

SHRULE

-a profile

2000





Sruthair
SHRULE

SHRULE



A COMMUNITY PROFILE



S M L C

Researched and compiled by the Shrule Community Council.

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Introduction



Shrle Community Council has been in existence for a number of years. Its main objectives are:

- ♦ To protect and enhance the local environment.
- ♦ To develop the national resources of the area.
- ♦ To promote and encourage job creation.

With these objectives in mind the Community Council has compiled a profile of Shrle and its environment. Many rural towns and villages like Shrle perform an important economic and social function. While yielding much of their autonomy as service centres to the larger urban centres, they still retain an important local function. Whereas in the past, economic necessity was the chief factor in exodus from rural areas, economic prosperity and technological changes now allow people to choose where they want to live. Shrle is ideally located to benefit from this trend.

In the present period of rapid economic development it is imperative that all the agencies, with a role to play in development, contribute to improving the infrastructure in the area. The priorities would be:

- ♦ Water, Sewerage and Roads.

This Profile outlines places of interest; a brief history of the area; useful services; clubs and organisations, national resources and heritage of the locality. The farming survey indicates that while Agriculture will always be of prime importance, it can no longer be relied upon as the sole income generator. We would hope that any development would not infringe on the peace and tranquility of the community and that our environment and heritage will be preserved.

To attain our objectives, it is necessary that we have a supportive and cooperative community. These traits have been evident in Shrle in the past and we hope they continue to be so. Let us work together so that Shrle remains a pleasant place for our children to grow up in and for us all to grow old in.

“STEP TOGETHER”
“BÍ-LINN”

Chapter 1:



Description of the Geography and History of Shrule

Shrule is a small country village situated on the Galway - Mayo border; on the N84, approximately twenty miles north of Galway City and twenty eight miles south of Castlebar. Ballinrobe lies ten miles to the north, Tuam fourteen miles to the east, Headford three miles to the south, and Cong eight miles to the west.

Shrulle lies in a fertile low-lying limestone area in South Mayo and North Galway. The river, known as

“The Black River” runs at the south side of the village, separating Mayo and Galway, and is spanned by a stone bridge.

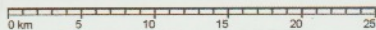
Tradition has it that the village derived its name from “Sruth-fuil” or “the stream of blood” as a result of a massacre at the Shrulle Bridge in 1641. This is totally incorrect as the name found in 13th Century documents is given as Strothyr. In succeeding centuries it is presented as Shrurre, Shrower, Shruair, etc; but the ‘L’ was not introduced to the name until the 17th Century.



View of Shrulle Village

Chapter 1:

Map of Shrule



Chapter 2:



Summary of the History of Shrule



Shrulle has had a stormy past. Its situation on the Black River separating Mayo and Galway accounts for the fact that Mayo was the last county to yield to the Norman invaders. Shrulle Castle was built circa 1238 by Richard de Burgo; the Normans having broken the treaty of Windsor ratified between Rory O'Connor and King Henry II in 1175 whereby Rory (the then High King) was to be left sov-

ereignty of Connacht unmolested by Anglo Norman Lords. The Norman Lord's broke the treaty two years later and gradually gained a stronghold in Connacht, and built castles for their own protection. The castles at Shrulle, Kinlough, Houndswood, Ballycurrin, Ballisnahyna and Mochorra were built at this time and occupied by varying factions of the De Burgo clans, or their Gallowglasses.

Shrulle the name: 1570 Sruthair variation of Sruth, Sruthan - a stream or river also found on documents Strothyr, Shruve, Shrower, Sruhir and Shruel.

200 - The Connachta settle in the area, people of Conn, the clans of the Conmaicne Mara, took Connemara, Comaicne Dunamoir - Dunmore area, and Comaicne of Cuil Toladh, the Kilmaine /Shrulle area.

350 - The Uí Briun move into Magh Seola, (south of Shrulle), took the surname of O'Flaherty, and eventually overtook the territory of Cuil Toladh.

400's - St. Patrick visited the O'Flaherty's in Caherlistrane. He put Bishop Felartus in Donaghpatrick and made Shrulle part of that diocese. Two sisters of Felartus settle as nuns in Morgagagh parish.

500 - The Abbey of Cloghvanaha (in Shrulle, behind Jack Gibbon's pub) is said to have been built where the saint visited after crossing the river. Monastery of Moyne built in same period in the parish.

550 - Bishop of Donoghpatrick moves to Annaghdown.

766 - 1st Battle of Shrulle between the O' Flaherty's and the Conmaicne.

1050 - O'Connor's move to Tuam.

1100 - O'Connor's chase the O'Flaherty's out of the area.

1100-1160 - The area is ravaged many times by warring clans.

1170-1230 - Building of Teampall Cholmain by the O'Connors.

1236 - Invasion by Normans.

1238 - Building of Shrulle Castle and Bridge commenced.

1306 - Taxation shows that the Abbey and the church of Shrulle are separate buildings. Kinlough now took over from Moyne as the parish church.

1333 - The Connacht Burkes break away from their Ulster relatives. The south Mayo Burkes, (mainly Shrulle Parish and surrounding area), form a clan under Celtic rule. Most castles in the area are built at this time, such as Kinlough, Ballisnaheyney, Ballycurrin, Moyne, Gighonstown, Kilmaine, Lough Mask Castle, Cong, Mochora - or were strengthened, all belonging to the same clan.

June 1570 - Battle of Shrulle - Lord Filton against the Burkes. The Burkes won the battle, but lost over 300 men, including some leading clan members.

Feb. 1571 - The Burkes engage Scots to reinforce their positions.



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Sept. 1571 - The son of the leading Burke attacked Galway, failed and lost five or six score of men in the process.

1571 - Lord Filton came back with a vengeance and destroyed 19 "towns" and castles in the area, including crops. The end of the Burkes came soon after.

1641 - Massacre of Shrule.

About 100 Protestant refugees from North Mayo were being escorted to Galway for safety. They were set upon by their escort at Shrule Bridge and slowly massacred until help arrived from Headford and Caherlistrane.

1700 - Last wolf in the area killed in Joyce Mountain.

1655 - Land around the parish is given to Cromwellian soldiers. They sold it back to the Twelve Tribes of Galway (merchants). They bought land in the following areas; Kirwin - Dalgan, Shrule; Blake - Moyne; French - Toorard; Joyce - Kinlough; D'arcy - Ballybocagh, Gurteen, and Houndswood. Lynch of Shrule Grove was removed to Ballycurran and replaced by Ormsby, the only Protestant then in the area. All paid rent to Lord Clanricarde, a Protestant descendant of the Galway Burke. He was the first Irish Lord to turn Protestant and take the Oath of Allegiance.

1750 - Penal Times.

Moynes, Kinlough, Moorgagagh have all ceased to exist as parishes.

Teampall Cholmain was abandoned, and a chapel was erected in Brodullagh South.

1753 - Troops came from Galway to destroy Ross Abbey. The locals gave shelter to the Friars and disguised the abbey as a woollen factory (white washed Frescos, installed spinning wheel and looms). The Friars move to an island on the river, a mile downstream from the Abbey.

1789 - The Friars move to Kilroe under the protection of the Lynches.

Also around that time, the Golding's move to Shrule.

1799 - Trial of United Irishmen in Galway.

Pat Tedders, Shrule, hanged 13/3/1799.

James Bohan, Shrule, deported for life.

Edmund Naughton, Shrule, fined.

Owen Conmy, Shrule, fined.

Patrick Connell, Shrule, fined.

Thomas Burke, Shrule, acquitted.

James Keane, Boula, hanged 3/5/1799.

Simon Mannion, Boula, hanged 3/5/1799.

1830 - Construction of the new church in Shrule. The people were using Teampall Cholmain again, but the thatched roof burnt down that year. The new church was originally intended for Protestants, but there were not enough of them in the Shrule area.

1831 - Creation of the Diocese of Galway, Shrule is attached to it.

1840 - Franciscan friars leave Kilroe.

1849 - Lynch built the first national school in Kilroe.

A Famine Year - The first drainage of the river, its course was changed to its present position, and a drop in the level of the water caused the mill (only ten years old) to be out of action. There were no evictions in Shrule, and the landlord took in tenants evicted from neighbouring parishes.



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Places of Interest

Shrle Millennium Labyrinth

Labyrinths are found in many sizes and shapes. Some are created in sand, flour, painted on canvas, cut into turf, formed by mounds of earth or many other natural materials and some are permanent structures, like the labyrinth of Shrle, which is built from stone. The design is medieval; it is the classical 11-circuit labyrinth.

Over a period of five months in 1999 the project was completed, made possible by the many people of the area using their individual talents. Each stone of the labyrinth was cut to fit the distinctive design.

The outer circle has a diameter of 13m. (42ft). The path is of Lacken sandstone, quarried beside the sea in North Mayo. The other stone used in the labyrinth is limestone, the stone native to this area. The sandstone path is 40 cm (16ins) wide; the limestone barrier is 5 cm (2ins). You walk the sandstone path and you do not cross the limestone sections. The walking path is 275 metres (300yd's), so to walk the labyrinth in and out is 550 metres (one third of a mile). You enter the labyrinth from the west side, marked by black Kilkenny limestone from the old Dalgan House.



Black River

The centre is a single stone, a sandstone of diameter 1.5m (5ft). Six petals, traditionally said to symbolise mineral, vegetable, animal, human, angelic and divine, the six stages of planetary evolution, surround it. The central design is a circle of diameter of 9ft. After the twists and turns of the walk, the centre should be a place of space and peace where one pauses for some moments before one meanders back and forth again on the return journey.

Lunations are the outer ring of triangles that complete the outside circle of the labyrinth. There are a total of 113 triangles - one absent in the design at the entrance - these mark 28 points per quadrant on the outer ring. Some believe the labyrinth served as a calendar and this offered a method of keeping track of the lunar months of 28 days.

The Mill

The Golding family moved to Shrle in about 1789. They were traders, and they built a malt house, brewery, and a cornmill. The local corn was ground into flour and meal in Shrle. In 1849, the river was drained for the first time and its course was changed to its present position.

The subsequent drop in the level of the water caused the mill to be closed down. The ruins of the great cornmill of the Goldings still remain on the south bank of the Black River, near Shrle Bridge.

St. Joseph's Church

The original church, the second oldest in the diocese was erected on land donated by the Kirwin family of Dalgan Park, Shrle, around 1832. They also contributed £1,300 towards the work. Major reconstruction work was done in 1876. The church was dedicated to

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Shrule Mill

the Blessed Virgin in the Year 1876. The marble alt-piece was presented by T. Martyn Esq., to Shrule. . In 1938-39, a new 65 feet high tower was added when Fr. Feeney was P.P. The church was re-dedicated as St. Joseph" by Dr. Browne, Bishop of Galway in 1939. The sanctuary was changed after the Second Vatican Council. This work was carried out under the direction

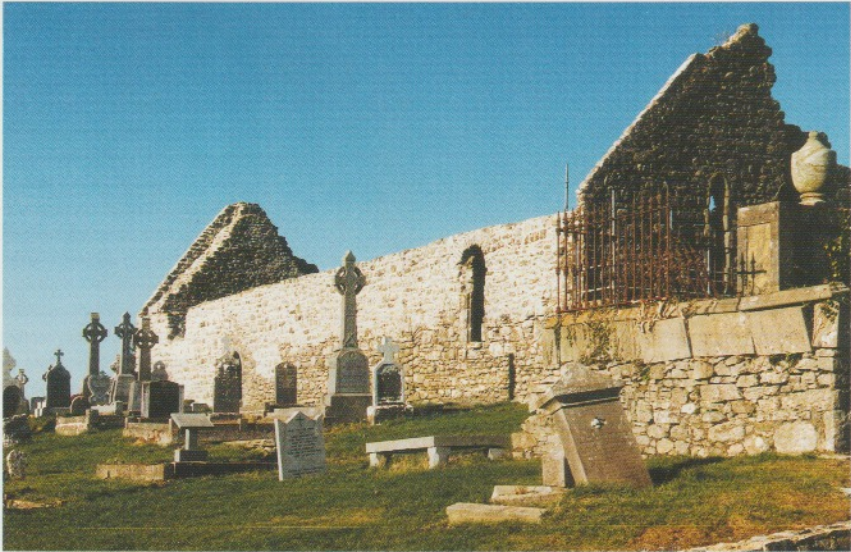
of Fr. Kyne P.P. in 1966. Fr. Rooney P.P. undertook the carpeting of the church and sanctuary in 1989.

Tradition tells us it was originally built as a Protestant chapel, but it was not used due to a lack of parishioners, and was given to the Roman Catholics when the thatched roof of Teampall Cholmain was burned down. Incidentally, this seems to indicate that Teampall Cholmain was repaired and used once more when the persecution of Catholics relaxed, the chapel at Brodella being abandoned.

The main door of the new church was on the Kilmaine side of the building and has since been blocked up, but a decoration, consisting of three balls placed in a triangle above the door, can still be seen. As this decoration is a free mason sign and cannot normally be found on a Catholic Church, it seems to indicate the truthfulness of the above-mentioned tradition.

St. Colman's Church

The great parish church of Shrule, known as Teampall Cholmain, is attributed to the descendants of the great Turlough O'Connor, among others in the area, all of which are built in the Gothic style and are ninety



St. Colmans

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long. Its immense size emphasises the importance it held among the great parish churches of the period. It was built between 1170 and 1230, and on the very same site as that of an earlier one, and on the very ground where it is said St. Patrick planted his crozier

Shrle Castle

Richard de Burgo, who had been granted the kingdom of Connaught by Henry II, built Shrle Castle around 1238. Its function was to safeguard these newly gained lands of de Burgo. It is a rectangular tower sixty feet by forty feet on the outside and fifty feet by thirty feet on the inside. The main door was situated on the south, or river, side and this was reached by a rectangular staircase. The castle was captured in 1570 by the President of Connaught and Richard, the Earl of Clanrickarde, after which it was under his ownership. Richard bestowed the castle to William Burke and in the year 1610, after his death, the castle was handed back to Richard. He then leased the castle to Pierce Lynch of Galway. At the end of the 18th Century, and probably until famine times, a number of small cabins were situated in the Castle Field.

Shrle House

Situated beside Shrle Castle was constructed in 1769 by James and John Golden as the castle had declined and was no longer in use. The front of the house was added in 1812 by Richard Golding, and around 1840 the east wing was added. It was occupied by the Goldings until the beginning of this century. They established a distillery - the ruins of which still exist at the rear of the house. The distillery was not destined for a long life as the area was visited by the great Temperance Priest- Fr. Matthew. The ruins of the great corn mills of the Goldings which closed in 1803 still remain on the south bank of the river. In 1857 the Goldings had established a brewery after the closure of the distillery.



De Burgo Castle Shrle

Dalgan Park and House

Dalgan Park House was built in 1820. It was owned in turn by the Catholic Kirwans and later by the Lord's de Clifford. In 1918 a group of Maynooth priests decided to form a missionary society called St. Columban's Missionary Society. The society took over Dalgan Park House and it was renamed Dalgan Park College. Between 1919 and 1940, there were 267 students ordained at the college. The number of students increased forcing the college to move to larger premises in Navan which was named the 'New Dalgan Park' in 1941. In 1941 the old Dalgan College was sold to the Mc Donaghs- Timber Merchants in Galway. They cut down all the trees, dismantled the house, taking away the doors, windows, floor and roof. Until recently there was nothing left to remind anyone that a house once stood on that site. However in the 1970s a stone plaque was erected on the site by the Columban Priests.

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Ballinahyny Castle

This castle was built within a cashel, Lios na hEighnighe, from which it takes its name. This ancient fort formed the bawn or protective barrier for the castle. It is first mentioned in the Division of Connaught in 1574 as a Burke Castle. The second story was vaulted and the attic room or roof was probably immediately above it. The ground floor had very small, narrow slit windows, and the upper room had large, rectangular windows. Much of the southeast side is now gone, and near the north angle, on the northwest side, is a narrow window and also a narrow doorway at the level of the floor. Below this door, on the outside, are holes for corbels to support a flagstone. Above it are two holes, suggesting supports for a door hung above.

Moycharra Castle

This was also a de Burgo castle and given to the MacDonnells for war services. This castle was in the territory anciently called "Eraght Thomas" which consisted of eight towns divided among eight brothers. The Earl of Clanricarde purchased Moycharra Castle from the MacDonnells. The Earl then let all the lands again to the de Burgos, snuffed out by the confiscations, when Clanricarde and others shut out all the old owners by taking the lands directly from the crown.

Killeenbrenan or Murgagagh Abbey

Killeenbrenan or Murgagagh Abbey presents the future of a medieval monastic church. Constructed on the site of an earlier Irish Church. In the fragment of the east wall is a small piece of very fine walling of picked-dressed stones with very fine joints, which seems to be a fragment of the east

end of a very much older church. Unfortunately the upper part of the east wall is gone. The character of the rest of the building agrees with the date of foundation, 1428, given in Archdall's Monasticon. The south wall began to fall out and was reinforced by a thickening outside, which went so high as to block a considerable amount of the square windows high up in the wall. A huge buttress supports this wall at the eastern end.

Murgagach is Irish for cracked, having a crack or chink and is a descriptive name. But it might have been applied to the far older church close by, called the Killeen, as in that case the chancel was built simply against the east wall of an older church. It is impossible to fix its date, but the dimensions, 61' x 19', mark it as of comparatively late reconstruction. It suggests that this Killeenbrenan is the old parish church, and that the abbey was formed on another disused ancient church. The Killeen is in Moorgagagh Townland, the abbey in that of Kill. The Killeen was once a very important establishment; the land north, west, and south of it is covered with foundations of walls and buildings, marking an earlier settlement.

This was possibly the first regular convent of the Third Order to be established in Ireland. It was founded sometime before 1428, when the people granted indulgences to penitents who visited and gave alms for the repair and conservation of the Church and House of St. Mary the Virgin, Kullynbonyann, of the brethren of the Third Order, which was threatened with ruin because of wars. It was doubtless one of the Irish houses of the order existing in 1426. According to the Irish Manuscript Commission, this house, known as Cillinn Brennainn, was near Sruthair,



Plaque commemorating site of Dalgan Park House.

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Killeenbrennan Abbey

Co. Mayo. It has been suggested that a de Burgo was its founder and it was one of the most important houses of the Order.

Kinlough Castle and Church

The church dates to the 13th Century, and incorporates a square belfry at the western end. The remains of three lancet windows can be seen in the east wall. The Burkes built the castle in the 16th Century. In 1574 it was in the possession of MacWilliam Eighter. It was later granted to Fitzwilliam Bourke. He died on April 19th, 1619, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Walter Bourke. Walter mortgaged the lands to Sir Valentine Blake in 1629. In 1668, Sir Thomas Blake leased the castle to John Darcy.

Raths and Ringforts

A rath had a bank of earth built around it. Outside the bank there was a ditch, and on top of a bank there was a wooden fence. These made the rath easier to defend. Archaeologists have found round and rectangular houses inside the raths. The walls were made of

wood, wattle and mud, and the roofs were thatched. It was mainly Celtic farmers who lived there. There are examples of ringforts throughout the Shrule area.

Turin Ringfort

The site of the ringfort stands out in appearance as a circular cluster of trees. This very impressive ringfort, measuring over 100m in diameter, must have been one of the more important ringforts in the area. The remains of a cashel wall surround the interior. Outside of this stand two further banks, the outside bank having the unusual feature of a line of standing stones running all the way around the bank. About 1 kilometre further down on the left is Ballyhenry souterrain, sited in a ringfort. A souterrain was an artificially built cave, and was used for food storage. While this example is partly destroyed, one still gets a good idea of what this antiquity once looked like.

Holy Wells

There are two holy wells in the area; one in the west side of the townland of Ramolin, called Tobar Chiaran,

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and the other in the demesne of Dalgan, called the well of Lough Ree but the name of the saint who originally blessed it is forgotten. On Pilgrim Sunday 21st May 2000 a Mass was celebrated at St. Ciaran well by Fr. Michael Crosby P. P. Shrule. The well is called after St. Ciaran who travelled the area in the sixth century. Tradition has it that the spring water from the well is considered a cure for sick animals, and its fresh cold water very good for butter making. It is also believed that a Mass Rock is situated at the well, and Mass was celebrated there in Penal times.

Crannógs

Sometimes the Celts built their houses in the middle of a lake, this gave them extra protection from their enemies. Crannógs were mostly built in the north and northwest of Ireland, where there are many lakes. The making of a crannóg was not an easy business. First a mould of stones had to be laid on the bottom of the lake to serve as a foundation, then wooden posts were driven in amongst the stones with branches and logs fastened to them. Clay and stones were piled on them to build the island up above the level of the lake. Finally,

logs and earth were placed on top to form the ground level of the lake. A fence was placed all around the artificial island and houses were built there. There is a crannóg built on Lough Lee in Shrule.

Shrule Turlough

Shrule Turlough is orientated east- west in an extensive natural basin surrounded by gently undulating farmland, with slightly higher scrub- covered land to the north. Around the edge of the Turlough there are scattered boulders and some limestone outcrops. It is a large, highly oligotrophic turlough, with thick marl and peat deposits. There is no above- ground outflow from the turlough. Drainage attempts have been made by enlarging the swallow holes but the turlough still floods regularly and it seems to show little modification due to the drainage efforts. Peat cutting no longer occurs but cattle still graze on reclaimed peat margins and around the swallow holes.

It has a high level of physical and vegetational diversity, and supports the second largest number of plant communities of any turlough (18 in all). Fen vegetation is especially well- developed, with the largest



Kinlough Castle and Church

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extent of Great Fen- sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) fen and Black Bog- rush (*schoenus nigricans*) fen communities found in any turlough occurring. The site also supports important stands of Tall Sedge and Yellow- sedge communities. The site supports a range of plants that are quite rare in turloughs, among them Whorled Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*), Least Bur- reed (*Sparaganium minium*), Greater Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*) and Creeping Yellow- Cress (*rorippa sylvestris*).

Shrle turlough has a small catchment area and seems to be little modified by human behaviour. The oligotrophic and peaty nature of the site makes it unusual in general range of turloughs and gives it a very significant ecological value. In addition, the site is large and seemingly largely uninfluenced by the surrounding land uses. Its high vegetation diversity and the presence of a number of species generally rare in turloughs is of further interest.

The Parish of Shrle From Deanery to Parish:

The ancient village of Shrle had important early connections. Tradition has it that St. Patrick on his westward journey crossed the Black River here by its well-known ford. Near it was built a large early church dedicated to St. Colman. In some records Killeen-Colman. Other ancient churches were erected at Kinlough and Killeenbrenan. There were two abbeys, at Moynes and Moorgagagh. In Pre- Norman times Shrle gave its title to a deanery generally a large ecclesiastical division comprising several churches and parishes. Shrle deanery is described in the Edwardine (royal) Taxation of 1306, as being coextensive with the ancient diocese of Cong (supposed as a separate diocese in the twelfth century), and as counting within its areas no less than nineteen churches. The churches listed show that the deanery covered several modern parishes and even extended into County Galway.

The story of Shrle lost in ancient extensive territory and contracted to the dimensions of a parish, more or less in its modern form, is complex tale. It revolves around efforts to settle the number and boundaries of Irish dioceses. Shrle had been part of Cong diocese. On the suppression of that jurisdiction, Annaghdown, struggling to maintain its separate existence, estab-

lished its rule in a large area around Galway City and reached northwards to claim parishes to the former Cong diocese, including Shrle. Indeed Annaghdown itself was supposed to have been suppressed (with Cong), at the Synod of Kells but lacking a decisive intervention by Rome, it seems to have clung to a precarious existence until 1251 when Archbishop of Tuam availed of a temporary vacancy in the See to unite it with his own Archdiocese. With this change, Shrle came under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Tuam. The matter, however, was not yet finally settled. The rule of Tuam was particularly resented by the Anglo-Norman element, the famous "Tribes" of Galway, through representations in Rome, where they appear to have enjoyed some favour at the papal court, they succeeded in having Annaghdown separated from Tuam and restored to separate existence. The reprieve was short-lived, however, and lasted only twenty-five years at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

From Tuam to the Wardenship of Galway:

Before recalling the circumstances in which the annexation was reversed, it may be interesting to refer to some evidence of the state of Shrle at this time. For some time previously, indeed from the time of the Crusades, a form of church taxation had been in existence. It was originally introduced to finance the Crusades and took the form of tithes, or one-tenth of all chattels and incomes of the faithful. Later they were levied only on the clergy and were imposed either directly by the Pope or, with his consent, by the King. So it was that in 1306 King Edward I obtained a temporary grant from Pope Clement V to collect and retain these tithes in his kingdom. To assess the tithes, the King now made a valuation of all churches. This is known to historians as the Edwardine Taxation or the Clementine Taxation. From this enquiry we get a list of the nineteen churches (not parishes), found within the earlier deanery area showing that it was coextensive with the former diocese of Cong. The actual tax was based on the amount of property owned by each church. The list begins with Shrle (Shruthair) valued at £2, Kinlough at 13s 4d, Moynes at £1.

The proud merchants of Galway, the "Tribes", deeply resented the new direct rule from Tuam. Their

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repeated appeal to be released from this rule was eventually granted by Archbishop Donatus O'Murray. Pope Innocent VIII who set up the special arrangement known as the Wardenship of Galway, in 1484 approved his action. By this the Church of St. Nicholas became a Collegiate Church, governed by one Warden and eight vicars. The Warden was to be chosen and instated annually by the vicars and he enjoyed most of the Episcopal powers of jurisdiction, except for those required for the administration of confirmation and holy orders. This arrangement lasted for more than three hundred years. In the 18th century, however some difficulties arose. There were disputes among the electors, and the Wardenship had conflicts with the Metropolitan over the latter's exercise of his residual powers. So early in the 19th Century the Irish Bishops tended to think that the time had come to end the anomalous position in Galway and to restore it to a normal Episcopal jurisdiction. In 1830 Rome sent two northern Bishops to investigate the position in Galway and to make recommendations. The visiting Bishops persuaded the tribesmen to abandon their unique privilege of electing their Warden and to accept the more normal Episcopal jurisdiction of an independent diocese. The reigning Warden, Dr. French, was also induced to resign his office. Acting on the strong recommendation of the Bishops, Pope Gregory VI in 1831, created the new Diocese of Galway.

Shrulle, it has been noted, had been included in the territory of Tuam when that Archdiocese annexed the see of Annaghdown. But as part of an apparent policy of enlarging the extent of the new Wardenship, in 1501 Archbishop Joyce united Shrulle and Kinlough to Galway. There it has remained and after 1831 became the most northerly parish in the newly constituted dio-



St. Josephs Church

cese.

The Modern Parish:

On September 5th, 1832, Shrulle had the privilege of welcoming the newly appointed first Bishop of Galway, Dr. George P. Browne, who came to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to three hundred children. Reports in local newspapers commented on the fine parish chapel, in which the confirmations took place, indicating that it had been built with the help of Patrick Kirwin of Dalgan and of his wife, Dorothea Mary (formerly Fitzgerald of Turlough Park). At present we have no further details of its construction, nor do we have sufficient information to give a coherent account of events in our parish in the darkest days of the Penal Laws. It seems that if attempts were made - and certainly there had been some - to enforce the vast array of such laws in our areas, they cannot have been very successful. Unlike some neighbouring parishes, where Protestant villages were planted, there was no evidence of many adherents in the parish of the

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Parish Clergy:

It is not possible to compile lists of the clergy who served in our area in early Christian times, before the organisation of parishes, on the modern model. The growth of monasticism meant that regular clergy certainly offered pastoral care to people around their foundations, without necessarily holding what we call benefices. Shrule certainly has claims to be considered of Patrician origin and an adjacent hill was called "St. Patrick's Hill" in the record known as "The Rentals of Cong", compiled in 1501. The same document mentions "The Cannons of Rathmoling in the town of Sruthir.Ö." (i.e. Ramolin). There is further mention of a "Temple Colman" in the town and of a "Kileen-Colman" on the opposite side of the river. Clearly St. Colman was regarded as the Titular or Patron of Shrule in those days. The present parish is an amalgam of three former parishes: Shrule, Kinlough and Killeenbrenan, each with its own church, as mention in the Edwardine Taxation. Of the churches, Shrule seems to have been the largest, measuring 91 ft, 10 in. by 24 ft 4 in. Moyne would have been very impressive, having around it a substantial cashel with walls eight feet thick, and with a diameter varying from 330 ft to 380 ft.

The disruption of normal church organisation caused by the Penal Laws and the hunting down of priests meant that no records exist telling us who ministered here in the 17th and 18th centuries. We know that the Franciscans ministered to people in western parts either from Ross Errily when they could reside there or later from their hiding place in "Brothers Island". When they moved to their friary in Kilroe and built their chapel there, they were able to offer the local people a more substantial pastoral service. Indeed until their eventual withdrawal they were effectively acting as curates in a second church, at a time when the parish priests were mostly alone.

Parish Priests of Shrule 1800-2000

Fr John Lowther: 1832 - 1847. (This was one of the first of three sets of brothers serving as parish priests in Shrule). He was here to welcome the new Bishop on his visit in 1832.

Fr. Michael Phew: 1847 - 1866. A native of Rostaff, he was one of three brothers who were priests in the diocese.

Fr. John Geraghty: 1866 - 1867

Fr. John Goode: 1867 - 1885 Another of a set of two brothers who served in Shrule. As the old Franciscan church in Kilroe was now in a state of disrepair, thirty five years after the departure of the friars, it was decided to replace it with a new church in a new location. It was accepted that the Kilroe site was not central for the western half of the parish. The local landlord, Colonel George Ousley Higgins, living in "Glencorrib Lodge" near the present entrance to Woodpark, donated the new site in Glencorrib. The church was built in 1875 and was dedicated to Our Blessed Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Father Goode also reconstructed and refurbished the Shrule church, some fifty years after its original construction. His great work endeared him to the people who, in gratitude, erected on the sanctuary wall a marble plaque in his memory. As the plaque states he died on March 3rd, 1885, at the early age of fifty-four.

Fr. Daniel Goode: 1885-1891. A brother of Fr. John, his six-year tenure was relatively uneventful, which probably suited his quiet gentle disposition.

Fr. John Conroy: 1891-1917. He built Shrule Parochial House in its original one-story form.

Fr. Patrick Lydon: 1917-1931

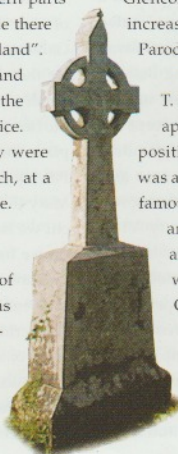
Fr Henry Feeney: 1931-1945. An active administrator, he extended and enlarged both churches. Glencorrib was extended in 1944, considerably increasing its capacity. He also enlarged Shrule Parochial house.

Fr. Thomas Kyne: 1945-1981. In May 1954 Fr. T. Kyne, a native of Caherlistrane parish, was appointed Parish Priest and remained in that position until he retired on June 30th 1981. He was a dedicated and caring pastor and he became famous for his work in maintaining the schools and Churches in the Parish. It took quite amount of money to do this maintenance work so he organised Football Tournaments, Concerts and local Carnivals to defray costs.

Fr. Colman O'Halloran: 1981-1988. During his tenure the Shrule Community Hall was built.

Fr. William Rooney: 1988-1998

Fr. Michael Crosby: 1998-



Chapter 4:



Enterprise

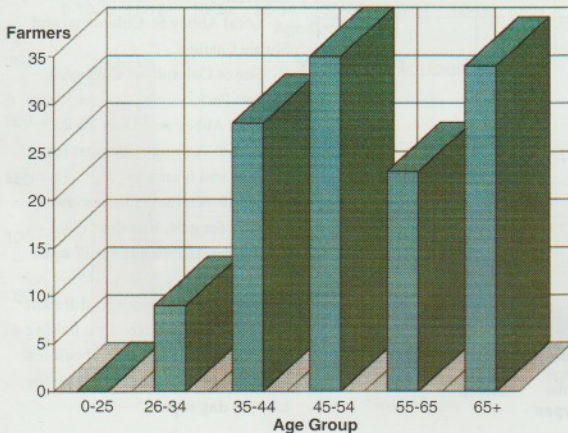
It could be said of Shrule that it has an infrastructure suitable for both business and enterprise. In Shrule and in its catchment area, there are 328 households, and among its facilities are a Garda Station, Post Office, four pubs, four shops, a newsagents, a butcher shop, a hair saloon, a pharmacy, a video shop, a garage, a church, and a school. These enterprises contribute substantially to local employment.

In addition, many people are employed in industry, agriculture and tourism and fishing.

Agriculture:

Shrule is situated in a farming community and comprises of good farm land. The average farm size is approximately forty acres and is mainly dry stock cattle and sheep. Today, farm families are supported by off-farm income, whereas in the past, these farms completely supported each family. The following graphs (derived from local knowledge), show the position of farming in the area, size of farms and age group of farmers.

Age Group of Farmers



Industry:

Dalغان Wood Industries Ltd. manufacture timber and PVC windows, doors, stairs, etc.

Dalغان Mushrooms Ltd. has been in operation for a number of years and provides part-time employment for about fifteen people.

Gleasons Shrule Ltd. manufactures coffins for both local and national distribution.

All these businesses are privately owned and run, and provide full time employment for approximately sixty people and part time employment for a further twenty.

Fishing:

There are two main types of fishing practiced locally 'game angling' and 'coarse angling'. Shrule is very fortunate to be situated in an area that is rich in both types of angling. The following are just some of the waterways rich in fish within a twenty minute radius of Shrule.

The Black River runs through Shrule and divides counties Mayo and Galway. This river provides good bank fishing for mainly Brown Trout, however Salmon, Pike, Perch, and Eels are often caught. The Black River rises near Kilconly and flows into Lough Corrib at Ballycurran. The Black River and its tributaries, with their ideal habitat, provide lots of fish for Lough Corrib itself.

Lough Corrib is only six miles from Shrule and enjoys world famous angling for both wild brown trout and salmon. The fishing season for Trout and Salmon is March 1st to September 30th; a licence is required for salmon

Chapter 4:

fishing only. Boat angling is highly recommended especially during the months of May and June, 'Mayfly Season'. Boat hire and local knowledge are all available within the parish of Shrúle. Fish including Perch, Roach, Bream, Hybrids and Eels are also common to the lake.

Lough Mask and Lough Carra

Again these lakes are world famous wild brown trout fisheries and are situated just outside Ballinrobe, which is only ten miles from Shrúle. As with Lough Corrib, boat fishing is the best way to catch fish and boat hire is available locally.

Lough Lee and Lough Hackett

Both of these lakes are small course lakes, with Pike and Perch being the main fish found there. They are situated only a few minutes from Shrúle and both can be fished from the bank.

As one can see Shrúle is well situated with regards to fishing however a lot of awareness and develop-

ment are needed to maximise the potential that is already there.

Tourism:

Shrúle a small village and its surrounding area, population of 1,000 approximately

Situated on the border of counties Mayo and Galway on the N84 main roadway to west and north and north west.

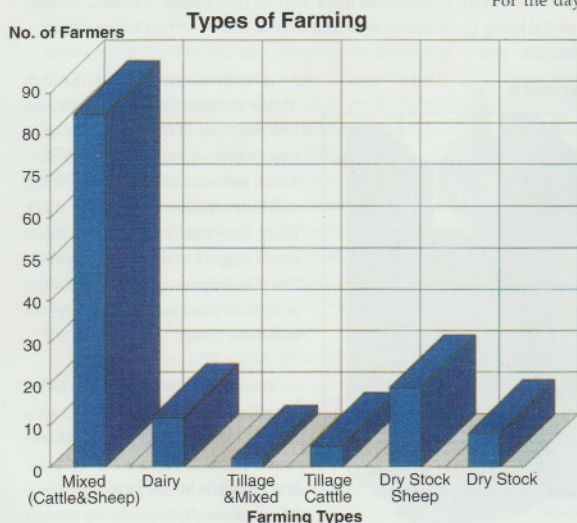
It has a lot to offer both native and foreign tourists including

1. Peace and tranquility of the area
2. Scenic location
3. Historic and Archaeological sites.

For the day tourist it has such values to offer as scenery, heritage and history. A day tour of the area might include:

- To St. Joseph's Church and Labyrinth,
- Local Abbey St. Colemans, and Shrúle Castle,
- Site St. Columban's College, Dalgan Park,
- Kille Abbey and Holy Well,
- Shrúle Turlough, famous for its flora and fauna,
- Shrúle is situated in a prime location for golf, 10 miles Ballinrobe, 14 miles Tuam, 17 miles Claremorris.

Fishing 10-20 miles in different locations including fly fishing Lough Corrib, where local boatmen are available to take tourists on the lake for day trips

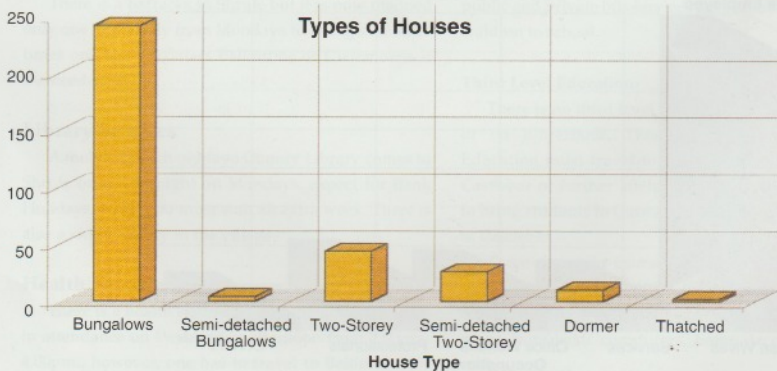
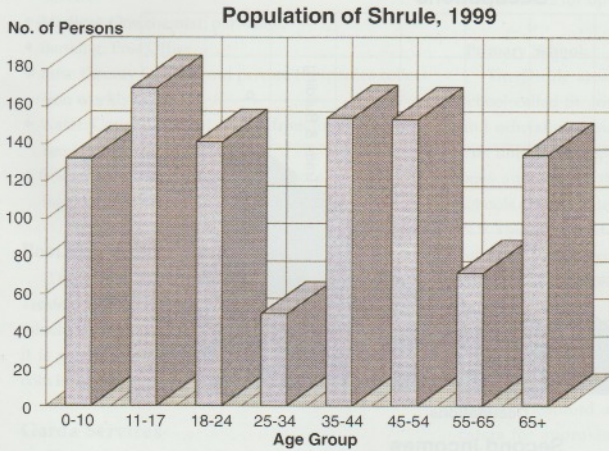


Chapter 5:

Statistical Information

This statistical information was compiled using local knowledge. It shows the population of Shrule in 1999, the different types of housing in the area, different occupations, and second incomes where relevant.

In the 1991 D.E.D. Census of Shrule there were 767 people recorded. In 1996, there were 784, which shows that the population had increased. This profile covers the village of Shrule and its hinterland and not just the D.E.D. It shows that the population of Shrule in 1999



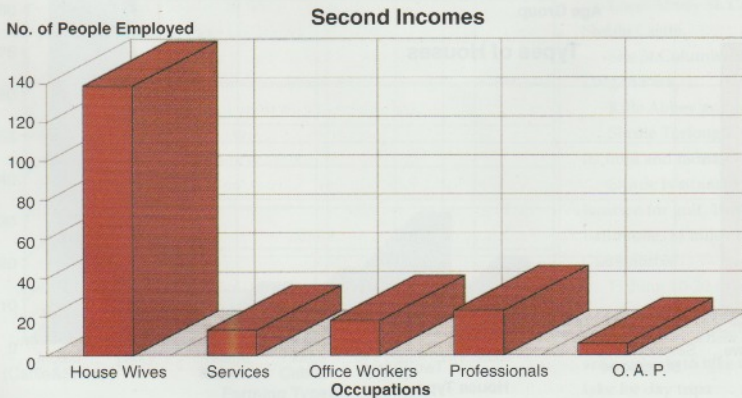
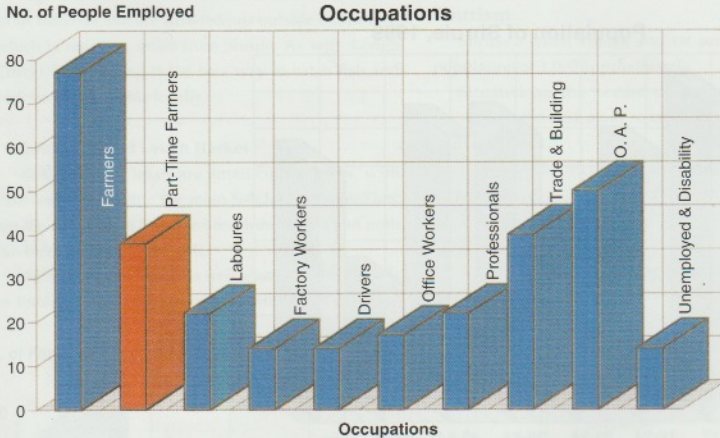
Chapter 5:

was 1,004, with approximately 20 new houses erected in the past five years. In the area, 39% of houses are farmhouses, and most houses are privately owned.

Farming remains the single biggest occupation in the area, with 37% of the total workforce employed full

time, and 18% of other workers employed part-time. The next biggest employer is trade and building, with 19% of the workforce.

The following charts show this information on population, housing and occupations.



Chapter 5:

Services

The following services are available in Shrulue:

- ♦ Education: One Pre-School and one National School.
- ♦ Health: Shrulue Health Centre is visited by a doctor once a week, the Community Welfare Officer once a week, and the National Council for the Blind officer four days per week.
- ♦ Shopping Facilities: One post office; one butcher; four grocery shops; one video shop and three newsagents.one garage.
- ♦ Transport: Bus Eireann daily; daily workers service to Galway and Murphy's and Tedder's minibus service.
- ♦ Medical: One chemist, part-time.
- ♦ Banking: Post Office.
- ♦ Bins: County Council and private companies collection weekly.
- ♦ Water: County Council supply from local lake and semi-private schemes.
- ♦ Sewerage: County Council sewerage scheme in village only.

Post and Telecommunications

There is a Post Office in Shrulue owned by the Tedders family. There is one telephone kiosk in Shrulue, which has recently been converted to a card phone, and it is generally felt that there should be an adjoining coin box phone.

Garda Services

There is a barracks in Shrulue but it is now manned only one hour daily from Mondays to Fridays. At other times one has to contact Ballinrobe or Claremorris if the need arise

Library Services

A mobile branch of Mayo County Library comes to Shrulue once a fortnight on Mondays, except for Bank Holidays, when you must wait an extra week. There is also a video library in the village.

Health Services.

There is a health centre in Shrulue which a doctor is in attendance on Wednesday afternoon from 2.00pm-4.00pm., however, one has to travel to Ballinrobe for

attention to children's inoculations , dental treatments etc. as these facilities are not available in Shrulue. There is not a resident doctor in Shrulue either so expect for Wednesdays when a doctor is in attendance one must travel to Cong., Headford or Ballinrobe to get medical attention. The district nursing service is located in Cong. There is no public transport to Cong.

Education

Pre- School:

Education begins in Shrulue with pre- school children aged between 3-4 years attending morning sessions. There is one pre-school in the Shrulue area. The school caters for up to 10 children.

Primary School:

The Shrulue area is served locally by one primary school called St. Joseph's School. It was built in 1935 and officially opened on June 9th that same year. At that time there were two separate schoolsóone for the boys and one for the girls. On July 1st 1975 the two schools amalgamated and now there is one unit -Shrulue N.S. There are five teachers and the school also shares a remedial teacher with two other local schools. At present there are approximately 150 pupils in the school.

Second Level Schools:

For post- primary education pupils must travel to Headford 5 miles or Ballinrobe 10 miles. Presentation College Headford and Community School Ballinrobe caters for approximately 700-800 pupils each. Both public and private bus services are available to take the children to school.

Third Level Education:

There is no third level provision in the Shrulue area or its hinterland. Those pursuing Third Level Education must travel to Galway, 25 miles away, or Castlebar or further afield. A bus service is available to bring students to Galway, but no such service exists to Castlebar.

There are night courses arranged for 8-10 weeks each term in Ballinrobe or Presentation College Headford. The courses are basic, but affordable and range from basic computers, home decorating, and crafts.

Chapter 6:

Politicians/Development Agencies and Shrúle:

There are many support structures, both state sponsored and voluntary, that deal with local development, community development and enterprise development, including the following:

- Local Politicians.
- Mayo County Council.
- Teagasc.
- Dúchas.
- Community and voluntary activities in Shrúle.

Politicians:

Politicians, local and national play an important role in the maintenance and development of the facilities of any community. They act as spokespersons for the needs of the area.

The politicians have access to the government departments that make policy and also they have contracts with funding agencies.

Mayo County Council:

Mayo is the third largest county in Ireland with a population of 110,713. Mayo County Council provides county - wide facilities through its headquarters in Castlebar and through its nine area offices. In addition there are three Urban District Councils that provide more localised services within the area. Today the council is responsible for providing services in the area including roads, water, sewerage, housing, libraries, parks, and swimming pools. Mayo County Enterprise Board was set up by Mayo County Council in 1993 and represents a partnership approach to local economic development. It comprises of representatives of Mayo Council, the state agencies (Forbairt, FÁS and the Regional Tourism Organisation), the social partners (a farming representative, a trade union representative, and employers representative),

community groups and others interested in local economic development. The present Mayo Crest is of interest to this parish as one of the crosses represents the diocese of Galway, it being the only parish of Galway Diocese in County Mayo.

Teagasc:

Teagasc is the national body with responsibility for training, advice and research in agriculture. It operates under three main headings Advisory, Research and Food Development. Teagasc has agricultural, horticultural and rural development advisors working through the country. The objective of the sector is to provide advice and training to farmers and farm families. They assist in methods of production and in identifying ways and means to increase farm incomes. Teagasc can also offer training to community groups, which could include training in group formation, leadership, project development and business planning.

Leader II:

Leader I was first established in 1980 as part of the reform of the Agricultural policy. A pilot programme researched alternative developments for the economy of rural areas.

Leader II is a follow on from this, its impetus coming from local community groups, or private project promoters, with community groups also represented on the local Leader II company's board of management. Leader II prefers to see community organisations developing local resources, which in turn act as a focus for private enterprise.

Dúchas The Heritage Service (formally The O.P.W.)

Dúchas, the Heritage service was up until recently called the O.P.W. The government department responsible for Dúchas is the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. At present, Dúchas is work-

Chapter 6:

ing on St. Colman's Abbey, reinforcing it to make it safe for visitors. Dúchas is also responsible for Shrute Turlough.

FÁS:

FÁS was set up in 1967-its main function is industrial training. Other functions include training young people for work, retraining those who are out of the workplace for a period of time. Apprenticeship train-

ing is what is given to the young people who have just left school. Community Employment has replaced community youth training projects and village enhancement schemes are a major facet of this. The scheme is approximately eight years in existence and is community based. FÁS has helped to maintain the church, school, the community sports field and the cemetery in Shrute and it has also helped in the general upkeep of the village.



Ruins of Moyne Abbey

Chapter 7:

Community and Voluntary Activities in Shrule:

There are many clubs and organisations in the Shrule area including the following:

Shrulle Ladies Club:

This club has about twenty members and for many years organised functions in the local community centre including The Old Folks Party and sale of work. Other activities are fund raising for various charities and tours.

Shrulle Community Alert:

Shrulle/Glencorrib Community Alert was set up in 1996/1997 in response to requests from Muinter na Tíre and the local Gardai. The main aim of the group is to highlight the problems of the elderly living on their own or in rural areas and to provide alarm systems and security for their homes. In the three years of our existence up to thirty of these alarm systems have been provided. Community Alert secures funding from the Dept. of Social Welfare and purchases the units for the people. The recipients have to pay a monitoring fee of approximately £1 a week.

The Irish Farmers Association

This is a National Organisation with approximately 925 branches throughout the country. With the back up of a comprehensive, professional staff structure at local, national and European level, the I. F. A. is able to deal with all relevant farming issues quickly and effectively. The I. F. A. represents farming interest in many bodies, both national and European. There are approximately thirty members in the Shrulle Branch and they hold meetings to discuss different farming topics throughout the year.

Hall Committee:

This committee is responsible for maintaining the local community centre. It does this by holding functions which raise funds there; e.g. fashion show, card

games and car boot sales. The committee also knows the community centre availability which enables the community to hold various meetings and activities.

Shrulle Community Council:

This committee has been in operation for some time. It holds meetings regularly to discuss ways of improving the area of Shrulle. With the co-operation of the Community and Voluntary Groups in the locality, it makes contact with the various Government Bodies involved in the area.

St. Patrick's Day Committee:

This committee was set up in Shrulle in 1975. The committee helps to organise St. Patrick's Parade each year and they give trophies to participants. It holds an annual church gate collection and dance to enable them to do this work. It started twenty-five years ago with a small parade and with community interest and the committee's commitment through the years, it has become one of the biggest and most supported parades in the area.

Comhaltas Ceolteoiri na h Eireann;

This committee was formed in the mid 1970's. Through the years the committee has helped to promote traditional music in the area and to instill a love of music in the youth of the community. Mayo Fleadh Cheoil was held in Shrulle on three occasions 1984, 1985 and 1991 and the Connacht Fleadh was held in 1987 which helped to put our village on the map.

Cemetery Committee:

On January 13th 1997; at a public meeting held in Shrulle Community Centre, grave concern was expressed at the deplorable conditions of Shrulle Cemetery. To remedy this situation Shrulle Cemetery Committee was founded and chaired by Jack Reynolds. Under his directions regular meetings were held on Monday nights to organise voluntary work in cemetery

Chapter 7:

on Saturdays. This was undertaken on a village by village basis. Meetings were also arranged with County Council officials. A special finance committee was set up and this committee decided that £20.00 per household would be levied. Over the next three years each section of the cemetery was landscaped and grass was cut on a voluntary basis. New paths were made and Mayo County Council tarred some of the entrance road.

It is hoped to complete the work in the course of the year 2000. This work is a community project funded by the local community and Mayo County Council.

Clubs:

History of Shrule/Glencorrib G.A.A. Club

Club colours: Maroon, green and yellow

In 1925 a G.A.A. club was officially formed in Shrule. The principle founders were Fr. Denis O'Hara and Malachy Cradock, who had been secretary of the famous Kickhams club in Dublin in 1902. When Fr. O'Hara left in 1930 the club went into decline and did not become active again until 1934/35 when a new curate Fr. Brendan Moroney (a native of Clare) arrived in the parish. Under his guidance, Jack Petty, Martin Muldoon and the Cradock brothers Gerald and Jack, the team improved and met with great success in the 1936 South Mayo Junior Championship but they failed to win the county final. From that team Joe Burke was called to the Mayo Senior team panel but did not make the Championship team. Jack Cradock played on the Mayo junior team of that year.

The club failed to affiliate in 1954 due to a scarcity of players. In 1958 the club was reformed and the following officers were elected: President: Fr. T. Kyne, Chairman: Mr. Sean McGath, Secretary: Mr. Enda Heneghan, Treasurer: Mr. Joe Murphy. In the mid sixties Ger Heneghan was secretary and Tommy Thornton was chairman.

Success was slow and the first major trophy won was the O'Mara Cup in 1979. This was retained in 1980 but the elusive South Mayo Championship was not won until 1981.

The team was as follows:

Tom Reilly, Mattie Murphy, Christy Cawley, Dominic Cradock, John Murphy, John Dowd, Sean Frehan, Michael Sheridan, Paul Grealley, Gerry Walsh,

Ger Cawley, Tom Gibbons, Tommie Sheridan, Eugene Murphy, Padraic Cradock

The club's most successful period was between 1987-1991, winning Division 3 of the Mayo League, contesting two Intermediate County Finals in 888 and 889 (losing by one point to Hollymount in the 889 final). The club achieved senior status in 1990-'91. In this period the team was trained and managed by Declan Ronaldson, who went on to manage the Mayo minor and U21 teams.

A handful of club players were selected on the Mayo Senior panel over the years. Ger Butler was part of the Mayo panel in 1990/91 and he was a member of the Mayo Junior team that achieved All Ireland success in 1995. The club's most notable player was Kenneth Mortimer, an outstanding member of the Mayo Minor, U21, and senior team over the past number of years and also the recipient of two All Star awards. However in 1998 he transferred to Claremorris GAA club to play Division 1 football. His brother Trevor, who plays with Shrule/Glencorrib has recently been selected for the Mayo U21 team and he is also a member of the Mayo Senior panel, managed by Pat Holmes.

The club has always been active in Scór winning many South Mayo and County titles at under age and senior level. The club has won several county titles in music, dancing, question time, novelty acts, and ballad groups and two Connacht titles in set dancing and question time in junior Scór. Two Connacht titles have also been won in Senior Scór in solo singing and with a novelty act.

Shrule Seven A-Side Tournaments

Shrule was the venue for one of the most popular seven a-side tournaments in Ireland from 1945 - 1980 and they were normally held on the last Sunday in July. Fr. Tom Kyne first ran the tournaments, but it was then taken over by the G.A.A.

Teams came from all over, including Offaly, Dublin and a team called "The Exiles" came from England. After a few years the committee had to provide two pitches and two different sounding whistles for the referees, as matches had to be played concurrently on both pitches. On one occasion the final was played in the dark - but motorcars parked around the pitch supplied floodlights

Chapter 7:

Teams that won the coveted trophy ó some of them on several occasions include; Oughterard, Caherlistrane, The Neale, Fr. Griffins, Crusaders (a team made up of clerical students on summer vacation), Kilmaine, Dunmore, Garrymore, The Exiles, Headford, Clonbur, Milltown, Shrulle and Glencorrib.

The tournament changed to 11 a-side in 1984 and to 15 aside in 1998. Due to increased G.A.A. activities both in the county and throughout the country the tournament has lost some of its popularity. This year (1999) only four teams took part; Shrulle/Glencorrib, Kilmaine, Hollymount and Caherlistrane. The winners of the tournament were Hollymount, captained by Ray Connelly.

Riverside Celtic Juvenile Soccer Club Shrulle:

For a club which was only formed in 1993 by Gerry Mullin of St. Mary's Rd., the Shrulle based Riverside Celtic Juvenile Soccer club made great strides in the past seasons leading into the millennium. Since the formation of the club, soccer in Shrulle has progressed from one under -12 club in the 1993/94 season to having teams entered consistently from under -10 age group, right up to under -16 level, under the watchful eyes of Gerry Mullin, David O éDea, Vincent Walsh and Paddy Kennedy. A huge increase in a short space of time. Gerry Mullin opted to compete in the Galway League "purely out of convenience" as most of Galway teams are based in the city, just twenty five minutes away. Being based in a village on the border, Riverside Celtic had the option of playing either in Mayo or Galway. The response from the local youngsters has been described as "brilliant" by Gerry Mullin and he also describes the support from the community as exceptionally good and that parents have made the whole thing possible. Since the formation of the club some members have represented Galway at Inter-County levels of competition.

Border Ramblers Athletic Club.

The Border Ramblers Athletic Club was set up on 12/10/1998, with a total membership of thirty-four, including athletics from Shrulle, Glencorrib, The Neale, Gortjordan, Cong, Ballinrobe and Caherlistrane. Training commenced on 21/10/1993 in Glencorrib Pitch with Patrick Moran as coach and since then has

been held on a regular basis.

Athletics took part in their first competition in April 1994 with great success at the Mayo Track and Field Championships. Since then there has been continuous success in both Track and Field and Cross-Country events at County, Regional and National levels. A total of 52 All-Ireland medals have been won which includes 10 Gold, 19 Silver, and 23 Bronze. One International medal has been won at the Celtic Games in Santry. The club has received the Mayo B. L. O. E. Award on four occasions for being the best Cross Country Club, and the best girl Cross-Country Individual award has been won on three occasions by members of the Club. At the moment éBorder Ramblers' have 38 members and are coached by Evelyn Hennelly.

Shrulle Community Games:

Run by a local committee from the parish. Affiliated to Mayo Community Games Committee. It was reformed in 1987 .Its basic aims are to include the children of the parish in as many Community Games activities as possible. These currently include art, athletics, cross- country, soccer, gaelic-football, basketball and table quizzes. Age group is from 7-17. Fundraising is by annual Church Gate Collections and annual card game.

Shrulle Community Sports Field:

In 1972 Shrulle G.A.A. Club applied to the Land Commission for a grant of land to be developed as a sportsfield. With the acquisition of the St. Ledger Higgins Estate by the Land Commission and the subsequent division of the lands, 3.5 acres was allotted to the community. Seven Trustees were then registered with the Land Commission to act on behalf of the community and in August 1981 they signed the Deeds of Trust for the sportsfield. The first meeting of the Trustees was held on June 8th 1981. The first problem faces by them was obtaining the purchase price of the field (£4,000) which was achieved by a direct levy of £20 on the members of the community. Shrulle G.A.A. and Shrulle A.F.C. contributed £1,000 each and development of the field began almost immediately. In conjunction with this there were two main fund raising events, The Monthly Draw and The King and Queen Campaign, the latter proving itself extremely successful both financially (£40,100) and as a

Chapter 8:



Environmental Issues

Environment Issues such as water, sewerage, pavements, lighting, litter are some of the issues of importance in the Shrle area. Shrle is supplied with water from Lough Lee by Mayo County Council, also there are seven semi-private schemes in the surrounding area with approximately 200 mem-

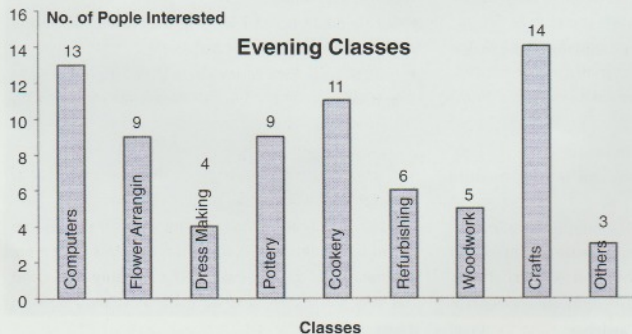
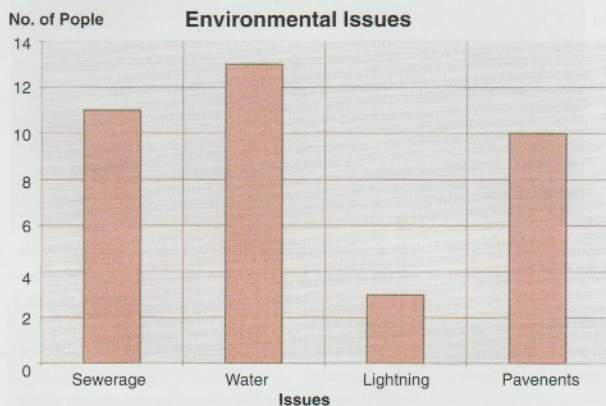
bers. The quality of water is suitable for human consumption but the problem is it's capability of serving the wider community, both farming and any future housing development in the area.

The sewerage treatment works is at present working at 25% capacity, just catering for Shrle village. There is no system in place on the Dalgan Rd, which includes 40 households, 2 factories, and 65 children or

Kilmaine Rd. where the local national school is attended by 160 children.

Another issue of importance is a footpath on the Dalgan Rd. from the Health Centre to the Community Sports Field as many children travel there daily. It is also important that other issues such as litter and village enhancement are achieved with continuous liaison of the Shrle community with voluntary and statutory interested in protecting the environment.

The survey highlighted two other areas where community facilities are needed - the Youth and the Elderly. There is a Community Centre in the village and it could be used more to cater for these groups perhaps with the co-operation of Clubs, organisations, and voluntarily groups in the area.



Chapter 9:



Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats Analysis

Strengths:

The area covered by the project-

- ◆ Is on the main Castlebar/ Galway Road, in a central location
- ◆ Offers good farming
- ◆ A wealth of historical and cultural attractions
- ◆ Growth of population
- ◆ A strong community spirit in the area
- ◆ Has a Community Sportsfield and Centre
- ◆ Offers employment opportunities through local enterprises.



Shrule Distillery

Weaknesses:

- ◆ Lack of accommodation for tourists visiting the area
- ◆ Inadequate signposting of locations and sites of particular interest
- ◆ Does not have a Tourist Information Office to provide visitors with information on local attractions
- ◆ There are no banking services available in Shrule, apart from the Post Office
- ◆ Lack of water and sewerage services for large developments in the region.
- ◆ There is no bus service for students travelling to college in Castlebar.

Opportunities:

- ◆ Is in a central location to main towns
- ◆ Has opportunities for tourism, due to large number of historical sites
- ◆ Activities and facilities at the Community Centre can be improved by funding from local and national bodies
- ◆ Increase transport facilities to surrounding areas, i.e. Cong, Tuam, Claremorris, Castlebar.

Threats:

Over-development could compromise the village's character

- ◆ Litter has become a problem and could harm the village's image
- ◆ Has difficulties raising money for community development schemes
- ◆ Shrule could become a dormitory town, supplying labour to Galway and Castlebar
- ◆ Suffers from lack of an alternative employment to agriculture

Chapter 10:



Summary and Conclusion



The Shrule Community Profile was compiled by the members of Shrule Community Council with the assistance of many people from the Community. They gathered the relevant information, by recording its resources and limitations thus assessing its needs.

Agriculture remains the area's largest source of employment with 37% engaged in farming. It shows from the survey that 77% of farmers own 55 acres or less, 26% of these are 65yrs and over 19% of farmers engaged in part-time employment. It appears from this that part-time farming or alternative methods of farming will be more favourable in the future. With 19% of the population between the ages 18-34 yrs, this looks favourable for the future employment of the area. However, how reliable is the future of our young population working in the community, as raising educational standards has increased their prospects in the workforce elsewhere. According to the local employ-

ment office, unemployment has decreased in recent years.

Finding from research shows that Shrule has a rich heritage and history but it has not benefited from tourism. Perhaps this is due to a lack of local facilities including accommodation, information office, caravan park, public toilets etc. Environment Issues including Water, Sewerage, Roads, and village enhancement are regarded as important for improving the development and infrastructure of the area. With Shrule's position being so central it is an ideal location for hosting sporting activities, e.g. Connacht Final in Community Games, athletics and other indoor games if the proper facilities were provided.

We hope that the information provided throughout this report will be of interest to all those living in the Shrule area. We also hope that this information will create a greater self-awareness in our Community and that it will be used as the basis for a development plan for our area.



Shrule Turlough

Chapter 10:

Services in the Shrule Area.

♦ R. & S. Bayne, Shrule	Agricultural Contractors	(093) 31109, (087) 6951614
♦ Black River Inn, Shrule	Lounge & Bar Food,	(093) 31184
♦ Padraic Cawley	Carpenter & Contractor	(093)31203, (087) 2868390
♦ Coleman School of Dancing, Brodella, Shrule		(093) 31448
♦ Connolly, Shrule	Newsagents & Foodstore, Petrol, Diesel, Agri-fuels, Coal, Gas, Briquettes	(093) 31308
♦ P. J. Conroy, Shrule, Co. Mayo	Livestock Dealer	(093) 31257, (087) 2576381
♦ Craddock's Shrule, Co. Mayo	Bar & Grocery Funeral Undertaker	(093)31285
♦ Tom Craddock Dalgan Rd, Shrule	Carpenter	(093)31304 (087) 2412143
♦ Doonlaur House Largan, Shrule	B & B Noreen Walsh(Prop.)	(093) 31457 (087) 2499686.
♦ DWI Dalgan Wood Industry Ltd. Shrule	Manufacturers of Architectural Joinery Aluminium & Upvc Doors, Windows & Patios	(093) 31270 Fax. (093) 31377
♦ Padraic Davin, Dalgan Rd, Shrule	Plant & Truck Hire, Rockbreaking	(093) 31305, (087) 2753767
♦ John Durkin, Shrule	Chemist	(093) 31269
♦ Gleeson's (Shrule) Ltd., Shrule	Coffin Manufacturers	(093) 31293
♦ Jack Gibbons Bar, Shrule		(093) 31294
♦ Paul Gibbons, Unit 29, Kilkerrin Pk. Liosban Ind. Estate, Tuam Rd. Galway	Survey & Design Services	(091) 773304
♦ Headlines, Shrule & Kilmaine	Hairdressing Salon	(093) 31014
♦ Heffernan & Ryan Ltd. Gurteen, Shrule	Carpenters & Contractors	(093) 31413
♦ The Highway Bar, Shrule		(093) 31272
♦ Cyril Hyland Ballinahina, Shrule	Kitchen, Bedroom, Sitting-Room, Unit Manufacturer	(093) 31433 (087) 2986590
♦ P.K. Foods, Cahereevagh, Shrule		(087) 2798125
♦ Micheal Langan, Glassvalley, Ower P.O	Building Contractors,	(093) 35980
♦ M & R. Motors, Shrule	General Auto Repairs, Tyre Centre, Mobile Tyre Centre	(093) 31524
♦ Michael Naughton, Kille, Shrule	Building Contractor	

Chapter 10:

♦ Molloy Meats, Shrulce		(093) 31378.
♦ Mortimer's Video Shop, Shrulce		(093) 31232
♦ Mullins Supermarket	Grocery, Hardware, Electrical	(093) 31295
♦ Murphy's Bus Hire, Myrehill, Caherlistrane	Coach & Bus Hire	(093) 31454 (087) 2915882
♦ John Murphy Moynce, Headford	Avalon Studios Photographic Services	(093) 35933
♦ Noone Memorials Ltd. Noone Sandblasting, Woodpark, Shrulce	Stone & Steel	(093) 31386 (087) 2372014
♦ Pat O' Brien, Dalgan Rd. Shrulce	Heating & Plumbing Services	(093) 31568, (087) 2246156
♦ Catriona Ryan, Gurteen, Shrulce	Agent, Oranmore Dairies	(093) 31351
♦ Ower Transport Ltd.	Mike Flynn	(093) 36002, (087) 226798
♦ Pest Check Ltd., Cloonbanane, Shrulce		(0930) 31586, Fax(093) 31587
♦ John Petty, Glencorrib, Shrulce	Cattle & Sheep Supplier to Dawn Meats, Ballyhaunis	(093) 31290 (088) 2591487
♦ Polycrafts Manufacturing, Mocharra, Shrulce	Road Signs, Celtic Crosses & Cottages	(093)31519 Fax.(093) 31307
♦ Tom Reilly, Cloonbaune, Shrulce	Stone Mason	(093) 31387 (087) 2825436
♦ Reilly Motors, Brodella, Shrulce	Sales, Service, Panel Beating, Spray Painting,	(093) 31412 (087) 2674083
♦ Paul Reilly, Caherlistrane	Tiling Contractor	(093) 313907, (087) 2504629
♦ Michael Sheridan & Son Dalgan Building Contractors Ltd.	Building Contractor	(093) 31116 (086) 2502748, Fax. (093) 31534
♦ J.Tedders, Shrulce	Post Office, Shop, Bus Service	(093) 31291
♦ David Walsh, Brodella, Shrulce	Carpentry Services	(093) 31428
♦ Matt Walsh, Brodella, Shrulce	Building Contractor	(093) 21428
♦ Garda S'ochána Shrulce	(093) 31292	
Ballinrobe	(092) 41002	
Claremorris	(094) 71222	
Headford	(093) 35412	
Tuam	(093) 24202	
♦ Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, Castlebar		(094) 24444
Mayo County Council, Ballinrobe		(092) 41029
Mayo County Council, Mobile Library Service		(094) 24444
Galway County Council P.O. Box.27, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway		(091) 563151
♦ Western Health Board, Castlebar		(094) 22333
Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway		(091) 751131

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University College Hospital Galway	091) 544544
◆ Kevin Coyne, Community Welfare Officer, Cong	(092) 46347
◆ Dr. Tim Regan, Health Centre, Shrule	(093) 31248
◆ Lynn Medical Centre, Cong	(092) 46006
◆ Public Health Nurse, Cong	(092) 46842
◆ Occupational Therapist, Cong	(092) 46773
◆ Dept. of Agriculture & Food, Michael Davitt Hse, Castlebar	(094) 35300
◆ Farm Development Services, The Square, Claremorris	(094) 71490
◆ Teagasc, Abbey St. Ballinrobe	(092) 41125
◆ Land Commission, Mayo South Michael Davitt Hse. Castlebar	(094) 35300
◆ Shrule Montessori School	(093) 31400
◆ Shrule National School	(093) 31221
◆ St. Joseph's Church Shrule	(093) 31262
◆ FÁS, Galway	(091) 706200
◆ I.D.A. Galway	(091) 751515
◆ Western Development Board	(091) 565269
◆ Mayo County Enterprise Board, Castlebar	(094) 24444
◆ Galway Enterprise Board, Galway	(091) 565269
◆ Lake District Enterprise Ballinrobe	(092) 42244/1
◆ Order of Malta Ballinrobe	(092) 41206
◆ A.I.B. Ballinrobe	(092) 41041
◆ Bank of Ireland, Ballinrobe	(092) 41015
◆ Bank of Ireland, Headford	(093) 35421
◆ Ulster Bank, Ballinrobe	(092) 41047
◆ Credit Union, Ballinrobe	(092) 41402
◆ Credit Union, Headford	(093) 35816
◆ E.B.S. Ballinrobe	(092) 41711

Acknowledgements

In compiling this community profile, we acknowledge the co-operation of the inhabitants of the area profiled, Shrule and the surrounding hinterland, which kindly agreed to help by completing the questionnaire.

We would also like to thank those who contributed their local knowledge to the compilation of the various graphs and issues concerning Shrule.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this profile is accurate, we apologise for any mistakes or omissions.

Other information was obtained from the following sources:

Irish Local Names Explained, by P.W. Joyce

Focus on Shrule, by J.B. McHugh

History of Mayo, by J.F. Quinn



