

The cover features a decorative border of intricate Celtic knotwork. At the top and bottom, there are large, symmetrical triangular designs. On the left and right sides, there are vertical rectangular panels, each containing a circular knotwork motif near the top and bottom. The central text is framed by these decorative elements.

The  
Emmet  
Review



No. 5

1976

## ***Editorial***

Under a new format the “Emmet Review” makes a re-appearance. This edition had to come out if only to prove wrong those who said it only appeared when we won something. Last year we won nothing and, at the time of going to press, the way we are heading we will win nothing this year. We are desperately hoping for a change of luck and a few victories to bring back the former enthusiasm.

Having missed a year – 1975 – we are obliged to make mention of the missing season to keep the record correct and to let those people overseas – and there are quite a number – know what happened to the Emmets in that particular year. Otherwise this “Review” is much the same as its predecessors.

For a long time we have been looking for a photograph of the 1931 team and at last we found one. We are grateful to Mary McCormick for allowing us to reproduce her copy, which is probably the only one in existence.

For those not much concerned with the affairs of the Hurling Club there are other items of interest. One of these gives a brief history of our parish. There are once again two poems which have never been published before – the author of one is unknown and the other is the late James McSparran, Q.C. a competition was held for the best essay among the Primary School children and we publish Kathleen Magee’s’ winning entry. For the travel-minded, there is an article on his visit to Russia by that inveterate traveller, Randal McDonnell.

We hope that this “Review” will be as well received as those we produced before, and we are grateful to the “Irish News” for printing it. A few copies of No. 3 and 4 are still available for those who might be interested in obtaining a copy.

**ROUND-UP OF YEAR IN  
CO. ANTRIM G.A.A. 1975  
by Seamus Graham**

During 1975 in County Antrim, two All-County Leagues were run, and nine Championships.

In considering this large number of competitions, pride of place in the County must go to St. John's Club in winning three Championships and two leagues. They won the Senior Football Championship by defeating the 1973 winners – Rossa, and the Junior Football Championship by defeating Glenarm. Their Minor Hurlers gave a great display of teamwork in beating Loughguile in the Minor Hurling Championships. St. John's were also successful in the Division 1A Football and in the Reserve Hurling Division 1A.

Next in line must come Glenravel; they won the Junior Feis Cup with a tremendous display of hurling in the second half to beat Dunloy's Reserve team. They followed this up by beating Ardoyne in the Junior Hurling Championship. This Club has its own brand of hurling which is delightful to watch, and if they can achieve a little more consistency next year they could easily win Division II.

Moneyglass opened their new pitch and with the advantage of getting the Intermediate Football Championship Final on opening day, were able to beat Mitchels. They, however, got among the honours by beating Dunloy's B Team in the Intermediate Championship in a very uninteresting match.

Ballycastle won the Senior Hurling Championship in a very exciting match with Sarsfields, the 1974 winners. This match was on the balance, until the final ten minutes, when Ballycastle's young players proved their worth. However, perhaps the difference in the two teams on the day was the exhibition of hurling given by Paddy McShane. This was delightful to watch, and he thoroughly deserved the North Antrim "Hurler of the Year" Award.

Glenariffe won the Senior Feis Cup when they recovered from a very nervous start to run out easy winners, although Armoy made a great fight-back in the last minutes of the game.

For the third year in a row, Rossa won the Division IA Hurling League. When one considers the teams in this Division, this achievement could well be the most meritorious.

Ballycran won the Division 1B Hurling League, losing only one match during the year, and should give a good account of themselves in Division 1A.

Carey were victorious by a single point in Division II, and are a welcome addition to IB.

Randalstown won Division III and are hopefully on their way back up after a few bad years for them. This club must be congratulated for its efforts in hurling, being the only South West Club engaged in All-County Hurling.

## HURLING IN THE '40'S

In this year of 1976 when there was a great upsurge in veterans or “old crocks” matches, a review of hurling activities in the decade from 1940, when most of the present day veterans were at their peak, seems appropriate.

For Cushendun this time could be described as a period of stop – go, for there were several years during this ten year span when the Emmets were unable to field a team, and in addition travelling restrictions imposed during the war caused much difficulty to all teams, and leagues were reduced in size or played on a divisional basis.

In 1940 there were only five teams in North Antrim Senior League; Carey dropped out at an early stage leaving only four – Loughgiel, Dunloy, Ballycastle and Cushendun. Cushendun beat Ballycastle at home and away but lost to Dunloy and Loughgiel when in each case only one match was played at a neutral venue for four points.

In the Championship, Cushendun beat Ballycastle at Carey in the semi-final but the match had to be replayed at Dunloy when Ballycastle won an objection to the validity of the Cushendun team. However Ballycastle were again defeated and the North Antrim final was between Cushendun and Loughgiel, who had accounted for Dunloy in the other semi-final. The final was a very one sided affair and Loughgiel were easy winners. In the County final Loughgiel met O'Connell's and they in turn suffered a huge defeat at the hands of an all conquering city team. A sign of future success was Ballycastle's winning of the County minor title when they beat Sarsfields.

In 1940 teams were formed in Glenarm and Cushendall. Fr. Maginn had been appointed curate in Cushendall earlier that year, and he was mainly responsible for the re-emergence of the Rory Ogs. For a long number of years hurlers from Layde, Glenann and the north side of Ballyeamon had played for the Emmets, while the rest of the Cushendall district had been helping out Glenariffe, but now they gave their allegiances to their new Club in Cushendall. Cushendun found out as a result of losing a number of men that they could not field a team in 1941.

In this year Loughgiel were again champions of North Antrim and were again beaten by O'Connell's in the County final but this time only by two points.

1942 was Glenariffe's year. They won the North Antrim Senior League and Championship. In the Championship final they had a ten point margin over Loughgiel, but as the Shamrocks had in the two previous years, they succumbed to O'Connell's in the County final, 5-8 to 2 -2.

By the end of 1942 hurling was again being revived in Cushendun. The Christian Brothers School from Belfast, at this time, had taken over McBride's Hotel and the Brothers were very keen in promoting the game among the young boys of the district. Fr. Pdraig Murphy was the curate here and building on the work of Brother Aherne and Brother Liam he formed a minor team in Cushendun. This team turned out to be one of the best in North Antrim and more than held its

own in the very keen minor competitions which were held during 1943 and 1944. Those in that minor team were:

Alex McKay, Pat McCormick, Paddy O'Mullan, Gerard McKay, Jimmy McQuillan, Jim Webb, Patrick, Charlie, Danny and Dominic McKay, John and Jim McSparran, Alex McNeill, Terry Walshe, Willie McBride, Jackie Fury, Gerard Bradley, and Anthony Smith.

Early in 1943 the Senior team was resurrected and their first match was a challenge against Glenshesk on Easter Sunday. Next they had a huge victory over Carey before meeting Cushendall at home. Much against the odds, Emmets came out on top by two points. Cushendall revenged this defeat on the following Sunday when they won the return match played on the field at the Coastguard Station, which was then the home pitch for Cushendall.

In the championship of that year, Cushendun joined with Carey and they were drawn to play Glenariffe. This amalgamation was expected to beat a Glenariffe team that was not going too well but it did not turn out this way and it was Glenariffe who progressed to North final where in a repeat of the 1942 final, they met Loughgiel at Glenravel. This time Loughgiel won 7-1 to 2-2, and for the first time in this decade they also brought the County title North, when they beat the seemingly invincible O'Connells by four clear goals.

This Championship winning Loughgiel side was:

G. Cushnan, J. Currie, M. O'Connell, J. McGarry, S. McGarry, P. McGarry, M. McArthur, D. Carey, H. Mulholland, D. McMullan, B. McIlhatton, J. McAleese, J. McCloskey, D. Carey, and S. Mulholland.

It was in 1943 that Antrim reached the All Ireland final and hurling received a great boost with the progress of the County team. Late on in the season several of the All Ireland stars, who were playing for Loughgiel were on view at Cushendun when the sides met in a league match. Loughgiel won but some found the "rigs" a different proposition to Croke Park and their victory was hard earned.

Their interest in hurling was shown in the formation of new Clubs and over the next couple of years unaccustomed names appeared in the fixture lists. Teams were formed in Glenbush, Glenshesk, Ballyeamon, Cloughmills and Ballintoy. None of these lasted very long being soon absorbed by their more powerful and long established neighbours. One of the most successful was "McCracken's" Glenbush which won the newly inaugurated North Antrim Junior Championship and was defeated in the County semi-final by Creggan in 1943.

For Cushendun the players who turned out that season were:-

Gus McKay, James and Dan McDonnell, Joe and Hugh McCormick, Charlie Graham, Paddy McQuaige, Tommy Sharkey, Paddy McNeill, Harry McKendry, Jim and Kevin Murray, Jimmy Martin, Dan McKenty, and Hugh McGavock.

However by the beginning of 1944 some of this panel had retired and there was a proposal to join with Cushendall. The Senior Team in Cushendun went out of existence and some of the best players joined the Rory Ogs. This joint team

had a good season and was only narrowly beaten in the North Antrim Final by Ballycastle at Carey. Ballycastle's winning margin was only one point and the match ended in great controversy when Cushendall had two men and Ballycastle one put off. A Cushendall protest about the incident was upheld by the North Antrim Committee, but the County Board reversed this decision and so Ballycastle gained their first championship success for ten years. In the County Final they beat Mitchels 4-1 to 2-1.

In this year the North Antrim League was played in two sections and Cushendall won the North East Section. In the play-off they met Loughgiel but were beaten 8-4 to 2-2. The Junior Championship again went to Glenbush when they beat their near neighbours Loughgiel by 6-1 to 4-2.

Building on their minor team of the previous season Cushendun Senior team started off again in 1945. They had a couple of League victories over their former partners Cushendall but were soundly beaten by Glenariffe in the first round of the Championship, played in Ballycastle. Loughgiel were North Antrim Champions in the year, beating the holders Ballycastle in the final (3-3 to 1-3).

They were beaten by Rossa in the County Final (1-12 to 2-1) after a replay.

Junior Champions in 1945 were Dunloy and they too lost the County Final (1-3 to 0-4) to St. Pauls. One title did come North in that year when Glenarm beat Mitchels (4-1 to 2-2) in the Minor Final.

In 1946 Cushendun again pooled resources and entered Junior and Senior teams. The Senior Team reached the North Final but were beaten by Loughgiel by two points. O'Connells won the County Title with a three goal margin over Loughgiel. Dunloy were victorious in the North Minor and Junior Championships.

This was the last year that the Senior Championship was played in two sections. In 1947 there was an open draw. The joint Cushendall/Cushendun team made an early exit when they were beaten by St. John's (4-4 to 4-2). They had better luck later in the season winning the Countess of Antrim Cup and the North Antrim Championship, which had been retained as a competition on its own, when they beat Loughgiel in the final. County Champions this year were Mitchels who beat St. John's in the final, while St. Galls beat Carey in the Junior. St. John's beat Ballycastle in the Minor Final.

After two years of amalgamation with Cushendall the Emmets decided in 1948 to go it alone once more. Surprisingly, after playing only one match, the Cushendall team faded out and some of their players came to Cushendun during the season. There was a dispute about whether this was legal or not but as the team was not in contention for any honours the matter was not pursued. Glenariffe were drawn to play St. Pauls in the championship this year and they failed to field. Ballycastle now reigned supreme and beat St. John's (5-4 to 2-2) in the Senior final, also winning the North Antrim League and Championship, the Countess of Antrim Cup, and the County Minor Championship.

Carey won the North Junior title and although they had home advantage this year were beaten by St. Galls again in the County Final.

Carey's attempt to win the Junior title was thwarted by Cushendun in 1949. This was the North Antrim semi-final and Carey lodged a protest over the legality of one of the Cushendun players. The North Antrim Board awarded the match to Carey but Cushendun had this decision reversed by the County Board. In the North Final they met Dunloy but were well beaten. Rossa won the Senior title beating Loughgiel 6-8 3-1 in the final.

In 1949 Cushendun achieved notoriety of a different kind. On a warm Sunday afternoon in August, they set off to play Glenarm in a League Match. When the bus stopped to pick up players at the "Turn" some of the passengers decided to pick up some refreshments. When they were in the bar the police arrived and took the names of those they found inside. An incident which nowadays would hardly be noticed, even then, was treated with a good deal of amusement, until those caught were fined at the next Petty Sessions in Cushendall.

This episode did little to enhance the Club's image in the eyes of the Parish Priest, Fr. Lynch. For some time, the relations had already been strained. This arose over the reluctance of the Parish Priest, who was in the middle of his fundraising activity, to give the Parochial Hall to the hurlers to enable them to raise some money. The result was that the Club took McBride's Hotel for a Whist Drive which was run on the same night as a film show in the Hall. Fr. Lynch looked on the Case as the final proof of the Hurling Club's depravity. In a well-remembered sermon, one Sunday morning, he said that "the present management should retire, look after their private affairs and prepare for their last end. Of course they may come to the matches, cheer and subscribe to the funds. In the meantime they are not to organise functions in opposition to the parish."

Whether these injunctions were taken to heart is not known but if they were some, after twenty six years, must be well prepared for their last end. On this controversial note the "40's ended and there was no team in Cushendun in 1950.

## **OUR FUTURE**

**by Seamus Graham**

I think now is a most opportune moment to ask ourselves the question, "What is the future of the Cushendun Club?"

In the three years of 1971 to 1973 we had a very good run, with two Feis Cup victories, winning the Intermediate Cup and completing the double in 1973 by winning in Division III. Since then, however, the team has not progressed as it should. Even though we have only lost two playing members in the last four years, can we say we are a better team than we were in 1973? I think not.

At our Annual Meeting members of the Reserve Team complained that they were not given a chance on the A Team. While this may have been the case could they honestly say that be their dedication to training, by their willingness to accept instructions, and by their general attitude that they have proved themselves better than those already on the A Team? It is not sufficient for members of the B Team to be as good as A Team members. They must prove themselves to be even better, and to be consistently better. This they must first of all prove at training, and then, when given their chance on the A Team, they must prove themselves against opposition.

At the Annual Meeting this year, I was elected unopposed as team manager. This for me is an unsatisfactory position to be in, as I do not know what support there is for me as manager. However, I would request that all members of the Club, not just playing members, would give me their wholehearted support in helping to improve the standard of hurling in the Club. I cannot guarantee that we will win any competitions this year, I cannot even guarantee that we will win any matches this year. What I do guarantee is that if players come out to train, if they follow instructions, if they play as a team for each other, then we will have a better team than last year. What I can also guarantee is that there are places on the A Team for those who can prove to me at training that they are worthy of that place.

I would like to comment on a proposal which was put forward at the Annual Meeting regarding amalgamating with other Clubs for the Senior Championship. In this respect I think we must ask ourselves, would this be good for the Cushendun Club? My own view is that it would not. Even is this stacked team were to win the title, would it make the Cushendun players on it any better players? What effect would it have on those players not included? All a stacked team of this type would do for Cushendun would be, that it would give some players a better chance of winning a medal. I would hope that is not our reason for playing hurling – merely the winning of a medal. We should play the game firstly because we enjoy it, and we play for Cushendun because we have a pride in our parish, and our desire to win should be based on this pride.

What then is our future as a hurling team? I do not think that we have the capacity to be a team continually in the honours such as Ballycastle, who always are in with a chance of winning the Senior Championship or Division IA.



I do think that with continued hard work and dedication from everyone that we can, some year, win the Senior Championship, and continue to finish in the top half of Division IB.

Let us look now at our future as a Club. We have in hand plans to widen our pitch, and through time we would hope to solve the problem of water lying on the surface of the pitch and not soaking away properly. We also have plans for the provision of up-to-date dressing-rooms.

It is, however, most disappointing that do not get more members of the parish joining the Club. The club Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Manager were all elected unopposed at the Annual Meeting. This is not a healthy situation for any Club. I would appeal to those people in the parish who are interested in hurling to join the Club and offer their services in running it. It can be a very rewarding exercise. Anyone who wishes to offer his services has only to approach any member of the Committee, even if they only have ideas which they think would be of advantage to the Club.

## **THE BIG BRIDGE**

**by Minnie O'Hara**

About one mile from Knocknacarry and one and a half from Cushendun is the magnificent viaduct which spans Glendun. That graceful piece of masonry, with its tall central arch (84 ft.) and two smaller arches, bears the Antrim Coast Road across a river and a road on its journey from Larne to Ballycastle.

Glens folk owe a debt of gratitude to William Bald, the engineer who planned this road. In the face of much criticism he proposed to blast the coastal chalk cliffs, and, with the material thus provided, make the foundation for the road close to the shore. The work was commenced at Larne in 1832. In this bold plan gunpowder was used for blasting rocks for the first time. His project proved such a success that it has been dubbed "the second finest Coast Road in Europe".

The date on Glendun Viaduct is 1839 and, by this time, William Bald was dead. A young engineer, Charles Lanyon then 22 years old, supervised the work. This showpiece of masonry is built of sandstone which was quarried and dressed outside Ballycastle and taken over the mountain by horse and cart at 2/6 a load. The carting of one load took a whole day. Stonemasons were paid at ½ a day, labourers 10d a day and the weekly wages bill amounted to £3.18.0.

In 1965 the Antrim County Council gave the bridge a face-lift. For several months workmen grouted (pumped cement between the stones) and re-pointed the whole structure to replace the original sand and lime which was deteriorating. This work was skilfully carried out by Cementation Company Ltd., of Belfast.

## “HURLING IN THE GLENS”

Ye gallant gael of Antrim Glens,  
Whose hearts are true as steel,  
Who patronised on Sunday last,  
The hurling at Loughgiel,  
Just give me your attention,  
And you will hear without delay,  
How the Carey Faugh a ballach,  
From the Brians ran away.

The Hurling League it has been formed,  
In Antrim's lovely glens,  
For to promote, our Irish sports,  
And revive our ancient games,  
A match is has been ordered,  
Upon the hurling field,  
With the Carey boys against Glendun,  
For the Glens of Antrim Shield.

At three o'clock it was arranged,  
The ball should be thrown in.  
The Carey boys appeared in time,  
Their struggle to begin,  
But Glendun boys had no such luck,  
For coming on the way,  
Their brake broke down and this mistake,  
Had caused them much delay.

There were hundreds did assemble,  
All eager for the fun,  
And anxiously they awaited,  
On the boys from Cushendun.  
An hour had passed, and then at last,  
News came to the field,  
That the Glendun boys had just arrived,  
To fight, but not to yield.

Carey team then claimed the points,  
Though they had not struck a ball,  
Then the match it was awarded them,  
By a man from Cushendall.  
Carey being well supported,  
By the “Swallow” and the “Brute”, a-crying  
Faugh-a-ballach! clear the way!  
'Til you see us Carey shoot.

The Glendun boys came on the field  
Though it was past the time.  
They boldly marched to centre field,  
And fell out into line  
With their cammons on their shoulders,  
They looked a gallant band,  
Four square they stood to all their foes,  
True Sons of Ireland.

Unto the Carey team then spoke,

Young Captain Bob McKay,  
 "I am sorry we have kept you waiting  
 But your metal now we'll try,  
 Throw in the ball, we will rise or fall,  
 'Tis all to us the same,  
 And like true Irish sportsmen,  
 We will play this hurling game."

Then Captain Moors stood up and said,  
 "We will not break the rules.  
 If we have not the hearts of hurlers,  
 We haven't the brains of fools."  
 "We won the match, and gained the points,  
 Already here today."  
 Then he turned and fled as his namesake did,  
 From Derry Walls, away.

Here's a health to thy boys of Cushendun,  
 And likewise sweet Cushlake,  
 There's not a heart in all their team,  
 Was ever known to quake,  
 Their courage true, none can subdue,  
 It is plain for to be seen,  
 In the hurling field to none they yield,  
 In their stripes of red and green.

The author of the above poem is not known. It refers to an incident which took place on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1906. We are grateful to the late George McCambridge of Galway and Jim McCambridge of Lavey for providing us with the words.

**A.C.H.L. DIV. 1A.**

Rossa .....	14	12	1	1
Sarsfields .....	14	8	4	2
Ballycastle .....	14	8	1	5
Dunloy .....	14	8	1	5
St. Johns .....	13	6	1	6
Portaferry .....	14	5	1	8
Glenariffe .....	13	2	1	10
Loughgiel .....	14	1	0	13

**A.C.H.L. DIV. 1B**

Ballycran .....	16	15	0	1
Ballygalget .....	16	14	0	2
Armoy .....	16	8	0	8
Mitchels .....	13	7	0	6
Cushendun .....	14	7	0	7
Cushendall .....	15	7	0	8
Glenarm .....	15	5	0	10
St Galls .....	15	3	0	12
Dwyers .....	16	2	0	14

**A.C.H.L. DIV. 2**

Carey .....	14	11	0	3
Cuchullains .....	14	10	1	3
St. Teresas .....	14	8	2	4
St. Pauls .....	13	7	0	6
Gael Uladh .....	13	6	0	7
Glenravel .....	12	5	0	7
Cunninghams .....	14	3	0	11
Ardoyne .....	14	2	1	11

**A.C.H.L. DIV. 3**

Tir Na nOg .....	16	14	1	1	29
Eire Og .....	15	13	0	2	26
Davitts .....	16	12	2	2	26
Sean Treaceys .....	16	7	0	9	14
Larne .....	16	6	2	8	14
O'Donnells .....	14	5	1	8	11
O'Connells .....	15	3	2	10	8
St. Malachys .....	16	3	0	13	6
Liamh Dearg .....	16	1	2	13	4

**A.C.H.L. RESERVE (1A)**

St. Johns .....	13	13	0	0	26
Dunloy .....	14	12	0	2	24
Rossa .....	14	8	0	6	16
Ballycastle .....	13	6	1	6	13
Portaferry .....	14	6	0	8	12
Sarsfields .....	13	3	0	10	6
Glenariffe .....	13	3	0	10	6
Loughgiel .....	14	2	0	12	4

**A.C.H.L. RESERVE (1B)**

Ballycran .....	16	14	0	2	28
Cushendall .....	15	12	1	2	25
Armoy .....	15	9	2	4	20
Cushendun .....	14	8	0	6	16
Ballygalget .....	15	6	1	8	13
Mitchels .....	12	4	2	6	10
St. Galls .....	13	3	1	9	7
Glenarm .....	13	2	1	10	5
Dwyers .....	11	0	0	11	0

Insert Picture PG 12

## VETERANS VERSUS OLD CROCKS

by P. P. Delargy

The highlight of the 1975 Cushendun Sports was undoubtedly the Hurling Match between Carey and Cushendun Old Boys. Following the action-packed, tickets-only clash between Cushendall and Glenariffe, aspirants to the Cushendun team suddenly forgot about their creaking joints, pulled in their stomach muscles and walked with a new springiness in their step.

Men whose basic conversation rarely shifted from dipping, clipping, crushing and injecting were leaning over the counters of dimly-lit bars staring intently into their Guinness, picking out a team that would overwhelm the cream of Carey. Even the drinkers of “shorts”, who form a coterie of their own, and are normally not so emotionally involved as the Guinness officionadas exchanged confidences about the eligibility of the selectors to pick a team, because they were wearing nappies when some of the veterans were in their heyday.

There was also the difficulty of borderline cases – players who were getting a bit long in the tooth, but who didn't realise it, might be offended if they were picked for the Old Cocks team. How to deal diplomatically with a veteran who was anxious to play, but who couldn't hurl even when he was at himself was a thorny question too. But one of the greatest headaches facing the selectors was hurling gear. Hurls were no problem, but where were the pants to come from to fit the ample waistlines of some of the players.

But they needn't have worried. On Sports Day, all the bulging midriffs were covered, jerseys were subject to a merciless two-way stretch, but nobody had to be retired for indecent exposure.

Was it a subconscious desire to divest themselves of the years that the locust had eaten, or was it to demonstrate the oft vaunted skill of the 'oul crowd' to a doubting younger generation that motivated the members of both teams? Probably a combination of both, for there was no dearth of clients for a place on the team on Sports Sunday.

While the other preliminary games were in progress prospective hurlers could be seen nonchalantly inquiring of each other if they were taking the field. The reply was invariably “Ach, do you not think a walking stick would be more in my line of country than a hurl?” Yet, concealed in the boot of their cars was an assortment of hurling gear – just in case. As some cynic remarked, “They are more anxious to turn out today than they were twenty years ago.”

The Cushendall-Glenariffe match was played despite grim warnings from the doctors about the irreversible damage that violent exercise could cause to hardened arteries, dicky hearts and slipped discs. Yet, every player survived with nothing worse than creaking joints and stiffened muscles to remind them of the fray.

Thus heartened by the Glenariffe match, Cushendun and Carey took the field. Everybody wanted to play in defensive positions where skill and weight were more important than mobility.

During the first half exchanges were fairly even, but the loss of John McKay early on through injury was a sad blow to morale. After the interval Paddy O'Mullan retired, injured, but a spectator shrewdly observed that it was because the Guinness had sapped his strength. Then Jackson's licence was taken from him for driving his ball with more than the permitted concentration of alcohol in his bloodstream.

It was left to the stalwarts like Gus and Joe to hold the fort but they were fighting a losing battle against a fitter Carey combination. The inevitable result was that the second half was played in front of the Cushendun goal.

During this period, it was truly a battle of giants between full-back Dan Kinney and full-forward Pat McVeigh. But the final score neither reflected credit on the attack nor blame for the defence.

In the final minutes, balls were dropping with such monotonous regularity in the Cushendun square, that it was only a question of keeping the score within reasonable limits.

As generally expected, the younger generation were hardly impressed by the "oul crowd's" performance.

The post mortem was carried out the same evening with great solemnity in the same dimly-lit bars. The unanimous verdict was that the physical fitness of Carey snatched a victory from a skilful Cushendun team.

CAREY: Barney Mullan; John Black, Dan McVeigh, Dan Kane, Pat McCarry, John McNeill, Joe Butler, Gerard Butler, Frank McCarry, Pat McVeigh, Charlie McVeigh, Vincent McKinley, Willie McBride, Joe Campbell, Alex McVeigh, James McVeigh.

CUSHENDUN: Liam O'Hara, Joe McCormick, John J. McKay, John McQuillan, John White, Alex McKay, Paddy Magee, Hugh McKeegan, Terry Walshe, John McKay, Joe Magee, Gus McKay, Danny McQuillan, Raymond McHugh, Hugh McCormick, Malachy McSparran, John Graham.

## ROUND-UP OF 1974 and 1975

Yet another restructuring of the All County Leagues took place in 1974. The bottom five teams in Division I were amalgamated with the top three in Division II to form a new league. This was called Division IB.

After a record breaking season in 1973 Emmets found the new league set-up a different proposition. The team got off to the worst possible start, when they had their hardest possible match as their first disastrous defeat. Morale was at a very low ebb, but revived somewhat when Glenariff – eventual winners – were given a close run at home, in a match which we should have won. Nevertheless, defeats away by Glenarm and Cushendall, left us in a position of having to stave off relegation. However, fortunes improved and home victories against Armoy, Mitchels, St. Galls and Cushendall, and an away victory over Armoy, left us finishing safely with ten points.

Undoubtedly, the highlights of the season were the championship win over Armoy and the Second Round game against the holders St. John's. In this opening game on the re-constructed Corrigan Park, a last minute blunder left the home side through for a narrow win, after the Emmets had played the game of their lives and really deserved to win.

The B Team had a somewhat similar season, but finished well behind Cushendall and Ballycran who were out in front in this Reserve League. An under fourteen team also fielded, but it only served to show the scarcity of talent available.

It must be said that Division IB proved to be a much more competitive league than Division II of the previous year. The teams were much more evenly matched, and there was no repeat of the one sided scorelines of the previous year.

And so to 1975 – Glenariff moved out of IB but Mitchels although finishing at the bottom, applied for, and were granted permission to stay in this Division. Dwyers came up from Division II and Ballygalget moved from IA, leaving a Division of nine teams.

Cushendun's first matches were against Ballygalget. The B Team started with a victory but the A Team gave their match away finishing three points behind. Three victories then followed over St. Galls at home, Dwyers and Glenarm away; and we had made a better start than in the previous year.

The Championship match with Ballycastle came next, and playing the eventual winners of their own pitch, was too big a hurdle. Even so there was no repeat of the spirit shown against St. John's, and at no time did we make a game of it, against a Ballycastle team that was not all that impressive.

This championship outing was followed by an equally hard one – Ballycran – the Ulster champions in Co. Down. Ballycran certainly showed why they were champions, with a brilliant display. We had another home victory over Armoy before visiting Cushendall. There was not all that much between the teams on that wet Sunday night and only a goal separated them at the finish. Ballygalget

gave us a sound beating in Co. Down and Ballycran were to do the same a couple of weeks later. In between we had a win over Mitchels.

Once again on Sports Day we entertained Glenarm and did not let them repeat the previous year's victory, although the game was close and hard fought. In September we travelled to Armoyle and lost both matches – no referee turning up for either game.

Cushendall came to Cushendun next and a disastrous day saw us again going down in both matches. Losing the services of Dan McKeegan in the first couple of minutes and injuries to Mick O'Neill and James Farrell proved too big a handicap. The last match of the season was against Dwyers and turned out to be a very easy victory.

In the Feis Cup we had a short lived outing when the two teams were beaten by Cushendall in Glenariff. The Senior team should have won on this occasion, for in the second half they had all the play but failed to score, and allowed their rivals to snatch victory in the last ten minutes.

The B team finished with sixteen points, well up their league. They gave a good display in the Junior Championship, coming from behind to pip Glenarm, before going down to the eventual winners – Glenravel.

Off the field, things did not run so smoothly as in the previous couple of seasons. Response at training was very discouraging and it remains to be seen if new manager Seamus Graham can resurrect the enthusiasm of 1973.

However, some things were encouraging. Players were very cooperative taking their cars to away matches and so saving a huge expense in bus fares. A successful twenty weeks draw was run during the Summer with former manager, George Harvey, the winner of the £200 prize.

Mick O'Neill put much work into coaching an under fourteen team, but the numbers which he had to work on were limited. Next year we are going to concentrate on the under twelve's. The outlook for replacements on the A or B teams, at the moment, is bleak, and there is practically no talent forthcoming.

Others who deserve thanks for their work during the year are Chairman Hugh O'Hara, Treasurer, John Blaney and Manager, Danny McQuillan. Seamus Graham attended many meetings on our behalf and despite all the commitments he had with the Hurling Board, found time to give us much help.

This year at the Annual General Meeting it was decided to institute a "player of the year" award. Dan McKeegan was the unanimous winner and was presented with the trophy by Hurling Board Chairman, Frank McGowan, at the Annual Dinner.



## 1975 Scoreboard

### Division IB

Cushendun	B	1-6	Ballygalget	B	1-5	Cushendun	A	1-9	Ballygalget	A	3-6
Cushendun	B	4-8	St. Galls	B	1-4	Cushendun	A	3-7	St. Galls	A	2-4
Dwyers	B	0-4	Cushendun	B	1-4	Dwyers	A	3-9	Cushendun	A	3-10
Glenarm	B	3-2	Cushendun	B	3-6	Glenarm	A	2-2	Cushendun	A	2-7
Ballycran	B	5-7	Cushendun	B	0-4	Ballycran	A	3-17	Cushendun	A	1-2
Cushendun	B	0-4	Armoy	B	1-9	Cushendun	A	4-9	Armoy	A	4-3
Cushendall	B	0-1	Cushendun	B	0-0	Cushendall	A	1-9	Cushendun	A	1-6
Ballygalget	B	1-8	Cushendun	B	6-4	Ballygalget	A	5-7	Cushendun	A	0-2
Cushendun	B	4-5	Mitchels	B	3-6	Cushendun	A	3-15	Mitchels	A	3-6
Cushendun	B	0-6	Ballycran	B	4-13	Cushendun	A	0-16	Ballycran	A	3-15
Cushendun	B	4-7	Glenarm	B	0-1	Cushendun	A	3-12	Glenarm	A	2-11
Armoy	B	2-10	Cushendun	B	4-1	Armoy	A	3-6	Cushendun	A	1-4
Cushendun	B	3-3	Cushenall	B	4-4	Cushendun	A	0-6	Cushendall	A	2-9
Cushendun	B	6-9	Dwyers	B	0-2	Cushendun	A	5-6	Dwyers	A	0-3

### Feis Cup

At Glenariff:

Cushendun B 0-1    Cushendall B 7-6    Cushendun A 0-4    Cushendall A 0-8

### S. H. Championship

At Ballycastle:

Ballycastle 6-12

Cushendun 2-5

### J. H. Championship

At Glenariff:

Cushendun 2-8

Glenarm 2-7

Glenravel 4-7

Cushendun 2-3

## THE GRACE OF AN AISY MIND

I met him in Ballyeamon  
On the road outside Issbann,  
His step was light and his eyes were bright,  
A tight wee mountain man.

“The years were hard to you”, said  
“Three score, left well behind”,  
“Why wudn’t they?” he answered me,  
“It’s the grace of an aisy mind.”

“I’ve barely twenty acres beyont,  
Four or five of this fit to plough,  
An’ the grazing rights for forty sheep,  
At the fut of Trostan’s Brow.”

“There’s little stock about the place,  
For feeding’s hard to buy,  
Two milking cows an’ a breeding sow,  
With four or five stirks forbye.”

“There’s none would say we are well to do,  
An’ some wul say we were poor,  
But nobody starved in our house  
Or went hungry from our door.”

“In their hunt for wealth  
Some have their health,  
And’ everything else behind,  
Damn the wan of these  
Has a heart at ease  
Or the grace of any aisy mind”.

“I own to no man as master  
An’ I’m beholdin to none,  
I can work when my work is needed  
And rest when my Labour’s done.”

“I rared my family dacent  
An’ schooled them every wan,  
Under Master Kane in the Oul’ schoolhouse  
In the townland of Knockban.”

“The boys are doing bravely,  
An’ they’re mindful of her and me,  
John’s first mate on a deep sea tramp,  
And Daniel just got his A.B.”

“Peter works, as a digger’s mate,  
At oil wells in Iran,  
If he’d heeded me, he’d have gone to sea,  
Like his brothers, John and Dan.

“So there’s only wan fledgling left in the nest,  
She flies to the States next fall,  
Then Bridget and me will soldier on  
‘Til we have good and all.”

We talked so long at the foot of the brae  
That his dog began to whine,  
“You see,” said he, “he’s not like me,”  
“He’s got an unaisy mind.”

So I left my brave philosopher,  
To whom the Lord was kind,  
With his soul at peace, and his heart at ease,  
And the grace of an aisy mind.

- James McSparran

## PORTRAIT OF A LADY

by Mary Delargy

In 1893 a young girl called Mary Wilde came from Laurencetown, Co. Down to be Principal of Knocknacarry Girls' School and so began a life of dedication and devotion to the people and parish of Cushendun.

She retired in 1936 having given 43 years unstinting labour to the place she loved. During these years she taught two generations of girls and woe betide any girl who fell below the standard set by her mother! The continued interest in education in our small community is due in great part to her influence on the distaff side of the parish.

Many a girl who left Knocknacarry had received a grammar school standard of proficiency in those subjects in which Miss Wilde excelled, arithmetic, literature, parsing, grammar, music, geography, poetry and drama.

Apart from love of singing which she fostered in her pupils, she devoted much of her spare time to training the choir and to the production of at least two concerts each year.

The school did not close during the summer months, the annual holiday month being September. This break allowed the children to help their parents with the corn and potato harvests.

During July and August many visitors gave up part of their holiday to train the local children. In my time Rosetta McKay and her sister Julia taught us step dancing. Alice Oates initiated us into the mysteries of the pas de bas and we rehearsed plays under the guidance of Mrs Harkin, a Glasgow schoolteacher.

Miss Wilde's concerts were professional by any standards. Her past pupils in England, Scotland and Belfast were called on to select plays, supply sheet music, props and costumes.

In retrospect she was ahead of her time. Her teaching was not simply restricted to the Three R's. She endowed her pupils with an outlook on life in the round.

At first Miss Wilde came to live in Cushendun Village and later she moved to Innispollin where she remained, except for a short sojourn in Belfast, until her death in July 1948.

On her retirement she moved to a little house in Andersonstown Park but the call of the glens was too strong and she returned to Innispollin.

Some of her past pupils recall with affection her idiosyncrasies. She loved buttermilk and two girls went to Ballycran on Friday afternoons for butter and buttermilk. Miss Wilde's nightly draught of buttermilk must surely have contributed to her flawless complexion.

She had a phobia about green, amazing for such a practical person. On one occasion after weeks of rehearsal for a play Miss Wilde arrived to find the back

door painted bright green. There was consternation and alarm and it took all the persuasive powers of the girls to induce her to carry on. Like so many others, the play was a great success.

Other girls remember her solicitude for pupils soaked to the skin on wet, wintry days. A place was made for them and they dried out in the warmth of the fire.

Many a child was taken to Innispollin after Saturday morning Mass for a cup of tea and Maggie's home-made bread.

Although times have changed since 1893, Miss Wilde would stand out in any era. Her concern for children, her love of learning and her ability to impart that learning to all her girls have left a lasting mark on those of us who were privileged to be her pupils.

## OBITUARIES

Since the last issue on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1975 one of the best known supporters of the Emmets has died. Jim McMullan was one of the most loyal and partisan followers any team could have, and he was a familiar figure at home and away matches, in his blue suit and grey cap, set in his customary angle.

In his younger days, "McMullan" was a keen player, and after he retired, he was always willing and eager to do duty as an umpire or linesman. His anecdotes were many, of his exploits on the field, his spell as a sailor and his time working in England with Henry Andy. Although he appreciated the worth of the present day players, he thought they couldn't compare with the 'oul crowd'.

It was ironical that "McMullan" missed the two greatest triumphs that the Emmets ever had. In 1931 he was working in Taunton when he got a telegram from Dr. Alex McSparran telling him of the famous Senior Championship win. In 1973 his form was not the best, and he did not travel to Dunloy for the Intermediate Championship triumph over Glenarm.

No doubt McMullan will be missed if only for his arguments and fervent encouragement. He seemed to have an endless supply of hurling sticks in his yard, for no matter how many he gave away, he always appeared the following Sunday with another one. We will miss him for this too and remember with regret that he never got around to cutting the tree up Sharkey's burn.

The past year has also seen the death within a few weeks of each other, of Bill and Katie O'Hara. Katie, especially, rarely missed a match and was not slow to tell her sons when they were not playing well. There was a rumour that Terry might join Ballycastle, since he was living there, but when Katie heard this she let it be known that it would be over "her dead body". To Liam, Tim and Terry we express our condolences.

Within the last month too another member of the famous 1931 team has died. We extend our sympathy also to the Scally family on Harry's death.

## **LIFE IN GRANNY'S TIME**

**by Francis Magee (aged 10)**

Things were very different in the Glens when granny was about my age. Motor cars were hardly ever seen. People either walked or travelled by horse and cart or pony and trap.

Houses had no electricity or piped water. In the country people drew their water from a well. In Cushendun the water was stored in a tank on a little road branching off towards the Bay Hotel. It was aptly called The Dribble and a visit to the well gave people a good excuse for a gossip.

In towns or big villages there was a pump, and the pump was also a meeting place for a chat.

Homes were lit by candles or oil lamps, much later by Alladin or Tilley lamps.

Cooking was done on the open fire and the women baked in oven pots hung over the fire on a crook.

Clothes were ironed with a box iron. Washing was done in tubs filled with water drawn from the well and heated over the fire. Soap was often home-made. Dirty clothes had to be rubbed on a washboard which was very hard on the knuckles. Rough work aprons were made from meal bags.

Girls wore long dresses, high buttoned boots and thick woollen stockings held up by garters. Boys wore laced boots, thick tweed suits, woollen socks and big caps like those which are coming back into fashion today.

All girls could sew, knit and crotchet. Women made their own sheets from flour bags and their own patchwork quilts, a quilting was a social occasion.

Much later, houses had running water, but very few had baths and not many had hot water.

Children still walked to school. There was no school bus, no school dinners and no milk. Granny carried a 'piece' and a bottle of milk for her lunch. She came to school early to light the school fire. She and her friends gathered sticks to save coal.

Children worked much harder years ago but they enjoyed their leisure more. So Granny says!

## **CHURCHES AND CLERGY IN CUSHENDUN**

**By Malachy McSparran**

### **(a) Catholics**

Before 1800 there was no fixed site for the celebration of Mass. It must be remembered that the countryside at that time was heavily wooded, had few roads and means of transport was very limited, and it was only with great difficulty that one could travel abroad. For this reason there were a number of places where churches and graveyards were established, and the word “kill” in a placename indicated the existence of a church at some time.

These churches were usually very temporary structures built of hazel sticks and mud. The church in Kilgarive in Glendun is referred to locally as the “wattle church”. The burial ground here was used as a place of interment for unbaptised infants well into the present century. This was also the case of Cushcreen, but other burials took place here up until the time of the famine. When the road to Torr was being made about 100 years ago, nine coffins were unearthed and reburied nearby. There is a local tradition that the church here contained a relic of the True Cross. This is also indicated by the name Cross Scrine – The Shrine of the Cross.

The outline of the church, or even the boundaries of the graveyard, can no longer be defined having been eradicated by the construction of the new road and the building in 1908 of the Cairn to the memory of this graveyard’s most famous inhabitant – Shane O’Neill.

There was another graveyard and church in Aghnasillagh known as Kilnacumbagh. Nothing can be seen in it now except a few heaps of stones. Archie Murphy, who owns the land, always heard it referred to as “Keel”.

The graveyard at Killowen – The Church of St. John – in Torr was used for burials until 1810 when the cemetery at Barnish, where the present Catholic Church of Culfeightrin is built, was opened.

The most important of the ancient sites in this area is Craigagh where the present Catholic Church of Cushendun stands. It is said that St. Patrick founded a church here, although modern scholars are inclined to dispute this, but there seems to be little doubt that this site dates from early medieval times. This church was a more permanent structure than the others, as the name indicates, for Killavallagh means “the church of the walls”.

Fr. McKavanagh, in his article on penal Mass sites (Glynns Vol. 1), identifies places where Mass was celebrated in penal times at Cregagh, Cloghey West, Gortin, as well as the most widely known one at Innispollin. The latter was undoubtedly the last to be used and locals say that the last marriage took place here in 1798. A. McAuley and a McAllister were married. It is possible that the priest from Culfreightrin said Mass here before the Criaghagh Church was rebuilt in 1804. Fr. Brian O’Mulderg was registered as P.P. of Innispollin and Culfeightrin in the Registration of Priests 1704. He lived at Innispollin. His successors were

Revs. Patrick McAuley, Patrick McGarry, Michael McMullan (1769-1788), and Patrick Brennan (1789-1828).

It was Fr. Brennan who in 1804 commenced the Building of the small church at Craigagh. It was completed in 18114 and dedicated to St. Columbia. Fr. Brennan was succeeded by Fr. Luke Walsh. His curate was Fr. Sharkie and on Fr. Walsh's death in 1848 the Parish of Culfeightrin was divided and the portion from West Torr to Aura on the north side of the River Dun was formed into the Parish of Innispollin or Cushendun.

The names of Fr. Starkie's first parish committee are worth recording: Neal McCaughan, John McNeill (Ligadaughtan), John McVey, John O'Hara (Knocknacrow), Pat McAllister, John Keenan, Felix McCambridge, John McNeill (Turnamona), Daniel O'Hara (Ballyteerim), John McHenry (Tom Corr), Daniel Cumming, John McCambridge (Drumfreskey).

To provide for the parishioners in Torr and Cushleake a Mass Station was established in a house in Ballyloughan now owned by Patrick McCormick. Fr. Starkie intended to build a church nearby but was unable to obtain the site which he wanted. The church was eventually built in 1855 on the Cushendun side of the Green Hill at Culraney by Fr. Garland who became the second Parish Priest in 1852.

Fr. Garland retired in 1863, died in 1867, and is buried in Craigagh Churchyard. He, and Fr. Burns who died in 1943 are the only two Parish Priests of Cushendun buried here. Fr. Garlands successor was Fr. Phelan. It was the latter who built the present church at Craigagh. It was rededicated in 1865 under the patronage of St. Patrick. On the death of Fr. Fitzsimmons who had been Parish Priest of the Parish of Layde (Cushendall) for thirty two years, twenty one townlands on the south side of the River Dun from Sleans to Tromra and from Gortacregan to Una, were incorporated in the Parish of Cushendun. It was thus, a little over one hundred years ago, that the present parish boundaries were fixed.

### **Succession of Parish Priests and Curates since 1869.**

<b>Parish Priests</b>	<b>Curates</b>
1871 Fr. Eugene McCartan	----
1883 Fr. Michael O'Malley	1890 Fr. W. Kelly 1893 Fr. P. Scally
1894 Fr. Bernard McCann	1895 Fr. J. Small 1898 Fr. J. McDonnell 1900 Fr. T. Blacker 1903 Fr. T. McConeloge 1904 Fr. T. Mc.Donald 1908 Fr. D. Rhodes
1909 Fr. Henry Skeffington	1917 Fr. P. McCartan

1916	Fr. Joseph Boylan	----
1917	Fr. Tom Blacker	----
1934	Fr. Frederick Burns	1934 Fr. T. Keenan
		1938 Fr. J. Henry
		1939 Fr. P. Courtney
		1941 Fr. P. Murphy
1943	Fr. John M. Lynch	1944 Fr. C. Valley
		1947 Fr. T. McKillop
		1951 Fr. F. McCorry
		1952 Fr. F. McSorley
1958	Fr. D. McGuckian	1954 Fr. P. McVeigh
		1960 Fr. M. Coppinger
		1966 Fr. S. Kerr
		1969 Fr. J. Murray
1969	Fr. John Laverty	
1975	Fr. Gerard McCall	

The Parochial House during the most of the last century was the Strand House, Cushendun. This place of residence ended when Fr. McCann failed to pay the rent. He was evicted and went to live in Cloney where his curate Fr. Kelly was living. Cloney remained the Parochial House until 1910, although Fr. McCann lived for a short time in Drumnasmear (Martin's house). Fr. Skeffington lived in the old Coastguard House in Cushendun.

Fr. Joseph Boylan decided in 1916 to build a new Parochial House. The plans were drawn and it was to be situated in McLaughlins field in Baramean – where a new bungalow was lately erected. However Fr. Boylan died inside a year and the plans were abandoned. His successor Fr. Blacker went to live in Agola and this remained the Parochial House until Fr. McGuckian built the new one at Knocknacarry in 1963.

(b) Church of Ireland

The members of the Established Church in Cushendun area were in a similar position to that of the Catholics, they belonged to the Parish of either Layde or Culfeightrin. The nearest church which they could attend was the old church at Layde up until 1796, when it was replaced by the one built on the Middle Road at Cairns in that year. In 1838 the report of the “Down and Connor Aid Society” referred to parishes which were a considerable distance from the parish church and as a result about forty places were provided with facilities for Divine Worship. The first grant from this Society was made in aid of the maintenance of a curate at Cushendun.

Cushendun was by this time becoming a popular seaside resort with the gentry. They had great faith in the benefits of sea bathin. To facilitate their religious needs the present little church was built in 1838. The person mainly



responsible for this work was Michael Harrison, formerly of Churchfield, Ballycastle, but who was now living in Glenmons. He was married to a grant-aunt of Lord Cushendun. £800 was raised by voluntary subscription towards the building of the church and it became a chapel of ease for Culfeightrin. The officiating clergyman was known as the District Curate and he was subject to the incumbent Rector of Culfeightrin. In 1851 Bishop Knox as patron of the Parishes of Culfeightrin and Layde granted his licence and authority for the publication of banns and the solemnization of marriage in Cushendun.

In 1857 Bishop Knox, with the consent of the Rev. Charles Courtney, Rector of Culfeightrin, and the Rev. James Dunleath, Rector of Layde, assigned a district to Cushendun consisting of 43 townlands – 16 in Culfeightrin, 5 in the Grange of Inispollan, 7 in the Grange of Layde, and 14 in the Parish of Layde. It was now designated a perpetual cure, which meant that the officiating clergyman has security of tenure unlike a District Curate who held office at the whim of the Rector. The first perpetual curate was the Rev. Joseph McCormick.

Yet another change took place in 1869 on the disestablishment of the Irish Church. Cushendun became an independent parish under Rev. Samuel Arthur Brennan, who had been curate since 1867. He was succeeded first by Rev. H. Percy Grubb who held the parish until 1882 when Rev. Brennan again became the Rector. He remained until his death in 1908. During this period the rectors also lived in Agola in the house next to the one later occupied by the parish priests. Rev. Brennan was the last rector of Cushendun as a separate parish, for after his day it was served from Cushendall and formally united with it in Rev. Canon Sharp's time, becoming the united parishes of Layde and Cushendun.

#### **Succession of Rectos of Layde and Cushendun.**

1908-1924	Rev. Thomas Edward Thrope
1924-1958	Rev. Thomas Gordon Sharpe
1958-1972	Rev. J.G. King
1972-	Rev. Henry Heatley

#### **Curates**

1909	Forbes Samuel Morrow
1911	William Ruddock
1913	Thomas Gordon Sharpe
1916	Henry N. Joly
1917	Frederick Richard McCullagh
1919	Charles F.H. Carrell
1920	Thomas Wyatt
1924	Henry C.B. Stone

#### **(c) Presbyterians**

The first Presbyterian minister in the district was Rev. James Stuart who was appointed in 1708. The place was not able to support a minister and Rev. Stuart obtained a special aid from a fund at the disposal of the Synod of Ulster. Rev. Stuart died in 1719 and for over 120 years there was no minister.

In 1842 a Lieutenant Kennedy, who was a son of the minister in Maghera, was Chief Officer of the Coastguards in Cushendun and he asked the Ballymena Presbytery to supply a minister. As a result the Rev. M. Menemy was appointed but he retired after one year.

In 1848 the Ballymena Presbytery decided to form a congregation. Rev. Charles Gillis was appointed minister and he obtained a site from General Cuppage at Mullarts for a meeting house and rectory. This church was opened in 1852. The congregations were never large and in 1859 the services were transferred to the Court School in Cushendall – a bigger centre of population.

Many of the Presbyterians attended the Church of Ireland in Cushendall. A chance remark made in the Glens of Antrim Hotel by the then Church of Ireland minister is said to have been the reason for the building of the present Presbyterian Church in Cushendall. A prominent Belfast businessman overheard the minister say that half of his congregation that particular Sunday was Presbyterian. The man donated a sum towards the building of the church. It was opened in 1900. The minister responsible for the building was the Rev. Reid. He was the son-in-law of the Rev. Gillis whom he succeeded in 1896. Rev. Reid was succeeded in 1912 by the Rev. Orr, who was minister of the Cushendall-Cushendun area until 1919. In that year the district was united with Carnlough.

1920-1927	W. H. McCracken
1927-1950	A. Robinson
1950-1957	W. R. Brown
1957-1969	Frederick J. Nelson
1969-	

There is one more church to be mentioned in Cushendun. This is the ruined church on Sleans. Very little is known about it and it does not seem to have been used for very long. The inscription on the gable reads "Cushendun Congregational Church 1834". Built on Crommelein's ground there is little doubt that it was a Crommelein church. But why was it Congregational? There is a tradition in the district that one of Crommelein's conditions of employment was to attend his church and school, but that he was unable to enforce this idea. This must have been the reason for the building of the church. There are no records of who were the ministers who served it.

## **CUSHENDUN-KNOCKNACARRY BADMINTON CLUB**

Once again this club raises itself from the ashes of time, under the chairmanship of Pat Crummey and with Rosemary McKay keeping a tight rein on the purse strings with a dexterity second only to the way she knocks them over the net.

At the moment such illustrious players include Malachy McSparran who, is he can not hit the shuttlecock over the net, can certainly talk it over, providing, of course, Brigid isn't there to keep him semi-quiet; Sean Scullion who takes time off from conjuring up world known culinary delights in the kitchen of the Bay Hotel, to delight us with his pas-de-deux on the court; Seamus McNeill who seems to put a little spark into the light entertainment of Wednesday evenings, not to mention his live wire Patricia; A little glamour is brought up to the occasions by such figures as Helena Crummey, Shebby O'Neill, Brigid McSparran and Rosemary McKay who, when they get on the court, would put Pans People to shame.

This year's player of the year, Dan McKeegan, made several guest appearances on court but his recent marriage and night shift (maybe these are one and the same thing) took their toll and robbed him of his stamina and hence his time on court was cut down.

Gerry McNeill who, after leaving the house, did actually reach Knocknacarry Hall and not Mary McBride's (he assures our reporter that his compass is still working perfectly), and whose finesse on the court is equalled only by the way he milks his cows.

The evening usually ends with a few members, who still have some energy left, retiring to a local hostelry to partake of some of our natural heritage, which comes in long or short measure, according to one's needs, tastes and pocket.

So if you want to get in on the action, just be over 19 years of age, belonging to no other club, come along any Wednesday night between September and April at 8 pm., be prepared to pay a nominal membership fee of £2.00 and 10 pence every night you play. Do not worry if you do not have a racket, for you can borrow one when you get there.

The writer of this article would like to point out that any similarities to real life characters was strictly intentional.

## **“RUSSIA IS AN ENIGMA WRAPPER IN MYSTERY”**

**By Randal McDonnell**

We visited seven cities in fourteen days. It is a strenuous itinerary but when one has travelled 4,000 miles to Moscow and Central Asia one wants to see as much as possible. There is plenty. The Soviet Union covers a quarter of the Earth's dry surface and has 270 million inhabitants of over a hundred nationalities and peoples. During my fortnight I passed through eleven airports and visited Moscow, the Central Asian cities of Bukhara, Tashkent, Dushanbe, and Samarkand, and then Leningrad and Novgorod. Dushanbe is the capital of the republic of Tadjikistan and Tashkent the capital of the republic of Uzbekistan which with Siberia has been used for over a hundred years as a place of exile from Russia and other parts of the Soviet Union, and also a place of refuge for such groups as the communists who fled from Greece in 1946 and 1967.

The opening question at mealtime in Moscow is often “have you been to Moscow before.” It comes as a surprise that many peoples have been several times. Moscow is magnificent and is the showpiece of the Soviet Union. The Russians will not let you visit any other part until you have seen Moscow. All tours must include Moscow. You see the city and its people. You can walk around it at will night or day, visit the shops, travel on the underground, go on the organised sight seeing tours, and watch the people passing in the streets.

When you see the people of Moscow you find that they are quite well dressed in “sensible” well fitting clothes. Perhaps a woman's eye would look for more elaborate fashion and quality, but exotic fashions are extravagant and the Russians are seldom needlessly extravagant. The Russian people are ordinary people.

When you visit the shops you wonder how the ordinary people can afford to be so well dressed; £20 for an ordinary suit, £100 for a medium quality suit, £80 for an ordinary transistor radio, £200 for a monochrome T.V., £100 for an absolutely basic washing machine. When you learn that the average wage is £100 per month these prices seem outrageous. But you can't compare prices in that simple manner. Out of the wage of £100 (150 roubles) there is no income tax, housing costs an average of 4-6% (and that includes gas, electricity and heating), public transport is almost free (2p for any journey of any distance in Moscow), schools, medical care and social welfare free, basic food very cheap, and recreation cheap. Very few people have private cars because with the very abundant public transport relatively few people need them and they are not easily obtained (there is a two year waiting list). So you see that most of the apparently poor wage remains for spending on the goods in the shops, also it is normal for women to work so that the family wage is doubled. Driving through the country you can see a T.V. aerial on every roof – an indication.

Can visitors purchase in the shops? You could if you had plenty of money and an inclination to pay two or three times the price you would pay at home. The Russians overcome this problem by having special foreign currency shops for visitors in all the large hotels and airports where you can buy quite a large range of goods at our ordinary prices but with non-Russian money only. These are the

“Beriozka Shops”. They are funny about this money business; you cannot import or export Russian currency, - you must buy it on arrival and sell before departure. But you really have no use for more than a small amount of roubles – you can’t even use them in the hotel bars where they accept foreign notes (they love dollars). You can bring any amount of cash into Russia and the more you spend the better they like it. Don’t forget however that British exchange control regulations don’t allow you to take more than £25 in cash out of this country. Travellers cheques are a nuisance and Irish money is useless.

What are the shops like? In Moscow you can buy everything you could possibly want. Shops are designed to display all items offered for sale and every item is price tagged (like Woolworths). All sales outlets are publicly owned (even the newspaper stands on the street) and prices and goods are standardised all over the Union, so that an umbrella costs the same in Leningrad as in Samarkand, a shirt in Novgorod the same as in Tashkent. There is just one of each kind of shop in the smaller towns. Goods are generally of medium quality and only that one quality available. There is thus no duplication or overlapping of services and no competition – the state doesn’t compete against itself. For this reason too, advertising is unnecessary and advertising costs not incurred and added to the cost of the goods. Writers often describe the queues in Russia. Only in shoe shops did we see large queues in Moscow, but the peculiar window-shop-display-price-tag system lead to a silent line of people wandering about the counters, and the method of payment at a separate cash desk before you can return to the counter to receive your purchase results in queues even in the least busy conditions.

One is herded along in a vast river of tourism. The system is designed to keep you moving and to see as much culture and presentable showpieces as possible. All countries (except Northern Ireland where the Tourist Board still recommend a quiet stroll along the Hightown Road) do this. Everything is dated from the Great Revolution of 1917. So many schools, so many teacher training colleges, so many hospital, clinics, libraries, factories etc., have been established since the revolution. What has been achieved was because of the revolution, and no progress would have occurred only for the revolution. So it would seem from our guides. Perhaps it is true but it becomes very wearying as does the constant reminder of the founder of the state, V.I. Lenin. He is everywhere – every town, village, city has its Lenin statue, Lenin Avenue, Lenin Museum, Lenin Square. Stalin is gone and not to be spoken of. The state and Religion they say are separate. In reality the State and Religion are one.

There is a great sense of tidiness and cleanliness in the Soviet Union. The people, in the city streets, the public areas and buildings, are all clean and tidy. There are few signs of vandalism. On many streets in the towns there are mineral water dispensers where you can get a glass of lemonade for 3 kopeks (2p). There is a little shelf on which two glasses sit. And they remain there. They are not stolen, taken home, smashed, or thrown at other people. They are a piece of public property which like all other public properties not be damaged.

The bureaucracy is tidy. Possibly that is why complaints and requests for extra services are resented. Compliance would result in administrative untidiness. If you want more coffee, an extra single room, a different tour, you are blandly ignored. They are far too good mannered to say "no" so they just ignore you. If you really insist they just say "that is how it is". In any case years of conformity and conforming have instilled a passive acquiescence and they do not have much sympathy for demanding visitors.

When you come home everyone asks about religion. Does religion co-exist with the society created by atheistic communism? If you ask the guides they profess not to know – "the state and religion are separate, we do not know." But there are forty three "working" Orthodox Churches in Moscow. There is also a synagogue and a Catholic church. What is that among seven million people. We did visit an Orthodox service at Kolomenskaya. The congregation was of old women, but it was a weekday and the same would be true in Ireland. Remember that the Roman Catholic religion was hated by the Russians ever since the conversion of Kievan Russia to Christianity in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Many wars were fought with the traditional enemy, Catholic Poland, throughout the centuries. Russia was intensely religious, so much so, that the rejection of religion by the population may now be a backlash. The Jewish religion was a strong force in pre-revolution Russia, especially in the vast area of "The Pale". There was sporadic persecution of Jews for many centuries and the word "pogrom" originated there. The other religious force was Islam. This was an empire of culture, religion and political power that at one time stretched from Cordoba in Spain to Sumatra, and from Warsaw to Timbuktu. It kept up the progress of culture, learning and science, in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, during the European Dark Ages. But Islam is a total life system embracing religion, culture and politics, and as such it is totally incompatible with communist politics and atheism. It has been totally and ruthlessly destroyed. Christianity and communism have been able to co-exist in many aspects of life in Russia as well as such countries as Poland and Yugoslavia. But the cult of Lenin together with the state and its legal code have become to many a substitute for our kind of religion.

Did I enjoy seeing Russia? Of course I did. It is fascinating. We travelled long distances, stayed in comfortable hotels, walked in the streets with a feeling of safety and security lacking in many western cities, and were provided with quite adequate meals. It does not surprise me that tourist facilities are bursting at the seams.

## **ROCKPORT AND MOIRA O'NEILL** by M. K. Gildea

Rockport Lodge was built about 1815 by a member of Lord O'Neill's family. It seems to have had various notable tenants since those days, among them Captain Crommelin and the Higginson family, whose daughter Nesta became famous when she changed her name to Moira O'Neill. There were three Higginson sisters, and one Lulu, is said to have taught Sunday School in a house in Knocknacarry. When she met her pupils on the roads round the village coming from the National School, she gave them each a sweet ignoring the other children who were present, and who subsequently disliked her wholeheartedly. There was also a brother, who because of schooling and an Army career left little impression on the local scene. The Higginsons left Rockport in 1911. Nesta married and went to live in Canada, but she never forgot her childhood in Cushendun where she roamed the hills and glens in perfect freedom and affection.

When Nesta Higginson became 'Moira O'Neill' she closely identified herself with Glenspeople, caught their idiom and expressive way of speech which she exemplified in her poetry. The sea on her doorstep inspired many of her finest poems one of the best being 'Sea Wrack'.

"The wrack was dark an' shiny where it floated in the sea,  
There was no one in the brown boat but only him an' me;  
Him to cut the sea wrack, me to mind the boat,  
An' not a word between us the hours we were afloat.  
The wet wrack  
The sea wrack  
The wrack was strong to cut."

The three verses of this poem so impressed Sir Hamilton Harty that he set it to music. Another sea poem begins with the haunting line:

"Tis the long blue head o'Garron from the sea,  
Och, we're sailing past the Garron on the sea,  
Now Glen Ariff lies behind,  
Where the waters fall an' wind  
By the willows o' Glen Ariff to the sea.

Ould Lurigedan rises green by the sea,  
Ay he stands between the Glens an' the sea  
Now we're past the darklin' caves,  
Where the breaklin' summer waves  
Wandher in wi' their troubles from the sea.

But Cushendun lies nearer to the sea,  
An' thon's a shore is dearer still to me,  
For the land that I am leavin'  
Sure the heart I have is grievin'  
But the ship has set her sails for the sea..."

Brabla' burn tumbled down from the mountain to the sea, and the walk to its source became a favourite retreat. Here she found the inspiration for the lovely 'Grace for Light' –

“When we were little childer we had a quare wee house,  
Away up in the heather by the head o' Brabla' burn;  
The hares we'd see them scootin', and we'd hear the crownin' grouse,  
An' when we'd all be in at night ye'd not get room to turn....”

It describes a crowded, happy innocent family, with the mother lighting the rush-dip and thanking God for light.

Brabla' also provided the background for 'Cuttin' Rushes'. A young couple cutting rushes on the mountain, and stealing a quick kiss coming home along the burn. “Sign burn sing, can ye mind the song ye sung, the day we cut the rushes on the mountain?”

The exiles from the Glens touched her heart as in “The Boy from Ballyteerim' with his sad home-coming; and the lad from Corrymeela, whose lament for “Corrymeela, an' the blue sky over it' is known the world over.

Moira O'Neill has touched on other aspects of life and nature in her poems. She observes the birds – “Sure maybe you've heard the storm thrush, whistlin' bould in March” the Fairy Lough with its waters black and deep; 'Glendun' with its beautiful line” – the bracken up the hillside has rusted in the air”; of children and ould lads “I mind meself a wee boy wi' no plain talk, an' standin' not the height o' two peats.” These poems are all to be found in Songs of the Glens. Moira O'Neill, herself an exile, expresses her longing for her old home in the poem 'Looking Back'

“Wathers o' Moyle I hear ye callin;  
Clearer for half o' the world between,  
Antrim hills an' the wet rain fallin'  
Whiles ye are nearer than snow-tops keen;  
Dreams o' the night an' a night wind callin'  
What is the half o' the world between?”

Rockport Lodge, which received its name from the Higginsons, was formerly known as Castle Park. It has been described as a Regency type house in a perfect setting at the edge of Cushendun Bay. It has appeared in paintings by Ulster artists, among them the late J. Humbert Craid who lived, for a time, just next door. The ivy-covered ruins of Castle Carra beside the house adds to its distinction. It is supposed that hereby the great Shane O'Neill was killed in a brawl with his rival feuding clan the McDonnells.

Perhaps the fact that the name O'Neill had strong connections with Rockport led Nesta Higginson to adopt it for her own.