

'Roses won't grow around your door unless you plant them'
- Michael Colgan

'Take care in what you are doing'
- Myrtle Allen

GARRY COURTNEY

Hospital consultant whose team solved the A&E crisis



GARRY and his team at St Luke's hospital, Kilkenny, solved the A&E crisis. Like everyone else, they had patients on trolleys, long waiting times, crowds, and barely controlled chaos. And they decided, since the situation was unacceptable, to find a solution. Certainly, it took money — but spent creatively, rather than thrown at the problem. Three steps proved vital. They took the sick, as opposed to the accidents, out of the existing system and created a separate unit with speedy access to the various medical disciplines. Based on the key insight that even emergencies can be graded, close contacts with local GPs were cultivated, thus helping to control the timing of referrals. And the whole hospital rowed in behind the project. There are no personal fiefdoms at St Luke's. Garry has that rare leadership gift of inspiring others to reach for a goal, give of their best, and then go the extra mile.

SEAN BOYLAN

His success in Gaelic football has been matched by achievements as a herbalist

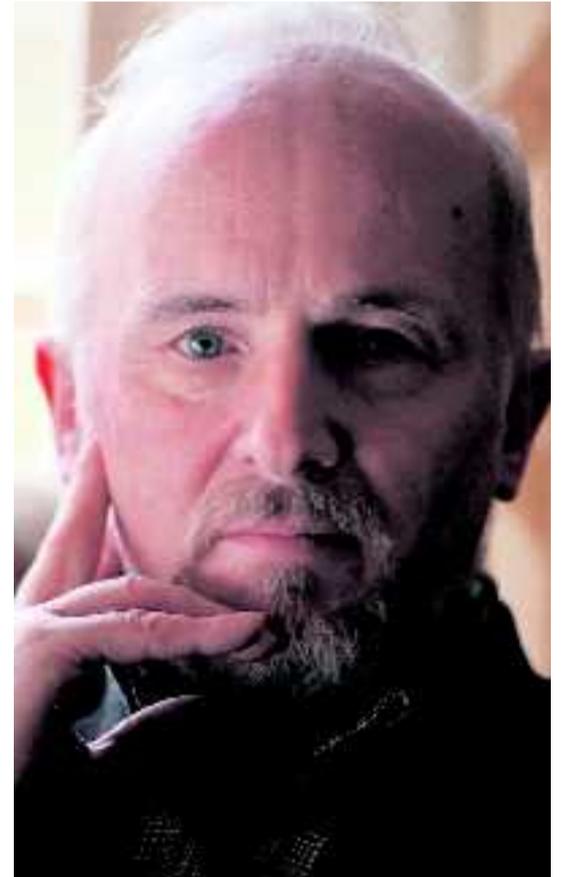


SEAN soars on two wings, football and herbalism. While the accolades abound in the world of sport and his long career as a county football manager, which saw Meath bring home the Sam Maguire Cup four times, his unique and distinguished role as a herbalist is international, with world-renowned scientific connections. Steeped in the family heritage of growing herbs and helping people heal themselves, which began in Dunboyne in 1798, Sean joined his father in 1961, having just finished agricultural college. What was supposed to be a six-week stint became a 10-year apprenticeship, and then a life-long professional commitment to nurturing the wholeness of mind, body and spirit, a task he never once called work. His herbs undergo independent quality control, as he oversaw folk medicine becoming science, without ever straying too far from its core. And his enthusiasm for teaching ensures that the herbal tradition continues.

TONY HUMPHREYS

Psychologist who challenged the dominant credo

TONY had the insight to see beyond the constraints of modern psychology. He not only rejected the notion that we are hidebound by our genes, which 20th-Century psychology challenged, but also saw the limitations of the behavioural model which states that we are conditioned by our environment, upbringing, and life experiences. Both concepts ultimately cast us as passive recipients, and as victims helpless to effect change. Instead, he sees that each individual actively creates his own uniqueness, making the best of the cards life deals him, with great courage, intelligence and ingenuity. No matter how tight the corner, we still negotiate, however unconsciously. Tony has delivered his message at international conferences and national public lecture meetings, on radio and television, to large corporations and individual therapy clients, and in his many books, over the past 30 years. A lonely stance in a world infatuated with the notion of rights rather than responsibility, but Tony stood firm.



BILLY HOULIHAN

Former county architect who helps people bring beauty to their towns



Photo courtesy Irish Examiner

AN ugly built environment starves the spirit, saps joy and diminishes quality of life. Billy made sure that didn't happen on his patch, and he's a large part of the reason why West Cork towns are so lovely. He had a strong commitment to a sensitive mix of conservation and brave new design, but he didn't dictate. His strength lay in mobilising the creativity of the citizens themselves. His gift lay in finding a thousand ways to do that. Town Development Plans in places like Clonakilty became a platform for animated public involvement, competitions held for the preservation of shop fronts, good housing design, utilisation of public spaces. Equally vital was his capacity to tap into existing resources such as local Enterprise Boards and Tidy Town Committees, and his intelligent deployment of funding support, from whatever source. He believed in communities, and inspired them. Beauty was the result.



JOHN BRUTON

Ready to question the prevailing orthodoxies for the right motives

JOHN manages gravitas with a broad smile, combines serious moral integrity with a deep compassion for human frailty, and strides out on a broad international stage — while remaining deeply committed to family, national politics, and his all-abiding interest in Ireland's needs, both economic and social. Former Taoiseach, former president of the European Council, and having just finished a five-year stint as EU ambassador to the United States, John has a pretty wide network of contacts both in Europe and in the American House of Representatives, a body which wields long-term influence while presidents come and go. Currently president of the Irish Financial Services Centre, he's busy promoting investment in Ireland, and the jobs such investments bring with them. John's forte lies in questioning economic orthodoxies from the broader perspective of a loyal strategist who has spent some time outside Ireland, looking in. He exercises authority with ease.