

CLEAN-UP OF LIME KILN – AUGHADEFFIN KILKELLY CO. MAYO

Urlaur Community Committee agreed at a monthly meeting that the overgrown Lime Kiln at Aughadeffin be cleaned up and a sign erected dedicated to Hugh Flatley, whose father Tom built the Lime Kiln. We sincerely thank the Management, Staff from Mayo North East, the Rural Social Scheme and TUS for the outstanding work they contributed on the lime kiln and the erection of the sign, with professionalism and ingenuity. The long hours worked, attention to detail and unwavering commitment to quality is a result of the excellent condition of the Lime Kiln to-day. Thanks also to Johnny Cafferky for supplying the photograph of Hugh for insertion on the sign, Nigel Gammon for printing sign and Chris Doyle for the mounting and framework.

In Ireland, Lime Kilns during the 18th to 20th centuries were a common feature in almost every town and village. Unfortunately, most have now been destroyed or have faded into the landscape. Lime Kilns are part of our heritage, history and should be retained where possible.

The Lime Kiln is a great attraction for visitors to the area, with the assistance of RSS and TUS in its upkeep it will be preserved for many years to come in the future.



Back Row L to R: - Martin Gallagher (RSS) – Margaret Casey (RSS Supervisor) - Jimmy Burke (TUS)

Tomas Phillips (Chairman UCC)

Front Row: - Johnny Cafferky – Josie Gallagher (Treasurer UCC) – Jim Casey (A/Sec UCC)

Pat Dooney (RSS) (Missing from Photograph)



Lime Kiln end result



Jimmy Burke (TUS) Pat Dooney (RSS) and
Martin Gallagher (RSS) at work



Urlaur Pattern and Community Group

LIME KILN



This lime kiln was built in the early nineteen thirties by Tom Flatley and his son Hugh. They supplied lime to the local farmers up to the late fifties, ceasing the activity when lime became commercially available.

This lime kiln was used to burn limestone rock to make lime. The use of lime for agriculture purposes began in Ireland in the 12th century. It also had other uses, for example making whitewash. The limestone rock had to be smashed to pieces by hand before burning to make a fine powder, this took about a week to burn. First turf was placed in the kiln then a layer of limestone, on top a layer of turf then limestone until filled to the top. The fuel used to burn limestone rock was turf, sourced from the local bogs. The limestone was sourced from Aughamore and transported by horse and cart to Aughadeffin.

The making or burning of lime was almost as common as sowing crops. There were no merchants that commercially supplied lime, so making one's own was a common practice. Lime kilns were a common feature of rural landscapes throughout Ireland. Not every farm had a lime kiln but almost every village had one or two, who sold on the lime to the local farmers.




Lime Kiln Aughadeffin

The Late Hugh Flatley

Photos by Jim Casey