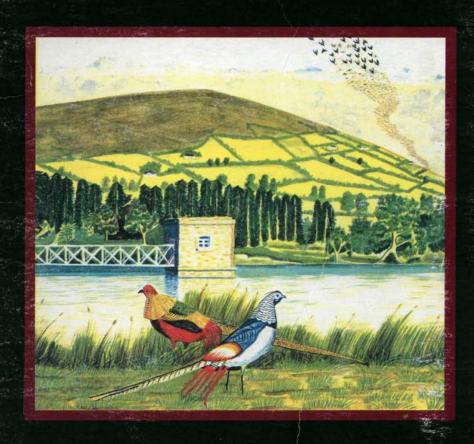
TUDIES

BOHERNABREENA A WALK IN TIME



by Bobernabreena I.C.A

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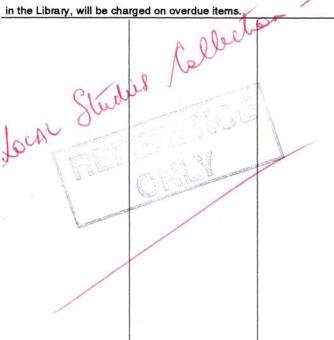
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BOHERNABREENA A WALK IN TIME

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THE MEANING OF BOHERNABREENA

BOHERNABREENA:

Extract from article written by D.P. Moore and printed in Evening Press in 1961.

"The district owes its name to one of the homes of hospitality which in ancient times, were maintained by cheiftains for the benefit of travellers. It was the largest of its kind, and Bohernabreena is the phoenetic survivival of Boher-na-Bruighne – the road of the mansion".

BOHERNABREENA: Extract from History of Tallaght - W.D Handcock

"Bohernabreena in old times was Boher-na-Bruighne or "the road of the court" or "great mansion", one of the five great palaces or breens, houses of universal hospitality, for which Ireland was famed.



section 1

HISTORICAL WALK ROUND THE VALLEY

ST ANNE'S G.A.A. CLUB

We start our history where our first I.C.A. meeting was held on 16 March, 1964 - St Anne's G.A.A. Club. The Club was founded in 1937, an idea started by Fr George Henry, a curate in Bohernabreena. The first couple of years were devoted mainly to fund-raising and playing the odd friendly or tournament match. The first committee was elected on 10 June 1937. Around the same time. Beasley's estate in Bohernabreena was being divided by the Land Commission and the committee were successful in getting a playing pitch. It has been St Anne's G.A.A. home since 3 March 1938.

Early in 1939 the committee decided to build dressing rooms at cost of £280. They were completed in 1940. Camogie was introduced at the end of 1939. Socials and dances were held on Sunday nights. Wall lights filled with oil formed the lighting system and the fireplace came from Lord Massey's mansion.

Around 1965 the building was extended to include showers and other amenities. The Club successfully applied for a bar licence in 1972. On 23 May 1977 work began on the new hall/social centre and was opened by Paddy McFlynn, President of the G.A.A., on 30 March 1978. The Club has gone from success to success over the years .

ST ANNE'S CHURCH

We continue up the hill to St Anne's Church.

The foundation stone was laid in 1868 by one of the most distinguished Irish Churchmen of his time, His Eminence Cardinal Cullen, who had been Archbishop of Dublin prior to his appointment as the first of Ireland's Cardinals in 1866. It was built in the thirteenth century, French Gothic style. The exterior stone used in the building is granite, which was cut and dressed on the Glassamucky mountain between Cunard and Featherbed.

All the work was carried out voluntarily by the Parishioners from quarrying, dressing and drawing stone down from the mountain to the site. Sand and gravel were donated by the well known Douglas family, some of whose descendants are still living in the Parish. The stained glass window behind Our Lady's Altar shows the Blessed Virgin on one side holding the Infant Jesus and, on the opposite side, facing them stands St Joseph. The first baptism in the church was Peter Lawless on 3 April 1868.

The People of Bohernabreena are very proud of their fine old church that was built by their fathers and grandfathers.





On the bank of the Dodder, about a quarter of a mile from Old Bawn, lies a little house concealed by trees. The adjoining fields were the scene of an execution in 1816 of three men named Kearney, a father and his two sons, for the murder of John Kinlan, steward to Ponsby-Shaws of Friarstown. Kinlan had incurred the enmity of the Kearneys on the Sunday prior to his disappearance. They were heard to say they would have his life. A hatchet was found near the Kearneys with blood stains and hair on it, but the body was never found. It may have been buried in one of the bogs in the neighbourhood.

The Kearneys, after being convicted were escorted by the dragoons to the field in which the gallows were erected. Their remains were brought back to Kilmainham Gaol for burial.

PIPERSTOWN

Piperstown perpetuates the memory of a famous piper named Cornan, who lived in the district and gave great pleasure to his neighbours with his fine piping.

On Piperstown Hill two mounds, presumably ancient burial places, were discovered by a professor of University College, Dublin. Some years ago the hill was laid bare as a result of a gorse fire which revealed what was once a cemetery with paths and burial grounds. According to witnesses some looked like family plots with stone kerbs and piers at each corner. Apparently there were no headstones or means of identifying the remains buried there. It is said that it may date back to the Famine years.

During a Fenian rising, the Irish shot ten or twelve English soldiers on horseback in the townland of Glassamucky. Early in the 1930s, when men were working in a sandpit near the place where the soldiers were shot, they unearthed bones and skulls. They are said to be the remains of the soldiers.

ICE HOUSES

Many years ago, before ice was produced by the modern method of refrigeration, ice was gathered from frozen lakes and ponds during winter and was stored in ice houses. These consisted of large excavations in the ground, the interiors of which were lined with granite and roofed with thatch. In summer the ice was sold to hotels, restaurants and fishmongers. The remains of some of these "Ice Houses" can still be seen in the area of Glassamucky Brakes, Cunard and Mount Pelier.

On the Featherbed Mountain is a cross in memory of Noel Lemass:

In Proud and loving memory of
Captain Noel Lemass 3rd Batt.
Dubin City Brigade I.R.A. who died
that the Republic might live
His murdered body was found on this
spot 13th Oct. 1923 R.I.P.
He has lived a beautiful life and has
left a beautiful field
He has sacrificed the bour to give
service for all time
He has entered the company of the
great and with them he will be
remembered forever.

TERENCE MACSWINEY



ANNE MOUNT

Some little distance down from Glassamucky was once a monastery run by the Carmelite Order at Clondalkin. I was founded in 1821 by Brothers Maurice Collins and John Steward to provide education for the local children. They leased the premises from Mr Charles Cabbe and with some other brothers founded a monastery and a school.

Brother Maurice, who was also elected Prior, was a local man who was deeply conscious of the lack of educational facilities in the district.

These dedicated men received no grant of any kind and were obliged to rely on voluntary subscriptions and whatever small income they received from their guest house as no religious community could hold land under the existing law. The Prior was the proprietor of the premises which consisted of the guest house, some thatched buildings which served as an oratory, school and dwellings for the monks.

Brother Collins was 94 when he died in 1865 and was succeeded by Brother Steward. By this time the community had dwindled to a few and after his death there was no effort made to seek new vocations.

The school, oratory and other buildings were damaged by fire. The chapel was not used after 1881.

GLENASMOLE LODGE

Beyond St Anne's Cemetery the road slopes downwards through the hamlet of Cunard. The route leads right, leading to the entrance to Glenasmole Lodge. This mountain retreat, formerly known as Heathfield Lodge, was originally built by George Grierson, the King's printer in Ireland. Grierson's most notable work included the first edition of Paradise Lost to be published in Ireland and a beautifully bound Book of Common Prayer traditionally believed to have been used in the Irish House of Commons. It is now preserved in the National Library.

After Grierson's death, his three daughters made Heathfield Lodge their home and having travelled widely abroad introduced many novel features to the house and its surroundings. They modelled the lodge after a Swiss Chalet, giving it a deep thatched roof, and adding a carved wooden balcony. Inside, ceilings were divided by beams; the polished floors were covered with skins of wild beasts and antlers of every kind hung around the walls. Outside the doors were mats made of heather in blossom, renewed daily. The garden contained many rare plants and magnificent rhododendrons.





The three ladies were respected and beloved by all who knew them. Regular visitors to the Lodge were it's occupant's brothers, George and John Grierson, who between them founded the *Dublin Daily Express*. John was a particularly colourful character who delighted in driving his spring-cart furiously from the city.

When travelling after nightfall, he gave a double warning of his approach by mounting a tremendously powerful lamp on his cart and blowing a trumpet every 100 Yards. The accumulated treasures of the Grierson sisters were lost when a fire destroyed all but the walls of their home. The house was later rebuilt - this time with a slated roof.

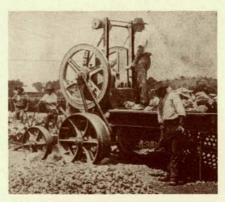
In the second half of the last century it was occupied by Charles Cobbe of Newbridge House, Donabate. The present owners of the property are Charles and June Judd, who continue to keep it in immaculate condition.

At one end of the grounds of Glenasmole Lodge there is a huge boulder into which a marble slab was inserted. On the slab is the following inscription: FinnmaCoo1, one of the Irish giants, carried this stone on his shoulders from the opposite mountain on 1 April 444. He was 9ft 7 ins in height and weighed 44 stone.

Beyond the entrance to Glenasmole Lodge the road sweeps round a hairpin bend and crossing Castlekelly bridge one enters the townland of Castlekelly. During the troubled Years (1916-1920) Glenasmole Lodge and other houses in the townland were often hide-outs for prominent men on the run.

Leaving Castlekelly, the road

continues along the south side of the valley. It emerges beyond Bohernabreena on the road to Brittas.



The Bagnall family quarried in Ballynascorney. They introduced the first stone crusher to Ireland which lead to greater employment in the area.

BALLINASCORNEY

A short distance ahead, at the gap of Ballinascorney, stands a stone cross. Although the cross is believed to have been erected about 100 to 150 years ago, no reliable information is available to explain its presence there.

At the end of the road where it slopes down again on the other side of Ballinascorney Gap a white gate stands at an angle to the roadway. This is the entrance to *Ballinascorney House* which because of its association with Robert Emmett is of particular interest.

The house was erected by the Dillons of Belgard during the eighteenth century as a shooting lodge. It was formerly known as *Dillon Lodge*. Here on the Tuesday following his unsuccessful



Rising, Emmett arrived with several of his followers. Fully armed and still wearing their uniforms, they were in search of supper and a safe place to sleep.

Midnight saw them settled in. Late on the following evening they left the house and divided up to go their various ways. Some set out for their native Kildare, others went quietly back to their homes in the mountains. Emmett returned to Dublin to the tragic end that awaited him in Thomas Street. Unfortunately the house was destroyed by fire in 1988, shortly after it was vacated by the last owners, namely the late Doctor Niall O'Rahilly and his wife Patricia.



WATERWORKS

The Waterwork's dams were built around 1882, by a Scottish team of contractors, Messrs Stanford and Faulkner, for the Rathmines Commission. One was intended to supply to the township and adjacent areas, while the other was for local use, serving the various mills in Tallaght, Firhouse, Templeogue and so on. The dams were constructed of stone obtained from the Carraig mountain.

The waterworks were taken over by the Dublin Corporation in 1931 and supplies approximately 4,000,000 gallons of water to the city each day. Admission to the pathways leading by the river and the reservoir lakes to Castlekelly is allowed only on production of a pass obtained from the Waterworks Section of Dublin Corporation. A caretaker's cottage marks the commencement of the lower lake and a similar cottage is passed as we ascend to the upper lake.

As we proceed along the margin of the upper lake we can see ahead of us the brown furrowed slopes of Kippure, on which the head waters of the Dodder, Slade, Brook and Cot Brook take their origin. As an alternative to going by the waterworks Castlekelly can be reached by taking the road past Bohernabreena chapel, up the steep hill by entering Friarstown Glen and following the course of the stream which flows through it until the road is met at Glassamucky. Higher up the slope of the valley and on the upper road is Piperstown. About half a mile beyond Glassamucky was formerly St Anne's monastery. A few miles further, a windy pathway leads to the ruined church of St Anne's.

Crossing the road at Old Bawn and continuing straight ahead into Oldcourt Road, immediately on the left is the ruins of Allenton, an old fashioned house of the 18th century with high pitched gables, deriving its name from Sir Timothy Allen, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1762, who made it his residence. In the interior of St Maelruan's Church at Tallaght are a monument and memorial tablet to Sir Timothy Allen.

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THE HELL FIRE CLUB

There is not much of an interest attached to the Hellfire except some folklore and ghostlore. The house was erected in 1720 for the Rt. Hon. William Connolly, the speaker, as a summer residence or shooting lodge. The stones used were from the old cabin that stood on the same spot.

It is a solid stone structure, consisting of a 2 storey building. Soon after it's erection the roof was torn off by a storm. A stone roof was put on in 1735. It was James Worsdale the painter and Richard Parsons, first Earl of Rosse, who made it the headquarters of the Hell Fire Club in Ireland.

It was a great place for gambling. One of the rules of the club, one had to drink 10 glasses of whiskey before dinner and 4 glasses after and failure to do this meant being expelled. There are a lot of weird tales told. Satan was supposed to preside at the meetings. Some people claimed to have seen him returning from these meetings, but word has it, it was one of the members dressed in the skin, tail and horns of a cow who would roam about at night terrifying the local people.

Another story goes that to be a member you had to drink this brew made by churning whiskey and butter together, known as Scattleen. A special man was hired to make it but he got to know too much about the Club. Word has it the poor man was forced to drink till he was stupid and that the members tossed him into a blazing fire and the poor unfortunate man was burnt to death. The club carried on for some years after but was eventually abandoned

in Ireland.

The old house remains a ruin and is a great landmark today.

Down through the years there has been little or no change in the area of Bohernabreena. Although so close to the capital city, its varied flora and fauna and the unique beauty of the area makes it one of the untouched beauty spots in the county.

These invaluable assets should be preserved so that future generations will have the opportunity to see and enjoy this rare and very beautiful land of Bohernabreena.





section 2

FLORA & FAUNA INTRODUCTION

Bohernabreena's terrain is mountainous, consisting of both acidic and alkaline soil.

A carpet of heather on the higher ground gives way to bracken forest, river valley and finally to the patchwork effect of small fields, bordered by stone walls, on the lower reaches.

The Dodder river and the Reservoir built on it are the dominant features of the area. Because of the diversity of terrain and soil we enjoy a fascinating abundance of flora and fauna.

While we always appreciated our surroundings, our research gave us a deeper respect and understanding of nature. We set out with binoculars, heavy shoes, handbooks, pencils, notebooks and great enthusiasm.

In the following pages we present a simple introduction to Bohernabreena's flora and fauna.



THE HEATH

Bell heather dominates the higher slopes, consisting of three types. Cross leaved heather thrives on the wetter soil while the pretty bell heath prefers the drier ground. Gorse grows in the driest soil and bears yellow almond-scented flowers that appear in any month of the year, giving rise to the saying: When Gorse is out of flower, Kissing is out of Season.

Archaeologists can find old sites from growth patterns of gorse because it grows more readily on disturbed ground. Rabbits eat gorse to the ground with the tougher bracken taking over, and in this way the heath decreases.

Bracken, a fire resistant fern, differs from most ferns as it grows in mainly dry ground. A tall plant, it turns a copper colour in autumn. At this time of year, the purple tones of heather, dotted with wild flowers, the golden gorse and copper bracken, make for a riot of colour.

OUR FOREST

When the land was transferred to tenants under Gladstones Land Act of 1881, Landlords, who up to then had conserved woodlands, sold off the timber for ready cash. Fuel storages during two World Wars led to the devastation of the remaining woods.

The early 1900's saw the beginning of public forestry in Bohernabreena, and the State has been responsible for the bulk of the area's afforestation programme. Coillte Teo was established

by an Act of Parliament and came into operation on 1 January 1989. It is responsible for the commercial management of our forests.

Conifer leaves are thin and needle sharp, exposing only relatively small surfaces to the atmosphere. A waxy surface helps keep water inside. This makes them suitable for the drier slopes. A dominant evergreen is Norway Spruce - miniatures are used for Christmas Trees. European Larch, Scot's Pine, Silver fir and Yew are also plentiful.

Deciduous trees have thin, broad that lose water readily. leaves Consequently, they thrive in areas of high rainfall, and Bohernabreena is an ideal environment. The kinds of trees that dominate a deciduous woodland depends upon the soil. Oak and Birch prefer the acid soil of the higher reaches while Beech and Ash thrive on limestone. Elm, Horse Chestnut, Sycamore and Beech are also found in the area. An interesting fact about the majestic Oak is that the acorn was formerly used as an antidote to poisoning. It was also ground as a substitute for coffee.





The composition of undergrowth and ground flora varies with the type of tree which dominates. Oak woods often include Hazel, Hawthorn, Brambles and Honeysuckle. Beech trees, cast a deep shade, so the underflora is sparse. Dogwood, Old Mans Beard, and Woodruff does grow underneath as well as Ivy, which is a creeper as well as a climber.

It is no accident that most flowers growing under deciduous trees - Bluebells, Primroses, Wood Anemoes, Lesser Celandine - grow and bloom early in Spring, before the leaves arrive to blot out the light.

THE RIVER VALLEY

The Dodder River Valley is a 10,000 year old flood plain formed in the Ice Age. The river itself is a mountainous torrent falling 350ft in the first two miles from its source at Kippure. Because of frequent flooding, a reservoir was built in 1883 and a second smaller one was added later to supply water for the mills further downstream.

The river banks were planted with smaller trees and shrubs - the most common being the Osier, a long straight flexible twiggy shrub bearing attractive yellow catkins. The Alder is also a common riverside tree with a black fissured bark. The Crack Willow is much in evidence and it is the largest of the species. It has long glossy green leaves. Blackthorn, also known as Sloe, belongs to the Rose family.

The underflora consists of Common Water Starworth which grows in dense clusters in the water margin mud. It's star-shaped rosettes are often the only green to be seen in winter. Bulrushes, aggressively creeping perennials, forming extensive patches, flower in high spikes during summer.

In the river itself, we find a small variety of fish. Brown Trout like the fast flow of the Dodder, while Rainbow Trout prefer the tranquillity of the reservoir. Brown Trout can be recognised by four or more gill cover spots while Rainbow Trout have red stripes across their right sides.

Sticklebacks, the best known fresh water fish, are small with blue-black tops and reddish underbellies. Males build nests of plant material glued together with kidney secretion, and then invite mates to lay eggs in them. They fan the eggs themselves until hatched.

Stoneloaches are slender fish with six barbels around their mouths. They live under stones and weeds, feeding nocturnally. Minnow also frequent the Dodder. Dark lively fish with dark markings, they lay 200-1000 eggs. They are fishermen's favourite bait. Lampreys are permanent residents of the river. The adult dies after spawning - no doubt exhausted after laying 500-2000 eggs!

Insects who provide food for fish are Mayflies, Common Aeshnaes, large Hawker Dragonflies, Stoneflies, Great Silver Waterbeetles, Whirligigs, Mosquitoes, Waterboatmen and Pondweed Bugs.



The stems are used in basket-making. Branched Bur-reeds and Butter-bur are also in evidence. Pondweed, a common rooting aquatic, sometimes covers the entire surface of the water with submerged and floating leaves.

BIRDS

Birds form one of five groups of 'higher' animals. Many people study birds as a hobby and all worthwhile birdwatching is founded on correct identification.

During walks on the heath, we noted the following species: Larks, Pipits, Stonechats and Wagtails being the smallest and Ravens, Pheasants and Grouse the largest. Ravens are only found in the Glenasmole area of Bohernabreena and are the largest crows in Ireland. Acrobatic birds, they even fly upside down. Pheasants tend to run for cover rather than fly, while Grouse can reach speeds of up to 63mph over short distances.

In the forest, we noticed that brightly coloured birds nested high up in trees while duller species favour the undergrowth. For instance, Goldcrests - the smallest birds in Bohernabreena prefer the tops of confers to escape the attention of predators, while Dunnocks - inconspicuous birds - are well camouflaged in undergrowth.

Spotted Flycatchers, aptly named, catch insects in flight. So too Treecreepers creep up trees, picking insects and on reaching the top flit down and start all over again.

Willow warblers and Chiffchaffs are

summer visitors from Europe and Asia. Bramblings only appear in winter, flying from Scandinavia while Chaffinches are seen the whole year round. The Finch family also includes Siskins, RedPolls, Linnets, Greenfinches and Bullfinches. All these flock together in search of food, mainly berries. Many are similar in appearance. It takes discerning eyes to distinguish them.

Pugnacious Robins, Shy Wrens and the lively Tit family are easily identified. Blue Tits learned to peck through milk bottle tops in winter - a habit which has spread to other birds.

Kestrels, commonest bird of prev in Europe swoops in over the valleys and hills, scanning the ground for mice and grass hoppers. Here also are Redshanks, shy noisy birds frequenting the watermargins, and Lapwings, aggressive winter visitors from Africa and America are found near the Dodder rivercourse sand margins. Kingfishers are only seen as flashes of blue speeding along the Dodder. Grev Herons are patient fishermen, standing for hours at the water-edges waiting for unwary fish and frogs. Sandmartins are summer visitors to the valley, gathering in large parties in reed beds. Dippers are the rarest waterbirds in Bohernabreena. Herringgulls and Black-headed Gulls are common along the Dodder Reservoir, the nearby tiphead being one reason for their presence. Only a few Mallard and Swans favour the sluggish deep waters of the reservoir.

Our fondest memory of many pleasant walks is listening to the call of the cuckoo in Ballinascorney Woods.

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ANIMALS

Mammals are warm blooded vertebrates which grow hair and suckle their young. They are today's most advanced animals, including Bats, Rabbits, Hares, Rodents and Deer.

Pygmy Shrews, plentiful in Bohernabreena, are the smallest shrews in Ireland. Numerous mice provide food for Kestrels and Foxes. Irish Hares, found on heathland and in forests, are smaller than Brown Hares. Normans are credited with introducing Rabbits to Ireland. They can produce litters of up to eight young at intervals of one month from January to June. This was helpful when myxomatosis nearly wiped them out in 1954/55.

Badgers, a protected species, have distinctive white stripes. Their lower jawbones are joined to the upper ones by ball and socket joints. This accounts for the fact that their grip is almost impossible to loosen. They are suspected carriers of tuberculosis and are considered a menace to farmers.

Grey Squirrels are ousting Red Squirrels because they are more efficient breeders. They eat acorns, nuts, toadstools and botelus. They live in dreys and can find their buried food by scent even when snow covers the ground. Red Squirrels can live at higher altitudes.

Red Foxes, solitary animals, are nocturnal in habit spending daylight hours in Earths. They eat rats, mice, hedgehogs, squirrels, frogs, snails, beetles, birds and lambs. In the reign of Elizabeth I an Act of Parliament was passed to pay a bounty of 12p for the tail of every fox or badger.

Hedgehogs are also nocturnal in habit. Distinctive coats of spines and strong muscles enable them to curl up for protection. Good swimmers and climbers, their diet consists of slugs, mice, rats, frogs, berries and acorns.

With the exception of birds, Bats are the only surviving animals that use true flight. Also nocturnal, insects are their staple diet. We found some under bridges on the Dodder.

We discovered that Otters are much reduced in numbers due to hunting, water pollution and lack of food.

Cheviot sheep are Bohernabreena's most common domesticated animals. Bred for meat and wool, they are profitable for our hill farmers since the introduction of E.C. subsidies.



AN INTEREST IN INSECTS

Judged by their number and variety, insects are surely the most successful group of creatures, inhabiting every available habitat apart from the open sea. They constitute 80% of the known kind of animals. Roughly 900,000 species have been described and named and 7,000 new species are discovered each year.

Calculating the number of individual insects in an area the size of Bohernabreena is impossible, so we shall describe those we found most interesting.

Butterflies and Moths are insects with veined wings covered in scales. Their life history has four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult, We noted the following species: Red Admiral, Common Blue, Meadow Brown. Speckled Wood, Small Heath, Cabbage White, Orange tip and Small Tortoise. Six-spot Burnets are Daytime Moths while Tiger Moths are common at night.

Seven-spot Ladybirds, found on lower vegetation, eat greenflies and other pests, making them good friends of gardeners. Grasshoppers are also plentiful.

Bees flourish on the heath and are essential to the pollination of flowers and shrubs. Bumblebees, who live underground, are the largest of the species. Larvae eat Royal Jelly Produced by the Queens.

In the forest we discovered twopronged Bristletails under fallen leaves. We also saw Earwigs who are useful scavengers but harmful to plant life. Two-banded Longhorns are common insects found in rotten tree-trunks. Elm Bark Beetles lay larvae under the bark of Elms. These spread a fungus called Dutch-Elm Disease that eventually kills the trees. Woodlice stay in the woods and we are happy to report no evidence of Body Lice - they live on humans!

Ants are more numerous than any other species. They live in colonies beneath stones, in rotten tree-stumps and mounds of earth. A fascinating fact is that ants are actually farmers: they love Honeydew, a substance produced by Aphids, and are known to herd aphids to favourable locations.

On the heath, turf-cutters can testify that Biting Midges are a nuisance at dusk. We also have Non-Biting Midges and Common Gnats (Mosquitoes).

The fantastic success of insects is due to their adaptability to every type of environment and rapid rate of reproduction.





FLOWERS AND HERBS

Before our research began, we would have trampled Docks, Sorrels, Nettles and Goosefoot. We discovered however, that in their natural habitat and not our gardens, they have a certain beauty of their own.

Bog Pimpernel, Bog-cotton, Bog-bean, Speedwell, Common Butterworth, Marestail are all found on the heath. Common grasses here are Red Fescue, Bent Species, Sheep's Fescue and Purple Moor. We also have Roundleaved Sundew, Lesser Water Plaintain and Marsh Arrowgrass. Bilberry bushes intercept the heather - their edible fruit are known locally as Frockens.

We tread carefully so as not to disturb a carpet of bluebells on the forest floor - an unforgettable sight in Spring. The Pink Family is also in evidence, featuring Thyme-leaved Sandworth, Common Mouse ear, Ragged Robin and Red Campion. Hard Ferns are commonest, but we also have Male Fern, Lady Fern and Wall Rue which resembles Parsley. Herb Robert, Woodsorrel, Sweet Violets, Mountain Pansies and Pyramidal Orchids complete this kaleidoscope.

The Reservoir features beautiful Rhododendron's, Honeysuckle, Snowberries, Lilac and Hedge Bindweed. Field flowers include Daisies. Field Scabious, Clovers, forget-me-nots, Yarrows, Corn Marigolds and Lady's Bedstraw. Common field grass is Greater Tussock.

Many people are aware that herbs have medicinal values, but imagine that they were used only in a vanished rural way of life. Actually, Herbalists still treat patients successfully.

Drug companies use plants in many cures. Menthol clears blocked noses, while Morphine is used as a painkiller. Digitalis, extracted from Foxgloves and Lily of the valley, relieves heart disease.

Many plants make tisanes that relieve symptoms varying from indigestion to arthritis. These include Dandelions, Meadowsweets, Betony, Feverfew and Comprey. Many of these are also used in cosmetics and winemaking and all grow in profusion in the hedgerows, woods and bogs of Bohernabreena. Woodruff is used for pomanders and Lady's Bedstraw was once used in mattresses.

FUNGI

Fungus is the name given to any one of a large group of plants, including moulds, mushrooms and toadstools. Fungi are unable to make their own food living as uninvited parasites on plants, taking food from their host.

Fungi have no roots, stems or leaves like flowering plants. Botanists know of about 37,000 species. We found Honey Fungus on dead tree trunks, and discovered it causes a white rot which kills more trees than any other Parasite. Parmelia Laevigate is a grey-green lichen found on mature tree trunks. We also found Hypogmania Physodes and Permedia Perlata, which are similar in appearance.



Some wild mushrooms are edible: Penny-buns, Honeyfungus and Lawyer's Wig are used in cooking, while Common Ink-Cap is edible but dangerous when combined with alcohol. Watch out for Flyagaric, a highly dangerous species, easily recognisable from its scarlet cap, spotted white.

Fungal Parasites are a menace to agriculture, but on the other hand, certain fungi are of tremendous benefit to man. Antibiotics such as Streptomycin and Penicillin, used in treating diseases, are products of fungi.

SECRETS OF THE SOIL

Far from being dull and lifeless, the soil is actually teeming with fascinating forms of life. Scientists have discovered that as little as 25 grams of soil may contain 4000 million bacteria and other microscopic forms of life. This is fascinating when one considers there are less people in the world.

All soil creatures are important, constantly breaking down organic matter, thus improving the quality of the earth. Mites, eelworms, springtails, millipedes, centipedes, ants and fly larvae live beside woodlice, earthworms, slugs and snails. Their life consists of one long round of searching for food: sometimes preying off each other, and hunting for more suitable homes in the soil. When they die they are still important as their decaying bodies are used by other organisms for food.

There are seasonal changes underground, and many creatures lie dormant when temperatures are low. Some organisms are most active in spring and autumn, becoming dormant in winter and summer.

A SCATTERING OF SEEDS

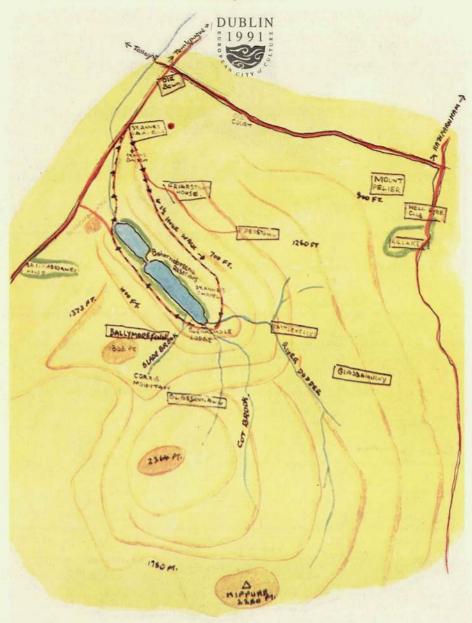
If seeds from plants fell directly to the ground, seedlings would have to compete with their parents for sunlight, minerals and moisture. To ensure the survival of plant life, seeds have diverse methods of scattering.

Sycamores have winged fruit called samaras that are carried on the wind. The Ash blades spin away as they fall. Mistletoe seed is carried by birds. Ants distribute gorse seed, eating the oily part and leaving the rest to grow. Some seeds grow in pods and scatter as the pod bursts when ripe. Squirrels carry nuts long distances and some are dropped and take root. Many plants have burrs that cling to animals and are carried away.

To conclude, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves - we sincerely hope you have enjoyed following our exploits.





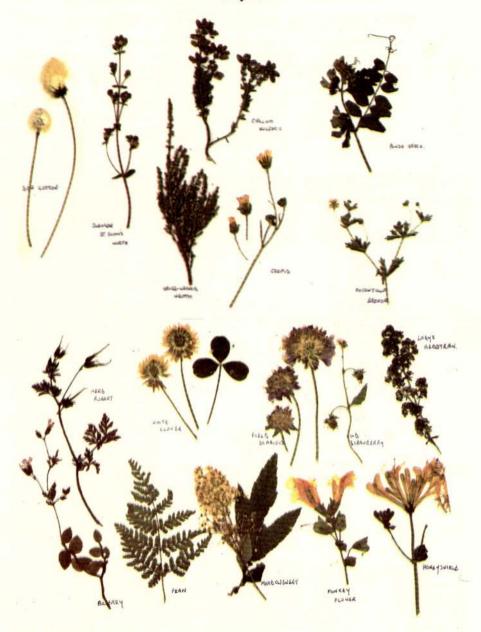




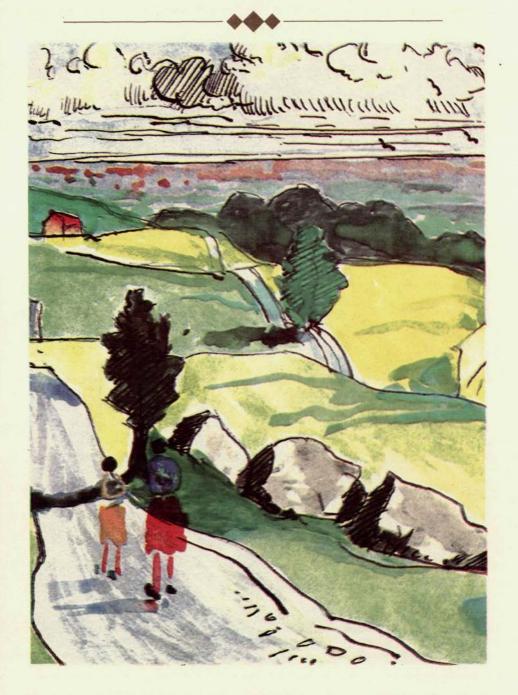


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section 3

LIFESTYLES

GLENASMOLE

In dear old Ireland is a valley, Away up in the Dublin bills, and as for beauty none can compare, with it's heather clad mountains and flowing rills, and in the evening when work is over, how pleasant 'tis to take a stroll, and bathe your eyes on the lovely scenes, that surround the valley of Glenasmole. There is an air of peace in this bumble valley you will match it where 'er you go, I am certain it can compare with 'Green Killarney' or to 'Fair Dungloe', it's People too they are kind and cheerful, they work with zeal to achieve their goal, You may sing the Praises of far off places, my choice will ever be Glenasmole.

JOHN LEE

HOUSES

The houses were mostly three roomed. Some had a small loft or attic over one room where the houses were built on a slope. There was a very large kitchen cum living room in the centre and two large bedrooms. The roof was of thatch or slates and very few ever sealed. The doors were very low and sometimes narrow. The entrance door always had a latch and handle. Hung on the outside of the door jam was a half door; this was also closed during the day. The half door was handy for keeping the children in and the hens out, or to lean on when having a chat with a neighbour.

The windows too were very small and there was seldom a window in the back of the house. The floors were sometimes made from lime and sand or paving stones. Most houses had large open grates and a granite hearthstone. Some houses had a large hooded chimney breast. There was a bench on each side of the hearth where two people could sit. Inside the chimney was a bar

which held the hooks for the kettle and pots to hang on.

Almost every day the woman of the house baked. First she heated the pot over the big turf fire. After placing the dough in the pot the griosach was taken from the centre of the fire and put on the lid of the pot.

For the Christmas pudding a large blay cloth was greased with lard, into it was put the pudding mixture which weighed about 5/6 lbs. It was tied on top with cord and boiled in the pot over the turf fire. On the chimney board stood an oil lamp casting light on the house and ornaments, tea-caddy, spare clay pipes, matches etc. Electricity came to the area only in 1949.

Part of the furniture of every kitchen was a large dresser to display the delph; and a settle bed on which the son of the house slept. This was used for a seat in the day time. Most houses had a grandfather clock which stood in the corner beside the fire.



SCHOOLS

There were two schools - a boys and a girls - in Glenasmole. Each school had two teachers. The children had to walk to school: some came from as far away as Upper Ballinascorney, Old Bawn and Kilakee. They came by woods, fields and paths.

There was a fire grate in each school. Fuel was never provided except for a few bags, which was collected once a year at the church door. Most of the children who lived near always brought along a sod of turf, or a brasskin or sticks. It was only the infants who got any heat from the fire. During Lent rabbits and ling were dried by the heat of the fire.

WEDDINGS

Weddings were generally at 3pm or 4pm in the afternoon. There was no Nuptial Mass then. After the ceremony the couple and about twenty of the family went for a drive in the carriages to some place such as Lucan or Blessington. They returned about six or seven to the Bride's house where local women had dinner prepared. Around 9 o'clock all the locals were invited to come and there was dancing and singing, with plenty of beer and food, until morning.

It was the custom for those who were not invited, to come about outside and blow horns made from broken bottles or pieces of pipe. People seldom honeymooned then. Sometime during the night the bride and groom disappeared or eloped from the house and made their way to where they were going to reside.

WAKES

When a person died at home as most people did in those days, local women came along and laid the corpse out for waking. The men tied two ropes from the rafters from one side to the other of the kitchen or living room. Sheets were laid out over these near the back wall to form a canopy. A large table was placed under this and made up like a bed. On this the corpse was placed to be waked. The head of the house generally went to town with some friends in the horse and cart, and the coffin, beer and provisions for the wake were brought home on it. In the lower end of the valley in the wake was one night at home and one night in the church. In the upper valley, which was too far away from the church, wakes were two nights and sometimes three if they had to wait for relations to come from England.

Everyone went to wakes in those days. The house was always packed right through the night. You might not be on speaking terms with the people of the house but you still went to the wake. At most wakes there was plenty of beer, tea and sandwiches; cheddar cheese and biscuits were also very popular then.

The Rosary was recited about three times during the night. A plate of snuff was placed on the table with the candles and holy water. When some young people spread this around and got everyone sneezing it caused a lot of merriment. They used to sing and play games back in the early twenties. The Button and How goes Oats in the market were two of the games.



WAY OF LIFE

During September or October the hay was nearly all mown with scythes and made by hand with forks and rakes. Each year the farmer went to town and brought home a ham or two and a half barrel of Porter. This he got for about two pounds and ten shillings. He would ask his neighbours to come on a particular day to bring in his hay. They came, drew it in and put it in rick. There was always a special man to supervise the building of the rick.

They worked and drank and ate, and when night came they unyoked their horses and went into the house. If there were girls there, and someone came along with a melodeon, they would have a sing song and a dance; and if not a card game was played until the early hours of the morning.

Thrashing was done mostly with a flail which was two sticks linked together with a leather strap. One stick, which was like a spade handle, was called the staff and the other, which was thinner and made of blackthorn or holly, was called a bolteen.

Local men around Mount Pelier earned their living by breaking stones and bringing them by horse to the crusher at Old Bawn Bridge.

WEATHER LORE

Before weather forecasts were broadcast on the radio, the locals had their own way of foretelling the weather:

-When the wild geese flew from the hills, they were flying in front of a storm. Storms were also expected when the cat turned her back to the fire. Rabbits and hares coming close to the house also Indicated a storm.

When the curlew roared it was calling for rain.

When the fox barked frequently in October it predicted a heavy fall of snow. Sheep coming down to the gate of the house in winter also meant a big fall of snow.

If the leaves remained on the trees well into October it was a sure sign of a cold winter.

A green Christmas made a fat graveyard.

SOCIAL LIFE

From February 1st until the beginning of Lent each year the menfolk of the valley formed what was called a Breedogue in honour of St Brigid. Twenty or thirty men and boys dressed up in fancy dress with home made masks. One man with a melodeon or fiddle, led by one dressed as an old woman carrying a rough wooden doll, visited four or five houses in the area each night. They were generally welcomed. They sang a few songs, did a half set or waltz, and the householders usually joined in.

The people always had a practice which they called *mitching*: this was visiting other houses at night time. There were even special *mitch houses* in almost every area where people collected on winter nights to read the paper, discuss the weather, politics and the crops, and hear all the goings on.



There was generally a game of cards: penny twenty-fives or nap or three fifteens were played and went on until the early hours of the morning.

Another popular occasion was the crossroads dance, which went on until well after midnight. In those days there was no tarmac so the dancing had to be on rough roads, wearing out the sole of many a shoe. The music was mostly supplied by a button accordion.

Punchestown races was another very important event for the people of the area. Quite a number of them went there: some by pony and trap, some cycled, others walked to Tallaght and got the tram from Foxes to Blessington and walked across the hill to the race course.

People seldom went to town other than for provisions. If you had no horse, or did not cycle, you had to walk to Tallaght and get the steam tram. It only went about three times a day and if you missed it in Terenure you might walk home.

CHARACTERS PAST

About sixty years ago, quite a number of characters or travelling people (then called tramps) used to visit the valley. These included:

Ragged Clark - so called from the clothes he wore. He used to go around in the winter time to dig stubble or thresh. In return he got a couple of shillings, some food and a bed in the barn.

Mary Essie - a middle aged woman who once a month pushed her three wheeled barrow full of delph all the way from Francis Street. She traded cups, saucers and plates for rags, bottles and jam jars.

Matt the Jewman - who walked from Rathfarnham via Featherbeds to Mat Kearnes and back by the valley every Tuesday. He always carried a large sack and from it he could sell you a suit length or a pair of boots or tobacco or cigarettes. He always gave children a few bulls eyes, so they never molested him.

Penny Man - so called because he was always asked for a penny. He travelled from the city once a week to buy hens and eggs and always gave children sweets and pennies.

Matt the Harness Maker - who would go round all the houses mending all the harnesses and would always sleep in the loft. He had a habit of running around the valley before he settled in.

Jack Lambert - who lived by poaching rabbits. He was always in trouble with the game keepers. Children were afraid of him. All you had to say to a young boy or girl was "I'll give you to Jack Lambert" if they misbehaved. When Jack died he left a large sum of money.

Jack Martin - the ballad singer who must have been coming and going to this valley for fifty years. He came at Christmas and Easter and when anything important was happening. He sang ballads at most houses, sold a few ballad sheets and collected a few coppers. He stopped about a week and got enough food going from house to house. He was very inoffensive and claimed that he slept only in the open or in a shed since his school days.



Alivo - who used to push his three wheeled-barrow from Terenure to Castlekelly selling herrings.

Michael Grumley - who the girls used to tease with "What are you doing there Mick?" and he would say "I am watching the rabbits in their pretty little habits, and they've all got mates but me". He was always quoting sayings as he walked along the road.

Johnny Anderson, Jim Flood, George Carter - who all drove their horses and carts with hay to the market and delivered it to whoever bought it.

Simon the Postman - who walked many a mile delivering post for forty five years until he retired. He was always in good humour and you heard him whistling before you saw him.

Joe the Granny - who lived in Collins in Piperstown. He was making his way home with his messages during a snow storm and died on a path at the sand pits under Jim Murphy's house.

Nellie Walsh -who had a wee corner shop in Friarstown and sold everything. It was the local meeting place. Pitch and toss was played outside by up to thirty men and it was a great place for a game of cards. It was the first house in Bohernabreena to have television.

PERSONALITIES PRESENT

Rose Corcoran - a native of Bohernabreena, a stalwart of the Church and one time Lord Mayor of Bohernabreena. Over and above her duties as sacristan, she is a flower arranger, choir mistress, organist, fund raiser and member of the Pioneer Association. She will always visit the sick wherever they are. If anyone is in trouble she is first at the door. As a result of her life's work in the parish, she was honoured with the bestowal of the *Benemerenti Medal* by Pope Paul VI in December 1976. *Benemerenti* means: to one truly deserving.

Larry McMahon - came to live in Bohernabreena in 1932. He was educated in Firhouse N.S. He opened his own business as victualler in 1959. He was a long distance runner with Dublin City Harriers. He entered Politics in 1970.

William Murphy - one of only two men to have achieved the distinction of winning both senior tractor and horse ploughing All-Ireland championship competition, a record which is now unlikely to be equalled again. His record in this field is highly impressive - five senior tractor All-Ireland titles, three 1/4 furrow All Ireland titles, and two junior horse All-Ireland titles. He began serious competitive ploughing in 1929. He quickly reached a high proficiency and missed only a few years in All-Ireland championship competitions between then and 1949. William represented Ireland on what was then the maximum three occasions in Killarney when he came fifth and in France and Canada. Obviously, ploughing is something that runs in the blood, William's daughter Maura, was Queen of the Plough in 1971 and 1972 and his son, John, won the All-Ireland College's event. internationally recognised exhibitor, and judge of border collies he takes pride in the fact that every dog he



ever ran at trials was trained by him. He was a member of the Irish international team which took part in sheepdog trials in England, Ireland and Wales. He was featured on the BBC documentary "One Man and His Dog" where he spoke about his involvement with sheepdogs.

Patricia Quinn - former nurse, has since spent her married life, with the help of husband Michael, learning, researching and putting into practice the principles of Natural Health. She has written two books: Food at it's Best and The Silent Disease.

Patrick Pye - the well known painter and stained glass artist, lives in Piperstown area. Having spent much free time in his youth cycling the valley, he recalls the beauty of the tree lined country roads.

Many of his works can be seen in Churches and Colleges throughout the country. One of his works was reproduced as a Christmas Card by U.N.I.C.E.F. He is one of the few Irish artists to receive this international distinction.

The Mater Dei Institute houses a tapestry designed by Pye. It is hoped that a bequest to the Dioceses by Mgr Feichin O'Doherty of Pye's early paintings of the Virgin Mary will soon be on permanent display for the public to view.

Noirin Kennedy Pye - is herself a hand weaver and spinner in the Donegal tradition. She spent many an hour weaving tweeds, which made The Weaver's Shed quite well known throughout Europe and America during the 60's and 70's. The blended yarns and colours were her box of paints and she found the age old craft very satisfying and stimulating. At present she and a neighbour hand spin, weave and hand knit a variety of sweaters and wall hangings as part of a Community Development Project in the parish.

Noirin continues to combine colours for rugs, scarves and stoles to be woven at a Mill in the South of Ireland for tourists and the export market.

The O'Rourke Family - Dr Angus O'Rourke was a GP until 1988. His wife Esme ran an Antiques Shop for several years and is now running a restaurant with the help of the family who are qualified chefs. Mary spins and dyes wool. The family also spins from time to time. They run a craft shop.

Essie Brady - one of our present day locals, is a warm friendly person. Not many pass her door without calling in for a chat. It is almost impossible to leave without having a cup of tea.

Rosie McNally - is our oldest resident. She is 96 years old. From age eight she set seed potatoes for farmers. She also culled, snagged and thinned turnips for local farmers.

Carmel McNally - has for many years specialised in breeding various strains of fowl. Carmel nurses back to health sick or injured wild birds or small animals which she then releases on recovery. She is very interested in preserving the environment as well as plants, weeds, herbs, shrubs and trees.

section

John Gerard Lee - was born in Glenasmole on 21 August 1906 and died in January 1982. His parents were John Lee and Mary Jane Lee (nee Douglas).

All through his life he wrote many stories and poems and collected many items of local interest. He was one of the founder-members of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart, Bohernabreena and first wrote in it's books on 17 September 1927. He was very active, even up to the time of his death, in many local organisations too numerous to mention. He contributed greatly to the quality of life in Tallaght.



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section 4

LOCAL BURIAL GROUNDS

ST ANNE'S GRAVEYARD

St. Anne's graveyard has the reputation of being one of the oldest in Ireland. How this old graveyard came to be known as St. Anne's is probably on account of it's close proximity to St. Anne's Well, which is only 300 yards away. It was always a free graveyard.



The ruins of Ireland's oldest church are being rebuilt. The church of Saint Santan is sometimes also called St. Ann's because of Saint Ann's graveyard in which it stands. It was built on a hillside above the valley of the church (Glenasmole) about 3 miles from Tallaght at the foothills of the Dublin mountains. The tiny church was mentioned in Rome by Pope Innocent III in 952 and was confirmed as a church in 1216. The church suffered during a troubled period and the country around it was laid waste in 1294. It is thought that it was used again in 1541. Its ruins which are 36 feet long and 16ft. 4 ins. wide are now being rebuilt.

The most noted people know to be buried in St Anne's were the monks from Anne Mount - remembered by a headstone that reads: Erected by a few friends as a token of respect to Maurice Collins, for 44 years Prior of St. Anne's Monastery, who died 31st January, 1865 aged 94 years.

The stone also lists Anne Mount's religious:

Andrew McGuirk
Died 13.11.1842 Age 46
John Farrell
27.01.1854 Age67
Patrick McGuirk
Died16.09.1867 Age69
Matthew Kelly
Died 22.06.1873 Age68

John Steward Died 12.04.1887 Age93



Also buried at St. Anne's was Hannah Farrell of Kilmashogue who died in 1935 aged 112 years. The oldest headstone recorded is that of Stephen Lamb - 25th July 1792 - aged 20 years, also his son Edward who died young on the same day.



The entrance to the graveyard is down a a steep lane about 1/4 mile long, through a field and then through a heavy wrought iron gate in the wall. Hearses could not come further than the top of the lane. Here four large stones were placed on the road and bier was laid on these; the coffin was tied onto the bier and carried down to the graveyard.

It was customary to carry the coffin around by the walls and then back to the grave. Graves were always dug and



closed by local people, friends of the deceased; relatives never helped: this was an old belief. After the soil had been put back on the grave it was then covered with green sods, and clapped well. If there were not enough sods, some were dug from wasteland near the wall.

When a priest was not present to say prayers a local man recited the De Profondus. After that the relatives knelt around the the grave for some time in prayer. They did this even when the ground was mucky. There was never any rush at funerals; it sometimes took hours.

Every family in the district had a burial plot in St. Anne's. When members of these families married and went away, they were nearly always brought back to St. Anne's to be buried. Sometimes quite a number of families held a claim on one plot.





Funerals were not very frequent in St. Anne's: sometimes a period of six months would pass without one. However, it was a belief that when one went in, two others would follow within a short period. In 1919 during the flu epidemic, three funerals were held in one day. This was thought to be a record.

Just inside the gate is a large stone Holy Water font: it is damaged on one side and would weigh almost one ton. There is a story that some hundreds of years ago a rich landowner in the district thought that this font would come in handy as a drinking trough for his horses, so he ordered his men to move it to his yard. His men objected to meddling with it, but he insisted they move it.

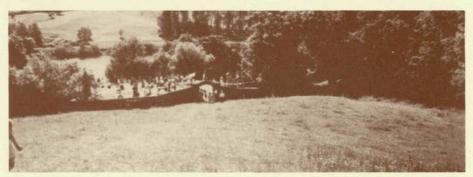
When the horses were yoked to it they broke their reins and traces but the font did not move. The horses were yoked again and one of them reared and badly injures his steward. The landowner still insisted and one of the horses dropped dead. In desperation he took up a sledge and broke the side of the font, saying it would never hold water for anyone else. There it remains to this day and will still hold a small amount of water.



In the centre of the graveyard, overgrown with ivy but still in a fair state of preservation, part of the walls of the old church can be seen.

On entering the graveyard, the corner furthest away on the right hand side was known as the 'Strangers Corner'. In this section people who had no burial plot were buried, as were the bodies of members of families who came to reside in the district from other parts of the country. One of the headstones in this part of the graveyard read:

Here the body of someone lies Nobody laughs and nobody cries Where he came from and how he fares Nobody knows and nobody cares.





Unfortunately, this stone is no longer visible.

Soldiers from the 1916 Rising were also buried in St. Anne's.

During the gravediggers strike in the 1920s several people from the city were buried there. The practice of bringing dead babies out from the city and burying them there was kept up until the graveyard was closed. If any of the locals saw three or four men carrying a small coffin down to the graveyard around midnight or after, they never thought of ghosts - it was quite a usual thing to see.

In 1940 the Dublin Board of Health decided to close St. Anne's Old Cemetery on account of its close proximity to the Corporation Reservoir, and they claimed that it was overcrowded and hadn't been kept in proper order. The closing was opposed by the local community.

At a Court of Inquiry held later, the Council decided to close the cemetery for burials with exception of the seventeen widowers or widows whose partners were already buried there. They did however, give permission to grant a special concession to Andy McNally, Conard, a 103 year old bachelor who wished to be buried with his people. He died while saving hay a year later and was buried in the cemetery.

The last people to be buried in the cemetery were Thomas Corcoran, Glassamucky, in 1960 and Michael Lawless, Oldcourt, in 1982.

In August 1982 the first Mass was celebrated in the graveyard by rev. Fr. D Begg; this new custom has continued with a large attendance every year.

ST. ANNE'S WELL

Another historic spot in our valley is St. Anne's Well. A winding pathway leads to the ruined church and holy well. This old church is properly St. Sanctan's or Sentan's, the name Sentan having been corrupted into St. Anne.

The well is surrounded by a granite wall, which is only noticeable at close quarters because grass grows to its verge, and an ash tree leans protectively over it, shading it even in the height of summer. About fifty years ago the large ash tree guarding the well was blown down in a storm and within a couple of years the present tree began to grow almost in the same place.

In the old days this well was always visited on the feast day of St. Anne's - 26th July. The people of the district had great belief in the curative properties of the well water and came there in numbers to pray and drink from its clear cold depths.

The water from the well is known to cure sore eyes and stomach pains. Many still come there to pray and take away water for sick friends and relatives. Without any doubt it would attract many more pilgrims if it were better known and did not lie so far off the beaten track. The going is somewhat rough in parts, although the view of the surrounding hills is superb.

section .

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

It was a Corcoran too, Maria Corcoran who died on 15th May 1943 who was the first to be buried in the new St. Joseph's Cemetery at Bohernabreena.

The cemetery is divided into four sections with provision for 224 graves in each. Compared with the lovely but much less accessible setting of St. Anne's, St. Joseph's is not so much in a beautiful setting as having a magnificent view of the surrounding Tallaght countryside.

Ciaran Burke of The Dubliners is the most famous person buried in St. Joseph's. Paddy Kennedy, who won seven All Ireland medals with Kerry, and Sean Lee, who played in the 1963 All Ireland and won a medal, are two well known GAA men also buried there.

Originally is was possible to buy a plot in St. Joseph's but since the

graveyard has been filling up this is not any longer possible.

It was on a beautiful Summer's day in 1989 that the photographs here were taken at St. Joseph's Cemetary Sunday: it was attended by hundreds living out another small part of their grief for their loved ones gone before.







Allagour Daletree Road

Bohernabreena Glencarrig

Ballinascorney Friarstown

Ballymeece Glassamucky

Ballycullen Glassavilawn

Ballycragh Glenasmole

Ballymorefinn Mount Pelier

Castlekelly Newtown

Corrageen Old Court

Corrig Piperstown

Cunard The Brakes

FAMILY NAMES

Bagnall Corcoran Lee

Doyle Cotter Murphy

Collins Jones Kennedy

Douglas Carthy Cooke

+++

BOHERNABREENA A WALK IN TIME

credits

Angela O'Byrne

Olive Kennedy

Patsy Corcoran

Teresa Cotter

Ann Scollard

Maureen Bagnall

Angela McMullan

Brenda Counihan

Catherine McArdle

Frances O'Reilly

Esther Brady

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Bohernabreena ICA Scoop Community Award



Members of the Bohemabreena I.C.A. with Mary Harney Minister for State at the Department of the Environment at the official launch of their book "Bohemabreena - A Walk In Time" at St. Anne's Clubhouse recently.

By Dermot McGrath

The sterling work of the Bohernabreena Irish Countrywomens' Association was deservedly rewarded when the group won first prize in Dublin County Council's Community Project Awards 1991. The top award of £1,500 and a commemmorative plaque went to the ICA for their project involving an

historical survey of the Bohernabreena area and the compilation of a record of the flora and fauna of the area. The contents of the project have been gathered in book-form, entitled "Bohernabreena - A Walk In Time". Mary Harney, Junior Minister at the Department of the Environment was present for the official launch of the book at a reception at St. Anne's

Clubhouse last week. The Community Project Awards were presented at the opening of an exhibition of the work of almost 40 local groups at the Riverside Centre, Sir John Rogersons Quay. The display covered environmental projects, employment projects, provision and maintenance of facilities, provision of community services and cultural projects.

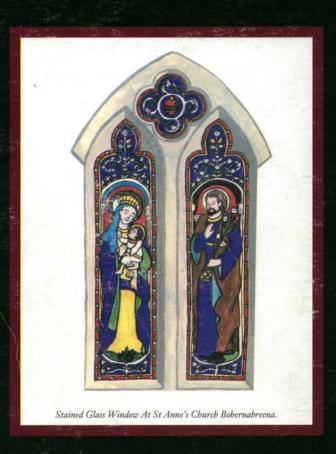
Judges of the Awards, Joe Duffy of the Gay Byrne Show and Leonie Lunny, Director of the National Social Services Board, spoke of their surprise at the variety of projects undertaken and the vast amount of effort put into them by local community groups in County Dublin.

"The standard was extremely high," said Joe Duffy. "I was really struck by the imagination and creativity of the projects, and to see this creativity and imagination turned into down-to-earth ideas and being made to work."

"Bohernabreena - A Walk In Time" is a lively, entertaining read, and provides an important chronicle of an area steeped in history.

DE 10 HARRIE

Freitsman and author



Design and produced by 20-20 Vision.