

Moycullen Local History Quiz Number Thirteen– Answers

We hope you enjoyed this quiz.

1. Major Samuel Perry, formerly of Moycullen House, had a sister who was the first woman in Europe to do what?

Answer: In 1906, from Queen's College Galway (now NUIG), Alice Jacqueline Perry (1885-1969) became the **first woman in Europe to graduate with a degree in Engineering** (first class honours degree in Civil Engineering). Following her father James' death the same year, she succeeded him temporarily as County Surveyor for Galway County Council - a post he had held since before her birth. Alice was an unsuccessful candidate when the permanent appointment was made. She still remains the only woman to have served as a County Surveyor (County Engineer) in Ireland. She died in Boston, USA, where she had been working within the Christian Science movement as a poetry editor and practitioner. In 2017 NUIG named their Engineering building in her honour. (Major Samuel Perry [1879-1945] was the only brother of Alice and her four sisters, Molly, Nettie, Agnes and Martha)

2. Where in Moycullen would you find Hangman's Hill?

Answer: The hill just behind Tullokyne school, along the esker road, is known as Cnoch an Crocadóir or Hangman's Hill or also as Cnochán an Chrochta, the Hill of the Hanging. Local lore refers to a soldier being hung on the site.

3. David Davies OBE, retired BBC TV host and former Executive Director of the English Football Association (FA) had a Moycullen born mother, what was her name?

Answer: Margaret (Madge) Morrison (1913-1999), born on the Kylebroughlan corner of the village crossroads. In honour of his Moycullen roots, David held a milestone birthday celebration here in 2018.

4. What is a leacht?

Answer: Usually made from un-mortared stone, these square or rectangle structures were often found in early Irish Christian places of worship and were used as outdoor Altars or places of prayer. There is a good example on the old ecclesiastical site of Teampeall Éinne in Killagoola (please note this site is on private property but Moycullen Heritage do hold an annual guided visit).

5. How many townlands can you name (there are 18!) that are in the **Civil** parish of Moycullen but not in the **Catholic** parish of Moycullen?

Answer: Corcullen, Derryloughaun, Derryloughaun West, Killough, Letter, Letterclogh, Lettermas, Letterneaska, Letterpeak, Lippa, Park, Pollagh, Shannagurraun, Sheeaunroe, Spiddal Middle, Spiddal West, Spiddal and Truskaunnagappal.

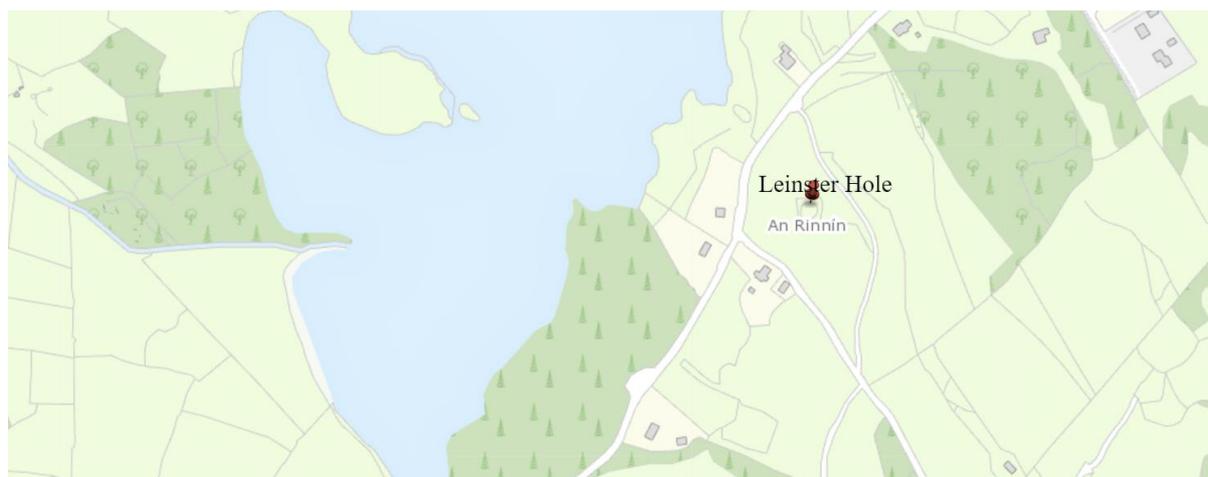
6. During a royal visit in 1903, which King and Queen took the Midland & Great Western railway train through Moycullen?

Answer: **King Edward VII & Queen Alexandra** of the United Kingdom arrived in Killary Harbour aboard the royal yacht on 29 July 1903. A nine-car motorcade brought them through Tully, Letterfrack, and Kylemore, where they visited Kylemore Abbey, before continuing to Recess along the Inagh Valley. Afterwards they lunched at the Railway Hotel before taking the train from Ballinahinch to Galway city, passing through Moycullen.

7. Where is Leinster Hole in Moycullen?

Answer: In the townland of **Rinneen** at approx. coordinates 53°21'55.3"N, -9°11'55.7"W (on the right hand side of the Cloonabinná road, in woodland). We cheated a little including this question,

as although we can tell you where it is, we cannot tell you what it is or why it got its name! We were hoping someone out there could help us research this one. The site is noted as 'Leinster Hole' on first comprehensive map of Ireland from 1838, on subsequent maps and an 'outline' can still be viewed on google maps – it appears to be a square site with circular enclosure. Any information, please give us a call on 087 4364699.



8. What once familiar face in Moycullen walked into London's Tate Gallery with his friend and casually walked out having stolen one of its most famous paintings?

Answer: **William (Billy) Fogarty**. Born in Galway, Republican activist Billy was a vet covering Oughterard and Moycullen. When residing in Moycullen, he lived in a two storey house that stood where Elmwood estate is today. His last abode in the area was the old presbytery in Rosscahill. On 14 April 1956, whilst still a trainee vet, Billy and his friend, art student Paul Hogan from Dublin, walked into the Tate Gallery and 'borrowed' Berthe Morisot's painting, *Jour d'Été*, worth £10,000 at the time (several millions in today's money). Billy and Paul didn't expect to get away with the theft and had actually hired a photographer to capture the event – their hope was that the press attention would put pressure on the British Government to end a dispute of over 40 years and honour the last will of the painting's owner, Sir Hugh Lane (nephew of Lady Gregory of Coole Park in Gort). Hugh had stated that the painting be given to the people of Ireland after his death, together with 38 other continental works owned by him. Sir Hugh Lane drowned on the RMS Lusitania off the coast of Cork in 1915, and because a recent codicil to his will had been signed but not officially witnessed, his previous bequeathing of the paintings to the Tate gallery was honoured instead.

Billy and Paul were bewildered in 1956 when their heist succeeded, they took a taxi to Piccadilly Circus with the painting under their arms as they didn't know where else to go, and had an Irishwoman whom they had only met the night before hide the piece of art in her apartment! When the theft was eventually discovered, it made all the newspapers around the world – even pushing the story of Princess Grace's wedding from the front pages. Billy and Paul disguised themselves as priests and made it back to Ireland via Cambridge and Liverpool – they had asked the Irish lady to eventually take the painting to the Irish embassy, whereupon it was returned to the Tate gallery by the diplomats. No action was taken against Billy and Paul as the police didn't wish to turn the two men into martyrs for the Irish cause or indeed highlight the lack of security measures at the gallery! The episode did turn out to be a success however, as in 1959 Ireland and the Tate agreed to share the Hugh Lane Collection.

9. Set in the townland of Portarra, this tale of penal times, published in 1867, and titled *Shemus Dhu – The Black Pedlar of Galway*, was written by whom?

Answer: **Rev Michael Aloysius Kavanagh** (although if you checked the internet you would have been given the incorrect name of Maurice Dennis Kavanagh!). A native of Galway City, Michael Kavanagh was educated by the Patrician Brothers and a member of their Aloysian Society. He matriculated in 1834 and Moycullen became his first parish as a Catholic Curate (1839-1841). As a curate he also served in Claregalway (1841-1842), St Nicholas South (1842-1847) and St. Nicholas East (1847-1852) before becoming Parish Priest of Oughterard in 1852 – a position he held until his death on 28th April 1864. It was at Fr. Kavanagh's request, the Mercy Sisters came and set up their convent and school in Oughterard - his view was education was a means for his parishioners to rise above poverty and starvation. His book *Shemus Dhu* was released posthumously in 1867 by publishers James Duffy, 15 Wellington Quay, Dublin.

10. Local folklore tradition says, you should do what, if you see the *Cóiste Bodhar*?

Answer: If you see the *Cóiste Bodhar* or Carriage of Death, you should stand to one side and say "slán".

Áras Uilinn
Maigh Cuilinn,
Galway.

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

