

Tom Kenny's

OLD GALWAY

THE STREETS OF GALWAY

A photographic exhibition, celebrating the memory of Ronnie O'Gorman

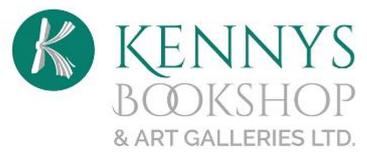
May 9 – June 3, 2025

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Children playing, Galway (Photo: Father Francis Browne SJ)

Tom Kenny's Old Galway - The Streets of Galway

A photographic exhibition, celebrating the memory of Ronnie O'Gorman

Following a highly successful exhibition with an entirely different selection of images in 2023, Tom Kenny returns with a new collection of more than 40 blown-up photographs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries at the Kenny Gallery.

The selected images—candid, unposed depictions of Galway City's streets, markets, shops, workers, and everyday life—were sourced from Tom's own collection, institutional archives, and personal contributions from Galwegians who shared photographs from their scrapbooks and albums. These images offer an intimate and unfiltered look at a city and its people, making them invaluable historical documents.

After 50 years of Tom Kenny's *Old Galway* column in the *Galway Advertiser*, the exhibition revisits the photographs that have been central to his exploration of Galway's rich social history. It also honours the memory of Tom's late collaborator, Ronnie O'Gorman, whose contributions—through his journalism

and *The Old Galway Diary* podcast, as well as his steadfast support of Tom's work—have left an indelible mark on the local history of their beloved city.

Tom first gave Ronnie pictures to publish in 1974 and launched his *Old Galway* column in 1975. The rest, as they say, is history!

In addition to the exhibition, two volumes of Tom and Ronnie's collaboration have been published, documenting the fascinating stories behind the photographs. These books, much like the exhibition, reflect their shared passion for Galway's history and heritage and serve as a lasting tribute to Ronnie's invaluable partnership with Tom. **(Volume I, recently unavailable, has been reprinted to coincide with the exhibition).**

Tom says, "*The photographs transcend mere nostalgia, serving as vital records of Galway's social fabric. They are key artefacts not just of our past but for Galway's future generations.*"

The exhibition is made possible through the support of Galway City Council.

Tom Kenny's Old Galway - The Streets of Galway runs at the Kenny Gallery, Galway, from **May 9 to June 3**, open **Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00**. Admission is free, and all are welcome!



Tom Kenny and the late Ronnie O'Gorman recording The Old Galway Podcast (Photo: Ben O'Gorman)

Some of the images included in the exhibition, from the collection of Tom Kenny:



After the Visit of Edward VII, 1903



The Potato Market, the Small Crane, c.1900



The Interior of Galway Railway Station, c.1910



The R.I.C. Barracks, Eglinton Street, c.1900



Bianconi Coaches in Eyre Square, c.1865



An aerial view of Galway City, 1953



The Galway Blazers setting out, c.1920



Tom Kenny has been publishing old photographs of Galway every week in the Galway Advertiser since the early 1970s, marking 50 years in 2023. He has built up an important archive of images which could be said to represent a visual social history of the city over a period of about 150 years. This exhibition is a kind of trawl through our heritage, a selection of photographs of different vintages and illustrating the changing streetscapes, the fairs and markets, some of the games and pastimes, the different styles of dress and some of the characters of yesteryear.

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KENNY
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