

## Hall Celebrates its 50th Anniversary. 7/ 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2019:

We had a lovely gathering, and a very appreciative audience, to mark the fiftieth year of our community centre. Thanks to the people who handed in photos and thanks to Joe Power for digitising and printing them off.

Back in the day, the cameras were few and far between, so the older photos are scarce, but on seeing them, they are a great way of bringing back memories and stories. Nowadays, there are plenty cameras but photos are shared online mostly and very few are printed off.

We were delighted to see Mairead Chawke attending - one of the Hall's long-time contributors and supporters. Great to see Fr. Tim O'Leary, who we have to thank for extending the Hall to its present size. Mary Liston & Margaret Hartigan had many memories to recall of their great Macra days.

Organisations represented - Legion of Mary, Muintir Na Tire, The Pioneers, The ICA, The Apostolic Group, The Card Committee, The Young at Heart, The Athletic Club, Macra na Feirme, GAA , Music Classes, Youth Club, The Water Group, Granagh Dev. Assoc etc

So many meetings and events were held over the years and only because the old school building was available and open to all to use. We are indebted to the many people who volunteered and put in many hours of manual work, over time, to keep the Hall building maintained and functional. The first group of officers led the way for many to follow:

Chair - Ned Chawke, Sec - Sean McMahon & Treas - Jim Noonan. Since then we have had as Chairmen:- Ned Sheehy, Jim Chawke, Martin Carroll, Mike O'Regan, John Bennett & Liam Houlihan. Secretaries: - Brid Shine, Brid O'Donoghue, Marian Noonan, Eileen Power & Niamh O'Hanlon. Treasurers:- Tom Sexton, Mike O'Regan, Mary Lynch, Anne Hickey & Shane Twomey. Since Granagh Development was set up in 2003, the following is a list of the many activities it has been involved in, that have taken place or originated through meetings in the Hall :-

**2004** - Provide Hall for youth club, up to 2009.

**2006** - Monster Jumble Sale.

Arranged several classes - computer, gardening, exercise and dancing along with flower and cooking demos.

**2007** - Began Afternoon Tea Dancing.

**2008** - Instrumental in the foundation of Granagh Players.

**2011** - Youth drama and dance camp.

**2012** - Assisted in outdoor fundraising for Kilpeacon Church Renovation fund at Lady Haringtons' home, Held again in 2014, '18 & '19.

**2013** - Hosted visitors for the Cagney/Noonan reunion during 'The Gathering'

**2013/14** - The GDA took on the first big refurbishment of Hall.

**2013/14** - Set up ' Community Text Alert ' system in the parish. Also refaced the stone wall, opposite Church.

**2014** - Presentations to Sean Cagney & Mick Houlihan for their dedicated service to the community and the GDA..

**2014** - Held Launch of Team Dave Riordan, Malin to Mizen Cycle for Liskennett Autism Centre.

Also, that year, honoured Water Group Members at a presentation night.

**2015**, we engaged with Ballyhoura Development Association to develop a 5- year- plan for the Granagh Community.

**2015** Granagh Parish Web site set-up, which was designed by Niamh O'Hanlon.

**2015** - Facilitated Granagh Pebbles After Schools service in one of the Rooms in the Hall, up until June '17.

Hosted – The History of Granagh Creamery, a presentation by Jim Houlihan.

**2016** - Facilitated the 1916 celebrations, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Rising.

Honoured Mary Liston, at G. Players Celebration night for - forming the first Macra branch in Granagh ('72), producing the many Macra Na Feirme Light Entertainment & Drama shows and fostering the development of the youth in the parish during those years. Also, for producing the first Play in Granagh in 2008 which led to the formation of the very successful Granagh Players.

Hosted two presentations by Jim Houlihan - The History of Granagh Creamery & the History of Granagh Group Water Scheme.

**In 2017** - The Big Jim, Tractor Run.

**In 2018**, awards night hosted for the Nat. School's All-Ireland winning soccer team.

Also In 2018 - the GDA applied to LEADER for a grant towards replacement of all the floors in the Hall as well as improving insulation in the front wall of Hall.

The GDA also applied for LEADER funding for a 14-Bay car park on the Liskennett road and improvements to the walkway up to Liskennett Wood.

Hosted a Reception for the Liam McCarthy, All Ireland Trophy.

**Jan 2019** - ' The History of the ICA' a presentation by Jim Houlihan.

Hosted ' Pink for Peggy' Fundraiser.

We held a presentation night for Pat Gubbins in October and ' The Colleen Bawn ' was staged in November.

Not forgetting to add to the list, Granagh Players and their twelve dramatic productions.!

Our Hall has been at the centre of community life and only for it, much of the above would not have happened. The last ingredient in the mix, is the many wonderful volunteers who have given their time and talents over the years.

They have ensured its viability and we hope that continues.

Next date to mark, Dec 2069. !!!