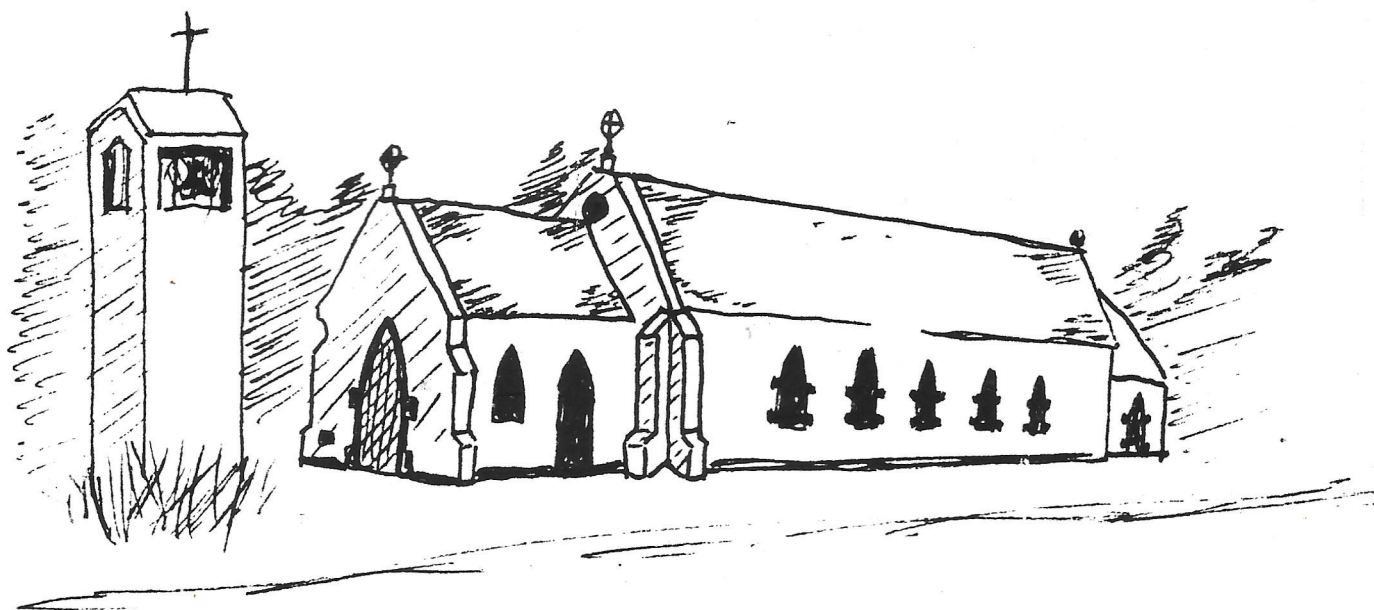


Glencorrib  
Newsletter

Volume 1  
Price £2

# GLENCORRIB NEWS



## 1996/97

*Glencorrib Annual & History Items*

C O N T E N T S .

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E D I T O R S N O T E .

Here is the first issue of what is hoped will be an annual account of events in this area. Originally it was hoped to have a more substantial work with some historical material, particularly on the course of the Great Famine on the population of the time. When I floated this idea some months ago I had in mind that it might spur a more general effort to record our local history. There was no practical response to that appeal, so instead we have assembled an annual, a form of report on organisations and activities over the past year. This is a useful exercise in its own right but the historical element by noticing the findings of THE GRIFFITH SURVEY for this area. This is now the earliest general record we have of all property owning families of one hundred and fifty years ago. While the pages shown have some copying defects, the contents are quite legible and must have more than passing interest for those whose ancestors lived here in that time.

At one stage it was intended to include details from the 1901 Census returns, the earliest complete record we have of the population of Ireland. following the destruction of the returns of earlier censuses, taken every ten years from 1821. Two - those for 1861 and 1871 - were destroyed by order of the former British government. The first four were destroyed in the fire in the National Records Office in 1922. However we found the copies supplied to us so defective that its inclusion must be deferred to another time. Similarly it was hoped to publish the local efforts in the national Folklore Survey completed in 1936-1939. As these are in handwriting, time is needed to transcribe them. Again, a task for a future annual. which I hope will also be piloted by a different editor!

J. Creaven.

## GLENCORRIB ANNUAL.

With seasonal good wishes, you are offered our first annual review of happenings in our area. It comes as we near the end of another year and does not include as much historical material as we once hoped. But as the famine commemoration continues until 1998 there will be other opportunities to remedy that defect.

Meanwhile, our collective thanks to all who helped in this production.

As we look back, we recall both sad events and others which brought great happiness to many homes.

### **First, those to whom we sadly bade farewell :**

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Paddy Hughes, Mochara         | <u>Died</u><br>8/11/96 |
| Tommy Canavan, Ballycurrin    | 13/5/96                |
| Martin Fitzgerald, Mochara.   | 5/6/96                 |
| Paddy Hennelly, Glencorrib    | 5/11/96                |
| Mrs. Patty McNamara, Rostaff. | 6/11/96                |

Sincere sympathy to their families and friends.  
May they rest in eternal peace.

### **Next a list of those for whom Wedding Bells rang out :**

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Ann Fitzgerald, Mochara               |         |
| Patrick J. Phillips, Ballyhaunis      | 7/4/96  |
| Joan Crowe, Moyne                     |         |
| Edward Connolly, Barnaboy             | 8/4/96  |
| Marie Moran, Glencorrib and Middlesex |         |
| Declan Byron, Middlesex               | 1/6/96  |
| Brid Biggins, Glencorrib              |         |
| Thomas Moffatt, Galway                | 30/8/96 |
| Mary D. Browne, Moyne                 |         |
| Mark Lande, Cork.                     | 6/9/96  |
| Catriona Hogan, Rostaff               |         |
| Thomas Flanagan, Cave                 | 27/9/96 |
| Catherine Hanley, Herbertstown        |         |
| John Toher, Glencorrib                | 28/9/96 |

We wish them all a long and happy life, enriched by God's abundant blessings.



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## Athletics

### **The Border Ramblers Athletic Club.**

The Border Ramblers Athletic Club was formed at a meeting on Tuesday 12th October 1993.  
Present were :

**From Shrle** : Sheila Geraghty, Marian Walsh, Kathleen Kelleghan, Marie O'Malley, Kathleen Lohan, Patricia Flaherty.

**From Glencorrib** : John Coleman and Patrick Moran.

A competition was launched among all the school children of the parish to find a name for the new club.

The first training session was held on October 21st 1993 in Shrle Community Sportsfield. After further meetings, a total of fifty three suggested names for the club were received. The Committee decided to adopt the name submitted by Helena Lohan of Shrle, **"The Border Ramblers Athletics Club"**. Officers were elected for the new club and four coaches were appointed, Patrick Moran and John Coleman, Kathleen Lohan and Sheila Geraghty.

The Club first competed in the Spring 1994, Mayo Track and Field Championships, with a fair degree of success.

The Cross - Country 1994 season saw the club take Mayo and Connacht titles and laid the foundations of a very talented under 11 team. Further progress in 1995 resulted in the winning of Mayo and Connacht championship medals. That year's Cross - Country season saw Assumpta Bohan taking two National Medals in Cork, and club mate Pat Casey also taking a national medal.

The 1996 season reached a high note when Assumpta Bohan took the national 800 metres title in Tullamore. Niamh Hennelly came second in the 1500 metres (1 mile) to gain a silver medal. Assumpta's win was done in impressive style, giving her confidence in her own ability. Niamh, too, ran a great race, knocking more than twenty seconds off her time since she won the Connacht 1500 metres title five weeks earlier. Others also to do well were Helena Lohan (shot-putt) and David Mullin (long-jump).

In October the Cross - Country season got into full swing, with our under 13 and under 14 girls winning Mayo and Connacht titles impressively. Our under 12 team began to make an impact and came third in Connacht to qualify for the All - Ireland finals in Santry, Dublin.

The weather on Sunday November 24th was dreadful and it was fortunate we had gone up on Saturday to test the course in Ballybrit and practice our gameplan. Fortunately the weather eased by race time. Assumpta ran a great race to win the All - Ireland title, followed closely by Niamh taking Bronze. The rest of the team did well too, but were beaten by 10 points by Thurles for the medals. Regina Murphy did well in the under 15 girls to be 21st with Pat Casey coming 22nd in the boys race. For the Western Region team Ronan Casey came 52nd to earn a bronze for the Western Region team, while Assumpta and Niamh also won bronze as members of the Region team. On their return our athletics were greeted by bonfires in Shrle, Rostaff, Woodpark and Glencorrib.

Now it was off to Dublin, to a different setting, on a fast, flat track. The under 12 team in their first taste of the big time performed well. Jacqueline Moran came 64th, Michelle Biggins 66th, Gemma Naughton 68th, Laura Murphy 77th, Geraldine Coakley 88th and Edel Fitzgerald 101st. If they persevere, this team can do even better in the coming years.

In a very fast run race on a flat track, the under 14 team did well with Assumpta taking the bronze medal in 8th position. Niamh also did well to come 20th. Helena Lohan came 32nd, Cathy Reapy 80th, Sabrina Bailey 85th and Maeve O'Mally 102nd. They are eligible for under 14 again next year.

The club thank all who bought tickets and gave sponsorship help. New track-suits costing £800 were bought and the athletes are very proud of their new gear, showing it by great commitment to training. Good wishes to all our friends for Christmas and New Year.

## OUR SCHOOL

### *Kilroe - School Year - 1996*

We have come to the end of another year and also the end of the term of office of the School Management Board. We wish to thank all members of the Board for their help and co-operation during their three year term.

In September, last year we welcomed six Infants - the largest in-take to Kilroe, for many years. We also welcomed Father Creaven as Chairman of the Board, who celebrated Mass in the classroom during the first term.

A Parents Meeting was held in January, and lively discussion took place, on the many changes about to take place in our Educational System, as a result of the "White paper". Parents had an opportunity of discussing their children's progress with their teacher.

Our Annual "Card Game" was again a great success - raising £600 for the Boards Fund. Great credit is due to the ticket sellers and our sponsors.

We had a wonderful gathering of parents, grand-parents and friends at our "Garden Concert" on June 11th. It is a great opportunity for parents, pupils, teachers and friends to meet and enjoy the "Tea" in Alice's room. It is particularly pleasing to see the number of Past-Pupils who turn up on those occasions.

Our School tour this year took us to the Clonmochnoise - Athlone Region and all had a wonderful time.

In September '96 we welcomed Shona Garvey, Kilroe, and Gene Geraghty, Boula, to Junior Infants. Also starting this last term were Sean Mooney, Boula, Patrick O'Dea, Rostaff, and Robin Kujau, Glassvalley. Those last three boy's families are new to the area and we hope they will be happy here with us.

Kilroe School, was first opened on the present site (given by Lynch of Ballycurrin) in 1849. We hope to celebrate 150 years of "School in Kilroe" in 1999. With this celebration in mind, we hope to have meetings in the near future to discuss and decide what form of celebration we have. We will be looking for old photos, stories etc. relating to the school.

We owe it to all who spent some time here, in Kilroe School, to remember them in some fitting way.



## **Scoil Mhuire ,Glencorrib.**

Its the twilight of another calender year and for most people a time of reflection,regret ,joy, and hope.In school terms its the turning over of half the old and the beginning of the new.It marks the end of the present Board of Management, Frances Mohan, Bridie Biggins, Brid Mohan and John Coleman.We are endebted to them for their time,effort,and interest in the well being of the school.

We welcome the arrival of Millie and Jack Dempsey and family to our school community.We also welcome Deirdre Coleman. Our community will be enriched by their presence.In the turning wheeis of life we must by the same token say farewell,regretfully,to Assumpta Bohan, Laura Murphy and Patricia Sheridan.We wish them every success in Presentation College, Headford.Its proper and fair ,at this juncture,to acknowledge former pupils who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields and moved on to greater opportunities in third level.

ON the sporting the school enjoyed quite an amount of success in different fields.In March 96 the girls cross- country team competed in the Connacht final. Assumpta Bohan having already won the area and county titles.On the day bad luck denied her adding the Connacht title to her achievements.

Laura Murphy , Michelle Biggins and Assumpta Bohan assisted the Glencorrib-Neale combination in winning the county title.Assumpta went on to represent Mayo at Croke Park.The girls won the area final for small schools and were unlucky not to advance further.The competition was not out of their reach. The loss of Michelle Biggins proved a bridge too far.This particular team finished off the year on their highest note by winning the McGrath Cup.It will probably rank as the best team effort witnessed for some time.

The boys achieved some success on the field. They captured the I.N.T.O. trophy for small schoolsand reached the semi-final in the area section of South Mayo, aided by the girls.

The present athletes attained 3rd in the area final and got throughto the county final,with Michelle Biggins progressing to the Connacht final.The boys finished 2nd in the area final and got through to the county final.

In concluding a report on1996 one has to acknowledge Assumpta Bohan, for her immense contribution to the school and school life in general.An athlete of enormous potential and will go on to achieve great success in the future.

Mass was celebrated,as usual, at the beginning of the present year by Fr. John Creaven SMA.The RSE courses have continued for teachers and more information will be made available at a parents meeting in the New Year. It will probably generate a fair amount of debate.

We have already completed our fundraising activities for the year and wish to thank those who helped in any way with the running and organising of the card game and the cake- sale. We sincerely thank those who contribution. A total of £865 was realised.

It is hoped to add to the school in the New Year by building an office and a store room.

A special word of thanks to Geraldine Coleman,Noel Byrne and FAS for maintaining the school to a very high standard indeed

A Merry Christmas to all..



## *A New Initiative*

# *CATHOLIC BOY SCOUTS OF IRELAND* *(C.B.S.I.)*

On Friday 6th December we had our first meeting of the New Glencorrib Unit of Catholic Boy Scouts Of Ireland. Currently we are operating two groups of the C.B.S.I., Beaver Scouts for ages 6 - 8 and Cub Scouts for ages 8 - 11.

Scouting is a non - political, educational movement for young people. Its aim is to help young people develop physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Over the coming months, we hope to have a range of activities for the young beavers and cubs to take part in, as well as outings.

Glencorrib C.B.S.I. meet each Friday night at 5.00 p.m. and finishes at 6.30 p.m. There is a £1.00 charge per child to cover insurance, arts & crafts materials etc. It is vitally important to note, that parents make arrangements to have their children collected at 6.30 p.m., as it may not always be possible to have somebody wait with children when parents arrive late.

We are looking forward to the coming months and I hope the children get as much pleasure from their scout group as we do from having them there. As always we can never have too much help and anyone with Friday nights free is very welcome as leader. For now, from the Glencorrib Unit of C.B.S.I. we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

**Sarah McKirdy**  
**Unit Leader.**

**Leaders :** Evelyn Hennelly  
Geraldine Donaghue  
Paula Byrne.

## *Glencorrib Pioneer Centre.*

The centre was started on the 20th October 1928. The first working council were :

Rev. T. Hanley CC, Spiritual Director. Patrick Hennelly, Glencorrib, President. Jerry Petty, Ballisnahina, Treasurer. William Newell, Mount Henry, John Biggins, Ballisnahina, Secretaries.

The centre is affiliated to the Ballinrobe Region, which is made up of eight centres.

Glencorrib Pioneer Centre has been very active down through the years and has reached All Ireland Final in Readoiri Competitions on many occasions.

A Regional Meeting is held once a month at a different venue throughout the region. A Pioneer Day Retreat is held in Knock each year during Lent. A Mini Vigil is also held in Knock during the month of September. A Juvenile Section was started for the first time in the centre in April 1990.

Earlier on this year four people were presented with Gold Pins : Mary Reilly, Mrs Agnes Ward, John Molloy, Paddy Varley. Mattie Fitzgerald would also have received a Gold Pin but had died a few weeks before.

We also remember, Paddy Hennelly, who died in November, a life long member.

## *The Famine and After*

How did the "Great Hunger" affect our parish? In that area tragedy, particular rural population often depended heavily on the character and disposition of their local landlord. The West of Ireland suffered more than many other parts and one reason may have been the exaction's of many of the multitude of landlords, who insisted on extracting rents from their starving tenants. In this respect Glencorrib was more fortunate than many other regions in having compassionate landlords, who understood their tenants and made agreements in the matter of rents.

Another factor, <sup>says</sup> J. B. McHugh, in a series of articles on Shrile in the magazine "The Manx", was an abundant harvest of corn in the area and the presence of several mills in the vicinity, in which this crop could be ground into flour and meal. In Shrile the Golding family had extensive corn mills, the ruins of which are still visible. Other mills were located at Ballynalty, Ballycurrin and Ower.

While the hunger may not have been as severe here as in many other parts of Ireland, there were still serious effects of the famine. These were the widespread fevers and diseases which ravaged much of Ireland. With medical services almost non-existent, in the district these diseases took their toll.

### The Pre-Famine Picture

A detailed picture of the state of our area would require extensive research which hopefully is being carried on elsewhere. Here it is possible only to indicate a few aspects of the picture.

In 1837 a certain Samuel Lewis published a massive work entitled "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland". It carries some data on cities towns and townlands throughout the country. He tells us that the parish of Shrile then numbered 4,167 inhabitants, "of whom 567 are in the village". Would this represent about twice the present population? If so, this is in keeping with the general calculation that our country's pre-famine population was at least twice its present one.

Lewis further estimated the area of our parish as 8,959 statute acres. He relied on the figures produced under the infamous "Title Act" which imposed on all landowners the duty of contributing to the funding of the Protestant Established Church of Ireland, a grotesque imposition on affected Catholics. The tithes paid by Shrile parish amounted to £264 - 2s - 8p, a considerable sum to be paid almost exclusively by the Catholic landowners of the area.



The land of the parish Lewis considered to be of "good quality", mainly under tillage, producing, for instance, wheat of very high quality. In Shrile there was an extensive market held every Thursday, while there were three main fairs, in spring, summer and autumn; the village also boasted an extensive brewery, which, however, soon closed down, a move suggested by tradition to be due to the effective preaching and urging of the great temperance reformer, Father Matthew !!

## The Landlords

As noted already the landlords of our area were Catholic and generally fair and compassionate towards their tenants.

Lynch of Ballycurran. These were descended from a noted family expelled from the city of Galway (one of its "tribes") in the Cromwellian transplantation's. Eventually a Maurice Lynch acquired a lease of Ballycurran Castle from the earl of Clanrickarde. A descendant of his built a fine mansion in Ballycurran, in a lovely setting overlooking the bay. In 1789, a landlord leased sixteen acres, having been forced out of Ross Abbey, had been hiding in miserable conditions in a rough area known locally as "Friars Island". The Friars now built a small friary and a separate church, in which they served the pastoral needs of the local population. Following the Act of Union in 1800, a government inspired survey of the state of the Catholic Church listed Father John Lowther as parish priest of Shrile, while his curate was given as Fr. Hubert McNally who was also Prior of Kilroe Friary. The annual parish income was stated to be £30 - 16s.

When Henry Lynch died in 1820, the Friars, in gratitude, and to commemorate his memory, re-named their locality as "Mount Henry", the name it bears to this day. He was succeeded by his son, Captain Peter Lynch who, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Charles, in 1840. This landlord proved to be a readily master to his tenants in the famine years, undoubtedly diminishing their hardships. Prominent in public affairs, he was appointed High Sheriff of County Mayo. He also granted the materials for the erection of a national school in Kilroe in 1849.

Like many other sympathetic conditions, the Lynch estates suffered considerably from the economic effects of the famine, some actually facing bankruptcy. With no other source of income, saved that from their land, there was often no other remedy but to sell off their estates. As buyers could not be easily found, the government set up special courts to effect the sales. This leads us to the next landlord family of the area, the Dillion - Brownes of Glencorrib.

Around 1830 Robert Dillion - Browne owned a large estate in the general area now covered by Glencorrib, Woodpark and Mochara. His family had originated from farther with in the county and had built themselves a new home in the western of the estate, near the junction of the main road with that now leading to Woodpark,

They named the house "Glencorrib Lodge". It is almost certain that they also gave the name "Glencorrib" to that part of their estate which was formerly called "Bunnafolistran". This latter name was still the official name of the area in the Ordinance Survey. It is recorded this also in the Griffith Survey of 1855. (See a later notice of this survey). Robert Dillon - Browne became M.P. for Mayo and a strong supporter of Daniel O'Connell. He was a flamboyant character given to dwelling and to fast living, leading to bankruptcy at his death. His son, Arthur had no option but to allow the courts to sell his estates in 1857, the Glencorrib lands alone being listed as amounting to almost 2,000 acres. Most of them came to a Captain Fitzgerald - Higgins, whose son George B. Higgins became M.P. for Mayo in 1857 after a controversial election result was overturned in his favour, the actual victor George Henry Moore, of Moore Hall.

## The Blakes of Moyne

Another estate to be offered for sale under the Encumbered Estates Act was the Moyne Estate of the Blakes. This family really belonged to Mervue in Galway, and Charles, the holder at the time of the sale, was an absentee landlord. The total area was 6,230 acres of which some 1,500 acres were situated in our parish at Moyne, Toorard, Church Park and Cloughmoyne.

Further east another Blake family had held some 600 acres in and around Kinlough. By the mid - century these had passed to a Pierce Joyce, of Mervue, in Galway, another absentee landlord.

In 1852 the estates of the Kirwans of Dalgan also came up for sale. The family originated from Galway, having connections with that of Bregg Castle and also that of Castle Hackett. They, too, enjoyed a reputation of being compassionate landlords.

The later history of the area would take us into the era of the land agitation the Land Acts and the division of these great estates.



## *The Griffith Survey*

We publish here the details regarding land ownership and tenancies revealed by the so-called "Griffith Survey" of the mid-eighteenth century.

In 1842 the government set out to determine accurately the value of the property in Ireland, both land and buildings. They appointed as Commissioner of Valuation a certain Richard Griffith of Dublin, who conducted a great survey of All Ireland, Primary Evaluation of Ireland, 1848 - 1855. It lists every landholder and householder in Ireland, giving the acreage and valuation of each holding, the tenants name, and that of the landlord. It gives a guide to where people lived at that time, what property they possessed, and how much it was valued. It is interesting to see what surnames survive to this day and which no longer exist in an area.

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This section of the Survey covers most of the parish area.

PLACE NAMES : Note the old spelling of some place names. There is no mention of " Glencorrib ", a name given to it by the landlord and not then recognised by the Ordinance Survey, Instead it is given its previous name: " BUNNAFOLLISTRAN ".

We note the large number of new landlord names, following the sale of " encumbered " estates due to bankruptcy in some cases an effect of the Famine.: George O'Higgins,, Briggs. Meldon, Vesey, etc., though some of the older names still survive such as Lynch, Burke, and Blake.

The most extensive landlord estate listed seems to be that of Joseph Burke in Moyne.

In the concluding summary (" Abstract") of the whole general south Mayo territory, note the total area surveyed: 144,832 acres with a collective valuation of almost £60.000.

Under Mount Henry note the site assigned by Charles Lynch to the new Kilroe national school (the first in the area) and also to the Friars chapel.



See the text under this download for links to griffiths valuation