

AGGIE WHYTE RYAN

ABBEY & DISTRICT,
Co. GALWAY

Aggie was born in Ballinakill, Co. Galway, an area steeped in traditional music.

Her first teacher was her father Tommy Whyte, a founder member of the Ballinakill Ceilí Band.

As a student in Ballinakill National School, Aggie received tuition from Jack Mulkere, a dedicated teacher of traditional music.

In time Aggie became a brilliant fiddler winning the All-Ireland Senior Fiddle competition in Cavan in 1954.



Aggie Whyte, photo courtesy of Kathleen Harrison

DESCRIBED BY SEAMUS ENNIS AS
'QUEEN OF FIDDLERS'



Ballinakill Ceilí Band, photo courtesy of Yvonne Fahy

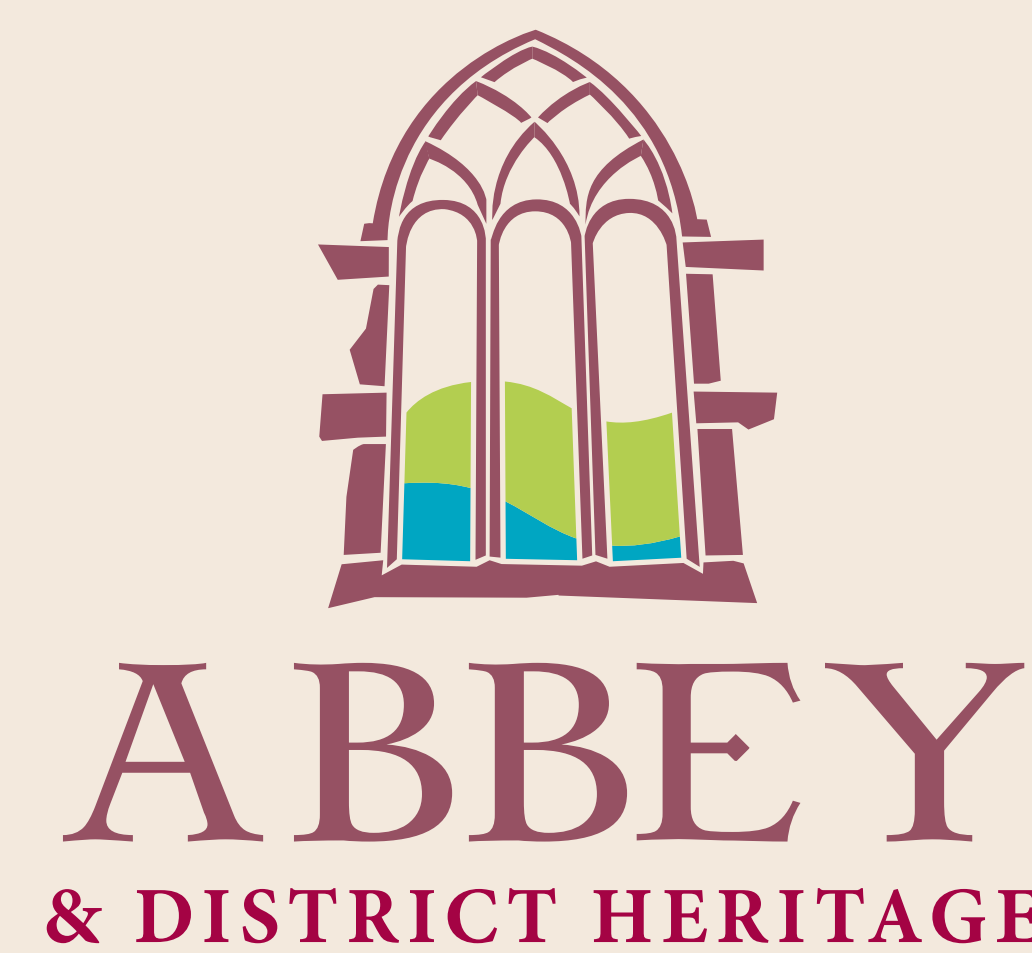
In 1938 Aggie travelled to England with the Ballinakill Ceilí Band to record at 'His Master's Voice' studios. She took part in 'Newcomers Hour' and participated in many radio programmes in Ireland, England and Scotland.

During post-war years, Aggie featured in reciprocal folk music programmes between Irish, Dutch and Italian radio stations.

Aggie's sister Bridie Fahy was also an accomplished fiddler and this great musical tradition is being continued by the next generation of Ryans and Fahys.



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