

Ballina plaque to be unveiled in memory of bridge dances

An important piece of social history will be acknowledged on Friday, July 12th, with the official unveiling of a plaque on a recently rebuilt bridge in the townland of Corrimbla, a few miles from Ballina. The unveiling will bring back memories of a bygone era when dances were regularly held on the old concrete bridge.

Dancing on the bridge was a regular feature of summer evenings in the 1950s with music provided by members of the

talented, local Murray family. Young men and women from the surrounding areas walked or cycled to the bridge to meet and dance and the music could be heard for miles around on summer evenings. However, the dances came to an abrupt end after a visit by the local clergy who deemed them to be inappropriate!

The dances on the bridge had been almost forgotten until vividly recalled in a book, *My Ireland*, by local woman, Margaret Connor, and

published last year. Margaret, whose book describes growing up in rural Ireland in the 1950s and '60s now lives in the USA but will be in attendance for the official unveiling of the plaque on Friday, July 12th, at 4pm, by Cllr Michael Loftus, Cathaoirleach, Ballina Municipal District.

Residents of Corrimbla and the surrounding area are invited to attend the unveiling. Anyone who danced on the bridge or their family members are especially welcome.