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This list is not complete since some contributions do not carry names of their authors. Some contributions, originally unnamed, however, are named in the above list. Emigrants Write (8-30) is independent of above list.

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Schools which contributed to Young Thoughts are listed on Page 34, Benbradagh 30. The numbers 1-30 identify the issue of Benbradagh in which the writing of the school or college pupils appears – alphabetically listed.

- Margaret Rose Boyle, Maeve Hasson, Jacqueline Lowry, Austin McGill, Fidelma McGurk.
- Jennifer Brolly, Barry Burke, Betty Kealey, Jacinta Loughery, Francis McCartney, Seán McFeely.
- Sheena McCloskey, Austin McGill, Suzanne Mullan.
- Michelle Chivers, Pearse Farren, Kathleen McCartney, Helena O’Kane.
- Francis Burke, Christopher Doran, Karen McCloskey and Clare McElhinney, Martina McFeely, Louise McKeown and Anne McDaid, Josephine McLaughlin, Edward O’Connor, Cathal O’Donnell.
- Eileen Burke, Mary Dillon, Kevin Kealey, Rose Kealey, Dominic McCloskey, Ursula McGilligan, Martina McFeely.
- Caroline Brolly, Martin Carton, Martin Devlin, Terence Ferris, Mary Hegarty, Martin McNicholl.
- Marion McCloskey, Elspeth Scott.
- Anthony, Micheal Friel, Joseph McElhinney, Moira McElhinney, Brona McNicholl.
- Joseph Brolly, Siobhan Irwin, Paul McManus, Tina McReynolds, Carol McTaggart, Ian Mullan, Shaun O’Connor, Michelle O’Neill.
- Sharon Brady, Margaret Mary Carton, Stephen Colgan, Kevin Crampsie, Amanda Harbinson, Siobhan Irwin, Anne Kealey, Jacqueline McCloskey, Gerard McManus, Madonna Murphy, Mary K. O’Kane.
- Eugene Berryman, Gabriel Farren, Siobhan Irwin, Anne McAteer, Nicola McCloskey, Carol McTaggart.
- Tara Cooke, Siobhan Irwin, J.P., Elspeth Scott.
- Brendan Brady, Nollaig Brolly, Ciaran Colgan, Paula McCartney, Rhonda McElhinney, Mary McFeely, Jeanette O’Kane, Mark O’Neill, Cathy Quinn.
- Catherine Canning, James Colgan, Helen Devlin, Nigel Harbinson, Donna Harkin, C. McAteer, Louise McCartney, Nyrree McCloskey, J. McGill, Madonna McIntyre, Brian McManus.
- Caitlin Burke, Aileen Colgan, Gemma Cowley, Lisa Devlin, Sharon Devlin, Cara Dillon, Cathy Farrell, Edith Irwin, Saoirse Kelly, Brian McCaul, Sean McCloskey, Amanda

- McElhinney, Liam McGrellis, Nuala McGrellis, Alex Moore, Geraldine Mullan, Ursula Mullan, Cathy Quinn.
- Brendan Brady, Diane Carmichael, Natalia Carmichael, Emmet Hazlett, Stephanie Hunter, Sarah McFarlane, Dominic McGilligan, Gillian Madden, Charlene Mullan, William Myles, Chris O’Kane, Diarmuid O’Kane, Karen O’Kane, David Poston, Wendy Young.
 - Nollaig Brolly, Natalia Carmichael, Ciaran Colgan, Maeve Colgan, Joanne Craig, Damien McAteer, Shauna McCloskey, Karen O’Kane, David Riley, Joycelyn Ross, Olivia Semple, Wendy Young.
 - Julie Colgan, Christine Devlin, Maeve Devlin, Louise Farren, Sarah Jane Feeney, Aisling Kelly, Shauna McCaul, Serena McCloskey, Carmel McReynolds, Patrick Mulgrew, Ruairi O’Kane, Heather Poston, Cherith Semple.
 - Raymond Burke, Jonathan Carmichael, Martin Coyle, Lorna Devlin, Colin Eaton, Tanya Guy, Joseph Harbinson, Kevin Heavern, Carol Hunter, Andrew Keys, Joanne McCloskey, Jennifer McGilligan, Bronach McKenna, Dermot McReynolds, Adel O’Kane, David Ross, Sabrina Smyth.
 - Avril Baird, Lisa Begley, Matt Colgan, Christine Devlin, Lorna Devlin, Helen Haran, Karen McFarlane, Julie Ann McLaughlin, Rhonda Meenagh, Damien O’Kane, Joe O’Kane, Kenneth Semple.
 - Seamus Begley, Karen Carmichael, David Deane, Helen Devlin, Mark Irwin, Tracey Logan, Mary McLaughlin, Michael McLaughlin, Aisling McVey, Gillian Madden, Yvonne Mullan, Grainne O’Kane.
 - Niamh Beatty, Ciara and Julie, Class P.3 St Canice P.S., Rose Coyle, Shauna Doherty, Kevin Farren, Eugene Gallagher, Kevin Hinchey, Clare Kelly, Ciaran McCloskey, Maeve McCloskey, Rhiannon Millar, Joycelyn Ross.
 - Edel Brady, Samuel Carmichael, Eugene Gallagher, Ashley George, Finvola Harkin, Ailmore Harper, Lorraine McCloskey, Heather Meenagh, Patricia Mulhern, Keith Pollock, Heather Riley, Jenny Semple, Nicola Smyth.
 - Gary Armstrong, James Canning, Liam Conway, Shauna Doherty, Eugene Gallagher, Lisa Heavern, Sean Kealey, Sinéad Kealey and Aine Gillen, Jimmy McCloskey, Graham McFarlane, Louise McNicholl, Patricia Mulhern, Catherine Mullan, Ciara Mullan, Gemma Mullan, Grainne O’Kane, Kieran O’Kane, Andrea Smyth, Andrew Smyth.
 - Joelene Devine, Ryan Grieve, Jimmy McCloskey, Louise Miller, Gareth Murphy, Catherine O’Neill, Barry Quigg, Diane Semple, James Wray.
 - Peter Byrne, Deirdre Conway, Kevin Hinchey, Natasha Kerrigan, Karen McGaughey, Arlene McGurk, Rhonda Meenagh and Colin Eaton, Catherine O’Kane, Paul O’Kane, Sean Toner.
 - Erin Begley, Kevin Boyle, Megan Devlin, Mark Evans, Paul Gillen, Group 11T St Patrick’s High, Trevor Keys, Laura McCloskey, Aisling McKenna, Damien McReynolds, Glen Miller, Annette Mullan, Conor Mullin, Derek Murphy, Ciaran O’Donnell, Grainne O’Kane, Susan Reilly, Victoria Smyth, Sabrina Steele, Joanne Tracey.
 - Altitude Post, Erin Begley, Class 9P St Patrick’s High, Crystal Falconer, C. George, Tanya Hutton, Siobhan Kerlin, Eimear McCartney, Breidge McCloskey, Emma McCloskey, Arlene Millar, Stacey Moore, Natalie Mullan, Derek Murphy, Wesley Semple, Peter Watson.
 - Carol Haslett, Shauna McCloskey.

Our regrets if anyone has been inadvertently omitted.

Do Keep a Record by James J. Metcalfe

Do keep a record in your youth . . . Of worthwhile things you do . . . In later years quite possibly . . . It will inspire you . . . It may not mean so much right now . . . But as the years go by . . . It may grow more important and . . . more pleasing to your eye . . . There may be some successes it . . . Will help you to recall . . . And so encourage you once more . . . To scale a higher wall . . . A scrapbook or a diary . . . Is always good to keep . . . As you might well forget the past . . . In just a moment's sleep . . . So keep some kind of record and . . . Review it now and then . . . Because it could inspire you . . . To victory again.

Corrections and Additions to numbered Benbradaghs

Obvious mistakes, or occasional misplaced lines etc. are not being corrected.

Benbradagh

No. 1 1971 Price not noted - three shillings (3/-) - final year of shillings and pence before metric currency. **P.10** For George Casey read George Carey. **P.15** Child in the photograph is Joanne Holloway. **P.17** 'Erratic' was P.G. White.

No. 2 1972 **P.13** Postmen L. to R: William Kealey, Mark Scott, John Donaghy, James Fallows (postmaster), Hamilton Armstrong, Fred Harper, John H. McElhinney, Joe McLaughlin (Telegram boy), Samuel Somers. Stripes on tunic were for good behaviour - and extra pay. Stripes removed for mis-conduct. *Informants Andy Scott and Willie Morrow.*

P.20 Hurling team L. to R: Top row - John Taggart, Seamus McGonigle, Leo McColgan, John J. McElmoyle, Gerard McGurk, Anthony McCullagh, Eugene O'Kane.

Bottom row - John Crossan, Sean Kelly, Brendan McCloskey, Adrian McCloskey, Malcolm Irwin, Tony Farren, Garleth Archibald, John Heaney. (*Dungiven, Drumsum, Banagher*)

P.21 Races at Cashel Green - author Hugh McElhinney. **P.24** First meeting of Dungiven Credit Union 1967. Seated L. to R: Brian McCloskey (solr.), Aidan F. Hegarty, Fr. George Doherty C.C., Peter McElhinney, Winifred Hegarty, Lawrence Hegarty. Standing: Francis Donaghy, Harry McDermot, Clare Heavern, Mary Rose Quinn, Hugh Irwin, Thos. McBride, James McNicholl. Top: Sean McCloskey, Dermot Beatty, Seamus Robinson (Northern Bank).

No. 3 1973 Contents Page should read - Dungiven Today - John Holloway; News in Gortnaghey - from Diary of Robert Trainor (Drum). **P.7** The Fairs (second column, verse 4). Transfer line 5 to final verse. Rearrange paragraphs. **P.11** Dungiven Motors (earlier McDermotts' garage) was on Station Rd., opposite the Fire Station. Now Supermarket.

No. 4 1974 **P.25** Hurling U-14 L. to R: Top row - Denis Farren, Eugene Farren, Noel Tracey, Derek O'Reilly, Eugene McCullagh, Tony Tracey, Gerard McCloskey, Kieran O'Neill, Michael Heaney, Raymond O'Kane, Pat Heaney. Bottom row - John Devine, Edward Kealey, Fergal O'Donnell, Charley O'Kane, Dermot O'Hara, Eugene O'Kane, Dominic Kealey, Eugene Hasson, William Heavern. **P.26** Joe Chivers - author was Harry Chivers. **P.28** Lizzie - author was Carmel McCloskey.

No. 6 1976 **P.10** Following the murders of Denis Kilmartin and Jack Carolan on 6 May 1922, Master Kilmartin, his wife and son Brian left the school-house and moved to Moville. Until he retired in 1932 Kilmartin travelled to Dungiven on Monday morning and lived in the school-house until Friday, when he returned to Moville. The master, Michael Kilmartin (74), who died in Moville, 9 Aug. 1949, and his wife Anna (a sister of Jack Carolan), who died 14 Jan. 1944, are both buried in the same grave as Denis and Jack. Their names are not on the monument. unveiled on Sunday 16 Dec. 1962.

No. 7 1977 **P.6** Names of Banagher Dam men: A few are identified -

(1) - first in row; (8) eighth etc.

Bottom row L. to R: (1) Tom Gilderson, (8) James Kealey, Owenbeg, (11) Charley McGeehan, Feeny, (25) Willie Stevenson, Feeny, (31) Michael McGill. **2nd row** - (4) Davy Deane, Feeny, (6) Paddy Donaghy, (10) James Mullan - white cap, (26) Charley McCloskey, Crebarkey. **3rd row** - (6) James Lynch, (15) Joseph McBride, with hat, (16) Sam Burke, (17) Johnny McColgan, **4th row** - (14) James McHenry, Feeny, (24) Sam O'Donnell.

Top row - (8) Richard McCloskey.

No. 8 1978 **P.21** Gortnaghey Diary 1908 - Robert Trainor.

No. 12 Irish News, Jan 26th 1983 - In a lengthy review under "Benbradagh - Journal for All Seasons", Fred Heatley writes - "It has always been difficult for me to categorise this journal. Does it belong within the bounds of local history, or is it simply another parochial magazine? As it is published from the parish of Dungiven it appears to have relevance to the latter, yet its contents give it a very high rating among journals of local historical interest. Its standard is much better than many periodicals emanating from historical societies though its primary function - as a parochial record - is never forgotten. The magazine cannot be too highly praised: its committee and its contributors are yearly putting together what will, in time, prove to be the annals of Dungiven. And anyone who has a complete set of **Benbradagh** has a prize not to be lightly discarded." Benbradagh is regularly reviewed in the Press.

No. 13 **P.1** St. Matthew's Church, Drumsum - See Benbradagh 21, P.18 for the original St. Matthew's, (1902) said to have been designed by E.J. Toye of Toye and Ashlin who designed the Cathedral spire, (1903). **P. 18** Under Bibliography. For Dr. Ann Hamilton read Dr. Ann Hamlin. **P.21** School photograph is 1965.

No. 15 **P.12** Oct 1 The "substantial cheque" that T.D. McCloskey left was 10,000 dollars - £8,000 plus at that time.

No. 20 **P.4** Parishioners at Church opening - Entering, Mrs Margaret Carlin (L), Mrs Carmel Carlin. Inside (facing) Martin Carlin.

No. 22 **P.18** The gates led to the main door (with altar directly in view) of the pre-1884 church. Above the door was inscription "In hoc signo vinces" -



In this sign (of the cross), you conquer. There was also a door in each gable (O.S. memoirs, Benbrad. 15 P.21). The later school occupied part of the old Church site (see St. Patrick's Primary, Benbradagh 6). The school residence, which partly replaced the old church site was occupied by Charles Cullen, first school principal. Cullen's son Charles, a Maynooth missionary, was born here, and not in the house incorrectly identified on P.17 Benbradagh 22. Cullen built the P.17 house but had not lived in it when he left for Hilltown in 1898. The gates in the photograph went into the foundations of the later Craig house, with its new entrance, around 1974. The entrance to the old St. Patrick's school was a small gate from the main road. (See Benbradagh 23 P.6 for purchase of the Cullen house and lands for extension of St. Patrick's church grounds).

No. 23 **P.3** Missing rector. Edward Fanning 1751 inadvertently omitted. **P.20** Farewell to a Bishop - second last paragraph. For New Zealand Forum read New Ireland Forum.

No. 24 1994 **P.17** Old Films, Plays etc - Additional Plays, as remembered by Anna Cullen (McElvogue), Margaret Cunningham (Irwin), Mary B. McCloskey (Mullan) from their stage craft days in the 1930's and 40's. George Shiels was popular with Fr. McGoldrick/Jack Simpson as producers. The New Gossoon, The Jailbird, Moody in Manitoba, Professor Tim etc were invariably launched from Alec O'Neill's hall (now St. Canice), before moving to local halls and schools. Professor Tim, with Johnny Kidd as the Professor made it to St. Columb's minor hall, Derry, and on to Bunxanna, and the Ballymoney Festival. Other plays remembered are Love and the Land, The Wicklow Wedding, The Upper Room - a Passion

play with Barney Crossan (filter house) as St. Peter. Also The Mountain Dew, which was Margaret Irwin's stage debut.

Stage characters, apart from those mentioned above, included Cassie McCloskey (Canning), Minnie McKenna, Lily O'Neill, Sarah J. Furey, Mrs Jimmy Fay, Kathleen Hasson, Celine McCloskey and several temporary lady teachers. Men included Joe Beatty, Davy Lowry, Tommy Canning, Jim McCloskey, Willie Truman, James McCloskey (teacher), Brian McCloskey (solt.), Niall Hasson, Harry McDermott, Joe McGee, John Simpson, Gerry McCloskey (McBrien), Bertie Carson, W.J. Kealey, Hugh Irwin, Joe Semple, Paddy Conway, Hugh McElhinney – a lengthy list but worth recording. No doubt some have been inadvertently omitted. Plenty of incidents, hilarious and otherwise, on stage and off stage, from those years, but they come across better in the telling than in the writing. No programmes have survived similar to the cinema programme, April 1947, supplied by John McElhinney.

P.19 Locking Gortnaghey church doors L. to R. Kathleen Colgan, Dominic McGilligan, Mrs Catherine McManus, Bridgeen McCloskey, Mary Quinn (Letterkenny), Frank Burke, Monsignor Duffy, Eiley Doherty (Letterkenny). **Full House** – Eight boys in front row L. to R. Oisín Burke, Cathal McLaughlin, Sean Brolly, Emmet Haslett, Michael Brolly, Rory McCloskey, Seamus Kerlin, Shane Kerlin.

No. 25 **P.16** Turf-cutters L. to R. Patrick Rogers, James Murray, John Convery. **P.17** Foot and Mouth Disease 1941 (Jn. Meenagh). Very relevant, with return of disease in 2000-01.

No. 26 **P.11** Photograph (untitled) relates to St. Camice P.S. (P.16). **P.13** June 30. A photograph is available of the deer in flight in Cashel. **P.P. 24,25** – 130 years in Australia – Edmund Harris corrects some items. *Robert Ferguson Scott, emigrant, was son of John Scott and wife Sarah Ferguson of the Marries Robert had 8 of a family – 5 with Mary Mitchell whom he married at Camnish on 16 Dec. 1861, and 3 from his second wife, after Mary's death. (Information from Riverine Herald, Echuca). Edmund's grandmother was 2nd cousin to John Mitchell's nephew, Sir William Irvine, Premier of Victoria.*

No. 27 **P.21** Tony O'Farrell, Australia and Gregory Farrell, Ballyness (and Reading, England) enquired about the identity of Altawheig House, in which earlier family relatives once lived. This house is Patrick Murphy's Carnabane, close to Altawheig barn (Irish – Alt a' bhig, Glen of the fright).

No. 28 1998 **P.23** Emigrants Write – Kevin J. Hasson, American lawyer, was offered the post of Assistant Attorney – general to John Ashcroft, by President George W. Bush. Kevin, a grandson of Frank Hasson (Hudai), Fincarn, declined the Bush offer since, as President of the Becket Fund, he would have had to abandon his expanding and highly specialised legal practice. In March '99, in a follow-up letter to our Benbradagh 28 article, Kevin told us that "it has been passed around our office and read countless times by our staff". In August 1983 Kevin and his parents Jim and Mary Lou spent a few happy days in Dungiven's Finvola hotel "genuelecting", as they put it, "to the Auld Sod". George W. Bush was elected President over Al Gore (Democrat) in December 2000.



No. 30 2000 **P.2** Cathedral Spire. Only the window trim is Altmore. Hollyhill (quoins) and Stevensons of Knockan are buildings with Altmore stone, in addition to the ones mentioned. (See Benbradagh 2, Page 3 for Willie McSwiney and Altmore). **P.31** Dispersal of Toners – Belief in New Zealand is that Frank went out first – perhaps to the Australian gold-fields – New Zealand later. **P.36** The O'Briens (Book review). Four flute bands are mentioned in 1888 – St. Patrick's Dungiven, Drumurn, Gortnaghey

(O'Connell), Benedy. In Benbradagh No.1 and 24, the Benedy is alive with marching bands – Cluntygeera, Carn, Benedy and Crebarkey. Magheramore had a Hibernian band. Also Muldonagh, Division 378, photographed (first banner), Benbradagh 15. Six bands turned out on St. Patrick's Day 1906 for the opening of the McCartney hall, Gortnaghey. All are now gone without trace. Final Benedy band was that of Cashel A.O.H. Division 291 which celebrated its centenary with a guest tea and dance in the Castle in Nov. 1988 (See Benbradagh 19, P.14). Cashel band ended up as a kilted pipe band, but until 1947 it had been fife and drum like all the rest.

CATHOLIC PRACTICE CHANGES 1970-2000

Readers a few decades down the line will be intrigued with the upheaval (almost) in Catholic practice during the 30-year span of Benbradagh's existence. Take St. Patrick's Church Dungiven as focal point and begin just after Vatican II (1965).

1. Fr. John Irwin's first Mass in Dungiven, 20 June 1966, was in Latin, with readings in English. With his back to the people he read Mass at the tabernacle altar at the back of the sanctuary. From 1st Sunday in Advent, 30 November 1969 Mass was all in English. The priest gradually turned to face the people as soon as the new 'table' altar arrangements were in place – a slow process. Bishop Edward Daly, on appointment in 1974 insisted on the full liturgical change-over. (see small blue centenary booklet 1984).
2. Lay men and women from the congregation followed with readings during the Mass.
3. Dungiven's first parish council – June 1970. Number of electors (over 18) 2,070. Valid poll 1,696 – over 80%. 14 councillor elected. Elections still continue, with a very small poll. Fr. John Quinn P.P. disbanded the council during his term 1977-'84.
4. Fr. Quinn also discarded the 8 a.m. Mass, regularly attended by teachers, shopkeepers et al. (no evening Mass, Sept. 1977). Also Sunday evening Devotions for 3 summer months (1982). And weekday May Devotions (1983).
5. 1979 – Sunday Jan. 28: New rubric of allowing communion in the hand as an option to the previous obligatory reception on the tongue. A very cautious welcome initially.
6. 1983 – Sunday Nov. 20: Bishops' letter read at all Masses detailed important liturgical changes. Sunday evening Masses will be transferred to Saturday, when Mass after 6 p.m. will cover the Sunday obligation. Sunday evening Devotions are to replace Sunday evening Mass. Friday, formerly a day of abstinence from meat, is to return as a day of penance with a personal choice of penance. The bishops make four suggestions, one of which is a return to Friday meat abstinence. Obligatory under pain of grave sin as was the former precept of the Church. On Saturday 26 Nov. there was a packed church at Dungiven for the first 8.15 p.m. Mass. And the letter dealing with the obligatory Friday penance was read a second time.
7. 1983 – Tues. Dec. 20: Following a training course at Termonbacca, 55 parishioners were commissioned by Bishop Daly in Dungiven, to distribute Holy Communion. As Eucharistic lay ministers they would officiate at Mass when required, and also bring Communion to the sick.
8. 1884 – Sept. 30: See Centenary blue booklet and Benbradagh 14 for Church Centenary arrangements.

9. 1990 – Mar. 18: New Church of Immaculate Conception, Gortnaghey, Benbradagh 20.
10. 1994 – Sept: For the first time, a deacon, Joseph Gormley, Omagh was appointed to Dungiven. - until April next.
11. 1995 – Christmas: Midnight Mass was moved to 7.30 p.m.
12. 1999 – Sunday Jan. 10: Dungiven parish altar-girls have appeared – in Gortnaghey. On Saturday June 12 in Dungiven.
13. 1999 – St. Patrick's Day: New Church extension, with Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and Eucharistic Adoration volunteers.
14. Two prominent Church Holydays, Ascension Thursday and Corpus Christi (three weeks later), have been discarded.
15. A really big liturgical revolution was in the Holy Week ceremonies after Vatican II – with large congregations now for Good Friday and the Vigil – with ceremonies moved from early Saturday morning to Saturday night, as in early church.

Other developments were the establishment of first Presidium of the Legion of Mary, June 22, 1978. Also employment of a full-time parish secretary, Geraldine Kerlin, 1989. Sunday Newsletter, Stipend envelopes (weekly), missalettes became established – as did the annual Cemetery Sunday for blessing of graves, which began with Bishop Daly's 3-day stop-over in the parish, Sept. 1982. Bishop Lagan followed in November 1988 with a (travelling) 5-day Pastoral Visitation. Lent and October house Stations survive, but with a noticeable fall-off in host families.

On downside was a fall in religious vocations. None in Dungiven since Sister Miriam McLaughlin 1976, Fr. Eugene Hasson 1980 and Fr. Peter Devlin, Drumsum 1983, all three ceremonies taking place locally in St. Patrick's or St. Matthew's. On Sunday Oct. 19, 1980, St. Patrick's had its first radio broadcast Mass (BBC) with Fr. Eugene Hasson as celebrant. In September 1984 at St. Patrick's Church centenary, 7 priests and 26 nuns from Dungiven parish were alive and well at home and abroad. Their names and addresses are given in the little blue centenary booklet. Since then there have been 8 deaths but no new faces. No ordinations for Derry diocese in 2000 or 2001.

Much of the above is contained piece-meal in Benbradagh Chronicle.

END OF AN ERA FOR DUNGIVEN HIGH

The Principal of Dungiven High School has confirmed that the school will officially close in June 2002. From September 2001 the school will be absorbed into Limavady High School, operating a split school site with year 10 and 12 based at Dungiven. Principal, Miss Margaret McCluskey, said the decision was not a shock as it was an option they had been living with for a long time.

She said that taking into account projected figures the school, which opened in 1961 with 136 pupils, had no realistic prospect of staying open. At present it has just 58 pupils. Miss McCluskey said: "This is a sad day for staff, parents, pupils and myself. The community will miss the valued presence of the school. However with declining numbers on the register the Board of Governors had to make the inevitable decision and brought the situation formally to the attention of the Western Education and Library Board. The Department of Education has given careful consideration to the proposal and has decided that Dungiven High should be absorbed into Limavady High. On a positive note I would like to say how proud we are that we have delivered a quality standard of education and we will do so until 2002."

She reported that in summer 2000 the results of GCSE and other external exams had been the best in the history of the school. She added that a very pleasing focused inspection in January 1998 had given the school recognition from the Department of Education for Northern

Ireland and Training Inspectorate.

Miss McCluskey paid tribute to her professional and dedicated team of teachers and support staff whom it had been a privilege to lead and manage. She said: "There will be continuity and progression at the school so that all the students will continue to receive the quality education that I, as their principal, expect. I will see that their curricular and pastoral needs are met and that staffing levels are appropriate to meet those needs with staff whom they know and value." *From an interview with the Rose Valley Sentinel, 21st March 2001.*

BENBRADAGH FOREWORD

by Brian Trainor

In the first issue of Benbradagh in the summer of 1971 the editor wrote "a magazine can extend our horizons, remove our insularity and spiral far afield. It can bind our community together, cast aside our prejudices and open our minds to new thoughts, new ideas, new aspirations".

Ambitions for magazines can be lofty but realisation low, mainly because of the sheer grinding work involved. Thirty years on, the founders of Benbradagh can look back with pride on the scale and breadth of their achievement. At this moment even the most grudging critic would have to award credits for stamina and fidelity to the former editor Sean Colgan and the general manager Seamus Hasson, supported by their committee.

From the outset the magazine ranged from pre-history, with articles by the Directors of Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland, Dudley Waterman (1973) and Nick Brannon (1985) through to the present. From 1980 onwards the extended family of Dungiven people overseas were embraced in the column "our emigrants write". Since emigrants include "one of the world's leading neuro-surgeons" (Prof. H B Gilbody's citation for Dr Sean Mullan) the editor was able to include an article from Sean entitled simply "Why Chicago?".

For another distinguished native John Mitchel the Young Irelander a special number was issued in 1975 on the centenary of his death. An earlier Presbyterian radical, a member of the MacLurg family of Templemoyle who was forced to flee to America (like thousands of other Ulster refugees) to escape the wrath of government forces in the 1790's, was commemorated in Alistair MacLurg's article "MacLurg's Pratie Digging". Alistair was able to recite a ballad featuring the community closing in to support the family by gathering the potatoes at harvest time.

It is doubtful if any other parish magazine in the country could have had the honour of publishing a poem from the Nobel Prize winner for literature Seamus Heaney. His poem "The Road to Derry" reflecting on Bloody Sunday was published in Benbradagh No.27 in 1997.

Founders of the magazine must have included someone with a hidden talent for marketing. The choice of a one-word title for the magazine was inspired. The name Benbradagh has reverberations. It salutes the sense of place, the sense of belonging that is especially intense in rural Ireland "where every stony acre has a name".

I can assure the editor that the magazine does "spiral far afield". When I was at the National Genealogical Society conference in Nashville, Tennessee in 1996 the Fort Wayne Indiana Public Library had a very large display of their resources and holdings. They are aware that although few family history societies exist in Ireland, local history societies flourish, especially in Ulster, and they collect their publications. They challenged me to name a journal or magazine that they might not have and I confidently declared Benbradagh. They interrogated their database and Benbradagh showed up proudly. It is held in the largest genealogical library in USA east of the Mississippi.

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