

Hi,

My name is Ann Conroy-O'Brien, I lived with my father all my life up until 1991 when I got married and moved back to Ballyconneely.

My mother died when I was 11 and my father remarried several years later, she also passed away around 2000, with Daddy being on his own then I used to spend a lot of time over there helping him as all my siblings had emigrated or married and moved away.

Around 2012 after my father turned 90 I started spending the winter and spring with him to feed the sheep and help with the lambing. After his death in 2017 when he had left me the land I spent the winter & spring there on my own feeding the sheep and helping them lamb. I spent the first 2 years in the family home but because the house had been left to my eldest sister and she had given it to one of her sons he decided to renovate the house and change the locks on the door so I had nowhere to stay.

We had a place cleared out for the hay horses to turn so I got a small house built there very quickly, the first year I was in it for the winter, I had no heating only a gas fire I had no running water or kitchen I used to get a shower in one of the neighbours house.

The following year we had the house suitable for living in so I'm spending about 4-5 months of the year over there, I can't drive so I have no choice

but its very there for the lambing season.  
I can't be asking my husband to drive me over  
everyday because he has to look after his cows  
and horses and you never know when a ewe is  
going to lamb because its usually late at night  
or early morning when they lamb and sometimes  
without help both of them could die. When I am  
over there I check on them every three hours  
to see if they are ripe for a lamb so if they  
have difficulties I can help them, this means  
getting up every three hours or so to check on  
them.

APP CONROY O'BRIEN  
23/9/23