

# Getting in the light



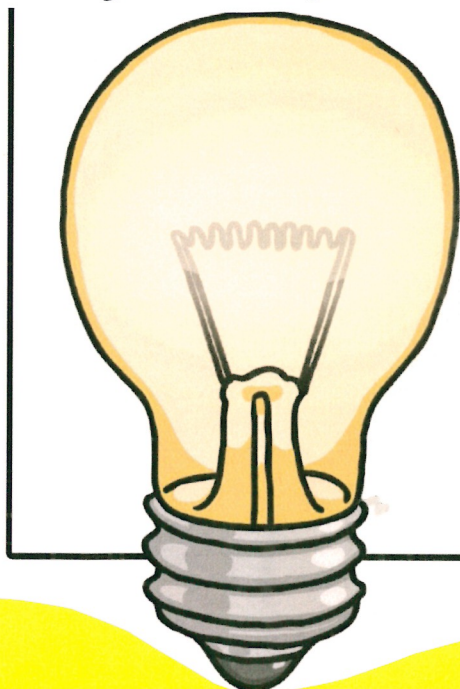
In 2000 I was 12 and still living in Mayo. One day my parents were going to a conference in Dublin. I was going to be staying at my Granny and Granddads house.

I remember my granddad was always brilliant telling stories. I asked him if he would tell me a story from when he was a little boy.

He decided to tell me a story from when he first got electricity.

‘ I was the youngest out of 5 and my father (Tom) was usually working on the farm, and my mother (Margaret, who most people called Peggy) was usually working inside cooking, ironing, washing, sowing and looking after us. My mother was very like me and loved to tell stories, so whilst she was working my siblings and I would usually sit beside her and listen to her stories.

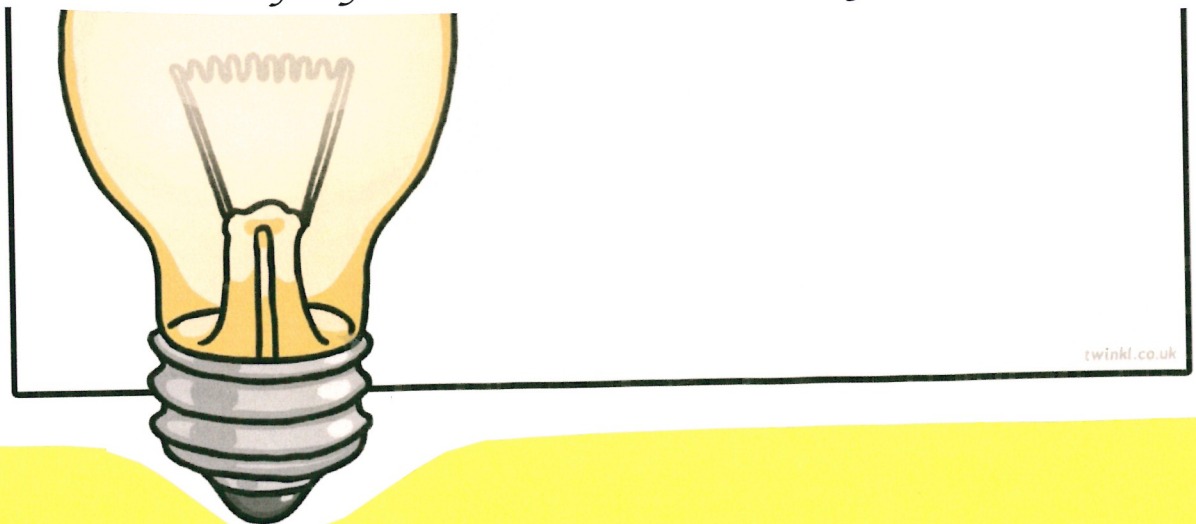
One day whilst she was ironing us 5 were sitting around her listening to a story about the farm animals.



Suddenly my father burst in threw the door making us all jump holding a crumpled piece of paper in his big hands.

'PEGGY!!!!' he shouted very excited ' GUESS WHAT I JUST FOUND OUT!!!!' 'Tom!' my mother said annoyed because she had dropped her very heavy iron. 'Mary( my oldest sister) will you please go heat up my iron on the fire, John (my oldest brother) can you go out to the coal shed and get some coal for the fire its dying, and Tom shut the door its winter its freezing! 'Sorry Peggy, But guess what I just found out, The government on the mainland has decided to give us electricity!!' Then without letting us reply he went on.

• 'Remember Peggy how just the other night you wee saying how sore your hands were from all the ironing and sowing and cooking and cleaning you have to do, Well now you don't have to do that because we can have an electric oven and an electric oven so you can sit down and not have to watch the stew over the fire, You can also have a new thing called a washing machine that washes your clothes so you don't have to spend 5 or more hours on a Monday washing things by hand, There is also an electric iron so you don't have to keep heating it up as long as it is plugged in, and we can have running water, AND there is also an electric sowing machine that sows the clothes for you and I am sure that Mary can use that, and



there is this thing called electric heating that will heat up your house in minutes so nobody needs to go outside to get coal, And, there is a hover thing that you can use so you don't have to use a sweeping brush!!!!!!!!!!!!!!'

My mother who was also getting very excited now said, "and what about equipment for the farm"?. "Aahh i know what i am going to get"?.

Two weeks later after a lot of discussion we had bought a lot of new appliances and the priest came in to are house and my father because he was the oldest blew out the candles and our paraffin lights and because i was the youngest I got to flip on the switch".

Now said my granddad said 'right Claire time for bed, i will tell you a story again tomorrow.

the end

By Rhian Nelson.

