



Tom Kenny's

OLD GALWAY

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Celebrating 50 years of
Tom's *Galway Advertiser*
newspaper column

August 12 – 29, 2023

Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery,
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An Exhibition of Photographs, celebrating 50 years of Tom's Galway Advertiser newspaper column.

Forty-five Galway City images from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Curated by local historian Tom Kenny, the images depict a social history of Galway city in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Photographs of various city streets including Quay Street and Cross Street, market scenes, old shops and residences, workers, sporting activities and transport are all represented.

Tom Kenny has been a local historian in Galway for most of his life and this year sees the celebration of his fiftieth year writing weekly Old Galway columns on the city's history for the Galway Advertiser newspaper.

He also co-hosts a weekly Old Galway Diary podcast together with Ronnie O'Gorman.

The exhibition will be launched at 3pm on Saturday, August 12th by Mayor of Galway city, Cllr Eddie Hoare and all are welcome. The exhibition is being funded by Galway City Council.

Tom Kenny's Old Galway will run from Saturday August 12th-29th at The Kenny Gallery, Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road, Galway (open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm). A selection of the images are for sale.



THE POTATO MARKET, THE SMALL CRANE c.1900



'CHECKING OUT THE COMPETITION' AT THE FAIR, EYRE SQUARE c.1880



CLASSROOMS DIVIDED BY PARTITIONS IN ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE, c.1900

List of Photographs:

1. Shop Street Decorated for the visit of Edward VII, 1903
2. Buttermilk Lane c.1900
3. Cloherty & Semple's Timber Stores, Merchant's Road, c.1865
4. A Bird's-eye View of The Fishmarket, c.1865
5. The Potato Market, The Small Crane, c.1890
6. Colonel O'Hara formally opening the Second Wolfe Tone Bridge, 1887
7. 'Checking Out the Competition' at the Fair, Eyre Square c.1880
8. The Hay Market, Eyre Square, 1903
9. The Christmas Market c.1950
10. The Saturday Market, 1930s
11. The Egg and Butter Market, Church Street c.1890
12. Kirwan's Lane, c.1940
13. Shantalla, 1945
14. Some Punters at the Galway Races, c.1950
15. Classrooms divided by partitions in St. Ignatius College, c.1900
16. Waterside, c.1880
17. The Façade of the De Burgo Mansion, Market Street, c.1865
18. Prospect Hill looking towards Eyre Square, 1950s
19. Fun and Games at the Fish Market, 1903
20. A Busy Turf Market as the Tram Prepares to head for Salthill, c.1890
21. Alighting from the Summer Tram at the Salthill Terminus, c.1890
22. Upper Abbeygate Street, c.1975
23. The Eglinton Hotel and Upper Salthill, c.1905
24. Mr. & Mrs. Broderick from Ballintemple in Williamsgate Street, c.1880
25. Turf Stacked in Eyre Square during the Emergency
26. Postmen Setting off with the Christmas Mail, December 17th, 1928
27. The Sock Market, Eglinton Street, c.1880
28. Pádraic Ó Conaire, Scríobhnóir agus Seanchaí, c.1910
29. A Busy Galway Docks, c.1880
30. Mayoralty House and Lower Cross Street, 1946

- 31. A Tennis Tournament in the Square, c.1890
- 32. After the Rain, Long Walk, 1909
- 33. Tourists Searching for Salmon, Salmon Weir Bridge, 1898
- 34. A Busy Fair Day, Eyre Square, c.1890
- 35. Rabbits for Sale, Market Street, c.1890
- 36. Dúidíns and Gossip at the Lazy Wall, c.1910
- 37. Quay Street, c.1940
- 38. John Regan Selling Crockery at the Saturday Market, c.1950
- 39. Trying to Dry The Washing at the Claddagh, c.1900
- 40. The Pawnshop, Quay Street, c.1950
- 41. Shawls, Scibs and Ciseáns at the Fish Market, c.1900
- 42. A Lifebelt on the Docks, c.1890
- 43. Forde's Garage on Prospect Hill, c.1942
- 44. Fishing at Raven Terrace, c.1950
- 45. Oireachtas na Gaillimhe, 1913



MRS & MRS BRODREICK FROM BALLINTEMPLE ON WILLIAMSGATE ST., GALWAY, C. 1885



SOME PUNTERS AT THE GALWAY RACES c.1950



THE CHRISTMAS MARKET c.1950



BUTTERMILK LANE c.1900



In the late sixties we converted a premises at the end of High Street to a shop full of old maps and prints. These were regarded as important historical documents but photographs had not, as yet, achieved that status. It did not take us long to realise that we could categorise them as such. Maurice Semple's first book pointed that out forcefully.

In 1970, Ronnie O'Gorman set up the Galway Advertiser and we often discussed old photographs. He regarded them as nostalgia, which was fair enough in those days. Then he printed some and was impressed with the public's response, so I got some more together and he began to publish one every week together with a caption.

And so, the 'Old Galway' collection began to grow. I began to search institutional collections to source material and many in this exhibition come from these sources. I would like to thank The National Library, Galway County Library, The Jesuit Archive, Chetham Library in Manchester, The Ulster Museum, The Hulton Getty Collection, The Library of Congress in Washington, The Dúchas Collection, Galway City Museum for their support down through the years.

In addition, hundreds of Galwegians have presented me with images from their scrapbooks, albums, shoe boxes in the attic, their private collections etc. while others have sent me material from abroad. I am grateful to each and every one of you.

These photographs are deceptively simple evocations of humble activities, of street happenings, of markets and fairs, of people at work and at play. The images are not contrived but true and candid visions of Galway that mirror the mindset of the day. There is no quaint posing for the camera, indeed, all the subjects are comfortable and natural going about their daily business. These are important documents of social history, evocations of times past and information carriers for future generations.

Enter into these photographs. Immerse yourself in their silent dream and their speechless meditation. Reflect on those who reflect you.

I am most grateful to the Galway Advertiser for giving me the vehicle to pass these images on to its readers, and I am especially thankful to Galway City Council for sponsoring this collection. A special thank you to Dean Kelly for his help and support with this collection.