

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



BILL GLENNON – SHOE MAKER– NEW ROW

At the top of the Limerick Road or New Row, as it is better known by the locals, there is one of the original two-storey townhouses with its grey pebble-dashed walls that have changed little over the years. Inside you will find “Bill Glennon”, shoe mender extraordinaire. Bill is the third generation of the family to have carried on the traditional craft into the twenty first century. His grandfather William started the business, handed it on to Bill’s father, named William also, and then he in turn passed it on to Bill. It is unlikely to survive the next generation as there is no one left to carry it on.

Along with McCormack’s public house in South Main Street, this is one of the oldest surviving businesses in Naas. Bill talked about the journey men who were part and parcel of the scene and who were employed on a temporary basis. They were continually on the move and would often leave in the middle of making a new pair of shoes.

Business has picked up with the advent of the Celtic Tiger, so we hope that he will continue to craft a trade, which has been almost lost to antiquity, for many years to come.