

# Newsletter

August 2025

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE AND PROMOTIONS



## OPEN DAY INVITATION

**AS PART OF OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS,  
JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> FOR A DAY OF  
CELEBRATION.**

**Historic photograph exhibition:** visit our marquee where you will see images showing our Co-op's journey over the past century. Then proceed to our catering tent where you can enjoy food and refreshments.

**Mill tour:** see first-hand the modern technology used in feed production.

**Vintage display:** a selection of tractors and machinery will be on view.

**Food fayre in our Eurospar supermarket:** produce from local suppliers available for sampling on the day.

**Children's entertainment:** for the little ones, we have carousels, face painting and an ice cream van.

## Centenary Open Day Invite

We invite all our shareholders, staff, customers and their families to our centenary open day on the 6th of September. The Co-op is celebrating 100 years in business which is a significant milestone to commemorate.

The Co-op's success is testament to the foresight, dedication, and bravery of the founders of the society. They were operating in a period of history that was not without its challenges. From humble beginnings in 1925, Barryroe has evolved to become a strong and dynamic multi-purpose co-operative.

In its early years of existence, its primary business was the production and sale of butter. The history of butter making in West Cork is a central theme of the open day celebration.

In the recent decades, the business of the Society has diversified substantially but, crucially, it retains its core principle of serving its shareholders and customers. The Society was formed to provide farmers with an economically viable market for their produce, which at the time was principally butter, and also to supply them with farm inputs at competitive prices.

The Society produces over 45,000 tonnes of feed annually in its state-of-the-art feed mill. You have the opportunity on our open day to tour the facility and see first-hand the modern technology used in feed production.

The achievement of the co-operative movement in Ireland is one of the success stories of the past century. It proves that great things can be achieved when individuals collaborate for the benefit of the collective. In our photographic exhibition at our open day, you can see images showing our Co-op's journey for the past century.

We would like to express our gratitude to our shareholders, committee members, and staff, past and present. Thank you to the community and to all who have supported the Co-op over the past century and who we hope will continue to do so into the future.

**Peadar Murphy, CEO**  
**John O'Brien, Chairman**

## NEWS WATCH

### MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

July milk supply amounted to 10,895,365 litres which was a 0.1% increase on July 2024. Due to dairy market conditions, the Co-op reduced its base price by 1c/L to 48.6 c/L. Barryroe is paying €8.4753 per kg of protein and €5.6502 per kg of butterfat. Our average constituents for the month are 3.55% protein 4.17% butterfat and our average price paid is 54.19 c/L, including 0.5 c/L SCC bonus and VAT @5.1%.

### OPEN DAY BOOKLET

Our centenary open-day booklet will be available at our registration desk on September 6th. We include a map of our open-day events on the back page of this newsletter. We will have an online booking system for our mill tour, we will circulate a link in advance of the event, through which you can book a time slot for your tour.







**Bold All-in-1 Pods Lavender & Camomile / Spring Awakening**  
51 Wash See in store for details



**Batchelors Baked Beans**  
4 pack 4x420g €2.38 per kg



**Nescafé Gold Blend Instant Coffee**  
95g €52.11 per kg



**Gateaux Mini Rolls Double Chocolate / Original Cream**  
222g €9.01 per kg



**Charleville Select Red Cheddar Block 200g /**  
Grated 180g / Sliced 160g | Mature Red Cheddar Block 200g See in store for details



**Hellmann's Light / Real Mayonnaise**  
400g €8.75 per kg



**Chef Tomato Ketchup / Brown Sauce**  
490g €6.12 per kg /  
Brown Sauce 485g €6.19 per kg



**Dolmio Pasta Stir In Sauce Range**  
150g €16.67 per kg



**Budweiser Cans Multi Pack**  
8 Pack 8x500ml €3.99 per lt



**Cif Cream Original / Lemon**  
500ml €4.50 per lt



**Fresh Choice Market Turnip**  
See in store for details



**Colour Catcher Protection**  
22 Pack See in store for details



**Windolene Glass & Shiny Surfaces**  
750ml €3.33 per lt



**Weetabix**  
24 Pack 430g €9.30 per kg



**Fresh Choice Market Medium Free Range Eggs**  
12 pack See in store for details



**Aveeno Baby Daily Care Hair and Body Wash**  
250ml €18 per lt



**Cream of the Crop Rooster Potatoes**  
5kg €12.20 per kg



**Dreams Pinot Grigio / Merlot**  
750ml €8.99 per 75cl



**SPAR Granulated Sugar**  
1kg €1.50 per kg



**Dairygold Original / Light Spread**  
454g €6.61 per kg



**Müller Strawberry, Peach & Apricot / Banana, Vanilla & Chocolate 4 Pack** See in store for details



**Fresh Choice Market Carrots Tray**  
400g See in store for details



**Kellogg's Coco Pops 420g €2.60 / Krave Milk Chocolate 410g €2.70 / Special K 440g €2.50 / Rice Krispies 430g €2.60 / Crunchy Nut 460g €2.60** See in store for details



**Just / Altivo Wines Range**  
750ml €8.99 per 75cl



**Fresh Choice Market Baby Potatoes**  
750g See in store for details



**SPAR Toilet Tissue White**  
18 Rolls 42c per roll



**SPAR No1 Parboiled Rice**  
4 Pack 4x100g €2.48 per kg



**Captain Morgan €21.99 | Gordon's Original €22.49 | Smirnoff / Fireball €22.99 EACH | Paddy €24.99 | Bushmills €26.99 700ml** See in store for details



**Colgate Medium Toothbrush 3 Pack €5 | Toothpaste**  
Max White / Deep Clean Whitening 75ml €3.50 / Total 75ml €3.45 | Mouthwash Deep Clean / Plax Soft Mint 500ml €3 See in store for details



**Tropicana Fresh & Light Orange / Apple / Tropical Juice 850ml** €3.52 per lt

## PET CARE



**Pedigree DentaStix Large 4 Pack 154g / Medium 5 Pack 128g / Small Dog 7 Pack** See in store for details



**Cesar Dog Food Classic Terrine Mixed / Senior 10+ in Delicate Jelly 4 Pack 4x150g** €8.98 per kg



**Bakers Dry Dog Food Range**  
1.1kg / 1kg See in store for details



**Felix As Good As It Looks Pouch Range**  
12 Pack 12x85g €6.37 per kg

## Online booking for mill tour on Co-op open day

You have an opportunity on September 6th to tour our mill facility. Our mill staff will guide you as you see first-hand the modern technology used in feed production. We will circulate an online link in advance of the event through which you can book a time slot for your tour. The tour duration will be approximately 30 minutes.

If you have any difficulties in booking online, please contact Emma Griffin at the Co-op for assistance on 023-8840000. Children U12 will not be able to attend the tour unfortunately. Wear appropriate footwear. There are 80 steps to the top with 10 flights of stairs, so the tour is not suitable for people who

require mobility assistance. We look forward to meeting you all on the day.

### Co-op Opening Hours on the 6th of September

To facilitate our open day, unfortunately, we will have to curtail openings hours in the following locations.

- Our central agri stores, filling station, and mill will be closed.
- Our branches in Inchybridge, Kilbrittain, and Darrara will be open from 8.30 to 10.30am, closed thereafter.
- Our Eurospar Barryroe and Baliinspittle branch will be open as normal.

## Centenary Events

Our Society was founded in 1925. It took its first delivery of milk at its new creamery in Lislevane on Monday the 7th September of that year. The centenary is a historic and special occasion, and we are marking this milestone with a series of events, starting with this open day in Lislevane on 6th of September.

The history of the Co-op is being written in book form, and we will launch this book on the 23rd of October in Courtmacsherry hotel, all are welcome to attend. On the 8th of November, the Co-op will be hosting a centenary dinner in Fernhill hotel, Clonakilty.

## Dates for your diary

**Farm plastic collection dates:** The dates for farm plastic collection at Timoleague Grainstore are, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October.

**National fertiliser database dates:** Farmers are required to submit their closing stock of fertiliser (including nil stock) by the 14th of September 2025, by logging onto [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) and selecting National Fertiliser Database. If you require assistance with this, contact your Barryroe ag-advisor.

**Organic/inorganic Fertilizer spreading closing dates:** A reminder that we are approaching the deadline for the spreading of organic fertilisers. Please ensure that

all slurry tanks are emptied, and farmyard manure spread, as tough penalties will apply to those caught spreading during the closed period. Deadline Dates:

Fertiliser Type	Last Application date
Inorganic Fertiliser	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Organic Fertiliser	30 <sup>th</sup> September
Farmyard manure	31 <sup>st</sup> October

## HARVESTING MAIZE THIS AUTUMN?

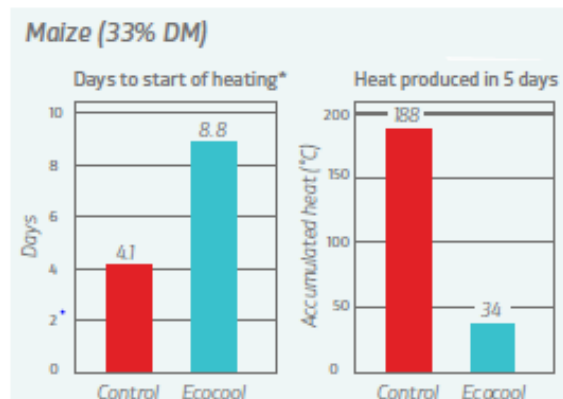
Forage maize is a high energy, low protein feed which can bring some synergistic performance benefits to diets when fed with grass silage. The aim is to harvest your maize crop at 30% dry matter and 30% starch content, to attain best results in terms of yield and subsequent animal performance.

Once harvested, spoilage can be a high financial cost with maize silage. As a high energy feed, if not managed while in the pit, consequences including moulds and spoilage can develop on the shoulders and feed-face. However, this can be easily avoided with good management or where conditions around harvest are not ideal; with the use of an additive.

By using Volac maize additives to treat your crop, it will ensure your maize silage is correctly preserved and ensiled this season. In both maize trials, the treated silages were significantly more stable than the untreated controls. Trough life is also extended.



	Days Stable	
	Untreated	DA ECOCORN
Wheat	2.4	8.0
Barley	2.1	5.3
Maize	1.3	8.4





# CENTENARY FEATURE: New mills were constructed in Barryroe in 1935, in 1981 and in 2021

In addition to the three major investments when the Co-op effectively built a new mill on the footprint of the previous one, the Co-op's mill plant was regularly upgraded to take advantage of new developments in nutritional science and mill technology.

The history of the Co-op's animal feed mill is marked by a progression from basic grinding and mixing to sophisticated, automated systems. Some key developments over the years include:

**Cubing plant** was installed in 1981 to manufacture nuts. This technology allows for the compression of ground feed into small, uniform nuts or pellets, improving feed efficiency and reducing waste. A second cuber was installed in 1985 for ruminant feeds. That gave us two separate lines, one for cattle, one for pigs.

**Nutritional research** into formulations tailored to the needs of different animals has allowed our mill to create specialised feed. These tailor-made feeds are designed, in the case of ruminants, to complement the roughages supplied on the farm. To cater for these specialised formulas, our new mill has lines that are flexible and can adjust to different formulations.

**Computerisation** was introduced in 1989 and allowed for more precise control of feed formulation and production processes, ensuring consistent quality and efficiency. Traceability of animal



Loading a bag of ration on to a donkey and cart at Barryroe Central Mill 1961. (Irish Examiner).

feed and recording information for departmental purposes has also been aided by computerisation.

**Bags to bulk:** The transition away from bagged feed to bulk started in the early 1970s and the Co-op mill is now almost totally bulk delivery.

**Housing cattle indoors in the winter:** The trend towards indoor feeding increased when our area became more

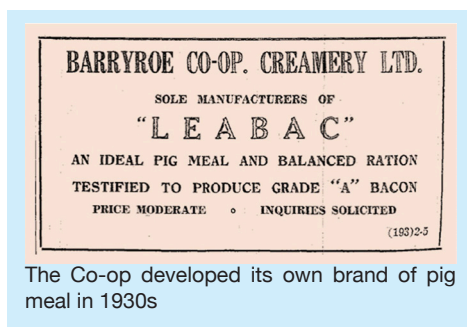
farm intensive after we joined the EEC in 1973. Animals now needed a balanced diet to suit indoor feeding.

**Grain Assurance Scheme:** since 2010, all cereal growers supplying grain to Barryroe are required to become members of this scheme. This scheme has been a positive development in the promotion and marketing of our mill output.

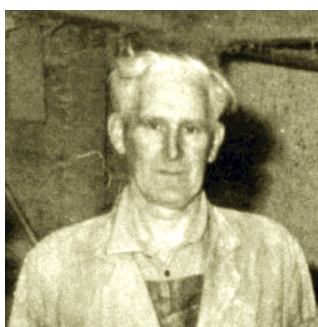
## Crushing, grinding and blending mill in operation from 1929

Within a few years of the Co-op's foundation, a crushing mill had been added at Lislevane for the crushing of corn, the grinding of Indian meal, and the blending of mixes. By providing this facility locally, the idea was that any intermediate profits would remain with the producers instead of with commercial millers. Within a few years, demand increased,

and this original mill had not sufficient capacity for local needs. Barryroe was at that stage selling about 700 tons of meal per annum, but there was demand for at least 1,000 tons. By 1934, the Co-op had taken the decision to invest in a new grain mill at Lislevane. It sought to take advantage of a new Department of Agricultural loan scheme for mills.



## Mill managers



Lar Regan, 1938-1983



Neil Whelton, 1983-2024



Seamus Crowley, 2024-current



# A major step forward for the new Co-op, the installation of an electricity powered mill in 1935

There was widespread support for the project of building a new mill, but one crucial issue that led to a lot of debate was how the mill would be powered. Fr John Sheehy CC, Courtmacsherry, advocated strongly that the Society should install electricity to work the mill and then to have the creamery itself transferred to Shannon Power. Fr Sheehy, like Fr Burke, was a native of Skibbereen, and took a keen interest in the betterment of the community he served.

While bringing Shannon Power to the co-op would be a positive move, the fact that the grid could then easily be extended to Courtmacsherry was most likely behind Fr Sheehy's rationale. Fr Sheehy was not a member of the committee of management of Barryroe, but he was highly regarded in the community and his opinion carried substantial weight.

After seeking advice, it was agreed to purchase Porteus milling equipment. The mill was purchased second-hand in Britain at a cost of £207. By early January 1935, the erection of the mill building was well advanced, but tariffs were also an issue back then. There was a delay in obtaining a licence from the Department of Industry and Commerce to import duty-free the Porteus mill.

In March a representative from the ESB visited Barryroe. The electricity line would have to be run from Clonakilty, which represented a substantial cost. Barryroe was hoping that Darrara Agricultural Station would also get electricity, thus reducing the cost, as it would be shared between the two enterprises.

While chairman, Fr Burke, and manager, Maurice Collins, were in favour of installing Shannon Power, some members of the committee were in favour of using crude oil to power the mill. What many perceived as the exorbitant cost of installing electricity seemed to sway the argument in the direction of crude oil.

Barryroe sought the help of the IAOS to act as a mediator between themselves and the ESB as they pushed hard for some concession on the price. Eventually, Barryroe accepted the ESB's terms and agreed to install electricity in the new mill and creamery. Probably one of the deciding factors was that its neighbour, Bandon Co-op, had been running very successfully on the Shannon Scheme current for several years.



**Delivering mill feed** to the old store at Ballinspittle branch in 1960. From left, Joe McCarthy, Ballinspittle; Denis Cahalane, Artigue; Jer Cleary, Barryroe, and Timmy White, Ballinspittle. Denis Cahalane did a lot of haulage work for the Co-op.

The ESB began building the line from Clonakilty to Barryroe in September 1935. The new mill began running in December 1935 with the creamery premises being electrified in early 1936. An official opening and blessing ceremony of the new mill was held in December 1935.

Just 10 years after its foundation, Barryroe Co-op had now grown into what the Southern Star described in December 1935 as: *... a formidable instrument of effectiveness for the local farming community. The establishment of a mill in which the tillers of the soil may place their produce to advantage at their very doors without having to transport it elsewhere ...*

The mill, three storeys high, was constructed of reinforced concrete and had a ground space of 55 feet by 40 feet, the roof was of west Cork slate.



**The Southern Star**  
December 2nd 1935

**BARRYROE CO-OP.  
ENTERPRISE**

**GRAIN MILL ERECTED FOR  
CREAMERY SOCIETY**

**Blessing Ceremony Performed  
By Rev. J. Burke, P.P.**

**COMMENTS ON THE SHANNON  
POWER EXTENSION**

(From Our Special Correspondent):  
The wonderful progress made by Barryroe Co-operative Creamery Society since its foundation ten years ago was emphasised in no uncertain manner on Monday afternoon when a pleasant and delighted company assembled to attend the ceremony, simple yet significant, of the opening of an electrically worked grain mill as an adjunct of the parent institution. Since, a decade ago, a few hesitant farmers met, under the presidency and guiding spirit of the veteran but virile Parish Priest, Rev. Jeremiah Burke, to devise ways and means of coping with the changing conditions that demanded communal assimilation in order to secure mutual protection in a world of depreciating post-war values, many revolutionary changes have taken place in the political and economic life of the country. For the Barryroe and Lislavane pioneers, transmutations have brought nothing but woe, for the Creamery that struggled into a dubious existence then has now grown into a formidable instrument of effectiveness for the local farming community. The establishment of a mill in which the tillers of the soil may place their produce to

opening ceremony was complete. E.S.B. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES. Rev. John Sheehy, C.C., said as an outsider he would like to add a word or two to what Father Burke had said. He would like to compliment the Chairman of the Society—Fr. Burke—and the manager—Mr. Collins—on the ability they showed and the patience they exercised in making their deal with the Electricity Supply Board—a hard-headed body with whom it was no easy matter to effect a satisfactory deal. So that the farmers of the area should be very thankful for those efforts which had brought the Shannon Scheme to that part of the county. After all, the E.S.B. were not a philanthropic society: they were purely a business concern, and he should say—looking at the matter from the view-point of the man in the street—that they were not interested very much in industry, nor in the amenities of the people, only in so far as the people were represented by a rich corporation, and that the people so looking for the amenities were financially well circumstanced. A sum of ten millions of the Irish people's money was buried in the Shannon Scheme, but, so far as he could observe, since the E.S.B.



## The Co-op's seed assembly was registered as a Certified Grain Scheme in the 1950s

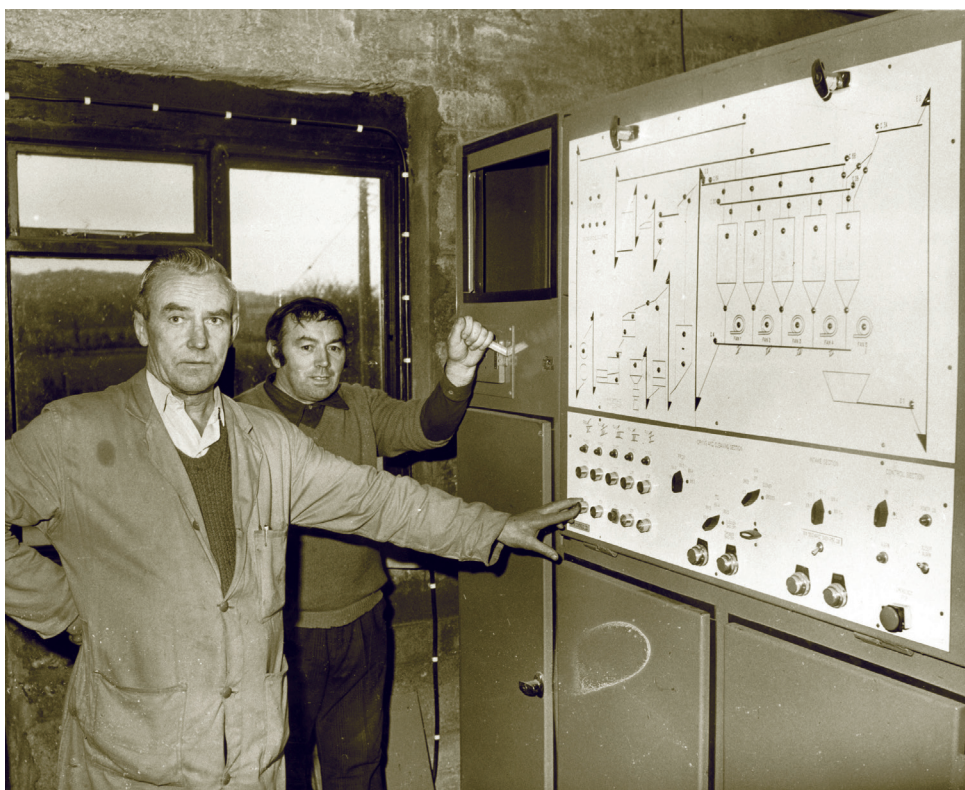
During the 1940s war years, the output of the mill had been curtailed, but in the 1950s, output increased significantly. This was a decade when the Co-op made major strides in grain and milling.

With the assistance of the new Agri-advisor, Michael Coppinger, the Society set up the grain-seed assembly in Timoleague, and the Society registered as a Department of Agriculture 'Certified Seed Scheme'.

Under Coppinger's guidance, it also established a pig breeding and testing station in Lislevane, with controlled experimental work on breeding and feeding. The testing station showed very positive results from proper feeding.

The practice of scientific pig feeding became the accepted practice in the industry. Compound balanced rations for cattle and poultry also became the norm. Barryroe's mill earned a considerable reputation for its quality and became an indispensable part of the Co-op.

In 1955, the output of animal compounds was the highest on record at 2,417 tons, more than double what it had been in the 1930s when the electric mill was built. In addition to providing rations for pigs, cattle and poultry, a significant amount of home grain was ground on commission for patrons.



Con O'Donovan and Seamus Whelton at the control panel at Timoleague Grain Store.

The Co-op decided to increase its grain storage facilities to allow it to hold a full year's supply at harvest. The Ballinspittle area was its primary source of grain, and it expanded its stores there with grain drying facilities. In Timoleague, it converted its flax mill to a grain store also.

The grain and milling operation made an important contribution to mixed farming practices and was particularly significant in an area where the pig industry occupied such an important place.

## In the 1970s, mill investment plans were put on hold

Increasing demand in the 1970s meant that the Co-op needed to invest further in its facilities. But following on from the four west Cork Co-ops linking in the setup of Carbery, the issue of amalgamation was being discussed. Also, it was believed that Ireland's entry into the EEC would

result in big changes in the animal-feed trade and regulations, so the Society was reluctant to make any large investments amid such uncertainty.

With some confidence returning at the end of the 1970s, the Co-op sanctioned

the building of a new modern mill which included cubing and molasses. Opinion was divided as to what was the best site for this new mill. The initial proposal was for the site adjacent to the grain stores in Timoleague, subject to obtaining full planning permission.



Dan O'Donovan



Denny O'Donovan

**Dan O'Donovan**, Broadstrand, worked in the Co-op mill for many years. His brother, Denny, also worked for the co-op and was one of the first men to work in the new piggery when it opened. Both men would cycle from Broadstrand to work each morning. When the workload increased in the piggery, Dan would often voluntarily go across to the piggery to help out his brother. Denny's son Vincent started work in the Co-op accounts office in 1976 and went on to become the Co-op's Financial Controller from 1986 to 2000.



## After much delay, a new mill was constructed in 1981

A new mill was eventually built at central and commenced manufacturing in 1981. The Society decided that the ration formulations should only contain top class ingredients, based on research carried out by the Agricultural Institute at Moorepark.

The grain intake in 1981 was a new record for the Society. A total of 10,698 tons of barley was purchased. For the first time, in 1981 Barryroe purchased a considerable amount of feed wheat, some 946 tons. A new 25 tons per hour drier was installed at Timoleague in that same year.

Because of the increasing volumes and range of milling business, grain drying at harvest was getting extremely complicated. Feed barley, malting barley, seed barley and feed wheat all had to be handled and stored separately. In 1984, to cater for this diversity, a substantial capital sum was invested in a new grain store in Timoleague.



Mill staff in the mid-1970s, from left, Danny O'Donovan, Lar O'Regan, Mick O'Regan, Joe Whelton, Mick Flynn and Brendan Cahalane.



## Con Hegarty, mill fitter 1984-2018

Con was a specialist mill fitter, having worked in Lucey's mill in Ballyvorney, and Old Chapel mills before joining Barryroe in 1984. For 34 years, he looked after the maintenance in the mill, as well the upkeep

of the grain-stores in Timoleague and Ballinspittle. In addition to being a gifted fitter, Con was also an accomplished musician and had his own band at this time.

## Modern mill built in 2021

In recent years, the Co-op upgraded the mill and grain plant in three stages. In 2017, it invested €1m in Timoleague, installing a new grain drier and building a large grain store with an 8,000-ton capacity. Then in 2020/21 it built a new mill on the site of the existing one, at a cost of €5m. Finally, in 2023, the co-op invested in a new grain dryer in the Ballinspittle plant.



Mill construction is underway in 2021



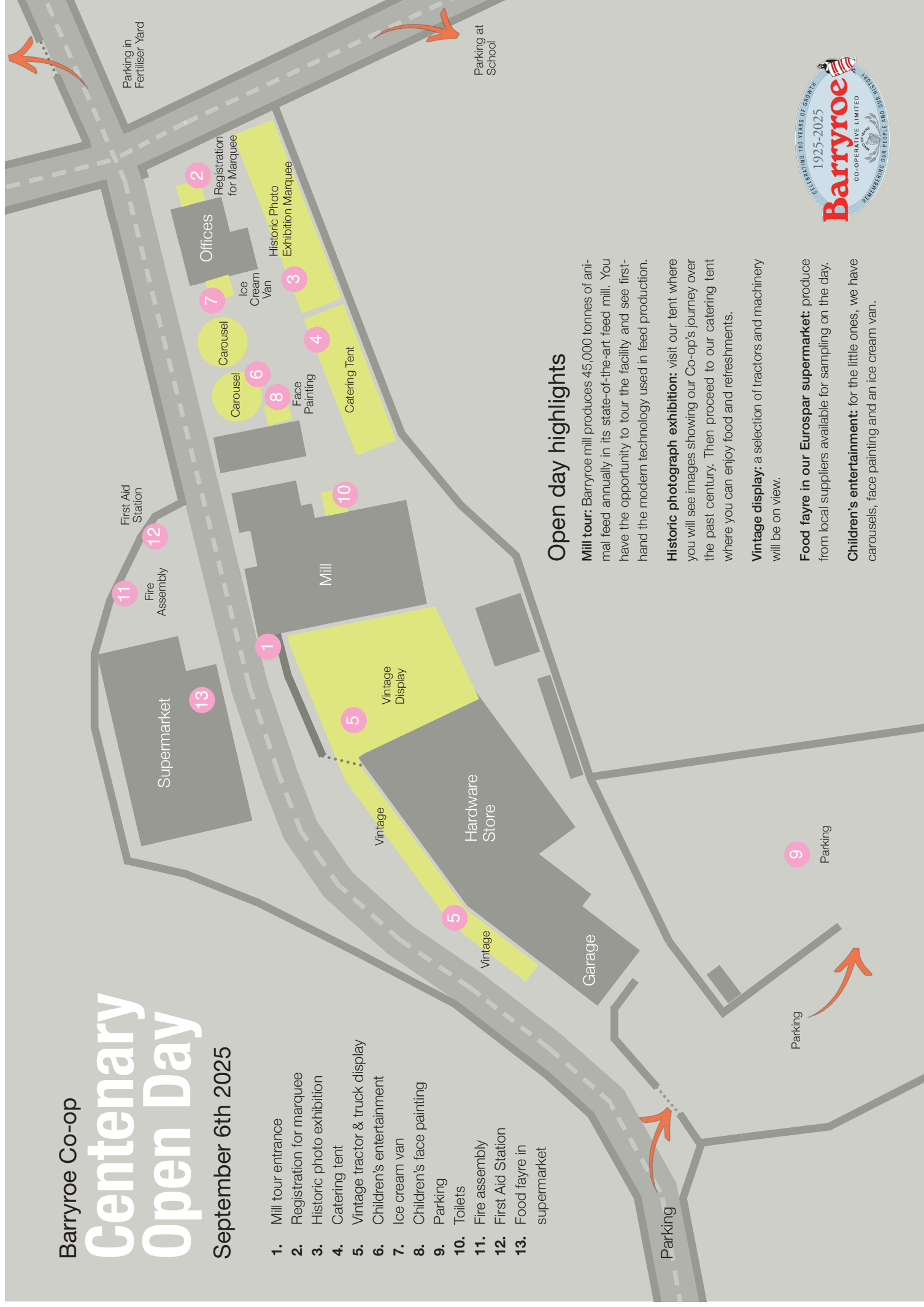
Mill manager, Seamus Crowley, in the mill control room. Seamus first joined the Co-op in 1984

Barryroe Co-op

# Centenary Open Day

September 6th 2025

1. Mill tour entrance
2. Registration for marquee
3. Historic photo exhibition
4. Catering tent
5. Vintage tractor & truck display
6. Children's entertainment
7. Ice cream van
8. Children's face painting
9. Parking
10. Toilets
11. Fire assembly
12. First Aid Station
13. Food fayre in supermarket



## Open day highlights

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