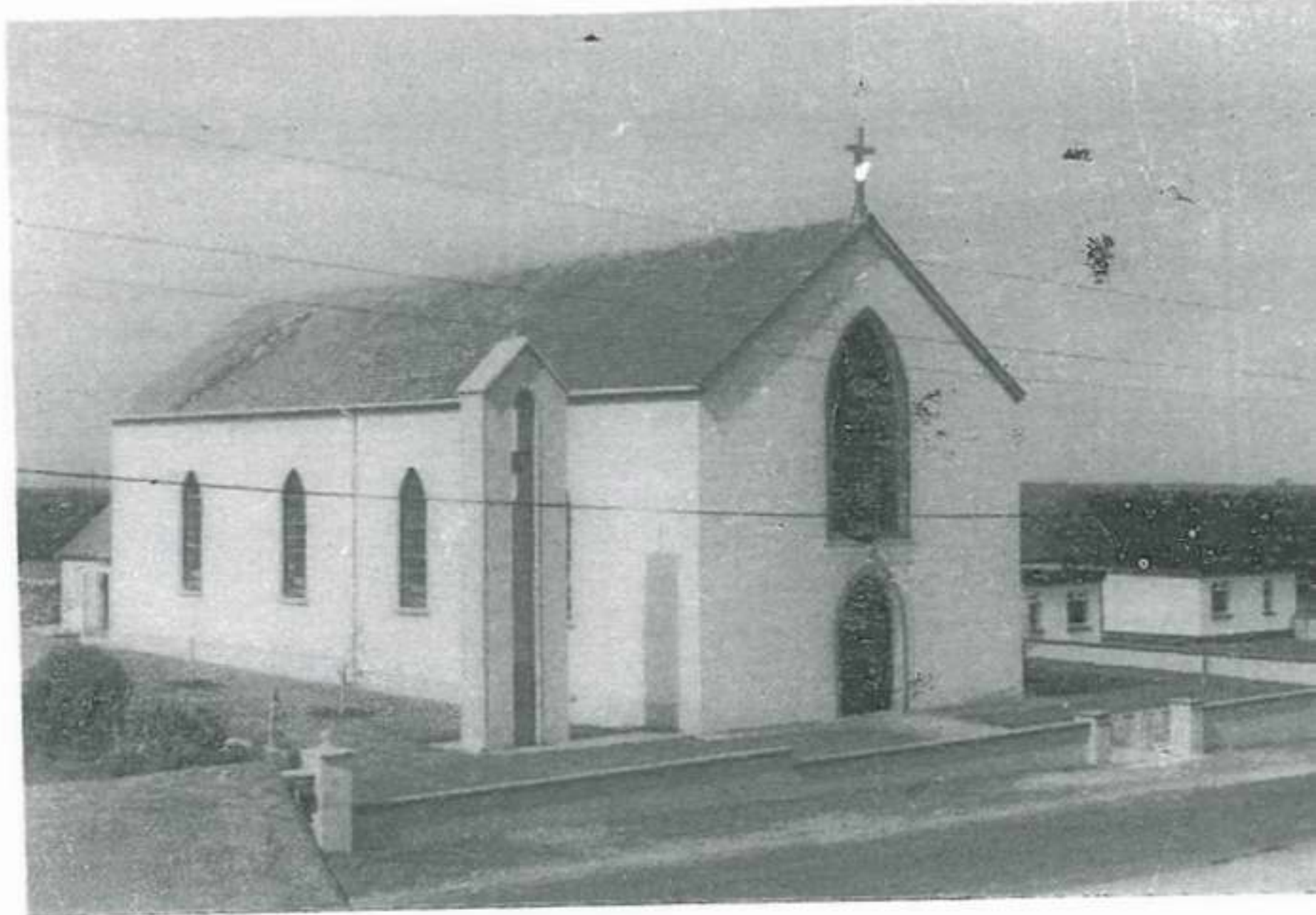




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1790 - 1990

# Bicentenary of KILFINNY CHURCH



*St. Ciarán's Church Kilfinny.*

## A LOCAL HISTORY

LIMERICK

COUNTY LIMERICK

941.94 540160

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"LIMERICK - THE RICH LAND" by Sean Spellissy  
 "EXPLORING LIMERICK'S PAST" by Dr. P' J' O'Connor.  
 Round About the County of Limerick - Rev. James O'Dowd.  
 The Diocese of Limerick - Canon Begley.  
 A History and Topography of Limerick City & County - Samuel Lewis.  
 Survey and Valuation Report 1824.  
 Civil Survey 1654.  
 History of Limerick - Fitzgerald & McGregor.  
 Field name books of the County & City of Limerick - John O'Donovan.  
 Letters containing information relative to the antiquities of County Limerick,  
 Volume II - John O'Donovan.  
 Minute Books of Muintir na Tire.  
 Minute Books of Kilfinny Co-operative and Dairy Society.  
 Kilfinny News 1986, 1987.  
 Limerick County Library  
 Senior Citizens of Kilfinny  
 Fas.

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## FOREWORD

*The year 1990 marks a historic milestone in the story of Kilfinny. Exactly 200 years ago, 1790, the parish church was erected on the present site which makes it one of the oldest parish churches still in use in the country. These were difficult times for our people, socially and politically. They were very poor, and the penal laws of that era made it difficult for them to practise their faith. The original church at Ballinakill was no longer in use as a parish church as it had been confiscated some time prior to this.*

*It was against this troubled background that the foundation stone of the present church in the Commons was laid. Built by local voluntary labour, the original building was much smaller than the present church, having a thatched roof and cobbled floor. It was dedicated to St. Ciarán of Clonmacnoise, which poses the query why the new church was not dedicated to the original parish patron, St. Finneach of Ballinakill, after whom Kilfinny was named. The most likely explanation is that it would have been easier to acquire a relic of St. Ciaran for the high altar of the new Church.*

*The first recorded extensive repairs were carried out in 1928 under the direction of Fr. Tim Murphy P.P. at a cost of £300. No doubt the original building must have been repaired several times by the local people in the previous 140 years and was probably completely refurbished during that period. At the turn of the century Archdeacon Roche of Glin donated £200 towards Kilfinny Church.*

*In 1954, renovations were carried out by Fr. Tom O'Donnell the Curate, who was then living in Kilfinny. This included the*

erection of the present oak altar and a new ceiling. The flagged floor was taken up and storage heating installed. Most of this work was done on a voluntary basis by the parishioners, many of whom are still going strong, thank God, and can clearly recall those happy days which typified the true spirit of Kilfinny. Contributions from the people of the area and from friends at home and abroad exceeded £1,000.

In March 1967 Canon Kennedy supervised reconstruction work on the Church which cost £11,600 and again in 1973 more repairs costing £6,500. It was mainly due to the late Canon's dedicated care and attention that we have the Church in its present excellent condition. The bell-tower was erected in 1975 for £600. Some minor repair work has been carried out on the Sacristy and around the Church since 1985. The inside of the Church was redecorated in 1988 at a cost of £2,800. The kneelers were made a little more comfortable, the floor was covered and a new carpet provided for the Sanctuary, all thanks to the generosity of the people. This same spirit of willingness and co-operation which has been part of the story of Kilfinny Church down the years is still very much with us, buiochas le Dia. In recent weeks the young people, as well as the adult community, have come together with exciting plans to clean up the Church grounds, paint the surrounding walls and to repair and redecorate the old school. It has been very gratifying to see the results of their work, not just for those directly involved, but for everyone associated with the Church. All those who worked so hard in such trying circumstances due to the very humid conditions, can feel justifiably proud of their achievements.

I am delighted to be part of this historic and happy Community celebration here in Kilfinny and I am grateful to everyone for their support, and for their generous response to



*the appeal for the Bicentenary fund. Our thanks also to the members of the committee who co-ordinated the project and planned the celebrations. We are indebted to Liz Hepburn for her thorough research and dedicated interest in providing the material for this local history, with the limited information that was available from every possible recognised source covering this period. Our architect, Michael Healy, a near neighbour from Ballingarry, took a keen interest in the project and provided invaluable insight and advice. His design to commemorate the Bicentenary incorporates the Gothic architecture of the Church and bell-tower. A final word of thanks to Dr. Pat O'Connor who willingly highlighted the authentic sources for this celebration, referred to in his recent work on "Exploring Limerick's Past."*

*Céad míle fáilte romhaimh go dtí Teach Dé, go dtí tinteán an chreidimh agus ár dtinteán féin. Go raibh tine an chreidimh beo ansoe agus i gcroí gach duine againn go bhfillidh Críost.*

*Liam O'Ceallaigh S. P.*



# EARLY SOCIAL HISTORY OF KILFINNY

**KILFINNY IN THE EARLY 1800's IS WELL DESCRIBED IN A  
PUBLICATION ENTITLED "A HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF  
LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY" BY SAMUEL LEWIS  
THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT**

Kilfinny, a parish, is in the eastern division of the barony of Upper Connell, four miles south west from Adare, on the road from Croom to Ballingarry. It contains 1,136 inhabitants. It comprises 2,361 statute acres of which 1,650 are applotted under the tithe act. About 320 are common and 90 bog. Of the remainder two thirds are under tillage, one third under pasture. The surface is uneven, rising in some places into hills of considerable elevation. The soil is generally fertile and the system of agriculture improved. Fairs are held on the common on May 15, July 14, September 12 and December 22, chiefly for cattle.

It is in the Diocese of Limerick and is a rectory and vicarage, forming part of the union of Nantenan and corps of the precentorship in the Cathedral of Limerick. The tithes amount to £134/18.

In the Roman Catholic divisions it forms part of the union or district of Croagh and Kilfinny. The chapel is a small edifice. There is a private school in which about 140 children are instructed. There are some remains of the old church in which is a tablet to the Pigott family, and near it are the remains of Ballinakill house which, having been converted into a barrack, was burnt by the Rockites in 1822.

## **FAMILY NAMES**

The following are the names of the families in the Parish of Kilfinny in the year 1824 -

Scully, Kelly, Morrissey, Ahern, Sullivan, Noonan, Roche, Hannan, Burns, Pigott, Quaide, Houlahan, Keyes, Foley, Dea, Hickey, Hayes, Downes, Loynes, Moloney, Dolan, Quinn, Naughton, Fennessy, Guiry, Walsh, Hennessy, Power, Connor, Foster, Griffin, Collins, Mulcahy, McLoughlin, Higgins, Mescall, Flaherty, Long, Curtain, Meehan, Moylan, Keogh, Devaney, Casey, Conway, Hogan, Doran, Benson, Stokes, McEnerney, Kett, McEniry, Hartigan, Donovan, Tierney, Boyle, Sheehan, Flanigan, Cronan, Lynch, Allen, Cahill, Dixon, Fitzgerald, Enright, Carmody, McCarthy, Cushen, McMahon.

The names and spellings have been taken from the Survey and Valuation Report 1824.



## **PLACE NAMES**

<b>KILFINNY</b>	Cill Finnche, the cell or church of the Virgin Finneach.
<b>BALLYFOLIN</b>	Baile Phoilin, Little Pauls Town
<b>BALLYMACKAMORE</b>	Baile Mac Aodha Mhoir, The town of the sons of Big Hugh.
<b>BALLINAKILL</b>	Baile na Cille, town of the Church
<b>GORTFADA</b>	Long field
<b>KILMACOW</b>	Cill mo Chuach, St. Mac Dhuach's Church
<b>LISDUFF</b>	Lios dubh, black fort
<b>KILMACANEARLA</b>	Cill Mhic an Earla, the church of the earls sons.

## **SURVEY OF 1840**

### **KILFINNY COMMONS AND VILLAGE**

Thirty seven houses and wastes of houses. Roman Catholic Chapel, occupier Rev. James Minihan. A schoolhouse, occupier Rev. Richard Mansell. 97 acres in total, all royalty. Valuation of land and buildings £86/10s.

### **KILFINNY**

Twenty houses. 717 acres in total. Valuation of land and buildings £539/4s.

### **BALLYFOLIN - NORTH AND SOUTH**

Nine houses. 232 acres in total. Valuation of land and buildings £136/5s.

## **BALLINAKILL**

Twenty houses. 467 acres in total. Valuation of land and buildings £351/5s. One Richard Pierce Power had land and buildings including graveyard and gate lodge, valuation £97.

## **GORTFADA**

Eleven houses. 186 acres in total. Valuation of land and buildings £92/6s.

## **BALLYMACKAMORE**

Twenty three houses. 535 acres in total. Valuation of land and buildings £398/15s.

## **LANDLORDS**

The major Landlords of the time were John Pigott and Samuel Dixon. Pigott owned approximately 750 acres. He had fifty three tenants with the largest holding being 88 acres.

Dixon owned 600 acres. He had twenty six tenants with the largest holding being 79 acres.

The Earl of Dunraven owned 186 acres and had thirteen tenants. The largest holding was 55 acres. These three landlords owned between them almost two thirds of the land.

## **LIFESTYLE**

Before the advent of electricity in 1951 and later, television in 1961, lifestyles hadn't changed much the previous century. Before rural electrification country life was hard labour, working from dawn to dusk. This particularly applied to the farmer's wife.

Cippins were gathered by her or the children to get a fire started quickly in the morning. While some houses had ranges others had wide open hearths. A big black kettle hung from a crook over the fire. A fixed bellows was standard and a few turns of the wheel had the kettle singing and porridge warming up. Meals were a problem at times, catering for the meitheal as well as a large family. Plenty of bacon and cabbage and potatoes were expected and produced. They had three legged pots and pot ovens. There were pots for boiling small potatoes for the chickens and pigs.

Everybody killed their own pigs, usually in the Spring. Killing the pig was an occasion. The blood was collected in enamel basins and used to make black pudding. The entrails were washed and used as casings.



Great care was taken in their making. Pudding and porksteak was distributed among the neighbours and relatives, who would return the favour when they did the killing. The squealing of the pig as he was being killed would be heard for miles around.

Concrete kitchen floors were scrubbed at least every Saturday but a lot of kitchens had mud floors. That night the children were bathed in a wooden tub placed in front of the fire. Boots and shoes were polished and left ready for Mass the following morning.

Monday was wash day. In fine weather this would be done outdoors using Sunlight soap and a washboard in a big wooden or galvanised tub. Clothing was always serviceable, and was washed only when it 'showed the dirt'. White shirts were washed first, with their detached collars. They were starched stiffly and worn only on Sundays, going to Mass or that night, going to a dance.

Ironing was time consuming. The inner heavy slab of iron was removed from the casing, thrust into red coals until it was hot enough, carefully inserted back into the box iron and the cover secured. The heat would soon dissipate and the process had to be repeated again and again.

Butter was made once or twice a week. The milk was left to stand in basins in a cool shed for at least twenty four hours. The cream was then skimmed off and put into a small churn. The churn was a box 18 inches by 12 by 17, bevelled inside to the shape of the dashers. It had a loose lid. The dasher consisted of an axis of wood, to which paddles or blades were attached, forming a square with spaces left open, two of the openings being broader than the others. Attached to an axle they formed an axis with four projecting blades. The axle fitted into supports at the centre of the box, a handle fitted to it and the churning was done by turning the handle at a steady pace for about twenty minutes in Summer, longer in Winter. When the butter formed in lumps the milk was poured off and the butter put in a container of clean cold water, washed and kneaded. All the liquid was poured off again and this process was repeated until the butter was completely free of milk residue. It was then salted to taste, put into moulds and was ready for the table.

A typical farm kitchen contained two tables, sugar chairs and a form or two. It was white or yellow washed inside and out. The windows were small, allowing little light. A hanging oil lamp was lowered by means of a pulley, wicks were trimmed, the globe cleaned and the paraffin topped up. After a long day of milking, cooking, baking, feeding calves, pigs and chickens, the woman of the house sat down and took up her knitting and continued the sock, turning the heel and shaping the toe like the artisan she was. She sewed, making sheets and pillowcases from bleached flourbags. There was no waste. Scraps of cloth from worn, washed out clothes were made into patchwork bed spreads.

More intricate dress-making was done by the dressmaker, who was much in demand. She would turn a coat to make it look like new or she could put a piece in a coat or dress to lengthen it if the wearer had grown taller, and there was nothing to let down. Any fancy clothes had probably come from America. Second-hand clothes were bought in



Rathkeale or Newcastle West. Large families were the norm so even though a servant girl was kept, the farmer's wife didn't have any spare time on her hands.

The most hated job on the farm was crowning beet, but as it was a cash crop, beet was grown year after year. Icy beet had to be picked up by hand, the foliage chopped off with a knife and loaded onto carts. The frosty earth penetrated the legs and the hands were numb and clumsy from the ice.

They were almost self-sufficient on the farm. They grew potatoes, turnips, cabbage and kale for domestic use. They made butter, they had their own milk and cured their own bacon. They made their own bread. They had eggs and chickens. They grew apples and gooseberries and made jellies and jams. Flour was bought by the sack and sugar by the stone.

There was invariably a servant boy. These usually came from Kilmeedy, Athea, Abbeyfeale, or Ballyhahill, having been hired at the hiring fair in Newcastle West, in early February. They were paid by the year, the money going to the boy's father. They often slept in a settle bed in the kitchen. They worked hard and would go home on Christmas Eve and would appear again at the hiring fair in February, unless they decided to leave it all behind and take the boat to England. This they increasingly did until they were no more.

On December 8 there was a fair in Croom where cows changed hands for a few shillings after a great deal of haggling. The public houses would be full for a week afterwards.

Most men, women and children had only one pair of footwear. Boots were studded heavily to protect the leather from wear. Every father had a last and was adept at soling and heeling boots at home. Work requiring more finesse, like replacing a toe-cap was taken to the shoemaker. Children's boots were bought with plenty of growing room, as were their clothes. Ploughing and planting, saving the hay and drawing it in, putting out the potatoes and pitting them, thinning turnips, picking stones, spreading manure, pulping mangolds, laying hedges, cutting firewood, drawing sticks, drawing water and milking cows helped the years to come and go.

While particular parts of this history are unique to Kilfinny, the lifestyle which prevailed here probably prevailed in every village, and townland, and the changes which were wrought here were also wrought elsewhere.

By 1911 there were only five members of the Established Church attending Kilfinny school. They got an extra half hour for lunch as they were excused religious instruction.

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# TALKING POINTS

Before the village post-office there was one at Neville's Cross. The public house there was a depot for the Great Southern Railway, according to an extremely old sign attached to the horse-chestnut tree. Griffin's house was also a public house and it is believed that there was another one in the village near Hannon's. The R.I.C. had a barrack where the last curate lived.

Hurling was a favourite sport. Various fields were used over the years, O'Neill's, Cagney's, Guiry's, Culhane's, and Wall's. Tough games were played sixty years ago. The Kilfinny team would have been the following with minor changes - the three Shanahan brothers, Jim Doyle, Mick & Jack Farrell, Tom Ahern, Ned Riley, Harry Doab, Mick Neville, Dick & Dave Shire, Tom Neville, Jim Gibbons. The Strand Road could field a team of its own, but mostly for exhibition and would often play at carnivals.

Paddy Murphy was our most distinguished player, earning him an All-Ireland Minor Medal in 1940.

Pattern Day on the 9th of September was a holy day until Canon Murphy's time. The devout did the rounds of the Holy Well, and drank of the water, which is believed to have curative powers. It was the custom for the pilgrim to leave a few pennies on the surrounding wall. This money disappeared overnight. The P.P. tolerated the platform dancing that night provided that it ended at ten o'clock sharp. All dances had to end at ten. There was another platform in the Line Road. Dancers would put a penny or two in a hat to pay the musicians. Pilgrims still visit St. Ciaran's Well on Pattern Day, but not in such crowds. Platform dancing disappeared with the advent of Parochial Halls and easy travel.

A bicycle was a most prized possession, and often carried a passenger to fairs, dances, carnivals and matches. They were lit up by battery or carbide lamps or the cyclist risked getting caught by the Sergeant from Ballingarry on his bike. A fair share of fun and games was had at the gambles. Players would pay sixpence to play for a few chickens or a goose. More often than not there would be an argument over the count. Those who were knocked out of the game early would join the dancing in the next room. People who couldn't dance a half-set amused themselves in other ways. An idler might dip his finger in the bucket of water and flick it at the globe of the oil lamp, thereby shattering it. Others might tie the door from the outside, climb to the chimney and stuff it with a feed-bag, blinding the players with the acrid wood and turf smoke.

Doors were rarely locked, mostly for the want of a key. Occasionally when a householder was out the ass was led into the kitchen and the cart dismantled and reassembled indoors and the ass tackled to it. It took a good deal of co-operation and speed was of the essence. Vandals and delinquents were unheard of, but there were 'Prime Boys.' They were generally harmless.



There were travelling theatres. They came to the old quarry and would spend a week or so playing to full houses. The travelling cinema replaced them, setting up beside the old school and showing to the audience things undreamt.

There was the gymkhana in Murrays annually with its entourage of hawkers and showmen. Locals got their first look at a live monkey and the first taste of bananas and grapes. You could have Nash's Lemonade and Marietta biscuits, Peggy's legs, and blackjacks, white or pink marshmallow mice and slab toffee that would last for hours if it didn't break your teeth.

Hunting rabbits on the hill was a popular pursuit. It had a practical purpose too. Rabbit made a pleasant change from bacon for the people who had it, and for others it might be the only meat to be had.

There was point-to-point racing in Twomey's field in Granard. Mr. Gomez, a Spaniard, used to race a pony there, called 'Gentle Kitty'. Mr. Gomez and his family lived in Griffin's house.

Ainsworth stud produced internationally famous horses including Anzio, Workman, Saintly Princess and Atco. They gave a lot of employment. They would have a cook, a ladies maid, parlour maid, kitchen maid and butler. Outdoors there would be a groom, stable boys, a gardener and steward. A certain amount of pishogues went on, but not nearly to the same extent as in other areas. A spangel hung inside the door of the neighbour's cow-house was enough to drain away the milk from his cows for the year. It would also take his luck. A flitch of bacon, or a clutch of eggs buried in his drills would ruin his crops. Priests and missionaries did their best to wipe out these superstitions.

The mission was held every three years. The hawkers tents were erected inside the church wall and sold statues, pictures, medals, rosary beads, holy water fonts and scapulars. These were blessed by the missionary priests. There were always two priests, one quiet and gentle and the other of a more fiery temperament. Between them they confessed everybody in the parish, and they drew huge attendances to the Masses and all their services.

The Lenten fast was strictly enforced. Dispensations were sought by some, but granted only in the gravest of circumstances. One full meal and two collations was the adult quota for a day, a collation was not to exceed two ounces in weight. All eves of holy days were fast days. On Easter Sunday a great deal of eggs were eaten, with people vying with one another as to who could eat the most for their breakfast, ten or twelve being no boast at all.

Ballinakill House had many owners. Before Ainsworths there was Mrs. Wood Power, Steadman, Sykes, Richard Pierce Power, among others. More recently it was owned by the Samuel Family who owned Captain Christy when he won the Gold Cup in Cheltenham. Ghosts thrived and stories of them were so well told that the story teller would be nervously looking over his shoulder for shadows on his way home, hair prickling the nape of his neck and his pounding heart deafening him, like dreaded horses hooves. For some reason, horses figured largely in the ghost stories. There was the 'dead hunt' seen at the dead of night, riders and horses and hare and hounds careering at full though silent cry



through moonlit fields. There was the headless coach, an equal terror to make the blood run cold.

Near Ballyknockane, the blacksmith was roused from slumber to shoe a dark Gentleman's horse and when he lifted the horse's leg to fit the shoe he discovered it was a cloven hoof. He had many calls like that. There was also the story of a ball of light which swept across the country side, and nuns who vanished through walls.



*THE BUTLER FAMILY, 1954*



*Mrs. Mary Scully, Kilfinny, 1892*





*Connors' Pub (now Neville's) taken in early 1920's*

**STRAND ROVERS HURLING TEAM, KILFINNY 1952**



*Front row: Pat Burke (R.I.P.), Johnny O'Dea, Mick Burke, Ned Burke, Willie Burke, Paddy Hannon, Jerry Kennedy. Back row: Dermot Ruddie (R.I.P.), Pat Carmody, (R.I.P.), Timmy O'Dea, Jim Houlihan (R.I.P.), Bill Sheehan (R.I.P.), Mick Quaid (R.I.P.), Tim Quaid, Billy Keogh, Joe McCann (R.I.P.), Mark Kennedy, John Cronin (R.I.P.), Johnny Shire.*



# KILFINNY CASTLE

This castle lied equidistant from Croom, Adare, Croagh and Ballingarry, situated on the Eastern side of a ridge of slight elevation. It was a fine specimen of the fortified mansions of the Elizabethan period. It is said to have been built by Cormac MacEniry whose principal seat was at Castletown. It was forfeited in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and was besieged by the Irish under Colonel Purcell in 1641. Lady Dowdall was the last inhabitant of the Castle. Its remains consist of two quadrilateral towers and a court. The towers are roughly twenty feet by eight and a half and contained two arched floors over which were two other stories. The court measures thirty two feet by twenty and contained one arched floor over which there were two other stories. The walls are thirty five feet high and three and a half feet thick.



*KILFINNY CASTLE 1990*



# THE DEFENCE OF THE CASTLE

## - 1642

A very interesting account of this siege is given by Lady Elizabeth Dowdall, in a document in her own hand-writing, preserved amongst the depositions of 1651, in the library of Trinity College.

Elizabeth was the daughter of Sir Thomas Southwell. She married Sir John Dowdall, but he seems to have played little part in the defence of the Castle, and she mentions him only once. It was Elizabeth who was the commander and owner of the Castle.

The year was 1641 and Munster was almost completely denuded of soldiers when the Irish insurrectionary movement broke out. The Lord President of Munster had with him only one troop of horse soldiers. Four company of infantry had been dispersed to garrisons. He was given permission to raise two troops of cavalry and a thousand infantry, but was not supplied with arms or money for their equipment and maintenance. In March 1642 Sir Charles Vavasour came to his aid with a thousand cavalry and Lord Inchiquin provided arms and horses for two troops, along with gun powder. By these means the Lord President was able to put some tenable places in a position of defence, but the isolated and scattered English in the rest of Munster had to defend themselves as best they could.

From the beginning the rebels were ill-equipped. Though their number was said to be seven thousand they had few weapons and no discipline. They had, however, a blind fidelity toward their leader, one Patrick Purcell of Croagh. During 1641 most of the efforts of the rebels were confined to stealing the cattle belonging to the English settlers and it was not until the Spring of 1642 that the English were forced to shut themselves up in their strongholds. There were no English troops available for their relief, but the walls of their castles were practically unassailable and they were well supplied in all respects to sit out a siege indefinitely, except for Castletown, which was forced to surrender for lack of water.

The rebels then got possession of the Castle of Limerick and with it some guns. One of these was a piece of cannon which carried a ball of thirty two pounds. The cannon weighed eight hundred and ninety two pounds and had been been mounted in Limerick Castle for defence purposes only. The rebels determined to bring it with them. They improvised a novel type of gun carriage, hollowing out a huge tree trunk and placing a cannon in the cavity thus formed. Twenty five yoke of oxen were employed to drag the weapon over bogs and marshland where wheels would have sunk. Castle after Castle surrendered. Even the rock fortress at Askeaton which had held fast under William Eames from November 1641 until August 1642 was taken. Cappagh Castle, under Francis Morton and Castle Matrix under Maurice Herbert yielded after a six month siege. Kilfinny, which had been defended for forty weeks by Lady Dowdall was forced to hang out the white flag, but not until the



castle had endured "four great shot". As the gun opened fire on July 25th and the castle was taken on the 29th it would seem that it took four days to fire those four great shot.

In his book "Round About the County of Limerick" Rev. James O'Dowd says of Lady Dowdall's narrative "As a picture of warfare of the time, her account is probably unique.....as is her ladyship's spelling". Indeed, her spelling does not facilitate easy reading, so for this presentation, it has been corrected. The aforementioned book contains the original spelling. The grammar has been left intact where possible.

#### KILFINNY SCHOOL 1928



Back row (l to r): Mai Monaghan, R.I.P., John Donovan R.I.P., Nellie Kennedy (Sullivan), Mary Hannan R.I.P., Elizabeth Guiry, Peggy Fitzgerald, Bridie Kiely R.I.P., Eily Fitzgerald, Biddy Burns R.I.P., Pat Canty.  
 2nd. Row: Larry O'Shea R.I.P., Michael Fitzgerald, Tom Moloney R.I.P., Mickie Joe Fitzgerald, Jeremiah Carmody R.I.P., Jim Liston R.I.P., Paddy Carmody R.I.P., John Donohue, Tom Walsh, Bill Kennedy.  
 3rd. Row: Patsy Fitzgerald R.I.P., Lizzie Hannan, Peggy Kennedy, Maura Burke, Nell Guiry, Maura Donovan R.I.P., Mick Hannan.  
 Front row: Tom McCann R.I.P., John Guiry, Willie Hannon R.I.P., Ned Burke, Frank O'Dea, Neill Fitzgerald, Jimmy Tierney.



# LADY DOWDALL'S STORY

"A true note of my several services done in County Limerick at my castle of Kilfinny. In the first I was four score strong, obtained at my own cost and charge. I was thirty horse and fifty foot, which I hired a capable soldier to train and exercise for the Kings services, if need had been, ready for the field, the war growing hot and all the Englishmen's preys being daily taken away. A month afore Christmas last, the English coming to me with an outcry that the enemy had taken away their cattle, I sent out twenty horse and thirty foot some five miles from my house and rescued the prey, the enemy being three hundred strong, took four prisoners and pillaged a town of the enemy and forced them to run over the river of Maigue to a castle of Lee of Tullovin. The second service being of some of my tenants cattle being taken at a town called Gragowenne some three miles away. I sent out the same horse and foot again. I found the said cattle, and I killed ten of the enemy, took two prisoners, drove two hundred of the enemy over the river again, took all the prey of the town, pillaged the town and restored the English their cattle.

The third service, which was within five days after the enemy came, coming within sight of my castle with a great prey of the Englishmen's cattle. I sent out twenty horse and forty foot to pursue the enemy. They followed them a mile to a place called the Pole, where they met at least four hundred of the enemy, which when they saw my forces come fiercely upon them ran all away.

My men killed twenty of them, brought home seven prisoners brought back the prey and a hundred cows of the enemy, twenty horses, and pillaged the town.

The fourth service, I rescued three miles from my house, the Sovereigns of Kilmallock's whole stock from the enemy when the enemy was two hundred strong and killed a great many of the enemy, returned his stock and drove the enemy over the river one after another, I beat the enemy where they were two and three hundred, from beseiging the castle of Croom.

On New Year's Day was Captain Francis Courtney sent by the Lord President of Munster to be joined with my forces for the defence of County Limerick which I tried with me but one fortnight, but in that time we were both everyday upon services, and killed and hanged many of the rebels. The High Sheriff of the County and power thought to betray Captain Courtney and his company but by no means I would not let him meet them but with the forces joined to his Company which when the enemy saw to be hard for them, they went away and left them but confessed to myself since if my forces had not been with him they would have killed him and all his company.



After the departure of Captain Courtney Eddie Lacey of Bruree came to besiege me with a hundred men and took away all the cattle that were unbawned about my land, but I played so thick with my musketeers upon him that I put him and his company on the run and killed some of his men. Then did Richard Colum of Ballingarry and Robert Lacy beseige me and upon Candlemas Day took away all my flock of sheep and ten milch cows that I had turned out of my bawn and orchards, and sent a matter of forty poor rogues to take the prey and laid four hundred in ambush for us, thinking that we would have issued out of the castle to have rescued them, whereby they might have cut us all off, which had not one of scouts espied we would have been that day cut off.

The next day I sent out twenty horse well armed and recovered another prey from the enemy and the rest of my forces I divided. I kept ten musketeers on the windmill and held the rest for the defence of the castle which upon the alarm given, and the Lord Dowdall in person, we issued out and took thirty horses laden with corn and took their sacks, men and horses. The next day, I took some of my own tenants that had stolen my stud of horses and carried them to General Purcell who was stealing the corn and goods of my land without paying rent. I took their horses, corn and goods and hanged three men.

After this, the enemy kept a strong garrison upon me and kept me that I could not stir out of my gate, but in danger to be shot. They got possession of my windmill and my barn and shot so thick into my bawn that we durst scarcely stir for fear of killing. My barn was full of corn. In the night, I sent out two of my soldiers with grenades and fired my barn of corn and burned some of the enemy in it and the next day I got possession of the windmill hill which I beat down to the ground. I fired all my own town, and skirmished with the enemy twice or thrice a week, wherein I never lost a man during this bitterness which I still continued between me and the enemy from 8th January to Candlemas. Yet in spite of the enemy I kept over twenty horses in my stable, and fifty head of cattle in my bawn, and fetched my hay in every day to maintain them.

The 9th of January the High Sheriff and all the power of the county came with three thousand men to beseige me. They brought two sows\* and thirty scaling ladders against me. They wrote many tempting letters to me to yield to them, which I answered with contempt and scorn. They were three weeks and four days beseiging me before they could bring those sows to me being building of them all that time on my own land, yet every day and night at fight with me. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the High Sheriff Richard Stevenson came up in the front of the army with his drums and pipers, but I sent him a shot in the head that made him bid the world goodnight and routed the whole army, we shot so hot.

On Ash Wednesday they began to drag their sows towards me, which were so heavy that sixteen horses could hardly drag them. We had been likely to be lost for the want of a match, but I took upon me that trade to match the enemy and make good new match. With our hands we made sconces that we hung in chains to give light and fling light and



standing light. We made abundance of straw faggots to burn their sows, bound up with dry wood. Then we made fenceworks to fling into their sows. On Thursday they drew their sows nearer, on Friday they came at night at full-career with a great acclamation of joy, even heard in the castle. But I sent such a free welcome to them that turned their mirth into moaning. I shot iron bullets that pierced through their sows, though they were lined with iron griddles and flock beds and bolsters so that I killed their pigs, and by the enemy's confession that night, two hundred of their men. Saturday night they drew one of their sows close to one of my flank; only a little piece of bank hindered them. They forced one of their men to dig it down, who no sooner came to work but we killed him. Then they sent another which we killed also, and fought all night with them. And by the reports of the neighbours that night we killed a hundred of them.

The next day being Sabbath day the 17th February which I have always reason to remember with thanksgiving to God for our mighty deliverance, we burned both of their sows and took away thirty scaling ladders from them, which so discomfited the great army that they left us the next day, they left a garrison of a hundred musketeers to keep us in to starve us and tired us out with a months fright and watching that we all fell sick and were likely to have died. I buried after this seige nine and thirty men, women and children and had likely all to have been starved for the want of food, they kept us in so close for a whole quarter of a year. At last we broke out and burned the garrison over their head and made the enemy run away. After that, I kept the country clear for sixteen weeks. No enemy durst come within a mile near me in which time I burned all the country within two miles round about me and took all their prey, and would command the enemy that were my neighbours to pull down such houses as I did not like should stand which they did presently. I relieved the Castle of Croom five times, once with ammunition and four times with food, or else they would have starved. I laid the constable of the castle in bolts in his own garrison for conveying away the Kings ammunition and practicing to betray the garrison to the enemy. Thus I held fight forty weeks with the enemy til the great army beseiged me with cannon. I fought with them four days before I would let them plant their cannon and killed some of their men. I endured four great shot of their cannon and they were ready to give fire again which would have thrown my house over my head. I was forced to cry quarter but could not get it, but upon conditions that what prisoners were for the English army should be given to them to redeem me; which my Lord Inchiquin most honourably did and sent a noble convoy of cavaliers and three hundred musketeers to fetch me off but the enemy took all that I ever had from me, save my evening linen;

The rest of the castles in County Limerick after I was beaten down, were all taken with paper bullets.

Signed:

Elizabeth Dowdall, Kinsale, 6 Oct. A.D. 1642.

\* Sows: A mobile shed for protecting men using a battering ram.

LIMERICK  
COUNTY LIBRARY



## TERMS OF SURRENDER

Though Lady Dowdall claims that all she was left with was her evening linen, the terms of surrender were those which had been agreed to between Lieutenant General Purcell and the Council of His Majesty's Catholique forces for the province of Munster, on the one part, and the warders of Askeaton on the other part, on August 14th 1642. It is agreed that they shall presently yield up into our hands their arms ammunition and all other engines of war belonging to the castle or any person thereunto belonging. They are to deliver unto us all their horses. They are to restore to all Catholic proprietors all such goods as are to be had there in specie.

It is further concluded that the said warders, as well English and Irish shall have their lives with a safe conduct as well as those that go on board ship to Cork or Doneraile with all their proper goods (proportion of victual for the army only excepted) together with one half of all the books within the castle.

It is agreed that the several persons of what sort or stake shall forthwith take their oath upon the Holy Evangelist never to take arms against His Majesty..... and it is further consented unto that the said warders shall not be disturbed in their Protestant religion.

**PATRICK PURCELL**

**OLIVER STEPHENSON**

**MAURICE DE RUPE ET FERMOY**

**CASTELL CONNELL**

**RICHARD BUTLER**

**THEOBALD PURCELL**



*BALLINAKILL CHURCH*



# BALLINAKILL CHURCH

Writing in 1840 J. O'Donovan had this to say:

The old church of the parish situated in low ground in Ballinakill consists of nave and choir. The latter portion could not be measured inside as there is on the choir arch an iron gate enclosing the choir as the burial place of Mr. Pigott.

This choir is nineteen feet long by twenty feet on the outside. The window on the East gable is modern having been formed within these twenty years by order of Mr. Pigott. On the South wall nine feet from the quoin stone to the East there is a window, the height of which cannot be determined in consequence of the top being concealed by an ivy tree which grows through the window. It is six inches in breadth and formed of brown cut stone which looks very old. The nave is forty feet long by eighteen feet. On the south wall of this portion of the church eight feet from the middle gable there is a rounded arch, three feet three inches high by six inches and formed of brown cut stone. On this wall at a distance of nine feet from the West gable is the doorway, which is disfigured on the inside and on the western part of the outside, for which reason its breadth cannot be ascertained. Its height to the lintel is six feet, the lintel is six and a half feet long, nine inches in depth at the west end, fifteen inches in the middle and at the east end and enters the thickness of the wall two feet eight inches. This lintel is of limestone, uncut. The four stones on the eastern side are of the same material, but cut.

There was on the north wall opposite to this another doorway, but it is totally disfigured. The brown quoin stones are chiselled. The walls are about twelve feet high and three feet thick. In the south wall there are some stones not less than one ton in weight. The building is cemented with lime and sandmortar of great firmness. Attached to the Church is a small graveyard.

St. Ciaran's well is situated thirty eight yards to the west of the Church and is much frequented by pilgrims on Saturdays and Sundays.



# THE RENOVATION OF *ST. CIARÁN'S CHURCH*

[An Extract from Muintir Minute Books 1955]

This is a report on the biggest voluntary undertaking ever attempted in this parish, or any other parish perhaps, that is, the reconstruction and repair work being carried out at Kilfinny Church at the present time.

The work, which commenced last June was ably planned and carried out by our Chairman Rev. Fr. O'Donnell, C.C. whose courage, enthusiasm and self sacrifice has been an inspiration to all concerned and in no small way has led to the magnificent success already achieved.

The first job undertaken was the removal of the crumbling ceiling. After an engineer had been called in and declared the woodwork of the roof to be sound, work began at once on the creosoting and painting of the roof. Next the decayed canopy over the altar was taken down, the wall scrubbed down in preparation for repainting. They removed the flags from the floor, and a hundred tons of clay and stones and put in the foundation for the new floor.

It was indeed a pleasure and a joy to watch these men at work with might and main during these long and hard days, and to hear the crash of the sledges, the swinging of the picks and the rattle of a dozen wheelbarrows as they moved in and out with their loads, the horses and carts, the tractors and cement mixers all playing their part in a noble work.

A new lighting and heating system has been installed and the new porch has been completed. There is still work to be done, a new floor and ceiling to be put in the sacristy, a new altar and communion rail to be fitted, the middle aisle in the sanctuary to be tiled and windows repaired and repainted.

When this work is completed it will be something which Kilfinny people can feel justly proud of and will stand as a monument to our generation and to Fr. O'Donnell.



ST. CIARÁN'S CHURCH



1988



1990



# THE CHURCH AND THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

In 1704 Walter Huonhy, or Hounine, was registered as Pastor of Croagh-Kilfinny. He resided in Barnalicky. He was succeeded in 1735 by Ambrose O'Connor, who was reported to the Government as an unregistered priest. George Brown was next. He was reputed to have been an excellent priest and died in 1757. He was succeeded by Sylvester Mulcair, P.P. Nantenan, who died in 1772 and is buried in Cappagh. His place was taken by Michael Kiely, a native of Mungret, who retired in 1806.

Maurice Hogan was pastor for forty two years. James McMahon, a curate, died in 1846. Fr. Hogan was succeeded by John Meehan, C.C. Croom who retired in 1883, died in 1899 and was buried in Croagh Church. He left two thousand pounds to the Bishop. Patrick Carroll P.P. Colmanswell replaced Fr. Meehan. He built the beautiful parochial house, and died in 1887.

Stephen Danaher succeeded Fr. Carroll and was later transferred to Loughill.

William Mulcahy, C.C. succeeded Fr. Danaher. He was a very presentable gentleman and a most excellent preacher but was considered rather ambitious. He died in 1927 and left a considerable sum of money. Another Patrick Carroll, curate, died in 1903. He was a very clever priest.

Timothy Murphy, C.C. Rathkeale succeeded Fr. Mulcahy. All the foregoing information is taken from Canon Begley's book titled "The Diocese of Limerick."

Local sources recall that Fr. Thomas Mortell, in 1918 made history in the diocese as he was the first curate to have a house of his own, away from the parish priest. The succeeding curates were Frs. Hugh O'Connor, William O'Grady, Michael Moynahan, William Boyce, James O'Byrne, Gerard Enright, Patrick O'Dea, John Fitzgibbon and Thomas O'Donnell. Fr. Sean McCarthy was the last curate in Kilfinny. Canon John Kennedy was Parish priest from April '62 to his death on 28th March, 1985.

In the gallery of the Church there is a memorial stone to the Reverend Timothy Corkery P.P. who died on Christmas Day 1891.

The Church was built in 1790 by Fr. Michael Kiely, and two hundred years later is in the capable hands of Fr. Liam Kelly, P.P. It is in first class condition. The last major renovation was carried out in the nineteen fifties. This was done under the leadership of Fr. O'Donnell. Local sources tell us that the thatched roof was blown off in the eighteen sixties during a severe storm and that it was slated after that.



Another time, Johnny Flynn from Adare fell from the roof while repairing it. A bed was fixed up in the sacristy for him and he was there for several weeks until he recovered. There was a stable for the priests horse in the church grounds. This was used later as a shed for the turf which was used to heat the school in the winter.

The curates lived in various places, in Amigan, in Kiltannan, Culhane's House, Guiry's and lastly in the house which now belongs to the Barrow family. When Fr. O'Grady lived in Culhane's house, the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 was broadcast over his wireless to the many hundreds who congregated in the adjoining fields.

Fr. Mulcahy was a published author. One of his books was called "The Evils of Drink". He was an expert on the healing properties of herbs, which he grew and used. According to Muintir na Tire minute books, Canon Murphy gave the old schoolhouse to Muintir in return for all the fund-raising which they did over the years for the Church, the curate's house and the new school. The curate's house was sold by the Bishop in the sixties.



Miss Mary Walsh, Parish Clerk, taken with Bishop Newman in Kilfinny 1986

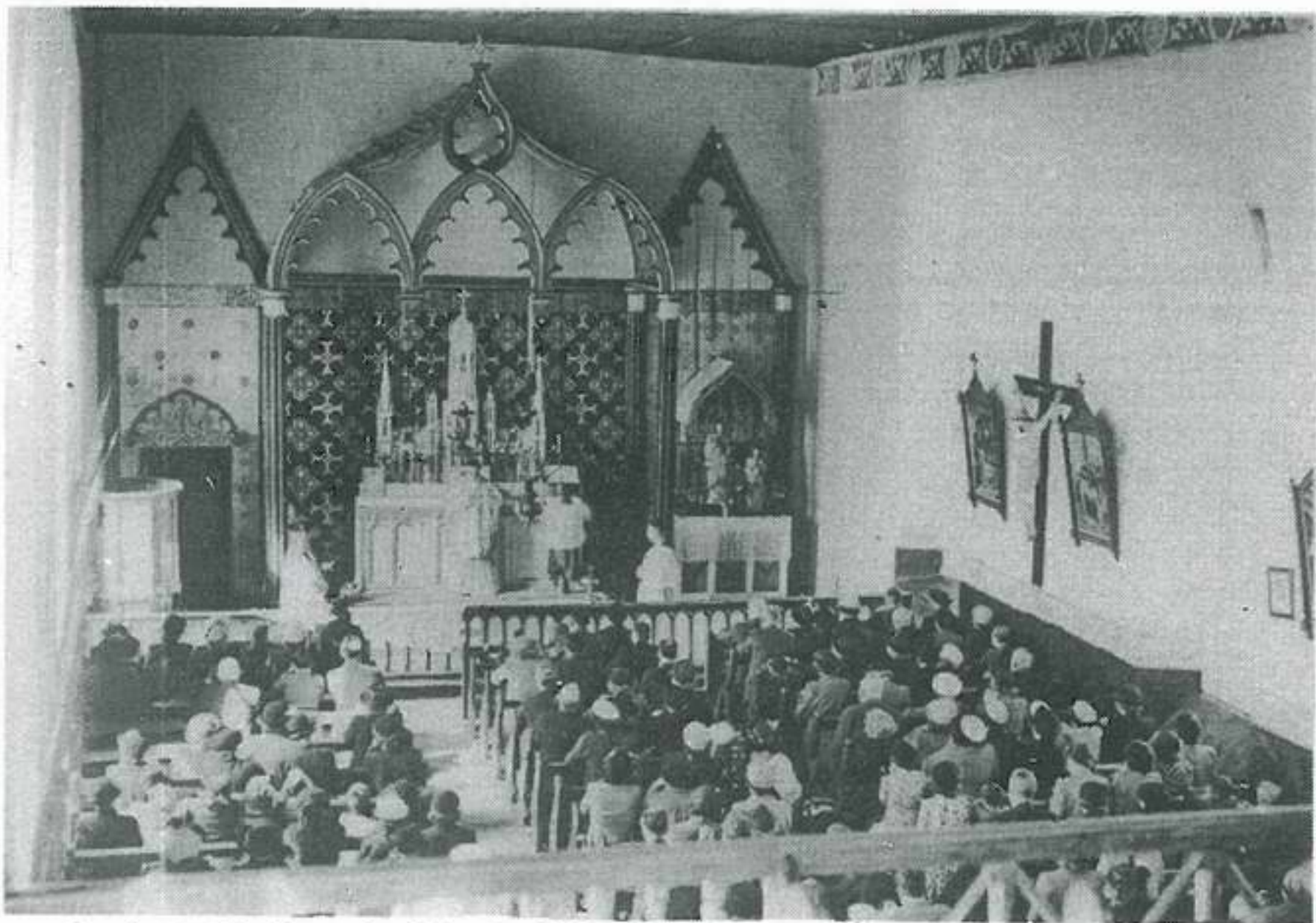


Canon Kennedy taken in Ballinaguile in 1972



Rev. Thomas O'Donnell  
Curate in Kilfinny in  
the early 1950's





*Fr. James Neville saying Mass in Kilfinny Church in 1952 with Fr. Ernan on the left*



1961





*Fr. James Neville and Fr. Joe Guiry giving their first blessing in Kilfinny Church.*



*Frs. Ernan, Ronnie and James Neville.*



*FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 1989*



*Back row - (l to r): Shane O'Neill, Colm Hannon, Noel Noonan, Michael Madigan (Altar boys). Front row - (l to r): Linda Hickey, Michelle O'Shaughnessy, Anne-Marie Shier, Jacqueline O'Connell, Emma Hanley, Paul Neville.*



*Altar Boys Outing 1989.*



# MUINTIR NA TÍRE

First Meeting of Kilfinny Parish Guild at Kilfinny School.  
Tuesday, October 24th 1950.

Present were Fr. Fitzgibbon, C.C. Kilfinny, who presided, Fr. Culhane of Feoghanagh, Fr. O'Connell of Cappagh and a fairly representative gathering of male parishioners. Fr. Fitzgibbon explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hear further from the reverend visitors about the aims and objects of Muintir na Tíre and having heard them, to decide whether or not it would be worthwhile forming a Parish Guild, especially in view of the recent move made to have something done to the local graveyard.

Amid applause Fr. Culhane rose to address the meeting and in a most interesting and inspiring talk, he briefly told his audience what Muintir was all about. He stressed the fact that the organisation was non-political supporting neither one part nor the other. He appealed to his listeners to consider the advantages that a live Guild could bring, for the spiritual and material welfare of the parish. Never before was an organisation so much needed, as at the present time, if only to counteract the influence being created by Communist propaganda. Muintir, he said could and would fight Communism successfully in this and every parish where it was formed. He went on to describe that what had been done in his own parish of Feoghanagh and referred particularly to the voluntary work which was carried out on the local rivers with the object of relieving flooded areas within the parish.

A noteworthy feature of this effort was that it was the means of getting a special Drainage Bill passed through Dail Eireann for the relief of areas of this kind. He pointed out that a parish Guild could look after such necessities as the repair of local roads, rural electrification, obtaining any useful government or local government grants which would be of benefit to the community, the erection of a parish hall, and the providing of suitable recreation as an inducement to keep people happy who worked on the land.

Muintir was doing a great deal to stop the tide of emigration which began to flow from Ireland hundreds of years ago and which was threatening to destroy the rural manpower of the country today. In conclusion, Fr. Culhane promised all the help he could give should the meeting decide to form a guild.

It was then proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that a parish Guild of Muintir na Tíre be formed in Kilfinny.



Fr. O'Connell then explained that the parish guild would be guided by a committee known as a Parish Council and he proceeded to explain how the election of this body was to be carried out. At the election which was held subsequently, the following members were chosen as the first Parish Council, to hold office for a year.

**Chairman:**           **Rev. Fr. Fitzgibbon, C.C., Kilfinny**

**Vice-Chairman:** **Mr. John Fitzgerald, Gortfada**

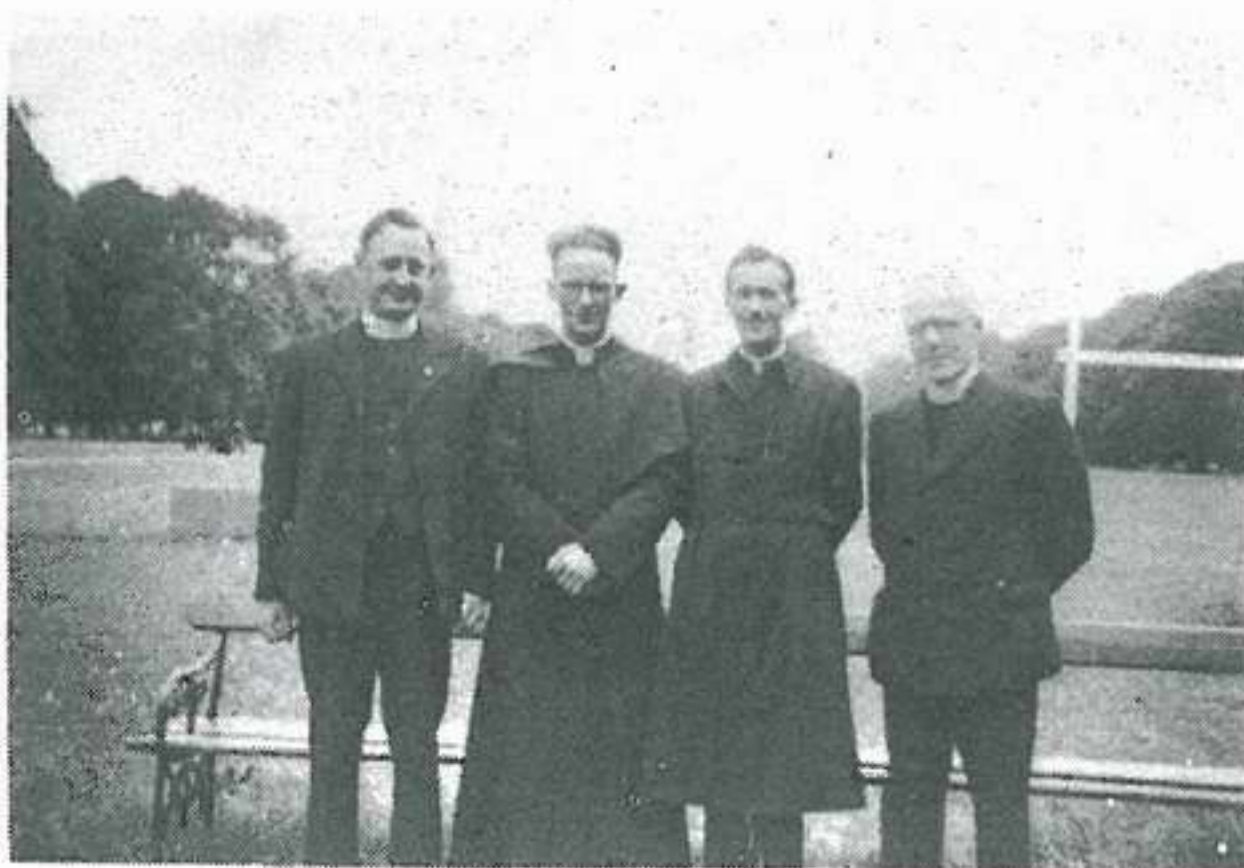
**Secretary:**       **Mr. N. Stephens, Kilfinny Creamery**

**Treasurer:**       **Mr. John Benson, Kiltannan.**

**Representing Farmers Section:** **Martin O'Neill, Kilfinny, James Kelly, Ballymackamore, John Guiry, P.J. Carmody, Michael Culhane, Kilfinny and Michael Hannon, Ballyfolin.**

**Representing all other classes:** **Patrick Burke, Kilmacow, Michael Hannon, Michael Walsh, John Walsh, Kilfinny, John Quaid, Ballymackamore, Michael Murphy, Ballinakill.**

Before the meeting dispersed a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. N. Stephens to Fr. Fitzgibbon, Fr. Culhane and Fr. O'Connell for the valuable advice and encouragement which they had given. The meeting was then adjourned.



*Fr. John Burke, Fr. Joe Guiry, Fr. John Fitzgibbon, Fr. Gerry Connors.*



## MUINTIR THROUGH THE MINUTE BOOKS

The question of reclaiming the graveyard was brought up at their first ordinary meeting and much the same question has been raised every so often to the present day. The Co. Council were to be contacted regarding the re-opening of the Library and negotiations were entered into with the E.S.B. with regard to bringing the scheme to the area.

In nineteen fifty one repairs to the parish pump were carried out, the total cost being £1.2s.6d and a grant of £7 was received toward the work at the graveyard.

In fifty four renovation work at the Church had begun, a mighty voluntary undertaking. St. Ciaran's well was repaired in time for Pattern Day, which pleased the many pilgrims who flocked there. Limerick Co. Council refused to erect danger signs near the school. A letter from Pope Pius XII was read out. Mr. Dermot O'Riordan was disturbed by the absence of ladies. He said it was a sign of weakness, and anyway, you couldn't do without them.

A skeleton was unearthed in the treasurers sandpit, and the guild agreed to bury it in consecrated ground.

In fifty five they started talking about a new school. A year later a ladies section was formed, and they served very nice teas. There was a film shown by Henry Ford Ltd. and there were socials, card drives, and lectures on artificial manures, lectures on poultry-keeping, livestock and dairying. A water diviner was brought from Ballyneety to find water for the proposed new school.

In fifty eight, work commenced on the curates residence, and Muintir adopted a slogan "No Ladies, No Profits". Fund-raising continued in fifty nine and sixty. Meetings were badly attended. Members had got the notion that Muintir was simply putting debts and levies on the parish because in the course of six years five thousand pounds had been raised by them for the Church, the curates residence and the new school.

Domestic science classes were held in Ballinakill and the ladies afterwards displayed their handiwork. They had become so proficient at icing cakes, making lampshades, stools, trays, firescreens, rugs and tapestries that it was thought that had they been given the right opportunity they could have soared to great heights. Muintir covered the cost of getting rid of the hordes of rats which had invaded the school.

In sixty one the drainage of the Blackstick commenced, reclaiming about a thousand acres. Muintir also brought about a group water scheme, a tremendous boon to all householders in the early sixties; however, the minutes relating to it are scant and there is a gap in the history of Muintir from sixty four to seventy five.

In Seventy-five they restarted their labours, this time concentrating on the old school, to adapt it for use as a parish hall. In the following years, they ran non-stop draws, card-drives, variety concerts, socials and a talent contest, with help from the I.C.A., G.A.A. and the camogie club.



The wiring in the hall was condemned. Members were asked to look out for stray turkeys for the Christmas Draw. A Super-Ser gas heater was bought. Work had begun on the hall but progress was slow.

The final of the fireside forty-five was played out in the hall with the last trump hammered down on the table while decent people were thinking of getting up to go to Mass.

Work on the hall continued and in eighty four a Community Council which is a Muintir Council, was formed, and they concentrated their efforts to clearing the debts. Wall-mounted gas heaters were installed and there was money in the bank at last.

Petticoat government finally took over in '85 in a bloodless coup, the chairperson and the secretary both being women.

In eighty seven Kilfinny celebrated Muintir's Golden Jubilee in style, with all past members invited to the party which was honoured to have Mr. Paddy Clear, National Secretary as special guest.

Muintir continues its work. There is an annual Senior Citizens outing, concerts to raise funds for themselves and concerts for charities; a social in The Woodlands in the fall of the year and card drives when the demand is there. The hall is available to all parish-related organisations for meetings and such like. It is warm and comfortable, painted and clean with a sizeable car park. Muintir should be proud.

#### KILFINNY I.C.A. GROUP 1978



*Back row (l to r): Noreen Madigan, Mrs. B. Keogh, Nora Fitzgerald, June Hannan, Mrs. T. Ruddle, Mrs. L. Hickey, Mgt. Moloney, R.I.P., Joan Piggott, Joan Burke, Nora Houlihan, Betty Fitzgerald, 2nd. row: Mary McCarthy, Liz Ann Sheehy, Mary Ellen Boyce, Kitty Wall, R.I.P., Mrs. Crosby, Breda O'Sullivan, Mary O'Keeffe, Maureen Pierce. Front row: Ann O'Gorman, Mgt. Scully.*



# KILFINNY CO-OP.

(Kilfinny Co-Operative Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd.)

## *BEFORE THE CO-OP.....*

The milk would be collected by the Cleeve Company, Limerick, in a Clydesdale drawn long cart. The measuring device was a finger dipped into the can. Enough milk would be retained by the farmer to supply his family, calves and pigs. Butter was made on the farm, and the excess was packed in a firkin and taken to the market in Cork each week.

In 1902, the creamery was unkindly, but perhaps not unfairly described as a sheet of galvanize tied to a bush. A tremendous and admirable co-operative spirit built up a thriving business and complex of buildings over the years, and until it finally closed its doors in the early eighties was a hive of activity and the hub of social interaction.

The full minutes of the first meeting are included here, the remainder are summarised. Minutes unfortunately rarely give more than the bones as they are never written with an eye for posterity. It should also be remembered that the wells were sunk without any machinery; spades and shovels, picks and sledges, hammers and chisels being the implements used.

James Hickey was the first President and also acted as Chairman.

In July 1902 the Co-op received 10664 gallons of milk, which produced 37 hundred weight of butter worth £168.18.10. The Co-op paid the supplier threepence three-farthings per gallon for that month.



*At Kilfinny Co-Operative Society Ltd., Diamond Jubilee Celebrations May 17th., 1961.*



First Ordinary Meeting. On January 25th 1902.

A special members meeting was held in Kilfinny.

Present were:- James Hickey, Timothy O'Dea, John Burke, Patrick Carmody, James J. Hickey, Michael Kelly, Secretary. Mr. James Hickey was moved to the chair.

The list of shareholders being read by the secretary and the number of shares taken by each member being considered satisfactory, it was proposed by Timothy O'Dea, seconded by James Hickey and adopted that the following applicants be admitted to membership of the Kilfinny C.A. & D.S. Ltd. and that they be allotted the appropriate number of shares.

Shareholders: James Hickey, Mrs. O'Gorman, Mary Kelly, Bridget Carmody, Jer Moloney, Daniel Kennedy, Patrick Burke, Thomas Aherne, Mark Lynch, James Fitzgerald, Michael Fitzgerald, Michael Scanlon, William Foley, Denis Hickey, James J. Hickey, Michael Fitzgerald, Ballyfolin, John Long, Patrick Hanrahan, John Burke, Bridget Carmody, Mary O'Donoghue, Daniel Byrne, Margaret Morrissey, Michael Quaid, Timothy O'Dea, Hanora Barry, Bridget Hickey, John O'Neill, Johanna Hickey, William Cavanagh, Michael Hannon, Thomas Kilbridge, John Mulqueen, Mary Ruddle, Pat Cussen, John Scully, William Hannon, Pat Noonan, James Liston, thirty nine shareholders in all.

The secretary announced the amount of cash collected on the first call was £67.15s which represents 271 shares. The amount of expenditure to date is twenty eight shillings being eighteen shillings for lime and 10/- for advertising and postage stamps.

Immediately after the first meeting a General meeting of all the members was held. Mr. James Fant attended on behalf of the I.A.O.S. It was proposed by Mr. James Hickey and seconded by Mr. John Burke that Mr. Fant take the chair. The report of the special members was read and the next business was to elect a President. It was proposed by Mr. O'Dea and seconded by Mr. Kelly that Mr. James Hickey be elected President of the Kilfinny C.A. & D.S. Mr. Hickey now took the chair and the election of Vice-President was considered. Mr. Carmody proposed and Mr. Denis Hickey seconded that James Fitzgerald be elected Vice-President. This was carried unanimously. It was then proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. Burke and agreed that twelve members including the President, Vice-President and Treasurers form the committee. The next business was to decide whether the voting was to be by ballot or by open voting. On a division it was decided to vote openly. The following members were elected to the committee - Michael Fitzgerald, Michael Kelly, John Long, James J. Hickey, John Burke, Pat Carmody, Michael Fitzgerald, Ballyfolin, Mark Lynch, Jer Moloney, Daniel Kennedy.

It was agreed that Daniel Kennedy and Jer Moloney should act as Treasurers.

A meeting of the committee was held immediately afterwards to discuss business relating to the erection of creamery. The site for the creamery was the next matter considered and the President announced that he had received the sanction of both the landlord, Mr. Pigott, and his agent Mr. Reeves, for the site, and furthermore that each had contributed £10 and £5 respectively towards the funds. The committee unanimously desired



that Mr. Hickey convey the best thanks of the Society to both for their generous gifts. Tenders were received from the following contractors - Michael O'Grady, James Costelloe, Pat Clancy, John McEniry, and John Kelly.

After due consideration the contract for masonry was given to James Costelloe at four shillings per Irish perch. It was directed that the secretary call on Mr. Moloney, Solicitor to prepare bonds for the contractor to enter into. It was then considered if the creamery would be covered with slate or galvanized iron, and it was finally decided to adopt the galvanized roof and have it painted occasionally. The plastering and cementing contracts were deferred. It was decided to give carpentry work to John Kelly provided he put on the roof at his original quotation or at a further amount not exceeding fifteen shillings. It was the desire of the meeting that he enter into a bond to carry out the work according to the terms of his tender. The Bankers were the next item on the Agenda. The Munster & Leinster Bank, Rathkeale were appointed the Co-op's Bankers, where the money already collected was lodged. This concluded the business of the meeting.

### **SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF KILFINNY CO-OP 1902-1916**

Timothy O'Dea was elected engine driver, at twelve shillings per week, to be reduced to half pay from December to March.

There were fifty applicants for the post of Manager. Mr. Thomas Hogan was appointed at £52 per annum. Mr. Peter McCarthy of Donoman contracted to sink a well, at ten shillings a foot for gravel and thirty shillings a foot for rock. A well was necessary, as suppliers had to take turns to draw water to the Co-op. Net Profit for 1902 was £9.4s.11d. 1903 saw the Manager getting a raise of five shillings per week.

There was a conference in Limerick to discuss the terms being offered by Black Abbey Co-op to Clarina and Kilfinny for the churning of their cream. The terms were unacceptable and it was decided to send their cream to Cork Co-op federation for the year. Net Profit £25.6.9.

1905 A special meeting to elect a carter to take cream to Black Abbey and bring back buttermilk. Denis Hickey was elected at two shillings and fourpence per day. He entered into a bond for the due performance of the work, and gave security of £10. As milk was being received which was not properly strained, it was agreed to supply the suppliers with strainers and to deduct price of same from their accounts, and to refuse unclean milk. His Majesty's Inspector of Creameries inspected and found hygiene to be wanting.

Mr. Barufathier's bill for pipe driving in well was considered exorbitant at £7.5s.5d. He was to be asked to reduce it by at least £1.5s. Net profit for 1905 was sixteen shillings and eight pence ha'penny. All present at the shareholders' meeting congratulated themselves on this success and expressed the view that they have every reason to compliment themselves on the general management of the Society. The engine driver threatened to resign.



1906. The Dairy Supply Co. demanded payment for machinery supplied. The committee considered that £15 on account could be sufficient. Another demand for the balance was received and the manager was directed to write and ask for it to be deferred until the following year.

Legal proceedings were considered against a customer who failed to pay for grass manure, but it was deferred owing to a family bereavement. However, he paid £1 on account on May 18th 1906. Patrick Power was requisitioned as helper in the dairy from May to October at five shillings per week.

His Majesty's inspector directed that sanitary accommodation should be provided within six weeks. It was agreed to erect a closet immediately. The water supply being still insufficient, they decided on a new pump. Daniel O'Sullivan got the contract at fifteen shillings a foot for clay and gravel, and £2 a foot for rock.

Suppliers got fivepence a gallon for the month of October Net Profit for 1906 £143.13s.0d.

1907. Denis Hickey, carter asked for a raise from two shillings and fourpence to three shillings a day, or else he would resign. He was awarded two and sevenpence ha'penny.

The Manager was granted his request that he should get twenty five shillings per week for the whole year.

Patrick Power, helper, received a raise of three shillings. Michael Fitzgerald supplied and carted the stones for lining the pump, at one shilling and threepence a foot.

Net Profit £138.10s.3d (1907)

Net Profit £125.3s.3d (1908)

1909. The engine driver resigned and was replaced by Michael Keane at sixteen shillings per week. The carter resigned when his salary was raised to two shillings and ninepence a day. James J. Hickey replaced him, and with no hard feelings agreed to have thirty shillings deducted from his pay to compensate the Co-op for spilling a barrell of oil on his way from the Railway.

Net Profit £42-15s-10d.

1910. James J. Hickey resigned as carter and P. Noonan replaced him at two and six per day.

Terms of contract: P. Noonan to enter into a bond of £10 for the safe delivery of the cream to Black Abbey, all of which must be delivered in one lot, and at the proper time, and butter and buttermilk to be brought back. Grievances arose regarding trading with Black Abbey. A letter was received from Mr. P. Hayes demanding payment of four shillings and twopence income tax. The engine driver got a one shilling rise. Mr. Liston, Solicitor, Rathkeale sent his bill for £4-9s-3d for defending the Co-op against Cork Creameries Federation. Two members were deputed to attend Black Abbey to oversee their trading. It was decided to send all milk for analysis.

Net Profit £18-8s-7d. (1910)

1911. The Manager asked the Sergeant of Ballingarry R.I.C. to call occasionally for the purpose of taking samples. He was also directed to



refuse milk from suppliers who did not send their milk every working day.

The analyst reported that one supplier's milk had 60% water added to it.

The carters contract went to John Purcell at two and elevenpence ha'penny a day.

A contract was given to the Artesian Well Co., Belville, Kilmeedy. Maurice Noonan resigned as assistant and James Treacy replaced him at ten shillings per week, reducing to one shilling a day in wintertime.

On May 10th a lot of new rules were laid down:

1. The Manager shall personally measure and take a sample of each suppliers milk every day, and test same at least fortnightly.

2. That the committee or any two members of it are specially authorised to visit the creamery and take a sample of any suppliers milk for analysis.

3. That the Manager shall show the true average test of all milk supplied in the monthly estimate sheets.

4. That the Manager shall accept no tainted, sour or unclean milk, and he is hereby empowered to reject same.

5. That the Manager shall see the cream churned at the Central at least three times per month.

6. That the estimates of each month's working shall be regularly submitted to the committee in the form approved by the I.A.D.S.

7. That no blank cheque should be signed and that the following only besides the manager are authorised to sign filled cheques - J. Hickey, Stephen Donoghue and James Fitzgerald. That the manager take a drip sample of whole milk and separated milk and test same for its percentage of butterfat. He shall also weigh and test each days cream before dispatch to Central and advise Manager of Central of the weight of the cream, from whom he shall obtain an acknowledgement of same and a return of the claim and produce both duly signed and under sealed cover. All cream to be dispatched to the Central in either locked or sealed cans. The manager resigned. It was proposed to advertise for a new manager and agreed that when appointed, he should be allowed 2½% on all agricultural trade done by the Society.

Mr. J. Fox was appointed manager.

Net Profit £61.6s.0d.

1912. Dissatisfied with their dealings with Black Abbey, regarding the churning and marketing of the cream, they entered into contract with Rathkeale Co-op. Mr. Fant was asked to draw up specifications for a cream vat and coil which Kilfinny were to erect in Rathkeale for the ripening of the cream.

Pat Cuthbert got the contract as carter at three and six a trip, this time the cart to be supplied by the Co-op, and left at the creamery when not in use and Mr. Carroll of Croom and Mr. Switzer of Ballingarry to be approached regarding tendering for the supply of same.



A vat coil was authorised at the cost of £38. A fitter was to be taken on to move the milk heater and skim milk cooler from their current positions to make room for new pump. The engine driver got a shilling a week raise and the manager got a raise of £8 per year, bringing his salary to £78. James Treacy also got a shilling a week. P. Noonan was allowed two and six per ton for storing and carting coal from the Railway Station in Croom.

The Co-op considered the possibility of installing their own churning plant and agreed at a special shareholder's meeting to issue further shares to raise the capital for same.

Net Profit £93.4s.10d. (1912)

1913. There were two tenders for the extension. Michael Fitzgerald Junior, being the lowest at £265 was selected. A new weighing machine was installed. Mr. Irwin was selected as architect for the extension.

A churning machine, a cream vat and a self-balancing cream separator were installed.

Suppliers got sixpence a gallon for January milk. James Lillis was appointed carter along with P. Cuthbert. An application for a raise from Mr. J. Fox, the manager, was deferred. He was instructed to dispose of the cart to the Cleeve Co. should he get a reasonable price. Gravel for the yard cost two shillings per load.

A dispute with Rathkeale arose over the vat and coil and money due from that Co-op. Rathkeale refused to co-operate and Mr. Gaffney, Solicitor, Limerick was appointed to handle the matter.

Mr. Irwin was contacted to make his final inspection of the extension, and if found satisfactory, the contractor to be paid in full.

A shed was to be erected over the skim milk platform and the erection of same to be given to John Kelly or Mr. Cagney, whichever of them would be first to take the measurements.

The separator had to be rebalanced.

The Manager's salary was to be raised to £90 p.a.

The award of the arbitrators in the dispute with Rathkeale was agreed to and sanctioned.

Net Profit 1913 unknown.

1914. Miss O'Sullivan, dairymaid resigned and they advertised in the Munster News for a buttermaker.

The manager complained that the staff did not submit to his rulings and he was given complete control over them, contrary to rule No. 511. At the following meeting a long discussion took place regarding insubordination of staff. Control was taken from the manager, all complaints were to be brought up at monthly meetings. The manager was asked to leave while the applicants for buttermaker were considered. He requested a short holiday and was granted same.

Excessive use of oil had the engine driver in hot water. He resigned but reapplied and was reinstated. The manager was given control over the staff once more. There was a complaint about wastage of cream. Buttermilk was given out three times a week to all suppliers.



The manager, Mr. Fox, resigned, arranging for a substitute. The Insurance Policy was extended to cover buildings and stock of cream and butter. Suppliers got sevenpence a gallon for milk in January.

The engine driver's services were dispensed with when he applied for a raise.

Michael O'Connell was hired as a workman, with another one to be taken on shortly. It was agreed to install a refrigeration plant. Mr. J. Hickey resigned at the A.G.M. and was unanimously re-elected. The consumption of coal was considered very high. Miss O'Reardon was asked to start at the same time as the engine driver, so as to lessen the hours during which coal was used. It was decided to raise the side walls of the stove six feet from floor level.

In September, suppliers got sevenpence a gallon for milk. The committee considered an assault on a member of staff while about his duty, and a complaint from a milk supplier that he was not getting the correct weight for his milk.

No action was taken regarding the assault. A third party agreed to oversee the weighing. The butter market collapsed and it was agreed to leave the sale of butter in the manager's hands to get what price he could.

P. Noonan, carter, came before a meeting and refused to take a few boxes of butter along with two or three cans of milk. He was refusing to take them together.

Miss O'Reardon resigned. Three thousand butter boxes were ordered from the Creamery Supply Co.

The manager, Mr. R.J. Cahill at £115 p.a. was allowed a holiday on December 27th.

1914 Net Profit not explicit but loss was made up.

1916. Suppliers were paid eightpence ha'penny for September milk. Miss O'Shea took over as dairymaid. Suppliers were once again warned regarding not sending their milk every working day. A long discussion followed regarding manure. The manager lost the key of the safe and applied to the president for the duplicate who refused to give it without the sanction of the committee. However, they sanctioned it and the key was handed over.

Miss O'Reardon got a £3 golden handshake for faithful service. They insured the premises and stock for £3,000. It was agreed to pasteurise all milk sent in cans where cloths were used and where milk was not properly strained. Michael O'Connell's wages rose to £1 and Ned Noonan's to seventeen and six.

P. Noonan, carter, received ten shillings per week and two shillings per trip from December to March, except for milk, which would be three shillings.

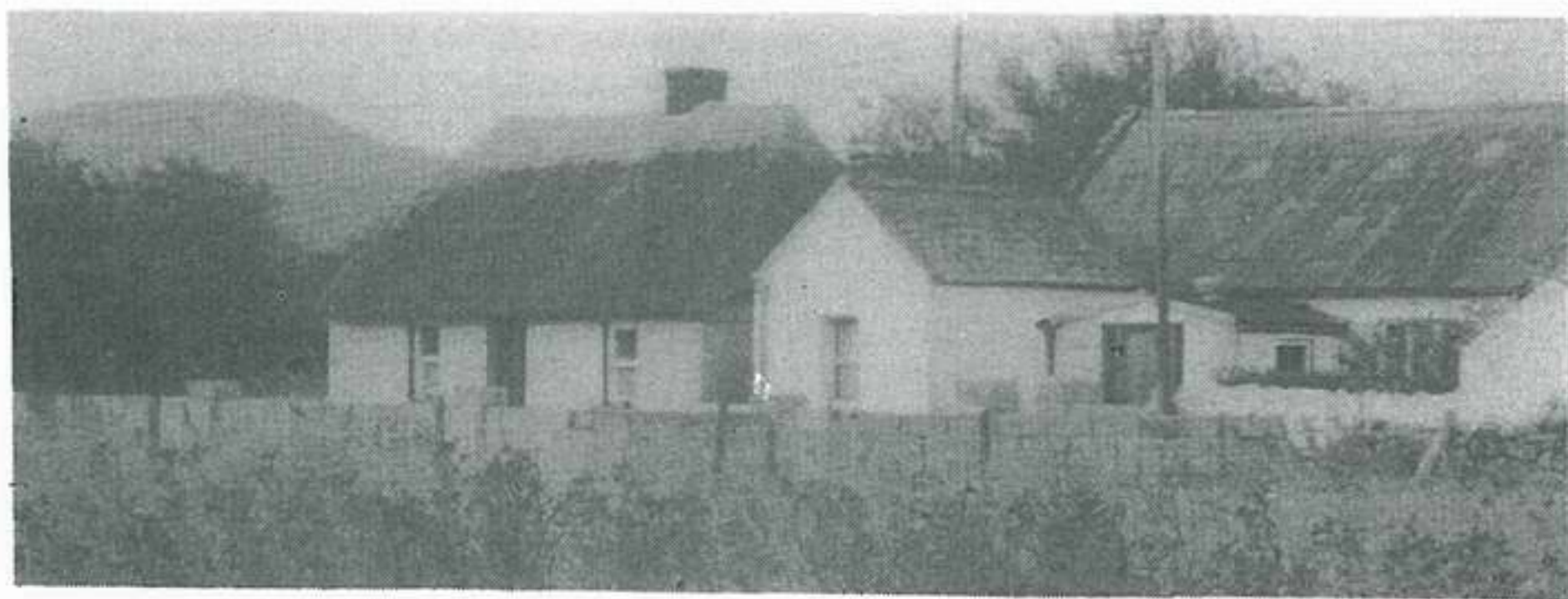
A new separator was agreed on at £112. The manager's salary was raised to £135 p.a. to be raised to £140 in January 1917.



*KILFINNY SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 1984  
(Won the West Limerick Primary league)*



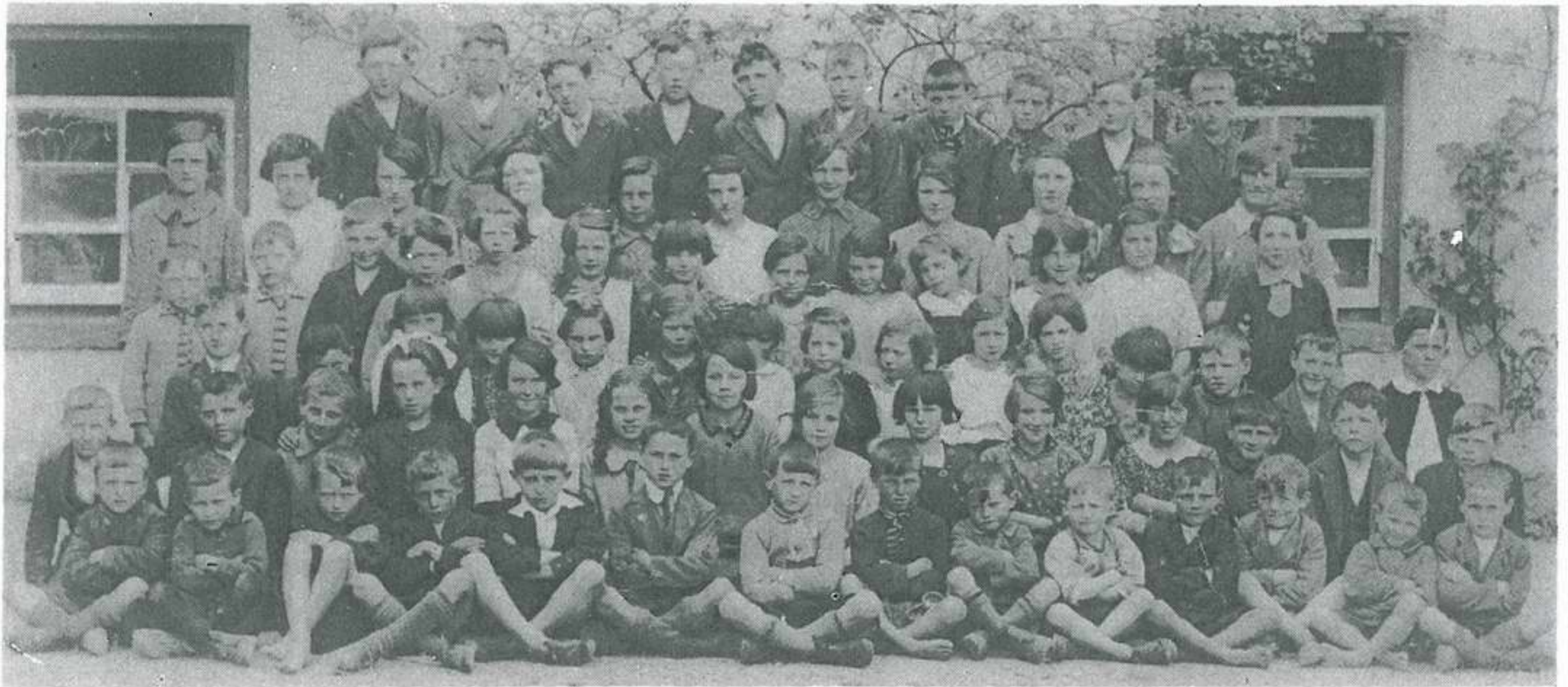
*Back Row : left to right - P. Hickey, D. Piggott, G. Noonan, S. Hepburn,  
A. Burke, N. Hannon, P. O'Connell, T. Lane.  
Middle Row : J. Cussen, T. O'Connor, S. Lane, T. McCarthy, N. Quille, P. O'Connor,  
S. Culhane, D. Hickey.  
Front : P. Noonan & S. Quille.*



*Kilfinny Village 1990*



# KILFINNY NATIONAL SCHOOL 1930



Back row (l to r): T. Canty, Joe Kelly, T. Hickey, P. Fitz., J. Carmody, M. Walsh, Ned Dwyer, M. Hannon, P. Canty, P. Carmody  
 Second row (l to r): B. Carmody, M. Dwyer, A. Kelly, M. Carmody, Mary E' Fitz., K. Carmody, M. Cussen, N. Walsh, B. Carmody, M. Hickey, B. Carmody.  
 Third row (l to r): J. Quaid, M. Quaid, J. Donohue, J. Guiry, N. Kennedy, P. Fitz., L. Hannon, M. Donovan, M. Burke, K. Liston, M. Hannon, E. Dwyer, E. Fitz.  
 Fourth row - (l to r): M.J. Fitz., F. O'Dea (partly hidden), P. Liston, N. Houlihan, A. Byrnes, P. Kennedy.....N. McCann, N. Kennedy, N. Guiry, N. Hartigan, B. Hartigan, Jim Liston, J. Walsh, J. Tierney  
 Fifth row - (l to r): J. Donovan, W. Hannan, J. Donovan, B. Tierney, P. Donovan, E. Guiry, M.K. Moloney, M.E. Liston, B. Byrnes, P. Hannon, N. Donohue, L. Shea, J. Moloney, B. Kennedy.  
 Front row - (l to r): M. Carmody, J. Donovan, J. Fitz., T. Ruddle, J. McCann, P. Fitz., J. Dwyer, J. Hannon, P. Burke, E. Neville, M. Hannon, F. Guiry, J. Shea, N. Fitz.



# THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

There is mention of a schoolhouse and yard in the Survey and Valuation of 1824, occupied by Rev. Richard Maunsell. Samuel Lewis also wrote of a private school in 1837. However, official documents relating to it are missing for over a century.

It is believed that the present building, now the Community Centre, was built in 1864. Sand and gravel were drawn from Hannan's, Gortfada. It had two small porches, one at each entrance. There were two small rooms. In each there was a table and chair, a desk for chalks, plasticine, knitting needles and yarn, sewing needles and thread, scraps of cloth in sewing bags. There were long forms and battered desks with stained inkwells and the deeply etched initials of former pupils. There were large maps of Ireland, Europe and the Holy Land. A tall press housed copies, books, pens, pencils and nibs. There was ink powder. The ink was made in a jug. The correct amount of black powder was thoroughly mixed with water and poured carefully into inkwells.

There were headline copies, copies for dictation, transcription, English and Irish composition and sums. Minor blots could be removed by rubbing with a piece of bread. There was a pointer, a long slim polished cane, used to point out places on the map. It was used unsparingly on the children, when the double ruler would not suffice.

The rear windowpanes were painted white to ensure concentration. A bucket of water and a tin cup and a wash stand were kept in the senior room. At lunch time, pupils who lived near the school would go home. The ones who lived further away went to various houses in the village, according to arrangements made by their parents. If there was a halfpenny or a penny to be spent, the Post Office was the place to go. Many children had to walk several miles to school, some across hedges, ditches, streams and bog. They were taught intensively at school, and their homework consisting of a lot of everything to be learned off by heart. Meanings, tables, and sums, lay ahead of them for the night, to be poured over by lamplight or candlelight. Torn books were mended using a strong paste made of flour and water, spread on to a strip of paper, the strip then being used like sellotape.

The inspector was a nameless man of whom the principal was as much in fear as the pupils. The Diocesan Examiner was equally feared except that his visit was pre-arranged. To the children they meant much the same thing. Their departures were followed by the inevitable stinging slaps for missing a question. The questions in the catechism varied in degree of difficulty. For Confirmation, children had to be word perfect. The seven sacraments, the nine choirs of Angels, the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost and the seven deadly sins were delivered sing song fashion.



Reserved sins were clearly defined, what is forbidden and what is commanded by each commandment was taught by repetition and punishment. The parables of the Prodigal Son, the Mustard seed and the Pharisee and the Publican were recited and digested. The average age for receiving Confirmation was twelve years, after which the student didn't work so hard at his religious education.

Playing in the yard. The girls played catching, tig, donkey, thread-the-needle-dan, skipping or corners. Boys would play catching, racing, fighting, climb the trees or kick a ball. In summer all would make a run to Culhanes pump during lunch time to slake their thirst.

Sometimes a tramp, known as Johnny Doo would stop and converse across the wall with the children. The insistent clanging of the bell brought them reluctantly back in the rooms for the afternoon. They were taught through the medium of Irish.

There is the often recalled occasion in the fifties when the students went en masse to see a bulldozer a few fields away, and failed to return to the school that day. It is still remembered as a glorious day of rebellion and freedom. Early in the fifties, the Primary Certificate Examination ceased to be held in Kilfinny. Candidates had to go to Croagh school to sit the examination, for which they were well prepared. There were three papers, Irish, English and Mathematics. The schoolhouse was used for Irish Nights. Gearod Hayes from Croom came once a week to teach ceili dancing to young adults. The school also housed a lending library. During fund raising periods, many socials and card drives were held there. It is the home of Muintir na Tire since 1950. On election day it was the polling station.

Children were immunized against T.B. Health Education films were shown. Returning missionaries brought chopsticks and wood carvings to exhibit. Pupils collected for the black babies. They delivered the "Far East" and the "African Mission". In Summer they went to school barefoot and in Winter they wore nail boots.

The teachers were Mrs. Catherine Kelly and Miss Mary Monaghan. Before them there was a man, and a Miss Flanagan. Mrs. Kelly played the organ in the church for many years. She was the principal and lived where Sheehys now live. Totally unsuitable and unsanitary, it closed its doors to children in 1964 and Muintir held many functions in it over the following years to raise funds for renovating it. The dividing wall was removed. Toilets and a cloakroom and kitchen facilities were provided. A stage was erected. It was plastered and painted. It was rewired and heaters were installed. Tables and chairs were purchased. The yard was turned into a car park. It is used regularly by all parish organisations as a meeting place.

At the side of the stage there is a large framed photograph of John Canon Hayes, founder of Muintir na Tire.





KILFINNY N.S. CIRCA 1954



# KILFINNY NATIONAL SCHOOL 1963



*Front row - (l to r): Timmy Hannon, John Lenihan, Kieran Ruddell, James Lenihan, Liam Clifford, T. Kelly, M. Clifford, Gerry Donovan, Martin Walsh, David Clifford, Michael Enright, Dessie Moloney, Willie Costello, Gerard Mulqueen, Denis Fitzgerald, John Murphy, Patrick Fitzgerald, Vincent Houlihan, Francis Fitzgerald, James Houlihan.*  
*Second row - (l to r): Mary Hannon, Teresa Hickey, Maura Burke, Mary Murphy, Brid Fitzgerald, Ann O'Donoghue, Mary Lenihan, Betty Lenihan, Catherine Enright, Maura Ruddell, Nora O'Donoghue, Bernie Enright, Peg Begley, Peggy Fitzgerald, Margaret Neville, Esther Donovan, Anne Kelly.*  
*Third row - (l to r): Lena Mulqueen, Margaret Costello, Margaret Hickey, Marie Kelly, Rosarie Houlihan, Kathleen Clifford, Breda Dineen, Mary Neville, Maureen Power, Mary Clifford, Margaret Fitzgerald, Phil Enright, Kay Kelly, Brenda Moloney, Mary Fitzgerald.*  
*Front row - (l to r): Thomas Mulqueen, Sean Donovan, Brendan Culhane, Jim Fitzgerald, Marian Costello, Ann Enright, Mary Houlihan, Carmel Houlihan, Eileen Houlihan, Kathleen Lenihan, Nora Neville, Connie Houlihan, Marion Fitzgerald, Marion Enright, Margaret Clifford, Brid Begley, Teresa Donovan, John O'Donoghue, John Moloney, Frank Storan, Stephen Houlihan.*  
*Back row: (l to r): Michael Lynch, Peadar Boyce, Michael Fitzgerald, Paddy Ruddell, Michael Neville, Patrick Lenihan, Denis Kelly, Patrick Clifford.*



*Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class - Kilfinny N.S. 1971*



*Front Row - (l to r): Mary Boyce, Richard Boyce, Tony O'Donoghue, Linda McCarthy, Candy Hepburn, Teresa Fitzgerald, Helen Lenihan, Mgt. Fitzgibbon, Noreen Murphy, Dolores Sheehy,  
2nd Row - (l to r): Eddie Houlihan, Geraldine Keogh, Helen Barrow, Aiden Moloney, Ian Hickey, Laura O'Donoghue, Conor O'Donoghue, Mary Keogh, Seamus Broderick, Michael Piggott, Donal Piggott, Anne-Marie O'Gorman, Rose Kett.  
3rd Row - (l to r): Jean Murphy, Donagh Barrow, Aidan Moloney, Pat O'Gorman, Martha Lenihan, Kathleen Keogh, Ann Shanahan, Sean Neville, Donal Crowley*



KILFINNY NATIONAL SCHOOL - 1981



1st Row - (l to r): Ted McCarthy, Pat Lane, Morgan Pierce, Tomás O'Connor, Shane Quille Valerie Hickey, Eileen Sheehy, Noel Sheehy, Kieran Dillane, P.J. Lane, Tomás Neville, Dermot Piggott.  
 2nd Row - (l to r): Eilís Burke, Darina Hannan, Shirley Pierce, Kathy O'Gorman, Deidre Barrow, Paudie O'Connor, Hazel Crosby, Marie Shanahan, Barry Shanahan, Aiden Boyce, Seán Lane, Derek Dillane.  
 3rd Row - (l to r): Barry Culhane, Paul Hickey, Gerard Noonan, Helen Neville, Dan Scully, Shaun Leslie Hepburn, Oonagh O'Connor, Niall Quille Elaine Hickey, Paul Noonan, Christopher Lane, Derek Hickey.  
 4th Row - (l to r): Paula McCarthy, Nollaig Hannan, Aidan Burke, Maeve McCarthy, Ursula O'Gorman, Tim Pierce, Maria Burke, Siobhán Lenihan, Collette Piggott, Tina Cussen, Paddy Hannon, Tomás Neville, Paul O'Connell.  
 5th Row - (l to r): Dan O'Connell, Danny Madigan, Eileen Boyce, Aideen Barrow, John Crosby, Tom O'Gorman, Jerry McCarthy, Enda Sheehy, Bryan Hickey.  
 6th Row - (l to r): Justine Hannan, Kathleen Ruddie, Paula Quille, Sinéad Burke, Michael Burke, Pat Keogh.



# KILFINNY NATIONAL SCHOOL - 1987



*Back Row - (l to r): Aidan Neville, Shane O'Neill, Marion Neville, Barbara Shanahan, Valerie Hickey, Eileen and Noel Sheehy, Michael Madigan, Dan Scully, Dermot Hayes, P.J. Lane.*  
*4th Row - (l to r): Paudie O'Connor, Tomás Neville, Dermot Piggot, Tomás O'Connor, James Cussen, Darina Hannan, Eilis Burke, Helen Neville, Charlotte Neville.*  
*3rd Row - (l to r): Martin Lane, Colm Hannon, Kenneth Boyce, Nicola Kinane, Caren Dore, Meave Neville, Michael Neville, Sharon O'Kelly, Sandra Fitzgerald, Noel Noonan, Declan Hogan.*  
*2nd Row - (l to r): Mary Quille, Jacqueline O'Connell, Tomás Neville, Colin Hickey, Sinéad O'Connell, Sarah O'Neill, Audrey Cussen, Emma Fitzgerald, Ann McEnery, Maria Neville, Helen Shanahan, Sarah Madigan,*  
*1st Row - (l to r): Michael Hannon, Linda Hickey, Emma Hanley, Mary Lane, Ciara Hanley, Shane Enright, Daren Clifford, Ruth Houlihan, Eileen and Mary Ruddell, Lorna O'Neill, Edward Cussen, Philip Shanahan, Paul Neville.*  
*Front Row - (l to r): Bobby Houlihan, Ann-Marie Shire, Denis Costello, Sharon McInerney, James Enright, Michele McInerney.*



# CONVERSATION PIECES

Senior citizens have recalled memories of long ago in Kilfinny. The village in and around the nineteen hundreds was flourishing and boasted of three carpenters, namely Johnny Kelly who lived near the old quarry and Johnny and Mick McEniry in the village. All were kept busy making carts for farmers for their horses and donkeys. Where Jer Enright lives now was Conway's forge. Conway was the blacksmith. The iron bands for the farm carts were made here, also iron gates, some of which can still be seen in the locality, in perfect condition, for example on the Ballinakill Road at Ballinakill House and Sheedys. Michael Tierney, Fanny Byrnes' grandfather was a tailor and his wife was a seamstress. They made clothes for people from all around the Kilfinny area. People called to them and they also went to houses to fulfil orders. The village also housed a shoemaker, one Jim Hickey. When he left the area Mary Ann Noonan got his house and did dress-making there. Further down the road another tailor lived, a Mr. Conkey who later moved to Rathkeale.

The teachers in those times were Miss Flanagan, Miss Meehan who married Michael Kelly, Miss O'Neill and Mary Monaghan. Mr. Noonan taught in the boys room and when he retired he was replaced by a lady teacher. Reginald Long recalls that when she called the roll all would answer "Present Sir". Where Hannie Hannon lives now, we had a shop, next door to the post office. Mrs. McEniry was the postmistress and Bill Noonan was the local postman.

Johnny Twomey from Adare would bring the post to Kilfinny on his bike and would wait until 4.00 p.m. to take more mail to Adare. The village pump was in Culhanes yard and had a plentiful supply of water. In fine summers it would go dry and the long trek was made to Tobar Na Lick in the bog for water. Many happy hours were spent sitting on the flagstones or paddling in the stream or catching bricins before returning with the much needed water. Nineteen thirty is remembered as a very dry year and they had to go to the well in Gurtfadda for the water.

St. John's Feast Day was celebrated on the 24th June with bonfires on Kelly's Hill and there would be music and singing around the fires. Great crowds would come to the graveyard and holy well in Ballinakill on Pattern Day, to pay rounds. It used to be a church holiday and a day off school. Everybody looked forward to this day which ended with a dance at the platform at Collins' farm gate. Katie O'Neill would play the concertina and Darby Hickey played the fiddle. Mostly half-sets would be danced. Though Pattern day has long ceased to be a holy day the practice of visiting the graveyard and the holy well continues.

They remember the gambles as they were called, card games in houses during winter nights. Nearly every house held one. You paid your shilling and would play for a goose or a pair of chickens. In one room the cards were played and in another room, space was cleared for dancing.

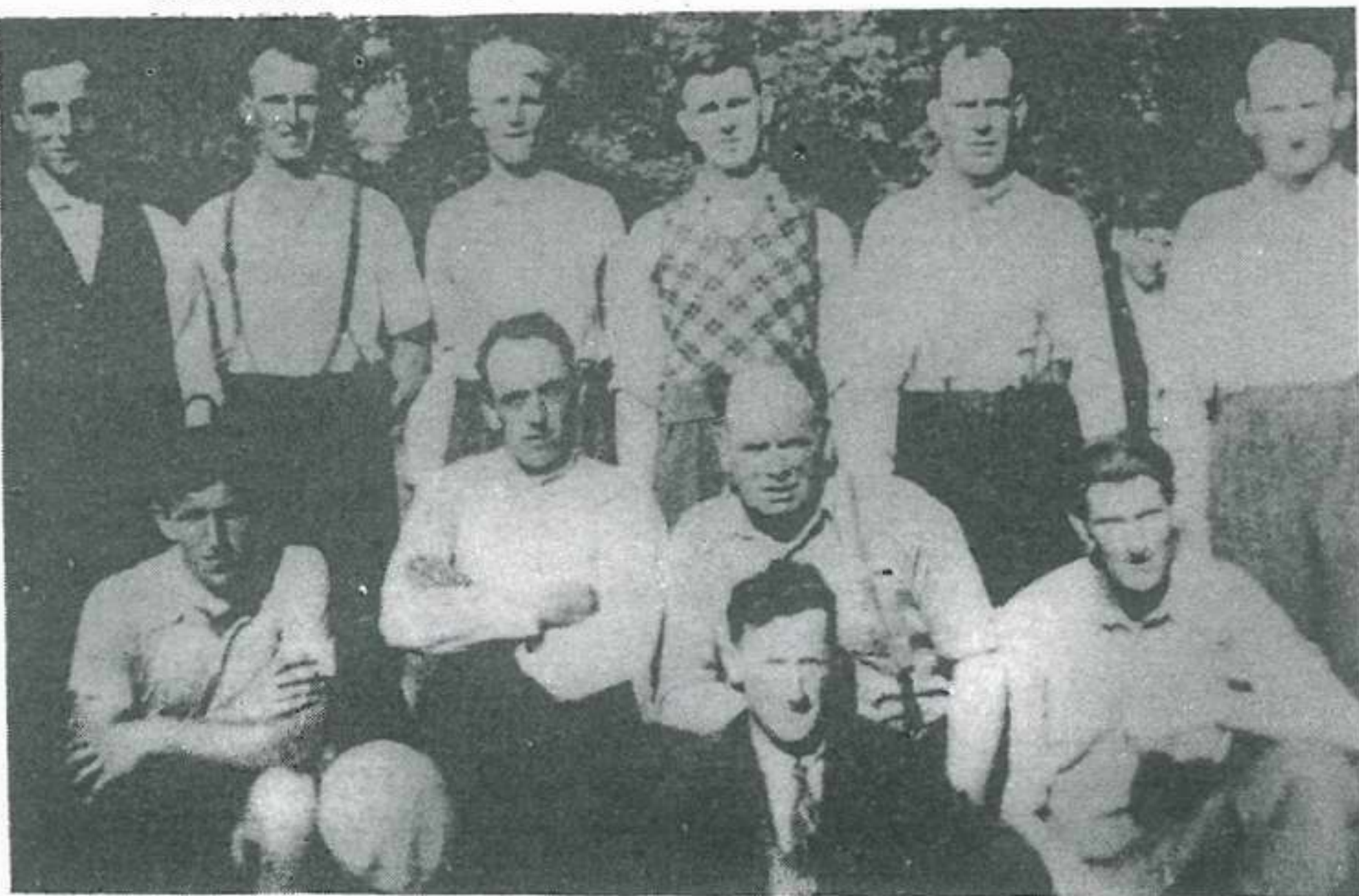


Whoever was knocked out of the card game came in and danced the night away. And nobody went home hungry, plenty of tea, loaf bread and red jam from a two pound pot. These nights would usually go on until the early hours, and everyone would walk home together. Mickie Hannon and Ned Hickey played for the dancing. Ballinakill Stud owned then by Captain Steadman produced a winner of the Grand National, Workman, a small black ten year old at the time. Later, Anzio owned by Sir Thomas Ainsworth won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and only a few years ago, Captain Christy, owned by the Samuel family, won the Gold Cup again.

St. Stephen's night and New Year's night saw all local people at Neville's pub. Local wren boys played music. When midnight approached on New Year's Eve, everybody paraded behind the musicians up through the village as far as McCann's Cross, and on the stroke of midnight, Martin O'Neill would fire three shots from his double barrell to herald the coming of the New Year.

We boasted a great tug-o-war and cross country teams, they used to take part in Carnivals nearby. In those days, Dan Kelly was a staunch supporter and was always on the side line urging them on. Eighteen sixty eight was the year that Fr. Meehan of Kilfinny presented the ciborium which is still used in our church for the consecrated hosts. We also had a small silver chalice, donated by a Fr. Fitzgerald which was used until Fr. O'Donnell's time. We had a big brass gong before we got the bell. This was given to the foreign missions. It is strange to think of that gong calling people to Mass in deepest deepest Africa.

'Conversation Pieces' was previously published in The Kilfinny News.



*Top Row - (l to r): Monty Mix; Jimmy Houlihan; Jack Lenihan; David Hannon; Jim Giltenane; Tim Kelly.*

*Bottom Row - (l to r): David Fitzgerald; Bill Cliff; Pat Giltenane; Ned Lynch; Danny Griffin*

*THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TUG O'WAR TEAM 1943 ( the Coach)*



## THE DAY OF THE BULLDOZER

About thirty five years ago, on a Wednesday during the long hot weather before our Summer Holidays was the very first time that I and all my schoolmates laid eyes on a bulldozer. Therein lies a tale worth telling and I will neither add not subtract from it.

There we were, sweltering with the heat in the tiny classrooms and dying of thirst. So when we were allowed out for our half-hour lunch break, all pupils headed for Culhane's pump to wash the chalkdust from our throats. I don't remember who said it first, second or last, I only recall that it was said that there was a bulldozer in Ballinakill at the back field in Culhane's farm. There was no plan thought or decision; there was just a mass reaction and we leapt over walls and ditches and raced through the fields like mad with nothing on our minds but the bulldozer. We watched entranced at the workings of that wondrous monster of a machine which had the words "Sheehy Brothers" painted on the side of it. We watched and watched and the fascination grew less. Some children turned and went back to school in a hurry so that they would be there when the bell rang. Again, no plan or decision was made and the rest of us headed away further from the school towards Ballinakill and Kelly's Hill. We were reduced in numbers to about fifty at that stage ranging in age from seven to fourteen years; boys and girls leaping and jumping and running, with the big lads helping the young ones over hedges and ditches and thorny wire. When we stopped running we just played. We played catching, wrestling, racing, tig and hiding. We climbed trees and jumped rocks and threw stones into bushes. Once we rose a hare and we gave chase and we lost it. We had great sport in those few hours which I think were the best of my whole youth. The freedom of the hill was ours.

We made our way to Noonan's farm and there from the high ground we saw Miss Monaghan's car near the graveyard and we knew she was looking for us. Suddenly, reality hit us. We were going to be killed. The good feeling died in us and was replaced by dread of what lay in store. We were afraid to go back to the school and we were afraid not to go back to the school. We watched from the hill with envy as the goody goodies who had not broken the law went home. Much later we saw the teachers' cars, the Anglia and the Prefect leave the village. Only then did we split up and go home. Some got a hiding when they reached their own doors as the news of our crime had got to our homes before we did. That was the least of our troubles. What bothered us was facing the Principal on the following morning. While an Irish class was being held in the school that night some youngsters entered and took home their bags hoping against hope for a miracle to save their lives. I will never forget that Thursday morning. They say a condemned man is entitled to a hearty breakfast but you can take it from me that he wouldn't be able for it. There were butterflies as big as thrushes beating their wings on my insides and I would rather have faced the devil himself than who I had to face. I was eleven years old and I felt sure that teachers would see to it that I would never reach twelve. A few of us met outside the school and entered side by side but there was no togetherness now. Unlike yesterday it was every man for himself.



No excuses were sought or given and I suppose the punishment fitted the crime. The older pupils got slaps across their outstretched hands from a three and half foot rod. Each slap was a stinging, searing pain that travelled up your arm and through your whole body. I remember each one; the teacher's arm rising and swinging downwards, carefully aimed for maximum effect. Our fingers should have fallen off with pain. The younger children were treated a little more leniently. I think it was some days before I could hold a pencil without aching.

Really the pain was short lived. What will never ever leave me is the memory of those few glorious hours of fun and freedom, of sun and sport that day, a day that is always referred to by Kilfinny people as The Day of The Bulldozer.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This story was first published in The Kilfinny News. It is a genuine piece of history.

#### KILFINNY N.S. - JUNE 1938



Back row (l to r): K. Pigott, M. Hartigan, M. Pigott, E. McCann, K. Kennedy, N. Byrnes, N. Fitzgerald, N. Kennedy, M. Ruddell, K. Guiry, M. O'Shea.

Third row (l to r): B. Liston, N. O'Shea, J. Kennedy, A. Pigott, T. Griffin, J. Ruddell, M. O'Shea, T. Quaid, P. Liston, W. Burke, B. Hartigan, D. Hartigan, M.E. Liston, J. Ruddell, P. Pigott, J. Fitzgerald, F. Guiry, E. Neville, J. Quaid, M. Carmody.

Second row (l to r): J. O'Dea, D. Kennedy, J. Guiry, J. Neville, J. Murphy, I. Kennedy, B. Mullane, L. Fitzgerald, P. Bennett, N. Ruddell, M. Neville, M. Guiry, N. Hartigan.

Front row (l to r): T.D. Neville, J. Carmody, P.J. Keogh, J. O'Brien, D. Ruddell, J.J. Power, F. Guiry, M. Feane, L. McCann, G. Bennett, B. Neville, D. Mullane, S. Murphy, M.F. Pigott, D. Kennedy.



## THE LONG HOT SUMMER OF '55

My uncle met me off the bus at Murphy's Cross in the pony and trap. There was little talk between us as it was the age when children were seen and not heard. I was happy enough at the prospect of spending the whole Summer with him and Auntie Peg in spite of my mother's warnings regarding hard work and good behaviour. The first landmark was Neville's Pub, then the Curate's house and in the quiet village the school, church, butcher's shop and post office.

I can still picture Peg as she stood at the door to greet me. She was large and round and she wore a navy wrapover apron, with small red flowers on it, and a red trim. She fussed over me till Tom told her to leave me alone and give us our dinner. She fed us bacon and cabbage mouthwatering floury new potatoes with lashings of butter, and I ate so many potatoes that I hadn't room for the tea and currant cake that she gave us for afters.

She showed me my room. There was an iron bed and chest of drawers and I unpacked my luggage, a brown paper parcel. While Tom was changing into his working clothes I surveyed the kitchen. There was a huge open hearth, surrounded by big black pots, and a bellows. The bellows fascinated me and when I discovered its purpose I would turn the wheel so fast that it was a wonder that I didn't set fire to the thatch.

Against the whitewashed wall there was a blackened dresser with gleaming blue delph, an oil-cloth covered table, sugar chairs and a bucket of spring water on top of a butter-box. A light bulb hung from the rafters and a large brown wireless was mounted on the wall. There was a half-door to keep the hens out. All doors and window frames of the house and sheds were painted Tostal Green. I tried the gooseberries and the blackcurrants and even a tiny apple, little more than a bud. There was a horse and cows, a creamery cart, a mowing bar, a float, three legged stools, tankards, buckets and a pulper. I helped Shep turn in the cows and discovered that each cow knew its own stall. One was cross so she had to be spancelled, Tom and Peg milked, filling the buckets with a hot frothy liquid which I emptied into the tankards. I helped Peg restart the fire for the tea. She confided in me that she hoped to persuade Tom to buy an electric cooker. I couldn't see the need, but I said nothing.

We listened to "Balladmakers Saturday Night" on the wireless and Tom shaved afterwards. Peg provided a pan of hot water for him and then we watched in total silence as he performed this most intricate and delicate ritual. He boned the open razor to a wicked edge and lathered his week-old beard. He brought the blade down his right cheek, across his chin, down his upper lip and left cheek. I held my breath as he did his neck. It took only four swift strokes, and not a drop of blood to be seen. The Rosary was said with extra trimmings for good weather to save the hay.

Peg tackled the pony and trap for Mass while we waited for Tom to come home from the Creamery. After Mass I went with Peg while Tom smoked a pipe with the men. Pako came every Sunday, from Ballingarry,



with fresh meat and onions. Every woman in the parish seemed to be there and news and views were exchanged and any new clothes came under scrutiny.

Sunday dinner was extra special with panfried steak and oodles of thickdip for the potatoes followed by strawberry jelly and custard. Signs looked good for the hay. The swallows were flying high, the sunsets were red and Knockfierna was clear of any mist. Tom played cagey and waited till the postman brought news that the first of the hay was down. The mowing machine was drawn by two horses and was a mighty contraption, and I still remember the peculiar sound of it. I got an introduction to a pitch-fork for the turning of the hay. I was very awkward at first, but soon handled it like an expert. We made small cocks and it was ready in a few days to put it into wynds. Tom drove the tumbling Jack to pull the hay in toward strategic points. There it was that I met a neighbour's son by the name of Sean and we struck up a friendship. Sean had plenty of experience at farm-work, so I was given the boys job of pulling the butts, bringing on the sugan and raking out from the wynds. By the end of the haytime I had got promoted to standing on the wynds and I was strutting about like a peacock, I was that proud. There was a threat of wind, and I tightened the sugans to secure the work. Peg would always appear in the fields at four o'clock with a green enamel tea-pot and a basket of food for us. Drawing in the hay to make the reek was nearly the best part. Tom used a horse and float, tipping the metal edged floor under the wynd, throwing a rope around it and then winding and winding the pulley-wheel till the wynd was safely on board. Most of the time I would sit at the back of the float with my head buried in the hay and my legs dangling and trailing off the road and Shep trying like mad to catch low-flying swallows. Sometimes Tom would let me take the rein, but only when we were inside the gate-field. We had thirty one wynds of our own, but we got and gave help and I think I helped save half the hay in Kilfinny that year.

July and August were scorchers, and there was many a tankard of sour milk. Going to the creamery with Tom was as good as a day in Ballybunion. He showed me how to put on the winkers, collar, straddle, breeching and reins. He didn't like going too early as he said you'd meet no one that way. There would be a queue of a variety of donkeys, horses and jennets. Some of the carts would have one tankard, and some would have eight. It was a great place for news and the occasional row. Tom kept his place in the queue and when we got to the stand we helped the man in front and the man behind us. Around the corner we chatted with the dairymaid while she gave us the butter and then drove on to get the back milk. I was given the job of getting the coarse meal for the hens and together Tom and I would go into the shop for the paper and the messages and a small brown bag of bullseyes. Then we would head for home at a leisurely pace, stopping with anyone we met giving back milk to anyone who wanted it and enquiring about the welfare of the newly-emigrated. We had to wrap wet sacks around the wheels to prevent shrinking, or else the rims might have passed us out on the road the following morning. There was always a creamery breakfast waiting for us when we got home, rashers, sausages and eggs.



Seán would call for me on Sundays and sometimes we would take Shep and try to rise rabbits on Kelly's hill. Other times we would go to Culhane's field to watch the hurling. It was not played by the fainthearted and where there was a foul there was retaliation and any kind of a stick would do for the game. We might have a game ourselves at the back of the goals because we were too young to join the real game. Neville's Cross would be our next stop where we could play pitch and toss. We pitched our pennies and the nearest to the mutty tossed the pennies and kept the heads and passed the harps to the second next person and so on, and if you stayed late enough they would use matches to find which side of the coin was up, placing bets on the outcome. We would buy slab toffee and peggyslegs at Nevilles and Bill would pass by in the hackney car, Reg. No. IU3740 maybe bringing somebody from Ballybunion.

I returned jam jars to the Post Office and got money back, and was allowed to keep it. Gazettes arrived and fitted up their picture house in jig-time. They stayed a week and I paid sixpence to see Roy Rogers and Trigger, Hopalong Cassidy and Champion and Gabby Hayes. The Baddies could be seen a mile off, as they always wore black. I won a fruit bowl in a raffle there, and gave it to Peg and she gave me the sixpence to go again to see The Pearls of Naoika which kept the packed house on the edge of their seats.

Tom took a cow to the fair and sold it and we went to Newcastle so that Peg could buy some things for the house. We called to Nevilles on the way home and Peg and I went into the snug, which was for women and children. I was given two shillings to get a block of icecream in the Post Office as we were passing.

There are other small things I remember - lost collar studs on a Sunday morning, the canopy over the altar in the Church, the sound of the corncrake, taking the cow to O'Neill's bull, earthenware jugs of porter at the reek-making and bringing the Echo and the Leader on a Friday night. That idyllic summer will stay forever in my mind. There were other summers in Kilfinny, but everything gradually changed. Peg got a range to cook on, making the bellows redundant. Tom got a tractor and slowly but surely mechanised almost everything. I got older and grew up. I am a little sad that it is already a different, distant era.

**'The Long Hot Summer'** was previously published in *The Kilfinny News*. It is an excellent account of Kilfinny in the fifties.

Itinerants regularly came and stayed near the old quarry. There was usually a tinsmith among them. They were very poor.

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# **VERY REV. JOHN CANON KENNEDY P.P.**

*An Appreciation.*

John Kennedy was born in Ballymacrease, Ballyneety in 1907. He was ordained in Maynooth on June 21st 1931 and served as Curate for a time in Templeglantine and Glenroe. However, it was in St. Mary's Parish, Limerick that he spent twenty seven years as Curate. He is still remembered there with great affection. He helped to found St. Bridget's Boys' Club which is still active in the parish. In the late thirties and through the War years this youth Club organised annual holidays from Limerick to the west coast of Clare for many hundreds of under-privileged children. Fr. Kennedy with the aid of professional people in the city ensured help and guidance for these children which was later to become an invaluable asset to them in their careers. He is also remembered for his work as Co-Director and organiser of many pilgrimages to Lourdes. His great devotion to Our Lady and to the Rosary was to remain a mark of his piety to the end.

On April 9th, 1962 Father Kennedy was appointed Parish Priest of Croagh/Kilfinny. Like most rural parishes of the time, major renovation of churches and replacement of parish schools were the order. Croagh/Kilfinny was no exception. Father Kennedy did not take long to settle in his new parish. Aided by his Curate, the late Father Sean McCarthy, he undertook the tasks that lay ahead.

While plans were at an advanced stage for a new school in Kilfinny, Father Kennedy's quiet pressure and representations with the Board of Works ensured that work started in June 1962. In March 1964 plans were unveiled for the renovation of the Parochial House in Croagh, while in September of the same year the children of Kilfinny entered the new school to much rejoicing in the district. The official opening was in October 1964. The old school in Kilfinny was then entrusted to Muintir Na Tire. The enterprising Committee got to work in the Autumn of 1964. Thanks to voluntary fund-raising efforts and grant aid from Limerick County Council we now enjoy a very comfortable Parish Hall, which is frequently used by many groups within the region.

1967 was a major milestone in the parish. In January the renovation of Croagh Church was complete. In March the reconstruction of Kilfinny Church began. Father Kennedy's tireless efforts continued. In December the Croagh village water scheme was in operation, and his plans for a tarmac tennis court became a reality in 1968. In 1969 the progress continued with Croagh getting a much needed car park.



Amplification systems were installed in Croagh and Kilfinny Churches in 1972. In May of the same year Kilfinny Church was painted and decorated and similar work was completed in Kilfinny School. In 1974 land for a new Cemetery was acquired and construction of the new School in Croagh began. This work was completed in 1977, and in this year also, new central heating systems were installed in both Churches. In recent years Canon Kennedy endeavoured to reconstruct the old School in Croagh. Heating has been installed and many fund-raising efforts are being undertaken by an active Community Committee which was formed in 1984.

This is but a brief outline of the projects undertaken by the Canon throughout the years. His expert financial management ensured that no one was unduly burdened and the parish was not in debt. But the parishioners will always owe a debt of gratitude to their beloved Canon for the achievement of work well done and paid for at the least possible expense to the parish.

In June 1981 Father Kennedy was honoured by His Lordship, Dr. Jeremiah Newman, by being appointed a member of the Cathedral Chapter. His parishioners were delighted with the honour bestowed on their Parish Priest. This title however did not rest happily on him - he preferred to be known as "Father" to his people. Father Kennedy lived a simple life of prayer, and practised daily what he preached from the altar.

He was a frequent visitor to the schools and a familiar figure to the children for whom he had great affection. Because of his personal suffering he had empathy with all who experienced pain in its many forms.

In his student days he was a noted hurler. He was one of the outstanding St. Munchin's College Team who won the Harty Cup in Munster Colleges Hurling. He also played on the great Fedamore Senior team of fifty years ago. He took great interest in the game at parish level, and was President of Croagh/Kilfinny G.A.A. Club during his twenty three years as Parish Priest.

He was quick witted and had a great sense of humour. He enjoyed a good joke and will always be remembered for his 'Happy Marriage Recipe'. At many wedding receptions he quoted Henry Ford's formula for "Success": Always stick to the same model!

He enjoyed a good card game and the local community concerts were a special treat. Father Kennedy was a keen golfer and a noted horseman. Up to some years ago he rode with Limerick County Foxhounds and the Stonehall Harriers.

Throughout his life he was most anxious to see the local Pioneer Total Abstinence Association revived in the parish, and one of his last announcements was for a meeting for the revival of the Association. However, as he had taken ill in a few days prior to the set date, this task shall remain for his successor. Father Kennedy lived all his priestly life for his parishioners. They were his family. It is remarkable that the last Mass Father Kennedy said, was for them. The people of Croagh and Kilfinny will always remember him with affection.





*Some of the young people who were involved in the preparations.*



*Members of Croagh-Kilfinny G.A.A. Club pictured at their Juvenile Social. 1989  
Front row (l to r): James Lenihan, Rev. Fr. Liam Kelly, P.P., Limerick Hurler, Ollie  
O'Connor, Tony Joyce. Back row (l to r): Charles Hanley, Dick Neville, Mick  
Prendeville and Noel Hannon.*



# 1990

## CROAGH/KILFINNY

### YOUTH

This year we proudly celebrate the bicentenary of our Church. Since this is such a rare occasion we decided to come together to make it a memorable one. We are very fortunate to have the encouragement and support of Mrs. Jean McCarthy and Fr. Kelly. Our aim is to have some fun while making a positive contribution to our community and church.

Our main project is a Sponsored Clean-up of Kilfinny. Now complete, this included removal of weeds, preparation of a section of the Church grounds for sowing of lawn seeds, removal of ivy from the wall at the back of the Church and painting of walls surrounding the Church and across the road from it. We enjoyed the daily get-together, which was organised in three shifts - morning, afternoon and evening.

The money raised from sponsorship and a Table Quiz will enable us to make a presentation to the Church.

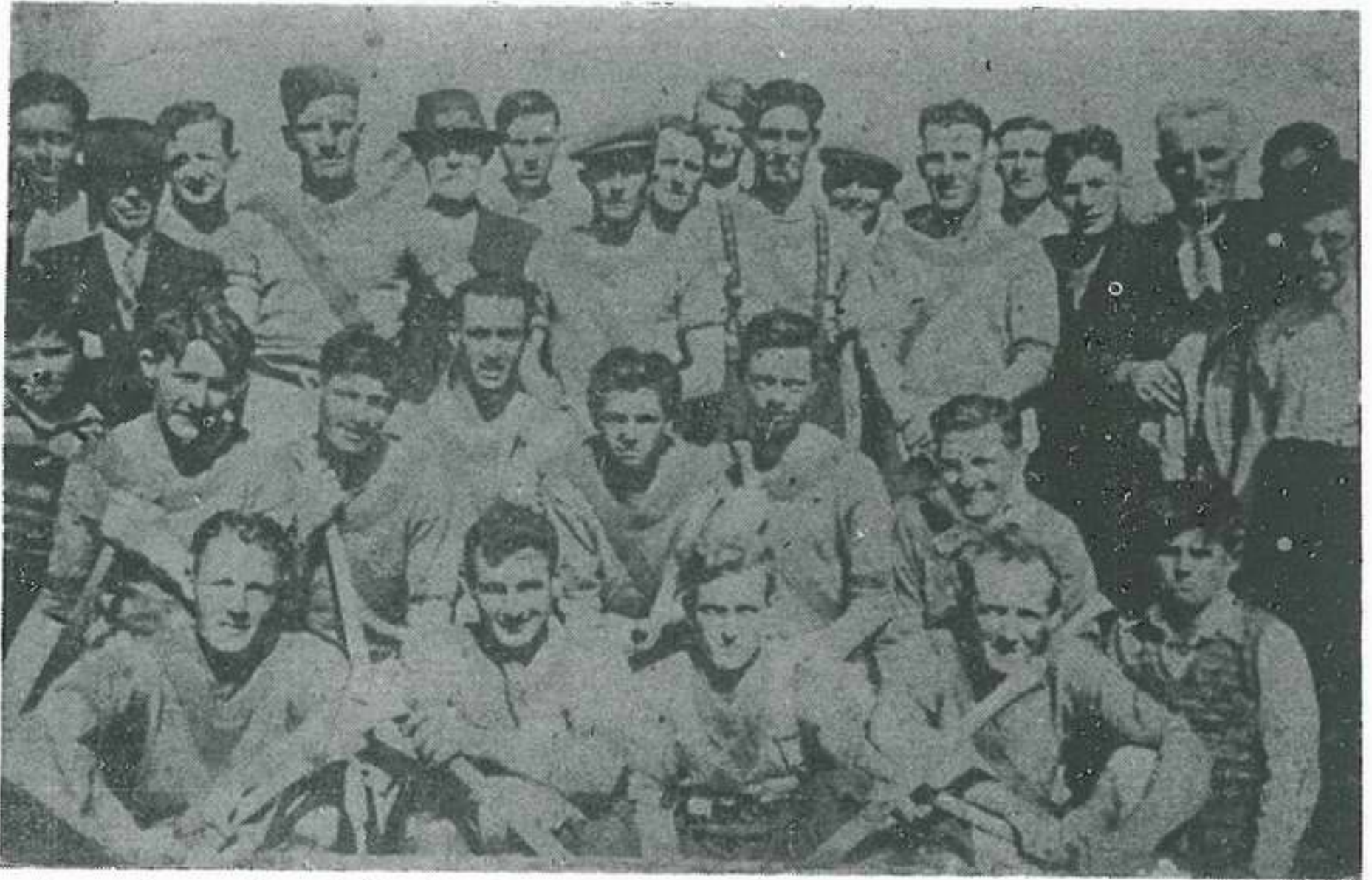
We are also collecting photographs for preparation of a collage which will be on display in the Community Centre. These will span the last century and bring back many memories.

Celebration being the key word for all of us, we are looking forward to taking part in a Treasure Hunt, followed by Mass and entertainment in the Community Centre on September 9th., feast of St. Ciarán, the patron of our Church.

Padraic Frawley  
Catherine Hurley  
Patricia Giltinane  
Maeve McCarthy  
Paula McCarthy  
Anne McCarthy  
Maura Harnett  
Danny Madigan  
Darina Hannon  
Helen Neville  
Marion Neville  
Charlotte Neville  
Eileen Sheehy  
Martin Lane  
Paudie O'Connor  
Tomás O'Connor

Oonagh O'Connor  
Ted McCarthy  
Shane Quille  
Shane O'Neill  
Kathleen Ruddle  
Enda Sheehy  
Noel Sheehy  
Eilish Burke  
Paddy Hannon  
Noreen O'Connor  
Kathleen O'Connor  
P.J. Reidy  
Hazel Crosby  
Marisa O'Mahony  
Dermot Piggott  
Fergus Maloney





*Front Row - (l to r): Patrick Kennedy Croagh, Johnny Kennedy Clough, Croagh, Peter Stokes Cappagh, Sonny Houlihan Ballinaguile, Donie Murphy, Kilfinny.*

*2nd Row - (l to r): Tom Dan Neville Croagh, Paddy Murphy R.I.P. Kilfinny, Patsy Fitzgerald R.I.P. Kilfinny, Hally Hartnett Croagh, Mick Fane Kilfinny, Fr. James Neville Kilfinny.*

*Back Row - (l to r): Michael Piggott, Master Kelly R.I.P. N.T. Croagh, Fr. Eran Neville Kilfinny, Jim Gibbons Croagh, Bill Cussen R.I.P. Ballinaguile, Billy Keogh, Jaco Purcell (Hannans Ballinaguile) Tommy Murphy Cappagh, Tim O'Dea Kilfinny, Mick Ahern Croagh, Jack Shanahan R.I.P. Croagh, Ned Burke Croagh, Fr. Ronnie Neville Kilfinny, Jack Neville R.I.P. Ballinaguile, Liam McCann R.I.P. Kilfinny.*



RECENT VIEW OF THE VILLAGE.



## KILFINNY

### CHORUS:

In the heart of County Limerick there's a spot so sweet and fair.  
You'll find friendship and companionship in great abundance there.  
Its beauty is a balm for every trouble, every pain  
And my heart would soar if I could see Kilfinny once again.

### VERSE I:

I'm unable to explain that simple charm you're sure to find  
But I can conjure up each lovely scene quite clearly in my mind  
The sunset on Cnoc Firinne, at dusk the scent of hay  
The thrush upon the hawthorn bough with song so sweet and gay.

### REPEAT CHORUS:

### VERSE II:

It's many years since last I saw those friends who were my joy  
In my dreams I see the face of every cailin, every boy  
Their laughter drifted far across the fields of waving grain  
How my heart would soar if I could see Kilfinny again.

Eleanor Ryan.



**ALL IRELAND INTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP '75 CROAGH-KILFINNY**



***Margo Stokes.***

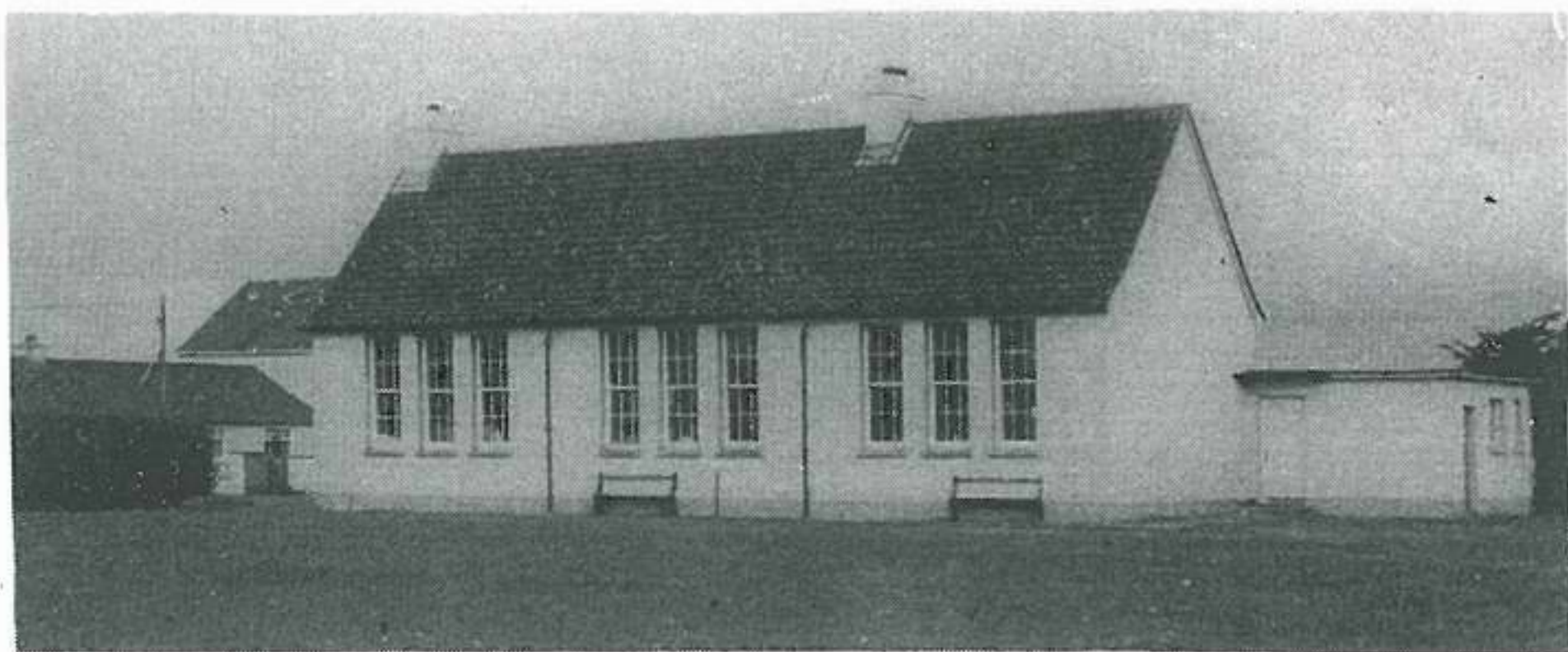


***Marian Doyle,***



***Eithne Neville***

***Margie Neville, Mary Hannon, Bernie O'Dea, Margaret Hickey, Eileen O'Keeffe, Margaret O'Sullivan, Ann O'Flynn, Sheila Murphy, Margaret O'Neill, Esther Sheehy, Breda Hannon, Helen Sheehy, Ann Sheehy, Brid Stokes, (Capt.), Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Mulcare,***



***Kilfinny National School 1990***