Backimg our Heroes: GMIT supports frontline staff in time of Covid crisis

Last batch of GMIT face visors delivered to Galway University Hospitals GUH

While the campus doors may be closed, the work goes on. Over the last eleven short weeks, GMIT staff have been challenged in exceptional ways. Whilst having to adapt to new ways of teaching and assessing online, they have also been engaged in the background supporting the fight against Covid. Several initiatives undertaken have included the opening of a contact tracing centre, pioneering the development of open source ventilators, in addition to the production of face coverings.

One particular project was the production of face shields – “GMIT Project Visor” – led Dr Brian de Souza and Eddie Dunbar of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. Faced with unprecedented and immediate demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the project initially targeted the production of PPE for primary care settings before being subsequently expanded to meet the requirements of Galway University Hospitals (GUH). Working both from the Dublin Road campus and from homes all around Galway City and County, the two lecturers, together with GMIT volunteers and their families, assembled over ten thousand face shields.

“We initiated a call for staff within GMIT to volunteer for the project in mid-April and were astounded by the response. We were inundated with offers to help”, says Gerard Mac Michael, Head of School of Engineering, GMIT. “The goodwill and sense of unity was humbling”. Continued Page 2

President pays tribute to GMIT staff and students

GMIT president Dr Orla Flynn has paid tribute to the resilience of GMIT staff and students during the current Covid-19 pandemic, and its "community response" to a national crisis.

In a broad-ranging interview in this issue of GMITNEWS Dr Flynn, formerly Vice President for External Affairs at Cork Institute of Technology, took up her appointment in GMIT on 18 March at the onset of the pandemic.

She has said that the flexibility shown by staff in offering remote tuition and support to students, while also meeting wider needs, is indicative of a confident new era for GMIT.

"Over the past two months, we’ve been together -though apart - working remotely, and demonstrating a strong community leadership role," she says. This will stand the college to good stead as it plans for a re-opening on 28 September.

When the national lockdown took hold in March, plans were activated for online delivery while GMIT also set up a contact tracing centre for the Health Service Executive (HSE) at the Galway and Mayo campuses.

She recalls how business, engineering, science and computing staff and researchers rowed in, producing PPE and establishing links with teams in other colleges.

"GMIT really came up trumps over the past two months in terms of its community approach, and its commitment to students, both collectively and individually - students who required support no matter where they were," she says.

"Those instincts, that effort, will stand to us as we plan ahead," Dr Flynn says.

GMIT is collaborating with Letterkenny IT and IT Sligo in the Connacht-Ulster Alliance application for the first technological university (TU) for the West and North-West, which has been billed by several governments as central to regional growth.

"This pandemic has forced us to think local, and also to think about sustaining communities in which we live," Dr Flynn says.
Kelly’s pride as she makes hundreds of face masks for nursing homes

A member of staff in GMIT’s School of Design and Creative Arts has been putting her creative skills and resources to great use since April, making hundreds of reusable face coverings for use in nursing homes and more recently, for GMIT staff on return to campus.

Textiles Technician Kelly Roberts is making on average 15 masks a day and continues to provide technical support to some 40 students on the BA in Design (Fashion & Textiles Design) and also home-schooling her two young children.

Kelly and colleagues are also busy preparing a plan for the safe return to campus of staff and students, in line with social distancing measures and public health guidelines.

“I really wanted to use my skills and resources to help fight this Coronavirus pandemic but it had to be something I could do at home around my children’s schedule and GMIT work. I was just really impressed with the fabric used as they are easy to fashion into medical masks, and everyone needs an escape to clean and relax but preve...”(see page 3)

Kelly Roberts at work on the face coverings in her home.

GMIT is currently putting plans in place to ensure reusable face coverings are implemented through social distancing, handwashing and hygiene measures in the first instance. Face coverings are an optional extra personal measure to assist in preparation for various rou... (see page 3)

Away from her family and work, Kelly is also home-schooling her two young children. “I am relying solely on donations of fabrics from friends and colleagues. Mostly I use high quality cottons and denim and wide ranging styles as they are easy to fashion into medical masks, and everyone needs an escape to clean and relax but preve...” (see page 3)

Isabel Barnes and Orla Mullins, the Burren Pharmacy, Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare, wearing the GMIT visors. 

From Page 1

“Within days, we had over one hundred and seventy volunteers, and received several incredible offers of support from local business, such as Cutting Patters Galway, who were so impressed with our home production facility to assist the project, and Standard Printers, Galway, who donated their expertise, materials and services free of charge.”

“A major factor in the success of the project was Brian’s network,” added Miss MacHugh. “He solicited the assistance of engineers, colleagues in his own specialist and manufacturing in materials to complement his own design and computational modelling skills. He also initiated the sessions directly with medical school clinicians in primary and tertiary care set... (see page 3)

Dr Orla Flynn, President of GMIT, says, “We are working hard to ensure full compliance with the workplace as safe as possible for all our employees.”

GMIT Health & Safety Officer Doreen Geoghegan recently asked me to provide reusable face coverings for staff who may opt to use them, as part of GMIT’s return to Campus Protocol plan which includes a risk assessment component. It reaffirms all of the measures that we have in place to keep us busy for the summer. I keep myself busy for the summer. I... (see page 3)

Dr Seamus Lennon, Chair of the GMIT Accommodation and Co-ordination Group, says: “We welcome your thoughts on this publication. Please send them to: GMIT News is published by the GMIT Communications Office. We... (see page 3)
The past few weeks have flown by for a large number of GMIT staff who have been working around the clock to design, produce and deliver vital personal protective equipment (PPE) to medical staff on the front line of Covid-19 management.

Adapting to remote teaching and learning, lecturers in engineering, science and computing together with academics in GMIT’s Medical Engineering Technology (MET) Gateway, have already produced face visors and shields while others have assembled ventilators to meet the need to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Many teams, together with MET volunteers and their families, have supplied countless hours of volunteer work to manufacture certified ventilators and PPE.

A number of teams, who have been working around Galway City and County, have produced over 250 ventilators, together with GMIT volunteers and their families. These have been supplied to local GPs and hospitals to aid a person breathing, or to act as a rudimentary ventilator of a manual Bag-Valve-Mask (BVM) system. This new emergency ventilation system has been designed and developed to assist the medical profession in the treatment of Covid patients in the absence of certified ventilators.

Sharon White, Manager of the MET Gateway, and lecturer in the MET Gateway, explains “This new emergency ventilation system has been designed and developed to assist the medical profession in the treatment of Covid patients in the absence of certified ventilators. The system can be used as a last resort if needed. The breathing cycle and air volume control are identical to that of an intensive care ventilator. The ventilation system can be controlled from both the physiician and the patient’s bedside controls. We have also included a humidity monitoring system that can be applied to the MET Gateway to provide a consistent performance." Brian built a computational fluid dynamics model to determine how effective the visor is when used in conjunction with a face mask. Assistance was provided by UL School of Materials Engineering, who provided the materials necessary to manufacture the face shield.

The team included Pat Cassidy from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, David McDonnell and Dr Alan Hannan from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, David McDonnell and Dr Alan Hannan from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, and Liam Collins and Kate Thompson from Collins Plastics. The technology used to manufacture these visors was provided by Dr Patrick Mulryan.

Dr Brian O’Shea, Head of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, says “Often the best of times, but to manufacture a ventilator within weeks would normally be a challenge in the best of times, but to achieve this during the Covid-19 containment is extraordinary.”

Dr Orla Flynn, President of GMIT, says “Putting a team together to design and manufacture a ventilator within weeks would normally be a challenge in the best of times, but to achieve this during the Covid-19 containment is extraordinary.”

GMIT’s entire inventory of 3D printers and 11 technicians, in total, from the Centre for Creative Arts and Media, Letterkenny campus and the Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, was utilized in the MET Gateway. GMIT’s 3D printer support platform for ventilators and other medical devices manufactured by Dr Orla Flynn, President of GMIT, says “Putting a team together to design and manufacture a ventilator within weeks would normally be a challenge in the best of times, but to achieve this during the Covid-19 containment is extraordinary.”
Empower programme expansion a boost for women entrepreneurs

EMPPOWER, the women’s entrepreneurship programme run by Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in Galway and Mayo GMIT iHubs since 2017 and was extended to counties Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal last month under the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA). It is funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Development (PILD). The programme empowers women and is delivered online, in line with current social distancing restrictions around Covid-19.

The EMPOWER programme has been running in the Galway and Mayo GMIT iHubs since 2017 and extended to counties Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal last month (June) under the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA). It is funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Development (PILD). The Local Enterprise Offices are also very supportive of the programme.

Bringing more women entrepreneurs into the economy will help improve economic growth and stability and is particularly needed in the rural and peripheral West and North West of Ireland, says GMIT President Deirdre Hardcastle.

“On Irish, female-led businesses remain an underdeveloped source of economic growth and jobs. As part of a drive to increase the number of female entrepreneurs in the sector EMPOWER has been working to set out to increase participation with the launch of EMPOWER in 2017, extending to Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal last year.

Maria Stavrinou, EMPOWER Programme Manager of GMIT’s Letterfrack campus said the programme has been synonymous with furniture design and manufacturing technology for over 100 years. This industry is dominated by regionally dispersed, small and micro enterprises involved in areas such as architectural joinery products, like all the work undertaken to date by the IWFMN might be compromised. However, since then the IWFMN has continued weekly webinars to share information and learn.

Paul Leamy, Head of Department for GMIT Letterfrack says: “For GMIT, it helps us stay in touch with the industry and we have just completed a Training Needs Analysis with the WRSF for the sector. Understanding and meeting the flexible and work-based learning needs of the sector is now more crucial than ever.”

The IWFMN has a number of funding applications in the pipeline and its focus is on supporting the industry through the immediate and medium-term challenges posed by Covid-19. In this regard, GMIT Letterfrack have initiated a project called Education and Work Integrated Learning (EWIL) which is focused on transitioning undergraduate programmes to become work based as they move towards year-long work placements.

By Dermot O’Doros- sen, Project Manager, Education and Work Integrated Learning Project (EWIL)

by Dermot O’Dorossen, Project Manager, Education and Work Integrated Learning Project (EWIL)

The IWFMN has a number of funding applications in the pipeline and its focus is on supporting the industry through the immediate and medium-term challenges posed by Covid-19. In this regard, GMIT Letterfrack have initiated a project called Education and Work Integrated Learning (EWIL) which is focused on transitioning undergraduate programmes to become work based as they move towards year-long work placements.

The IWFMN has a number of funding applications in the pipeline and its focus is on supporting the industry through the immediate and medium-term challenges posed by Covid-19. In this regard, GMIT Letterfrack have initiated a project called Education and Work Integrated Learning (EWIL) which is focused on transitioning undergraduate programmes to become work based as they move towards year-long work placements.
Orla Flynn, President
GMIT

“One of the biggest challenges for the CUA, or whatever the new university is called, will be in leaving behind what we were – as in the fact that we will no longer be GMIT.”

Left: Orla Flynn at her new workplace at GMIT and, below, working remotely from her home in Cork. “We are the first technological university – TU Dublin – was formally approved by Government and plans for a similar alliance in the West/North-West have been hailed as central to regional growth.”

“I also believe in being aware of your own biases and calling yourself out when needed.”

“I have been very impressed by the way the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) has approached this challenge, with diverse working groups in the key areas of research and innovation, teaching and learning and so on,” she says.

“Given the growth in applied research, we have the potential to become a real resource for the West and North-West, and this is already embedded in our teaching and learning here at GMIT, there is engagement with business and industry. It is natural looking, and I’d like to think that the IIDA and Enterprise Ireland see GMIT as their first port of call.”

“One of the biggest challenges for the CUA is to look ahead to the next 50 years to see what Ireland’s unbalanced growth,” she notes.

“This pandemic has forced us to...
Virtual World

‘We’re Virtually Open’ - GMIT site has all the answers for students

GMIT recently unveiled a new miniature building housing everything you need to know in the Virtual Open Day. The virtual platform was live in April on a specially designed microsite for each campus and course, and was accessed through the GMIT website and YouTube Channel on Monday 15 June. The virtual platform is not a one-off live event, rather a micro-site that will be open 24/7, with no obligation to connect in at any specific time. We invite you to continue browsing our campuses and course pages and get advice on courses, accommodation and our range of services. We look forward to hearing your questions at our live Q&A sessions every Friday afternoon.

GMIT President Dr Orla Flynn says: “The Virtual Open Day is not a one-off live event, rather a micro-site that will be open 24/7, with no obligation to connect in at any specific time. We invite you to continue browsing our campuses and course pages, and get advice on courses, accommodation and our range of services. We look forward to hearing your questions at our live Q&A sessions every Friday afternoon.”

GMIT Schools Liaison Officer Louise Cunningham and GMIT Marketing Officer Karen Smyth explain: “We were aware that there were many disappointed students and parents who were unable to attend our Spring Open Day due to Covid-19 restrictions and we wanted to stay connected with everyone here for you, so please do connect with us on our Virtual Open Day any time between now and the Leaving Cert.”

“While nothing will replace the experience of visiting our campuses and being in the one physical space and location with our students and staff, the Virtual Open Day will give prospective students and parents a feel for GMIT. Together we will try to get through this challenging time until we can welcome you onto our campuses again.”

In the live Q&A chats, prospective students and their parents can get quick feedback from staff about GMIT’s wide range of courses in Business, Computing, Creative Arts and Media, Engineering, Furniture Design, Making and Technology, Nursing, Health Sciences and Social Care, Outdoor Education, Hospitality, Business and Culinary Arts, Teacher Education, as well as the CAO process. The site provides support and contact facilities for GMIT’s continuing education and lifelong learning courses.

Campus on virtual canvas: students take their art online

An exciting exhibition of artwork by students on the BA in Contemporary Art Practices course at GMIT Mayo was unveiled online on Friday 3 June in the first of a series of summer virtual exhibitions by GMIT’s design and creative arts students.

The Mayo campus online event https://www.gmit.ie/ Live%20Web%20events/Westport/2021%20Virtual%20BA%20in%20Contemporary%20Art%20Practices.html was free to part-time students including a dedicated website for each artist and a catalogue of their work https://www.gmit.ie/staff-melissa-doherty-art-4.html.

Dr Deirdre Garry, Head of Lifelong Learning, GMIT Mayo, says: “This year marks the 21st year of our provision of access to part-time art education in the region. In 1999, we enrolled and first students on the BA in Contemporary Art Practices course. This year our part-time degree course is delivered over one full day and one evening per week on campus and culminates in this important end of year exhibition - the highlight of their studies and practice.”

Many of the students have responded to the Mayo landscape as their central theme, with the likes of Noreen Donoghue’s paintings, looking at patterns and textures on beaches and hills, while Michael McQuinn is interested in the play of colour and light on the mountain.

Other themes explored include fashion and textiles, using strong, bright and bold colours, while Elaine Cunningham’s pieces are unfinished artworks, while Elaine Cunningham’s pieces are unfinished artworks. Whitney Wynne’s paintings are inspired by her love of fashion and textiles, using strong, bright and bold colours, while Oran Gannon’s paintings and sculptures are part of an attempt to explore himself and his journey through life.

By contrast, Samir Mahomed’s work is conceptual, interdisciplinary and research orientated, engaging with various materials, textures, objects, video and text to explore the power of our imagination and the boundaries of our suspended transient woven objects.

Details of further virtual shows by students Letter-framed Excellence in Furniture Design & Technology and Cluain Mhuire’s Centre for the Creative Arts and Media (CCAM) will be announced next month (July).

Virtual World

It was never going to be a case of sitting on your laurels for choir master Sean Rowland and his top choristers

Award-winning Galway Musical Director Sean Rowland produced an enthralling video of GMIT’s virtual choir practice called 'Imagine' last week in April - to wide acclaim from fans and leaders we want to invite you to enjoy the recording of the new GMIT Virtual Choir video - his own unique arrange-

Sean Rowland received an Elite Cakes Boutique thank you gift especially delivered to his home, courtesy of GMIT President Dr Orla Flynn.
Dr Seán Duffy is appointed CUA executive project lead

Dr Duffy to lead project seeking a Technological University for the West & North-West

T he Presidents of the Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) of GMIT, IT Sligo, and LYIT are delighted to announce that Dr Seán Duffy will lead the position of CUA Executive Project Lead. The position of CUA Executive Project Lead is seeking a Technological University for the West and North-West.

Dr Seán Duffy is a Fellow of the Irish Hospital Scene Institute and a member of numerous professional bodies. He was awarded the first Irish Hospital Scene Research Fellowship in 2005.2006 for research on technology adoption and EMRs. He has been an external examiner on programmes from Level 6-9 in Ireland and Switzerland and has worked with national and international further and higher education bodies.

We are delighted to have appointed someone of Seán’s calibre to lead the TU ambition for the CUA. Seán has great experience of the IT sector together with a strong commitment to bring the three institutions together as a Technological University.

Dr Duffy brings significant management experience to the position which was gained from playing a key role in the management of the amalgamation process, which saw the successful integration of the Technological College Kilkee/Cork (TCC) with Laois-Offaly Institute of Technology in 2007.

The new centre is managed by Dr Seán Duffy, Executive Project Lead, Dr Shirley Wynn, CUA Project Manager, and Ann Higgins, IT Sligo CUA Project Manager. The office is supported by Anne-Marie McCormack, CUA Data Analyst, based in IT Sligo; Tracy Madden, CUA CUA Project Manager; Colm McVeigh, IT Sligo CUA administrator, and Catherine McNally, LIT CUA administrator.

As part of its plans to become a Technological University, the Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) has expanded its administrative centre which it originally established in 2014. It comprises staff from the three institutes, GMIT, IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT.

The new centre is managed by Seán Duffy, Executive Project Lead, Dr Shirley Wynn, CUA Project Manager, and Ann Higgins, IT Sligo CUA Project Manager. The office is supported by Anne-Marie McCormack, CUA Data Analyst, based in IT Sligo; Tracy Madden, CUA CUA Project Manager; Colm McVeigh, IT Sligo CUA administrator, and Catherine McNally, LIT CUA administrator.

All CUA meetings have moved to Microsoft Teams since the COVID-19 lockdown in mid-March. Over 120 CUA staff are engaged in a regular series of CUA Working Group and Sub-Group meetings, via Microsoft Teams during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was made possible to allow staff already engaged in CUA Working Groups and Sub-Groups to participate in the CUA Research Outputs Survey which will be critical in capturing the breadth of research activity across the CUA. Importantly, this will capture both peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed research activity which is characteristic of a technological university and I would encourage all research active staff to engage with this process.

Dr Shirley Wynn, CUA Project Manager, writes: “We have been able to support our research staff in preparation for drafting a submission document.”

At present, we are focusing on a CUA Research Outputs Survey which has been circulated to all staff and which will be critical in capturing the breadth of research activity across the CUA. Importantly, this will capture both peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed research activity which is characteristic of a technological university and I would encourage all research active staff to engage with this process.

Dr Shirley Wynn
GMIT has been awarded funding from the Irish Research Council to develop an exciting marine science outreach project on ethical taxidermy (stuffed and preserving animals found dead) to raise awareness of the effects of pollution on seabirds.

“The art of taxidermy in marine science education” aims to use new techniques marrying art and science to draw attention to issues facing seabirds in their wider environment. It will involve a multidisciplinary team of scientists, artists, registered taxidermists and media, led by GMIT’s Dr Katie Ó Dwyer, lecturer in Aquatic Ecology, Dept of Natural Sciences.

The team includes Donal Muchall of Glenmave Taxidermy and Aurelien McEvoy (lead of East Coast Taxidermy) - artists and biologists, Sophie Spranger; media producers Peter Catley and GMIT’s Dr Luca Mirimin, to whom the process of ethical taxidermy is an application in marine science education.

“By highlighting these issues through art and media, we hope to shed some light on priority areas targeted in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, significantly reducing marine pollution; and its application in marine ecosystems.”

To track this project see: https://www.facebook.com/DublinRoadZoo
https://www.instagram.com/dublinroadzoo/
https://www.twitter.com/dublinroadzoo
https://www.instagram.com/mirimin_luc/
For GMIT Sport the year 2020 is a year we won’t ever forget. While Covid-19 has certainly played its part in cutting the season short for many of our teams there were, as always, a number of hugely positive success stories that we will fondly remember. None more so than the launch of our new sports brand, GMIT Falcons. GMIT unveiled an exciting new identity for its sports activities across all campuses, bringing student teams and individuals together under the one sports brand, ‘GMIT Falcons’, for the first time in the history of the college. The new brand was formally launched at a special function in the college on Friday, 14 February, when students wore the new kit and colours during a presentation by Dr Michael Hannon, Acting President of GMIT, attended by students, coaches, staff and representatives from sports organisations across the region.

Central to the new identity is the falcon bird of prey, conveying elements of agility, grace, speed and ferocity while the predominant shades of blue echo the traditional blue of the Connacht coat of arms. Falcon clubs respond enthusiastically when the new kits, logos and colours were unveiled. Student teams have been wearing the new kit since January (2020) and we have already begun to extend the range to leisure wear and other branded accessories. On the sporting arena and fields we had another highly successful season. GMIT were crowned league champions in their divisions in Senior Men’s Rugby, Senior Camogie, Fresher hurling and Senior hurling. The success continued into 2020 with GMIT Falcons winning six titles in the National Boxing Intervarsity’s and Gold at the National Cheer-leading Intervarsity for the 6th year running.

There were also individual successes in both Handball & Judo. Unfortunately, a number of our teams’ seasons were cut short due to Covid-19, where we have no doubt, we would have seen many more of our students excel. While we do not know what the 2020/21 season in third level sport will look like, our sports students and staff are already embracing the challenge and represent GMIT Falcons with pride.

Check out the GMITSU Life YouTube Channel for videos of our virtual GMIT Sports Awards, GMIT Falcons Launch and much more - https://www.youtube.com/c/GMITnews1023/featured
Our surfers on the crest of a wave after securing national title for third year in a row

Dennis Murphy: a unique person and man of the community who developed links with universities all over the world and was highly regarded by graduates

Tribute Dennis Murphy (1950 – 2020)

Dennis, originally from Rostrevor, Co. Down, graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1972. Before joining GMIT in 1973 (DCU Galway) he first worked with the National Youth Council of Ireland. He went on to hold two years in Waterford RTC, and one year in Cork RTC.

He lectured in the GMIT School of Business from 1977 until 2007, when he became Head of the Department of Hotel and Catering Management. In 2003, the President, Dr. Cox, asked him, along with Hugh McFadden, to prepare the Institute’s application for Delegated Authority and, on the successful completion of this application, he then worked on the alignment of the Institute with the National Framework of Qualifications.

Becoming Head of Teaching and Learning in September 2007, a post he held until he retired in 2012, he also had responsibility for the International Office and initiated some very successful links with universities all over the world, which resulted in many foreign students, notably from China and Saudi Arabia, attending GMIT. These GMT students completed NBA’s in Nanjing as a result of his contacts and a number of lectures had the opportunity to lecture locally in Nanjing.

During his time in GMIT, Dennis was the Permanent Visitor of the Students Union, a responsibility he took very seriously and enjoyed very much. He was always interested in the welfare of students and, as can be seen from social media since his death, was highly regarded by graduates who would have known him while he was Head of Department.

Dennis had developed a love for art and had made many trips to China, where he has traveled to China for many years. He lectured in Management in a number of universities in a number of years where he lectured in Management in a number of universities, including Nanchang. He completed NBA’s in Nanchang.

During his time in GMIT, Dennis was the Permanent Visitor of the Students Union, a responsibility he took very seriously and enjoyed very much. He was always interested in the welfare of students and, as can be seen from social media since his death, was highly regarded by graduates who would have known him while he was Head of Department.

Dennis went on to have a successful career in the Hotel School, and had made many trips to China, where he has traveled to China for many years. He lectured in Management in a number of universities, including Nanchang. He completed NBA’s in Nanchang.

He was a lifetime member of the Galway Motor Club being the Clerk of the Course for the Ballyvaughan Hillclimb for a number of years. He participated in a number of events in a Mini with PC Gamma in recent years.

Unfortunately, Dennis became gravely ill in June 2019 and spent the last eleven months of his life in Saint Vincent’s Hospital. His sister Ger visited him nearly every day until Covid-19 struck and visits had to stop. The care and attention that Ger gave Dennis was fantastic.

Dennis died on 9 May and will be sadly missed by Ger and by his son Conor. Grains of honour formed at GMIT, at Ballypark Church, at Oughterard Rugby Club and on on his neighbours as his remains travelled home to Oughterard.

Dennis was a unique person who will be sadly missed.