

## **SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF TARA, THE INITIATIVE OF SR CATHERINE JORDAN**

This year, 2019, has been a special year for the Tubbercurry Active Retirement Association, known as TARA, as we've been celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our local Branch. A number of events have been held to mark this milestone, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> November the peak event – a Formal Dinner and Launch of our Book: *The Way That It Was*, Book No.4 in our series of this theme, took place in Cawley's Hotel, Tubbercurry.

Over 90 members and guests gathered on the Tuesday evening for a very enjoyable and sparkling night of camaraderie, great food, cultural items and music.

After our TARA President welcomed all to our Celebration, Sr. Catherine Jordan was invited to address us. It was Sr. Catherine who was the catalyst in forming TARA way back in 1994. Sister had returned to Tubbercurry after some years teaching in Bray, and with her passionate interest in promoting projects for community development, she felt the formation of an Active Retirement Group would be a worthy goal to pursue. Joining the local Community Care Committee, she shared her dream with her colleagues and won their approval. An open meeting was held in the local Health Centre in May '94 and it was decided unanimously to form a Branch. This was done and the Branch has continued for the last 25 years.

TARA has brought benefits to the Tubbercurry Community. It has given voice to the older members of society, helped them to have a happy productive retirement and the opportunity to join in a large range of activities – Day Trips, Card Games, Physical exercises, Holiday Breaks, Yoga, Bowling, Art and Craft Programmes, Computer Studies, Creative Writing, etc. It is also a great way of getting to meet old and new friends.

Sr. Catherine paid tribute to TARA members appreciating the pooling of their ideas, capacities, gifts, vision and energy which has made our Association so life-giving and successful. Today in Ireland, there are 570 Active Retirement Groups, representing over 25,000 members.

Cawley's was a happy choice of venue for our celebratory occasion. A delicious dinner was served us in the spacious and beautiful ambience of their dining hall.

The next item of the night's programme was the Launching of our Book: *The Way That It Was*. Roger Mc Carrick, President of the Chamber of Commerce, did the honours of Launching our Book. He is obviously a book lover and was so informed, easy and witty in his role, that sales should go full steam ahead!

*Sr. Mary Brennan*