

A Selection of Recent Local Publications

Reviewed by Mary Conefrey, Local Studies, Leitrim County Library

Most of these items are on sale at Leitrim Genealogy Centre, Ballinamore

Drumgownagh School Reunion and Heritage Book 2013 and Cloone Past and Present, Parish and People

Both of these substantial books were launched in conjunction with the Drumgownagh and Cloone School Reunions held for past pupils last August. Both are a compilation of research, reminiscences, light features, hard evidence and an abundance of photographs. These publications will be invaluable to future generations so all households should secure a copy for posterity before they sell out.

The Life and Times of Sir Frederick Hamilton 1590–1647

Dominic Rooney
This book is the culmination of over twenty years of research about Sir Frederick Hamilton by Dominic Rooney. The book tells the story of Sir Frederick, a Scottish nobleman who secured a plot of land during the Leitrim Plantation in 1620. It chronicles his life from his youth in Scotland to his time at the English court, the twenty-one years he spent in North Leitrim, his involvement in the Thirty Years War in Germany, his quest for the governorship of both Sligo and Derry, his switch of loyalties from the king to the Scottish covenanters and English parliament, right up to his unexpected death at the age of fifty-seven back in Scotland. He founded the town of Manorhamilton in the mid 1630s and built an impressive castle there – the ruins of which are still very imposing today at the top of Castle Street.

Against the Odds: Living with Motor Neurone Disease 1590–1647

Andy McGovern

Andy McGovern recounts his life memory of growing up on a small farm in Aughavas, his time as a young emigrant in London, his family and working life when he returned to live in Cloone parish. In 1976, he was diagnosed with

motor neurone disease and told he had between two and five years to live. Thirty seven years later Andy continues to inspire and amaze all those who are fortunate to meet him. This heart warming story is told with great spirit, courage and humour. All royalties from this publication go to the *Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association*.

Arthur Quinn and Hell's Keeper

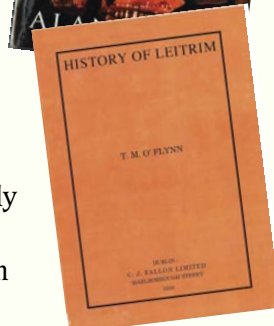
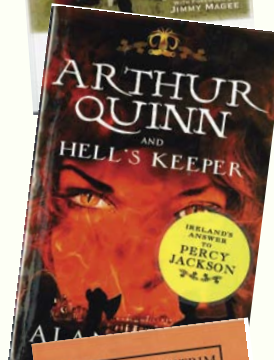
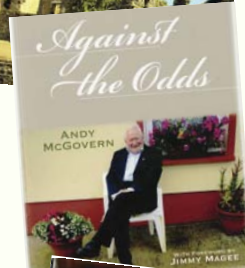
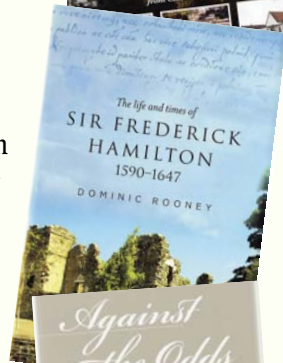
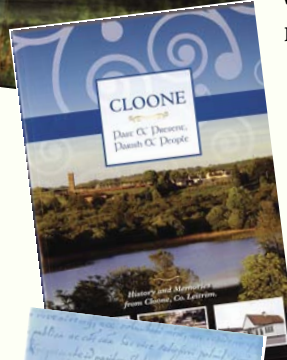
Alan Early

This is the third book and final instalment in the *Father of Lies Chronicles* and it has been eagerly received by the young adult fiction readers who have read the previous two books in this series. Mohill author, Alan Early has been described as 'Ireland's answer to Percy Jackson' and been compared to J K Rowling's of the Harry Potter publications. In this fast paced thrilling read, the hero Arthur Quinn faces the menacing, tricky and devious *Hell's Keeper* and Loki. It is a gripping supernatural thriller with monsters, serpents and much adventure

History of Leitrim

T M O'Flynn

This book, originally published in 1938 has been republished by Trinity Rare Books earlier this year, with the permission of the late Mr O'Flynn's daughter Dymphna. Thomas M O'Flynn was a teacher, historian and folklorist who grew up around Kilnagross and who described Leitrim as 'the poor neglected Cinderella of Ireland—our own lovely Breffny'. As the title suggests, this book outline a brief history of Leitrim from early Breffny times, recounting the history of Clans such as the O'Rorke's and the McRannal's. It highlights events such as the Sheemore Duel or 1798; it remembers Seán Mac Diarmada and recounts the poem of 'Tom Gilheaney'.



Leitrim Folk Tales *Susie Minto*

Do you know about An Dobharcú—the mysterious creature that lurks in Glenade Lake—or the great worm or Ollphéist that carved out the winding course of the Shannon? You can read about these and 70 more great stories in *Leitrim Folk Tales*. This little gem of a book was researched and written by Leitrim-based storyteller and writer, Susie Minto. Much of the material was sourced, with permission of the *Department of Irish Folklore*, from the 75 year-old *National Schools Folklore Collection*, bringing to light many stories that have lay hidden and unheard for decades. Beautifully illustrated by Tracey Jean Yappa, it's an easily read fascinating book. It brings to life the stories that were once told round the hearth fires and familiar to the ear of our parents and grandparents

Under The One Roof *Jo Holmwood*

Writer and Theatre maker, Jo Holmwood had been commissioned by the Leitrim County Council Spark creative residency programme to compile a creative memory document about the Bush Hotel. The Bush Hotel is one of Ireland's oldest hotels and Jo delves into its extensive history over 200 years and details its role and function along with the role and function of those who worked within it. She has resurrected documents, maps, letters and advertisements to share snapshots of this fine hotel. The premises opened as a coaching inn by Peter Darby McDermott in 1793 and from then on it has been a place of rest for weary travellers and a great place to wine and dine. The book is dedicated to the memory of the late Andrew Dolan (1991-2012).

Money for Jam – The Essential Guide to Starting Your Own Small Food Business *Oonagh Monahan*

This book by Oonagh Monahan contains everything that someone who is new to the food business will need to get started and to keep going. It covers the what, who and how for small food producers—including legislation and registration, labelling and packaging, suppliers and distributors. Oonagh has been working with small food producers for over 10 years, helping them to start up and grow their business. She has worked with producers of every

variety of food: everything from fudge, sausages and bread to beer and cream liquors. As one of her clients said 'she is like a Big Sister, the person you turn to when you need advice, help and encouragement'

The Plantation of County Leitrim 1585–1670*Gerard MacAtasney*

This book by Gerard Mac Atasney examines how the area known as Bréifne Uí Ruairc became modern day County Leitrim. It is impeccably researched, calling upon many previously unknown documents which Dr MacAtasney discovered in Archives in Kew and in Ireland. It explores the structure of Irish society in Bréifne Uí Ruairc and details how in the 1620s the Plantation of Leitrim came about. By the 1680s towns such as Manorhamilton, Dromahair, Jamestown and Carrick-on-Shannon had emerged and hosted weekly markets and annual fairs. In less than one hundred years the area was transformed and it was not until the emergence of the Irish Freestate in 1922 that the people of Bréifne Uí Ruairc could once again lay claim to their ancestral lands

Leitrim Treasure

Leitrim Treasure is an apt name for this bumper book edited by Brendan Harvey. It features historical, social and human interest stories from its contributors from all over the County. It includes in-depth research about people, places, organisations and events for example Lord Leitrim by Fiona Slevin; Gorravagh by Tom Melia; Aughnasheelin Company Volunteers by Hugh Brady and The Road to Ballinamuck by Joe Tiernan and much, much more. It is brim full with memorabilia and photographs and would make a wonderful Christmas gift for family or friends at home or abroad.

