
Editorial



I AM DELIGHTED to present the 44th edition of the Leitrim Guardian. People are getting on with life, challenging, enjoying, and celebrating the myriad of issues that come our way, despite the doom & gloom that seems to permanently emanate from the media about the recession! This year Leitrim has seen many wonderful and successful events, created in a large part by voluntary effort: sporting achievements with a number of national winners; political successes, (with a North Leitrim TD elected to the Dáil, something that seemed impossible a very short time ago); Families & local interest groups research, write & publish various publications of, and about, life in various parts of Leitrim. A special congratulations to our former literary award winner, Alan Early, who has achieved a book deal with Mercier press, and published his first book of a trilogy, Arthur Quinn & the World Serpent.

The Person of the Year award winners espouse all that is good about our county. Built largely on voluntary effort, the Corn Mill Theatre Group both engage and entertain the community, providing easy access to an award winning standard of theatrical performance, which would otherwise be unavailable to many. Congratulations on the award. Thank you to Brendan Harvey who held the award with pride and was an amazing ambassador for the *Leitrim Guardian* during 2011.

Sadness prevailed over the past year with the untimely passing of Michael Cunningham, dearly beloved brother of our former editor, Myra Reynolds, and long time supporter of the *Leitrim Guardian*. Our deepest sympathies to all his family and many friends. Two of

our former literary award winners and regular contributors, Tom Lynch and Des Flynn, died within hours of each other in the same ward in Carrick on Shannon. Their stories will live on in the *Leitrim Guardian* archive on the web, as well as in the memories of their families and friends.

We have been wonderfully overwhelmed with many well written, very interesting submissions this year! This of course has made my job all the more difficult. There will be many disappointed authors, but I do hope it will not put people off resubmitting in future years. The competition for publication is certainly increasing significantly. The editors jobs is challenging, but I know I will have succeeded, if the authors feel I have preserved their voice. This for me, is one of the most important attributes of this publication, a journal which collates and reflects the voices of a wide range of people, from very varying walks of life, each with their individual view of some aspect of life in Leitrim, or of relevance to Leitrim.

Between the covers of this book you will find a snapshot of life from Fracking to Freecycle to Fringe Festivals; stories on emigration and immigration, Inspirational Homes, articles of historical interest, short stories, poetry, festivals, and reminiscences. Leitrim gets a very favourable review and recommendation in the *Time Out Guide to Ireland* and Juliánne Mooney, one of the authors, put pen to paper exclusively for the *Leitrim Guardian*. As you will see she was very impressed with our 'Hidden Gem'.

The variety of the material and matter received for publication in the *Leitrim Guardian*, is testament to the quality of life that exists here, the length and breadth of the county. I acknowledge and pay homage to what can be achieved through voluntary effort. Here in Leitrim the voluntary spirit is burning bright.

Bláithín Gallagher *Editor*

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Acknowledgements

The Leitrim Guardian Committee would like to thank everyone who helped in compiling this year's edition.

*James Molloy, photographer;
Thérèse Foy, photographer;
Willie Donnellan, photographer;
Claire McGovern & staff of the
Leitrim Observer.
Seán Ó Suilleabháin & the staff of Leitrim
County Library.
Tony Fahy, Carrigallen for design &
production. Turners Printers for their
professionalism. Our Sponsors for their
support. In particular, all contributors of
articles & photographs, published &
unpublished.*

*Our adjudicators for Youth &
Adult Literary Awards.*

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

Front, back & inside back covers Concept, Design & Photos

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*This year the Leitrim Guardian is launched
by Gus Ward on behalf of the Corn Mill
Theatre Group, Carrigallen*

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