

Hidden gems and Forgotten People

COUNTY ROSCOMMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dhonal Cameron (1894 – 1977)

Dhonal or David Cameron of Mount Plunkett, Lecarrow was born in 1894 and was deaf and dumb. Dhonal lived with the Duncan's, who were bakers in Ballymahon and not with his own family. Despite his disability, Dhonal showed an extraordinary mechanical aptitude, passed into Trinity College and becoming an aeronautical engineer. As a school boy he designed full scale models of monoplanes in 1908-1910.

He assisted in a major way in the design of the Hawker Hurricane, one of the most important RAF fighters of WW2 and died in 1977. . He is buried in St Peter's Church of Ireland Graveyard, Kiltoom, Athlone Co Roscommon. At his funeral there was a problem in identifying the family plot. Eventually the Rector of Roscommon located the grave and he now lies beside his mother. A few years after Dhonal's death the Duncan family came to the graveyard with his headstone. They were also unable to locate the plot and laid the headstone some 30 yards away from its correct position

This graveyard, having been derelict and vandalised for a number of years, is undergoing a major restoration funded by family donations and a grant from Roscommon County Council. Manpower is from Roscommon Leader Partnership under the TUS scheme. It is located between Roscommon and Athlone on the N61 and is opposite the Kiltoom Stores.

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