

## Moycullen Local History Quiz Number Five – Answers

1. Which saint gives his name to, not only one, but two holy wells in Moycullen?

Answer: St. Colman MacDuagh.

**St MacDuagh's Well** in Tooreeney is on the south side of a byroad in undulating farmland (once the main Galway/Moycullen thoroughfare). This well consisted of a natural spring, dry at time this photo was taken, situated within a small rectangular stone enclosure, now overgrown with bushes. It was on the 28th of October that the pilgrimage to this well was undertaken. People proceeded to the well with lighted candles. The well was circumambulated, clockwise, seven times while reciting seven Hail Marys, seven Our Fathers and seven Glorias each turn. A sports day was held each year, competitions and stalls selling goodies.



**St. MacDuagh's Little Well** is in Gortaghokera, but appears larger in size than the first, despite its name!. The well consists of a deep natural spring delimited by drystone walling and accessible via 24 steps, which is contained within a small triangular-shaped enclosure (1.5m by 1.2m) with an entrance at north west.

2. Who from the townland of Gortmore won a silver medal at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden?

Answer: Mathias Hynes (21 January 1883- 9 March 1926).



Son of James Hynes and his wife Mary Kelly, Mathias emigrated in his 20s to work as a policeman at Barking Road police station, Plaistow, West Ham, London. In 1909 he joined the City of London Police Tug-o-war team, and with that team represented Great Britain at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. The tug-o-war contest that year, instead of being a 10-match round-robin tournament, was a single-match bout between Great Britain and the only other team to turn up, Sweden, represented by the Stockholm Police. Austria, Bohemia,

and Luxembourg had all entered teams, but failed to appear. The following year, when serving with K Division of the Metropolitan Police, Mathias helped London win the British Police Tug-of-War Championship. He died in Canning Town, London, aged 43, having never married.

3. The lintel stone from Moycullen's first primary school is still preserved on the grounds of the current Scoil Mhuire – to what year does its inscription refer?

Answer: The year on the stone marks the opening of the school in 1834.

After the National School system was set up in 1831, Moycullen was one of the earliest schools, and possibly the largest elementary school, built in the county. It was sited behind the present school.



4. Where in Moycullen would you find Bearnna na gCorp?

Answer: Bearnna na gCorp is on the left as one leaves the village of Maigh Cuilinn going towards Oughterard, on Tommy Clancy's land in the townland of Gortyloughlin/Danesfield.

It was where the funerals from the southwest of the parish stopped briefly on their way to the graveyard in Maigh Cuilinn during penal times. This was done to allow the priest to come from his hiding place in the wood to bless the corpse on its final journey. Local people always blessed themselves when passing this spot and hearses regularly stopped for a few seconds until about 20 years ago. In 2011 our society placed a plaque by the roadside to mark the site.

5. After which delightful lady was Killarainey's premises, Gáirdín Mháire, named (the building where you find Moycullen Veterinary Clinic/Community Christian Church/Le Chocolat Hair Studio etc.)?

Answer: Mary Feeney (1916-1996).

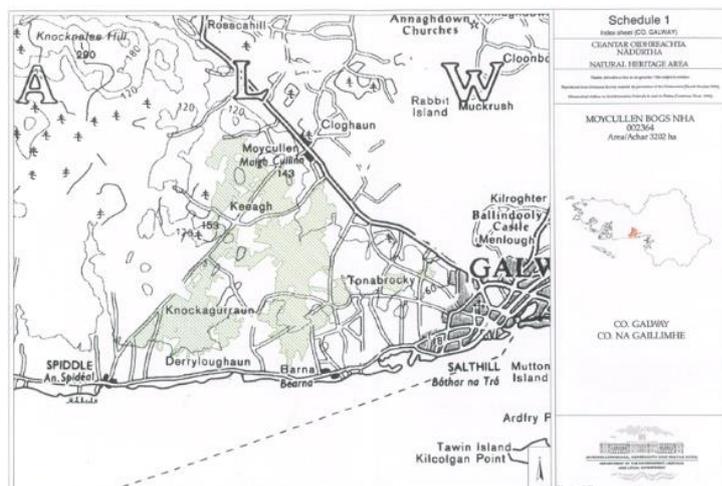
Gáirdín Mháire translates to English as Mary's Garden. Mary Feeney (nee Welby) was born in Ower and married Michael Feeney from Kylebroughlan - their sons Paddy and Myles still live in the area today. After Mary and Michael were married, they built their home on the site where Gairdin Mhaire now stands and over the years grew and tended to a most beautiful and colourful garden – veg and grass in the centre, edged by so many varieties of flower, with a hen run and stream at the end of the oasis. Mary will always be remembered for her kind and fun loving nature, as well as her green fingers!



6. Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is a conservation designation denoting a protected area in Ireland. Where is Moycullen's official NHA?

Answer: Moycullen Bogs.

Moycullen Bogs NHA is an extensive area of lowland blanket bog in an area of high landscape beauty. Blanket bog habitat is a globally scarce resource. Since 20 September 2005 the area



shown within the inner margin of the green line, spanning an astounding 49 townlands, is designated a natural heritage area. The townlands included are Aille, Allaphreaghuaun, Ballynahown, Boleybeg East, Cloghscoltia, **Clydagh**, Corboley, Cushmaigmore, Derrycrigh, Derryloughaun East, Derryloughaun West, Derryoughter, **Drimmavohaun**, Drum East, **Drummaveg**, **Finisklin**, Forramoyle East, Forramoyle West, Furboghgarve, **Gortyloughlin**, **Keagh**, **Killagoola**, Killough, **Knock**, Knockarasser, Knocknagreana,

**Kylebroghlan**, **Laughil**, **Lealetter**, Lettergunnet, Lippa, Oddacres, Park, Polleeny, **Polleha**, **Pollnaclogha**, Seershin, Shannafreaghoge, Sheeaunroe, **Slieveaneena**, Spiddle East, Spiddle Middle, Spiddle West, Tonabrocky, **Tooreeny**, Truskaunnagappul, Trusky East, Trusky West and **Uggool**.

7. What sport's facility once stood on the site in Moycullen village where the café Enjoy is today?

Answer: Handball Alley.

The alley was most likely constructed by the Royal Irish Constabulary who encouraged the construction of handball alleys immediately adjacent to their stations and barracks – both for reasons of physical fitness and to cultivate a sense of camaraderie.

8. Name the gentleman, who once resided in Drimcong House, and was instrumental in the start up of Moycullen's Co-Op in 1920

Answer: Charles Randolph Kilkelly (1861-1953).



Charles was a qualified medical surgeon with numerous academic, military and other achievements. He used his business acumen and contacts to empower local Moycullen people to invest locally and be protectors of their own investments. Moycullen Co-Op, for its time, was an advanced modern business platform – utilising local trade skillsets of over 350 local farm families in marketing such items as cheese, butter, bacon, poultry, eggs, potatoes and the milling of grain. Charles was also the visionary who established the Moycullen/Killanin Jubilee District Nursing Association and Moycullen's Knitting industry. He was Chair of Lough Corrib Drainage Committee in the early 1900s, a local magistrate, for a short time the High Sherriff of Galway, and to this day his benevolent fund still benefits Moycullen community. In 1927 Charles and his wife Florence Petre sold Drimcong (both their sons Edward and Francis were killed during WWI and WW2 respectively) and they moved firstly to Quebec, Canada and then to Nakuru, Kenya where they lived out their lives with their only daughter Patricia and her husband Hugh Barclay. Charles is buried in Nakuru.

9. Which 1969 Metro Goldwyn Mayer movie was partly filmed around Ross Lake and included many Moycullen locals as extras?

Answer: Alfred the Great.

This epic film took over a year to make and employed some 1,500 extras. 30 tents served as canteens giving out 3,000 meals and 200 gallons of tea every day. Three tons of potatoes were peeled each week. It took 50 hired cars, 22 school buses, and 27 three-ton trucks to bring the actors and extras on to the set. The film makers needed wet and drizzly conditions but got the hottest summer for years! The film was directed by Clive Donner, one of the best around at the time - the lead was played by David Hemmings, an actor who was a very big name in the sixties - Lord Killanin was associate producer. It pumped vast amounts of cash into the local economy and yet it was a huge box office flop!



10. Two games were played at the official opening of the sports field in Ballydotia in July 1972 - one camogie and one hurling - can you name the two teams in the hurling match?

Answer: Moycullen -v- Fr. Tom Burke's from Dorchester Boston.

The 'Moycullen selection' included a few players from Ragoon and Fr. Tom's also had a 'few guests'.



Moycullen won but neither this game nor the camogie match, (which was played between the then Moycullen team and the Moycullen '1967' team), were taken too seriously, as it was more of a celebration on the day. In both games many changes were made in the 2nd half – apparently some players even switched sides!

Moycullen of course has had a long association with this Boston club, Fr. Tom's – one of its founders in 1958 was Larry Bohan from Thumnasrah. Much fundraising was carried out in Boston in 1972 to fund the bill for the flights for their team and supporters to travel to Moycullen for the opening of the pitch – Seamus Hynes and Colie Gavin to name but two were instrumental. (The Boston club was called after Galway born Fr. Tom Burke, a Dominican preacher, known as the 'Prince of the Preachers' for his work done in the USA at the end of the 19th century – a statue of him stands tall at the Claddagh, Galway, near the Fire Station).

We remember with gratitude the generosity of local farmers Burke, Higgins, McDonagh, Conneely, Reynolds and Barrett who donated area of commonage to Muintir na Tíre in the 1960s to enable the sports field be developed.

We hope you enjoyed our quiz and, that during these strange times of social isolation, you are finding them helpful in gleaning a little more information about the heritage of our lovely village and its people.

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Maigh Cuilinn,  
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