

# Focal id' Chluais.



A Word in your ear. August '09.

## History of Macroom.

The name Macroom can be explained in three ways.

- 1) Derived from the Irish version of Maigh Cromptha or crooked plain.
  - 2) Said to have its origins as the Plain of Crom the pagan God.
  - 3) Based on the landmark of a tree near the bridging point of the river. This gives its name as meaning "crooked oak".
- First documented reference to Macroom reaches back to about 550 a.d. When it was known as Achad Dorbchon and existed within the Kingdom of Muscraige (Muskerry).

Up until 1600, this area is referred to as a major religious centre. At various times it was a Bardic religious centre where the area represented a centre for the Druids of Munster, an ancient burial grounds and also served as the seat of the Bishop of Cork. The earliest references to settlement at Macroom are in the form of archaeological ruins, some of which are still visible today. These include ring forts, stone forts, fulacht fiadh (cooking pits) and souterrains (underground passageways). Standing stones are noticeable in the district. They dot the landscape with great regularity. Some of these mark prehistoric burial sites. Some of the stones are as high as 15 feet with some of the stones bearing Ogham inscriptions. The area contains the home place of St. Finbarr, founder of Cork City, and the site of his first church near Macloneigh.

**Brian Boru and Bealick:** Brian Boru was born around 940, the youngest of two sons of Cennedig, head of Dal Cais, one of the royal free tribes of Munster. When Brian's elder brother, Mahon, succeeded Cennedig as king, he and Brian quarrelled as to their policy toward the Viking raiders. Brian took to the hills with a guerilla band, which grew to take terrible toll upon the Vikings. Eventually, after failing to reach a lasting settlement with the Danes, Mahon agreed upon policy with his brother and joined him in raising an army to fight the Vikings. Ivar, King of the Ostermen of Limerick, allied himself with the O'Mahony and O'Donovan Clans of South Munster. The O'Mahoneys managed to capture and kill Mahon at Aghabullogue, near Macroom. In 978, Brian avenged his brother's death by killing Ivar in single combat. He then went on to kill O'Donovan. Brian met the O'Mahonys at The Battle of Bealach Leachta, near the confluence of the Sullane and the Laney rivers, in a day long battle in which Brian was reinforced by minor chieftains, who realized Brian's potential as a leader.

The O Mahonys led by Maolmuadh were supported by the remains of the O'Donovan clan and fifteen hundred Danes. Forced to retreat, they took refuge at Leacha Dubh, Macroom, where Maolmuadh was discovered and killed by Brian's son, Murcha. Following the battle, Brian was crowned King of Munster. This was Brian's first major defeat of the Vikings, proving his military prowess and placing him in contention for the position of Ard-Ri, the first and last real king of all Ireland. He was finally recognised as such circa 1002 A.D. Bealach Leachta, the Way of the Stones, has become Bealick. The Stones are gallauns in a field opposite and a little west of Bealick Mill, probably placed there to commemorate the battle, although there is no proof of this, they may be much older.

**The Castle:** During the reign of the Ui Fhloinn (O'Flynn) tribe in the twelfth century a castle was built at Achad Dorbchon (Macroom). Evidence suggests that the O'Flynn family were one of the earliest and most influential families of the Muskerry region. They had their headquarters at Macroom and established the first village site. The castle was the focal point for all subsequent development at Macroom. In the thirteenth century Macroom suffered three invasions. The final was by the McCarthys who went on to become the dominant and most powerful family within the region. The rise in prominence of Macroom in the years leading to the 17th century was due to the early influence of the O'Flynn and the McCarthys. Following the displacement of the O'Flynn different branches of the McCarthy family occupied the castle up until the mid 17th century. The McCarthys controlled about 232,300 acres in Muskerry. In 1448 Cormac 'Laidir' McCarthy inherited the title Lord of Muskerry. During his lifetime he did much to improve the castle by rebuilding it and enlarging it. He also built a castle at Carrigadrohid and founded a Friary at Kilcrea. He is probably also best known for building Blarney castle in 1446. **Source: [www.Inchigeelagh.net](http://www.Inchigeelagh.net)**

**mfg-Meitheal Mhúscraí,** Réidh na nDoirí, Maigh Chromtha, Co Chorcaí.  
Tel: 026-45661. [muscraie@eircom.net](mailto:muscraie@eircom.net)



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## Cois Cille, Cill na Martra 026-40999.

**Lunch** Mon, Tues, Wed, & Friday 12.30pm.

Lunch must be booked in advance.

Transport available at 026 45661.

Contact Mary/Eileen at 026 40999.

## Cuan Barra, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh.

**Lunch**, Mondays & Fridays 12.30pm.

Lunch must be booked in advance, to book

call Siobhán/Lucy at 026 47777 or 087 1378099.

Transport available at 026 45661.

**Aisling Ní Laoire Beauty Therapist.**

**27<sup>th</sup>** August, 087 6579894 for appointment.

**Dr Ken Harte** each Wednesday 12.00 – 1.00pm.

**Chiropodist**, Appointment only, end of August.

Contact Ann O Donovan 027 50340/086 3679761

## Answers to last month's puzzle.

**Brain Boggler:** You will be sure of having a matching pair of socks by pulling out three of them because if the first sock is black and the second is white, the third will be either black or white and you can match it with the black or white sock you already have.

**Quick Puzzle:** The answer was 79.

## Sudoku.

To play sudoku what you have to do is fill in the game board so that the numbers 1 to 9 occur exactly once in each row, column, and 3x3 box. The numbers can appear in any order. We have filled the middle 3x3 box, the first row on the top and the first column to the left to give you a helping hand.

The top row is surrounded by triple lines, the left column by double lines and the middle 3x3 box has been lightly shaded. **Tip:** Start with the 3x3 box with the most numbers.

<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>3</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>1</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>		
<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>4</b>					<b>2</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

## The Memorare.

Remember O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to Thy Protection implored Thy help or sought Thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins my Mother; to Thee I come; before Thee I stand; sinful and sorrowful O Mother of the Word incarnate despise not my petitions, but in Thy clemency hear and answer me.

Amen

## Scoraíocht an Déardaoin.

Due to popular demand the scoraíocht on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August has been changed to Youghal. There will be a bus mór going from Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh and Inse Geimhleach to Macroom. The Luas and Bus Dearg will be collecting people in Baile Bhúirne, Cúil Aodha, Cill na Martra, Réidh na nDoirí and Cluain Droichead and will meet the bus mór in Macroom. Dinner will be served in the Elm Tree in Glounthaune and the bus mór will go from there to Youghal. To book your place call 026 – 45661 and all names must be in before Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August please.

## Suggestions.

The success of the Focal id' Chluais depends on your input. If there is a prayer, poem or story that you would like to see printed on the Focal id' Chluais we would really appreciate it if you send them in to us here in the Ionad Aise in Réidh na nDoirí.

## Foods in Season.

Some foods that are in season in August and September.

beetroot,	blueberries,	broccoli,
carrots,	leeks,	mackerel,
melons,	nectarines,	onions,
peaches,	potatoes,	tomatoes.

## Brain Boggler.

I am a key that doesn't open any lock. I play in harmony with my black and white cousins. What am I?

