

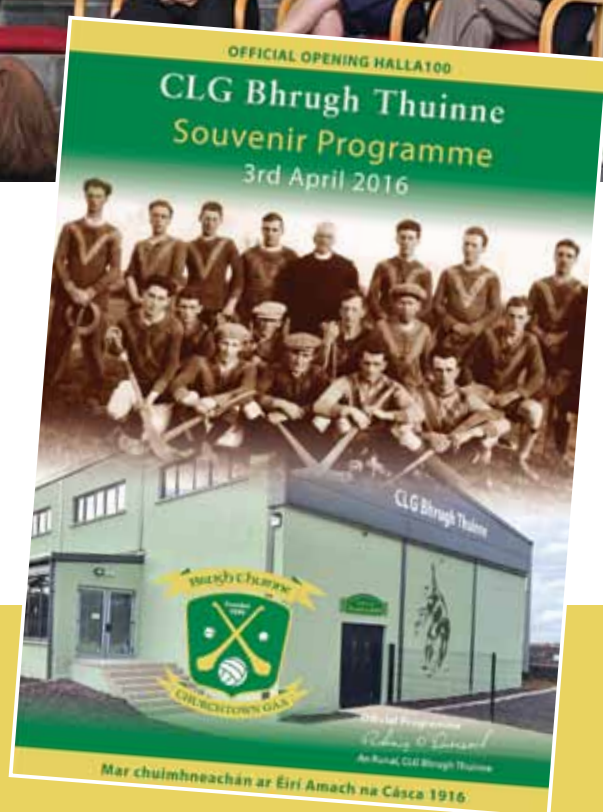
3rd April 2016
Historic Day for Churchtown GAA

*Mar chuimhneachán ar
Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916*



President of GAA
opened Halla100

Club celebrated 30 years of
infrastructure development



On Sunday 3rd April 2016 there was no better place to be in Cork or Limerick than at Páirc Bhrugh Thuinne, home of Churchtown GAA. That's because Churchtown GAA celebrated the official opening of its €1.25 million complex of facilities most especially *Halla100*; a new indoor sports facility named to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

The master of ceremonies for the day was Eoin Butler who did a wonderful job managing the event. For the day he used a gavel made from a floorboard of Archbishop Thomas Croke's original family home at nearby Kilbrin. This most appropriate gavel was made available for the day by local historian Noel Linehan of the Churchtown Heritage Society.



Owen Butler

The official opening started with a beautiful reading of the Proclamation by Rosemary O'Flaherty who introduced it in Irish with the followings words: *"Rinneadh cos ar bolg ar na hÉireannaigh ar feadh na mblianta agus spreag an leatrom seo maraon leis na tírghráthóirí Éireannacha cáiliúla ar nós Hugh O'Neill, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, James Stephens agus Diarmuid O'Donovan Rossa; agus ag 12.30, Luan Cásca, 24 Aibreán, 1916, tháinig Pádraig Mac Piarais amach as Ard Oifig an Phoist agus d'athraigh an forógra seo a leanas Éire go deo".*

After the Proclamation reading local Club

chairman, Tony O'Flaherty, delivered a passionate address where he welcomed everybody with the following words: *"Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach GAA members and supporters from throughout counties Cork and Limerick and further afield and we especially welcome our fellow parishioners from Liscarroll as since 2011 Liscarroll and Churchtown have combined to field one hurling team – playing as Churchtown – and one football team – playing as Liscarroll."*

Next to address the crowd was local Club stalwart and PRO Barry Aherne who is also the current Chairman of the Avondhu GAA Board. Barry delivered an inspiring and comprehensive address making many great points most especially that while Churchtown GAA has achieved a huge amount already he was sure there was even better to come.

Richard Murphy, Development Officer and Tracey Ní Chinnéide, Vice chairman represented



Unveiling the plaque – Tony O'Flaherty, Chairman, Bhrugh Thuinne CLG and Aogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtarán CLG



the Cork County Board. Richard is a brother of Ina Bourke. Tracey addressed the large gathering easily accommodated in the 5,500 square feet indoor facility and congratulated the Club on its infrastructural achievements culminating in the opening of Halla100 *mar chuimhneachán ar Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916*.

The Munster Council was represented by Kieran Leddy, Operations Manager and Liam Lenihan, Vice Chairman who addressed the crowd on a range of issues including the key role of the local Club in the GAA; a theme which Aogán Ó Fearghail further elaborated upon in his address.

The highlight of the day was the 15 minute address by Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail.

Speaking without notes the President delivered a tour de force address about the role of the GAA in the community. He reminded us that there were over 2,000 clubs in Ireland and another 600 throughout the world. He complimented the officials, members and supporters of Churchtown GAA on their achievements. The Uachtarán concluded his remarks saying: "This year is the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising and a time for us all to celebrate our achievements and consider the legacy this generation will give to our youth. Halla100, which commemorates the Centenary of 1916, is

indeed a fitting and a lasting legacy from CLG Bhrugh Thuinne to the youth of the future and not just in Churchtown, but in North Cork. "*Ar aghaidh libh Brugh Thuinne.*"

Fr Robin Morrissey PP, Honorary President of the Club then blessed Halla100 after which a 1916 commemorative jersey was presented to Gerry Murphy on behalf of the Club by Denis Crowley and Jack O'Flaherty to recognise his strategic contribution to the Club since he founded the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust in 1997. A copy of the 784 page *Annals of Churchtown* was presented to the Uachtarán by Club Treasurer Niall O'Shea and his wife Sandra presented a bouquet of flowers to the President's wife Frances. The Uachtarán then unveiled a commemorative plaque honouring the occasion.

It was then time for the Thomas Davis Pipe Band to strike up *Amhrán na bhFiann* and the Intermediate Hurling match between Cork and Limerick to take place. Churchtown GAA's new electronic score board was commissioned especially for the occasion. In the end Cork won by just two points in an entertaining match tightly contested in its final stages.

A special 32 page souvenir programme was also made available on the day. The programme included letters from the local chairman and



Barry Aherne, Chairman, Avondhu Board and PRO, CLG Bhruigh Thuinne



Rosemary O'Flaherty, Proclamation Reader



Fr Robin Morrissey, Honorary President

the Uachtarán, a short history of the Club, picture parade, six pages on Granard Gaels and the original juvenile club plus a section on the Club's infrastructure and fundraising developments over the last 30 years. There was also a section on the Club's sculpture and murals which were created by Sue Gifford. A copy of the Souvenir Programme was presented to every pupil in both Liscarroll and Churchtown National Schools by Granard Gaels following the event.

The day started with a Mass concelebrated in St Nicholas' Church by Fr Robin Morrissey PP and Fr Stephen O'Mahony, PP Emeritus. The readings were by Kieran Curtin and Gerry Murphy, the Prayers of the Faithful were by Colm Conroy, Mike Doyle and Maurice O'Donovan. The Gifts were brought to the Altar by Helen Aherne, Sandra O'Shea, Caroline O'Driscoll, Peggy O'Flaherty and Liz O'Halloran. The local choir sang beautifully with lovely solo performances by Rosemary O'Flaherty, Mary Murphy and Willie Relihan.

The background music chosen for the day's grand opening was from the *Boss Murphy Music Legacy*, by Charleville native Dr Colette Moloney, published in 2003 (ISBN 0-952-4931-2-8) by the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust. It was recorded by students in the traditional music department of Waterford Institute of Technology. These tunes were collected by Churchtown native John Murphy (1875-1955) in the period 1933-1935.

Halla 100 was constructed by John Ronan & Co from Ballyhea managed by Ray Ronan. The Consulting Engineer was Tim Lenihan & Co in Kanturk.

Churchtown GAA was affiliated to the GAA in 1890

Churchtown is one half of the parish of Churchtown-Liscarroll and both villages traditionally had independent GAA clubs with both clubs fielding hurling and football teams. Since 2011 both clubs have combined to field one hurling team (playing as Churchtown) and one football team (playing as Liscarroll). Since 2003 the juvenile players of both clubs have combined to play under the Granard Gaels banner and this has been a very successful initiative.

Churchtown is located in the GAA's Avondhu Division of North Cork. Club member Barry Ahern is currently chairman of the Avondhu Division. The Club's first major success was a Hurling victory in North Cork in 1929. It took another 40 years for the Club to capture its next North Cork Hurling title in 1969. The Club has been successful in more recent years.

Over the last 30 years the Club has overseen an investment in excess of €1.25m and developed the following facilities:

- purchased 11 acres in 1987;
- leveled, drained and fenced the main pitch to a high standard;
- developed car park and viewing embankments;
- created a separate training pitch;
- constructed two dressing rooms, Club meeting room, referee room and public toilets under a 500-spectator viewing area;
- created a walk way around the main pitch;
- erected a limestone public sculpture;
- roofed the Sports Stand;
- floodlit the training pitch;
- built a hurling wall;
- facilitated the development of a Children's Playground for the parish;
- built a 5,500 square feet astro-turf indoor sports hall.

Halla100 is named to commemorate Easter 1916. It was completed in late 2015 and is well utilised by GAA Clubs in the North Cork area and financially self-sustaining.

**FREE ADMISSION
ALL WELCOME**



Churchtown GAA ~ CLG Bhrugh Thuinne

Official Opening of Halla 100

Mar chuimhneachán ar Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916

**Fáilte go
halla 100**

on Sunday 3rd April 2016

*by Aogán Ó Fearghail
Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael*

1.30pm – Official Opening
3.00pm – Intermediate Hurling Challenge



Cork v Limerick



www.churchtowngaa.com

The Poster which was designed and distributed locally to promote the opening of Halla 100 and make sure everyone was invited.

Chairman's Address

A Chairde Gael,

Is onóir mór dúinn go bhfuil Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail inár measc chun an Halla100 a oscailt maraon leis an ionad spóirt faoi dhíon atá cúig mhíle troigh cearnach.

It was always my dream as a boy that I would wind up on a podium speaking to a large crowd in front of the President of the GAA... and I would be holding aloft the Liam McCarthy Cup... *seans ar bith*... so back to reality!

Welcome to our special day here at Churchtown GAA when we are honoured to have the 38th President of the GAA, Aogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael open Halla100; our new 5,500 square feet indoor astro-turf sports facility which is named to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Easter 1916. We also welcome GAA Officials from the Munster Council, Cork County Board and Avondhu.

Today also marks the opening of all the facilities we have developed over the last 30 years at a cost of over €1.25 million – our two playing pitches, our 500 seater Sports Stand, Club and Dressing Rooms, Hurling Wall, Childrens' Playground and, of course, now Halla100 *mar chuimhneachán ar Éirí Amach na Cásca míle naoi gcéad is a sé déag.*

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach GAA



Tony O'Flaherty, Chairman

members and supporters from throughout counties Cork and Limerick and further afield and we especially welcome our fellow parishioners from Liscarroll as since 2011 Liscarroll and Churchtown have combined to field one hurling team – playing as Churchtown – and one football team – playing as Liscarroll. The Juvenile sections of both clubs have combined since 2003 and

play under the Granard Gaels banner.

As Chairman I am very conscious of the time and effort so many members put into supporting our Club. It is true that without this unselfish voluntary support our successes both on and off the field would not be possible.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt / I also wish to recognise the mothers, fathers, grandparents and families who support our players and the spouses and partners who support our members so they have time to volunteer and play for the Club.

There are very many people and organisations whom – as a Club – we need to remember and thank today. We must acknowledge the time and effort put into our Club by committees and members since we were founded in 1890. I especially thank our present executive and committee – too many to mention individually – but ALL of whom are acknowledged individually on page 24 of our Souvenir Programme.

CLG Bhrugh Thuinne also acknowledges the great community work of the Churchtown Development Association; the vision of the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust; the beautifying of our village by the Churchtown Gardening Club and their help landscaping our grounds.

We also salute the work of the Churchtown Wednesday Club



Former chairmen – John Keane, Colm Conroy and Jim Crowley.



*Committee 2017 Members:
Tony O'Flaherty, Barry Aherne,
Pat O'Driscoll and Niall O'Shea
with Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó
Fearghaill.*

for our senior community and Churchtown Foróige with our youth; the great work of Slí Eile at Burton Park; Churchtown Parent & Toddler Group, Churchtown Roadrunners and the work of the Churchtown Heritage & Historical Society and the Ballyhoura Ramblers for preserving our culture.

Churchtown GAA would like to thank SOLAS/FÁS for their essential support over the years. We thank all our individual and other corporate supporters. The Club especially thanks Pat O'Brien and Liam Healy of O'Brien's Bar for their continued support.

Since 1998 Cumann Luthchleas Bhrugh Thuinne has also had the benefit of the support and strategic advice of Churchtown's Cork Person of the Year 2001 – Gerry Murphy – and we thank him and his family for this support over the last 18 years not just to our Club but also in renewing our village.



***Mar chuimhneachán ar Éirí Amach
na Cásca 1916***

The name *Halla100* was chosen as the new Sports Hall name to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916 and is the Club's contribution to the Centenary celebrations.

Our Club fundraisers – again too many to thank each person individually – over the years are also vital and in this connection we have listed them all on page 22 of our Programme.

Many of these people are fundraising for almost 30 years and we are so grateful to you all.

It is an honour for Churchtown GAA to have Cork and Limerick Intermediate Hurlers, their officials, the referee and umpires gracing our field today in a challenge match to mark the official opening.

Cork and Limerick have been great rivals over the years and whenever they meet it evokes memories of great games and great players.

Cork and Limerick have produced two of the icons of the game of Hurling in Mick Mackey of Limerick and Christy Ring of Cork. While being mindful of the past, today we look forward to witnessing the skills of the ancient game being displayed by the up and coming stars of this generation.

CLG Bhrugh Thuinne has survived and prospered over the last 126 years. This is a great achievement and a credit to our committees and supporters over the years.

Once again thank you to Uachtarán Aogán Ó Fearghaill for attending today.

Long may Gaelic games and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael continue to thrive in our parish and remain a vibrant amateur sporting and cultural organisation throughout Ireland and further afield.

*Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir agus as
agaibh libh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Bhrugh
Thuinne.*

Address by Barry Aherne

Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Oifigí Comhairle na Mumhan agus Coiste Chontae Chorcaí, Cathaoirleach agus Oifigí Bhrugh Thuinne, a Athair Urramaigh agus a cairde uilig, is mór an onóir domsa bheith anseo tráthnóna don ócáid speisialta, stairiúil do Cumann Bhrugh Thuine ar son Coiste Tuaisceart Corcaí tréasláim leis an cumann as ucht an sár obair atá déanta anseo agaibh.

Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, officers of the Munster Council and Cork County Board, chairman and officers of Churchtown, Rev Father, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a great honour for me to be present here this afternoon in Churchtown's Halla100 for this historic and special occasion. It is an honour to be here as chairman of the Avondhu board but more important to be here as one of your own, as a Churchtown man.

On behalf of the Avondhu board I want to sincerely congratulate Churchtown club on the excellent facilities that you have developed here over the years. The playing surface on your field is one of the best around and it is always in top class condition for the matches that have been



Barry Aherne, Chairman,
Avondhu Board and PRO, CLG
Bhrugh Thuinne

hosted here on behalf of the board and I have no doubt but that many more matches will be given to this venue in the years ahead.

Today, as I said, is a historic day in the history of Churchtown GAA, the culmination of 30 years of hard work by the dedicated members of this club which celebrated its 125th anniversary last year. Today is the cultivation of the seed that was sown 30 years ago by the officers of the club when they set about buying their own playing field. Until then the club was dependant on the generosity and goodwill of

local farmers to give the use of a playing field for training and for playing its league games but the club was never left without. The officers at that time had the vision to plan for the future and made sure that when they were buying the land that they bought enough to ensure that future development could take place, what a wise decision that was back then.

This vision has been carried on down the past 30 years by the various officers and culminates today in the fantastic playing field, spectator stand with a capacity for 500 people and with a meeting room, dressing rooms and a referees room underneath and this fantastic 5,500 sq ft



Páirc Bhrugh Thuinne D

1987 - 1996

Grounds Purchased

Field Levelled, Drained and Fenced

Car Park & Viewing Embankments Added

Separate Training Pitch Developed

To all our Club supporters, players and officials – Go raibh maith agaibh

1997 - 2006

500 Seater Sports Stand & Dressing Rooms Built

Walkway around the Main Pitch Added

Limestone Public Sculptures Erected

Pitch Drainage Installed

2 Win-a-House Fundraising

Granard Gaels founded 2003

Halla100 available for its members and indeed other clubs in the area to use.

These facilities are now the envy of many a larger club around the county but it shows that if you have a hard core of loyal members that are willing to pull together, to put in the hard miles on the highways and byways knocking on doors selling tickets and many other fund raising ventures, that a lot can be achieved. Churchtown is proof positive of this with the facilities that are available here and it is an acknowledgement of the true voluntary ethos of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael that an t-Uachtarán Aogán Ó Fearghaill has taken time out of his very busy schedule to come here to perform the official opening.

I have no doubt that the development of facilities here do not stop today. Other things I believe are planned but for the moment the members can bask in the glow of satisfaction of a job well done up to now.

Comhgairdeas Brugh Thuinne agus ar aghaidh libh. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

*New members are
most welcome*

Right: the sign that was erected on site during the construction of Halla100.

Churchtown GAA

halla 100

Churchtown GAA would like to thank all our volunteer ticket sellers and financial supporters who have made it possible to build our new indoor sports hall. Our new sports facility – Halla 100 – will be officially opened on 3rd April 2016.

Project Details

New Sports Hall

Total budget €350,000

5,500 square feet – 47 feet x 117 feet

Plus enclosed viewing area overlooking hall and pitch

Due for completion in August 2015

Official opening: 3 April 2016

Sports Capital Grant



Churchtown GAA acknowledges grant support for this project of €120,000 from the Sports Capital Programme operated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Contractor

John Ronan & Co., Ballyhea

☎ 063 81736

Consulting Engineers

T G Lenihan & Co., Kanturk

☎ 029 20900

development 1987 - 2016



2007 - 2016

Official Opening

Sports Stand Roofed

5,500 square foot Astro-Turf Sports Hall Built

Training Pitch Floodlit

Hurling Wall Built

Children's Playground Built

Digital Scoreboard Erected

Historic Day in Churchtown on 3rd April 2016

President of GAA opened Halla100 to commemorate Easter 1916

Club celebrated €1.25 million investment

Cork win over Limerick in an Intermediate Hurling Challenge Match

Modern Day Patriotism

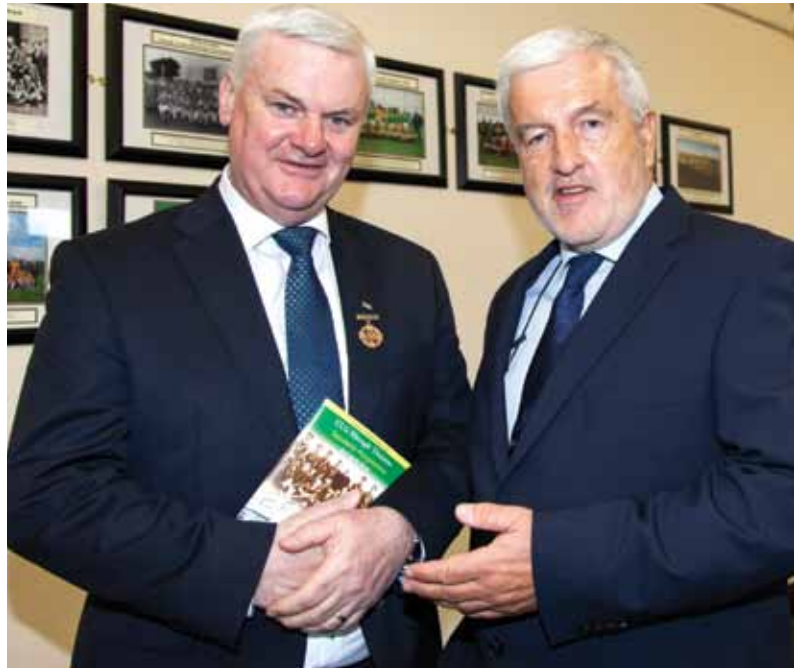
*An article by Gerry Murphy
as originally published in the
Vale Star on 31st March 2016
in advance of the opening of
Halla100 on 3rd April 2016.*

Next Sunday is a big day in the history of Churchtown GAA when the President of the GAA will officially open not just Halla100, named to commemorate the centenary of the Easter Rising in 1916, but also all the other facilities that the local Club has developed over the last 30 years.

The fact that Churchtown GAA is now one of the best equipped small GAA Clubs in the country with €1.25 million invested and debt-free is something that did not happen by accident. It happened because over the last 30 years modern day patriots volunteered their time and energy to the Club and the Parish. We should all be grateful to these people who have worked tirelessly to create what has been achieved at Páirc Bhrugh Thuinne. *Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.*

The GAA in Ireland is more than a sports organisation. It is a volunteer-led amateur movement that operates to the highest professional standard as evidenced by one of the finest sports stadia in Europe at Croke Park named after a man born and raised just a few miles away from Churchtown in Kilbrin. Churchtown may be only a small cog in the GAA but like thousands of other small clubs dotted around Ireland and beyond our shores it's the small parts that make the wheel so strong.

Of course, there is more to every community than the GAA and we must recognise the work of other voluntary parish organisations. I think especially of the wonderful community work of the Muintir na Tíre group of my youth, followed



*Gerry Murphy, Chairman of the Club's Infrastructure Sub-committee with
President of the GAA, Aogán Ó Fearghail*

by the Churchtown Community Council and over the last thirty years the Churchtown Development Association; the vision of the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust and the beautifying of our village by the Churchtown Gardening Club. We must salute the work of the Churchtown Wednesday Club for our senior community and Churchtown Foróige and Granard Gaels with our youth; the great work of Slí Eile at Burton Park; Churchtown Parent & Toddler Group, Churchtown Roadrunners and the work of the Churchtown Heritage & Historical Society and the Ballyhoura Ramblers for preserving our culture. The people who volunteer and dedicate their time to these community organisations are in my opinion our modern day patriots.

We must also be grateful for the support from Solas / FÁS and other local community development organisations such as Kilfinane-based Ballyhoura Development.

The opening of Halla100 and its dedication *mar chuimhneachán ar Éirí Amach na Cásca míle naoi gcéad is a sé déag* is a fitting parish



memorial to those who went before us and sacrificed so much for an Irish Freedom which transcends borders and politics. President Michael D Higgins, whose mother was Alice Canty from Liscarroll, said it very well this week when he explained that Irish Freedom has especially allowed us to foster, nurture and develop our own culture and identity.

As someone who spends much of my time in recent years outside of Ireland I may see the country through a different prism. Of course, there is much we could improve but equally there is much to admire. Sometimes I feel we are too quick to see the negative and too hard on ourselves. I focus on the positive and in this regard I look at the great work of the Club of which I am a proud member and which my family have supported over the generations since it was founded in 1890. In my opinion we have much to commemorate and much to celebrate not just in Churchtown but in Ireland.

Beannachtaí na Cásca agus ar aghaidh libh Brugh Thuinne.

Mair chomhbheacháin ar Eit' Amach na Cásca 1916

Fáilte go halla 100

CLG Bhrugh Thuinne
Official Opening of Halla 100
3ú Aibreán 2016

CLÁR

7.03 – Sunrise
11.30 – Mass in St Nicholas' Church
13.15 – Uachtarán arrives
13.45 – Opening ceremony in Halla 100
13.50 – Reading of 1916 Proclamation
13.55 – Welcome by Cathaoirleach, CLG Bhrugh Thuinne
14.05 – Address by CLG Coiste Abhann Dubh Official
14.10 – Address by CLG Chontae Chorcaí Official
14.15 – Addresses by CLG Coiste Na Mumhan Official
14.20 – Address by Uachtarán CLG
14.30 – Uachtarán unveils Opening Plaque
14.55 – Amhrán na bhFiann
15.00 – Intermediate Hurling Cork v Limerick
The Team Sheet is available separately
20.11 – Sunset

Music by The Thomas Davis Pipe Band.

The background music chosen for today's grand opening is from the Boss Murphy Music Legacy, by Dr Colette Moloney, published in 2003 (ISBN 0-952-4931-2-8) by the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust. It was recorded by students in the traditional music department of Waterford Institute of Technology. These tunes were collected by Churchtown native John Murphy (1875-1955) in the period 1933-1935. Tunes are also played from the CD entitled Boss Murphy's Spirit of Cork released in 1998.



Halla 100 opening event stationery included a 32 page Programme, Posters (page 5) and Invitations (below).

Churchtown GAA - CLG Bhrugh Thuinne

cordially invite

to the Official Opening of Halla 100
on 3.3pm on Sunday 3rd April 2016.
by Aoibín Ó Fionghaill,
Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gaeil
and afterwards for an Intermediate
Hurling Challenge - Cork v Limerick

Mair chomhbheacháin ar Eit' Amach na Cásca 1916

Fáilte go halla 100

This souvenir publication was sponsored by Egmont Stores – supporting the community.

**EGMONT
STORES
CHURCHTOWN**



The victorious Cork Intermediate Hurling Team on the day.

Thank you FÁS / SOLAS

Churchtown GAA would like to acknowledge the support the Club has received over the years from FÁS without which our facilities would not be what they are today. As well as work on the infrastructure FÁS – or SOLAS as it is now called – has also provided staff to help us maintain our grounds.

Our 550-seater Sports Stand was built under a FÁS training programme which was an enormous contribution at a time when it was badly needed. More recently FÁS has helped us to ensure all our Club buildings were looking their best for the arrival of the Uachtarán of the GAA, Aogán Ó Fearghail, for the opening of Halla100.

Churchtown GAA acknowledges

especially the support of Gerry Farrissey who has managed FÁS in our village for the last 20 years. As well as Gerry, former FÁS executives Paddy Carleton, Granagh and John Murphy, Fermoy were also invited to the opening of Halla100. Pat O'Connell, Dromina, who supervised the Sports Stand project was also in attendance.

We must also not forget that FÁS has also supported the Churchtown Development Association work in making sure our village is well presented at all times and most importantly it was a FÁS scheme that helped to renovate the Community Centre before it was opened by President Mary McAleese in 2000.



A NEW ERA

New Years Day 2017 will see the official launch of *Na Gaels CLG*. This is a huge opportunity for the united parish of Churchtown and Liscarroll and offers the combined Club a bright future with a much larger panel of players.

Ar ghaidh Na Gaels.



In the beginning...

Cork Examiner report 7th May 1987 – Viewing engineering drawings for the new playing field being developed by Churchtown GAA L-to-R: Pat Murphy, Treasurer GAA Field Fund; John Keane, Club Chairman; Barry Aherne, Club Secretary and William J Condon, Club Vice-President. The club would like to acknowledge the major input of the late Fr P J Twohig PP who was Parish Priest at the time and successfully negotiated the purchase of the property. Fr Twohig was unavoidably absent when this picture was taken. (Photo: Irish Examiner)