



St Patricks Day Parade Dromahair Co Leitrim

About this Gathering
St. Patrick Comes Home
A history tells us that St. Patrick founded a church and an abbey in Dromahair in the 5th century. In 1801, the town was destroyed by the British. Dromahair, now part of modern-day Dromahair, has a rich history and is the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade is finally coming home.

Gathering Details

Dromahair Village, Leitrim, Co Leitrim
St. Patrick's Day Parade Dromahair Co Leitrim
17 March 2013 15:00 - 20:00
Open to Everyone
Created by John O'Leary



Margaret of New Orleans Birthday Celebrations

About this Gathering
The people of Carrigallen, Co Leitrim are celebrating the 150th birthday of one of their town's heroes, Margaret Mary Mary Gaffney, born in 1813 on Christmas Day. She was born in Tully in Carrigallen in 1813. She was known in her time as Margaret of New Orleans. She was given a St. Margaret's and was the first to introduce the idea to have a statue erected to her. The Angel of the Delta, the 'Good Lady of New Orleans', the 'Virgin Mary of Carrigallen', 'Margaret of Tully', 'Margaret of New Orleans', 'Mother Margaret'—are all titles given to her. She was a devoted and unrepentant charity, she was a champion of the underprivileged and the disadvantaged. She was considered a saint.



Over Lough Allen

About this Gathering
This is the North-West's most beautiful village. It is situated in a spectacular setting on the shores of Lough Cill. Ancestors of the O'Flahertys of Newry, it was the home of the O'Flahertys, Ireland's own Iliad of Troy, whose abduction by Diomedes of Mycenae, King of Greece, in the 12th century started a chain of events which continues to this day. In later times Diomedes' son, the Greek hero, the famous Spanish Armada, an act which cost Brian O'Rourke his life.

John McGahern International Seminar

About this Gathering
The John McGahern Seminar is organised by Leitrim County Council in conjunction with Hilli Galway to commemorate the work and literary achievements of John McGahern, one of Ireland's finest writers and respected modern authors.
The seminar is located in different parts of the county. It consists of a series of lectures, seminars, and field trips.
Dates:
23 May 2013 17:00 - 20:00
24 May 2013 11:00 - 12:00
25 May 2013 10:00 - 11:00
Contact: 011 71 907 0099
Open to Everyone

An Tostal Festival 2013

About this Gathering
An Tostal was the original gathering concept. It was devised to reward the hard work and dedication of our people in our towns. It was introduced in 1953 in towns all over Ireland. Dromahair, Co Leitrim, has been the original town where An Tostal has continued to run every year since and we are still going strong.
The festival offers a wide range of activities for all ages and most of our events are free. We have live music, street performances, children's activities, dance, fireworks, an exhibition and lots of more. Come along to Dromahair and experience the original concept of An Tostal in the county! You'll be glad you did. More details to follow shortly!



Carrick on Shannon 400

About this Gathering
Carrick on Shannon is celebrating its 400th birthday in 2013 and we are planning a series of fun and exciting events. There will be something for everyone from musical events such as The Water Music Band and the Carrick on Shannon Heritage and Cultural Week, to a Heritage Week and The Carrick on Shannon Week. There will be lots of fun for the family with The Carrick on Shannon Fun Day and many of these events are free.
Dates:
Carrick on Shannon, Carrick on Shannon, Carrick on Shannon, Co Leitrim
8 March 2013
Open to Everyone



Percy's Party

About this Gathering
THE PERCY PARTY EVENT EVOLVED AS A RESULT OF THE INTEREST AND SUBSEQUENT INTEREST SURROUNDING THE PUBLIC IN THE PERCY ORMANCAULTIE COUNTY COUNCIL. THE PERCY PARTY IS A FREE EVENT.
Dates:
3 May 2013
10:00 - 11:00
Open to Everyone

Kiltubrid GAA 50th Reunion

About this Gathering
Kiltubrid GAA Club was reformed in 1963. The original club was called Carrick on Shannon GAA. The club made an...

'Gathering Stitches' with the Crafty Ladies

2013, the year of the Gathering, groups found unusual, novel and fun ways to celebrate the occasion, and *Crafty Ladies Carrigallen* was one such group whose idea will ensure that the Gathering will be remembered in Carrigallen in years to come.

Last year the group created a local quilt giving the members experience of learning a new craft, demonstrating their interpretation of local landmarks and scenery bringing to life in pictures and fabric their local community. This patchwork quilt was raffled with the proceeds going to local charities ISPCA and North West Hospice.

This project enthused the group to participate in the Gathering by creating 'Gathering Stitches'. It was a year long project reaching out to members of the public near and far depicting their memories and stories of Carrigallen, Leitrim and Ireland in squares for a new quilt. The only stipulation to design and form being the overall size of a 12 inch square.

This was a big undertaking for the ladies and to date over forty squares have been received including screen prints, appliques and glued. Many people with Leitrim connections contributed heart warming pieces involving their memories and stories of Ireland. Old ship records and a census form have also been presented, as well as a piece depicting Percy French, famous locally for composing *Phil the Fluter's Ball* and Margaret of New Orleans has fittingly made it into this quilt.

On Tuesday 24 September 2013,



Carrigallen Crafty Ladies hosted a welcome day in the Corn Mill Theatre for all the contributors of squares.

People as far away as Australia came on the day with their squares and stories.

There was a buzz about the whole day as people milled around viewing the squares and reading the stories; viewing the crafts and creative talents on display by members of the Crafty Ladies. They all had time

for a cuppa at the Coffee Dock, and some had time to step into the Screen Room to watch the local talents on the big screen.

A local couple baked a wonderful chocolate cake iced it as a patchwork quilt and this was devoured very quickly! It didn't last long!

All of those who attended this event were fascinated with the idea and reality of 'Gathering Stitches'.



The Rambling House McGowan
Clan/Gathering Festival at Kinlough

Regina Fahey

LONG SKIRTS, black shawls, petticoats, home-spun waistcoats, tweed caps, braces and boots - one could be forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time as Kinlough embraced the traditional fair day during the McGowan clan/Gathering Event held on the bank holiday weekend in August. Many dressed in traditional costume to celebrate one of the most colourful and vibrant aspects of our heritage; the country fair day, so familiar in Irish villages and towns until its demise in the late 1960s.

A very traditional aspect of the fair day, and one rooted in Irish heritage, was the Rambling House; the house of story and song, of music and dance, of poetry and banter. For the first time in many years, and thanks to the generosity, and cultural interest of the owners, the doors of Ellie's and Michael John's on Kinlough's main street stood open, inviting all to enter and meet those inside; inhabitants of another time.

The delightful hallway, kitchen and traditional hearth welcomed the curious who were then lured into a home filled with characters from the past. Visitors and locals were transported to a time when entertainment consisted of the home-made variety. Stories, songs and poetry flowed. Music and dance filled the gathering with energy. A match was nearly made, and then was made again! The daughter of the house didn't get the stranger she was angling for, but happily settled for the local boy instead! The cousin who recounted her victories in the Ballroom of Romance went home happy, having secured her Donegal man, and the matchmaker considered his day to be a success, all told.

Local people participated in the staging of the Rambling House and were central to its



Rambling House

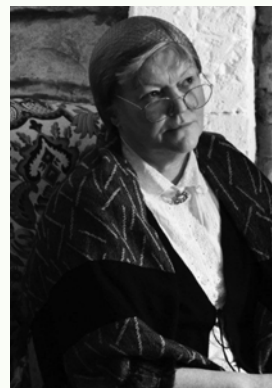


Regina Fahey, John, Iona & Evan



Evan & John O'Donnell, Shane Toolin & Patrick McGloin

success. All wore traditional costume from the turn of the century and contributed to the re-enactment through storytelling, music, song and dance. Many played the part of specific characters, bringing a colour and vibrancy to a snapshot of our past. Ellie's and Michael John's came alive again for the day and the old buildings resounded to the sounds of music, song and laughter. And then, in the evening time, when the crowds dwindled and the shadows grew, the two houses settled down again, their



Mary McGowan



Evan O'Donnell

doors closed, and dwelt on the memories that had been created there that day.

GLENKILLAMEY ARIGNA GATHERING 2013 *Mary Kelly-White*



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th 2013, was Glenkillamey's day to celebrate the Arigna Gathering of 2013. Bishop Christopher Jones, celebrated the mass in the tiny picturesque Church and Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The 50+-year old Church has Capacity for 100 but there was at least 150-200 people attended, home from all corners of the world. The mass marked the end of the week long gathering, which was launched in the Mining Experience on Friday July 26th and concluded with an 'Oíche go Maidin', in Lough Allen Hotel, Drumshambo, on Sunday night. The Bishop commended Patsy Daly & Peter Welsh for their dedication to the Church, their sustained interest in the people and the locality.

▲ **Jim Cullen**, nephew of Mary Kate Milly, **Owen Cullen**; **Charles Duignan**, Glenkillamey; **Peg Gaffney/Sheehan**, only Daughter of Tom Jim Gaffney and Cissy Doherty/Gaffney, Glenkillamey, Ballinamore and Dublin; **Fiona Duignan**, Glenkillamey; **Maurice Jim Gaffney**, last surviving cousin of Peg Gaffney/Sheehan; **His wife Loenie** (also a Barrister); and **Padraig Cullen**, Killargue, retired from Irish Army and cousin of Jim Cullen. **All holding 'Glenkillamey and Me 1950-2013', written for this special occasion by Mary Kelly-White**, whose mother **Bea Dolan** hailed from Glenkillamey. ■ *Glenkillamey and Me 1950-2013*, a 64 page booklet, containing lots of names and photographs, is available at the Mining Experience. Cost €10. ■ **James Cullen**, American born nephew of Mary Kate Miley Owen Cullen, wife of Jimmy Jamsey Cullen, Glenkillamey, is/was Brigadier General in the US Army. His father Patrick M.O. Cullen left Glenkillamey in 1922. ■ James is also a regular contributor to the *Leitrim Guardian*. ■ **97 year old Barrister Maurice Gaffney**, is son of Patrick Jim Gaffney, Glenkillamey.



◀ Among the visitors, were Paddy and John Houlihan, who returned home from Sydney, Australia, for the gathering. Paddy and John, left their home in Aughabehy, Arigna, in 1952 and 1956 respectively.



◀ At the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Glenkillamey for Arigna Gathering 2013 Mass on August 4th at 10am, celebrated by Bishop of Elphin, Christopher Jones.



◀ Left of the Church
Right of the Church ▶



◀ James Cullen & Maurice Gaffney

MARGARET OF NEW ORLEAN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Helen Corcoran

MARGARET of New Orlean's Heritage Day was part of *The Gathering* to celebrate Margaret's bicentennial—her 200th birthday!

David Rawle of *Moone Boy* fame officially opened the cottage—*Margaret's Birthplace* in Tully, Carrigallen, followed by the blessing by Rev Hazel Hickes and Fr Dennis Murray PP, Carrigallen.



Blacksmith Thomas O'Reilly, who is famous for *The Peace Bridge* that was constructed for President Mary McAleese, was forging Celtic pokers on the day; Paul Farrelly of *Drummully Boxty* was making boxty; Caroline Walsh was spinning and weaving from Flax and wool; Neil Foulkes carved beautiful and functional wooden spoons in front of everyone's eyes and Martin Doyle of Crutu, provided taster courses of sculpting in clay.

The day was rounded off with an evening

of entertainment in *The Corn Mill Theatre and Arts Centre*, with specially commissioned pieces by Charlie McGettigan, John McCartin, Tony Fahy, Karl McCartin School of Dance and Maura Williamson's Hedge School Drama re-enactment.

All profits from the running of this and all events for the *Birthplace of Margaret of New Orleans*, go to local charities. For a full detailed programme of the day please visit:

www.margaretsbirthplace.com



CLOONE HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

A BUMPER WEEKEND in Cloone with Parish Book Launch, School Reunion, Gathering Events and 4km Nature Trail unveiled.

On August Bank Holiday weekend 2013 Cloone village hosted the largest crowd in many years when they held their Homecoming and School reunion weekend. The weekend was planned as part of *The Gathering 2013* initiative and was a huge success.

In October 2012, New Yorker and native of Cloone man, Tom Donnelly sent emails and letters to many in his native parish enquiring as to the possibility of a Cloone School Reunion. Following a few discussions and get-togethers, a committee was established to bring about a School Reunion — Homecoming Festival and under Chairman Seamus Tiernan, the committee also agreed as part of the event to have a book printed featuring local material on culture, people, history, heritage and sport in the historically important Cloone area from early beginnings of the 5th century right up to the present day. An editorial sub-committee was formed and the book was developed over many months and late nights of hard work coming to fruition with 368 full colour pages of articles and pictures. The book is entitled *"Cloone-Past & Present, Parish & People"* and was launched as part of the weekend festival by well known former Meath Football Manager and renowned



HOMECOMING COMMITTEE

■ **Back:** Declan Doonan, Michael Lohan, Eugene Mitchell, Oliver O'Higgins, Monica Reynolds, Nevy McVeigh, Michael Murphy, Seamus Tiernan, Enda Tiernan, Shane Tiernan & Angela Cunningham.
 ■ **Front:** Betty Derwin-Foley, Maureen Murray, Moira Clancy, Sean Boylan, Teresa Slevin, Michelle Dimmock, Damian Brennan & Michael Solan

herbalist Sean Boylan whose mother hails from Drumgowla Cloone. The evening's entertainment of music, local acts, song, dance and dinner took place in a large marquee constructed for the event with in the order of 445 people attending. This is believed to be

the largest ever dinner sitting within the parish of Cloone! The event also consisted of the School Reunion for all past pupils of Cloone Old and New National School and presented a special opportunity to get together and renew old acquaintances. A wonderful evening was had by

■ **School Reunion Gathering**



■ **Declan Doonan with Carmel Meegan and Family**





■ Denis McCaffery & Patrick Beirne

all with many old friendships being re-established and many smiling faces as they leafed through the memories captured in the new book which went on sale for the first time. A real gathering of friendship and joy by all who travelled from around the globe.

After the reunion evening, Saturday morning gave visitors and patrons a chance to get out and start the day with a good hearty Cloone boxty breakfast in the marquee and an opportunity to reminisce on times past with Historical Presentations and Tour of the village including pony trap and vintage car tours and Kennedy's Travelling Shop Museum which brought back many memories of a time departed for the visitors.

Cloone's Homecoming Festival also featured country music and traditional ceili bands in the marquee over the weekend and on Sunday there was fun and games for children in Cloone GAA Park and a football match between Cloone footballers of today and yesteryear

■ Cloone Festival Showground



played in traditional attire and to rules of 100 years ago.

The 25th Annual Agricultural Show took place as usual on Bank holiday Monday and yet again was blessed with a beautiful day which brought the crowds out in their droves. The day included the usual full range of activities and demonstrations. The show was officially opened by RTE correspondent Damian Tiernan whose parents come from Cloone and in addition to the regular classes for livestock, craft, cookery and horticulture sections the show also featured several special attractions for children, musical entertainment on the open air stage and the Shannonside FM outside broadcast unit.

The weekend's events also featured a Duathlon involving a run, cycle and family walk which took place over the newly redeveloped natural bog trails in Cloone known as *Bóthar Na Naomh*.

This wonderful new local amenity was an inspiration of the local Tidy Towns Committee and with their support in conjunction with LEADER funding through Leitrim Development Company and greatly appreciated cooperation from local landowners, the Recreational, Sports, Heritage and Nature trail became a reality following months of commitment by a dedicated group on the Homecoming committee.

The origins of *Bóthar Na Naomh* date back nearly 1500 years to the time of Saint Fraoch who founded a monastery at Cloone during the 6th century. Part of this trail was the route from Cloone monastery to the burial ground at the top of Caldragh hill in nearby Annamaconway. Knowledge about this route was



■ Sean Boylan & Tom Donnelly

passed on by many people over many generations and up to recently has been known as "The Saints Pass". The other parts of the trail were the pathways that people took to school, church, the local village or to the bog.

The project involved the re-opening and surfacing of almost 4KM of walkways through Cloone Bog on these overgrown pathways on the western side of Cloone village. The walkway goes through traditional bog-land alongside the bordering river and lake. This work is now completed with the outcome being a wonderful Recreational, Sports, Heritage and Nature trail available for public enjoyment which will be officially opened at a later date in 2013.

To borrow from the words of former Cloone school teacher Mrs Anna Madden; "The gathering was a way of reviving a sense of connection to Cloone. Attachment and identity to a place cannot be completely forgotten, everyone belongs somewhere. *Fáilte agus iad go léir siamsaíocht. Bí buíoch as cibé duine a thagann, toisc go bhfuil gach teacht mar threoir ó níos faide anonn.* (Welcome and entertain them all. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has come as a guide from beyond)".

The committee wish to express sincere appreciation to everyone who attended the Homecoming Festival and all the members, helpers and volunteers who contributed towards the success of this memorable weekend.