



Welcome to Killawalla

Welcome to Killawalla's Fall Newsletter.

Seeing that September usually begins a new school year, we thought we might dedicated this issue to school related experiences in poem and story.

We all remember things that we learned in school that have stayed with us. Here are some poems from bygone schooldays that may stir something within you.

Another aspect of school life from bygone days was "Hedge Schools." They provided educational opportunities when education was not available to Catholics especially during the Penal Days.

Also, this issue will include updates on local happenings since our last newsletter.



The Leprechaun by Robert Dwyer Joyce



In a shady nook one moonlit night,
A leprechaun I spied
In scarlet coat and cap of green,
A cruiskeen by his side.
'Twas tick, tack, tick, his hammer went,
Upon a weeny shoe,
And I laughed to think of a purse of gold,
But the fairy was laughing too.

With tip-toe step and beating heart,
Quite softly I drew nigh
There was mischief in his merry face,
A twinkle in his eye;
He hammered and sang with tiny voice,
And sipped the mountain dew;
Oh! I laughed to think he was caught at last,
But the fairy was laughing, too.

As quick as thought I grasped the elf,
"Your fairy purse," I cried,
"My purse?" said he, "'tis in her hand,
That lady by your side."
I turned to look, the elf was off,
And what was I to do?
Oh! I laughed to think what a fool I'd been,
And, the fairy was laughing too.

Wedding bells



Sarah McEvilly and Anthony McCrea married in Killawalla church on July 3, 2015
Joanne Leonard and Conor Heeran married in Killawalla Church on July 24th, 2015
Regina Walsh and Paul McGovern married in Ballintubber Abbey on July 31, 2015

VISIT OF THE DENTIST

Back in the 1950's, the optician and dentist would visit the National Schools to perform health checks on the children. Teeth were pulled, eyes were checked and shots given. Here is one poem about the dentist and teeth.

Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth

*Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth,
And spotted the perils beneath,
All the toffees I chewed,
And the sweet sticky food,
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth.*

*I wish I'd been that much more willin'
When I had more tooth there than fillin'
To pass up gobstoppers,
From respect to me choppers
And to buy something else with me shillin'.*

*When I think of the lollies I licked,
And the liquorice allsorts I picked,
Sherbet dabs, big and little,
All that hard peanut brittle,
My conscience gets horribly pricked.*

*My Mother, she told me no end,
"If you got a tooth, you got a friend"
I was young then, and careless,
My toothbrush was hairless,
I never had much time to spend.*

*Oh I showed them the toothpaste all right,
I flashed it about late at night,
But up-and-down brushin'
And pokin' and fussin'
Didn't seem worth the time... I could bite!*

*If I'd known I was paving the way,
To cavities, caps and decay,
The murder of fillin's
Injections and drillin's*



DEREENDAFDERG SCHOOL

*So I lay in the old dentist's chair,
And I gaze up his nose in despair,
And his drill it do whine,
In these molars of mine,
"Two amalgum," he'll say, "for in there."*

*How I laughed at my Mother's false teeth,
As they foamed in the waters beneath,
But now comes the reckonin'
It's me they are beckonin'
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth.*



PROGRESS IN DEREENDAFDERG

School day poems

An Old Woman of the Road – Padraig Column

*O, to have a little house!
 To own the hearth and stool and all!
 The heaped up sods upon the fire,
 The pile of turf against the wall!*

*To have a clock with weights and chains
 And pendulum swinging up and down!
 A dresser filled with shining delph,
 Speckled and white and blue and brown!*

*I could be busy all the day
 Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,
 And fixing on their shelf again
 My white and blue and speckled store!*

*I could be quiet there at night
 Beside the fire and by myself,
 Sure of a bed and loth to leave
 The ticking clock and the shining delph!*

*Och! but I'm weary of mist and dark,
 And roads where there's never a house nor bush,
 And tired I am of bog and road,
 And the crying wind and the lonesome hush!*

*And I am praying to God on high,
 And I am praying Him night and day,
 For a little house - house of my own -
 Out of the wind's and the rain's way.*



KILLAWALLA TURF



SERENITY OF DEREENASCOBE



Ballintubber Abbey, founded in 1216, will celebrate its 800 anniversary.

BALLINTUBBER ABBEY

ST. PATRICK'S JOURNEY

In the early centuries after Christ, Killawalla was part of the important kingdom of the Partraighe; their kingdom was divided into three parts, Partry Upper, Lower Partry, and Partry of the mountains, occupying present Pntry (Ballyovey), Ballintubber, Ballyheane, and Partry of the mountains, stretching from Lough Mask to Croagh Patrick. Killawalla was situated in this latter area. (It is interesting to note that to this day, people refer to this area as "the mountains").

The organization and politics of Ireland at this time was wholly tribal. When St. Patrick came on his first missionary journey, he got to know these chieftains; there was no other way he could enter a territory to evangelize; he had to have the permission, grace, and favour of the local tribal chieftains.

From the "Tripartite Life", Tirechan's Collections, the Book of Armagh, and the Annals of Ulster we get a clear picture of the work of St. Patrick. It appears that on his first trip around the West, he set up churches and congregations, - the basic work of preaching the Gospel.

His next trip about 442 or 443, A. D., he came with a train of Bishops and priests to set up a proper ecclesiastical structure; the faith and the churches were there already. It was on this trip, he came to the Well of Springhill in the Wastes and remained there two Sundays. And he went to Magh Rathin (about Ballyheane), and to the borders of Umal of Achad Fobuir in which there are Bishops. And here he ordained Senach a Bishop, naming him "the Lamb of God". And St. Patrick established a church in that place.



Tell us about yourself: what you are doing; how you are doing; what you miss; whom are your family/relatives; what you are working at; what are your experiences, Pictures are welcome also. Don't forget to send them to us at this [email](#) address. Thank you!