

SUNCROFT FESTIVAL

€3 PROGRAMME



14th - 17th MAY 2015

- GAA GAMES - GOLF CLASSIC -

- POKER CLASSIC - DARTS CHALLENGE -

- GREYHOUND RACING -

- TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC -

- LIVE MUSIC - HOLBORN HILLBILLIES -

Suncroft Festival 2015

Suncroft Festival Welcome

A very warm welcome to everyone to this our 7th Suncroft festival which each year goes from strength to strength, the weekend has grown arms and legs and has become an event that everyone embraces and enjoys and I know many folk each side of the Irish sea look forward every year to our annual get together in Suncroft and generally a great time is had by all and lots of money is raised for our community over the weekend however lots of planning and organisation goes into the weekend so I particularly like to thank all our sponsors who contribute towards the success of our weekend every year and without them none of it would be possible.

This year we have lots of new faces from London & West Cumbria so I hope you all enjoy yourselves Folks as I have no doubt that you will as we cater for every one at this weekend young and old and we also welcome home our cousin Andrew Flood from Australia with his partner Nancy, who no doubt will be making her first visit to Ireland.

Since last year our new community centre is now built and open for business so well done to the Suncroft SCDG group in making this happen against all odds they have achieved what they set out do and congratulations to all involved in this project they have my utmost admiration for what they have done however I sometimes despair at all these rumours that circulate on social media and elsewhere about various issues concerning the community centre and I urge all organisations to unite and make a success of this new facility we have spent far too long using below standard facilities. Rest reassured my family and myself will do all we can to help with fund raising for the community as we do every year.

The biggest success of last years festival was our wonderful musicians from West Cumbria: The Holborn Hillbillies. They were amazing all weekend from the time they collected me in Whitehaven until we got home, they were brilliant ambassadors for Cumbria and I met a guy in the pub on the Sunday night and he told me *“he was in Moore’s well on the Friday night and he enjoyed them that much he booked a day’s holiday on the Monday to come see them again on Sunday night and he hadn’t been out on Sunday night for years”* so I am

delighted to welcome them back again this year and we must thank Tony & Lorraine Howard for sponsoring the band on Friday & Sunday night in Moore's Well. Also for sponsoring the main event at greyhounds on Saturday Night.

'The Hillbillies' will be playing at the new community centre on Sunday afternoon from 2pm so please turn out in numbers and assist in raising much needed funds for our village and its people. However, turn out at events we organised at the old parochial house have been disappointing to date but we will certainly give it a try once more.

Our official tipster at the dogs on Sat night Jim Maynard asked me recently "*why is it anytime you are home in Ireland you bring your own musicians? When Ireland is the home of music*" well Jim, there isn't a band as engaging or entertaining as these guys on these shores so enjoy them and I am sure they be brilliant as always.

I would also like to pay tribute to John Moore in what will probably be his last festival as mine host at Moore's Well, John's contribution to our community can't be underestimated and he has been a great friend and neighbour over many years and the village won't be the same without him but as we all know nothing lasts forever and time waits for no man so I would like to wish John all the very best for the future and I like to think we still see John and Daniel at Shelbourne park on our greyhound nights in the future.

The darts competition last year with Kilcullen was another great success story with a high turn out of old faces and some new kids on the block in the shape of Adam Kelly Flood who won the highest check of the tournament, Adam is a very good hurler too lining out for Moorefield and is on the brink of County Team as well. We are all very proud of him but just wish it was in the colours of the craft he was playing in however it's the playing and taking part that count.

The poker was won by that legendary man from London, Salad, who hasn't stopped smiling since that night and he is good lad with emails too am lead to believe.

To conclude I like to thank Kevin Murphy, my Mum, Woody & Sandra, for all their help in organising this weekend so on behalf of myself, my Mum, Roseleen, Philip, Wayne, Karl, Katie, Tanisha and Isabella & all The Murphy family have a great weekend and enjoy yourselves as I know you all will.

Welcome to the 2015 Suncroft Festival

I am sometimes asked, usually by guests I have staying with me from abroad:

“Why it is that so many people in Suncroft continue to dedicate so much of their time to the running of Suncroft GAA Club?”

My guests are particularly interested in the many men and women who continually dedicate their time, always voluntarily, come rain, hail or sleet.

It is a question to which, deep down, I have always known the answer. But until now, have struggled to accurately articulate.

Without doubt, playing Gaelic football in school helped shape me into the man I am today.

For as I struggled through another practice session in the extreme heat or cold (more likely cold in this country!!), and sweated through yet another pre-season fitness programme, I learned that the only way to achieve success was to work hard and not quit. I learned that pain is often the only pathway to excellence.

Once the season had commenced, and when the scoreboard's numbers were not as I had wished, I learned how to bounce back from failure. I learned to dedicate myself to being better the next time around.

For the first time I experienced what can be achieved through the sheer power of a group of people, striving together for the same goal.

In short a team lives or dies solely on how well they work together as a team, as a unit.

The friendships I made while playing football have lasted, and will continue to last, the course of my lifetime.

To achieve success on the pitch, a team must demonstrate brute strength, winning the hand to hand, body to body contest. But they must also possess fitness, agility and brilliant strategy – how to gain territory and out manoeuvre each other - as these are the requisites for success.

2015

And so we see that the lessons of the GAA carry over from the sporting arena to the playing fields of life.



And while the memories of such a time fade as a man grows older, the wisdom he gleans from the experience will echo throughout his life.

Success in Suncroft GAA Club requires heart, pride, and teamwork. Success in life requires the same.

And so when my guests now ask the same question of me, that is how I reply.

Tony Howard.



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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Thursday 14th May

- Festival Kick Off at Moore's Well •

Friday 15th May

- Midday** • Pitch & Putt at McDonagh (or)
A round of golf at the Curragh course

- 6:30pm** • Poker Classic Moore's Well €10 entry fee & more opportunities for more chips for €10

followed by **Charity Auction** and Music from
The Holborn Hillbillies

Saturday 16th May

- 12 Noon** • Girls Underage Game for Elizabeth Murphy Cup
Suncroft V Kill

- 5:00pm** • Liam Murphy Memorial Race & Irish Puppy Oaks Final
The bus leaves Moores 4:30pm (invited guests only) Well for Shelbourne Park
The Girl of the Match, Winner Will Receive 'Sheila O'Keefe Murphy Trophy' Presented at Shelbourne Park

Presentation of Suncroft Festival 'Community Person Of The Year'
To be presented at Shelbourne Park

Entertainment After Racing • Moore's well

Sunday 17th May

- 2:00pm** • The Holborn Hillbillies Live
Mini Fun Day • Outside the new Community Centre

- 5:00pm** • Darts Challenge in for The Michael Murphy Memorial Cup
5pm Start • The Moore's Well • Suncroft V Kilcullen
The player with the highest check out from the Kilcullen Team
will win the Philip Murphy Memorial Trophy
The Player with the highest check out from the Suncroft Team
will win the Pat Murphy Memorial Trophy

Followed by Music The Holborn Hillbillies

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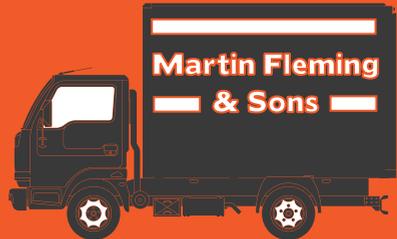
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On behalf of Suncroft GFC...

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Suncroft Festival. This Annual event I am delighted to say has grown each year and the participation in increasing annually so much so that this year we actually had to choose what events to go with and what ones we felt wouldn't fit it.

This year events will include a number of underage Football matches for both Boys and Girls. We will also have a poker classic, live music, night at the dogs and a Monster Auction. As you can see something for everyone and plenty more. A full list of events is available on our web site www.suncroftgfc.com.

For the first time since the festival commenced Suncroft has access to the fantastic new community centre facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about our club and the Parish. Firstly let me start with Suncroft GFC which is a Intermediate club established back in 1889. Today it caters for all age groups, males and females, including Senior and Junior Teams, Under 21s and Minors. We have a very large underage club with over 200 kids participating at all levels. The Club is one of the mainstays of the parish providing a valuable outlet for kids of all ages.

The Suncroft Festival would not be the success is it without the work of Sean, Jeanne and all the Murphy Family, year after year, they consistently put in a huge effort and no words I write here today can ever explain the commitment they give to this festival. Sean will tell you himself that without the help of Tony and Lorraine Howard he wouldn't be able to make this festival a success.

I personally and on behalf of Suncroft GFC want to thank the Murphy Family, Tony and Lorraine Howard for the work, commitment and support they give the Success of this festival.

I also want to welcome our visitors near and far, I hope you take the time to participate in some of our events and I look forward to seeing you all over the weekend.

Yours in sport

Shane Kavanagh
Chairman



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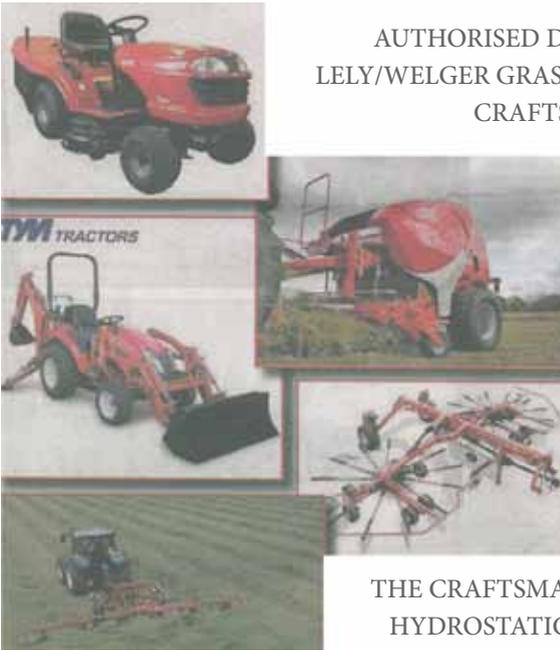
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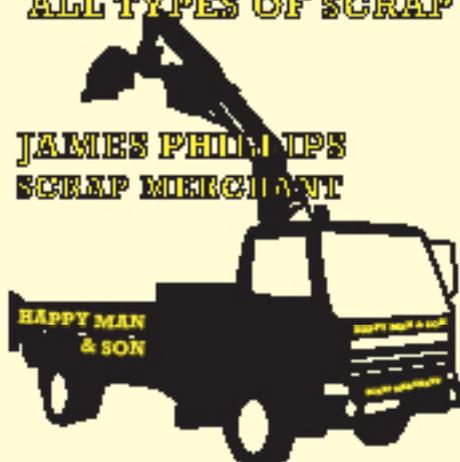
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Suncroft



Festival



2015

A TRIBUTE TO LIAM MURPHY RIP

On a recent trip home I met up two members of Suncroft GFC who were going overseas on peace keeping duties with the UN and it brought back memories of my Dad and those last days before going away and saying good bye to love ones for six long months can be distressing and we all know the dangers of going into war zones as many families throughout Ireland and the UK can testify its a very dangerous job they do and my father was part one of those first missions to the Congo at only 16 years of age but as he said himself he was fearless in those days and he wouldn't have had it any other way. Further trips to Cyprus & Egypt followed as his career progressed. Amazingly after ever overseas trip he earned a promotion on returning home so he must have worked hard to earn them. Some of his military records make great reading although it can be sad but great to look back on those achievements and be proud of them.

The army was a big part of his life and even in retirement 'The Veterans Association' was his pride and joy mainly as it involved helping fellow soldiers who were less fortunate than others who needed help; he got things from the Chief of Staff at the Curragh that nobody else could get and he certainly could put his point across in military matters as General John Courtney reminded me recently over a pint that he dreaded the phone calls off him as usually it meant he was after something else for the retired veterans house which is now home to Post 11 on the Curragh.

Music was a big part of his life too so many people come up to me and say your DAD played at our wedding, Its incredible. 'The Volunteers' as they were called then were an excellent band lead by the late Dan Dillon and Donal Dillon, Dan's son is the only surviving member of that group today.

Donal was only 16 years old when they started out and he is still playing away, I met up with him recently and the craic was mighty about those days. He had lots of stories to tell about their gigs and especially the late Paddy McCormick and the late Paddy Nolan of Ballyshannon.

It fair to say I often think what he would have made about our annual Suncroft Festival and the many diverse things we cover over the weekend but, he would have enjoyed the music for sure. He gloried in that as he loved talented musicians and needless to say he has talented grand children coming along who can pick up the guitar and play as good as any of them in Katie and my own son Karl. I often smile and get a warm feeling when I think of where they could have got that from however both can be a little shy at times but it will come I am sure of that.

The memorial plate to my Dad on the wall inside St Pauls church at Ballysax is something we are very proud of as he carried out a lot of unseen work to help the support group and the tribute is well deserved for all the hours he put in with The Veterans Association in remembering the fallen not just at home but through out the UK and beyond.

As the inscription at St Pauls says you served your country now rest so as a family our work continues in carrying on where Dad left off in helping our friends in the community. With over 10,000€ raised over 6 years doing this festival I know he'll be proud of us and our lovely mother who keeps us going even when those dark days of life without our Dad descends upon us but we carry on as that is what he would have wanted us to do.

His memory lives on and I am sure he is in good place now with his deceased family members and his good pals Mick and Bridget and Pat Kelly.

Sean Murphy.



Suncroft Festival Poker Champion

My reign as the poker champion at the festival was ended by 'Salad' after a sum of money was put forward by Tony Howard to the person who knocked me out of the competition and needless to say I didn't go out without a fight and made it into the last four however with limited chips my cards were marked pardon the pun but Salad proved to be a worthy champion although we haven't heard the last of it since but I am sure the sharks will out for the big man this year with that bounty on his head too it should be good entertainment for sure if nothing else.

The poker is open to all.

The game starts at 6:30pm in Moore's well

**"Sure be good craic as always
and plenty of laughs for sure"**

Sean Murphy



**2014 Poker Champion
'Salad'**

Suncroft Festival

Community Person of the Year Award 2014

Last year our **Community Person of the Year** award went to **Josie Dunne** who is someone I have admired for a very long time especially for his hard work and dedication with Suncroft AFC & the community development group.

If Josie is not looking after the soccer pitches at the community grounds then he is at the old community centre carrying out work on the grounds or painting up inside so his award was well deserved. I think both himself and his wife had a brilliant night at Shelbourne Park which is what we wanted and I am looking forward to seeing them again this year as both are excellent company and have been family friends for many years.

At Shelbourne Park we will be announcing our '2015 Community Person of the Year' to an unsuspecting person who we feel deserves recognition for their voluntary unpaid work in our community on a daily bases.

Elizabeth Murphy Cup: This was retained by **Suncroft under 16 girls** again last year and was celebrated like they had won an All Ireland at Shelbourne Park but I have to say both players and mentors are brilliant ambassadors for the club as they are every year and they are pleasure to be involved with and we hope for more of the same this year.

Sheila O'Keefe Murphy Trophy: Girl of the match was won by **Carla Ennis** and was well deserved as she played a really competitive game against decent opposition and I am sure we will have hard task to select this years winner against Kill at GAA grounds on Saturday afternoon.

Suncroft Festival Darts Competition for Longstreet Cup: Winners of the cup were **Kilcullen** but only by a whisker as the croft pushed them all the way to the wire. It went to the very last game but everybody was a winner as the atmosphere on the night was one of most friendliest I can remember for a long time and a fitting tribute to three brothers who were red and green through and through in Philip, Michael and Pat Murphy.

Young **Adam Kelly Flood** was the stand performer on the night with a superb check out to win the **Philip Murphy Memorial Trophy**.

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Friends of St Paul's - Ballysax

Until 1922 and the departure of the British army, Anglicans worshipped at St. Paul's Church Ballysax. (St. Paul, the Apostle with his robust faith and fighting spirit has long appealed to soldiers. It was Paul who urged Timothy to 'fight the good fight of faith!.'") At St Paul's Ballysax British soldiers and their families met for worship, though they were free to attend other local Church of Ireland parish churches in the locality. Apparently some abandoned the garrison church on the Curragh during the chaplaincy of a late nineteenth century long-winded preacher who was once stripped by several British Army Officers in good humoured punishment for a notably exhausting ceremony at St Paul's church on the Curragh camp !

After the British army left an Anglican presence continued through out the Church of Ireland and at St Paul's in Ballysax right up until 1972 when church services ceased due to the sale of a very large window in the east side of the church which brought an end to religious services at St Paul's Ballysax. The first Church of Ireland chaplain was Canon Dick Madden who also served as Rector of Ballyshannon and Ballysax. The dual function of the rector of these parishes and chaplain continued until the ministry of Canon Freddie Knowles who arrived in 1947 and served for twenty-four years mainly on the Curragh Camp. Canon Knowles was a universal friend. He loved the army and its life. He and Mrs. Knowles kept an open house for all who needed help. He was proud of the army and on his tippet (a sort of broad black stole) he wore the army insignia with the embroidered letters CF - Chaplain to the Forces and he was buried with full military honours on St Brigid's day 1980 on the Curragh camp.

Today the friends of St Paul Ballysax carry out many hours of unpaid voluntary work looking after the church and its ground's as well as fund raising and maintaining a welcoming place for many people to come and visit and enjoy a most beautiful historic venue and its not uncommon to see newly weds having their photo's taken within the grounds of St Paul's Ballysax.

The monument to the fallen soldiers and sailors was to be the last project my Dad worked on before his untimely passing in 2008 together with Eddie Robinson from Mullingar they got the monument made and installed outside main entrance to the church and every year service men and women of all creeds and nationalities come together to pay their respects at St Paul's Ballysax to those who gave their lives for their countries and their believes. Sadly over the recent Easter holidays vandals carried out some dreadful damage to the grounds of the church and the monument and some head stones which caused some distress to the friends of St Paul's members who no doubt will do everything they can to restore the site to its beautiful self but this behaviour has no place in our community so I urge folk to be vigilant and look out for people acting suspiciously around the church and its ground as the site is too steeped in local history to let go by the wayside.

I like to pay tribute to Derry Nolan, Mary Howe & My Mum for all the hard work they put into St Paul's, Ballysax every year, the Christmas carol service inside

the Church is particularly good and is generally well supported and enjoyed by many and will continue to be so for many years to come and we cant forget the contribution of late Darkie & Dick Persse. Also David Knowles & Violet Hendy who were the back bone of the friends of St Paul's for many years.

To all those who give their free time and dedication to St Paul's Ballysax I whole heartedly applaud and admire your dedication to the cause and I certainly hope you will continue with the good work as your work is something to be proud of going forward.



Nottingham Autism Group

On behalf of my grandson Ellis Carter I would like to thank the organisers of the Suncroft Festival for the kind donation to Ellis's autism group with the money donated Sean & myself took a group of Ellis's autistic friends out to Frankie & Bennies for a meal after night out at Nottingham greyhounds and the boys and girls really enjoyed themselves immensely especially at the dogs where Sean being Sean sponsored a race for them so they had a ball and we both enjoyed the evening very much so thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Mrs Sandra Rumney

Absent Friends

Peter Burns... RIP

Since last year festival we lost one of our much loved characters from West Cumbria the late Peter Burns who was always great fun to be around and he certainly enjoyed his visits to Suncroft with his old pals Woody and Kenny Hunter.

Peter spent most of his life working at sea as a fisherman, his love affair with the sea began at 8 years of age when he would clean out the nets of the fishing boats on Whitehaven harbour however, he had his own action plan if he didn't get paid, this usually involved throwing the empty fish boxes back into the dock, usually full of ice. Peter hadn't a bad bone in his body as the huge attendance at his funeral indicated he was loved by everyone who knew him and was the life and soul of many parties.



Peter was once fishing up in Scotland and both he and the crew were a wee bit intoxicated after a day on the beer. Going out to sea late at night the vessel struck the pier walls almost sinking the boat when the emergency services arrived Peter was arrested and charged with being drunk in charge of a fishing boat and he was later detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure in Barlinnie for six months. On his release he rejoined another vessel sailing out of Peterhead and he was landing fish in Aberdeen one day when who should stroll up but the judge who sent him away, "any chance of a feed of fish?" The judge asked Peter, who needless to say had some choice words for the judge!

After six months in Bar L I think I would be the same.

Peter fought a long battle with cancer and was in remission for many years however the dreadful disease came back and once he couldn't eat or drink properly Peter decided to let nature take its course and he passed away just before Christmas.

To his extended family we offer our heartfelt sympathy and when I think of Peter I always smile and remember his funny stories and good company and he is certainly missed by everyone who knew him and we shall miss him at the festival this year.

May he Rest In Peace

Betty Ennis... RIP

Great sadness descended over Suncroft during the Easter weekend when news filtered through that Betty Ennis had sadly passed away.

Betty was a regular on our trip to Shelbourne Park every year and she was great fun to be around, she enjoyed her bingo and few drinks in Moore's Well on the way home.

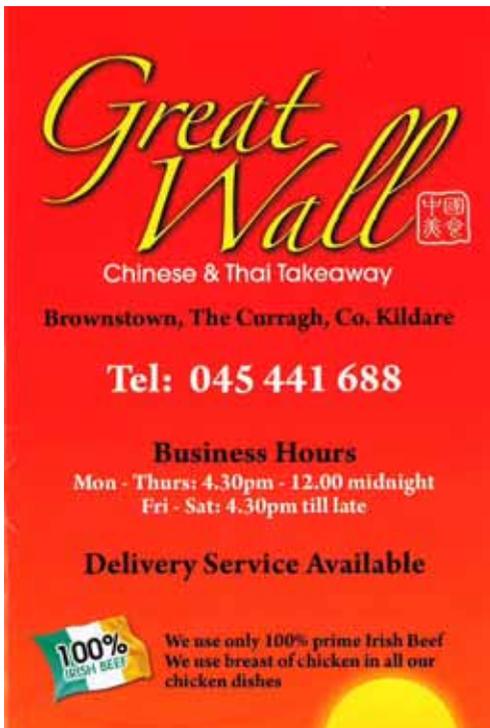
During the day she worked at the Church or the Parochial House and was always busy especially with her children and grandchildren who she adored and loved very much.

The considerably large attendance at her requiem mass was a fitting tribute to the high esteem in which she was held through out County Kildare and beyond.

I am sure that her family will find some comfort in knowing that, in the weeks and months ahead when they will need all our love and support as they come to terms with their sad loss.

Betty was predeceased by her husband Mick who I am sure was waiting for her at gates of heaven as they had a brilliant marriage together and they produced a wonderful family who are highly respected through out the community and we offer our sincere condolences to them.

May she Rest In Peace



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The Holborn Hillbillies

Our first ever visit to Ireland was a very special occasion as we didn't really know what to expect and when Sean first contacted me about the trip I was sure it was a wind up but I need not have bothered as from the minute we left West Cumbria until we got home we received the finest hospitality known to man or woman on these shores.

On arrival in Suncroft Woody had the barbecue in full swing being so many of us that was most sensible thing to do and Jeanne Sean's mum had everything ready for us and a fine meal was enjoyed by all after our meal it was time to meet our new found friends at the Eagle Hill guest house but what a superb place to stay as we are all animal lovers and Julie & Colm and their lovely children were superb to us all weekend nothing was too much trouble and they even gathered all the animals together so band could do a photo shoot etc.

Our night at the dogs was quite an experience as none of us had been to the dogs before however a few tips on the night would have been helpful – Sean tells me he has an official professional tipster lined up this year to mark our race cards so we cant wait for that and lots more winners please.

It was a fantastic honour to be asked over to play at Moore's Well and when uncle Jonjoe joined in with the banjo well the band absolutely loved it and it's first time we saw a pair of spoons been used to make music and very effective too I might add so we learned loads from the weekend and cant wait to get over again this year so we like to thank Tony & Lorraine Howard for sponsoring the band to play at this years festival and not forgetting the Murphy family Sean in particular for organising the event just hope its as good as last year which I am sure it will be if not better.

Colm at the B & B has organised a gig at new community centre Sunday afternoon so we are looking forward to that and he is bring his sheep and horse's along so it promises to be good so don't miss it if you can see you all soon.

Monica – Holborn Hillbillies,
Gig Organiser

The Friends of Liam Murphy Syndicate

Our syndicate has gone from strength to strength over these last 12 months since last years festival we have recorded more top grade wins at Sunderland than I can remember in recent times and long may it continue but injuries to our young dogs has been a major issue since xmas with the loss of five decent greyhounds on Sunderland since xmas which has been very distressing to say the least as we had some very promising puppies in training who I am sure would have gone on to represent us with distinction had they graded on but as anyone who has had greyhounds will tell you that's part and parcel of the sport you have to take it on chin and move on as they say.

Currently we have one dog on Crayford with the legendary trainer Barry O Sullivan who continues defy logic with the bitch who was all but retired before xmas but Barry kept hold of her and she is back racing again now and has recorded four victories in recent weeks.

At Kinsley in South Yorkshire we have a couple bitches who are only young dogs and are trained by Mark May an up and coming young trainer who has very good set up near Sheffield so I am hoping for a win or two with those on Kinsley very soon and I have joined his greyhound club the friends of Kinsley racing club which spits out tips for winners like no one's business on a weekly bases certainly proved worth while being a member going forward.

My own greyhounds are running very well at present with Jogon Mark having gone through the grades at Sunderland up to A2 level from A7 after a spell on Newcastle where he couldn't win a race for love or money so the move to Ann Lagan's kennels at Lancaster has been a master stroke as she adores the dog and his results speak for themselves however the loss of Jogon Rocky was bitter pill to swallow when he suffered a broken leg on Sunderland as was the loss of Olympic All star recently.

I also like to thank Tony & Lorraine Howard for the gift of Istheinkdry and the money talks puppies, Inky has brought us so much pleasure over recent months he is a brilliant greyhound although he wont parade or go through the formalities like the other dogs do before the race but once he gets into those traps he is ready to do the business alright with four A1 winning races to his name already but he is turning out to be something special and he has a big fan club on Sunderland mainly because of his name but what a greyhound he is and providing we can keep him fit their lots more wins with him for certain and not forgetting Suncroft Sandra who is now up to A1 grade as well so lots to look forward too for the rest of the year.

To conclude I like to thank all our members for their financial support over the year and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as myself and my family have.

Sean Murphy,
Syndicate Organiser.

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