

# JOHNNY FYFE

*Tony Fahy*

JOHNNY FYFE, who lived in a little cottage on the Killegar estate, in Carrigallen, was probably the last person in Ireland to get electricity into his home! It had never bothered him. He was completely self-sufficient. He had a beautiful vegetable garden, with specimen cabbages, onions and lettuce. Before he had electricity, he worked his television off a car battery, and everything else from a small generator. Logs cut, drawn and stacked by himself keeping his sturdy Stanley in flame and always a beautiful homely heat in his house with a kettle on the hob, baking his trout—he fried it in the pan too! He was the only truly self-sufficient person of the modern age that I knew. One evening, he served me up on the one plate: pheasant, duck, rabbit, pigeon and woodcock which he had shot that day and cooked on his range. He was a great cook. I said to him: *'Johnny, you wouldn't get it in the Savoy Hotel in London!'*

He caught trout in the local fishing club lake, Calloughs, of which he was a president and founder member—not to mention the many types of coarse fish caught far and wide, from Lake Kilnemar and the Glasshouse on his homeland Killegar to the many competitions he entered including Belturbet and further afield. Alan Taylor, Michael Hackett and Johnny Kiernan, Liam & Iona Fahy, Michael & Gene Doherty and in times gone by, Eugene Doherty and Joe Ruane and his son Martin from Belturbet, were often with him.

Johnny's dogs were legendary! *Nipper* the most famous, *Topsy*, *Susie*, *Bouncer*, *Lassie*, *Widgie*, *Judy* and *Darkie* were some



of them. *Molly* was his last one.

Johnny won the local Darts Cup Competition, first started in 1964 by John Joe Dolan at *The West End Bar* in Carrigallen. He told me that Dart throwers would come from round the counties to throw there, arriving at 7.30 in the evening and the first round not completed by the early hours. *'There could be up to a hundred throwers of an evening then'*, he said to me. Johnny won it five times, once in each decade, right up to the millennium year of 2000.

He featured recently in the book *Vanishing Ireland* by Turtle Bunberry and this accolade was well deserved. The tales that Johnny had to tell about life with Lord Kilbracken in Killegar could fill many a book!

The *Johnny Fyfe Perpetual Darts Trophy*, thrown for, over many years in John Joe Dolan's in Carrigallen, until it closed, is to be re-lit in the Hill Tavern in Killeshandra in Johnny's

*Celebrating Johnny's Seventieth Birthday: Paul Komierowski, , Sonny Kiernan, Alan Taylor, Junior McGuigan, Chris Wales, Paulo, Nugent Reilly, John Murray, Paddy & Angela McGovern, Noel Reilly & Martin Ruane.*



**Johnny Fyfe wins the Millennium Cup!**  
**Alan Taylor, John Murray, Richard Venton, John Joe Dolan, proprietor, Noel Reilly, Jimmy White, Harry O & Michael Hackett.**

memory. Professional and amateur dart throwers used to come long distances just to say that they had played in the *Johnny Fyfe Tournament*. They will again!

Johnny was the life and soul of any party with requests always for his renditions of *The Boys of the County Armagh, Homes of Donegal, Spanglehill*...you can catch him on YouTube by keying in *Johnny Fyfe Homes of Donegal*.

Calloughs Trout Club is running a special tournament in Johnny's honor and have commissioned a memorial bronze by Martin Doyle.

Johnny is survived by his sister Jennie and her husband George, cousin Richard Venton and his wife Nerrida...Ann McGerty who looked after him and countless friends and neighbours. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

*Johnny Fyfe (4 October 1930-14 September 2012) is laid to rest in his beloved Killegar in the Church of Ireland Killegar Parish Church grounds. Rest in Peace.*