

Moycullen Local History Quiz Number Two – Answers

We hope you enjoyed this quiz.

Pic 1. Who in Moycullen would have used this item and when?

Answer: This is an altar stone and would have been used by the local roman catholic parish priest when holding masses outside the parish church, ie at mass rocks, stations, wakes. The altar stone would often be made from marble or slate, it was consecrated and the etching of the five crosses would have represented Christ's wounds on the cross – two hands, side and two feet. Moycullen parish are lucky to still retain several altar stones from our local past.



Pic 2. You might know where in Moycullen this structure is, but what was its purpose?

Answer: This pyramid is situate on the shore of Lough Corrib in Annagh townland and is a fishery boundary marker. There are two plaques on the pyramid, one giving the date 1669 which refers to a patent granted on 29 May 1669 stating that Galway Fisheries owned all the salmon fishing, pike, eel and other fish in the river of Galway. The pyramid at Annagh, and a corresponding marker on the opposite side of the lake, indicated the points from where therein to Galway city was Galway Fisheries territory. It is recorded as Register Number 717 on the Record of Protected Structures of Ireland.



Pic 3. What did this item do?

Answer: This is a (bonnet) iron and would have been used to press the ruffles on ladies' bonnets.



Pic 4. This is a Bullaun Stone - Where would you find one (or more!) of these in Moycullen?

Answer: Sometimes referred to as 'Cursing stones' or 'Curing stones' and usually found nowadays at sites with early ecclesiastical connections, Moycullen's two bullauns can be found:-

1. Beside Teampall Eanna (early Christian oratory ruins on private property) in Killagoola
2. Beside Teampall Beg (early medieval church ruins on private property) in Clooniff – this is the one depicted here.



Pic 5. This item has a link to a certain food - what food and why was it used?

Answer: Butter. This butter stamp was used by ladies to imprint their butter produce before selling it at market. Each butter maker had their own unique stamp (a branding so to speak) – this was important for quality purposes as butter makers could be fined if their butter was found to be below required standard! A lady from Ballinahalla appeared in Galway Petty Session Court after being reported by Sgt Downey, the Inspector of Foods, for exactly this crime at Galway market on 23 November 1916 – her butter contained 24.8% water, surpassing the legal limit of 16%! The fine was 20 Shillings plus 12 Shillings costs or 14 days in Jail – she paid the fine!



Pic 6. Can you name this object?

Answer: Griddle. This flat cooking pan was used for baking bread over the open fire.



Pic 7. What was this apparatus used for?

Answer: A host maker for producing communion bread – you will see the metal plate has the template pattern for one large host and three small ones. The mixture of flour and water would be placed between the metal paddles, the paddles pressed together and then placed over fire to bake the blend. The apparatus was supposedly designed to resemble a tool that would not have looked out of place in a tool shed or blacksmith's forge – thus the ability to keep it hidden during penal times. This one was found in Newtown – it may possibly have been linked to an old nunnery at Gortnamona.



Pic 8. Do you know what would have been processed in this space? (This example is in the Moycullen/Homefarm townland)

Answer: This is a limekiln where limestone was burned at a very high temperature to produce quicklime, a raw material used for a variety of purposes such as mortar in building, preventing foot rot in livestock, white washing houses, disinfectant, or frost protection for stored potatoes. Ordnance Survey maps between 1888 and 1913 show many many limekilns in Moycullen area, particularly in Clooniff area – Clooniff's proximity to the lake allowed easy transfer of finished lime product to Galway city by boat.



Pic 9. You would use this implement to fix which item?

Answer: This is a needle to fix fishing nets.



Pic 10. What was this item used for?

Answer: A long arm toasting fork – many of us remember toasting bread on the open fire.



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