

Laragh & Glendalough News

Issue 208 – January/February 2015

Sponsored by Glendalough & District Development Association

Children's Grave at St. Mary's Church

Soon after I came to live in Glendalough, 23 years ago, I heard about the children's grave near St. Mary's Church. I met one person who told me that a child from her family was buried there.

Graves like this are found all over Ireland. In the past there was a belief among the people which originated in the church that babies who died in the womb could not go to Heaven because they were never baptised. As a result of this they could not be buried in consecrated ground.

During the years, I have taken many groups of people around Glendalough on a reflective journey. I often take them to St. Mary's Church and tell them about the little children's grave. One such group came from Australia in 2012. They were so moved that they decided to make a contribution towards putting a memorial stone on the grave. This amounted to €520.

I got in touch with Seighean O'Draoi, a stone carver who lives in Clara Vale, and as a result of that meeting I asked him to work on a memorial stone. This work is now complete.

When the OPW was approached to ask for permission to place the stone at the grave, they could not give permission on the grounds that there was no proof that there was a children's grave in that place and also that it was not allowed to put a modern stone on an old archaeological site such as St. Mary's. We are now looking at alternative sites to place the memorial stone.

If anyone has any information about children's burials at St. Mary's in the past or has any suggestion about where the stone could be erected, please let me know. My email address is www.micr@eircom.net. We hope to officially unveil and bless the memorial stone around Easter this year.

Michael Rodgers, SPS

Community Garden

The Glendalough-Laragh Community Garden is closed at present. However, a meeting for anyone interested in the garden will be held at 11 am on Friday 23rd January in the Brockagh Resource Centre and all are welcome to attend. We will be discussing the forthcoming course with Suzie Cahn

as well as making plans for the spring and how to move the garden forward. If you cannot attend but would like to join up please contact 086-3469114 or message the glendalough-laragh Facebook page.

Citizens Information

Change of Opening Hours

The Citizens Information Centre (CIC) at the Brockagh Resource Centre has changed its opening hours. From Tuesday 3rd February it will only be open for information relating to your rights and entitlements from 10 am until noon on the **first** Tuesday of each month. No appointment is necessary for this free and confidential service.

Free Home Insulation Service

Bray Area Partnership provides free home insulation to eligible people in Co. Wicklow who are owner-occupiers of a home built before 2006. Applicants must be in receipt of certain DSP payments and fulfil some other criteria. To obtain more details phone 01-2866080 or visit the CIC.

Pensions for the Self-employed

If you are self-employed and wish to avail of a State Contributory Pension on retirement you must ensure that you pay Class S PRSI contributions each year. For further information contact the CIC.

Laragh GFC

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. We also send a big thanks to all who made donations to us in 2014. If you are interested in being involved with the club (playing, helping our juvenile teams, sponsoring or making a donation), email secretary.laragh.wicklow@gaa.ie or phone 087-2107876.

There was a poor turn-out for both our juvenile and senior AGMs on 17th January in the Glendalough Hotel. Unless parents volunteer to help out with our juveniles we may not be able to field teams in 2015. If we do get assistance, we will be organising a registration day shortly.

We were unable to fill all positions on our senior committee – if you are interested in being chairman or treasurer (or know someone who might be) contact Fergal on 087-2107876.

Sponsor an issue - please contact Nuala at 45167.

Operation Transformation in Laragh

Operation Transformation comes to Laragh. Over the next 8 weeks we will be doing our best to lose weight and get fit. We meet on Tuesday nights in the Brockagh Centre at 7 pm for a weigh-in, short talk and walk, and on Thursdays we meet with Sarah. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, wear a high-visibility reflective jacket/vest and bring a torch. Check out our Facebook page for more information (don't forget to like us): Laragh Glendalough Operation Transformation. We would love some more volunteers to assist with the weigh-in and organising/leading walks – call the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600 if you can help.

The Brockagh Resource Centre

The Brockagh Resource Centre wishes all friends and patrons a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support throughout 2014 and we look forward to your continued support in 2015. We have enclosed the Brockagh 2015 Bulletin with details of all our courses, classes and regular activities.

Car Boot Sale

The next Car Boot Sale will take place from 11 am until 4 pm on Sunday 8th February (as Roundwood Variety Group show takes place on 1st February). Car Boot Sales will take place on the first Sunday of the month thereafter. Vans must be booked in. As we will have limited car park spaces for the next few months please phone the Centre on 0404-45600 in good time to pre-book indoor spaces.

Tuesday Night - Dance Night

Tuesday night is dance night from 9.30 pm till late with the Wicklow Man. There is no dance on Tuesday 27th January but the Wicklow Man will be back on Tuesday 3rd February.

Christmas Gift Markets

Many thanks to all who took part and supported our markets in December. It was a very successful weekend with plenty of Christmas cheer.

Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement

The members of Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement Association were delighted to get an invitation to the 'previews' of the Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa Christmas pageant. We were so impressed – all the children in the school took part and they were all amazing. Well done to the wonderful pupils and teachers who put so much work into it. We were also delighted to receive a fantastic handmade gift from the students. Thanks too to the parents' association for the superb refreshments.

Our Christmas lunch was held in the Glendalough Hotel and everyone enjoyed the good

food, great company, raffle, songs and of course, Santa who dropped in to say hello. The winner of our Christmas Hamper was Rita Stakem – thanks to everyone for their support.

We would also like to thank everyone in the community who has supported us in the past year with particular thanks to the Glendalough Hotel, Lynhams, Glenmalure Lodge and the Wicklow Heather for their warm hospitality at our lunches. Our next lunch date is Tuesday 3rd February.

Our AGM will take place in the Brockagh Centre at 11 am on Tuesday 27th January. Everyone is welcome to our AGM, weekly Tuesday morning session or our monthly lunches.

Get Yourself On-Line

Get Yourself on Line proved very popular in 2014 and we are pleased to announce that there is still funding available for those who wish to try this step-by-step course which helps those with little experience of the internet. It introduces email attachments, search engines, on-line transactions such as motor tax, podcasts, playbacks, on-line safety and security, Skype, on-line banking and buying on-line. The 4-week course (2 hours per class) is free to those over 65 and costs €10 to those under 65. A contribution towards tea/coffee will also be required. The days and times of the class have yet to be confirmed. Please register your interest by calling Laragh IT on 0404-45600.

Annamoe Centre

Handball Annamoe Handball Club AGM will take place in the Centre at 8.30 pm on 29th January. We would like to establish handball in the Annamoe/Laragh/Glendalough and Roundwood areas and are currently providing coaching to primary school children. We will outline our plans for 2015 on the night and would appreciate input from any interested parties. For more information contact Oliver Donelon at 087-9040353.

Bowls Games continue on Tuesdays at 8 pm. All are welcome. Ladies interested in playing (maybe on a Monday morning) should contact the Centre.

Clinics/Classes Please see separate entries for kinesiology and 5Rhythms movement meditation.

Santa Claus at the Brockagh

This year Santa made sure that his reindeer were well rested for the 'big night' – arriving by horse and carriage to the Brockagh Centre. Many thanks to Timmy, Leah, Mackenzie and all the helpers who decorated his carriage and helped-out on both days. Special thanks to Santa – star of the show.

Tidy Towns

The annual Tidy Towns competition is adjudicated under 9 headings: one being sustainable waste and resource management (i.e. recycling and composting), so we would therefore like to remind you that there are bottle and drink-can banks at the Brockagh Centre and the Upper Lake Car Park.

Composting is a great way to dispose of raw fruit and vegetable peelings, teabags, etc. Compost bins cost about €40 from Wicklow Co. Co. or hardware shops (homemade ones using old litter bins or pallets can be a cheaper option).

We will be resuming litter clean-ups in March.

Dancercise

For the month of January, *Dancercise* with Adam will take place from 7 to 8 pm on Wednesday nights in the function room in Lynhams. Classes will return to the Brockagh Centre in February.

5Rhythms Movement Meditation

Fortnightly 5Rhythms movement meditation classes have now commenced in Annamoe Centre. Classes take place on Thursday evenings (from 7.30 to 9 pm). The next dates are January 29th and February 12th. The 'drop-in' cost is €15 or €12 for elders, unemployed and students while a card for six classes costs €60. This card is valid for any class (including those in Newtown and Greystones), expires when you do, is totally transferable and can be used to bring a buddy. The third class for beginners is free! All shapes, sizes and abilities are welcome and no experience is necessary. Come and have fun, improve flexibility, increase self-esteem and make friends.

Use the below details to find dates for classes or join the mailing list: www.sherronstclair.ie; Facebook Sherron St Clair; Twitter Sherrondipity Dance@sherronstclair; phone 086-8788311.

Adult Guidance Service

Don't forget about the Adult Career Guidance Service available at the Brockagh Centre. This careers/education service is free, friendly, confidential, supportive and available to all adults over 18 years of age. For more information please contact Irene Hayden on 086-8061569.

Honk, The Ugly Duckling

Tickets for Roundwood Variety Group's production of *Honk, The Ugly Duckling* are selling fast. This musical has something for young and old; it's funny, sad and should not be missed. You can now choose your seats on our website

www.roundwoodvarietygroup.com and afterwards arrange payment for your tickets by email or phone. If you are not the 'computer friendly' type then ring 086-2451829 and we will do it for you!

Evening performances will take place on Thursday 29th January at 7.30 pm and on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January at 8 pm with matinées on Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February at 3 pm. Tickets cost €15 for evening shows or €12 for matinées.

Brockagh Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all who received certificates at the Laragh IT/Brockagh Centre Awards ceremony before Christmas. Over 40 students completed courses and more than 20 of them came along to collect their *ECDL* and *Get Yourself Online* certificates and enjoy a celebratory lunch. Many thanks to the tutors for all their hard work.

Deaths

We extend our most sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Tom Hanrahan who died so tragically on 14th December.

We also offer our heartfelt condolences to the relatives and friends of Danny Rochford who passed away on January 7th.

May they both rest in eternal peace.

Christmas Lights

Well done to all involved in organising this year's Christmas lights in Laragh. They were a fabulous addition to the village during the festive season.

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Laragh every second Thursday from 12 noon to 12.50 pm. The first ten minutes are spent outside the Brockagh Centre and the rest of the time is spent outside Lynhams. The next visits take place on Thursdays 22nd January and 5th February.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Hamper

Many thanks to all who supported the Christmas hamper raffle. Congratulations to the winners.

1	Turkey	Melissa Hayward
2	Christmas Hamper	Christine McCabe
3	Ham	Tom Miley
4	Christmas Cake	Paddy Roche
5	Wicklow Heather Voucher	Emma Byrne
6	Cosmetics Hamper	Mary Byrne
7	Two Bottles of Wine	Christopher Kinsella
8	Wine and Sweets	Mairead Cullen

Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa

Thank you

On Tuesday 15th December we put on a pageant in the church. The 'dress rehearsal' was enjoyed by the Active Retired group and children from local pre-schools. That evening, we got to do it again – it was brilliant. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in the school afterwards. There were many winners in our raffle. A big thank you to all who helped – parents' association, staff, sponsors, those who bought tickets and, most importantly, the pupils who put on a fantastic performance.

New Classroom

Work has started on our new extension. It will enhance the facilities in our school.

Trail Run

If you are feeling energetic or would like a challenge this spring, come along to the trail run on 14th March which begins at 10 am. All runners, joggers and walkers are welcome to complete the route of 6 km or 11 km. You can register online at www.laraghtrailrun.com. Please spread the word.

Enrolment 2015 and beyond

The enrolment process for September 2015 will begin shortly. If your details are with us you will soon receive notification and enrolment application forms. If you do not receive notification or have a child at home that you would like to enrol, please contact the office immediately on 0404-45460.

We are also planning for enrolments up to 2018. If you have not previously asked us to include your child on the admission lists for 2016, 2017 or 2018, please call to ensure your child is listed.

Dance Classes

The pupils really enjoy the music and rhythm of their Friday dance classes with Kate O'Connor!

Special thanks to Amy Windsor, Rang 5, for helping to compile these notes.

Bible Meetings

Everyone is invited to a Bible Meeting in the Brockagh Centre on 6th February (8 to 9 pm). For more details of this free, non-denominational event, please phone Hilda on 086-0654980.

St. Brigid's Day Celebrations

Celebrations to mark St. Brigid's day will be held in the Glendalough Hotel. On January 31st, participants can choose from a range of events including talks on the history and traditions of St. Brigid's Day, harp meditation, a herbal medicine talk and a cross-making workshop. There will also

be a fun family Céilí at 8 pm that evening. On February 1st, there will be three reflective walks in Glendalough – a visit to the two holy wells, a woodland walk and a short walk on St. Kevin's Way. Booking is essential. For details and cost, please email rdurkin@imaginationgym.com or phone Rosaleen Durkin on 087-6168460.

St. John's Church/St. Kevin's Parish

An ecumenical service celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place in St. Saviour's Church Rathdrum at 7.30 pm on Friday 23rd January. All are very welcome.

The Fireside Sessions

The famous Glendalough Arts Network Fireside Sessions are back for 2015. The first session will be in the lobby of Lynhams Hotel on Friday 20th February from 7.30 pm (be there 7-ish). This session, presented by local musician Jonny Tennant of Traditional Arts Collective, promises a great night of traditional music together with a scattering of poems, stories and memories. It's a free event, so you might like to support the raffle.

Baptism

We would like to welcome Kian Merrigan (son of Christopher and Kim) who was baptised in St. Kevin's Church recently.

Rosaleen Durkin Kinesiology Clinic

Rosaleen Durkin will hold kinesiology clinics in Annamoe Centre on Thursdays 22nd and 29th January, Saturday 7th February and Thursdays 12th and 26th February. See www.rosaleendurkin.com or contact Rosaleen at 087-2195931 or clinic@rosaleendurkin.com

Two-Seater Sofa Available

There is a two-seater sofa in the Brockagh Centre that is looking for a home. Please call in.

Comhaltas Irish Music & Dance Classes

Learn traditional Irish music and dance with the award-winning Roundwood Comhaltas branch (guitar, fiddle, flute, tin whistle and grúpa ceoil). For more information phone 087-2841604 or email roundwoodcce@gmail.com

Please leave articles for the next issue into W. McCoy's by **20th February**; alternatively email them to laragh_glendalough_news@hotmail.com