



LEAGAUN

BY KAY BRENNAN



LEAGAUN...

Leagaun is in Moycullen.

The name Leagaun means 'large standing stone'

It gets its name from Cloch Mor Liagan, a mythological stone, which is said is where Mannan Maclir was slain by Uilinn. It is also known for being where Uilinn and the other warriors were buried.

The limestone rock fell in the great storm of 1839.

The Old Church and Graveyard...

The church and the cemetery date back to the 14th century. The church was known as Teampall Bhreandain in honour of the Patron of the old Diocese of Annaghdown which incorporated the area in the 14th century. The church is a typical medieval parish church. It is contained in the graveyard. In the church there are tombstones which belong to the local landlord families such as the Ffrench's and the O'Flaherty's.



Handball Alley...

Moycullen has a long tradition in playing handball dating back to before the famine.

The leagaun handball alley was built in 1839. And renovated by the Leagaun/Ballinahalla communities in the 1950s and again in 2009.



Rocks Road or The Mini Burren Trail...

Geology: The geology of this place is the same as the Burren in county Clare. It has similar rocks and flowers and stuff.

Here are a few:

Devils Bit Scabious

Carline Thistle

Juniper Berries

Dingy Skipper

Woodsage

Striking Bug

Oxeye Daisies



The Old Railway...

There are a number of things built concerning the Galway - Clifden Railway Line. Many are still visible in Moycullen.

The railway bridge was once used as a cattle crossing.

The railway station which is now a private residence and part of the railway embankment is still visible in

Kilrainey Woods. The Line from Clifden - Galway operated for 40 years. It went through Moycullen, Oughterard, Maam Cross, Recess and Ballinahinch.

The Line closed in 1935.



The Old GAA Pitch...



Hurlers and footballers made use of these fields to set up 'informal' pitches after farmers had saved the hay and made the pitch available.

The history of GAA in Moycullen goes back to the beginning of the 20th century. It was well organised within the parish by 1914.

Today Moycullen parish club facilities are situated in the townland of Baile Doite.

The O'Flaherty Castle...

The castle's ruins are located in Home Farm. Today all that remains is a fortified courtyard with 2 corner towers and a wall of the hall house in the courtyard.

Rory O'Flaherty was born in 1629, he was the last recognised chief of the O'Flaherty tribe. He became a historian and collected old Irish manuscripts. In 1684 he wrote his description of the West or h-lar Chonnacht. He lost the castle after the Cromwellian confiscations throughout the 1650s. He died in poverty in Spiddle in 1718.

THE END

