

# Farewell to a Community Icon

## Nuala Maloney

*Tommy Moran*



BALLINAMORE and Leitrim have lost a true community icon with the death of Nuala Maloney.

Nuala had spent almost her whole life in Ballinamore and her home in Church Street was the base from which emanated thousands of letters for community and charity organisations; detailed minutes of a plethora of committee meetings; type-written articles for town and county pamphlets, programmes or magazines; typed questions for festival treasure hunts; editorial material for drama festival programmes; lyrics of songs for *Tops of the Streets*; anything that needed to be put into print.

For years and years, if you wanted something typed in Ballinamore you called on Nuala Maloney. If it was a personal piece, you could be assured that the content would remain confidential. If it were for an organisation you knew that not only would Nuala do the typing, but she would also edit it and correct any grammatical or spelling mistakes. She was very proficient in all aspects of the English language from her assiduous school studies and her mastery of the printed word she attributed to the training she and so many others had received in the Maureen Creamer Business School in Main Street.

Nuala was employed with Walter P Toolan, Solicitors, until the time of her retirement. Within the company she was a highly regarded staff member and was well known and respected throughout the

land by those in the legal profession.

Few people would have devoted so much of their free time to assist local or county committees or organisations, as did Nuala Maloney. Whatever would be of benefit to Ballinamore, Leitrim or its people was certain to have her support. This would not just be token support, but personal involvement and sheer hard work, all of which was done on a voluntary basis. Ballinamore Credit Union Ltd, Ballinamore Festival Committee and Ballinamore Drama Festival had the full support and encouragement of Nuala.

However, Nuala will be forever associated with *The Leitrim Guardian*, as she acted as Secretary for a number of decades and was instrumental in maintaining its core values of promoting the county and showing it in a better light to the outside world. She had very definite opinions on how this should be done and was certainly no pushover in any debate on the matter. She was also one of those who maintained that Leitrim should help itself from within, rather than appealing for outside assistance. Self Help was her motto.

An abiding memory of Nuala is the humour she could see in life in general and in the happenings and ups and downs and trivial arguments of the various organisations and activities in which she was involved. She equally enjoyed the banter with the kids in the *Tops of the Streets* or the senior citizens in the *Care of the Aged* and everybody in between.

Nuala, a life-long pioneer, could relax too, walking her beloved dog, Scamp, playing Tenpenny Poker with a group of friends, going to Whist Drives, supporting various causes by joining various pub quiz teams, acting as an adjudicator of Singing Pubs or pub talent contests, chatting to her neighbours, reading, keeping in touch with her relations and friends. But for most of the time she was involved in helping others.

She had strong political persuasions, was a devoted member of the Fine Gael party and a lifetime supporter of the various generations of the Reynolds family, Ballinamore.

While deeply religious, Nuala was far from a goody-goody or a stiff shirt. She was amazing company, had a repertoire of amusing anecdotes, the ability to put a skin on a story for the enjoyment of others, which can be testified to by her many neighbours and a very wide circle of friends, all of whom were deeply saddened by her passing, as is the whole community of Ballinamore and the people of Leitrim.

Nuala's sisters, nephews and nieces and other relatives, despite their grief, will surely take consolation from the good that she did during her life. And if The Lord needs some shorthand taken, or requires a Secretary up above, then he will surely call on Nuala Maloney.

*Solas na bhFlaitheas duit, Nuala.*