

Moycullen Local History Quiz Number Seven – Answers

We hope you enjoyed this quiz.

1. **Hair combs were made in Moycullen in the 1800s and early 1900s – what local material would have been used to produce them?**

Answer: Cow's horn.

Anne Geraghty (Aged 73) from Tullokyne told the Irish Folklore Commission's collector, Ciarán Báiréad, on 12 July 1967, that 'they would boil the cow's horn first and then when it became soft, they would flatten it out, then while it was in that state, they would cut it up in the form of a comb. That was easily done. They had a small piece of a handle. They used to scrub them with coarse salt. It used to give them a lovely colour, and a lovely shine. Twelve teeth they used to have in them. They used to mount them in silver in Galway. Some made them as a trade and sold them for 6d or 9d. A leath (half) sovereign would be got for a really ornamented one.'

2. **Who was the first Moycullen player to be nominated for a GAA All Star?**

Answer: Richie Lee.

Richie was nominated in 1982 for a Gaelic Football All-Star award, but no Galway player actually made the all-star team that year (it was dominated by Offaly and Kerry players – Offaly 7, Kerry 5, Cork 1, Fermanagh 1 and Armagh 1). Midfielder, Richie had played with Galway in 1979, 1980 (out injured for all of 1981) and continued again in the years 1982 to 1985.

Which member of Finn MacCool's Fianna does local folklore say is buried in Killarainey wood?

Answer: Raithnig

One of the nicest telling of the story was recounted in the School's Folklore Collection of 1937 by Tim Regan from Drimcong, as relayed to him by Tomás Bane (Aged 60) from Gurraun. (The original version was 'as gaeilge' but herewith the translation)...

'There is a large wood near my house called Killarainey. It is said that it got its name from the large number of ferns, but this is just a story, as this is how it got its name. In ancient times the Fianna were hunting there. It was called the wood of the lake at that time. They were not long there when Bran caught a deer. It was a white deer, and Fionn said it wasn't a real deer, but the rest agreed that it was. Fionn blew his hunting horn and they all gathered around a large fire, eating, drinking and carousing, until all that had tasted the flesh of the deer fainted. They were all asleep except Fionn, who had not tasted the cursed flesh, and two others, "Goll Mac Mórna" and "Raithnig". Fionn and the other two ran to a cave which was inhabited by a witch. Goll swore to Raithnig that he would kill the witch. They both agreed. Goll grabbed his sword and jumped into the cave. He was just inside when he realised that he was surrounded by demons. When he emerged, Raithnig mocked him. A great rage came over Goll, who decapitated Raithnig on the spot. Whatever was the fury of Goll, an even greater fury gripped Fionn. Fionn was never fond of Goll, who had killed his father, but this deed enraged him further.

Goll returned to his wife in the mountains while Fionn returned to his men. He poured some water into all their mouths and they were all revived. He recounted the events and they were struck with both sorrow and rage. Raithnig was buried there and a cairn was built on the spot. It has since been known as Cill Raithnigh (Killarainey).

They pursued Goll Mach Mórna but he sought refuge on an island with his woman. They remained there without any food. The Fianna swore to have Goll's head but not to harm the woman. It was to no avail as they both died on the island which is called Oileain Guill. They were brought from the island and buried in a place called "Cill Goill" or "Cill a Goill". When they were buried Conán Máol put a curse on them but Fionn put a harsh penalty on him. It was that he was to keep out the sea by throwing stones at it and if he failed he would be decapitated. He accomplished this feat and the place where he threw the stones from is known as Traigh Conán."

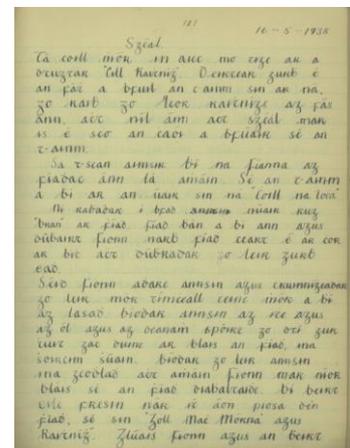


Figure 1 Story by Tim Regan in Schools Folklore Collection

4. What did Button A and Button B do? (You have to figure out what the item is first!)

Answers: Coin control on a pre-payment phone

First presented in 1925, the coin-box was introduced in both automatic and manual exchange areas. To make a call in automatic areas, users inserted the appropriate fee which prepared the circuit for dialling. In manual areas, callers were connected to the operator on insertion of the call fee and, in both cases, the caller then depressed Button A. This allowed the coins to be deposited into the cash box and the call to be transmitted. If a call could not be connected for some reason, or if there was no reply, Button B was depressed, the line was disconnected for five to seven seconds and all the coins were returned to the caller. Moycullen's public phone box used to stand by the old handball alley, and some of the local pubs had Button A and Button B phones which they would allow the public to use.



Figure 2 Button A Button B Coin Box

5. Where in Moycullen would you find vocation stones?

Answer: In graveyards - Sean Reilig in Homefarm & Current Moycullen graveyard



Figure 3 Plough with two horses on grave of Patrick & Sabina Devily at tSean Reilig

If you wander through the tSean Reilig, looking very closely at the headstones which span four centuries (the earliest memorial being 1686 and the latest 1933), you will see several have emblems carved on them depicting the trade/occupation or vocation of the person laid to rest thereunder. You will see blacksmith's tools, fisherman's boat, shoemaker's tools and the most common being variations of the farmer's plough. It is lovely to see the tradition carried on by two modern headstones in the current graveyard – they depict carpentry tools and a bull.

6. In what year did the rural electrification scheme reach Moycullen?

Answer: 1950

Moycullen was the 106th rural area in Ireland, out of 792, to receive electricity connection under the rural electrification scheme. Work began in March 1950 and was completed in October 1950. The Moycullen/Oughterard phase saw the erection of 926 Poles, 70km of line and 286 consumers being connected. An interesting entry in January 1951's 'Reo News Magazine' mentions that "There is a factory in Moycullen manufacturing concrete pipes. At present it has a load of 31 H.P., but with the availability of supply intends to expand to a total requirement of 70 H.P. It is of interest to note that the old petrol plant in the factory gave up the ghost three days before supply was switched on."

7. In which townland were Moycullen Horse Races held in September during the 1840s-1880s?

Answer: Leagaun

MOYCULLEN RACES															
<p>The annual races on the Moycullen course come off on Monday last. The weather was most propitious as there was not a more cloudless day during the season, and anxious groups availed themselves of the opportunity to be present at the sport. Every equipage, from the stately carriage to the humble jaarcy, were in requisition for the occasion, and crowds of the peasantry wended their way on foot and in boats to the gay scene. The arrangements under the able management of the Stewards, Edmund O'Flaherty and George E. Burke, Esqs., were of the best description, and the amusement was excellent. The Outerard amateur band were placed on the Stand-house, and played during the day several appropriate and patriotic airs. We are happy to learn that steps are being taken to secure in each succeeding year a return of this innocent amusement at the Moycullen course, the use of which has been kindly given by the excellent owner of the land, A. H. Lynch, Esq. The following is the order of the running:—</p>															
<p>SECOND RACE. A SADDLE AND BRIDLE, value Five Pounds, for all horses—mile heats; four horses to start or no horse. Winner to be sold for fifteen pounds, if demanded as above.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mr. Lyons' b.g., Commodore Watson</td><td>... 1 1</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Linskey's b.m., Phylida</td><td>... 2 2</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Dugdale's b.g., Newman Neggs</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. McDonough's b.h., York</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Conealy's b.h., Earl Grey</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. T. Faherty's b.m., Wildfire</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Sullivan's b.m., Devil among the Tailors</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> </table>		Mr. Lyons' b.g., Commodore Watson	... 1 1	Mr. Linskey's b.m., Phylida	... 2 2	Mr. Dugdale's b.g., Newman Neggs	... 0 0	Mr. McDonough's b.h., York	... 0 0	Mr. Conealy's b.h., Earl Grey	... 0 0	Mr. T. Faherty's b.m., Wildfire	... 0 0	Mr. Sullivan's b.m., Devil among the Tailors	... 0 0
Mr. Lyons' b.g., Commodore Watson	... 1 1														
Mr. Linskey's b.m., Phylida	... 2 2														
Mr. Dugdale's b.g., Newman Neggs	... 0 0														
Mr. McDonough's b.h., York	... 0 0														
Mr. Conealy's b.h., Earl Grey	... 0 0														
Mr. T. Faherty's b.m., Wildfire	... 0 0														
Mr. Sullivan's b.m., Devil among the Tailors	... 0 0														
<p>THIRD RACE. A SADDLE AND BRIDLE, value Three Pounds for all horses—mile heats; four horses to start. Winner to be sold for £10 if claimed as above.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mr. O'Neil's b.m., Vol-an-Vent</td><td>... 1 1</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. McDonnell's b.m., Pride of Moycullen</td><td>... 2 2</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Orr's c.m., Dorcas</td><td>... 3 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Barrett's b.m., Otranto</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Burns's b.m., Balandine</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Sweeney's b.m., Small Hopes</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> </table>		Mr. O'Neil's b.m., Vol-an-Vent	... 1 1	Mr. McDonnell's b.m., Pride of Moycullen	... 2 2	Mr. Orr's c.m., Dorcas	... 3 3	Mr. Barrett's b.m., Otranto	... 0 0	Mr. Burns's b.m., Balandine	... 0 0	Mr. Sweeney's b.m., Small Hopes	... 0 0		
Mr. O'Neil's b.m., Vol-an-Vent	... 1 1														
Mr. McDonnell's b.m., Pride of Moycullen	... 2 2														
Mr. Orr's c.m., Dorcas	... 3 3														
Mr. Barrett's b.m., Otranto	... 0 0														
Mr. Burns's b.m., Balandine	... 0 0														
Mr. Sweeney's b.m., Small Hopes	... 0 0														
<p>FOURTH RACE. SWEETSTAKES OF FIVE SHILLINGS EACH. A WHIP Added by Henry A. Browne, Esq., for Ponies. Four Ponies to start or no race. Three-quarter mile heats.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mr. O'Flaherty's d.p., General Tom Thumb</td><td>... 1 1</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Lyons' d.p., Tim Linkinwater</td><td>... 2 2</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Amos' b.p., Multum in Parvo</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mr. Roche's b.p., Little Wonder</td><td>... 0 0</td></tr> </table>		Mr. O'Flaherty's d.p., General Tom Thumb	... 1 1	Mr. Lyons' d.p., Tim Linkinwater	... 2 2	Mr. Amos' b.p., Multum in Parvo	... 0 0	Mr. Roche's b.p., Little Wonder	... 0 0						
Mr. O'Flaherty's d.p., General Tom Thumb	... 1 1														
Mr. Lyons' d.p., Tim Linkinwater	... 2 2														
Mr. Amos' b.p., Multum in Parvo	... 0 0														
Mr. Roche's b.p., Little Wonder	... 0 0														

Figure 4 The Galway Mercury, 13 September 1845

The races were 'got up' by Edmund O'Flaherty of Knockbane 'for the amusement of the peasantry', but the course was run on land in Leagaun provided by A. H. Lynch. The first we see mention of the Annual Moycullen races in the newspapers is in the 'Limerick Reporter' on the 20 September 1844. In 1887, the Galway town commissioner Thomas O'Sullivan was charged with intimidating a gentleman rider James O'Meara and preventing him from riding in the Moycullen races – this appeared to have been a contributing factor to the demise of the Moycullen race meetings.

8. What was the population of Moycullen in 1901 – a) 1,974 b) 2,474 c) 2,974

Answer: b) 2,474

Moycullen parish's 1901 census is covered by 4 District Electoral Divisions (DEDs), namely Moycullen, Tullokyne, Slieveeneena and Furbogh. Whilst all of the townlands in the first three DEDs are in Moycullen parish, only two of the 16 townlands in the Furbogh DED are part of Moycullen parish (see hereunder). The 1901 Census, therefore, shows Moycullen Parish as having 50 inhabited townlands within the 4 DEDs – the townland of Uggool is the only one to span two DEDs. The 1901 census enumerators for Moycullen parish were Police Constables Johnston Morrison, Matthew Moore, John Flynn and Declan Callaghan.

DED	Population	No. of Townlands	Townlands (note the online census transcription has many mis-spellings)
Moycullen	657	12	Addragool, Ballycurke East, Ballycurke West, Clooniff, Clydagh, Fooreeny, Kylebrooklaun, Lissagurraun, Moycullen, Poul-na-clough, Turnascragh, Uggool
Slieveeneena	955	18	Brimmavoughan, Coolagh, Corbally, Dovepark, Drimneen, Keagh, Killagoola, Knockaunranny, Knockbane, Knockranny, Lealetter, Letter, Newtown, Oughery, Reeneen, Rylagh, Slieveeneena, Uggool
Tullokyne	681	19	Ballinahallia, Ballydotia, Carrawathia, Carrowlustraun, Cartoor, Cloonabinia, Curra, Drimcong, Drummaveg, Gortahallia, Gortahokery, Gortnamona East, Gortnamona West, Gortyloughlin, Killcluggaun, Killrainey, Leggaun, , Tullokyne
Furbogh	181	2	Knockarasser, Loughill

9. Our local post office has been on 5 different sites within the village over the years, can you recall them?

Answer:



Figure 5 Vaughan's Post Office

1. Kelletts – Kylebroughlan (where the Coachouse Bar is today)
2. Patrick Vaughan/ Emily Vaughan/Nora Duggan/Etta O'Sullivan - Killarainey (the property stood where road enters Cearnóg Nua today)
3. Mary Faherty – Kylebroughlan (the post office was at the rear of Mace Supermarket, now a vacant property between Regan's Bar and Bodhrán Buí Bar)
4. Tom Scully - Killarainey Shopping Centre (where Tree Bark Store is today)
5. Derek Kerrigan - Cearnóg Nua Killarainey (Present location)

10. What was a relieving officer?

Answer:

A relieving officer was responsible for 'outdoor' assistance to the poor in the form of money, food, clothing or goods, given to alleviate poverty without the requirement that the recipient enter an institution (those who received 'indoor' relief were required to enter a workhouse or poorhouse).

Reporting to the Board of Guardians, the role came into being after the introduction of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act 1847 and became a sort of pre-cursor to the social welfare officer as we know them today.

Applications for support were made directly to the relieving officer and the circumstances of every case was examined by visiting the home of the applicant, making all necessary inquiries into the state of health, ability to work, and the means of such applicant.



Figure 6 Relieving Officer Owen Kyne of Loughwell



*Figure 7 Relieving Officer
James McNeill of Ballquirke
West*

The relieving officer had the authority to grant provisional relief in cases of urgent necessity, but this had to be approved by the Board of Guardians at their next meeting. The relieving officer had to keep detailed accounts of all money and material given in outdoor relief. The account had to be authenticated by the clerk and approved by the Board of Guardians. He was expected to reside in the relief district to which he was appointed "devoting his full time to the performance of the duties of his office." This in effect meant that he could not have any other trade, profession or business. The Poor Law Commissioners were trying to prevent a situation arising where the relieving officer's objectivity and partiality could be compromised by customers or clients attempting to "conciliate his favour." They believed that the relieving officer should possess the same qualities as a policeman, "he ought to possess firmness of mind, so as to be enabled in the discharge of his duty to resist intimidation from whatever quarter it might come". Our photos show two Moycullen relieving officers James McNeill (1866-1945) of Ballyquirke House and Owen Kyne (1864-1914) of Loughwell House – Owen's son, known as 'Sonny Owen' (1892-1974) of Deerfield House also became a relieving officer.

Áras Uilinn
Maigh Cuilinn,
Galway.

087 9508087 / 087 4364699
moycullenheritage@gmail.com
moycullen.galwaycommunityheritage.org

