Witness and Hope Hallhouse of De Cogeshal Built to supplant and defend against O'Concanon of Uí Diarmada. Testament to craft of Gael agus Gall Been attacked ,breached ,scarred, Yet my base batter and stout walls still stand Since midway 'tween Christ and Covid.

I have witnessed

Centuries change, society change, the millennium turn

Pandemics

Rebellions

Poverty

Wealth

Emigration

Famines

Immigration

Progress

Botháns crumble, thatch disappear,

Electricity dispel the shadows of rush and candle light.

I stand guard over Laught: its crossroads, sportsfield and penal Church

Slí na sláinte

Summerville lake

Bogland

Turlough

Grotto

Gravevard

Windmill

Watertower

Rich pasturelands Esker ridge Ancient Eskerstephens graveyard

rsee

Whitethorn and heather bloom and reeds sway

Morning glows

evening sunsets

Cows graze

Lambs frolic

Swans glide

swallows swoop

Gróiginí

agus an síonnach

Sycamore

ash and chestnut

The straight standing yew, eternally green

Cloisim

Páistí ag imirt agus ag gáire

Church bells

Christmas carols

Dawn chorus

Jackdaws calling

Chatter

Laughter

Graveyard tears

respectful footsteps

Lone walkers

silence

Traffic rumble, lawnmowers hum and planes thunder

Anois, ní cloisim clip clop and whizz of pony and trap and kwake kwake of corncrake, "The Premier Aces", "The Cadets" and "The Indians" thrill dancers in "The Carnival Field" But I still stand on buried mystery, anchor to Moylough, hopeful, resilient , strong, the jackdaws my always companions.