



Welcome to The Living Bog

Welcome to the 'The Living Bog' - the largest raised bog restoration project ever undertaken in Ireland.

12 of Ireland's unique raised bog SAC's in seven counties will be brought back to life between 2016 - 2020. Restoration work on these Natura 2000 sites will improve over 2,600 hectares of threatened raised bog habitat - the equivalent of over 7,000 Croke Parks and 18% of the national high bog area.

It is estimated there has been a 99% loss of the original area of actively growing raised bog in Ireland. What little remains is in need of restoration and conservation. Thanks to this five year project, which has been made possible by the [EU LIFE](#) Nature and Biodiversity Fund, together with assistance from [Ireland's Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs](#), the Living Bog will again become a reality...





...made possible by the EU LIFE Nature and Biodiversity Fund, together with assistance from the Department of Public Heritage, Registration, Natural and Cultural Affairs, the Living Bog will again become a reality...



Ardagullion Bog
Co. Longford



Carrowbehy / Caher Bog
Co. Roscommon



Carrownagappul Bog
Co. Galway



Clara Bog
Co. Offaly



Derrinea Bog
Co. Roscommon



Ferbane Bog
Co. Offaly



Garriskil Bog
Co. Westmeath



Killyconny Bog
Co. Cavan



Mongan Bog
Co. Offaly



Moyclare Bog
Co. Offaly



Raheenmore Bog
Co. Offaly



Sharavogue Bog
Co. Offaly





History



Read all about bog life in Cavan over 60 years ago.

[Click Here](#)





Killicanny Bog

[About Killicanny Bog](#)

[Life on Killicanny Bog](#)

[LIFE Project on Killicanny Bog](#)

[History](#)

[Local And Community](#)

[Day On The Bog](#)

[Killicanny Bog \(or The Big Bog\) Remembered by J.K. Lynch](#)

Killicanny Bog (or The Big Bog) Remembered by J.K. Lynch

John K Lynch grew up in Mullagh and has a vivid recollection of working on the bog over 50 years ago. He shares them with us here*

*The story of *Killicanny Bog, Cloughbally Bog, Killicanny Bog, Leitrim Bog, The Big Bog*, or whatever name you may know it by, is set to become a wonderful public amenity over the next few years... so let's help it succeed along the way.

Memories of the bog are fast disappearing and it is not untrue to say that most people connect the word to a wet morass of swamp and marsh – a wild foreboding place to be, especially in bad weather – where one could easily vanish, never to be found again after being swallowed up in its black mass! Bogs of course are much more interesting places than that. They are in effect, a reservoir and library of the earth's flora over thousands of years and of course are recognised as the earth's important carbon sink. After the retreat of the ice sheet covering Ireland some 15,000 years ago, the stage was set for the formation of our bogs. Irish bogs are between 5,000 and 10,000 years old.

They are unique in the world and a very important feature of Irish landscape. Rich in biodiversity, they require to be waterlogged to achieve growth and this poses problems to adjacent agricultural land that can be overcome. Our ancestors committed gruesome acts on fellow human beings, buried their remains in bogs and the natural preservatives contained in turf bogs – tannin – leave perfectly preserved bodies when found hundreds of years later – albeit the skin being tanned like leather. Subsequent examination by forensic archaeologists leads us to a better understanding of the deceased's diet, lifestyle, age, etc. We describe the product of the bog as turf, the same word as used in the German language while the English use the word peat. Bogs insofar as our neighbours on the adjacent island were concerned, were in their mind-set only associated with the native Irish and therefore used in a pejorative sense, to describe the Irish as "boggies". I suppose it was as a result of the preponderance of bogs covering our landscape, which over the centuries were the only source of fuel to heat our primitive dwellings and modern homes, even up to the present time. Carbon dioxide emissions and the phasing out of fossil fuels are some of the reasons that have now ensured that our remaining bogs are places of preserved natural heritage and sites of minor industrial archaeology with accompanied associated folklore traditions.



Turf being brought home from Killicanny

My earliest recollections of "being on the bog" was at 5 years of age in 1955.

We had a "bank" or plot of turf on what we called *Leitrim Bog* and it came with the farm of land. Turf banks were measured in perches (and these are not the fish!) – 1 perch equalled 5.5 yards which is equivalent to approx. 5 metres. My father (Harry) and my grandfather (John) cut some turf that summer.

John and Mat Reilly, Leitrim had an adjacent "bank" and as far as I can remember, they also cut turf that season. *John Bracken, John Gibney, Nicholas Dolan, Ballintieve, George Bough, Rantavan, Patsy Cassidy, Shancarnan, Jimmy Smith, Leitrim* were regulars working on the *Rantavan* side of the same bog. I also seem to also remember *Peter Lynch, Leitrim* on the bog and cutting somewhere near us. John Travers whom we often spoke with and two or three other turf cutters worked on the *Killicanny* side but I don't remember their names.

Leitrim Bog was relatively quiet compared to the *Rantavan* and *Cloughbally* side where all the action was and which was a hive of activity. I distinctly remember that the boundary of our turf bank was marked by a crab apple tree which my grandfather had planted years earlier and which was growing there until relatively recent times. It was a great marker and aid to location as all turf banks looked the same. In addition, there was mature beech trees planted on both the Lynch and Reilly banks. The two families it would seem must have planted them in the very distant past – over 100 years ago – although this may not be entirely true for other reasons. This bank of turf was quite near to *Rantavan* townland, but to access it required travelling the long distance by public road up to *Leitrim* taking the lane off to the right leading down to the bog, crossing a "kesh" over a main drain and into the afterbanks of the bog – a distance of over 1 mile. Years later in the early 1960s, I helped my father cut some of the beech trees with a crosscut saw. The Reillys' also cut some of their trees the same year. This was hard work, but the big crosscut saw seemed to fly through the huge timbers.

We relocated to cutting turf on the *Rantavan* side from 1956 onwards. This turf bank was adjacent to our farm and very convenient. As we did not own the bank, my father rented around half a perch of bank (approx 2.5 metres) and paid the sum of £1 and 10 shillings annually to the bog agent who resided in *Virginia*. This man would frequently carry out an inspection on all working banks to ensure that everyone was up to date in their payments. We usually rented a half perch (2.5 metres) but there were many such as the Daltons who cut a full one perch bank of turf.

Cutting the turf

The annual trip to the bog was over a period of two to three weeks, with a workforce of a "slane's man" and "catcher" or "barrowman" and occurred when the crops were planted and there was time to spare – it was built in to the farming calendar.



Sharavogue Bog

[About Sharavogue Bog](#)

[Life On Sharavogue Bog](#)

[LIFE Project on Sharavogue Bog](#)

[History](#)

[Visit](#)

[Local And Community](#)

About Sharavogue Bog

Situated south of the historic Offaly town of Birr, Sharavogue Bog is one of Ireland's best preserved raised bogs. Sharavogue Bog is also one of the few remaining raised bogs in Ireland situated on a floodplain. It has a well-developed dome of uncut peat which is long and relatively narrow. Restoration prospects here are very good.

Like our Westmeath project site Garriskill, it is bounded by a decommissioned public rail line on one side (the Birr-Roscrea line, see History section) and a river on the other – and it boasts a connection to no less a person than Saint Patrick! Turf cutting here never really reached the levels it did elsewhere in Offaly, though a large section to the north of the bog was extensively cut in the early 1900's. But the main active raised body of the bog remains and its good condition is testament to two local men who worked together to save the bog from heavy machinery harvesting in the 1990's. Drainage channels were dug across the bog sometime in the early 1990's and only for the actions of Mr Liam Egan and Mr Patrick Headon, Sharavogue could have been lost forever.



The total site covers 223.43 ha and is situated between the River Little Brosna and an elevated ridge of Carboniferous limestone. It includes 137 ha of uncut raised bog and 86 ha of surrounding areas which include cutover bog, wet grassland, semi-natural woodland, and an area of wet lagg vegetation in the cutover along the eastern margin of the bog. The eastern edge is bounded by a disused railway embankment, which once linked Birr to Roscrea, and the western edge by the Little River Brosna.

The bog is underlain by low permeability limestone and limestone till.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- [7110] Raised Bog (Active)*
- [7120] Degraded Raised Bog
- [7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation

Active Raised Bog (ARB) comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.) is high, and where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, Sphagnum lawns, flushes and soaks.

The LIFE team is currently undertaking survey work on the bog, but the most recent studies from 2011 and 2002 indicated that ARB cover on Sharavogue is high, over 25.5ha of the high bog area, mainly in the central and southern part of the dome. With restoration works to be carried out on site between 2017 – 2020 we aim to increase this to over 40h on the high bog. Prospects for restoration here are positive.

Degraded Raised Bog (DRB) corresponds to those areas of high bog where the hydrology has been adversely affected by peat-cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration to ARB within 30 years.

The area of (DRB) on the High Bog was modelled as 29.5ha (by Fernandez et al. 2012), mainly on the southern dome but it lacks many extensive areas of quaking hummock/hollow/pools as a result of long-term drying out caused by peat cutting, burning and marginal and river drainage.

Many of the drains inserted on the high bog in the 90's and on the south eastern area of the cutover were dammed in the late 1990s as part of an E.U. Cohesion project to restore peat farming conditions. That project was successful in halting and reversing, to some extent, the decline of ARB on the site.

The Living Bog will build on this work, restoring and increasing the area of Active Raised Bog by almost twice its current amount. In time, our restoration work will lead to an even bigger increase...



An Rann Eileann, Gaeilochta,
Gaithil Reigiúnach, Gaithil agus Gaithilí
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Contact Us

Raised Bog Restoration Office,
40 Lough Sheever Park,
Robinstown, Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath
T: 076 100 2627
E: info@raisedbogs.ie

Quick Links

[About the Living Bog Partnerships](#)
[News](#)
[Events](#)
[Sitemap](#)

Social Media



- Sharavogue Bog**
- About Sharavogue Bog
- Life On Sharavogue Bog
- LIFE Project on Sharavogue Bog
- History
- Visit
- Local And Community

Life On Sharavogue Bog

All the typical vascular plant species for the Active Raised Bog habitat such as Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum angustifolium* and *E. vaginatum*), Deergrass, Bog Asphodel and White Beak-sedge are common and the Midland raised bog indicator species Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) are present.



Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and Bog-Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), a Midland raised bog indicator species, are both present at Sharavogue

The dominant micro-topography consists of Sphagnum hummocks and hollows. Pools are scarce and Sphagnum cuspidatum filled lawn-like depressions are very occasional. The overall Sphagnum cover ranges from 51 to 75%. The wettest areas are characterised by the abundance of Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. angustifolium*). Hummocks consist of *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. papillosum*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. tenellum*, *S. subnitens* and very occasionally *S. fuscum* and *S. austriacum*. Hollows may contain *S. cuspidatum* and/or *S. tenellum*.

Whilst the surface is generally quite dry, there are some small pools and lawns where Rhynchosporion vegetation is well represented. Rhynchosporion habitat is best developed in the extensive wet cutover present along the eastern margin of the high bog area. Here the dominant species are Sphagnum cuspidatum, White Beak-sedge, Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*). The rare Brown Beak-sedge also occurs. There are a number of pools on the high bog that also support Rhynchosporion vegetation. Rhynchosporion vegetation is also well-developed in extensive wet cut-away areas which occur along the eastern margins of the high bog. Other plant species of the raised bog which are less common are Bog-rosemary, Cranberry and Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*).



Round-leaved Sundew, aka *Drosera Rotundifolia*, one of Ireland's carnivorous plants which gets its nutrients from trapped insects.

Within the cutover zone along the eastern margins of the site there is upwelling of base-rich water and these areas now support carr woodland and calcareous fen vegetation.

The vegetation of old cutover at the site is of ecological interest, particularly along the eastern margin of the bog, where a spring-fed, species-rich fen is found at the base of a limestone ridge. It is thought that this fen vegetation is a remnant of a much more extensive lagg zone, which once flanked the entire eastern side of the bog (Conaghan 1998).

This feature of a base-rich lagg area, in close proximity with the high bog, is unique in the context of Irish raised bogs (Kelly et al. 1995). The vegetation of the eastern lagg has recently been described by Conaghan (2014). The lagg can be divided into two sections: a northern lagg and a southern lagg.



Sharavogue Bog

[About Sharavogue Bog](#)

[Life On Sharavogue Bog](#)

[LIFE Project on Sharavogue Bog](#)

[History](#)

[Visit](#)

[Local And Community](#)

Life Project On Sharavogue Bog

The current conservation objective for Sharavogue Bog is to restore the area of Active Raised Bog to the area present when the Habitats Directive came into force in 1994.

A draft restoration plan is been developed for Sharavogue Bog pending the ecology and hydrology reports currently being compiled. However, it is hoped to increase the area of Active Raised Bog to over 40 hectares. It is estimated that ARB cover on the high bog area currently stands at approximately 25 hectares.

The Living Bog LIFE project team will be carrying out a range of habitat restoration techniques. These will include installing hundreds of new peat and plastic dams to block drainage channels which have been causing the bog to lose water. Disturbed peatland surfaces will be improved to enhance the capacity of both lobes of the bog to restore through greater hydrological connectivity, improving its ecological condition and coherence. By re-wetting the disturbed and ditched habitats, a higher water table will be created, benefitting a range of rare bog species and in time, a more sustainable natural raised bog habitat will be restored to Sharavogue Bog.



A typical high bog drainage channel blocked by peat dams. We will be using man and machine to block drains at Sharavogue Bog SAC

Restoration works by NPWS took place at the site throughout the 1990s including the blocking of high bog drains and the cutover drains in the southeast. An initial failed attempt at drain blocking took place in 1992, but a successful one was undertaken in the 1994-1999 period. Fernandez et al. (2005) already reported considerable increases in Active Raised Bog in the middle section of the high bog as a result of the drain blocking. No further increase in habitat area has been noted in the 2005-2011 reporting period.

The area of ARB was reported as 25.8 ha during the latest monitoring survey (2011) and it was concluded that 14.7 ha of Degraded Raised Bog (DRB) on the high bog can be restored to ARB with the appropriate restoration measures. There is also long-term potential for 0.4 ha of bog peat-forming habitats to develop if restoration measures are undertaken on cutover areas.

The exact restoration prescription for Sharavogue is still being verified, but we estimate that over 7,000m of drains on the high bog and cutover will need blocking with at least 600 peat and plastic dams.



A plastic dam at another site. If sphagnum moss and other vegetation grows on the pool and dam it is a sign that you have built a healthy dam and ARB is developing well.

Sharavogue Bog SAC is a site of considerable conservation significance as raised bogs are a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. It contains good examples, covering significant areas, of the E.U. Habitats Directive Annex I habitats Active Raised Bog, Degraded Raised Bog (which is being restored to the priority Annex I habitat Active Raised Bog) and Depressions on peat substrates (Rhynchosporion). The site already supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including some hummock/hollow complexes, and rewetted cutover bog.

Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of Atlantic raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level. Along the eastern margin of Sharavogue there is upwelling base-rich ground water in the lagg zone which supports cam woodland and calcareous fen vegetation. Areas of wet lagg vegetation such as this are very rare in Western Europe and the lagg system at Sharavogue is one of the best developed in the country. The protected semi-aquatic plant species Slender Cottongrass (*Eriophorum gracile*) is growing in fen vegetation in the lagg zone, while the nationally rare shrub Alder Buckthorn occurs in dry bog woodland on cutaway; the lagg zone is also home to a number of rare animals and invertebrates.



Sharavogue Bog

[About Sharavogue Bog](#)

[Life On Sharavogue Bog](#)

[LIFE Project on Sharavogue Bog](#)

[History](#)

[Visit](#)

[Local And Community](#)

History



The history of Sharavogue Bog is long and varied taking in the Ice Age, peat extraction, famine, rail disasters and much more besides, but it is the 1990's intervention of two local farmers, Mr Liam Egan and Mr Patrick Headon, after drainage channels were sliced across the high bog which has ensured Sharavogue will remain as a living bog for the enjoyment of generations to come. In fact, the most recent episode in its history is probably the most important.

The efforts made by Messrs Egan and Headon in preserving the bog in the 1990's have been internationally recognised, as the following 1998 report from the Irish Times illustrates:

Offaly farmers win award for saving raised bog

A major conservation award has been presented to two farmers from Birt, Co Offaly, for saving a raised bog at Sharavogue at Ballyegan.

Mr Liam Egan and his neighbour, Mr Patrick Headon, were recently given a special award by the Dutch Foundation for Conservation of Irish Bogs, in the Netherlands.

Sharavogue Bog is one of the best remaining examples of raised bog in Ireland as it contains pristine high bog but also preserves important relics of the original bog-land, the transition zone between bog and the surrounding landscape.

Such bog-land zones are extremely rare in the Irish and international context as they were lost in virtually every remaining bog site as a result of marginal drainage and peat cutting.

Because of this Sharavogue is listed as a Scientific Area of Conservation under the EU Habitat's directive.

This week, Mr Egan, who is very active in the Irish Farmers' Association and is chairman of its animal health committee, said he was delighted with the award.

The bog came under threat some years ago when an effort was made to develop it for peat extraction, he explained, adding that he and his neighbour, Mr Headon, a stud farm owner, took out an injunction against the developer to stop the drainage and destruction of the site.

"We began a search and found the original owner of the bog in England, a descendant of the local landowner, and we purchased the bog from him. We were then sued by the developer for loss of earnings and it dragged on for years and cost both of us a lot of money but in the end we won out and the bog has been saved," he said.

They later entered into a management agreement with Duchas, the heritage service, which is currently looking at repairing the bog.

"I just love the bog. I'm delighted that it has been protected and the area around saved from the exploitation of the peat with all the problems that creates," he added.

The International Award for Nature Conservation Merit was given in recognition of an outstanding contribution to peat-land conservation.

The presentation was made at Groenveld Castle in the Netherlands by the chairman of the Foundation, Prof Matthijs Schouten, in the presence of the Irish Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr John Swift, and representatives of Dutch and international nature conservation organisations.

The Dutch Foundation for the Conservation of Irish Bogs was set up in 1983 to give international support to peat-land conservation in Ireland.

ENDS

Source: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/offaly-farmers-win-award-for-saving-raised-bog-1.221252>

1989 – YEAR ZERO FOR SHARAVOGUE

In September 1989, a High Court injunction was served on a fuel merchant to prevent the exploitation of Sharavogue Bog which had been intact up to 1988.

During three days, a long perimeter drain and 21 transverse drains were mechanically inserted into the bog. It was to be the first stage in peat development at the site. However, an injunction was taken by two local farmers, who owned some of the bog and surrounding lands.

Two-thirds of the bog had no title recorded in the Land Registry, and the fuel merchant claimed that the title belonged to him, and other land owners.

The dispute that followed was based on trespass, but it was discovered this could not be sustained - in order to have been successful in preventing any further development on land in which no title is evident, one would need to have an interest in acquiring that land. The neighbouring farmers maintained that drainage to two thirds of the bog would have irreversibly damaged the remaining one third and the callow lands they owned.

But the old law in relation to 'percolating water' was against the conservation case: if you were a landowner, you cannot prevent damage to underground drainage on your land from drainage initiated by a landowner on neighbouring land.

The court case was to have taken place in 1990 but it never came to court. After a long and exhaustive search, the two local farmers and their solicitor managed to discover the original title-holder of the bog. They discovered the land was being held by a person living in England, and so a trip across the Irish Sea was made.

The title-owner was sympathetic to the cause of raised bog conservation, and subsequently agreed to sell the free-hold, jointly to Mr Patrick Headon and Mr Liam Egan.

Restoration and repair work was undertaken and the new owners entered a management agreement with Duchas (now the National Parks and Wildlife Service - NPWS).

Since 1990, any peat development over 50 hectares, such as that attempted at Sharavogue, is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and planning must be obtained. This was a significant step forward for bog conservation in Ireland as mechanical extraction of this magnitude was very different from traditional cutting, like that with a sleán, which made little impact over the centuries.

SHARAVOGUE – THE BOG BY THE RAIL LINE



Last in line... The last train to use the Birt-Roisreia rail line which ran alongside Sharavogue Bog.



For more on 'The Stolen Line' see Seamus J King's piece [HERE](#) and also Joe Coleman's Irish Railway Record Society piece [HERE](#) and a New Zealand academic paper [HERE](#).

[News paper report of Porthanna - Binn-Roscrea Greenway plan](#)

[Railways Archive \(including accident report\)](#)

MONUMENTS AND INTERESTING FEATURES

The nearest recorded monument to the bog is immediately to the east of the rail line at the top, northern end of the bog, where there is evidence of a large circular enclosure in the townland of Kinalacka. According to the National Monuments Service, no surface remains visible, but the levelled monument was situated on a flat pastureland to the east of the bog. It was depicted as a large circular enclosure or platform on first two editions of the OS 6-inch maps. Later it was depicted not as an antiquity, but as a roughly oval-shaped grove of trees on the 1908 ed. OS 2 1/2-inch map.

In the townland of Rathbeg to the east of the bog (instead, the bog is sometimes referred to as Rathbeg Bog) there lies the remains of a ringfort or rath. It is situated on high ground in an upland area. According to the National Monuments Service, the large circular area (diameter 40m) is enclosed by two earth and stone banks with intervening fosse (3m) and impressive causewayed entrance (4m) at the south west. The inner bank (Wth 2m, ext. H 0.7m) is reduced to a scarp in places and has a modern gap (3m) at its north end. There is a large quantity of stone in the better preserved outer bank (Wth 3m; ext. H 0.5m; int. H 0.75m) which may be due to field clearance debris. There is no evidence of an external fosse.



Location of the Ring Fort in Rathbeg

Just above this site is another enclosure in Ballygaddy which is a barely discernible outline of a destroyed enclosure consisting of a circular area (diam 43m) located on flat pasture land. Depicted as large circular enclosure on 1912 edition of the OS 6-inch map.

There are further ring forts in the townlands of Ballygaddy (Clonlick By) over the N62 and Ballincor Demesne, and Boyeen, A Fulacht Fia was located in Clookelly to the north west of the bog, in the 6-inch OS map but has since been levelled and there is no evidence of it.

The above descriptions are derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997).

Holy Wells and St Patrick

The landscape all around Sharavogue Bog and between Binn-Roscrea is dotted with Holy Wells. Many are not recorded on more modern maps, but are visible from the old OSI Maps (available online [HERE](#)) and the HISTORIC VIEWER from the National Monuments Service and Department of Art, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

People used it to get to the Our Lady's Well at Clybaneane/the Grotto at Fanure, the Holy Well near the former Cistercian Abbey Mill and others to get to the Boiling Well, close to Roscrea. The Boiling Well is remembered by local man George Cunningham as a warm, natural spring well which bubbled, hence the name. It is just off the old Binn Railway line about 2 kms from Roscrea and near the Moneen (tributary of the Little Broona).

With thanks to Offaly County Heritage Officer Amanda Pedlow and the Roscrea People we below republish an interesting article from 1975 about a local attempt to revive the Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Well at Clybaneane.

It was said that none other than St Patrick founded the well. On the death of his chaperone Odhran, near Killeigh in Offaly, St Patrick returned to the spot known as Clybaneane (near Fanure) where he interred Odhran's remains. Whilst there, he is said to have dedicated a well to the Blessed Virgin. People from all corners of Ireland would pray at the well for a safe journey, and a nearby oak tree (now gone) was adorned with religious objects. The well became known locally for many years as 'The Well of St Patrick's Coachman', and some referred to it as the Grotto. Pilgrimages died out in the 1950's, until the August 1975 revival, detailed below.

ROSCREA PEOPLE, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1975

Page 9

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY'S WELL



HISTORICALLY was made in Clybaneane, a townland not far from Clonsilla Hill. On August 15th last when the girls of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Ferialium of the Legion of Mary revived the pilgrimage to Our Lady's Well there. This well is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of Ireland and Kathleen O'Meara told us why.

"I saw St. Patrick when he founded Our Lady's Well. It is said that on the death of Odhran, his minister, and although Odhran is said to be buried to the west near Roscrea in Clybaneane and Odhran's remains in that place. While there he dedicated a well to the Blessed Virgin. In reality, the well is quite close to the actual well. Because of this, the well is the 'Grotto' of the Well of St. Patrick's Coachman."

People come from all corners of Ireland to visit the well. Tradition has it that the Coachman who made the well was known as Jack O'Connell, who was a very good and strong person to the Binn-Roscrea.

The old mill race of the town, which is now in ruins, was built by the miller, and it was on the site of the mill that the well was first found. It is the spot where the well was first found.

The well is now in ruins, and it is said that the well was first found by the miller, who was a very good and strong person to the Binn-Roscrea.

of which later people Abbey when after 7 pm. It was led by Margaret Foster, Mary Dwyer, Irene Dwyer, Annie O'Meara, Kathleen Moore, Marie O'Meara, Margaret Dwyer and Kathleen O'Meara, carrying a statue of Our Lady. These different people gave out the story because of the history and legend were told and the procession reached Clonsilla and several houses along the way were being decorated for the occasion. At the Well, where the tree had now been cut and felled and to accommodate well, there were several small tables with some wine being laid out. The girls of the Binn-Roscrea were the first to go to the well, and they were followed by the girls of the Binn-Roscrea. The well was the place of the Binn-Roscrea, and it was there that the well was first found.

After lunch, the girls of the Binn-Roscrea were the first to go to the well, and they were followed by the girls of the Binn-Roscrea. The well was the place of the Binn-Roscrea, and it was there that the well was first found.

A History From
The tradition recorded by the Loughrea people seems to lead to a town in 'Roscrea'. A road seems to have run north to the Binn-Roscrea and to have passed near the Well. There is some story which is recorded in the Binn-Roscrea, and it is said that the well was first found by the miller, who was a very good and strong person to the Binn-Roscrea.

Church and shrine began to be dedicated to her in the well from after that date.
Hawai's People
The story of the well is the same as that of the well in the townland of Clonsilla, and it is said that the well was first found by the miller, who was a very good and strong person to the Binn-Roscrea.