Editorial

WELCOME TO the 39th edition of the Leitrim Guardian and my first edition as editor a role—which I have enjoyed immensely so far. In this 2007 edition of Leitrim's prestigious yearbook, we pay tribute to two wonderful men, who left us this year, John McGahern and Lord Kilbracken. As you will read in the tributes, these two men both had special qualities which made them very enriching characters to have in our presence. They were men that our younger men could admire and have as role models.

Both displayed brilliance combined with humility, sensitivity combined with strength, refined manners combined with great humour, an ability to talk combined with a love of quietness, great success combined with a lack of egotism and a passion for life without any selfishness. A most unusual combination. Both were successful writers and farmers and both men loved Leitrim dearly. They actually lived within 9 miles of each other and died within 6 months of each other. I hope you enjoy reading what people felt about them.

As Aiden Kelleher said last year every generation has a story to tell, and we are glad to bring you some of those stories.

In our poetry section you will find a wide variety of poems from all ages—literally 8 to 80 years—all of them expressing some heart felt sentiments. It would be great to think that there might be a young writer out there who will follow in the footsteps of someone like John McGahern, and I'm sure there is. Sean Godley who won last years Leitrim Guardian Award went on to win the Listowel Writers Week award for Poetry. There has always been a great tradition of story telling in Leitrim and it would be good to keep this alive. Many other people have written about real life experiences and changes in Co Leitrim, it all adds up to a year in the life of Leitrim—since last years Guardian. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Tá foireann an Leitrim Guardian bródúil as ár scríbhneoirí óga agus sheana.

Go mbaine sibh taitneamh as bheith ag léamh iris na bliana seo.

Myra Reynolds
Editor

Leitrim Guardian Launch Sponsors

Gabriel Cronin, Dental Technician, Drumshanbo & Ballinamore
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Councillor Seamus Dolan, Sligo

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We regret that some articles had to be held over due to pressure of space.

Front Cover Photos

52 barges on the Shannon. Our cover photograph shows a flotilla of 52 heritage boats and barges at Jamestown bridge during the Jamestown Show & Festival 2006.

PHOTO: BRIAN FARRELL

This year the Leitrim Guardian is launched by Frank Brady. Frank is a professor at CW Post Campus University New York. He has a Masters and a Doctorate in Education. He has been a leading light in GAA circles in New York, having been manager of the New York football team which played in the Connaught Championship in recent years. Frank was honoured by the Leitrim Peoples association of New York which he richly deserved.

His wife Helen Clancy, is a native of Glenade, and they have a son and a daughter—Douglas and Sharon. Frank treasures Leitrim, and his second home is in Lurganboy, which he visits frequently. He loves his time there.