

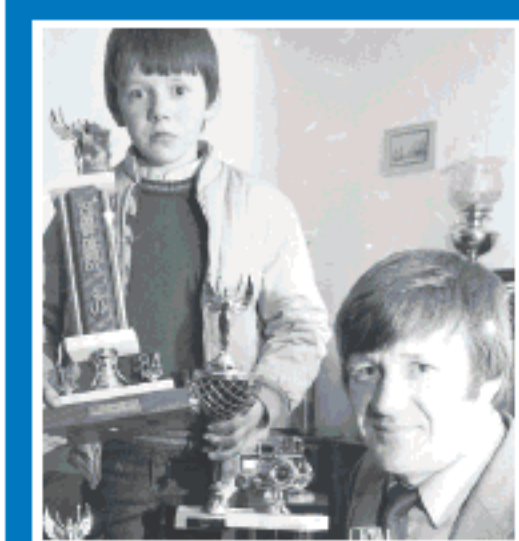
**Danny Boy topped the Mountains of Mourne!**

**Sport Page 21**

**In Photo**  
Faces and places from the 1980s  
**Page 33**

**News**  
Mother warns on meningitis  
**Page 10**

**Living**  
Dunmore group is on the run  
**Page 40**



Thursday, March 13, 2014

www.tuamherald.ie

Since 1837

Vol. 176 No. 43 €2 (€1.65 stg.)

## Rural GP crisis looms in Galway

GPs show little interest in rural Galway posts

By Slobhán Holliman

PROBLEMS within the GP sector are leading to severe difficulties in filling posts in rural parts of Counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

There has been little if any interest in vacant posts for medical card patient lists when they arose in areas such as Williamstown, Dunmore, Ballyhaunis and Ballaghaderreen.

The Tuam Herald understands that in Co Galway there have been a number of situations where it would be lucky to get one candidate to apply for a post.

Family doctors from the city and county will vent their anger and frustration with issues in the area when they meet with local Dáil deputies in the city at the end of the month.

Close to 100 GPs who are members of the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) and the Irish Association of General Practitioners (IAGP) and non-members will converge in the Ardilaun Hotel on March 24. The mass meeting will be similar to those already held in Limerick, Cork and Kerry.

Ballygar GP Dr Martin Daly told The Herald that newly

qualified GPs are voting with their feet and deciding to take up posts in Canada and Australia.

"We have a problem retaining and recruiting GPs, especially in rural and in deprived urban areas," said Dr Daly.

He said in recent years only two candidates went for interview for a GP post in Ballyhaunis, there was no candidate for a post in Ballaghaderreen while a patient list in Dunmore was quashed because no suitable candidate could be found to replace a doctor. In Williamstown, a GP post was filled after two years and only two candidates were interested in the position.

The meeting will highlight the concerns that GPs have about the lack of resources being devoted to primary care and the impact this is having on patients. One of the most contentious issues is the government's planned introduction of medical cards for children under six, which GPs argue hasn't been thought out and will impact on GPs and their patients.

Dr Daly says the current proposal will triple the workload for many doctors and will inevitably lead to waiting lists for people wanting

to visit their GP.

"People will only understand when they won't be able to access their GP on the same day they want an appointment. We have real concerns that services will be curtailed and it will lead to waiting lists at GP surgeries," said Dr Daly.

CEO of the IAGP Chris Goodey told The Herald that they expect a good attendance from TDS and the majority of Co Galway GPs are likely to attend the Galway meeting.

He said there is a lot of angst among family doctors around the county, many of whom are struggling to pay their overheads and are taking out bank loans to pay their bills.

"Patient numbers have increased by close to 40 per cent while government has cut GPs income. Becoming a GP is a vocation for most doctors, especially in rural counties like much of Galway," according to Dr Goodey.

He added that GPs are also being asked to pay huge rents to become part of the HSE's new primary care centres being developed around the country, including one earmarked for Tuam, which are being put out to private contractors.

## Teachers protest at new Junior Cycle plans



SECOND level teachers from local schools gathered in the Square in Tuam at lunchtime on Tuesday to protest at proposed changes in the Junior Cycle. Read about their concerns on Page 2.

## Bluff called on 'sham' CCTV litter campaign

By Tony Galvin

A CALL has been made for the abandonment of what are described as "sham CCTV warnings" to illegal waste dumpers and for real resources to be put behind the fight against the litter that is despoiling the countryside.

Galway Co Council has a policy of erecting signs supposedly warning illegal dumpers that there are CCTV cameras, or at least the possibility of cameras, in operation at some well-known litter black spots, such as Kilbannon bog outside Tuam.

However, this is no deterrent, as our photographs illustrate, as those who engage in the fly-tipping of waste, generally under cover of darkness, are very well aware that the CCTV signs are a bluff and the council does not have the equipment or the resources to back them up.

While the campaign to place hidden cameras at dumping black spots was announced with great fanfare, there have been few, if any, court prosecutions taken as a result and in the case of Kilbannon, illegal dumpers are



ROADSIDE dumping at Kilbannon.

PHOTO: RAY RYAN

flagrantly breaking the law within yards of the CCTV sign.

Tuam Area Cllr Sean Canney told The Herald that it was time to stop the bluffing - erecting signs with nothing to back them up - and to adopt a realistic policy that would tackle this problem head on.

He said he didn't want to be accused of sabotaging this deterrent but, at this stage, the dogs in the street knew there were no cameras hidden in the trees and those

who dumped illegally already knew there was nothing behind the signs.

He is calling for an immediate introduction of a by-law to require all householders in the council's area to produce receipts to show they are paying a waste collection service to remove their domestic waste. Failing that, they should be required to produce tip receipts or other evidence to show they dispose of their waste legally.

Cllr Canney is currently involved in a community



WHERE are the cameras? Dumping took place close to this sign. PHOTO: RAY RYAN

initiative to clean up waste dumped in the Sylane area, and is calling on the public to display active citizenship by reporting any dumping or littering in their areas.

"Let's stop wasting our time with sham signs. Our bluff has been called. What we need are real policies and the resources to back them up. This problem is getting worse as any stroll around the more isolated areas of our communities will show. It's either tackle it seriously or abandon the countryside to the dumpers. We have to make a choice and stop fudging the issue with pretend policies, which are as effective as the pretend signs

erected," he said. He told The Herald that we are coming down with policies and aspirational statements, but there's very little in the way of resources to back any of it up.

"It's all very well putting forward aspirational motions and condemning anti-social behaviour but when the meeting's over and everybody goes home again, nothing changes. This is because the resources are not available to back up the talk. This is not a criticism of those who are trying to do something positive, it's simply stating the obvious. We don't have the money available to tackle most of the issues discussed at our council and the Policing Committee meetings. Our bluff has been called on dumping, so we need to up our game or throw in the towel," he concluded.



**Bank Holiday Deadline**

AS Monday, St Patrick's Day, is a bank holiday, we remind advertisers that the latest time for acceptance of advertisements is 1pm on Friday, March 14. We cannot guarantee insertion for copy received after that time. We wish all our readers a happy St Patrick's Day.

**Glynns HOMEVALUE**  
www.glynns.ie

**FOR ALL YOUR Gardening, Spring Cleaning and Paint Requirements**

**56LT MULTI PURPOSE COMPOST**  
**3 for €10**

Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway  
Tel: (093) 24482 Email: sales@glynns.ie  
Open 6 Days a Week • Open During lunch

## Milltown to mark centenary of famous playwright MJ Molloy's birth

By Jim Carney

ONE of Co. Galway's most renowned literary figures, playwright M. J. Molloy, will have the centenary of his birth celebrated in his native place early next month.

Author of 14 plays, nine of which were premiered at The Abbey Theatre, Dublin in the 1940s, 50s and early 60s, Michael Joseph Molloy was born in March 1914 at Cartron, Milltown where he lived all his life. He died, aged 80, in 1994.

Considered the equal of John Millington Synge for authentic, lyrical use of rural West of Ireland language and subject matter, Joe Molloy's plays are no longer widely performed outside of the amateur drama movement; they are regarded as "of their time," a time that passed with the emergence of the 1960s' permissive society and, with

it, rising secularism as social norms became increasingly liberal. But Molloy's reputation is secure and so is his place of honour in theatre history and heritage. Among the leading professionals who hold him in the highest esteem is the founder and driving force of the Druid company, Garry Hynes, who produced a widely acclaimed and commercially successful revival of one of the Milltown writer's greatest plays, The Wood of the Whispering, in 1983. The lead role of Sanbatch Daly was played by the late, great Mick Lally, also a founder member of Druid, along with Garry Hynes and Marie Mullen. After secondary school at St Jarlath's, Tuam the young Molloy went to study for the priesthood at St Columban's College, Dalgan Park, Navan, Co. Meath but at the age of 20, while studying philosophy, the classics and



theology, he was stricken with bone tuberculosis; he was in considerable pain for nearly five years, through many operations, and he was forced to abandon his studies. From a visit to the Abbey Theatre, to see two plays by George Bernard Shaw, he was inspired to follow the life-path that would take him back to the Irish national theatre as one of its leading names for two decades. His other major plays were Old Road (1943), The Visit-

ing House (1946), The King of Friday's Men (1948), The Paddy Pedlar (1953), The Will and the Way (1955), Daughter from Over the Water (1958), A Right Rose Tree (1958), The Wooing of Duvesa (1964), Petticoat Loose (1979) and The Bachelor's Daughter (1985).

A member of Aosdána, his lecture "The Making of Folkplays" was published in Literature and Folklore: Ireland and Newfoundland (Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1977). The late Professor Robert O'Driscoll of the University of Toronto, Canada once wrote: "M. J. Molloy was the greatest master of Irish Folk Theatre since Synge," and "his work was as significant as Synge's."

• The tribute night in honour of M. J. Molloy is on Friday, April 11 in Milltown, with guest speakers, music and a performance by the revived Milltown Drama Society.

**LE BON BON**  
ABBeyTRINITY, TUAM. 087 1132784

**Lunchtime Special**  
Seafood chowder; rich and creamy, packed with salmon, cod, haddock and prawns, served with 2 slices of Anne Garvey's famous health loaf only €5.95  
Add tea/coffee for €7.50.

**St. Patrick's Day Specials**  
Green Vanilla Ice Cream and Milkshakes  
Large Tricolour Tubs for take out only €2.50

Find us on Facebook