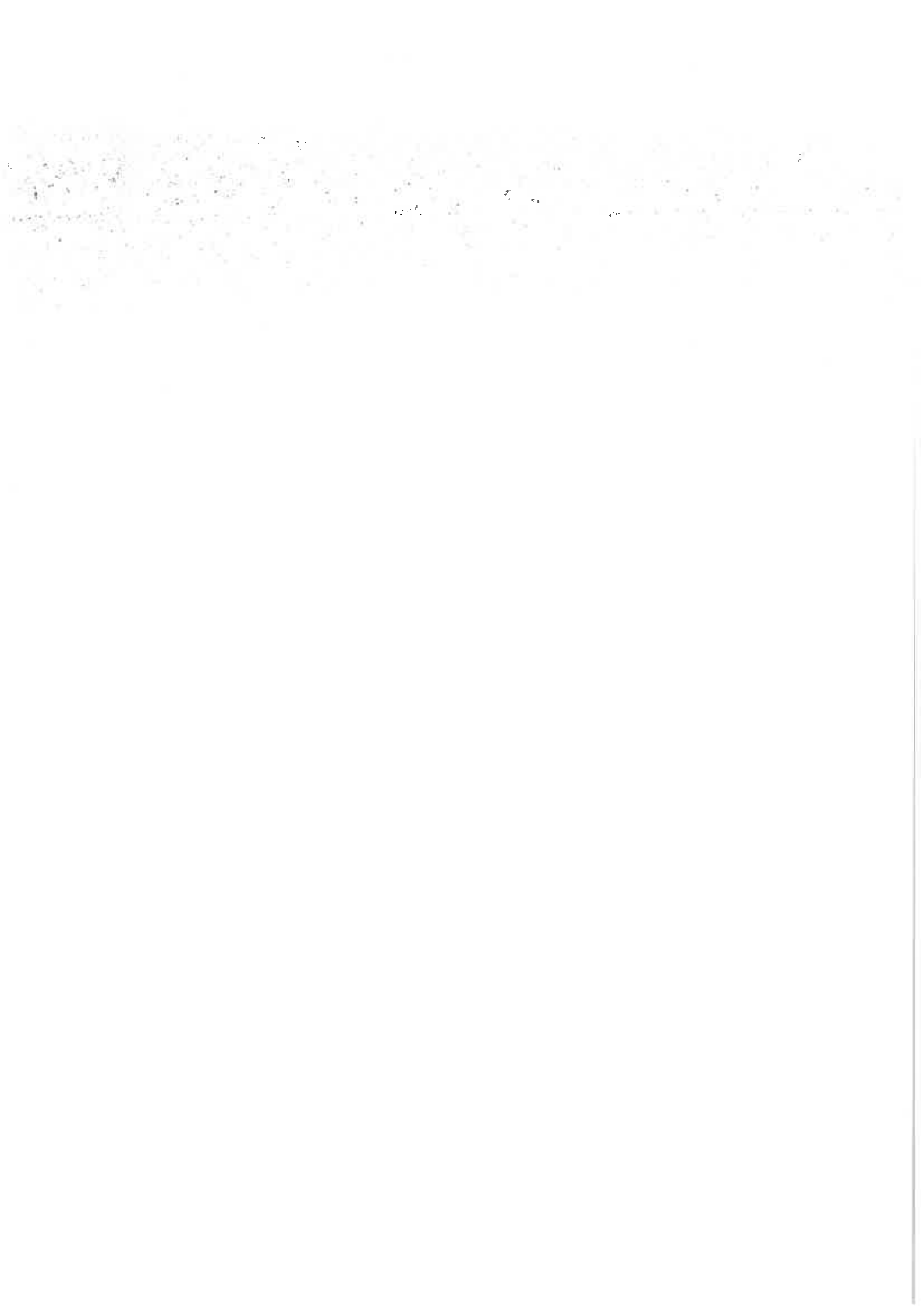
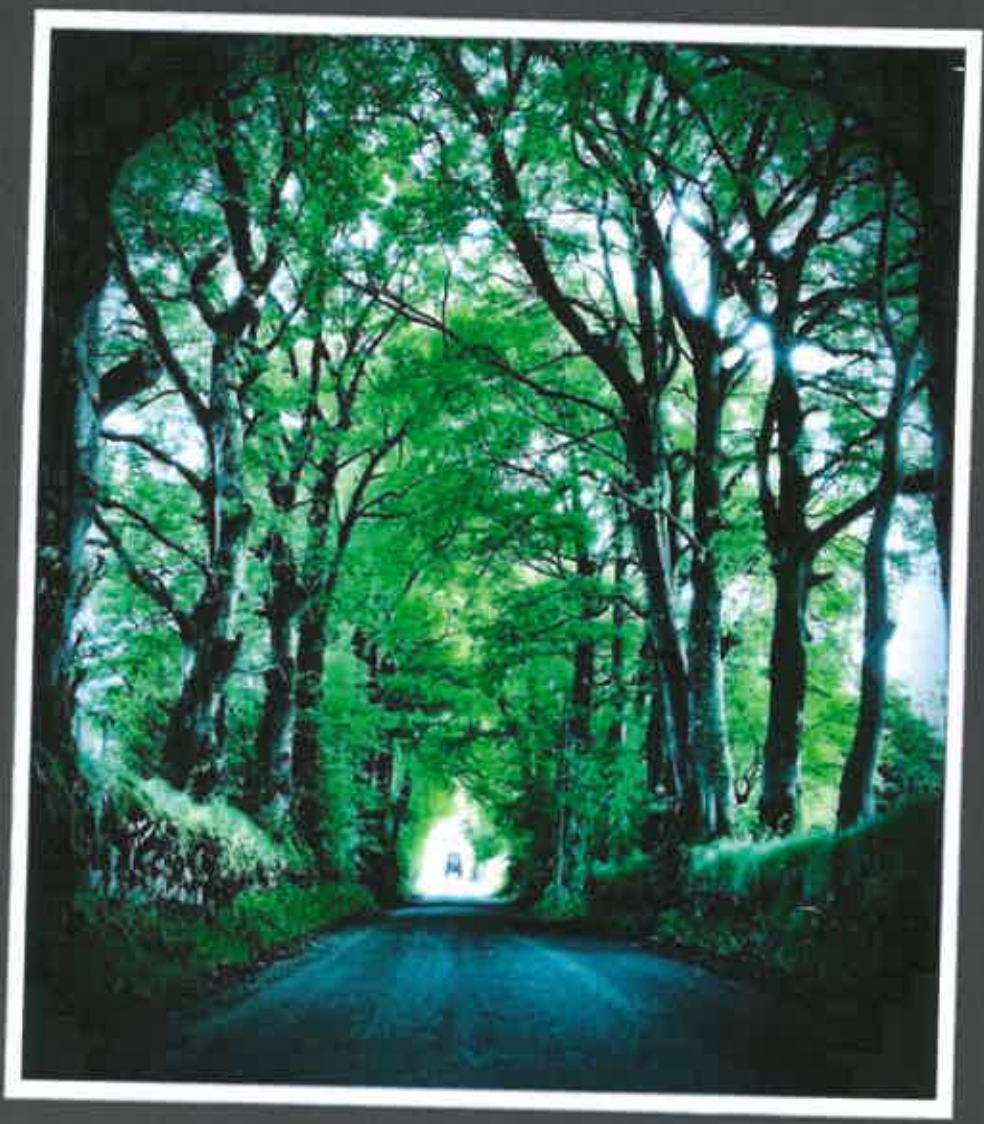




Pure Mile.13

Ballinamangee/
Mullins





Crossbridge Development Committee

Formed in July 2011 and their first undertaking was the PURE Mile Competition which started at Cobblers Cross passed the Community Centre, School and Church and went through the townlands of Farnees, Bridgeland and Raheenteigue. A serious effort was made by all including the local Primary School teachers and students, The Active Retirement Group, Crossbridge Foróige Club, Farmers, Carpenters, Bee-keepers; almost every household was involved in some aspect.

Research and activities were carried out and recorded on a monthly basis on:

Flora & Fauna which was studied on a monthly basis to understand the changes that occur, many of us had never heard of indigenous plants and trees before this, but were soon educated by local experts,

The School's Activities for developments on their Green School's initiative which culminated in the school receiving their 5th Green Flag,

The local farms and their Green initiatives, (Riparian Zones, Rural Environmental Scheme R.E.P.S and Organic Farming)

All the field names were recorded and researched which educated us on some interesting history and folklore,

Old wells were uncovered and cleaned up,

Bench Marks were found and researched,

The river Derry was studied informing us of its sources, tributaries and where it enters the Slaney near Kildavin, the fish, animal and plant life depending on the river was also studied.

The old road was mapped and researched for its historical attributes,

- New and old industries were recorded,
- Recycling in the form of Scrap, Clothes and Book Collections were organised,
- Interesting Coollattin Cottages were researched,
- Over 600 photographs were taken and are now analysed and recorded,
- History & Folklore was recorded from our Active Retired Citizens,
- Poetry was written and researched,
- A folder of our work was compiled and given to PURE.

These are just a few of the projects that were completed under our 2012 PURE Mile Project.

Education



Following last year's success we decided that we needed to Educate others on

Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments (PURE)

and the PURE Mile Project.

We had information nights, school competitions, photograph displays as well as keeping in constant contact with all groups in the area in order to highlight our and their awareness of the beauty that surrounds us and the scourge of litter along our roads.

This year we focused on

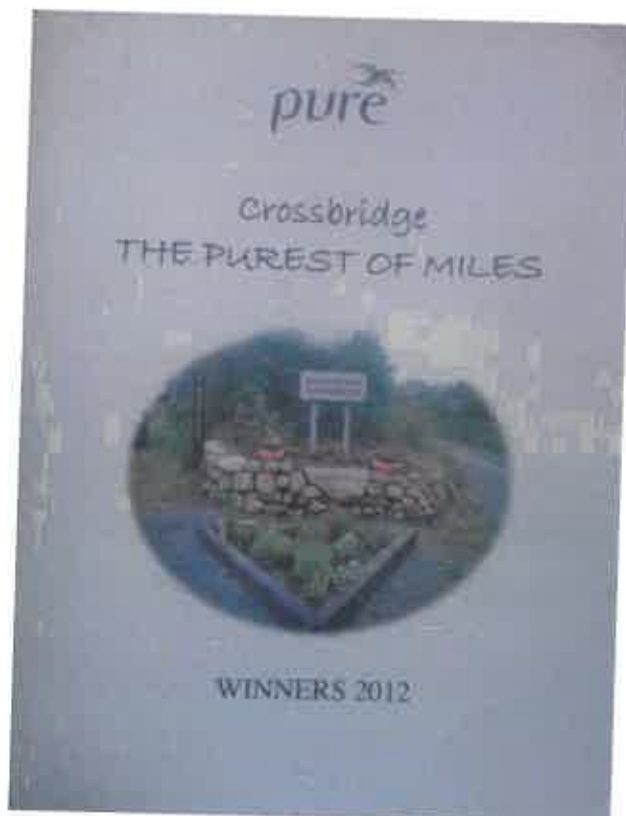
"Communities Helping Themselves"



There is nothing like a bit of Noel power (Noel Kavanagh and Noel McDonnell)

After winning the 2012 Competition with our good neighbours and greatest competitors Ballymanus every effort to educate the community and the county and other counties about the Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments (PURE) was made and with funds "flush" from receiving the €1000 award we decided to produce a book as our 1st project in the 2013 competition.

This Book "**Crossbridge – The Purest of Miles**" was compiled and distributed to every household in the community along with two copies of the PURE Mile Calendar, we asked everyone to give a calendar to family or friends in other counties in the hope that these counties would be encouraged by PURE and their initiatives, even if it only stopped the litter being scattered along the roads.



- Copies of the book were given to the local schools Crossbridge, Killavaney and Kilcommon,
- the Tinahely Library, the PURE office in order for Ian Davis to show it to other communities interested in taking part in the competition.
- A copy is on display in Co. Wicklow Partnership and Carnew Training & Development Centre.
- We remembered long term nursing home residents from the Crossbridge area and presented them with a copy of our book as a Christmas present.
- Copies were sent to Australia, Canada, America, England to emigrants to encourage them to visit this year to be part of 'The Gathering'.
- The Secretary made her personal e-mail address available to other communities who are taking in the competition in order to help and encourage new communities and committees to get involved.
- Our Facebook Page was set up
- Crossbridge Web site is in the process of being developed.

- We invited the children and teachers of St. Brigid's Primary School, Crossbridge to take part in our "Something New from Something Old" competition in order for them to make use of materials which could be reused and recycled.

The children from Crossbridge School had a much better understanding of the PURE mile competition this year; each child explained their own project in detail to the judges. Some concentrated their efforts on what they could see from the PURE mile, some on what they could do on it, some on the historical sites accessible from the PURE mile. We have more about this in our Litter Section.



In these difficult economic times we decided that we needed to educate ourselves and others on Foraging for food before our Taoiseach Enda starts putting v.a.t. on dandelions.

Foraging – The Art of Gathering

While Michelle Power, Ballyconnell (Tús Participant) researched the edible, medicinal and even magical uses of wild foraging, Madge Kenny and Helen Mc Donnell developed some great food recipes and cooked up a storm for a picnic.



Picnic basket from OUR EDIBLE MILE

Rustic Thyme and wild garlic bread.

Quiche made from rabbit, sorrel and Stevie Oakes' free range eggs,

Mixed Salad leaves of wild rocket dandelions, hawthorn, meadow sweet and elderberry pickle.

Mullins Mess Meringue (Stevie's eggs) with wild strawberries and fraughins.

Blackberry and apple jam.

Madge and Helen washed it all down with a drop or maybe more of the 'old craothor'

Sloe Gin, Elderberry Wine and Roan Berry Wine.



Community Involvement



As we walked the mile (an extra long one I might add) more and more people joined us, these people were residents on this road, but many of us had never met before.



From this our local poet Jimmy Mulhall wrote a poem about the PURE mile.

THE PURE MILE

People talk and smile

The little country road turns on the stile

They say there will be cameras up every tree

With ears to hear and eyes to see

For if you want to take a walk,

To clear your head or just to talk

And train the dogs to hold their pee

And to dispense quite properly

We might get up the first doggy loo

To do the things they do

For if not they will be out of bounds

A pure mile is no place for dirty hounds

Who cock their leg at every whim

You would think they were full up to the brim

The people too will have to learn

And not throw out the litter at every turn,

As if the roads were dumping ground,

No better than the tactless hounds

And now to put the job in place,

And create a better human race,

And change the mindset from the start,

Do the right thing and play your part,

Like this ditty has to stop

Keep the windows shut and STOP the DROP

Following the walk a list of the work was compiled. From this we focused on:

- Mullins Cross
- The Bridge
- Mullins Avenue
- Clean-up day
- a 'gathering'



It was also decided to bring the community together and encourage our emigrants to return home from their travels and to remember our ancestors who struggled to keep the faith during the penal times by celebrating a mass at Mass Rocks which are visible from our Pure Mile.



The meeting at the mass rock



Mass at Whiterock (Fr Donal Berney)

It was indeed a great pleasure to celebrate holy Mass at the Massrock in the townland of Whiterock on Friday the 19th of July 2013.

History tells us that mass was celebrated at this secluded spot way back in the 17th century when Cromwellian armies invaded our country, killing thousands of people and forcing the catholic church to go underground and our priests to go on the run.

The faithful people assembled in many such places, out of doors and in all weathers to celebrate the central act of their faith – the Mass.

Some priests and people were killed in bearing witness to their faith when apprehended by Cromwell's army.

One such priest of the diocese of Ferns was Rev Nicholas Mayler who was killed by Cromwellian soldiers while celebrating mass at Lingstown in the parish of Kilmore on Christmas morning 1653 at the knock of Funze.

A woman in the congregation secured the chalice hiding it under her cloak.

This chalice is preserved in the parish of Kilmore today. Fr. Marler is buried within the walls of the old church in Tomhaggard and beside him, in more recent times is buried Fr. John Busher who was curate in Crossbridge for 31 years. (1883-1914)

He was the longest serving curate in the curacy ever.

Many people from the parish and further afield attended and offered the Mass with me. Among the assembled people was Rev. Ruth Elmes the Church of Ireland rector of Kilcrommer and some local members of her church. She was not there to rake up the past history of the troubled times, but to emphasise the good relations between protestant and catholic nowadays: people living and working together side by side while remaining faithful to their own traditions and fulfilling the laws of God by being good neighbours.

She received a warm round of applause and the Crossbridge choir sang us out with the song

"The Mass Rock in the Glen" by Felix Kearney.

In a lonely mountain valley
In the mountains of Tyrone
Lies one of Ireland's hallowed spots
Deserted and unknown
But few who write historic tales
Or wield the poet's pen
Can say with pride – they knelt beside
The Mass Rock in the glen
Our priests like wolves were hunted down
O God 'twas surely hard
That from the right to worship Thee
Thy children were debarred
But still they proudly bore
Thy cross Those simple mountain men
Were proud to share Thy Calvary
By the Mass Rock in the glen
No more on top of Croagh Hill
The sentinel stands guard
Our ancient foes, the foreign yoghs
Have gone to their reward
And he who worships God in peace
May bless the fearless men
Who held the faith for Ireland
By the Mass Rock in the glen
God Bless the glens of Ireland
Every rock and mountain pass
'twas those game glens that under God
Preserved for us, the Mass
And if the day should come again
When Ireland calls for men
She will not find them wanting
By the Mass Rock in the glen

This was a special occasion enjoyed by all on a beautiful which made us mindful of our ancestors who travelled in bare feet in all weathers to preserve the faith.

Another Enjoyable Community Event was our first Clean-up Day (Okay it's not a very nice job, but any event with community coming together can be enjoyable)

Litter



National Spring Clean Day.



We had our National Spring Clean- up on May 6th and it was
"All Roads to Crossbridge"
That were cleared of litter.

A large group of Adults and children turned out on this Bank Holiday Monday to help, this was a tremendous community effort and many enjoyed the day.



110 Bags of Rubbish, buckets, bottles, mattresses etc. collected



**Second Clean-up Day July 19th
in preparation
'the gathering'**

45 bags of rubbish collected again after just 3 months.



Some of the Cleaner Litter was used by the School in their

'Something New from Something Old Project'

They picked an area from the pure mile and designed their projects around it recycling the clean litter in order to make something new from something old.





Children enjoying making their projects in Crossbridge National school.

There were some genuine masterpieces designed on the day, a great effort was made by all and they all truly showed their artistic integrity.

They even created a sheep mascot out of egg boxes , wood and leftover paint in lovely vibrant colours and named her Manogue. Short for Ballinamanogue.





Junior Infant Callum Tighe only child from Ballinamanogue in Junior Room proudly described the effort that went into making his friend Manogue.



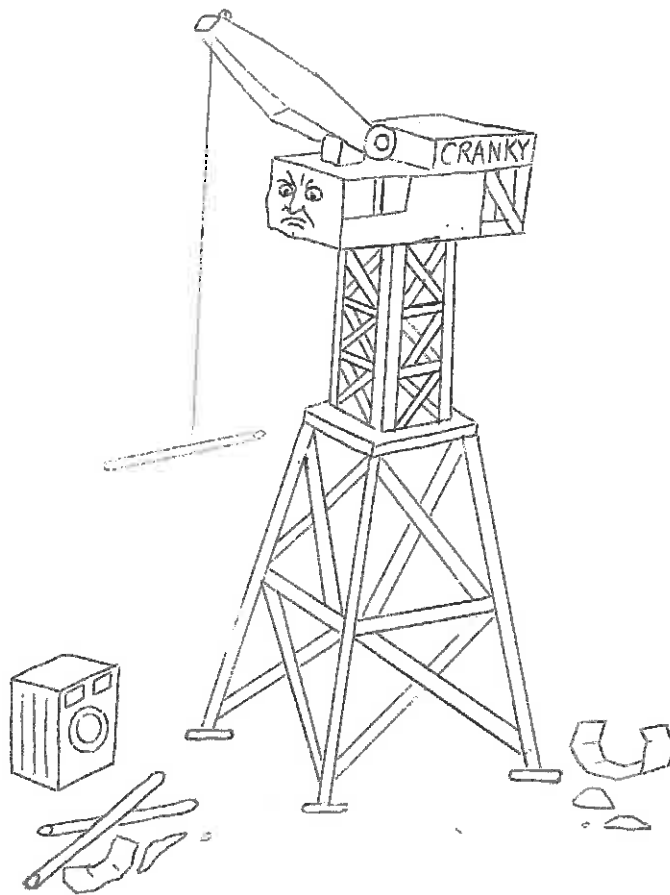
There was a competition for the best project and prizes were given to all the children

The most outstanding project in the big room was won by David Byrne, Eoghan Byrne and Kevin Mulhall. This was a Rath made from clay , grass and stones, with grazing sheep.

And in the middle room Mary Mulhall and Éimear Furlong won for their lovely representation of the broken down bridge at Ballinamanogue.







Heavy Metal

Following the major success of last years scrap collection we tried it again.

Our Scrap collection day was organised in July, we collected some very heavy metal ☺ and people proved to be every bit as generous surrendering their “any old iron”

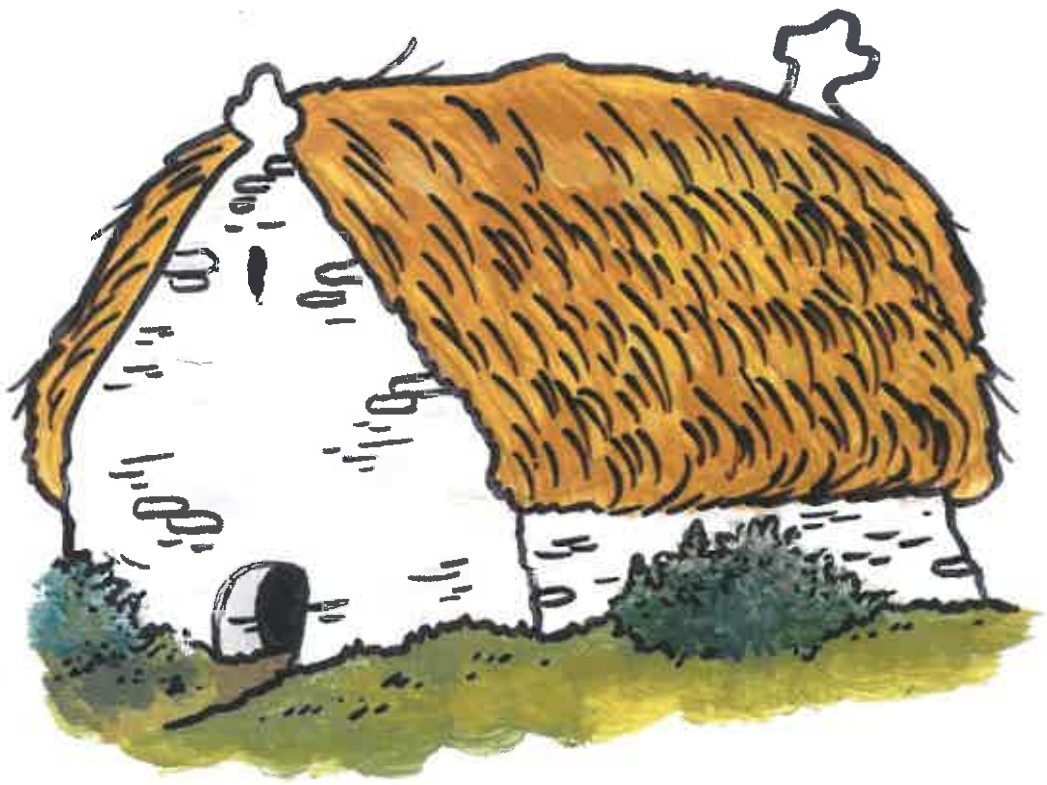
This is a great success every year as it serves several purposes:

- Cleaning up farmyards and back gardens.
- Recycling unused materials.
- Raising some necessary funds to help pay for flowers, benches, etc.

There was €500 raised on scrap collection day.

Thanks to Syl and Claire O Gorman's for the use of their yard.

History



Marie Cleary provided us with a History and Census of the Townslands Mullins North & South and Ballinamanogue

Mullins:

Mullins is divided into Mullins North and Mullins South the dividing line being at Kerrs 'back lane'.

Mullins South has an area of 537 acres 1 rood and 7 perches, while Mullins North is marginally larger with 545 acres, 3 roods and 12 perches. The highest point in each section is 1000 feet.

Derivation of Name:

The word Mullán in Irish means summit or small hill.

Liam Price records the Irish for the townland as "Mullán tobair bhaistidh" which translated means "the height (or summit) of the baptism well" indicating that there may have been a monastic settlement in the area.

As early as 1616 this name appears with the anglicised spelling, "Molanetubberbasty", by 1742 this had been shortened to Mullaines and in 1810 to Mullins.

Bench Marks: There is an unusual number of Bench Marks in both townlands, four along the Old Road, four more along the lane leading from the Old Road to the top of the hill, three at the top of the hill at the boundary with Ballycumber, and four more in the vicinity of Kerr's house.

There is also shown on the old ordinance maps a Raheen in Kerrs land at 900 feet.

Population Change

It is noteworthy that there is a great difference in the population drop between Ballinamanogue and Mullins in the 19 Century, with Mullins suffering a much greater loss of inhabitants, e.g.

Year	Townland	Population	Loss	% decrease
1841	Ballinamanogue	97		
1842	Ballinamanogue	95	2	2.6
1841	Mullins South	90		
1842	Mullins South	75	15	17
1841	Mullins North	107		
1851	Mullins North	31	76	71

These figures raise the question as to why there was such disparity in the numbers of inhabitants lost in each area.

Mullins North Census

2013:

1. **The Kinsella Family:** Paddy and Jacqueline Kinsella (nee Kerr) and their children Philip and Jill
2. **The Connolly Family (Junior)** Padraig (son of Mary & the late Paddy R.I.P.) and Lorraine Connolly (nee Hogan) and their children Emma and Aoibhín.
3. **The Connolly Family (senior)** Mary Connolly (nee Darcy) widow of Paddy and her children, Annemarie and Paul. Another son Mark now lives in Oslo.
4. **The Byrne family;** Kevin and Mary (nee O'Toole) Byrne and their children, Stacey, Kellie and Rachel
5. **The Byrne family:** John Byrne and his family, Amanda, Martin and Damien (John and his wife Mary (nee Kavanagh) had 9 children Sandra, Rhona, Linda, Johnny, Rebecca, Edel, Amanda, Damian and Martin.
6. **The Lambert family:** Joseph and Sandra(nee Byrne) Lambert and children Shane, Colm. Dylan, Joseph, Sam, Annemarie and Katie (Sandra is a daughter of John Byrne)
7. **The Murphy Family:** Sean and Dina Murphy and their children, Jodi, Jeffrey and Amanda who have now emigrated to Canada.

1911:

1 Occupied by Mary Murphy, a 38 year old widow and domestic servant, and her 9 year old son, Edward Murphy.. A small thatched house on lands owned by J Kerr.

2 The Conway Family: Andrew and his second wife, Mary Conway. Their children, Andrew, John, Michael, and Peter. House on land owned by J. Kerr.

1901:

1. James Kerr, Justice of the Peace and farmer; born in Co. Sligo. His wife Rosanna– born in Co Sligo– Their children, George and Florrie, born in Co. Cavan, and Walter, born in Co. Wicklow. Two servants, Daniel Byrne and Bridget Kennedy.

2 The Conway Family: Andrew Conway, born in Co Wexford, and a widow. His son John, daughter-in-law, Anne and grand-children, Andrew and Patrick. Also present were his in-laws, Patrick and Mary Nolan both born in Co Wexford.

Griffith Valuation 1853

Mullins North.

1 John Ebbs	548 acres
2 Thomas Moore	House only
3 David Doyle	“ “
4 Denis Murphy	“ “

Freaney & the Goslins had 127 acres of mountain.

The Allotment Book 1826. Mullins South & North:

Patk. Freaney Patk. & Peter Goslin Samuel Brownrigg
William Corrigan John & Nicholas Cooper John Cooper
Nick Cooper Richard Morris Matthew Murphy
Mr. McCutcheon Thos. Hobson Thos. & Andrew Morris
Bryan Commerford Wm. Henry Dowse

Population Changes Mullins

Year	No. of Houses	Population
2013	7	34
2014	2	8
2015	2	14
2016	4	n/a
2017	15	107
1851	4	31
1826	14	(i.e. Mullins N. & Mullins S.) n/a

2013 Mullins South: Census

1. Ciarán (son of Jim & the Late Marie R.I.P.) and Noelle Lancaster (nee Daye) and baby Marie
2. Jim Lancaster and Mary Carey now live there. Jim lived there with his late wife Marie R.I.P. (nee O’Gorman) and they reared 6 children Caitríona, Paul, Séamus, Ciarán, Pádraig & Mary
3. Stephen Oakes
4. Vacant (owned by Patricia Davey)
5. Pam and Kate Horan
6. Jennifer and Maurice Collins
7. Vacant cottage (Kennedys)
8. Paddy and Marie Donohoe have 6 children Ann, Karen, Jim, Collette, Miriam, Olivia & Patrick.
9. James and Sarah Cooper and their son David they have 2 other children living elsewhere Malcom and Sarah
10. Claire O’Gorman (on The Old Road)
11. Sean and Kathleen O’Gorman and their children John and Kate
12. Paddy and Sandra Byrne and their children Patrick, Kira (living in Arklow) and Sarah.

Census 1911:

1. **The Cooper Family:** Anne Cooper, farmer and widow, born in Co Carlow. Her children, James Sarah, Maryanne, and John
2. **The Foley Family:** Three unmarried siblingd, Patrick, Daniel and Mary Foley
3. **The Kerr Family:** (In 1901 the family was recorded as being in Mullans North!) James Heron Kerr, farmer, his wife Rosanna, their sons, Walter and George

S. and their daughter-in-law, Louie E. who was born in Co. Fermanagh .Also present was a servant , Nannie Brien

4. **The Collins Family:** James Collins and his niece Anne Collins
5. **Kate Goslin**, a single farmer aged 38. Her brother-in-law, George Carroll, and two nieces, Margaret and Brigid Carroll. Also living in were two servants, John Darcy and Patrick Byrne
6. **The Freeney Family:** Lawrence, James, and Mary Freeney and Mary Dunne. Also living in were servants, William Dalton and Michael Kavanagh.

Note: Two houses, Numbers 7 & 8 were being built in 1911

Mullans South . Census 1901.

1. **The Cooper Family:** John Cooper and his wife Anne,-farmers. Their children, James, Sarah, Henry Mary Ellen and John.
2. **The Foley Family:** Christopher Foley, a bootmaker, and his wife Elizabeth, born in Co. Carlow. Their children , Patrick and Mary. (This was a small thatched building on Lawrence Freeney's land.)
3. **The Freeney Family:** Lawrence Freeney, farmer . his sister , Mary and brother James. Their niece, Bridget Dunne and nephew James Whelan from Co. Carlow. Also a servant James Byrne.
4. **James Collins**, a bachelor farmer, his niece and housekeeper, Anne Collins. Nephew James Collins, both born in Dublin.
5. **The Goslin Family:** Bridget Goslin, farmer and widow. Her daughter Kate Goslin, unmarried, her son-in-law, George Carroll, widower, and grandchildren Margaret, Bridget and Patrick Carroll.

Mullens South: Griffith Valuation 1853

Mullins South Mullins North.

1 John Cooper	66 acres
1 John Ebbs	548 acres
2 John Ebbs	155 acres
2 Thomas Moore	House only
3 Peter & Patrick Goslin	92 acres
3 David Doyle	House only
4 Andrew Freeney	94 Acres
4 Denis Murphy	House only
5.Catherine Malone	House only
6 Joseph Daughton	House only
7 Christopher Foley	House only

Freeney & the Goslins had 127 acres of mountain.

Population Changes in Mullins South:

Year	No. of Houses	Population
2013	12	24
2014	6	26
2015	5	28
2016	7	n/a
2017	14	90
1851	10	75

Ballinamanogue:

The southern boundary of the townland of Ballinamanogue coincides almost exactly with the start of the Pure Mile, (i.e. at the bridge spanning the Derry River)

Derivation of Name:

Gaeilge= Baile na mBánóg:

Baile= Townland: Bánóg = young maiden

Therefore Ballinamanogue may be translated as the townland of the young maidens!

There were various spellings of the name, from 1616 , when it was Ballinebanoge , to Ballinamanogue in 1722.

Area: Ballinamanogue occupies an area of 542 acres 3 roods and 17 perches and at its highest point reaches 1000 feet..

Historical Sites:

Kilcromer

About 200 metres from the bridge, on the left hand side is a site of historical significance. That is Kilcromer, of which Liam Price states, "O Donovan mentions this in 1839 as *"an old rath within which a church is said to have stood"*. Maybe O Donovan wasn't convinced as to the authenticity of the church theory, but there is no doubt in the minds of the present day residents of the area but that a church occupied this site. It was most likely a mass house of small proportions, erected during a time when The Penal Laws were being less vigorously enforced. It was burned down in November 1798, when 34 other churches in the Diocese of Ferns were also destroyed, no doubt in reprisal for the activities of the rebels in the area. Kilcromer is not named on the list of Ferns churches burned at that time, but as it is situated on the far outskirts of the diocese, its fate may have been overlooked

Tradition has it that a holy man (or priest) named Cromer had a church there in earlier times, but no records remain to substantiate this assertion. However, the very name, Kilcromer, meaning "Church of Cromer" would suggest that folklore is correct. Today Kilcromer is a preserved site and is situated at the upper corner of a large field locally known as "The Raheen Bank". Even though the Raheen probably refers to the Rath (or homestead) and not to a fairy residence, there is no shortage of stories about the little people and their activities here. Every area has its field, where a late night traveller making his way home, spent a night trying to find his way out of the field. The Raheen Bank was such a place. ! More than one local had a story to tell (usually to top one told by his neighbour¹) as to how, try as he might, it was dawn before he could find the gate leading to home, that surely wasn't there during the night!

On other occasions people followed mysterious lights in this field, which moved ahead of the pursuer, but could not be caught up with, and which could never be explained! **We are sending our Chairman Christy Mulhall out some night to see if there is any truth in this.**



Old headstone at the Burial ground in Kilcromer

The last Burial in Kilcromer

There was always a horse fair on the 7th of November in Tinahely, it was the usual practice of the pig farmers in Carlow, Leixlip and Kildare to come and engage young men or boys to work for them for the winter months to fodder and look after the livestock when housed.

This was called the hiring of the hiring fair and was known as the biggest fair in Leinster.

The wiser men always said "Whatever way the wind blows on the 7th of November it will stay in that direction for the winter, and they truly believed it"

The story was told that one lad who was employed by a big farmer in Co Leixlip who spent his whole life with one farmer, he helped rear three generations of the same family and was regarded as a member of the family, however when he reached his seventies, and was unable for the heavy work, his boss rewarded him kindly and told him you can retire here and live with us and train the younger men employed for the busy seasons. This happened but the man insisted that he must be buried in the grave at Kilcromer near Tinahely.

There was no such name as Crossbridge at that time, it was Bridgelands and still is that name.

He gave directions to call a Darcy's forge as they were employed to open and shut the gate for Ebbs who owned the right of way. When this man died his funeral came through Clonmore where they exchanged horses and enquired the location in Kilcromer in 1915. He was the last person to be buried there and a large stone marked his burial place.

Mass Path

During day-light hours, no-one had any fears about crossing the Raheen Bank. On Sunday mornings, it would be black with people using it as a "Mass Path" as they made their way to Crossbridge church. Before the motor car, children from as far away as Kyle also used it as a short cut to school.

Ballinamanogue 2013 Census:

1. Nicky Murphy and his partner Ciara O'Sullivan and their daughter Emiy, previous occupant John O'Neill deceased 1989 and previous sacristan to Crossbridge Church. When John died his sister Kathleen who lived in Bagnalstown, Co. Carlow. After her death the house was sold to Nicky Murphy (The Manse) Tinahely who restored the house. He now lives there with his partner
2. Paddy & Anna Faye and their 3 children Katie, Patrick and Rosie. The Fayes are originally from Dublin and they bought the house from Liam & Richard who had a restaurant on the premises for a few years. They bought the house from th Walshe Family: Pat Walshe (from Ballyday) and Kathleen Walshe (nee Monaghan, Crossbridge) and their children Colm, Niall, Owen and Etain.
3. Marie Cleary (nee Cullen) lives here, this house was built in 1968 by her late husband Tim R.I.P. They had 3 Children Declan, Eimear and Tonia.
4. The next house is now unoccupied, built in 1937 and occupied by the Kavanagh Family – Pat (formerly Ballynamanogue House) and Edith (nee Griffin, Coolafunshoge) and their children, Betty, Nuala, Denis, Ben, Bridie, Jill, Tom and Noel. Bridie and her husband Phil Smyth lived there until they died. Their son Frank a familiar face to those who watch Fair City as Anthony Farrell – solicitor.
5. Pat Tighe lives here. Pat & his wife Mary (nee Kirwan) lived here with their 4 children Patrick, Michael, Declan and Anita, before this Mary and her parents lived here Mick and Mary (nee Kirwan) Kilbride.
6. Sylvester O'Gorman (Syl) and his Wife Clare (nee Cullen, Hacketstown). Before them a bachelor known as Jim Junior to distinguish him from his next door neighbour

- James Kavanagh (Nap), he inherited it from his Uncle (known as Shakespeare also a bachelor
7. Then we have a house where Paul Walker (Ashford) and Pauline Downing (Knockannana) live since 2000, before this Mr. & Mrs. Bevan Lambe used this as a holiday home.
 8. Thomas Dowling and his wife Valerie (nee Rothwell)
 9. Noel Kavanagh (his home place) and his wife Annette (nee Walsh). Noel's sister Mary also lives here. Before this his late parents Daniel 'Sonny' R.I.P. and Nora R.I.P. (nee Coogan) and their children Donal, Alice Sheila, Noreen, Noel, Hugh, Mary Liam, Rita, Éilish and Séamus. Before that Jim Dalton who inherited place from his uncle Peter Dalton.
 10. Jimmy Mulhall now lives here alone. Jimmy has two children with his wife Susan Phelan and their names are Anna and Adrian.
This house is called St. Mullins previously owned by Brownerigg a gentleman farmer and landlord and then owned by The Byrne Family who sold the house and farm to Jimmy's Grandfather

Ballinamanogue 1901 Census:

1. **The Cummins Family:** Lawrence Cummins and his wife Margaret. The house was small and on O Neills land.
2. **The O Neill Family:** Margaret O Neill , a farmer and widow, and her children, Patrick, Ambrose and Fanny.
3. **The Nolan Family:** John Nolan, born in Co Wexford, his wife Alice and daughter Mary. A small thatched house on Edward Byrne's land .
4. **Mullins House:** Edward Joseph Byrne, a bachelor farmer aged 56, Two servants, Thomas Coogan and Joanna Leury, who came from Co. Wexford.
5. **The Byrne Family:** William Byrne, and unmarried farmer aged 45 and his sister Lizzie Byrne.
6. **Peter Dalton,** an unmarried farmer, his brother Patrick, and a servant, Maryanne Dunne.
7. **Another Byrne family:** William Byrne, a farmer and widowed. His family, Alice, Bridget, Patrick, Arthur, and John Joseph.
8. **The Reilly Family:** Mary Reilly, farmer and widow, born in Co. Carlow. Her unmarried sons, James and Henry.
9. **The Kavanagh family:** Lawrence Kavanagh, farmer, his wife Anne Kavanagh, his brothers, James and Denis and a servant , Jane Lennon.
10. **Another Kavanagh family:** Denis Kavanagh, farmer, his wife, Bridget Kavanagh, their children, Thomas, Bridget, James J. (Nap) Patrick, Denis and a servant, Dora Murphy.

Griffith Valuation 1853; Ballinamanogue:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Arthur Lacy & James Dalton | 55 Acres |
| 2. John Kavanagh | 11 Acres |
| 3. Patrick & James Kavanagh | 107 Acres |

4. John Byrne	20 Acres
5. Charles Murphy	26 Acres
6. William Brownrigg	156 Acres
7. Vacant (owned by Brownrigg)	
8. James Byrne	House only
9. Patk. & Matthew O Neill	18 Acres
10. William Lacy	House only
11. Margaret Neill	House only
12. Arthur Lacy	5 Acres

The following shared mountain rights on 131 Acres.

A. Lacy; J Dalton; John Kavanagh; Patk. Kavanagh; James Kavanagh; John Byrne;
C. Murphy; Wm. Brownrigg; P.& M. O Neill

Tithe Allotment Book 1826:

Garreth Dalton :x 4 John Brownrigg
Andrew Lacy x 3 Michael Toole
Charles Murphy Denis Kavanagh
Catherine Neal Lawrence Kavanagh
John Kennedy William Byrne x2
Owen Neal

Population Changes in Ballinamanogue:

Year	No. of Houses	Population
2013	14	28
1911	10	46
1901	10	39
1902	14	95
1903	14	97
1853	12	n/a
1826	11	n/a

Poetry in the Mullins Air

While still in Ballinamanogue we must not forget about another local Poet called Paddy Foley, who wrote many poems and songs in his life but possibly the most famous is 'The Tinahely Hat' which was sang from Tinahely to New York by Mick Needham and Dan Bookey. The hat was so popular in the area with so many wearing it that it inspired Foley to write about it.

At one stage the community were going to erect a monument to him, maybe we will now.

The Tinahely Hat

*The Tinahely Hat me boys the hat now all the go
The Coolboy boys have got it and the boys around Coolroe,
From there to Knockananna it's worn by one and all
And the boys around Aughavanagh wear no other hat at all.*

*It's sold in Weirs and Simms and shops around the town
And worn on great occasions with style and renown,
It features in Coollattin and in Killavaney too
But its brand is 'Tinahely' a local through and through.*

*They wear it in the pub when they drink their pint of plain,
The wear it at the weddings when the liquor is champagne,
It features in their stories – it features in their chat
It is indeed their glory – the Tinahely hat.*

*When Parnell came to Boleybawn he asked about its fame
And the woman said – 'Here's a hat that will surely make your name'
He took it very proudly and placed it on his head
And the woman said – 'Now Charles, you are a thoroughbred'*

*They like it in Coolfancy and they like it in Coolruss,
And down in Curravanish it's worn at pitch and toss,
Indeed in days of glory when football was the crack
The goalie often wore it to keep the forwards back!*

*Crossbridge is the latest to adopt the lit of fame
And in Raheenteigue and Carrick 'Tinahely' is the name,
So Lift your flowing glasses and stop your noisy chat
Let's give three ringing cheers for the Tinahely hat.*

Marie also gave us some History on:

The Old Road:

The Pure Mile begins at the Knockananna exit from the Tinahely/Hacketstown road, and crossing the Derry River, continues through the townlands of Ballinamanogue, Mullins South and part of Mullins North:

This road is not the original road to Knockananna. Part of the original road, now a narrow track, is still in use. It is still known as "The Old Road" and there are several occupied homesteads along its length.

What is now known as the "Old Road" was once the main road linking Tinahely with Knockananna. It crossed the river at the Ford Bridge and veering left continued up a fairly sharp incline, before running parallel to the present main road for most of the way. In past times the area was more densely populated than today, and there were many mud cabins and poor quality houses along the route and in the fields and laneways off the track. There is little evidence left of these homes except scattered piles of stones here and there. Today the road forms part of The Wicklow Way and is used by walkers, and horse trekkers as well as the local residents.

Four Bench Marks have been located along its course through Ballinamanogue and Mullins.

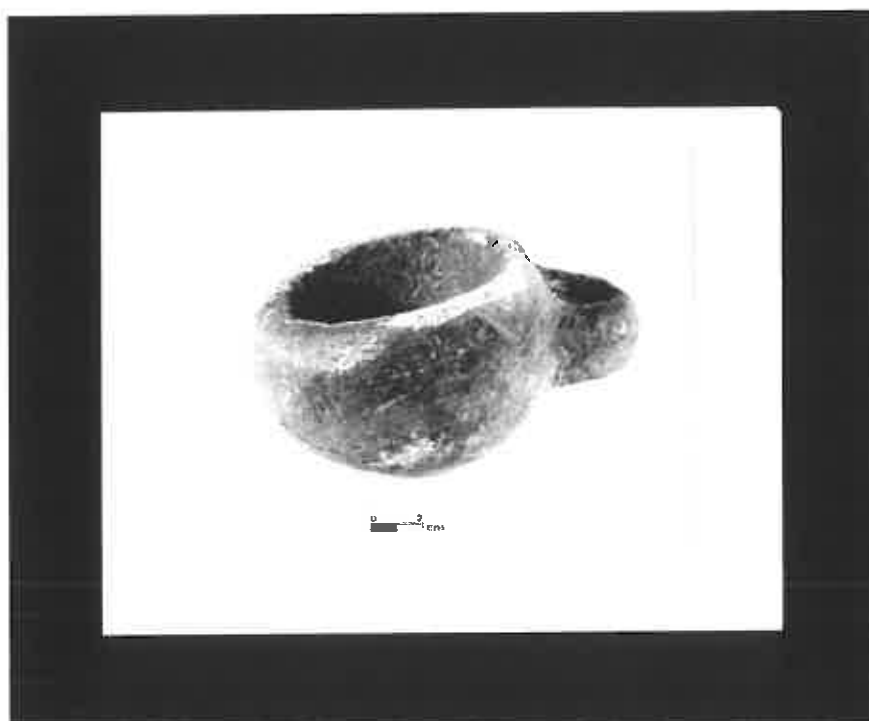
Mass Rocks:

During the worst years of the Penal Laws, the celebration of Mass was forbidden, and few priests were allowed to officiate in Ireland. Consequently many priests had to go "on the run" and they celebrated mass secretly for their flocks in out -of -the- way places. These places were identified later by the presence of a Mass Rock, usually marked with a cross. Such a mass rock exists in Whiterock on a farm now owned by Syl. O'Gorman and formally owned by Tom Deane.



Stone Vessel

In the early 1990 the late Mr. John O’Gorman from Mullins R.I.P., found a very interesting stone vessel some think it may be a Stone Chalice as the Mass Rocks were also found in the vicinity, John (Jack as he was better known) donated this to the National Museum of Ireland and they sent back some interesting facts and photographs of this stone vessel, chalice or lamp. These were also known as Cresset Stones.



New Telephone No. (01) 618811
Fax No. (01) 766116

IA/76/90

Mr. John O'Gorman, P.C.,
Mullins,
Tinahely,
Arklow,
CO. WICKLOW.

17 May 1990

Dear Mr. O'Gorman,

I enclose some information on stone vessels/lamps which I hope you will find of interest. The discussion on the one from the ringfort in Co. Down is very informative. As you will see the excavator suggests a date in the 7th/8th century A.D. but it is thought that some may date considerably early than that. In the case of a stray find such as your one there is really no way of knowing other than by comparison to other dated examples.

The stone is granite and is likely to be of local origin according to our geologist, Nigel Monaghan. We hope over the next few weeks to have the object drawn and photographed and I will send you copies in due course. It will take a little time to get these as we have the work our way through a large back-log of material.

We would also like to ask you if you would be agreeable to the acquisition of the stone lamp by the Museum for the national archaeological collections. This could be done either by way of a donation by you or by the payment of a finder's award to you by the Museum. I enclose an s.a.e. and would be glad to hear your views.

In the meantime please accept our best thanks for your interest and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



MARY CAHILL

Assistant Keeper,
Irish Antiquities Division

St Mullin's House,

St. Mullin's House was owned and occupied by Brownerigg a gentleman farmer and landlord, one of the Brownerigg became a Bishop in the Church of Ireland and one converted to Catholicism

A Miss Roche from St. Mullins, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny and her Sister came to live here and called the house St. Mullins after her own home situated in Graiguenamanagh. She married a Michael Byrne (Known as Big Byrne) they had one daughter a very delicate child who lived until she was 12 years old.

In St. Mullins there was a mill with an artificial lake above the house an underground shaft on the millrace running down to drive the mill.



Michael Dwyer United Irishman

One interesting fact is that Michael Dwyer hid for a couple of nights on this Mill Race and the story was told of a Mary Stafford, Knocknaboley who was a grand aunt of Mary Dolan of Farnees was working as a maid in Mullins at that time. She got an order to prepare an extra dinner secretly and wrap it carefully in her apron and drop it down a shaft. Everything went as planned except for the dog followed her and refused to leave its place at the top of the shaft. She had no choice but to get her own dinner and lure the dog, back to the kitchen door and give her dinner to him.

The above mentioned Michael Byrne originally from Coolalug House and moved to St. Mullins farm. They were known as Big Byrne because the men in the family wore size 13 boots.

The Byrne family sold the house and farm to Jimmy Mulhall's Grandparents James & Elizabeth (nee O'Toole) in 1938. Elizabeth was principal schoolteacher in Crossbridge Primary School.

The Wash-hole

Noel Mc Donnell and Claire O’Gorman remember washing sheep in the wash-hole down in the field by the bridge in the corner of the field. They came with their droves of sheep and the used to wash them in the river. They had to be washed before the wool was shorn because they wouldn’t be able to sell the wool if it was dirty. They’d pick them up by the wool and dip them down. All had great sheep dogs and lots of children to help out. Some of the families that washed the wool at the wash hole were Mulhalls, O’Gormans, Coopers, Connollys and Claires. Many of these would have had collops on the hill.



L-R Christy Kennedy, William Ratcliff, Joe Mulhall,

L- R Kennedy, Timothy Mulhall.

Photograph taken by Fr. Keogh Curate of Crossbridge c. 1940

MILK STANDS

Milk stands were everywhere in Rural areas and there is one on the Mullins Road, just outside Kerr's Farm and some of the original Creamery Cans with Jim Kerr were found and placed here by Paddy Kinsella and they were photographed by Stevie Oakes.

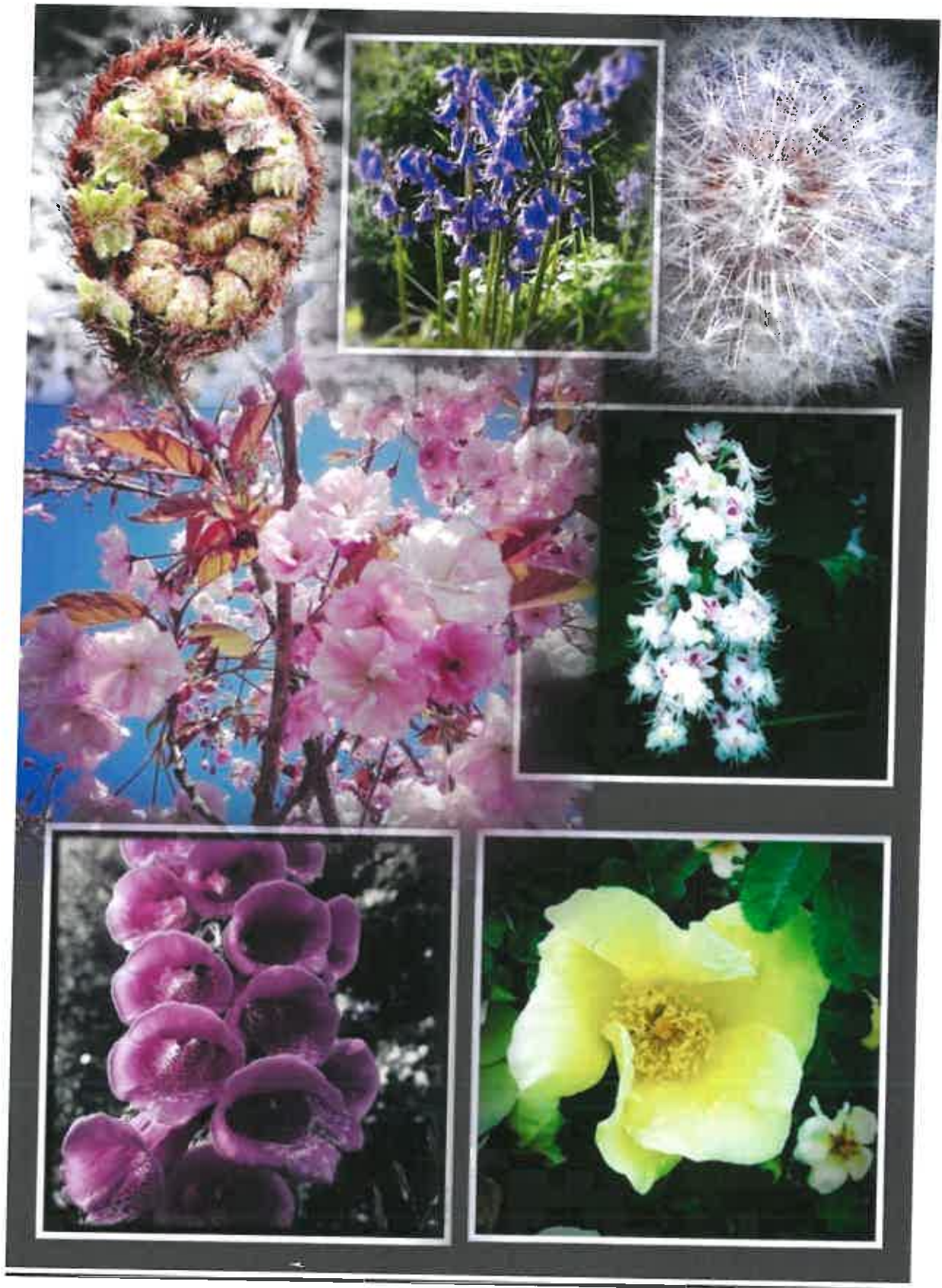




Natural Heritage







Foraging the mile

"EARTH GROWN HERBS, A WITCHES BREW,
YOUR ENERGY MAKES MY DREAMS COME TRUE.
HEARKEN TO MY DEEP DESIRE
AMIDST THE CANDLES RADIANT FIRE
HERBS OF LUCK, PROSPERITY,
HEED MY CALL AND BRING TO ME
FINANCIAL ABUNDANCE AND SECURITY
AS I WILL SO MOTE IT BE!



Nettle



Edible: Nettle can be used to make the most delicious soups and added to stews.

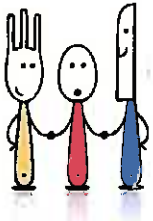


Magical: Nettle can be burned to drive out negativity or unwanted spirits. It can also be used in protection bags, our ground into powder and used in spells to break curses.



Medicinal: Nettle leaf is among the most valuable herbal remedies. Because of its many nutrients, stinging nettle is traditionally used as a spring tonic. It is a slow-acting nutritive herb that gently cleanses the body of metabolic wastes.

Dandelion



Edible: All parts of dandelions are edible, leaves and flowers can be added to salads.

The Dandelion is rich in vitamin A, B, C

Roasted dandelion can be used as an alternative to coffee.

You can also make you very own dandelion beer.

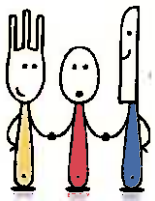


Magical: Drink Dandelion Coffee or tea to promote psychic powers



Medicinal: Dandelion supports overall health especially urinary and digestive functions.

Wild Garlic



Edible: Use to flavour soups and caseroles ,
Garlic pesto, garlic bread



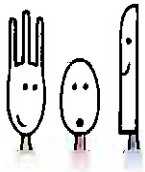
Magical: Use for:

- Protection
- To stop gossip
- To bring success.



Medicinal: Cures coughs and chest complaints

Clover



Edible: Leaves of clover are edible, raw or cooked. The young leaves are best harvested before the plant flowers, and can be used in salads, soups etc. They can be used as a vegetable, cooked like spinach. Flowers and seed pods have been dried, ground into a powder and used as flour or sprinkled on cooked foods such as boiled rice. The root can be eaten if cooked first. A sweet herb tea is made from the fresh or dried flowers. The dried leaves impart a vanilla flavour if mixed into cakes or breads.



Magical: In folk magic Red Clover is used in a ritual bath to attract money and prosperity to the bather and is also used as a floor wash to chase out evil and unwanted ghosts. The four-leaf clover is believed to protect from evil spirits, witches, disease and the evil eye.



Medicinal : Red clover has been used to cure coughs, as an expectorant, to help with asthma, and is used externally for skin problems including irritation caused by insect stings and bites, eczema, psoriasis and wound healing.

Rosehips



Edible: The most abundant source of Vitamin C-rich rose hips is from wild hedgerows and thickets. Here hips can be gathered in ample quantities for cooking and storing.

Rose hips can be made into a variety of appetizing, healthy dishes. Turned into jelly, syrup, and wine, they make delightful gifts.



Magical: Place raised hips around the home to bring back harmony and peace if there has been a great deal of disharmony or upheaval. Consecrate and charge the rose hips to radiate with loving, calming energies that will fill your space. Tuck them in cabinets and closets, under pillows, and on window sills and door frames.



Medicinal: When you think of **Vitamin C**, think of **Rose Hips!** Rich in many **nutrients**, Rose Hips have gained a worthy place as a healthy supplement to help maintain good health and **prevent colds, flu and infections**. They contain sixty times the amount of vitamin C than found in lemons! Rose Hips help to **strengthen body tissues**, build and maintain a healthy **vascular system** and **prevent damage to fragile capillaries**.

Thistle



Edible: Thistle leaves are edible if you strip them of spines as are the bottom of the flower buds, though the bud bottoms aren't much more than a nibble. All can be eaten raw, steamed or boiled. (Or roast whole by a fire and squeeze the cooked core out.)



Magical: *Thistle is for protection and vitality, a bow of thistle in a room will strengthen the spirits, carry some in your pocket for strength and energy.*



Medicinal: Milk thistle may protect the liver against toxicity (Tylenol), alcohol and other drugs. In Europe, milk thistle is reportedly administered to patients when they are given medications known to cause liver problems. Milk thistle has also been explored for cancer prevention and high cholesterol.

Blackberry



Edible: Blackberries delicious just freshly picked, they have so many uses, jam making, jellies, chutney, tarts and wine.



Magical: Always use blackberry when casting money spells as it contains *properties of abundance*.



Medicinal: Since the plant is strongly astringent, infusions are used to relieve diarrhoea. As a mouthwash, it is used to strengthen spongy gums and ease mouth ulcers. The berries make a pleasant gargle for swallowing.

Poultices or compresses are used externally on wounds and bruises. Decoctions are used to relieve diarrhoea and haemorrhoids.

Meadowsweet



Edible: Meadowsweet can be used to make cordials and liqueurs and even champagne.

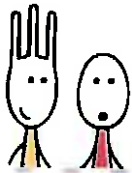


Magical: Used for love magic, and to help with happy energy. This is a subtle, but aromatic herb which can be used as the symbol for love when casting a spell for attraction. You can also burn the dried herb in your home to get rid of negative tension, and provide a warm, uplifting atmosphere.



Medicinal: Meadowsweet can be used to treat a number of stomach problems, such as heartburn, stomach ulcers, and diarrhoea. Meadowsweet is also used to fight infections or to relieve the pain of sore joints and muscles.

Burdock



Edible: First-year roots and second-year stems can be cooked by boiling for about 20 minutes, then season to taste. Before cooking however, the stems should be peeled, and roots scrubbed in order to remove the bitter rind. Immature flower stalks may also be harvested in late spring, before flowers appear; their taste resembles that of artichoke. The Japanese have been known to eat the leaves when a plant is young and leaves are soft.

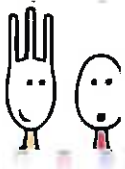


Magical: Burdock is primarily used for protection, for example by threading pieces of dried burdock onto a string and wearing it as a necklace. An amulet can be made from the root, or the leaves can be used as part of incense and spread around the house.



Medicinal: Burdock Root contains a number of medicinal properties that have been used for hundreds of years. Traditionally herbalists all over the world use Burdock Root as a blood purifier

Chickweed



Edible: Chickweed leaves are used by adding them raw to salads and sandwiches. They can be tossed into soups and stews as well. When adding to a cooked dish, the stems and flowers can be used also.

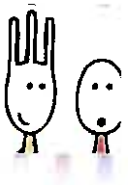


Magical: Carry or use in spells designed to attract a love or to maintain a relationship.



Medicinal: Chickweed is an excellent source of many B vitamins and various minerals. It is used to treat bronchitis, pleurisy, coughs, colds, and as a blood builder. Externally it is good for skin diseases, due to its astringent properties, and the tea added to the bath is good for soothing skin irritations and rashes. A poultice of the leaves treats cuts, wounds, and bruises. Because it is such a valuable vitamin and mineral source, chickweed is used in foods and teas for the ill to help build the body.

Cow Parsley



Edible: The leaves can be used like parsley or garden chervil, eat the stems of Cow Parsley either peeled and raw, or simply steamed. Eat them with butter like you would asparagus, or preserve some, Cow Parsley pickle.



Magical: This flower has been used in ancient rituals and spells to increase fertility in women and sexual potency in men.



Medicinal: The Cow Parsley is an aromatic herb that acts as a diuretic, soothes the digestive tract and stimulates the uterus. A wonderfully cleansing medicine, it supports the liver, stimulates the flow of urine and the removal of waste by the kidneys. An infusion is used in the treatment of various complaints including digestive disorders, kidney and bladder diseases and in the treatment of dropsy. An infusion of the leaves has been used to counter cystitis and kidney stone formation, and to diminish stones that have already formed.

Horsetail



Edible: The fertile shoots can be used in spring - cooked and used as an asparagus substitute. They should be used when young but even so it is probably best to change the water, perhaps 3 - 4 times

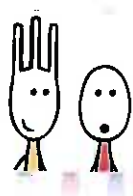


Magical: Horsetail strengthens resolve and defines boundaries. It can be used to make affirmations and commitments firm and to protect one's psychic space against unwanted intrusions. It helps to cleanse unwanted emotional rubble and debris from the system. It is an herb of Saturn



Medicinal: As a diuretic, it will increase urination, thus flushing the system of toxins. Its astringent property would make it good for wounds and to stop bleeding. It can be used internally, as a weak tea, and externally, as a wash for wounds, or dip a towel in the tea and use as a poultice, a compress, or add to bath water.

Plantain



Edible: Young leaves can be used in salads, can also be cooked as a spinach substitute. Seeds can be ground and added to flour to give a nutty flavour.



Magical: Protects the home and car, gives protection from snake bites.



Medicinal: Plantain has been used to cure liver disorders, ulcers and ringworm.

Wild Foragers Recipes



Wild Garlic Pesto

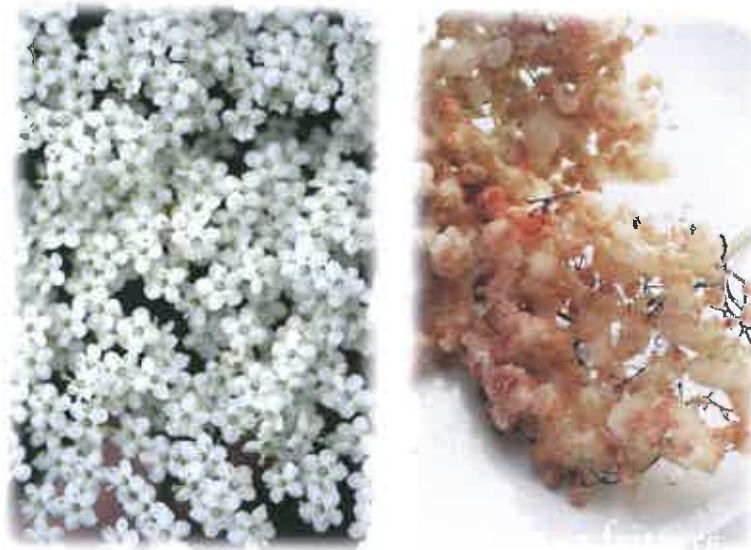
Makes 250ml

50g (2 oz) Parmesan cheese
25g (1/4 cup) pine nuts
50g (2 oz) wild garlic leaves, stems removed
200ml (3/4 cup) rapeseed oil or extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice, or to taste
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Break off a 50g (2 oz) chunk of Parmesan cheese and cut it into a few slices. Place in a food processor and whizz until it's roughly grated. Tip the cheese into a bowl and set aside. Place the pine nuts in the food processor and pulse until they're roughly chopped. Tip into the bowl with the cheese. Doing it this way makes a pesto with some texture to it, which I love; if you're not fussy about it, just blend the cheese, pine nuts and wild garlic together all at the same time.

Place the wild garlic in the food processor and whizz until it's finely chopped. With the motor running, slowly pour in the oil until a thick sauce has formed (you might not need all the oil). Add in the lemon juice and pulse again to combine. Remove the blade from the food processor and stir in the Parmesan, pine nuts and a generous amount of salt and pepper. Taste the pesto and adjust the seasoning or add in more lemon juice if you want a little more zing.

Spoon the pesto into a clean Kilner jar and store in the fridge for 1 or 2 weeks. This also freezes very well.



Elderflower Fritters

Serves 4–6

The best time to pick elderflowers is on a dry, warm day, well away from traffic and roadsides. Shake the flowers gently to get rid of any insects.

100g plain flour
175ml sparkling water
sunflower oil
caster sugar
1 egg white
12–16 elderflower heads

Sift the flour into a large bowl and then add the sparkling water and 2 tablespoons of the sunflower oil. Whisk together until a thick paste forms, then stir in 1 tablespoon of the caster sugar. Set aside for 30 minutes (don't be tempted to skip this resting time, it's essential for a light result). Just before you're ready to fry the elderflowers, beat an egg white and fold it into the batter.

Gently swirl the elderflower heads in a bowl of cold water to clean them, then lightly shake them dry. Line a plate with some kitchen paper and sprinkle a good few tablespoons of caster sugar into a shallow dish.

Pour about 3cm (1 inch) of sunflower oil into a heavy-bottomed, deep-sided pan and heat the oil until it reaches 180°C (350°F). (If you don't have a thermometer, you can test that the oil is hot enough by dropping in a cube of bread — the oil is ready when the bread turns golden in just a few seconds.) Dip the elderflowers into the batter and lower them into the oil. Fry for 1 to 2 minutes, until the batter is golden and crisp. Lift out and blot on the kitchen paper-lined plate to soak up any excess oil, then dip into the dish of caster sugar. Eat while they are hot and crisp.



Nettle & Cheese Omelette

Serves 4 to 6

Filled with stinging nettle, chives and cheese, this 6-egg omelette makes a an excellent breakfast served with fresh fruit and cream, or a simple lunch when paired with a salad /

Ingredients

- 8 ounces stinging nettle leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon unrefined sea salt
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons clarified butter
- 2 tablespoons finely snipped fresh chives
- 2 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, sliced thin
-

Instructions

1. Drop the nettle leaves into a medium sized stockpot, sprinkle with salt and pour in 1 to 2 tablespoons water. Set the pot over medium-low heat on your stove, and cover it with a tight-fitting lid. Allow the nettles to wilt until they release their juice, soften and grow limp - about 20 minutes. Remove the nettle leaves with a slotted spoon and transfer them to a fine-mesh sieve, press them firmly with the back of a wooden spoon so their juice runs out, then set them aside while you prepare the omelette.
2. Beat the eggs with heavy cream until loosely combined, and not frothy. Warm the clarified butter in a large and well-seasoned cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. When it melts, pour in the eggs, swirl the pan to promote an even layer of egg and let them cook in the hot butter until the edges begin to ruffle ever so slightly - about 5 to 10 seconds. Reduce the heat to low, and cover the skillet with a lid for 20 to 30 seconds or until the eggs set. Lift off the cover, and fill one side of the omelette with the wilted nettles, sprinkle with chives and top with slices of cheddar cheese. Fold the unfilled half of the omelette over the filling, return the lid and let it sit a further 20 to 30 seconds.



Elderflower Cordial

- 1k / 2 ¼ lbs sugar
- 1.5 litres / 6 cups boiling water
- 4 medium lemons, washed
- 30 large Elderflower heads, shake to remove any insects
- 55g / 2 oz citric acid (available from a chemist)

Preparation:

- Place the sugar into a large saucepan/stockpot or a large Pyrex bowl. Pour the boiling water over and stir until all the sugar has dissolved and leave to cool.
- Grate the rind of the lemons with a fine grater, add to the sugar water.
- Slice the lemons into thick slices and add to the water. Add the citric acid and stir, then finally add the flower heads to the water and stir again.
- Cover with a clean cloth and leave to steep for 48 hours.
- Strain through clean fine muslin cloth into a clean bowl.
- Using a funnel, fill sterilized bottles (see note below). Seal and store in a cool, dark place (not the refrigerator) for a few weeks or freeze in plastic bottles to keep for longer (see note below).

The cordial is delicious diluted with still or fizzy water or used as a flavouring in ice creams, fruit fools.

Rural Environmental Protection Scheme

Three farms on the road are involved in the "The Rural Environmental Protection Scheme"

Pat Mulhall, Pádraig Connolly and Paddy Byrne are all interested in this Environmental Measure

The primary Reps schemes are aimed to:

- Establish farming practices and production methods which reflect the concern for protection of landscape.
- Protect wildlife habitats.
- Ensure the protection of flora and fauna
- Produce environmentally friendly quality food.

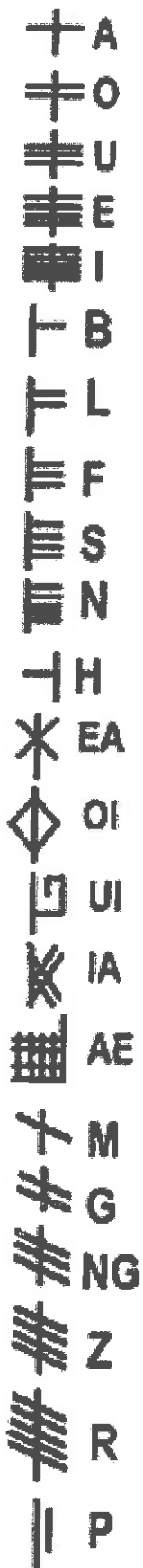
Riparian Zone

Reps farmers have riparian zones which run along the river Derry which provide suitable buffer zones that provide a suitable habitat for flora and fauna.

These areas are to contain certain types of salmonid, freshwater crayfish or pearl mussel species.

No pesticides or fertilisers may be used, alder and scrub must be removed and 50% of trees should be planted with trees such as Oak, Beech, willow, birch, ash, whitethorn, blackthorn or elder.





Ballynamanogue – Mullans South Pure Mile

Celtic Calendar

“Celtic Tree Alphabet”

In ancient times the Celtic Year was split into thirteen Lunar months which mirrored the cycles of the moon, each moon/month was linked to a tree that was sacred to the Druids. In addition each of the moons was associated with one of the 20 letters of the Ogham alphabet, which consisted of four groups of five symbols. In addition each tree represents a particular characteristic within the Ogham alphabet.

So as an example let’s take the first of the letters of the Ogham alphabet ‘B’, this letter is pronounced Beithe which means Birch and is associated with the qualities of renewal, rebirth, and youth. Beithe is the first ‘moon’ of the Celtic year and begins on December 24th.

Legend ascribes its origins of the alphabet to Ogma, the ancient Celtic god of flowery speech and oratory. Inscriptions that can be found in various places in Ireland run along the edge of monument stones, or gallán, and are read from the bottom to the top of the line of characters.

It is believed that the Ogham alphabet may also have been a kind of code that the Celts used so they could leave messages for each other carved on trees, it being

important that other people would not understand these messages.

By a happy chance along the length of the 'Pure Mile' we have all 13 of the trees of the Ogham calendar, plus 4 others, Beech, Apple, Gorse and Fir. We have chosen a good specimen of each one of the trees at which we have placed a 'slate' on which is written some information relevant to each month, thus creating a kind of walking Zodiac. At the start of the 'Pure Mile' we have also placed a 'map', also on a slate, to encourage folk to find their tree.



†

BEITHE-BIRCH

The Celtic calendar
begins with the Birch
moon

24th DEC - 20th JAN

Symbolic

MEANING:

BEGINNING, RENEWAL, YOUTH
AS A BIRCH PERSON YOU
HAVE A CLEAR CUT
PERSONALITY WITH A
STRONG MIND AND SENSE
OF LOYALTY

F

Luis-Rowan

2nd month of
the Celtic
calendar

21st Jan - 17th Feb

Symbolic meaning:
protection,
expression, and
connection.

The tree of
sensitivity and
life. Said to
be a guardian
of the home



NION-ASH

The 3RD MONTH OF
THE CELTIC
CALENDAR.

18TH FEB - 17TH APR

Symbolic
MEANING:

Wisdom Connection
AND SURRENDER.

As an ash person
your task is to
show others how
beautiful this
world is. Ash is
believed to be
enchanted and was
used to make
wands for druids



FEÀRN-ALDER

The 4th month in
The Celtic
Calendar. A TIME
OF NEW GROWTH AND
RESEARCH

18th MAR-14th APR

Symbolic Meaning:
endurance, passion
STRENGTH

It was a CRIME to fell
an alder. The ANGRY
TREE SPIRIT WAS
believed to burn
down dwellings



SAIL - WILLOW

The 5th month of
the CELTIC
CALENDAR

15th APR - 15th
MAY

Symbolic meanings:
IMAGINATION,
INTUITION, VISION.

WILLOWS ARE SACRED
TO THE MOON. In
celtic myth the
universe was
hatched from 2 eggs
hidden in a willow.
The willow moon is a
time for ATTRACTING
A NEW LOVE.



huath-hawthorn

The 6th month of
the Celtic
calendar.

13th May - 9th June

Symbiotic meanings:
CONTRADICTION,
CONSEQUENCE
RELATIONSHIPS

hawthorns were
planted for
protection around
churches and
dwellings. It was
believed faeries and
spirits lived among
hawthorns



DUIR - OAK

The 7th month in
The Celtic
Calendar, a time
of growth
and fruitfulness

10th June - 7th July

Symbolic meaning:
strength,
stability, nobility

Oak people are
wise, optimistic
and confident

Oaks were sacred
to druids
symbolising truth
and knowledge



Tinne-holly

The 8th month in the
celtic calendar.
• A time to focus
on putting the bad
times behind you

8th July - 4th Aug

Symbolic meaning:
ACTION, ASSERTION,
OBJECTIVITY

Celtic chieftans were
crowned with a holly
wreath. Celtic warriors
carried holly clubs
to ward off their
enemies and evil
spirits.



Coll-hazel

The 9th month of
the Celtic calendar
a time for focusing
on gaining more
knowledge and wisdom

5th Aug - 1st Sept

Symbolic meaning:
creativity, purity,
honesty

hazel folk are seen
to be artistic, and
understanding. They
are radical and
idealistic thinkers

muin-DRAMBLE

The 10th month of
the CELTIC CALENDAR
A TIME FOR REAPING
THE REWARDS OF
SEEDS SOWN
EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

2nd Sept - 29th Sept

Symbolic meaning:
INTROSPECTION,
RELAXATION, DEPTH

DRAMBLE FOLK ARE
NATURAL, WILD AND
PERSISTENT, WITH
LIMITLESS ENERGY. IT
IS A SYMBOL OF
SPIRITUAL INITIATION
AND SACRED KNOWLEDGE



JORT-IVY

The 11th month of
The CELTIC calendar
A TIME FOR FOCUSING
ON YOUR WELLBEING
AND RESILIENCE.

30th Sept - 27th Oct

Symbolic meaning:
DETERMINATION,
Change, patience

Ivy folk have the
power and strength
to overcome the
many hurdles that
present themselves
on life's path.



NSETAZ-RECO

The 12th month
of the Celtic
calendar, a time
for blessing
your home

28th Oct - 24th Nov

Symbolic meanings:
harmony, health,
growth

Druids used reeds
for pens and are
believed to
symbolise
scholarship,
knowledge and
wisdom

RUIS-ELDER

the 13th and last
full moon of the
celtic calendar

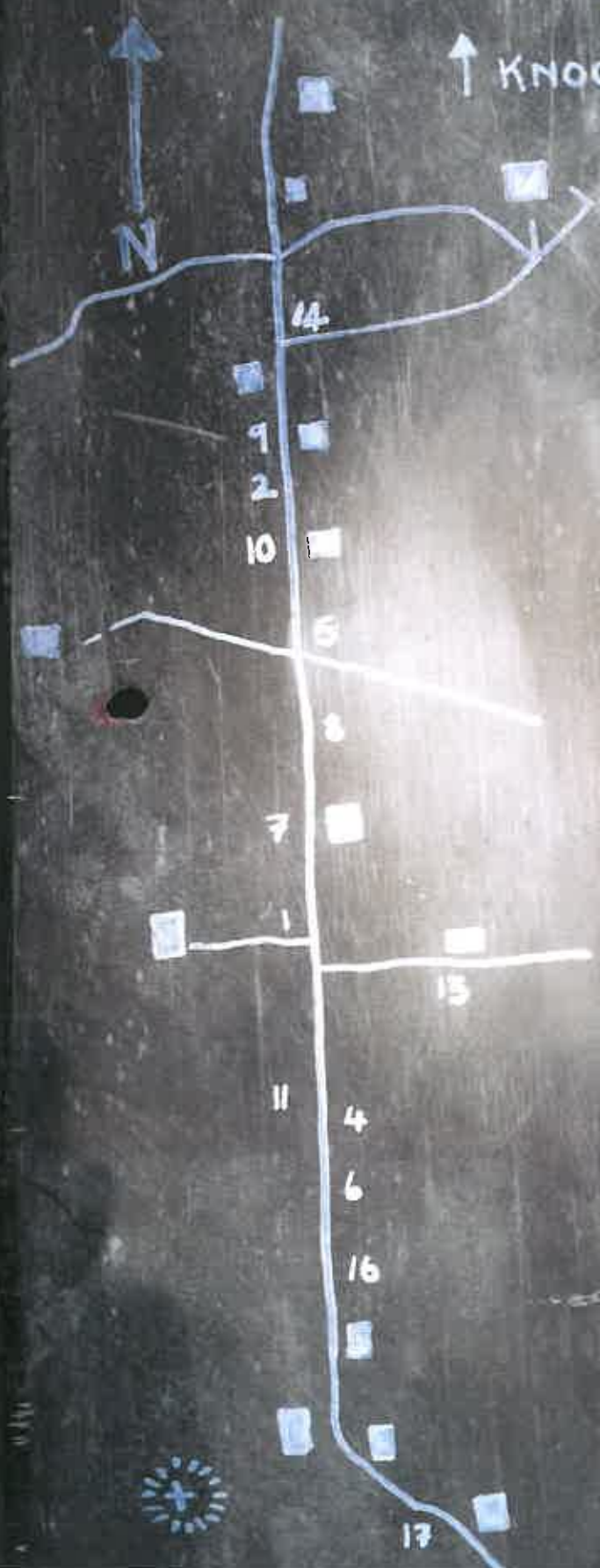
25th Nov - 23th
Dec

symbolic meaning:
TRANSITION
EVOLUTION, CONTINUATION

The elder is sacred to
the Faeles, it was
felt to be an omen
of death to bring
elder in to the
house. ELDER FOLK
ARE WISE, MAGICAL
and SPIRITUALLY
enlightened.

Celtic Calendar

MAP



↑ KNOCKANNANA

- 1. BIRCH
- 2. ROWAN
- 3. ASH
- 4. ALDER
- 5. WILLOW
- 6. HAWTHORN
- 7. OAK
- 8. HOLLY
- 9. HAZEL
- 10. BRAMBLE
- 11. IVY
- 12. REED
- 13. ELDER
- 14. BEECH
- 15. APPLE
- 16. GORSE
- 17. FIR

⊕ : KILCROMER
RUINED
CHURCH.

The Derry River

The Derry River runs adjacent to the Ballinamanogue/ Mullins Pure Mile. The two main tributaries which form the Derry River meet at Crossbridge and the Derry flows on as one river to Tinahely, Shillelagh and Clonegal until it meets the Slaney near Kildavin.

There are two main sources to the Derry and there are several tributaries along the way. One source is near the town of Hacketstown at the foot of Eagle Hill. It flows in the direction of Tinahely and is joined by a bigger stream which rises in Knocknaboley and forms a dividing line between Co. Carlow and a Co. Wicklow and passes beneath Ballinaquilky Bridge. Soon after it joins the stream from Eagle Hill and together they flow in the direction of Red Bog and turns northwards for Crossbridge.

The other main tributary rises at the other end of the townland of Knocknaboley in Keating's bog and flows in the general direction of Tinahely and is joined by another stream coming from behind Wolohans and several mountain streams which rise in Mullins and all contribute to the volume of water which eventually forms the Derry river that flows by Crossbridge.



Ballinamanogue/Mullins Hill.

The name is sometimes disputed but in fact some of this hill is in Ballinamanogue **and** in Mullins however it is more commonly known as Mullins Hill. This forms part of the Wicklow Way. The Wicklow Way is Ireland's first and most popular Waymarked Way, running between Marlay Park (Dublin) and Clonegal, 82 miles (132 km) to the south. It offers varied and scenic walking on the flanks of the rugged Wicklow Mountains with loughs and waterfalls, passing historic buildings and hospitable villages. Much of the route lies over 1600 feet (500 metres) giving glorious views. Lower sections run through forests and farmland, over a mixture of tracks, roads and pathways rich in wildlife.



Bird Boxes

Lots of Bird Boxes were made and erected, thanks to Maurice & Jenny Collins, Christy & Matthew Mulhall while we looked on.



The Apple Trees

Twelve Apple Trees were planted on the side of the road in the hope that people might pick an apple, sit on a seat, relax and appreciate the natural beauty of a litter free PURE mile.



The Trees were provided by Mr. Jack Kelly – Wicklow Co. Council and planted by The Development Committee.

Noel & Annette Kavanagh's Entrance



Before Pure Mile



After Pure Mile

Mullins Cross



Before and After



Ballinamanogue Bridge



Before & after photographs, unfortunately we could not get the bridge repaired despite numerous phone calls, letters and e-mails to Councillors and other public representatives.



Mullins Avenue

Before



After



Kilcromer
Before & After





Kavanagh's House (unoccupied)



Tús Participant Neil Doyle.

He asked not --

“Ask not what your PURE Mile can do for you, but what you can do for your PURE Mile”

Neil did this and worked very hard as a Tús Participant and before the end of his year as participant he secured a job as a Tús Supervisor.

Not good for us but great for him.



Before



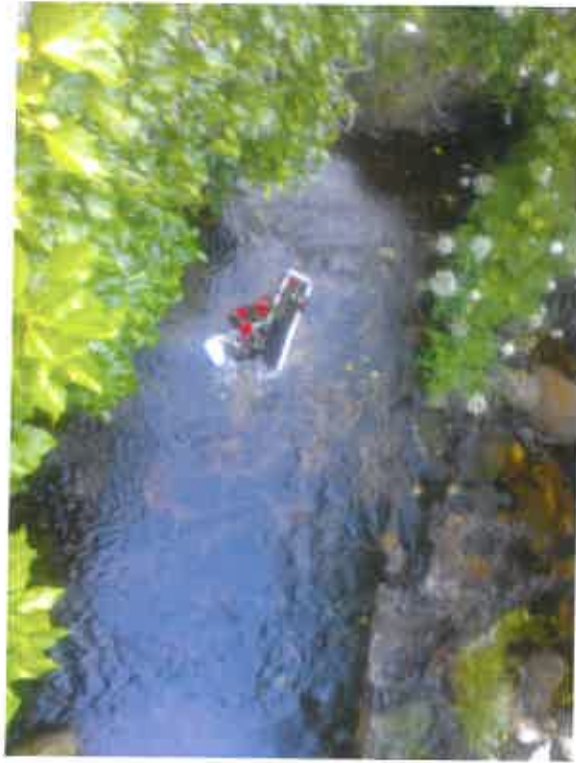
After

Well Done Neil

Who Did It?



Reward €100,000



Who chucked our lovely flower boxes in River?



But why?

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust



Gertrude Jekyll

So what did we do?

We planted and replaced more flower boxes, securing this time ,fingers crossed.

Who didn't supply the trees?



"If at first you don't succeed try and try again"

One Million Trees in One Day is a charity, not-for-profit, cross-border, community and environmental initiative which aims to plant a million young native trees at many different sites across both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 24 hours.

September 2012 we ordered 200 trees, 100 of which were oak, the remainder were fruit and any other indigenous trees they had. They were to arrive in March and planted between 12.00 pm on 24th March and 12.00 pm on 25th March. A Team of people from the community were arranged to plant these. However, this was postponed on the last minute by the organisation. A new date for the 26th to 27th April was organised, again our crew was ready with spades, once again this was postponed at the last minute and only a very limited number of trees were sent out and we unfortunately did not receive any. The Organisation have now changed from '1 million trees in a day' to just being '1 million trees' which they are determined to plant in the planting season before the end of this year. Crossbridge will be ready with manpower and spades to take part in this project and even though we don't have this completed in the "PURE mile" time we will do so.

Who Litters our Countryside? Who Stole our Lawnmower & Strimmer?



But more important - Who Done the Lovely Art Work?



Bob Kavanagh, Rathshanmore.



Until Next Year Crossbridge Development Group say Good Bye.

Acknowledgements:

Crossbridge Development would like to thank most sincerely everyone who helped in any way on this year's PURE mile project. A lot of hard work was done by everybody. We would also like to thank the families of the committee for their patience and understanding. Our appreciation also extends to anyone who contributed to our funds in any way. To Tús and their participants, to the Rural Social Scheme and their participants to the Rural Recreation Scheme and last but not least to the PURE organisation who have inspired us to take on this environmental measure .



