



VOL, 3, ISSUE 2



Welcome to Killawalla Newsletter

Another year,,,

This issue of the Killawalla Email Newsletter is coming to you as we approach Christmas and the beginning of another New Year.

As we mark the end of this year, we realize that things still happen around Killawalla on a day to day basis - things that don't make the daily headlines.

Killawalla celebrated a "first" recently when we held our first ever Killawalla Sheep Show, Organized by Joe McEvilly and held in Pakie's field beside the pub, the fair drew a large crowd from various parts of Mayo and the surrounding counties.

This newsletter contains some photos from the day.

For several yearfs, Killawalla Community Council has been working on expanding the present cemetery as it nears capacity.

Hopefully, more progress can be made in 2017 rather than the project becoming a dead issue.

Work is progressing on moving in and repairing the wall by Ray Duffy's at Killawalla crossroads down towards Pakie McEvilly's Pub. Hopefully the improvement will make the road less dangerous in that area.

The saddest news from Killawalla is the closing of our Post Office at the end of the year. More in the next issue.



Patrick Coonan married Teresa Cannon in Ballintubber Abbey on October 28, 2016
Pardaic Feehen married Fiona McDonagh on October 22, 2016 in St. Mary's Church Westport.



Killawalla snow scenes

Irish Christmas Blessing

"May the blessing of Christmas be with you,
May the Christ Child light your way,
May God's holy angels guide you,
And keep you safe each day."

"The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son,
And God's peace to you."

"May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love."





Pictured are some of the locals at the Killawalla Sheep Show



Winners at the Killawalla Sheep Show



Phil Derrig, Croaghrim sings a song at the Killawalla Party -Dec. 4, 2016



Some more of the locals size up the quality of the sheep being shown.

*May those who love us love us.
And those that don't love us,
May God turn their hearts.
And if He doesn't turn their hearts,
May he turn their ankles,
So we'll know them by their limping.*



Sean & Bridie Carter step it out on the dance floor



Show judge from Recess, Connemara, checks the quality of the sheep



Margaret Maloe and her daughter, Bridged enjoy the party



Phil Derrig, Sean Carter, Michael Walsh enjoy tea and a chat.

The Origins of the Christmas Crib

The Christmas Crib (crèche) dates back to St. Francis of Assisi (Feast October 4). It was in 1293 that the first crèche was celebrated in the woods of Greccio near Assisi, on Christmas Eve. There lived in that town a man by the name of John (Messier Giovanni Velitta), a very holy man who stood in high esteem. flesh and strove after the nobility of the soul.

Blessed Francis wanted to enact the memory of the Infant who was born at Bethlehem and how He was bedded in the manger on hay between a donkey and an ox. The Friars who had come from many communities, gathered around St. Francis as did the men and women of the neighborhood. They bought candles and torches to brighten the night. St. Francis arrived and saw that everything had been prepared. The crib was ready, hay was brought, the ox and the donkey were led to the spot. Greccio became a new Bethlehem. The crowds gathered and rejoiced in the celebration. Solemn Mass was sung.

St. Francis' idea of bringing Bethlehem into one's own town spread quickly all over the Christian world, and soon there were Christmas cribs in churches and homes. The Moravian Germans brought this custom to the United States. They called it Putz. The oldest known picture is a "Nativity scene" dating from about 380 that was a wall decoration in a Christian family's burial chamber, discovered in the Roman catacombs of St. Sebastian in 1877.

There is a legend that at midnight on Christmas Eve animals have the gift of speech. This gift was bestowed because the humble farm animals gave the infant Jesus His first shelter, and warmed him with their breath, thus they were rewarded with the gift of human speech.



Mairead Lavelle, Ballyburke sings one of her favourite songs



Duffys and Thomashs, enjoy a conversation



A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand
me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value,
without which the world would
be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even
though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the
coming of these things, with
the wisdom to recognize them
when they come. Amen.



Louise O'Malley, Maudy McGing

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.



Higgins, Conway, Lavell couples enjoy the Killawalla party



Pete McHale, Bohaun died on December 5th, 2016 and was buried in Killawalla Cemetery on December 8, 2016

May he rest in peace