coveted double? The answer was a very definite yes, as a display of grit and defensive determination saw Milltown through on a score-line of 2-4 to 0-8. Conditions for the League Final were atrocious and the large crowd were forced to huddle together in the stand, their spirits lifted only by the brilliance of the football played by both teams. The early goals by John Devane proved invaluable for Milltown as Dunmore dominated virtually the entire first half. The second half display by Milltown's six backs, however, must rank up there with one of the great backs to the wall performances. At corner-back David Herson was superb, as indeed were all those around him but two men in particular stood head and shoulders above the rest ; Diarmaid Blake and Ross McEvoy. Blake, a county u-16



## **GAA REPORT**

player, is a brilliant prospect. A student at St. Jarlath's College, Diarmaid was recently selected on the Connacht Colleges football squad to travel to the United States, and in that second half against Dunmore his single-minded defiance of everything the gallant McHales men could throw at him was a joy to watch. McEvoy, though, was for me the story of the year. A freak accident at home inflicted a serious leg injury on Ross and when he missed the championship final against oughterard, his year looked to be over. Sheer determination however is a powerful thing and, heavily bandaged, Ross decided he was going to play in the League Final - and what a decision it proved! Along with the peerless Blake, Ross McEvoy would be a real player of the year contender and another in that category must be captain John Ferick. A son of Miko, one of Milltown's greatest ever players, John is another who will easily break into the ranks of a senior player in the next year or two.

And so we endured another night of bonfires, carhorns and unbridled excitement around the townlands of Milltown parish. What an amazing ten days it was - three county trophies and each of them won in brilliant style. Will we ever see the like of it again? I think we will somehow!!

Of course the year that was in G.A.A. didn't end there and our u-12s soon got into League action in a tough group which included Kilconly, Menlough, Cortoon, Killererin and Spiddal. Under the astute management of Michael Ruane and his assistant Adrian Molloy, there was considerable local in-

terest in how our stars of the future might fare.

A comfortable opening day win over Spiddal was followed by a smash and grab win over a strong Menlough team. Draws with Cortoon and Killererin meant victory over Kilconly in their final match would qualify Milltown for the league final. A comprehensive win by our lads set us up nicely for a crack at Cortoon in the final, but in a titanic struggle, Milltown lost out on a scoreline of 3-7 to 2-6.

An early Cortoon goal rocked the Milltown lads and set the Shamrocks up for a comfortable half-time lead of five points. A magnificent fight-back ensued and Milltown clawed it back to just one point in the closing stages before a late Cortoon goal ended the game as a contest.

Each and every one of the Milltown u-12 panel can take great pride in getting to the League Final, and the huge local crowd in Tuam Stadium to support them indicates the level of interest which now exists regarding under-age football in Milltown.

Our u-15s also won a league tournament involving a number of local teams and are also competing in the Tommy Niland Cup at the time of writing. There is little doubt but that this year has been among the best ever for under-age success in Milltown. The trick now is of course transferring that success to a senior team, but at least we know a magnificent conveyor belt of talent is coming through the ranks and maybe that elusive senior county title isn't so far away after all.

Ollie Turner

P.R.O.

20 Questions :

1. Who made the album "American Pie"?
2. Who wrote the novel "Animal Farm" ?
3. What is 71 in Roman numerals ?
4. What instrument did Fats Waller play?
5. What is a male fox called ?
6. What are the two main political parties in the U.S.A. ?
7. How many gills in a pint ?
8. Which planet is also called "The Morning Star" ?
9. In which country is Dresden?
10. What is the square root of 121 ?
11. Who starred in the series Bergerac?
12. Who wrote the novel "Black Beauty"?
13. What is the country formerly known as Siam now called ?
14. From which country does the drink Ouzo come from ?
15. What colour is the cross on the Swedish flag ?
16. Who is the manager of the Donegal Senior Football Team ?
17. What is a sheep-shank ?
18. The River Tay flows into which sea ?
19. Who wrote the play "The Importance of Being Earnest" ?
20. Who is the current Ladies Singles Champion at Wimbledon ?

## Puzzle Page

### Puzzle Page 2

Word Power : Tick the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers on Page 48.

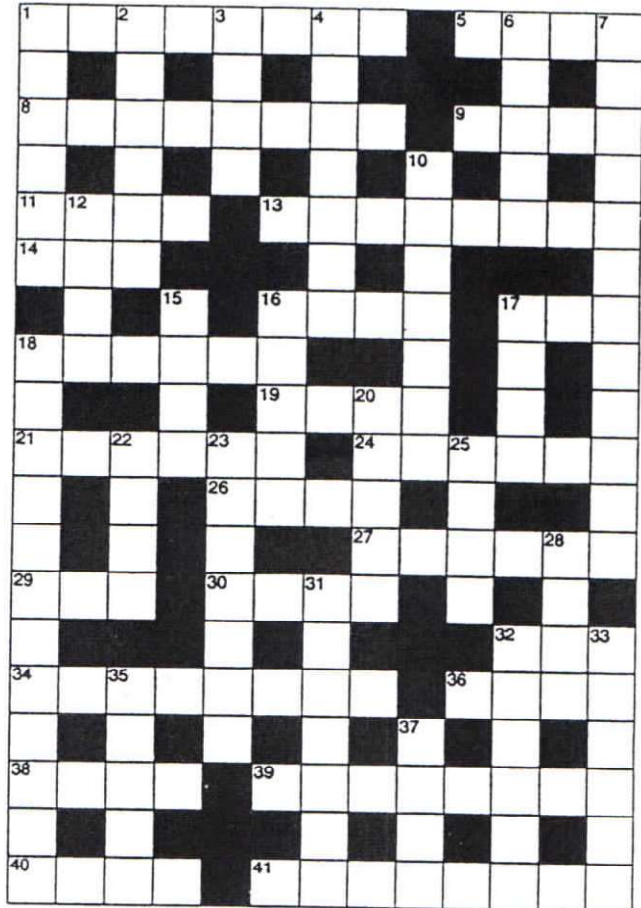
1. Enigmatic - A. Cruel B. Unreliable C. Perplexing D. Odd
2. Traduce - A. To praise B. Misrepresent C. Walk over roughly D. Tempt
3. Aversion - A. Fear B. Hobby C. Criticism D. Intense dislike
4. Ennui - A. Boredom B. Irony C. No chalance D. Pretence
5. Permutation - A. Permission B. Alteration C. Stable combination D. Seepage
6. Demise - A. Improper Act B. Destruction C. Distortion D. Termination
7. Validate - A. To confirm B. Examine C. Seize D. Honour
8. Euphemism - A. Praise B. Roundabout Expression C. Cheerfulness D. Prudery
9. Facsimile - A. Stand-in B. Pattern C. Fake D. Exact Copy
10. Debut - A. Sudden collapse B. Deduction C. First Appearance D. Shortage
11. Provoke - A. To recall B. Incite C. Prepare D. Forecast
12. Predatory - A. Prophetic B. Biased Preventive D. Preying
13. Advent - A. Beginning B. Approach C. Improvement D. Arrival
14. Nonchalance - A. Ignorance B. Disrespect C. Unconcern D. Perplexity
15. Rife - A. Numerous B. Corrupt C. Angry D. Disputed



# Christmas Crossword

## Down

- 1- World Cup winners this Summer (6)
- 2- Ronald ..... former U.S. President (6)
- 3- Greek God of love (4)
- 4- Neatest (7)
- 6- Finger (5)
- 7- Irish Boxer, now retired (5,7)
- 10- Former Ethiopian Province (7)
- 12- Ambition, longing (4)
- 15- Continent (4)
- 17- Hill of ....., Meath (4)
- 18- City of brotherly love (12)
- 20- River (5)
- 22- Cut and gather harvest (4)
- 23- World cup winners in 1966 (7)
- 25- River Dam (4)
- 28- Biblical garden (4)
- 31- Caller, guest (7)
- 32- Call up, prompt (6)
- 33- Type of plant, eg. mushroom (6)
- 35- Musical Instrument (5)
- 37- Sound of a snake (4)



## Across

- 1- Brews, concocts (8)
- 5- .....Redding, late great singer (4)
- 8- Snake (8)
- 9- S.D.L.P. leader (4)
- 11- African country, capital N'djamena (4)
- 13- Awful, dreadful (8)
- 16- French word for State (4)
- 17- Number of goals scored in All-Ireland Final (3)
- 18- Iran's former name (6)
- 19- Male star of "Pretty Woman" (4)
- 21- Middle Eastern Country (6)
- 24- U.S. State, capital Honolulu (6)
- 26- Who "fiddled while Rome burned" (4)
- 27- sounds, commotions (6)
- 29- Ian Paisley's party (1,1,1)
- 30- Davis ....., U.S. Golfer (4)
- 32- Match official (3)
- 34- Nationality of someone from Tripoli (8)
- 36- List of dishes served (4)
- 38- Back, posterior (4)
- 39- Hitting (8)
- 40- Smallest unit of matter (4)



### Kyrptic Relations

1. A man is twice as old as his wife was when he was as old as his wife is ; and whilst he has exceeded three score and ten, she is not yet sixty. How old are they both ?
2. I have three sons. The product of their ages is equal to 72 and the sum of their ages is the number of my house. My eldest son is a champion swimmer. What are their ages ?
3. At a party I met Mr. Jones, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Brown, and Sarah, Joanna and Claire. Mr. Jones said he was married to Sarah. Mr. Smith said he was married to Joanna. And Sarah said she was married to Mr. Smith. I found out later that none of them had told the truth although each of the men was married to one of the women. Who is married to whom ?
4. Pete's father's father's son is married to Jack's daughter. What is the relationship between Pete and Jack ?

Happy  
Christmas  
from  
Milltown  
Gun Club

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## Puzzle Page

## Teac Uí Sioráda

Enjoy good food and drink in friendly atmosphere

Friday Dec 11th : Reopening of middle bar

Friday Dec 18th : Final of Pool Tournaments

Monday Dec 21st : Final of Cards

Tuesday Dec 22nd : Presentation of all Prizes

Christmas Eve : Customers Christmas Draw

Monday 28th : Sheridans Golf Outing

Wednesday 30th : Table Quiz

New Years Eve : Ring in 1999. Usual sing along and champagne party in lounge. Good night guaranteed. All welcome

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# Sticky Fingers

## Sticky Fingers Playschool

Hello, and welcome to Sticky Fingers Community Playschool. Why don't we tell you a bit about what we are all about. Sticky Fingers was set up back in 1994 as a private venture. It's aim being then, and still is today to provide a service for children between the ages of two and a half to five, where they can go for a few hours every day and mix with children their own age, in a relaxed, warm and friendly atmosphere.

In September 1997 it was changed from a private venture to a community service under the auspices of the I.P.P.A., which now means we are a non-profit organisation. We insure our survival by small fees charged to parents, fundraising and grant aid. This money takes care of all overheads such as rent, wages, weekly shopping and equipment. Any money left goes back into the playschool. There's a committee of parents involved in the running of the school along with Noreen Maloney, Nursery Manager and Anne Connolly, Child Care worker through F.A.S., both are fully qualified and have years of experience.

We were lucky this year to be able to open our new playground, which is a wonderful asset to the playschool and has given hours of enjoyment to the children. A special word of thanks to everyone involved in all the work undertaken by the playground, whether it be through fundraising, donations or the giving of their services. It was very

much appreciated by everyone and the biggest benefactors are the children.

The children in the playschool enjoy a wide range of activities, to name a few, painting, playdough, circle time, songs, poems, jigsaws, pretend play, and lots, lots more.

It teaches the children to mix with their own age group, share, and gives them a certain amount of independence. There are 21 children on the registration and we expect that number to rise again by Christmas. A playschool is a wonderful asset to any community. We are privileged to serve not only Milltown but surrounding areas such as Irishtown, Ballindine and Kilconly. We would hope to be able to keep this service in operation with the constant dedication of the parents now and in the future.

Last but by no means meast we are extremely lucky to have the continuous use of the Day Care Centre, which houses the playschool. We have the full use of this fine building, and it offers an abundance of space for the children. Its fully heated and meets all the new child-care regulations. We appreciate the generosity of the Day Care Committee for allowing us to use such a new and up to date building. We would also like to thank the Community Council for running the Table Quiz in Sheridans for our new playground. A great night was had by all.

We hope the future will be bright for all the children who pass through our doors.





# Sticky Fingers Photo's





## Day Care Outing

Having gone West and South in the last two years the '98 tour headed north. Our first stop was at the Foxford Woollen Mills visitor's centre, where a couple of very informative and interesting hours were spent. On arrival we had morning tea, and were then taken on a 'visual' tour of the history of the Mills. This really brings history to life and is far from the dry list of dates and names of the traditional history lecture. The highlight, for me, was a tour of the present working weaving shed, and the old looms that are museum pieces, though still in working order. There is a gift shop there with a wide selection of items, some rather expensive.

On the road again we went through Pontoon ; touched the outskirts of Castlebar, on through Ballina, and on to Enniscrone, where lunch had been booked at the Ben Bulben Hotel. We were soon sitting down to a hearty meal to which we did full justice.

Then we adjourned to the bar (or other appropriate pastimes). However the bus-driver was anxious to be on the road, and a couple of 'whippers-in' got all on board again.

We travelled by the coast road to Sligo where everyone was free to shop or do their own thing for an hour and a half. Another round-up got everyone back on board and we headed South. Our last stop was at the Yeats' County inn at Curry where tea was again provided and thirsts attended to. Time was running out however and, all too soon, we were back on the bus and heading for home after a very enjoyable day.

Everyone thanked Ann Donnelly for the work she had put into organising it and look forward to whatever treat she has in store for us next year.

Now for the dark side. The weather was not in a holiday mood. Every time we stopped it lashed rain, so we didn't need our swimsuits. Ann had no control over that, but may try to arrange a fine day for '99.

Pete Devany.

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- Hospitality is making your guests feel at home even though you wish they were.
- The people to worry about are not those who openly disagree with you, but those who disagree and are too cowardly to let you know.
- It may be true that there are two sides to every question, but it is also true that there are two sides to a sheet of fly paper, and it makes a big difference to the fly, which side he chooses.
- If legs were a new invention, we would realise that they are more remarkable than the automobile or even the wheel.
- Good people learn to break big problems into small ones. The principle is as old as Aesop. In one of his fables, a farmer asked his sons to gather a bundle of sticks. The farmer tied them together with a strong cord. "Break the Bundle" he asked each of them. But they could not do so. "Now untie the bundle and break each stick separately" said the farmer. This they did, with no trouble at all.
- There are two kinds of failures - the man who will do nothing that he is told and the man who will do nothing else.
- The practical man is the man who knows how to get what he wants. The philosopher is the man who knows what man ought to want. The ideal man is the man who knows how to get what he ought to want.
- The young salesman had failed to make his sale. He thought to himself: "It just proves, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink". "Son,"

## A WORD TO THE WISE

said the sales manager, "let me give you a piece of advice. Your job here is not to make him drink but to make him thirsty."

- If you think you are confused, think of poor Columbus. He didn't know where he was going, and when he got there, he didn't know where he was, and when he got back, he didn't know where he had been.

Author unknown

Sent in by Maureen McCormack

**Wishing all  
our customers a  
happy christmas  
from  
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Eggs**



## All-Ireland Fleadh Success

Shane and Ronan Greene did their family and village proud when they won All-Ireland titles at the Fleadh Ceoil held in Ballina this year. Shane won first prize in the piano accordion 12-15 competition, winning the Darina McAndrew Cup. Ronan won third prize in the fiddle u-12 competition. Both Shane and Ronan were County and Connacht Champions in the run-up to the All-Ireland. This is Shane's second success at All-Ireland level as he previously won a double All-Ireland title in Listowel in 1996 in the piano and piano accordion u-12 competitions. Their sister Aoife featured with Ronan in the winning Grupa Ceoil competition which consisted of several musicians from the Ballindine area. They are all pupils of the Geraghty School of Music in Ballindine.

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### Senior Citizens

If you are not sure that you qualify as a true Senior Citizen, the following check-list may be of help:

1. Everything hurts - and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
2. The gleam in your eye is the sun shining on your bifocals.
3. You feel like the morning after - but you haven't been anywhere.
4. You get winded playing cards and your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
5. Your children begin to look middle-aged.
6. A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
7. You join a health club - and don't go.
8. You have all the answers, but no-one asks the questions.
9. You look forward to a dull evening.
10. You need glasses to find your glasses.
11. You turn the lights down for economy instead of romance.
12. You sit in a rocking chair but can't make it go.
13. Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
14. Your back goes out more often than you do.
15. You put your bra on back to front and it fits better.

## Senior Citizens

16. Your house is too big and your medicine cabinet too small.
17. You sink your teeth into a steak they stay there.
18. Your birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles.
19. You decide to live long enough to be a problem to your kids and get your o back.

Author unknown

Sent in by Maureen McCormac

## Bones

It has been said that there are four main bones in every organisation...

The Wishbone...those who wish someone else would do something about the problem.  
The Jawbones...those who do all the talking but very little else.  
The Knucklebones...those who knock everything.  
The Backbones...those who do most of the work.



## Milltown Drama Group

### Milltown Drama Society

The continuing success of the Milltown Drama Society is seeing interest locally in drama reach levels not seen since the last drama movement of the mid-60s. The revival began early in 1997 with the production of a one-act play : 'The Marriage Plan', with a cast which included Joe Hynes, Tom Concannon, Cathal Sheridan, Joe Sheridan, Marion Greene, Judy Concannon and Jarlath Molloy. Then, earlier this year the drama group put on a hugely successful production of "Philadelphia, Here I Come" by Brian Friel. This time the cast included Niall McWalters, Ollie Turner, Joe Hynes, Marion Greene, Judy Concannon, Pete Coen, Joe Sheridan, Raymond McGrath, Martin Mullins, Eleanor Sheridan, Jarlath Molloy, Noreen Healy and Cathal Sheridan.

The play was directed by Margaret Mullins and Eleanor Sheridan and proved a huge success on each of the

three nights it played to a packed Sheridan's lounge. We are very grateful to Cathal Sheridan for the use of his facilities to stage the plays, but we realise that our productions will be limited until we have our own Community Centre, a dream which is hopefully not too far away.

In the pipeline at the moment is John B.Keane's much acclaimed "Sive". It tells the story of a teenage girl in 1950s rural Ireland and the cruel pact made by her wicked stepmother and a ruthless matchmaker to marry her off to an elderly farmer. It is a harrowing story with a tragic ending but it is undoubtedly a challenge which the cast will relish. Rehearsals are ongoing at the moment and the play will be due in the coming weeks.

Earlier this year, the Milltown Drama Society held its first annual general meeting and the following officers were elected :

Chairman : Ollie Turner  
President : Jarlath Connolly  
Secretary : Judy Concannon  
Treasury Committee : Joe Hynes, Jarlath Molloy, Pete Coen  
P.R.O. : Margaret Mullins  
Rights Advisor : Niall McWalters  
Directing Advisor : Eleanor Sheridan.

## Kay Gilligan

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*Seasons Greetings to all our customers from Kay, Michael, Peg and Mary. Thank you for your custom in 1998 and looking forward to seeing you in the new year.*

*- Kay*

## Milltown N.S. Parents Association

Milltown National School is affiliated to the National Parents Council by way of the Parents' Association. This association consists of Chairperson - Mary Ruane ; Treasurer - Teresa Gannon ; Secretary - Trina Nolan.

Sheila Varley, Bernie Greene, Mary Herson, John Blake, Brid Kirrane and Noreen Healy.

We meet on a monthly basis in Milltown School and our local delegate, Trina Nolan attends county committee meetings every second month and relays information from the N.P.C. to the local association.

We are nearing the end of our third year and hope to hold an annual General Meeting in the New Year to elect new officers.

Once elected the Parents Association provide a link between teachers and parents at the school.

1. We provide a forum for the discussion of national, county and local matters relating to education.
2. We assist parents with advice and assistance when required.
3. To liase and co-operate with other local parent groups.
4. To help finance the provision of educational and recreation aids.
5. To provide help with Sports Day and assist in the funding of refreshments, i.e., the "Cumann na mBunscoil", matches and indeed the local G.A.A. club provided the jerseys for the school teams. This is an example of how other local committees can assist us on these occasions all of which are of immense value to our children through sporting activities.
6. The issuing of an annual newsletter to help

keep parents informed about what is happening in the school and in the parent's association. Parents are very welcome to submit their views and comments and any member of the association would be delighted to be of assistance in any way possible.

7. The Parent's Association hold fund raising events. These funds have assisted in buying various books and equipment within the school as well as various P.E. equipment for the junior classes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Teachers of the school for their help and assistance in the various activities which we have undertaken.

We would also like to thank the parents for their participation in fund-raising events and we would like to reiterate that the association is an essential in any school and that we are available to teachers and parents and would welcome any views or opinions on the association.

Secretary - Trina Nolan.





## Killing The Pig

An item in the 'for sale' columns of the 'Tuam Herald' recently set my mind on a long trip down memory lane. The ad. read simply "Killing Pig for Sale", but it brought back images of people and happenings that are long past.

In the 30's and 40's killing the pig was one of the big events of the year in most house-holds in the West. In later times, when deep-freezers became available, many families killed a lamb, always referred to as 'a lamb', but in the era I remember, it was always 'the pig' and not just any of the breed. Practically every family reared three or four pigs then, buying bonhams at ten to twelve weeks old and feeding them for three or four

months when they were sold, mostly to Claremorris Bacon Factory. Pigs over a certain weight ( I think it was sixteen stone) were down-graded and these were sold as killing pigs. The buyer fed them for some weeks, bringing the weight up to something like twenty stone when it was decided it was ready to kill.

Every townland had its own pig killer and some families went outside the village for their favourite. He was consulted and a day fixed for the operation. Preparations then began. First the 'Bacon Box' or barrel was emptied of corn or whatever, washed and left out to air. The one in my own home was a sturdy wooden box, about five feet long, four feet wide and four feet high. When not serving its main function it held oats or wheat, but was always known as the bacon box. I do not recall ever hearing where it came from. A bag (1 cwt)of salt was then bought as well as the various spices and oatmeal for the puddings.

On the appointed day the household

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was up early as the daily chores had to be attended to in the hours before and after the big event. There was no water laid on to the houses then, and, as the scalding of the pig required about ten gallons, several trips to the well were required unless a house was lucky enough to have a tank for rain-water. A good fire was put down and two pots of water hung from the crane over it. The butcher arrived with one or two helpers. The pig was led out, lifted onto a table or cart, and the deed was done. The blood was collected in a clean bucket. The pig was then placed on a clean concrete floor, usually the kitchen, on straw or sacks. Then every available knife was used to scrape off the smooth outer skin and bristles leaving a clean smooth surface. The pig was then turned over and the process repeated. The pig was then hung by the hind legs leaving the head well clear of the floor. Many farmhouses had sculleries or back kitchens added in the forties, and a standard fitting was an iron bar for 'hanging the pig'.

Next operation was the gutting, known generally as cleaning the pig. The cavity was then washed down with cold water. The intestines were sorted out, and the heart, liver and kidneys left aside. The bladder was then carefully removed, emptied and given to the children. Dried and inflated, it made an excellent but fragile football.

That brought an end to the butcher's work for that day. Drink was produced and a pan of fresh pork and liver was put on and everyone enjoyed a hearty meal. When that was cleared away the woman of the house got down to the business of preparing to make the puddings. That was the stage when any youngster with a spark of sense made their escape to avoid a messy job.

The guts were emptied, washed several times and cut into lengths of about 12 inches. Oatmeal, lard and various spices were mixed

## Killing The Pig

with the blood. Every house-wife had her own recipe, which was rarely passed to anyone. Measures seemed to be guesswork, or instinct. Meanwhile a pot of water was boiling over the fire. The lengths of gut were filled with the mixture having first been tied at one end with enough string left over to tie both ends together when filled. They were then lowered into the pot of hot water and left to simmer for up to five hours. During that time the pudding-maker was in sole charge of the fire. It seems that if the water boiled the pudding would burst, and she would be in disgrace.

Next evening the butcher arrived again. The pig was taken down and placed on a table in the centre of the kitchen. The head was cut off and the job of boning began. This was where the skill and dexterity, self-taught, of the butcher was crucial. A separate table, or box, was available for the bones. The canvass was split down the middle, the legs removed, and the ends squared off. The woman of the house had a say in this as she made known how much fresh pork she needed to give to the neighbours. Having put that aside the job of salting began. The side of bacon was cut in two and the salt was liberally applied and rubbed well into the surface. Holes were punched into the skin to allow the salt penetrate. The box was positioned in a corner of the scullery or kitchen, a layer of salt was put in the bottom and the first flitch put in. Clean straw was packed in between the sides of the box and the bacon and the next flitch placed on top. The process was repeated until



## **Killing The Pig**

all the meat was in. A canvas bag or a board was placed over the last layer and, sometimes a weight or a stone was placed on it. The bones were then rolled in salt which was rubbed in well. They were then put into the box and a good lid put on it.

Next day the woman of the house took on the task of sending puddings and joints of pork to neighbours and friends. This was a delicate operation as it would not do to send a pudding and just a couple of ribs to someone who had given you a pudding and a leg. Friends have fallen out for far less. There was an old couple in our village who did not kill a pig themselves, and they got choice portions from everyone who did. In most cases giving pudding to neighbours paid off. They could not be kept long without going sour, and you got a fresh pudding back when the neighbour killed his pig. That was a time when sharing was a way of life in country areas anyway.

The bacon was removed from the box after a month or six weeks and hung from the ceiling. The salt had extracted the water from the meat and it was now hard as a board. A family with four or five flitches of bacon in the kitchen, a cabbage garden, a good pit of spuds and a rick of dry turf was prepared for anything Winter might throw at them. All of these are not to be seen nowadays. Is it a loss or a gain?

Pete Devany.

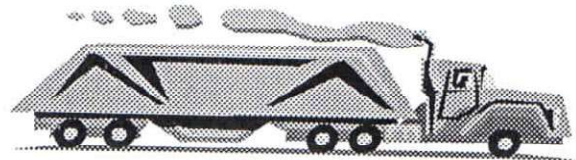
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## **Today**

Today  
Look to this day,  
For it is life,  
The very life of life;  
In its brief course lie all,  
The realities and truths of existence,  
The joy of growth,  
The splendor of action,  
The glory of power  
For yesterday is but a memory  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today well lived,  
Makes every yesterday a memory of happiness  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day!

-Author Unknown.

Sent in by Maureen McCormack, Kilgevrin



Milltown - Llandarrog  
A trip to Wales

On Friday, October 25th 1996 a group of 19 left Milltown to represent our parish on the official twinning visit to Llandarrog in Wales. With Joe Hynes as our driver we headed off for Ross-lare. On the boat Eamon Callaghan tuned up his guitar and the singing got under way. We sang our hearts out until we reached Pembroke harbour where we were met by three members of the Llandarrog group. We pulled into the 'Prince of Wales' pub in the early hours of Saturday morning where we were greeted by our host families. We finally retired to our beds in the small hours of Saturday after a long day of travelling.

Saturday morning got off to a great start when we visited the National Botanical Garden which is currently being developed into a Millennium Project, and when this project will be completed it will certainly be an amazing garden full of rare species of flowers, plants and trees. We then visited Paxtons Tower and admired the lovely view of the surrounding area from the second floor. Later that evening we all met at the local community hall where the official signing of the two charters took place and the local M.P. was also present to witness this great event. And afterwards we enjoyed a display of Welsh dancing which some members of our group took part in and even managed to feature on local Welsh television. A large number of the community also attended.

Sunday morning got off to a slow start as many were recovering from the night before. Later that day we visited Llyn Llech Owain where the playground of the park was enjoyed by some of the older members of the group. That night we all enjoyed a farewell dinner in the Cresely Arms. As the storm began to rise we made our way to the Prince of Wales where we enjoyed yet another night of song and music.

Monday morning got off to an early start but when we arrived at the Prince we were told that there would be no sailing because of bad weather. Many of the women of the group flew home while the rest of the group spent the day

## WALES TRIP

playing darts in the Albadam Arms.

On Tuesday morning we headed for Pembroke unsure whether we would be sailing home or not. We managed to catch the next sailing home and we arrived back in town in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

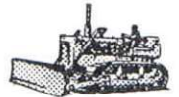
A brilliant weekend was had by all our host families made us feel so at home. Many great friendships were made during that weekend. Our trip would not have been made possible without the hard work of Joe Hehir and Eamon Callaghan and without great hospitality of our dear Welsh friends.

Claire and Deirdre Nestor.

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# Ladies Football Club

## Milltown Ladies Football Club

Wherever a group of parents have gathered in Milltown in recent years, the conversation invariably focused on the lack of activities and facilities in our parish for our young people, particularly our girls.

This year, however, one parent had the courage to do something about it. Prompted by her daughters' wishes to play football Loretta Crushell took it upon herself to find out how to go about setting up a Ladies Football Club. With the help and co-operation of the officers of the G.A.A. Club and others in the parish, Loretta got all the necessary information.

Armed with this information and a commitment from Michael Oates and Michael Connolly to train the ladies, Loretta called a public meeting on Saturday 17th October. The meeting was very

well attended. There was a big group of young ladies ranging in age from 13-18, some parents, officers from the G.A.A. Club and our Parish Priest Fr. J.J.Cribben.

Jarlath Connolly kindly consented to act as facilitator for the evening. The following committee was elected ;  
Fr. J.J. Cribben ( Honorary President )  
Mary Hernon ( chairperson )  
Loretta Crushell ( secretary )  
Bill Ahern & Mary Hernon ( joint treasurers )  
Michael Oates, Michael Connolly, Teresa Gannon, Brid Kirrane, Peg Loftus, Ann Mullaghy, Ann Whelan, Jarlath Connolly, Sarah Hehir, Fiona Gannon and Petrina Monaghan.

The first training session was held on Saturday 24 October at 10:30 a.m. There was a huge turn-out despite terrible weather conditions. Everyone enjoyed themselves and as the photograph shows, turned up in numbers again for training the second day.

Training will continue every Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. and all ages are welcome. If the enthusiasm that has been shown so far continues, this club is set to flourish. ( Thank you Loretta).





## 75 years on.....Apostolic Work Still Going Strong

Apostolic Work has come a long way in 75 years from a humble beginning with a few women in Belfast in 1923 to a national organisation in 24 dioceses with an annual income of over £750,000.

The simple idea of Agnes McAuley to help the missions in her own way and the encouragement given by her spiritual director germinated and flourished to these proportions over the years.

"If each drop of water were to say  
One drop does not make an ocean  
There would be no ocean.  
Begin now, why are you waiting?"

It is my privilege and honour to be President of the Milltown Branch of the apostolic work for the past eight years. Our first meeting at the Milltown C.Y.M.S. Hall was held on October 24th 1978 under the leadership of Mrs. Kathleen Ryan and Mrs. Dwyer of Castlebar. It was a very humble beginning, just about six ladies present on that first night. Kathleen Tierney Belmont was made president of this Branch. She held this post for three years and in many ways got the organisation off the ground. For the next eight years Mrs. Kathleen Walsh held the position, and as the years went on the organisation got stronger and stronger. We got new ideas for raising money and indeed as usual the parish of Milltown answered our call.

Katie Gormally was our next president and she held the position for two years. We still kept increasing our members and parishioners got to know more about the work we do. At the moment we have around twenty members in the organisation and about 100 honorary members who work in their own homes. We meet in the Day Care Centre every two weeks and discuss the best way to collect money. We knit and sew, make children's clothes, Mass Servers out-

## **Apostolic Workers Milltown Branch**

fits, Priest vestments labelled "From the Archdiocese of Tuam". We often get letters of thanks from those priests stating the encouragement and incentive it gives them to carry on with their good work. We then feel our work is appreciated also.

We are always asking for new younger members with new ideas. At the moment we have Mrs. Breda Ryder teaching us crochet, so we will have a more interesting Sale of Work on the 12 and 13th of December next. A mixture of knits and crochet, cake sale, Christmas cakes, etc. I hope Santa Claus will pay his annual visit also.

Next year we will be 21 years years in existence in Milltown and we hope to celebrate that in some way. I have an assistant president this year in Bernie Naughton so we expect greater things "Two heads are wiser than one".

Each year we donate around £2,000 to the Foreign Missions - without the cooperation of the people of Milltown and Ballyglass that would be impossible. From the Apostolic Workers a big Thank You and keep up the good work.

Happy Christmas to one and all,

Lena Rhatigan.





## IFA - Milltown Branch Report

### The I.F.A. Report

It proved quite an eventful year for the Milltown Branch of the Irish Farmers Association, culminating in fifteen of our local members participating in the huge protest in Dublin last October. This protest was organised to try and highlight the current crisis in all sectors of the farming industry, and despite the terrible weather conditions on the day the spirits of our members and the other 40,000 farmers were not dampened in the slightest.

The year began as usual with our annual meeting and election of officers. The following were appointed for 1998 ; President - Tom Kirrane , Chairman - John Waldron , Secretary - Liam Delaney , Vice Chairman - Eoin Godwin , Treasurer - Jarlath Connolly , Registrar - Tom Cunningham.

The Chairman and Secretary are also the County Executive Delegates and these meet along with all other delegates in Athenry on the first Monday of every month.

Another feature of life as an I.F.A. Branch member is the possibility of going on the annual European Introduction Scholarship Tour which takes place every Summer. This tour involves an 8 day tour around Europe, visiting farms and seeing how our continental counterparts do things differently. Any branch member who is considered to have fulfilled a certain amount of canvassing work for the local Branch can qualify for inclusion on the scholarship Tour. In 1995 secretary Liam Delaney travelled on the tour, and his eight day trip took in areas of

France, Belgium, Holland and other parts of northern Europe. Then, in 1997, Branch registrar Michael Flaherty was selected to go on the Tour again and there is no doubt but it proved a fantastic opportunity to see our European neighbours' farming methods. This Tour is generously sponsored each year by F.B.D.

Any queries on the I.F.A. or matters relating to our local branch can be directed to the County Development Officer in Athenry, Roy O'Brien, who can be contacted at 091 - 844268.



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## Two Champions of Tir agus Teanga

Two men imbued with the spirit of nationalism and love of the Irish language were born close by, in the adjoining villages of Curraghaderry and Carnageeha. Michael O'Lochain was the son of a tenant farmer on the estate of Courtney Clarke, an absentee landlord. Fr. William Byrne (An Beirnach) was also the son of a tenant farmer on the estate of Thomas Seymour, also an absentee landlord. O'Lochain was born in 1836 and emigrated to the U.S.A. before the birth of An Beirnach in 1871. Born of small holdings, both were familiar with the 19th century privation, hardship and misery. O'Lochain witnessed the horrors of the famine in 1847 and some of the evictions associated with it. Fr. Byrne must have recalled the famine of 1879 when many parish households were forced to exist on one meal per day, and that a meal of mashed turnips mixed with some donated meal.

Both men would have had first hand knowledge of landlord tyranny, tyranny in which the Crown forces acted as collaborators and approvers. Little wonder then that both men were markedly anti-British in outlook. Neither man made any attempt to conceal this hostility.

In 1896, O'Lochain wrote "In the world today, there is not a nation so brutish, so hypocritical or so blood-thirsty as the English...." The following extract from An Beirnach's "An Troid agus an t-Uaigneas" illustrates his antipathy to England... "Ta cail-leach (England) de'n chomharsanacht seo a' foghlaim bhais le fada (early 1918).... ni fhaca aon duine da maireann croidhe, caruntas no siodamhlacht a' siubhal leithe. Droch-eadail i a chaith a saoghal le troid agus clampar.... a h-aghaidh ar chuile dhuine aici agus aghaidh chuile duine uirthi...."

While both men were ardent nationalists, O'Lochain held that the restoration of the language should take precedence over

## Two Champions of Tir agus Teanga

the struggle for the land or the struggle for national freedom. Unlike many Irish-Americans busy in the pursuit of the 'Almighty Dollar', Ó'Locháin devoted much time and energy to the promotion of the Irish language in the U.S.A. He started Irish classes after his arrival in Brooklyn in 1872. In 1881 he founded, edited and published a bilingual, monthly paper "An Gaodhal". In the first issue, costing five cents, he set forth his views "Teanga na h-Éireann, a chosnughadh agus a h-aithbheoghughadh agus a chleachtughadh i measc Clann na nGaodhal".

For the following eighteen years, until his sudden death in 1899, Ó'Locháin, in the pages of

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## Two Champions of Tir agus Teanga

“An Gaodhal”, continually stressed the importance of reviving and restoring Irish as the first language of our country. For Irish-Americans, who clamoured for Irish freedom but who were unmindful or dismissive of the Irish language, he had nothing but contempt. Ó’Locháin made his living in the real estate business. Publication of ‘An Gaodhal’ was a labour of love and there was no financial reward. Ó’Locháin was little concerned about the subtleties of Irish grammar. All important for him was the revival of the spoken language. Had he lived, he would have harsh words for many of the school inspectors of the 1930s, who by their insistence on attaching importance to the formal teaching of grammar, killed the enthusiasm of the many teachers and pupils of the language.

We know little of Ó’Locháin’s schooling. In his youth there were no national schools in the parish. Martin Doyle is recorded as having a hedge-school in Curraghaderry in 1831 at which sixty pupils were in attendance. It is more than likely that Ó’Locháin attended school here. On his death in January 1899 the “Irish World” published the following tribute :

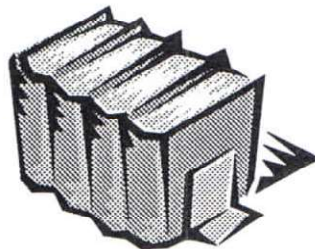
“Michael J. Logan (Lohan), who is fairly entitled to the proud distinction of being called Father of the Gaelic Language movement in America, died suddenly on January 10th ..... Twenty-five years ago Mr. Logan began his cherished and patriotic work and for years he devoted his time and energy to what appeared to many of his countrymen a hopeless task. but he lived to see the Irish language put upon a basis which gives promise of obtaining wonderful growth here”.

Mairtin Ó’Cadhain said of him, “Ní bhfuair sé a chion omóis ariamh, sílim, as ucht a mheíd is bhí an Craoibhín, gluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus an gluaiseacht náisiunta freisin, faoi chomaion ag a chuid teagaise”.

Alike in many respects, Ó’Locháin and An Beirnach differed very much in their approach to alcohol. Ó’Locháin was a sober abstemious citizen who despised the drinking man. An Beirnach was fond of a deoram, too much for his own good. A kindly, gracious priest, he openly expressed republican views, coupled with his alcoholic tendencies, didn’t endear him to his religious superiors and he suffered several periods of suspension from his parish ministrations. In his student days he was a contributor to “An Gaodhal”. After his ordination in 1899 he contributed at various times to An Claidheamh Solais, An Stoc, Fainne an Lae and Misneach. His two major works are “An Troid agus an t-Uaigneas” (1934) and “Seo Suid” (1936). His “An Foidin”, a translation of Lynn Doyle’s “A Bit of Land” is one of a series by Connacht writers in “Rogha na gConnachtach”(1937).

Mairtin O’Cadhain wrote of An Beirnach..... “Mheas mise go mb’iontach an scríobhneoir an Beirnach, duine a léinn go hampluch agus a léim fós”. They were kindred spirits in many ways. Mairtin Ó Droighneáin referred to An Beirnach as “an Gaelghoir is bríomhaire Gaeilge i gConnachta”. Fr. William Byrne died in 1949 and is buried in Kilclooney cemetery, in his native parish.

*With the kind permission of the Molloy family and also thanks to Fr. Michael Flannery.*





## Puzzle Page Answers

### Crossword :

Across - 1. Ferments, 5. Otis, 8. Anaconda, 9. Hume, 11. Chad, 13. Terrible, 16. Etat, 17. Two, 18. Persia, 19. Gere, 21. Israel, 24. Hawaii, 26. Nero, 27. Noises, 29. DUP, 30. Love, 32. Ref, 34. Lebanese, 36. Menu, 38. Hind, 39. Striking, 40. Atom, 41. Presides .  
Down - 1. France, 2. Reagan, 3. Eros, 4. Tidiest, 6. Thumb, 7. Steve Collins, 10. Eritrea, 12. Hope, 15. Asia, 17. Tara, 18. Philadelphia, 20. Rhone, 22. Reap, 23. England, 25. Weir, 28. Eden, 31. Visitor, 32. Remind, 33. Fungus, 35. Banjo, 37. Hiss .

Fill the Gaps : A = 2 , B = 6

Number Grid : 14

Word Power : 1=C , 2=B , 3=D , 4=A , 5=B , 6=D , 7=A , 8=B , 9=D , 10=C , 11=B , 12=D , 13=D , 14=C , 15=A .

## **Puzzle Page Answers**

20 Questions : (1) Don McLean , (2) George Orwell , (3) LXXI , (4) Piano , (5) Dog  
(6) Republican, Democrat , (7) Four , (8) Venus , (9) Germany , (10) 11 , (11) John Nettles , (12) Anna Sewell , (13) Thailand , (14) Greece , (15) Yellow , (16) Declan Bonner , (17) a knot , (18) North Sea , (19) Oscar Wilde , (20) Jana Novotna .

### Kryptic Relations :

1. The husband is 72 and the wife is 54
2. Eight, three and three
3. Sarah and Mr. Brown, Claire and Mr. Smith, Joanna and Mr. Jones.
4. Jack is Pete's grandfather.

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