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The cottage is constructed of local stone and features a traditional thatch.

In times gone by the thatch would be made from either local reeds, which can be seen growing on the edge of Lough Carra, Moore hall, or from straw. Reeds would be soaked in a solution of blue stone and water to increase their durability.

This thatch is made of Turkish reeds, the reason for this is that they have been proven to have a much greater life span than locally sourced materials, perhaps 5-10 years longer.

Thatched houses were in evidence at the end of the 17th century and were virtually all rectangular in shape. Great attention to detail was exercised and the neat thatch in a beautiful shade of burnished gold added the finishing touch. Geraniums in big black 3-legged pots took pride of place outside the door, whilst creepers clung to the gleaming white washed walls.

Stauntons Forge, Newtown, Clogher has been rebuilt from a ruin by our local FÁS C.E. Scheme in 1999. The site and ruin were donated by the Staunton Family of Ballyheane. This Forge was one of six working in a 5-mile radius (*the others were Belcarra, French Hill, Ballintubber, Carnacon and Ballyglass*). The last horse was shod in 1960 by John Staunton of Catford, until its reconstruction when it opened fully operational in 2001.

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

As part of the 2015 Tidy Towns Competition, Clogher made a special effort in improving our standing within the competition. In 2015 we demonstrated improvements in the areas of litter control, sustainability of wildlife and habitats, landscaping and open spaces, our built environment and most of all Community involvement. We would like to thank all involved and we look forward to the 2016 competition.

	Maximum Mark	2014 Marks	2015 Marks
Community Involvement and Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets and Housing Areas	50	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes	50	30	30
Total Marks	450	274	279

Active Age

We would like to thank Clogher Active Retirement Group Bernie McGreal, Annie Lydon, Mary Mc Donagh, Mary Sheridan, Jimmy Hynes, Nancy Concannon, Eileen Moran, Nora Bourke, Nellie Egan, May Staunton, Mary Staunton, Mary Kelly, Phyllis Staunton, Julie Coyne, Rita Quinn, Sheila Conner, we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Clogher Active Age meetings are at the Community Centre on Wednesdays, from 11 am.

Bus available for anyone interested in attending includes fun and games and lunch. On behalf of Clogher Community we wish you all very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Clogher Heritage Centre Day on the Bog

Around 50 people of all ages began to gather at Clogher Heritage Centre for the annual Clogher Day on the Bog on a fine August morning. The weather stayed good for the entire day and all agreed it was a perfect day for a trip to the bog to bring home some turf. The Clogher Heritage Centre provided a suitable cart for bringing in the turf. The most well behaved donkey I have ever met was willing to not only bring home the turf in the traditional manner but was also quite happy to ferry the youngest members of the group along the Clogher Bog Loop walk to a spot where we spent a couple of hours cutting turf in the traditional way. Traditional wicker creels were tied to the donkey's back and turf was carried from the bog to the cart after being cut using a traditional sleán. The days participants were able to try their hand at cutting the sods and felt an appreciation of how a day cutting turf to provide fuel for the winter was real 'hard graft'. A couple of comments were made to the effect of how welcome the sound of the kettle whistling on the turf fire was back in the day. We lit a small fire with a few sods. Back at the Heritage Centre Clogher after the morning on the bog there was plenty to talk and reminisce about over tea and sandwiches. Michael Macloughlin arrived in a 1960s milk truck with a full load milk churns and vintage bottles and was the subject of much discussion. He was also pulling a trailer with some examples of vintage farm machinery and tractor seats now highly prized by collectors.

There was much laughter when as everyone was preparing to go home when our previously well behaved donkey decided he was no way going into his trailer. All in all it was a grand day well attended and a big thanks to all at the Clogher Heritage centre and all who joined us on the day.



Greg Kelly



Newly planted landscape project on approach road to Clogher from Castlebar



Lovely floral display at Clogher Community Centre



Nicely landscaped road verge.

Floral Display

The village of Clogher, was looking well thanks to the efforts of our local Community Employment Scheme

A special effort is made each year to enhance the village by adding floral displays at strategic points throughout the area. We also enter the Tidy Towns competition and this year increased our overall marks.

We also partake in The Cleaner Community competition organised by Mayo County Council. A big thank you to pupils of Holy Angels National School and members of the public who all help in keeping Clogher Litter .

Walkers enjoyed Bat Night Out

On Monday the 24th September 2015, Croagh Patrick Heritage trail had their annual “Bat Walk in Brackloon Woods”, a few miles outside Westport Town. A good number of adults and children attended along with ecologist Jackie Hunt. Jackie came with bat identification and detector devices. A bat detector device can pick up sonar signals the bats create, when hunting for food at night, insects being their primary food of choice. Before the walk commenced, Jackie Hunt addressed the crowd, and spoke at length about these fascinating mammals. She said contrary to Hollywood movie myth, bats do not attack people and are generally harmless. If one has bats in their home, do not try and remove them, just call an expert for advice. Bats also are not blind. Jackie went on to say that bats also play a vital role regarding our ecosystem. A single North American “Brown Bat” can eat up to 1000 mosquitos in a single hour, leading to the speculation about their role in controlling mosquitoes –which may reduce to spread of Malaria. Nectar feeding bats and Fruit Bats pollinate more than 130 genera of plants. Jackie mentioned that bats differ in size and weight, depending on what particular species they belong to.

When Jackie’s talk on bats ended, the walkers proceeded into a dark Brackloon Wood. She gave the children florescent sticks, that glow in the dark. The children really liked these sticks, their parents said it was a great idea. As we walked further into the woods, Jackie would stop for a while and hand out to the children the bat detector devices, and to hold them up in air to hear the mammals. Last year, I heard a winged flapping sound from a detector device and saw one bat fly past us. However, due to poor weather conditions on this occasion, not many bats came out to feed on insects. Nonetheless, when leaving the woods, walkers did report seeing a “Pipistrelle bat, a common species found in Brackloon Wood.

In the last couple of years, the bat walk on the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail has proved really popular. It is a perfect way to promote the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail and everyone had a great time. The Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail would like to thank Jackie Hunt for generously giving her time to do this event. See you all again next year for this event.



Bat Walk
CROAGH PATRICK
HERITAGE TRAIL

Monday, September 21st
at 7.15pm in Brackloon Wood

The CPHT, along with ecologist Jackie Hunt are hosting a bat walk along with bat identification and detector devices cover charge €5.00 children free.

For further details contact Greg or William at Clogher Heritage Centre 094-9030687
Email: info@croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com

Brackloon Wood is situated 5km outside Westport on the Leenane Road. Turn right past Knappagh at the sign post for Owenree. The wood is situated 250 metres along the Owenree Road. Parking at Brackloon School just past the entrance to the wood.



Drum Graveyard

Drum Graveyard had a very special year with regard to the work carried out in our graveyard.

The boundary walls in the grotto area are now complete, Work has been done not just to a high standard but surpassed all out expectations, it speaks for itself, the project will be ongoing, the grotto and seating area will proceed as and when labour becomes available. It is now a blank canvass and we can only look forward with anticipation to the finished result.

Praise must be directed to the work and dedication of the builders, the men of the Rural Social Scheme, this job was difficult, because of the sheer size of the walls. A very testing task, thankfully their experience and ingenuity carried them to a successful conclusion, A big thank you to all for your efforts on our behalf.

Thanks to anyone who has help by word, Deed or donation, it is especially welcome to funding our project. Our graveyard newsletter will as usual be with you in the spring.

By Heather Kelly– Chairperson



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Boheh Stone & Rolling Sun

This year Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail held their annual Boheh Stone Rolling Sun Alignment Walks at the rare and ancient Boheh Stone, also known as St. Patrick's Chair at Boheh. The Boheh Stone itself is dated to the Neolithic Period, 4000 to 2000 bc and is where our ancient ancestors gathered to worship a Sun God and to give thanks for a successful sowing and harvesting of crops. From the vantage point at the Boheh Stone, they would have also viewed the rolling sun phenomenon on Croagh Patrick Mountain. On 18th April and 24th August each year, (Spring and Autumn Solstice) we invite walkers of all ages to join us in witnessing the wonderful spectacle of the "Rolling Sun" on Croagh Patrick's holy mountain. On these dates, just before dusk, the sun seems to appear to rest on the summit of Croagh Patrick and then proceed to roll down the north side of the conical peak itself, revealing the phenomenal 'rolling sun' effect, you can see a talk on the event from myself William Igoe on the Clogher Heritage website at clogherheritage.com



The April 18th Walk was very successful . Over one hundred people came out to Boheh on a beautiful spring evening with clear skies, perfect for witnessing this twice year event. Local Archaeologist Leo Morahan gave a very informative talk on the archaeology of the Boheh Stone and the history of the area. On the August 24th walk , I gave a brief talk on the folklore regarding the Boheh Stone, which can be seen on our Clogher Heritage website. On the 18th of April Boheh Stone walk, to our surprise, a couple held a "Wiccan Wedding" or "Handfastings" ceremony as the sun rolled down the side of Croagh Patrick. A wiccan wedding is a non-religious, pagan wedding ceremony. Handfasting is an old Pagan custom, dating back to the time of the ancient Celts. Handfasting was originally more like an engagement period, where two people would declare a binding union between themselves for a year and a day. The original handfasting was a trial marriage. It gave the couple the chance to see if they could survive marriage to each other. After a year goes by (a handfasting was once believed to last a year and a day), the couple could either split as if they had never been married or could decide to enter permanently into marriage. Today, Wiccans and Pagans have embraced handfasting as a part of their wedding ceremony. A handfasting can either be a legal marriage (depending on state law), or a commitment for "as long as love shall last." A handfasting ceremony can be tailor made to suit the couple.



Perhaps in the place name 'Boheh' one can find an explanation regarding the origin of the site. Boheh means 'a sheltered place' or 'restful place'. This might suggest that our Neolithic ancestors sheltered here, made merriment, refreshed them self before heading out on the last part of the journey to worship the Sun God on a high a mountain just a few miles to the west, leaving their mark on the Boheh Stone (there are numerous circle ring motifs , some with holes in them covering the stone) a reminder to future generations that they passed this way. In the Iron Age period (400bc to 400ad) our Celtic ancestors would continue the tradition of worshipping a Sun God on the mountain they called Cruach Aigle (Mountain of the Eagle). Deriving from the word Cruach as a variant of 'rick' or 'reek, Cruach was a reference to the mountains sublime cone shape, the name which is commonly used by locals today. It was not until the 10th century that Sacred Mountain

Latest Find in Clogher

While searching for archaeological features not recorded along the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail, I called into my local library in Castlebar. I proceeded to the local studies section and retrieved the 1900 Sites and Monuments map for the Clogher, Claremorris area. On this map location was written a 'Cromlech'. A Cromlech is a name given to complex of one or more archaeological features in the same location. These features are often a Souteriane, Standing Stone or Stones etc. This Cromlech at Clogher is at the entrance to Knockaraha woods, opposite Jimmy Corley's house. Here, there is only one archaeological feature, a Dolmen which is pictured opposite. A Dolmen is a burial tomb dated the Neolithic Period, around 4000bc to 2500 bc. When an important Neolithic person died, after his or her body was left to decompose above ground. The bones would be then placed in a burial tomb, a dolmen much like this one. This is a very rare and fascinating archaeological feature in our own back yard, and well worth a visit.



Second Ringfort in Knockaraha, Clogher, not locally known.

Living in the village of Knockaraha for many years, I was always fascinated with a locally known ringfort that is situated on a hill top near my home. Ringforts are circular archaeological features that range from 30 meters to 120 meters in diameter, depending how important the site or the owner. On the island of Ireland, there are about 60,000 these alone. Ringforts were most common in the Iron age period, even up the late Medieval Period. These forts were used for habitation or to protect livestock in case of thievery in ancient times. While researching for more archaeology in my local area, I was surprised to find another Ringfort located in Knockaraha village, a Ringfort no 2. While looking at Bing Maps online, (satellite aerial photo maps) I zoomed in on Knockaraha village. To my surprise, from these aerial photos there seemed to be another large circular archaeological feature in Knockaraha village, a few fields away, south west of Knockaraha ringfort no 1. To verify this, I needed some proof. So I called into Castlebar library to retrieve the local 1900 sites and monuments maps held in the local studies section. With a copy of the 1900 sites and monuments map with me, I found the circular feature I had seen from the Bing aerial photos. Ringfort no 2 is situated in O Tools field in Knockaraha. At first I could not see the ringfort from my eye line, as the high earth and bank are now longer there. However, as I got closer, I began to see a low but very large circular ridge in the field, with a single small tree protruding from what I observed to be the entrance the ringfort no 2. I decided to measure the width of the ringfort by pacing across the middle of the circular feature. It measured roughly at 90 ft. across, around 30 metres, the average width for an Irish ringfort. What was this second ringfort in Knockaraha village use for? If I had to hedge my bets, I would say livestock. Why? Because the locally known Knockaraha Ringfort No 1 is located high on a hill, perfect habitation, look-out and defensive purposes. Knockaraha Ringfort no 2 is located on low level ground, not good for defence in the event of attack, but certainly large enough to protect or hold livestock through the winter period.



By William Igoe



Holy Angels N.S. Clogher

Green Schools Update November 2015

Working for our 8th Green Flag!

Theme: Global Citizenship: Energy
Green Schools Committee 2015 - 16
Ciarán Heneghan, Matthew Lyons, Dessie McAteer, Michael Garry, Eábha McDonagh, Hazel Murphy, Nathan Moran, Seamus McAteer, Fionn McDonagh, Kyra Quinn, Ms O Hora

Winners of ENERGY acrostic poetry competition:

1st Class: Regan Foley 2nd Class: Aaron Hopkins

4th Class: Elaine Tuffy 5th Class: Hazel Murphy

6th Class: Ciarán Heneghan. Well done to everybody who entered the competition. The standard was very high.

Day of Action Friday October 23rd

All classes took part in Energy Workshops facilitated by Niamh from SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland).

The junior pupils learned all about 'Guzzler', the energy monster, and took part in experiments which showed how energy is used.

The seniors learned about sustainable and renewable energy and really enjoyed taking part in their experiments.



We have lots more projects and activities planned for the rest of this school year including surveys, projects and competitions, all on Global Citizenship - Energy theme.

We would like to thank all the pupils of Holy Angels N.S for there help in with our Annual Spring Clean
Wishing You all a Merry Christmas

March Walking Festival

It's that time of year when the team here at Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail turn their thoughts to organising our three-day walking festival for 2016. The March 2015 walking festival was a huge success, with the number of walkers over the three days increasing all the time. The weather was fantastic; we were lucky to have three fine days at the end of March. A few weeks previously Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail had a "Warm-up Walk" on the Clogher Loop Bog Walk to promote our walking festival. "Mayo Roscommon Hospice" was our chosen charity for March. They had a celebrity on hand to launch our walk, none other than former Derry Footballer and now RTE GAA analyst Joe Brolly. Joe was well received by the locals and much banter was made about Mayo football and how to get their hand on the elusive Sam McGuire Cup. A few weeks later at the festival itself, Joe Brolly joined us on our walk from Ballintubber towards Aughagower in support of CPHT and MRH. At the end of the festival, all walkers said they had a great time and really enjoyed themselves. The said the tea and food were great additions, as most walks do not have refreshments like ours. CPHT would like to thank all involved who made this year's festival so successful. So watch this space and who knows what celebrity CPHT will have in 2016, we might surprise you. Dates regarding walking festivals next year yet to be confirmed. You can follow Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail on our website, www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com or email us at info@croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com

The next Walking Festivals takes place on the 18th, 19th & 20th of March 2016



Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat

Please to put a penny in the old man's hat;

If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,

If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you!

How Cloonbora Got Its Name

(Taken from Mr Galvins hand written notes 1938)

As told to Andrew Armstrong by his grandfather William who died at the age of 95.

Our village is now called Cloonbora, but that is not what it was always called. It was called Sean-Baile one time. One day when it was Sean Baile, a woman was walking in the field where the fort is. In passing by the fort she looked in and saw two pots of gold, one each side of a bush. She had a rope in her hands for bringing home a load of grass on back. That same moment she heard a great noise. She looked around to see where the noise came from and saw her own cattle inside in the oats. She through the rope on one of the bushes to mark the spot where the gold was, and went to put the cattle out. She then came back to get the gold, but to her dismay there were no pots of gold to be found. But, on every bush in the village there was a rope (spancel) ! Ever after that the village was cloonboorca /Cluainbuarach" or the meadow of the spancels.

Litter Action League

In December 2015 Clogher got second place in Mayo County Councils Litter League Competition. Palranny won first place in the competition a huge well done to all involved and hopefully 2016 will be a year that we finish top spot.

March Festival 2016



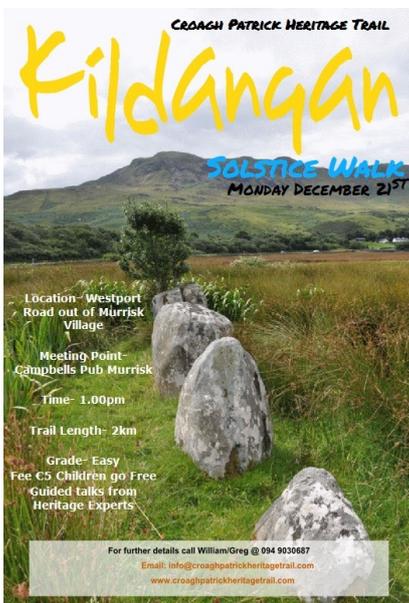
This years March Festival will be taking place on the 18th, 19th, 20th, the walk will commence from Balla and finish up in Murrisk.

We would like to thank once again Mayo Roscommon Hospice for all there help and support once again.

For more information you can call Greg or William on 094 90 30687 or you can email them at www.clogherheritagetrail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Kildangan



Kildangan Standing alignment walk Dec 21 2015

On the 21 December the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail has its annual Winter Solstice Walk at Kildangan, Murrisk, Westport. On this date at approximately 1.50 pm the sun is observed to rest on the shoulder of Croagh Patrick. When this phenomenon occurs, it lines up exactly with the alignment of four standing stones in complex of other archaeological features at Kildangan, lasting about ten minutes. The standing stones are dated to the Neolithic period 4000 to 2400 bc and are aligned from a stone row of 5.5m long. Depending on fine weather, it is a wonderful site to see. Archaeologists and local historians have their own theories what is actually happening at this site. They say the Sun alignment on Croagh Patrick connecting with Kildangan standing stones are for ritual or ceremonial purposes. I tend to think that this location was an assembly point of our ancient Neolithic ancestors to celebrate the end of the winter. They realised that from now on the days would be getting longer, spring was around the corner for sewing and planting of crops. Worshipping a Sun God that appeared to rest on the shoulder of Croagh Patrick was also a their way of giving thanks for past successful harvests. On Dec 21 2014, I gave a talk to about 40 people who came on the walk, about the origin of the standing stones, their purpose and why our Neolithic ancestors worshipped here.

By William Igoe

Night of the big Wind

As the 6th of January 2016 approaches, it marks the 177th anniversary of "Oíche na Gaoithe Móire."

Weather is often the most talked about item in the conversations of persons in rural Ireland. There is one event more than any other recalled in the oral history and folklore of the Clogher locality that stands out more than any other. "The Night of the Big Wind" that occurred on Sunday January 6th 1839. That night became the subject of Irish myth; stories of what happened during the storm have been handed down for generations.

On the evening of Saturday the fifth there was a heavy snow fall. The next morning the temperature rose and the snow quickly melted. By afternoon a cold front swept in off the Atlantic bringing high winds, heavy rains and hail. The thunder was loud and the lightning impressive. By Sunday night the winds had reached gale force & continued until Monday evening. A great deal of damage was done throughout County Mayo. Almost every thatched house lost its roof. Slates went flying from slate roofed houses. Fires broke out and houses were destroyed.

The Ordnance Survey, completed in Co. Mayo in 1838, showed the location of houses, cabins and out-offices existing at that time. Many of these cabins and out-offices were wiped out by the storm causing the maps to be quickly outdated. The antiquarian John O'Donovan described the Big Wind as if "..... the entire country had been swept clean by some gigantic broom." "My Estate is now as bald as the palm of my hand" was the complaint of a Mayo landlord who had seventy-thousand trees felled by the storm on his lands.

THE DAMAGE

Accounts in local newspapers recall some of the widespread damage but this accounts only for a smaller percentage of the actual damage.

Few buildings escaped damage and the impoverished tenements of the poor were particularly badly effected in Castlebar. Windows were smashed, doors burst open and roofs were blown down. Slates, thatch, and roofing timbers whirled through the streets.

When the storm reached its worst a fire broke out on Staball Hill. Constabulary Officers the Revenue Police managed to extinguish the fire after it had destroyed six houses.

Almost every thatched house in the town was stripped of its roof. Trees in the lawn of the residence of Lord Lucan and on the Mall were felled by the storm. As dawn broke the town was a scene of great destruction. The destruction was even worse in the poorer suburbs. Many houses were completely unroofed. Hundreds were left homeless.



RURAL DESTRUCTION

Many of the homes of tenant farmers and labourers were completely destroyed in many cases leaving thousands homeless. Many received injuries which necessitated the amputation of limbs. This often led to death. Exposure to the elements led to illness among most vulnerable. Many lost their savings when the roofs of their cabins blew off: the thatch was a favourite hiding place for money, but few had the foresight to remove it when the storm came.

In the countryside stacks of corn and hay were blown completely from their haggards and were scattered in the fields. That which was saved had been drenched causing it to subsequently rot, leaving farmers without winter feed for their livestock. Boundary walls of dry stone construction were blown down allowing animals to stray and mix with other herds and flocks. High orchard walls on rural estates fell in long sections. Sheep on mountains were blown to their death and killed by loose stones tumbling down hillsides. Hill farmers were depleted of their chief source of income.

CLOGHER AND LOCALITY

On the 6th January 1839, 'The night of the big wind' Clogher House was badly damaged and left roofless. This disaster was however welcomed as it gave reason to remodel the house – a further storey was added to the house and it was roofed with modern slates. In the vicinity of Lough Carra eight houses were blown down and destroyed.

Near Castlebar the house of Mr. Henry Browne at Rehins was badly damaged and four thousand trees in the vicinity were torn up, while at Greenhill on the road to Westport two children were killed when the houses in which resided was destroyed.

FOLKLORE

There were people in every community who practiced weather forecasting (with a degree of success) using such factors as the lunar cycle, appearance of the sky and sea, wind direction, the behaviour of birds, animals, fish and insects and their own intuition. Amateur weather forecasters failed to predict the event, so the people sought their explanations elsewhere.

The superstitious were quick to blame the fairies. Traditionally the 5th of January was the feast of St. Ceara, when, it was believed, the fairies held a night of revelry. The fairies, they thought, caused such ructions that the storm resulted. Others believed that on that night most of the fairies of Ireland left the country never to return and that the wind was caused by their departure.

The devout, noting that the storm occurred on the night of 6th of January - the Christian feast of Epiphany, saw it as of Divine origin. All the more so since many Roman Catholics in Ireland believed that the 7th of January would be the Day of Judgement. The wrath of God was a favourite reason cited by local newspapers. For many, the Night of the Big Wind caused them to re-think their lives as it re-awakened their belief in the existence of God. The weather remained unsettled for days following the storm and occasionally the wind became gusty causing people to fear that the storm would return.

FEAR

The overwhelming terror of the storm, particularly the injury and destruction it caused, was long remembered by those who experienced the event. A rumbling noise, similar to thunder at a low volume, continued throughout the storm but increased in volume as the gusts increased. The storm quenched lanterns and candles and it was impossible to see what was actually happening, except when streaks of lightning occasionally illuminated a district or when the sky cleared and the aurora borealis illuminated the northern sky in a mantle of red. People huddled together in fear, barely able to hear each other speak, as the houses around them shook. Many fearing that their houses would be blown down on top of them crawled into the fields where they clung to bushes and rushes. It was a frightful night for all but particularly scary for those attending wakes or travelling long distances.

By Brian Hoban

Meet the Team

William Igoe

My name is William Igoe. I have always been interested in Irish Heritage, which led me to doing work experience at The Museum of County of Life a few years ago. In 2006 I gained a BA Honours Degree in Irish Heritage Studies from GMIT Castlebar. In the last few years I have also completed courses in Irish folklore through FAS. As a development worker on the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail I am responsible for researching archaeology, folklore, promoting our walking festival and organising events along the trail such as our successful Bat Walk and Nature Walk. Giving guided talks on archaeological features along the trail, such as the Boheh Stone and the Kiladangan Standing stones at Murrisk have been most enjoyable.

Greg Kelly

I started as Development Worker on the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail in June 2014. Previously I studied Heritage at GMIT for four years and achieved a First Class Honours Degree there. I was happy to be employed as a Development Worker in the same field when I finished my studies.

My job as development worker involves keeping the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail in the public eye and this is achieved by organising events such as nature walks, bat walks and other events based around the varied features which the trail has in abundance. The most enjoyable aspect of being a Development Worker on the trail is the opportunity to get out on the trail on festival days and times when the trail needs to be audited to make sure it is good order. The Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail is rich in heritage from the prehistoric to more recent times and is part of a landscape spectacular and historic which we never grow tired of.

I have long been interested in Heritage and am grateful for the opportunity to be involved and part of Mayo heritage which, as I said, is never tiresome.

Brian Hoban

Castlebar born Brian Hoban works as a heritage guide throughout Mayo and Galway. Having spent my earlier years as owner of newsagents at Newtown Street, Castlebar, I embarked in training as a tour guide at G.M.I.T. obtaining certification as a Marine & Countryside Guide.

I currently work as Tourism Administrator with Clogher Environmental Group. I organise events at Clogher Centre Heritage Cottage and Blacksmith's Forge, where I provide information on history, folklore etc. I also lead groups in environmental tours along Clogher Bog Loop Walk.

I conduct local history tours in Castlebar and Murrisk during the tourist season and provide a professional Tour Guiding service for Incoming Tour Companies.

I am also an Approved Heritage Specialist "Heritage in Schools Scheme." And carry out school visits and field trips at primary Schools throughout Mayo & Galway.

Clogher Parent and Toddler Group

Each Monday Morning from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Clogher Community Centre

Come along and join the fun,

Toys and Games, Arts and Crafts, Music and Story Time.

Tea and Coffee for Parents

New members always welcome

Clogher Active Age

Wednesday, from 11am in Clogher Community Centre

Bus available for anyone interested in attending.

We have bingo, music, bowls etc., also light lunch provided.

Ring Alison on 0949360891 for information.

New members always welcome

Children's Non Competitive Irish Dancing Lessons

Every Thursday 5:00pm – 6:15pm

Clogher Community Centre

New members always welcome

Card Game

Every Friday night Clogher Community Centre 9:00pm

New members always welcome

Acknowledgement

Clogher Environmental Group would like to extend their thanks to Mayo County Council, DSP, Togher Valley Rural Network, South Mayo Development Company, (Rural Social Scheme workers whom maintain the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail, a very important job) and faite Ireland, for all their support throughout the year. Also would like to thank, for their help, support and generous contributions throughout 2015, all members of the Clogher CE Scheme and Clogher Community. Thanks also to all who helped make our March and June Walking Festivals such a resounding success this year. To the guides, walkers, our sponsored charity organisations, Mayo Roscommon Hospice, Western Care and all who provided back up services and accommodation along the route, it is very much appreciated. Wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Clogher Heritage Complex is administered by Clogher Enviro Group.

Clogher Community Centre,
Clogher, Claremorris, Co. Mayo

Tel: 094 9360891

info@clogherenvirogroup.com

www.clogherheritage.com

info@croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com