

Renmore Seagull



Vol 15 No 2

Delivered Free to every Household in Renmore

Summer/Autumn 2010

Renmore AFC Opening



*The Committee of Renmore AFC, pictured at the opening of the club with guests
Back L to R: Terry Lee, Tom Bradley (Treasurer), Tom Hurley, Denis Mulgannon, Niall Murphy and Peter Power
Front: L to R: Niall Beatty (Secretary), John Delaney - CEO of FAI, Mayor Mike Crowe (Chairman), Bernard Shapiro (Life Honorary President) and Anne Marie Morrissey*

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Off his Rocker

by Bosca Bruscar

Greetings and salutations and welcome to this edition of the Seagull. The year is going so quickly that I'm still in the floods and snow of spring.

Miles away....

Is what I am. To cover my expenses, I'm penning this in Donegal. The editor, God bless him said I could have my expenses covered so I hit for the furthest point I could find. West Cork is so "yesterday". I mean the low life that uses that address for expenses, well, who would want to be associated with them.

Traffic

Once again the terrible traffic problems associated with summer in Galway was clear to see. There was simply no way to cross the city due to the huge volume of traffic. We may be killing the goose that lays the golden egg, and God knows there are not many of those about at the moment. Who in their right mind would give up their holiday time to be stuck in a traffic jam? Not everyone is going racing, and it's time we recognised that fact. Don't mention Galway on a rainy day. It's past time that a good traffic system was put in place, and if building a new bridge is part of the answer then so be it.

Races

I always get a feeling of anti climax once the races are over. I just get the feeling that the summer is over too.

A few days holidays in August and then it's time to get the children ready for school. Time, as I have already stated, is flying. Still, no matter what, the city has that buzz about it, that can't be found anywhere else, during the races. Now I'm not big into art but the Arts Festival is doing its bit. If that's what turns you on then fine by me. I know that you skinned the bookies..... I know you did.

Bog Cotton

Bog cotton and its variants have been used for but one purpose, the non building of roads and infrastructure. I remember many years ago asking a late friend of mine if he knew any uses or benefits for it. His reply was: "Why do you think it's growing so freely in Connemara?" I'm tempted to ask you to write in if you have ever put the same bog cotton to any practical use.

Mind you, as some other wise crack put it, "Sure we will have to build more roads to take the tourist busses out there to look at it".

Politics

Sometimes I wonder if there is anybody in charge. By that I mean somebody that cares for the "little" people. The ones that pay their taxes. More especially the ones that HAVE paid their taxes and deserve to be left alone with the little bit that they have. We must be the most docile race on God's earth. We get

tax upon tax heaped upon us and all we do is pay up. I'm not advocating anarchy, but the Greeks may have a point or two to teach us. We are back to the "good old days" of educating our children for export.

Clearly NOTHING learned. And most especially NOBODY locked up.

Good to see

Ballyloughane looking so good..... so many coloured flowers in the gardens.... sailboats on the bay..... footballers on the pitches.....blue skies....."experts" studying the form happy people..... blue flags.... The Clare hills...

Death on the Roads.

Until that devastating knock comes to the door, we can never feel the shock and destruction caused by road accidents. Young people just need to understand that speed only rushes you to an early grave. You can't even wind time back by one second to undo what has been done. So slow down and you could be amazed at how enjoyable an experience driving is. It's cool to be alive you know.

Finally

That's it for another edition. Enjoy what is left of the summer. Take it all in. See you all again later in the year, until then keep on rocking in the free world.

Brussels Revisited

Extract from ARRA Diary

Paddy Moran

June 3rd: It was early morning under a cloudless sky when we were back in Belgium's capital after a lapse of seven years. We were a group of fifty from counties Galway, Mayo, and Sligo: ten of us from the Renmore area. It was a trip to the European Parliament, this time organised by Marian Harkin MEP; last time by Dana MEP. Having passed through security in the parliament, we were conducted to the visitors' room where an official, Niall O'Neill explained how the parliament functions after which



"The Champs-Élysées of Brussels, a long tree-lined boulevard, with a fountain, stretching out into the distance for miles."

an English MEP, Chris Davidson, gave a contribution of a more political nature. To conclude the visit, we moved to the chamber where a young girl (a student?) gave a very knowledgeable account of the work Marian Harkin does in Europe.

June 4th: After breakfast, we did some more city sight-seeing before our scheduled trip to the scene of the Battle of Waterloo. We visited what I think was an air museum. Anyway we found ourselves on the top of a very high structure from which there was a panoramic view of the city. From this height we saw what is known as the Champs-Élysées of Brussels, a long tree-lined boulevard, with a fountain, stretch-

ing out into the distance for miles. On arrival we were treated to a film depicting the famous battle in 1815 where the allied forces led by the Duke of Wellington defeated the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte: an event said to change the course of history for the better in Europe. As we stood near that field of senseless slaughter, some of us recalled lines from Lord Byron's poem, *The Eve of Waterloo*:

June 5th: This day found us in Ypres and Flanders Fields where the poppies grow, to visit the war graves. The coach passed through the Mennen Gate on the pillars of which are inscribed thousands of names of British allies who passed through it on their way to battle. The first stop was the monument commemorating Francis Ledwidge, that gentle poet whose soul was torn between his loyalty to the Irish national cause and his duty (as he saw it) to fight for the freedom of Europe. Beside his image the Tricolour flutters proudly and under it his "Lament for Thomas McDonagh" can be read. We proceeded to the cemetery where he and his many, many Irish comrades lie buried. Neat columns; neat rows;



L to R: Paddy Moran, Josephine Parks, Roscommon, Carmel and Andy Dunleavy, pictured at the Waterloo Visitors' Centre

a grid of graves, laid out on neatly trimmed grass, devoid of other growth except a few frail flowers at the foot of each headstone. One more visit before setting out for beautiful Bruges. The Island of Ireland Peace Tower was unveiled in 1998 by President Mary McAleese, Queen Elizabeth and Belgian King and Queen.

June 6th: Exhausted on our last day, we had a good night's sleep in our Bruges Hotel. As it was pouring rain, we had to forego our scheduled guided walk of this quaint canalled



Rita Kelleber, Anne Mullins and Carmel Dunleavy, pictured at a monument to the slain in Ypres

city. Some of us attended mass in a beautiful cathedral. We had a lot of time to spare before setting out for the airport. A few of us sought out an Irish pub but it was closed. We settled for a native pub. Some of us tried out our *cupla focal* Fraincise on the young owner barmaid. *Avez-vous de biere trapiste?* She greeted us with a frown of displeasure: I'm Flemish, you know, and I can speak English.

Editorial

by Gabriel Lacey, Assistant Editor

At this time of year, summer has picked up his hat and coat from the hallstand and is opening the door, preparatory to go. For most people, it is an occasion for reflection on happy times: holidays, perhaps, the pleasure of having been somewhere different, or even staying at home and seeing parts of this green island that we haven't seen before; the joy of children playing, free from the cares of school and a normal routine. Wherever you've been and whatever you've done, we at the Seagull hope you had a good summer and have refreshed your soul and body. In Galway, we've had all the festivals – arts, film, racing, music – that bring happiness to our lives every year. We should also remember those for whom it has not been so happy, through loss or illness or economic hardship.

These past few months have been, once again, a time of unrelenting bad news about the economy, wages, jobs, and the hardship imposed on very many people

by recession. Spare a thought for those who have been caught up in a mess not of their own making; give where and when you can, and only if you can. We all need and depend upon each other.

On the positive side, this is also a time for planning. What am I going to do this autumn and winter? Can I make life better for myself and for others, my neighbours, my friends, my family? Again, we ask you to consider volunteering to be part of a group or association that will benefit your local communities and, in the process, make you feel better about yourself. A few hours a week is all it takes. Think about it anyway. It is through community action that we thrive as people.

One trembles to think of the economic legacy we are leaving to future generations of Irish people, arising from gross levels of greed, stupidity and corruption. However, we cannot let these thoughts

hinder us from making the effort in our own lives to do the right thing for our own little corner of the planet.

Some of these things stand out in Renmore. Earlier in the summer, we had the opening of Nolan Park, as mentioned elsewhere in these pages, due to the generosity of local citizens. We must remember that the people of Renmore, acting through their Residents' Association, have, with vision and foresight, secured open green spaces for past, present and future generations, the envy of many other places in this city. These are the things that matter, for they address the very quality of life and of the place in which we live. Throughout history, each succeeding generation has owed a debt of gratitude to the past.

As the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness approaches, remember to take care of yourselves and of each other.

Handy Phone numbers

Fire Brigade	585555
Garda	563161
UCHG	580580
Merlin Park	757631

Bon Secours	757711
Galway Clinic	785000
Fr Murchadh Ó Madagáin	757859
Fr Michael Mulkerrins	751707
Parish Office	769338
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Áras Naofa	087 2500575
Senior Help line	1850 440444
Galway Hospice	770868
Console Galway	537333

Renmore Seagull is published as a service to the community and is published completely voluntarily by a committee.

It is an open access publication and will generally carry any material submitted to it subject to the law of the land and editorial judgement. This judgement is exercised by the Editorial Board in order to preserve the balance of the publication. The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

In case of error of fact we will publish corrections when we become aware of them. In case of unfairly impugning the reputation of any person, we offer that person or their representative the right to reply in this magazine, subject only to reasonable length, the laws of libel and our right to respond to such reply.

It is hoped to publish Renmore Seagull four times a year. It has a circulation of approximately 2,300.

Contributions in the form of articles or letters to the editor are welcome and may be dropped into the suggestion boxes at Duggan's, Molloy's, Holland's, Reck's or Shop Late Shop, Merlin.

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No  **Allowed**

All kids Welcome



Courtesy of Samuli Lintula, Creative Commons

1 Which country?



Courtesy of Dean Franklin, Creative Commons

2 Which country?



Courtesy of Matthew Field, Creative Commons

3 Which country?

The winner of the cities competition in the last issue was: Cian Doheny(aged 9), 29 Tearman Eala, Renmore.

The competition is similar this time. Here are pictures of three famous landmarks. For a 20 euro prize, name the countries in which you will find the landmarks. Answers to be received by the editor before September 12th.

Entries with full name and address, should be addressed to: Countries Competition, The Assistant Editor, c/o 28 Lough Atalia Grove, Renmore, Renmore before September 12th.

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

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Nolan Park Official Opening



Pictured at the official opening of Nolan Park, Renmore, were: L to R Tomás Purcell, Patrick, Mary and James Nolan, Mayor Declan McDonnell, Rachel and Patsy Nolan, Ann Purcell and Maureen Nolan

Mainguard Street



This photograph donated by a reader shows Mainguard Street pre-1918. On left were first a tinsmith, The News Shop, an Ice cream parlour and a Butcher Shop. In the centre right of the road is a set of tramlines, which were removed in 1918. Centre shows a horse and cart headed for Shop Street.

The Blessing of the Bikes



Fr Murcadh seen here blessing the bikes at the Church of St Oliver Plunkett with a sizeable number of interested lookers-on and below with a proprietary band on the handlebar of a sleek Honda Deauville 700.



Journalists at risk

Sabina Salim

The Exhibition, *Journalists at Risk*, was opened in Galway City Museum on 20th of March 2010. For the first time the Irish public had an opportunity to get more information about journalists' professional situation and to join worldwide protest against violence toward them. Over 1000 journalists and media workers have been killed since 1996. Day after day, journalists investigate and file reports on conflicts, abuse of power, human rights violation and corruption issues they know they could be sued or killed for. Many pay the price. Journalists risk their lives to protect the most basic freedom- to receive the information that sometimes is a matter of life and death. Facing harassment, threats of violence and physical retaliation, journalists are continuing to dig up troubling facts and expose those who commit crimes. The situation continues to remain terrifying for journalists in many countries where they are being wounded; arrested, beaten, tortured and murdered. Why in Ireland? Because Irish people are perfectly aware of dangers that journalist are facing. On 28 September 2001 Owen Martin O'Hagan was shot just a few yards from his house. Having previously published a series of articles on drug dealing in a loyalist paramilitary grouping, he had been the subject of death threats. Another famous investigative journalist and brave lady, Veronica Guerin, who launched a virtual one-woman crusade to bring down the gangs; on June 26, 1996, she became the 24th journalist that year to die in the line of duty. The number of murdered journalists increases year by year. 167 journalists killed in 2007 worldwide, up from 149 in 2005 and 131 in 2004. That compares with 94 in 2003, 70

in 2002 and 103 in 2001. The total tally since the start of 1996 was 1,101. With 138 deaths, Iraq was the most dangerous country for journalists. More than 70 percent of casualties were Iraqis. 162 journalists and 51 media workers have been killed in Iraq between 1992 and 2009, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Another 135 journalists were imprisoned around the world on 1 January 2008. Those released are immediately replaced by new journalist prisoners. In 2007, 887 were arrested, mostly in Pakistan (195), Cuba (55) and Iran (54). At least 67 media workers were kidnapped in 15 countries in 2007. Daniel Pearl, an American journalist, was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered by Islamic militant terrorists in Karachi, Pakistan. Pearl was beheaded on 1st February, 2002. On May 16 his severed head and decomposed body were found cut into ten pieces. A friend of mine Zakia-Zaki from Afghanistan was shot seven times on June 6, 2007 in her home. She left 6 children. In November 2009, 27 journalists in Maguindanao, Philippines were kidnapped, brutally murdered and beheaded. Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian journalist, was shot dead in Moscow on 7 October, 2006. Russia is currently the most dangerous place for journalists. More than 300 journalists were killed there since 1993. Most of these killings have gone unsolved and murderers—unpunished. The circumstances of killings of journalists also point at authorities, guilty in many countries like Russia, India, Pakistan, Mexico, China, and post-Soviet countries. My editor, Mr Elmar Guseynov, was shot on 2 March, 2005 in front of his house in Baku. He was widely

known for his harsh criticism of Azerbaijani authorities involved in high level corruption. Our colleague and friend, Eynulla Fatullayev, promised to investigate his murder and find killers— a mission he could not complete. On 20 April 2007, he faced death threats after reporting that high-ranking officials hired a criminal gang to kill Elmar Hüseynov. He was arrested and sentenced to two and a half years in prison. On 30 October 2007, he was sentenced to an additional eight and a half years being accused of terrorism. For 3 years now Amnesty International has been demanding his release. I hope this Exhibition will help Eynulla to be free and I would like to ask Irish people to sign the Petition for immediate and unconditional release of brave journalists from Azerbaijan. I hope that this Exhibition and our cooperation will help to stop the unfair imprisonment, cruelty and murder of journalists. Iraq, Iran, Philippines, Mexico, Russia, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Colombia are countries that became very dangerous for journalists whose words are so powerful that the foes of freedom choose to fight them with force. The Exhibition *JOURNALISTS AT RISK* was organised in memory of the brave journalists who made their last journey to a Country torn by war, who gave their lives to bring the truth to the public, who took their last photograph or movie footage, who told their last story. The Exhibition presents information about journalists' extreme situation all around the World through *TALKING POSTERS* the main goal of which is to call for a free, independent and pluralistic media.

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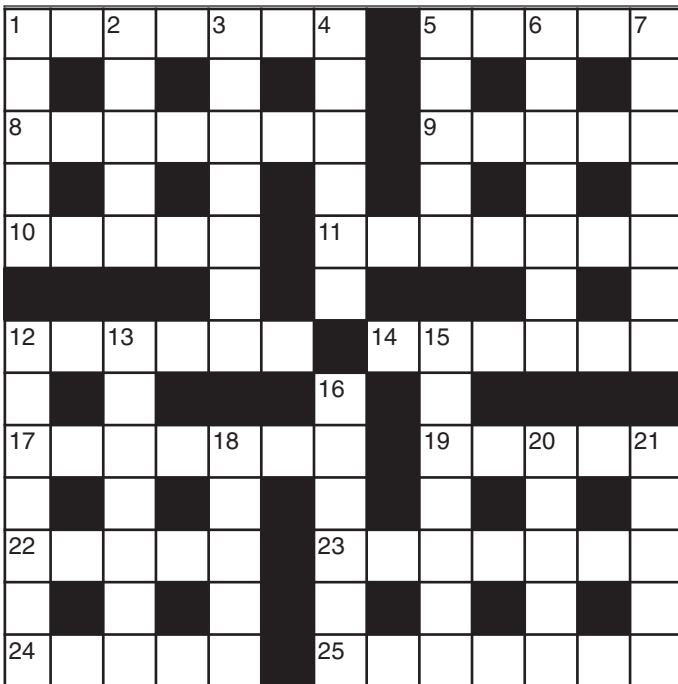
Nineteen Eighties Renmore Award



Pictured at the announcement of the National Tidy Towns Competition in Kilsheelan, Co Tipperary with the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Mr Desmond O'Malley. (L to R) Mr Sean O'Donnell, Renmore Rd, Mr Paddy Ryan, Chairman Tidy Towns Committee, Mr Joe Lally, Regional Tourism Manager; Mr Gerry Leyden, Borough Engineer; Mr Henry O'Connor, Deputy Mayor; Mrs Nora Hynes, Sec Renmore Res Assoc; Mr Desmond O'Malley, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism; Mrs Mary Bennett, Chair of Ireland West Tourism; Mr P V Doyle, Chairman of Bord Failte, and Mr Joe Malone, Director of Bord Failte. Mrs Nora Hynes received the award on behalf of the Renmore Residents Association for the National Tidy District.

Win 25 Book Token

Paddy Moran



- 10 Confirmations, no nos! (5)
- 11 Part of a part of the face (7)
- 12 Short, blunt in manner (6)
- 14 Smoothly, equal -ly (6)
- 17 Guess, doubt (7)
- 19 Boasts (5)
- 22 A flower (5)
- 23 Electrical device (7)
- 24 Picture holder (5)
- 25 Part of a leg (7)

- 5 A grove (5)
- 6 Help understanding (7)
- 7 A common herb (7)
- 12 Excuse, acquit (7)
- 13 Sells again (7)
- 15 Shake (7)
- 16 Raid (6)
- 18 Surpass, outdo (5)
- 20 Room over the ceiling (5)
- 21 Sweet sticky substance (5)

Across

- 1 Item of clothing (7)
- 5 Not expensive (5)
- 8 A pithy wise saying (7)
- 9 Writing material (5)

Down

- 1 A Romany (5)
- 2 House covers (5)
- 3 Smooths, makes equal (5,2)
- 4 It's on a keyboard (3,3)

Solutions to the Editor, Seagull
 X-word, c/o 28 Lough Atalia
 Grove, Renmore.by September
 12th

Name _____

Address _____

*Last winner: Helen Hanley, 37 Dun
 na Mara Drive, Renmore*

Renmore Flora Managers

Have you ever wondered who looks after the multitude of flower beds and shrubs that adorn the wide open spaces of Renmore? Well the answer is: It's three members of the Renmore Parish Development Association Community Employment Scheme who have this responsibility.

Our work involves the maintenance of most flower and shrub beds from Lurgan Park in the east of the parish right along to Lake Shore Drive beside Lough Atalia. These range from small flower beds as found on Murrough Avenue to large sloping beds of shrubs on Dun na Mara, rosebushes by the army barracks and near Molloy's shop where there are

also special beds planted with daffodils in the spring and then flowers such as Salvia and Lobelia in the summer.

As well as planting flowers the bulk of the work in the spring and summer is keeping at bay the weeds that always seem to grow faster than anything else! It's year round work for the Parklands staff who spend the winter months pruning shrubs and bushes and cutting hedges.

Maintenance of the grounds of Oliver Plunkett Church and the school beside the new organic vegetable garden are also within the remit of the Parklands staff.

The support and involvement of the local residents is both welcomed

and encouraged and donations of your surplus plants and shrubs are especially appreciated in these austere economic times. Suggestions to improve the area are also welcomed. Last winter at the suggestion of one of the residents on Lake Shore Drive badly weeded areas beside the footpath were cleared to increase visibility and thus making this walk safer.

So don't hesitate to speak to one of the three lads or contact Eileen O'Neill the Scheme co-ordinator if you have any suggestions to improve our parish. Oh and by the way thank you to those who bring us out a nice hot cup of tea on a cold winter's day.

Mike, Jack and Jon - Parklands staff

ICA Notes

Kitty Wheatley



The Renmore ICA recently visited Turlough Museum outside Castlebar as part of the Association's Centenary celebrations. Included in the photo are: Anne Sbaughnessy, Vice President. Phil Flaherty, Mary O'Connell, Patsy Kenny, Patricia Ryan, Sheila Browne, Noreen Murphy, Clare Daly, Phil Mullen and Kitty Wheatley. They enjoyed the day immensely and the weather was exceptionally good. They viewed the Mayo Federation Craft exhibition and are looking forward to the Galway exhibition which will be held in the Galway City Museum in September. The Guild will resume meetings in Flannery's Hotel in September. Happy holidays!

Mark Twain

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody has read.

All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.

Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more.

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear.

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.



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51 DUN NA MARA, RENMORE

Merlin Park House

“A Lovely Georgian”

Norbert Sheerin

Merlin Park today has a certain iconic quality about it, as well as being a sister hospital of University Hospital, Galway with equal status, the location is a reference point, a landmark, a place from where one can give directions, make references to and identify with. The word Merlin is an Anglicisation of the words *muir linn* meaning ‘sea pool’ as the land at Merlin was subject to small pools of water appearing and disappearing on parts of the grounds. These pools or bowls are referred to later when unique features of the house and its lands were described in pre-auction literature in the 1850’s. For centuries a stream ran from the grounds at Merlin all the way down to the lochan at Ballyloughane, located today between the railway line and the short promenade there. That lochan served to water the livestock of the farmers living in the village there. When the embankment for the railway line was being constructed in 1851, special provision had to be made to allow this stream to flow. That is why there is a low opening to the right of the railway bridge on either side of the embankment just at the old water pump. The engineers had incorporated this structure providing a channel to allow the stream to flow.

The house was built in 1812 by the Blake family and was on the 19th of November 1852 acquired at auction by Henry Hodgson in the Court of the Commissioners for Sale of Incumbered Estates. The auction took place at 12.00 noon in the Commissioner’s Court at 14 Henrietta Street, Dublin.

The following is a description of the estate as it appeared in literature prior to the auction:

“The County of the Town of Galway Estate is situated on the Midland



Merlin Park House

Great Western Railway, on the northern shore of Galway Bay, and within the short distance of Two Miles of the rising Town of Galway, to which so much attention is at present directed, and which, there is little doubt, will ultimately become the Packet Station for America, and the scene of great commercial enterprise “*The Mansion House and Demesne of Merlin Park, on this part of the Estate, is a most superior and desirable residence. The House is a modern building with every appendage suitable for the residence of a gentleman, and fit for immediate occupation; it stands 90 feet above the level of the sea, and commands beautiful and extensive views of the Atlantic Ocean, Galway Bay, and the surrounding scenery. The Plantations are extensive and highly ornamental. The Timber-trees have been numbered and valued by order of the Commissioners. The purchaser will be entitled to immediate possession.*”

In another portion of the literature headed Descriptive Particulars the house and lands were described as follows:-

“The House and Demesne of Merlin Park, with the Lands of Dohiskey and Ballygarraun, containing, in the whole 1,109 acres, 3 roods, and 8 perches, statute measure, within two miles of the Town of Galway, in the Parish of Oranmore, and County of the Town of Galway, held in Fee-Simple.

“The Demesne of Merlin Park is well walled in, and almost unrivaled in its extensive views of sea and mountains.”

“Its undulating slopes are picturesquely wooded; its walks, its woods, its drives, its swallow holes, its fine old castle, and its rocky winding stream forming pools or ‘Bowls of Water,’ as its name denotes, combine to render it an attractive and desirable estate.”

“There are 224 acres in arable land and 5 acres in roads and drives.

“The Mansion in Merlin Park is a spacious and commodious residence. The reception and bedrooms are unusually large and lofty, with a noble hall and staircase, all in order and repair, well suited for the establishment of a Nobleman or

Gentleman of fortune.

“The Gardens and Orchards comprising 4 acres, and enclosed by a wall 15 feet high, produce a climate capable of growing the finest fruit, and rearing the most delicate shrubs and trees.

“There are over 100 acres of the whole estate under plantations, which are principally old, and have been valued at over £4,000, and

called Charles. The Hodgson family had vast interests in copper-mining and orange plantations in Florida. The occupancy of Charles Hodgson was short-lived; he died in Folkstone in England in the 1870’s and is buried there. In 1876 the demesne was purchased by Robert W. Waithman a magistrate of immense wealth who had contributed £1,000 towards famine relief during the 1840’s. In 1883 his son, William

Mrs Waithman referred to it as a lovely Georgian, today there is a curiosity about it, what was it like? Even some still say what a pity it was demolished; it should have been retained and modified for use as a head quarters of the Western Health Board and more latterly the HSE West. But of course when one considers the scourge of the TB epidemic in the 1940s and ‘50s one had to start from a green field site; the



there are a great many very ornamental trees in the grounds.”

The descriptive quality of the language used to describe that great house, goes in some way towards helping us understand and appreciate what a vast mansion it was. It was built in 1812 at a cost of £12,000 and was bought in 1852 in the Incumbered Courts for £8,000 by Charles Hodgson for his son, also

Sharp Waithman married Lady Leicester Philippa Stanhope and they were given Merlin Park House as a wedding present. In turn, upon his death the house passed on to his son, Wyndham Waithman who along with his second wife Drico, occupied it until 1948 when they agreed to make the house and the grounds available to the state for the location of a sanatorium.

building that was proposed for retention could be harbouring the disease. Sadly in 1948 there was no choice; a once great mansion was condemned to an end unfitting to its status and elegance. A Georgian mansion disappeared from the Irish landscape and another piece of social history dramatically disappeared into the annals of memory.

Renmore AFC Clubhouse Opening

Thomas Hurley

The official opening of the Renmore AFC Clubhouse took place on Saturday 17th July. This was a very significant day in the history of Renmore AFC and the club was delighted to welcome the whole community on a glorious Saturday afternoon to celebrate this event. Renmore AFC is one of the main soccer clubs based on the eastside of Galway city with teams for men and women at all ages. Renmore has experienced significant success at U14, U16 and U18 levels in recent years.

The clubhouse opening was officiated by Mr. John Delaney CEO of the FAI, Councillor Michael J Crowe Mayor of Galway City and Chairman of Renmore AFC. Fr Mulkerrins of Renmore Parish blessed the building. There was a huge array of activities on offer



Councillor Mike Crowe and Bernard Shapiro chatting

including bouncy castles, face-painting, a book stall, soccer skills competitions, 5-a-sides and many others. Refreshments and copious amounts of tea were consumed to the music of St Patrick's Brass Band and the sound of laughter. This was a great family day out with something for all and the club would like to thank all those that attended and participated and made this a successful day. Pictures taken on the day will be available soon on our website www.renmoreafc.com.



L to R: Fr Mulkerrins, Cllr Mike Crowe - Mayor of Galway City, Bernard Shapiro - Life Honorary President, John Delaney - CEO of FAI, Tony Samuels of Galway and District League, Cllr Declan McDonnell, Cllr Hildegard Naughton

Councillor Crowe said: "We are delighted to welcome John Delaney to the opening of this important community resource. It is events like this that demonstrate what community is all about and the important role clubs like Renmore AFC play in developing soccer at grass roots level. The time and effort contributed by volunteers in the community often occurs under the radar but this clubhouse and this soccer club is a direct result of the contribution of many individuals over many years. The clubhouse stands as a testament to their dedication and I look forward to Renmore AFC's further progress in the coming years."

Renmore AFC Committee would like to extend its thanks to Mr Delaney and Fr Mulkerrins. The club would also like to thank Councillors and staff of Galway City

Council, FAI the Connaught FA and the Galway & District League for attending. We would also like to thank the St. Patrick's Brass Band for a wonderful afternoon of music, Irish dance group, Mystic Force, and the McCole School of Irish Dance for their electrifying display of Irish dance. We would like to acknowledge the support of Renmore Scouts and all of the volunteers that helped setup and manage the event, including those that provided food on the day, and those that helped in the cleanup.

This is an important project which will contribute significantly to sporting and social life in the community. The club would like to once again thank all those – businesses, families and individuals - that sponsored and funded the club and made it possible to develop the clubhouse.



Underage members celebrate the official opening



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