



THE ROGER EAMES ROAD

Alison Eames

Roger Eames at the 1980 Mosney Community Games Finals. He was the GAA Coordinator for the national finals around that time

ON SEPTEMBER 3rd 2016, the Western Distributer Road in Sligo town was renamed the Roger Eames Road. This is a new road that takes you from Ballydoogan towards Strandhill Road. The road has Knocknarea mountain on one side and Benbulbin mountain on the other. There is a community park on this road with football pitches, children's playground, loads of trees and flowers. It's a beautiful place.

Roger Eames was my granddad and he grew up in Rossinver, Co Leitrim. He passed away on the 31st of March of last year. We were all upset, so I decided to do something to remember him in a special way. Granddad was very important to me and to loads of other people.

It took a while for me to think of the idea of naming a road after my granddad but when I shared it with my mum and dad they told me it was a lovely thought. They said that they would help me contact the people in Sligo County Council as they make these decisions.

When I emailed them, I didn't think it would actually happen, I wasn't sure if they would even reply. About two or three days later I got emails from some of the councillors, I was so happy to see all the replies. Many of the councillors remembered my granddad as a kind and thoughtful man and remembered the great things he did for the community. I wasn't expecting such a positive feedback from the councillors, they were all very supportive. Two of the councillors, Mayor Marie Casserly and Sean McManus offered to propose a motion to rename the road. At the time the road luckily didn't have a proper name.

A few months later we got a call



■ Group photo at Roger Eames Road is of Eames family (including Alison Eames) Sligo Mayor, Cllr. Marie Casserly and Cllr. Sean McManus.

to tell us that the motion had been passed and that the road would be named, Roger Eames Road.

We were overjoyed because we knew that Granddad was gone but would be remembered. I waited for months in anticipation of the road opening. Recently my family and I travelled up to Sligo for the Official Road Opening. It was so nice to finally meet Mayor Marie Casserly and Cllr Sean McManus in person, I was so grateful because they really helped make it happen.

My favourite part of the day was being allowed to pull back the curtain to show the road's new name. It was a brilliant day with lots of happy faces.

My granddad was one of the most generous people you could ever meet. He was heavily involved in the community and whenever we visited he would always have a big shake hands for us. I never ever saw him frown. He was my inspiration and always will be.

This is my letter to the Sligo County Councillors....



My name is Alison Eames

I am in fifth class in St. Catherine's Primary School in Cork city. My Dad's name is Norrie Eames and he is from Larkhill road, Sligo. We visit Sligo a few times each year at week-ends and on holidays. My granddad's name is Roger Eames, he lived in Larkhill road too. Granddad died a few weeks ago.

All of my family are sad because they miss him. But they are happy because they remember him as a kind man who helped lots of people.

He inspired me, because he always put other people first. He never wanted thanks for the things he did.

My Dad always tells me about Granddad. He says that for as long as he could remember, Granddad was always training football teams and wanted to give Sligo kids something to do.

He was the president of St. Mary's football club when he died. When he was younger he helped get money from the bank to buy a football pitch for the kids to play on.

This pitch is now St. Mary's football ground. It has a clubhouse and there is a Gaelscoil there too.

Granddad helped set up the Leitrim people's association in Sligo. In 1994 he was Leitrim Guardian Personality of the year. He helped set up the Community Games in Mougheraboy. Later he was involved with Sligo Community Games and with the national finals in Mosney.

Not only was he very helpful to the community, he was also a kind Granddad who always had a big smile and a shake hands whenever we would come to visit. I miss him.

I did research on the St. Mary's website. I discovered that in 1966 Granddad helped to buy 9.3 acres of land from Kevinsfort Farms for the football pitch.

There is a road going through Kevinsfort now and it comes out near St Mary's football ground.

I have a wish, can this road please be called after my Granddad Roger Eames?

Yours sincerely,
Alison Eames, age 12.
Knocknarea, Greenfields road, Cork

An Alien

Caoimhe Gallagher Lawson

An alien

Forever floating,

Watching stars illuminate the black abyss.

Seldom Planets drift by disturbing the constant speckled darkness.

Will he ever arrive to a world flourishing with life?

He doesn't know, he doesn't mind.

He just floats.

His mind lingering from one thought to the next.

He has no starting point,

No finish line.

His orders were to gravitate till he finds a habitable home.

He awaits a sign of life.

A signal to show him the way to go.

But nothing ever comes.

He questions his existence wonders what's the reason for all this.

His silver spaceship alone in a dark world.

He's drifted for many years,

will drift for many more,

until he finds his destination.

