

“Use It or Lose It!”

Paschal McKenna

THE POST OFFICE has been in The Square, Drumshanbo for over a century. It is no coincidence that it is located in the centre of the town. For all of that time, it has been a centre, not only a place where people can post a parcel or collect a pension, but also a meeting place; a place to find out information or to ask a member of staff to help you to fill up State forms.

In these days of social media, ATMs and Telephone Call Centres, the Post Offices and the Credit Unions are the human face of modern business. They are places where people can actually discuss their problems with a person rather than with a machine or a Call Centre in a far away place.

At present, there are 1,060 Post Offices in Ireland. An Post and the Government want to reduce that number to less than 600. They say that many Post Offices are not viable, uneconomical and are not paying for themselves. But is this the case of An Post and the Government knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing ?

Post Offices provide many services to the public. They provide banking, posting, bill-paying, money-transfer and foreign exchange services. They are



■ Drumshanbo Post Office

open six days a week. They combine the unusual qualities nowadays of being very homely and very efficient. Recently, they introduced a Smart Account Debit Card in partnership with Mastercard. With this card, people can have a current account with debit card for ATMs, direct debit, etc. So, it can be said that An Post is trying to move with

the times and provide people with the type of service that they need.

The future of Drumshanbo Post Office is far from certain. At the moment, the business is viable, but it is still a case of “Use It or Lose It.” If people do not use our Post Offices, then this essential facility will go the way of our

small shops, pubs, railways, Garda Stations, creameries, etc.

Our Post Offices will become just a pleasant memory, a photograph in someone's scrapbook of Drumshanbo and other small towns and villages long ago.

But we will not be a memory. We are a relevant and important part of life in modern, rural Ireland. The road ahead may be a long or a short one, depending on Government policy and the economic state of An Post. But despite this, my wife, Trish, and I intend to continue to give the service that we and previous generations of Postmasters, Postmistresses and Postal Workers have given to our communities for many years.

Paschal McKenna has been Postmaster of Drumshanbo PO since he succeeded his mother, Bridie, in that position in 1986. Here he outlines the case that the survival of our Post Office network will depend upon the support it receives from the communities it serves.

POST OFFICES IN CO. LEITRIM – 1969 & 2017

Eamonn Daly

1969			2017	1969			2017
No.	POST OFFICES	PARISH OR NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	POST OFFICE OR POSTAL AGENCY (PA) OR CLOSED	No.	POST OFFICES	PARISH OR NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	POST OFFICE OR POSTAL AGENCY (PA) OR CLOSED
1.	AGHACASHIEL	KILTUBRID	POST OFFICE	30.	GLENADE	KINLOUGH	CLOSED 1998
2.	ANNAGHMORE	GORTLETRAGH	P.A. 2002	31.	GLENBOY	MANORHAMILTON	P.A. 2003
3.	AUGHAMORE	ANNADUFF	CLOSED 2006	32.	GLENCAR	MANORHAMILTON	CLOSED
4.	AUGHAVAS	AUGHAVAS	POST OFFICE	33.	GLENIARNE	GLENIARNE	POST OFFICE
5.	AUGHINASHICLIN	BALLINAMORE	CLOSED 2007	34.	GORTCARRIGAN	DROMAHAIRE	CLOSED 2001
6.	BALLINAGLERA	BALLINAGLERA	P.A. 2006	35.	GORVAGH	MOHILL	CLOSED 2000
7.	BALLINAMORE	OUGHTERAGH	POST OFFICE	36.	GURTEEN	MANORHAMILTON	CLOSED 2002
8.	BORNACODIA	DROMOD	CLOSED 2006	37.	KESHARRIGAN	KILTUBRID	P.A. 2004
9.	BUCKODE	KINLOUGH	CLOSED 2000	38.	KILBRACKEN	CARRIGALLEN	CLOSED 1987
10.	CARRICK ON SHANNON	KILTOGHERT	POST OFFICE	39.	KILCLARE	KILTUBRID	POST OFFICE
11.	CARRIGALLEN	CARRIGALLEN	POST OFFICE	40.	KILLARGUE	DROMAHAIRE	POST OFFICE
12.	CLOONE	MOHILL	CLOSED 2010	41.	KILLEGAR	CARRIGALLEN	CLOSED 1985
13.	COOLGRAIN	DOWRA	CLOSED 2009	42.	KILNAGROSS	CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	P.A. 2010
14.	CORRAWALLEN	DRUMREILLY	CLOSED 2014	43.	KILTycLOGHER	KILTycLOGHER	POST OFFICE
15.	CORRIGA	AUGHAVAS	CLOSED 2000	44.	KINLOUGH	KINLOUGH – GLENADE	POST OFFICE
16.	CORRY	DRUMKFFRAN	CLOSED 2001	45.	LARGYDONNHILL	KINLOUGH	CLOSED 2007
17.	DERRADA	BALLINAMORE	CLOSED 2008	46.	LAWDERDALE	FENAGH	CLOSED
18.	DROMAHAIRE	DRUMLEASE	POST OFFICE	47.	LECKAUN	NEWTOWNMANOR	CLOSED 2005
19.	DROMOD	ANNADUFF	P.A. 2002	48.	LISSINAGROAGH	MANORHAMILTON	P.A. 2002
20.	DRUMCONG	KILTUBRID	CLOSED 1974	49.	MANORHAMILTON	CLOONCLARE-KILLASNETT	POST OFFICE
21.	DRUMKEERAN	INNISMAGRATH	POST OFFICE	50.	MOHILL	MOHILL	POST OFFICE
22.	DRUMSHANBO	MURHAUN	POST OFFICE	51.	NEWTOWNGORE	CARRIGALLEN	POST OFFICE
23.	DRUMSNA	ANNADUFF	P.A. 2003	52.	ROOSKY	ROOSKY	POST OFFICE
24.	EAST BARBS	GLENFARNE	P.A. 2002	53.	ROSSINVER	ROSSINVER	P.A. 2003
25.	ESLIN BRIDGE	MOHILL	P.A. 2002	54.	SHANVAUS	MANORHAMILTON	CLOSED 1986
26.	FARNAUGHT	GORTLETRAGH	P.A. 2007	55.	SPEENCR HARBOUR	DRUMKFFRAN	CLOSED 1991
27.	FIVEMILEBOURNE	DROMAHAIRE	CLOSED 1989	56.	TAWNYLEA	KILLARGUE	CLOSED 1998
28.	FOXFIELD	FENAGH	P.A. 2002	57.	TULLAGHAN	KINLOUGH – GLENADE	P.A. 2008
29.	GARADICE	DRUMREILLY	CLOSED 1996	58.	TULLYCOOLEY	DROMAHAIRE	P.A. 2002

Number of Post Offices in 1969:.....58

Number of Post Offices in 2017:.....17

Number of Postal Agencies in 2017:.....15

Number of Post Offices closed since 1969:....26

Thanks, in particular, to Christy Hehir, An Post Museum and Archive, Dublin and to Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary and Museum Curator, An Post, GPO, Dublin for their invaluable help in compiling the above 1969 and 2017 table. The An Post Museum in the GPO, Dublin is well worth a visit. It explores the history and influence of the Post Office in Ireland. Thanks also to Paschal McKenna, Postmaster, Drumshanbo P.O.

SNIPPET

BACK HOME PHOTOS by Siobhan Feehan-Flynn

MY NAME is Siobhan Feehan-Flynn. I am married to Patrick Flynn from Tarmon, Drumkeerin. I have always enjoyed taking photographs and while in Leitrim I have taken the following photographs. I would like to thank Bláithín and her team for all their great work on the *Leitrim Guardian*, we enjoy reading it every year. Also

I would like to thank Gail and Ben in the Solas Gallery Ballinamore for their great work and exhibiting my photographs.



■ *Left: Diver and Fisherman on the Shannon at Drumsna*
 ■ *Right: White horse on Arigna Mountain*

