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Make 'moove' to Draoicht

Norma Prendiville

THE woman artist who has become known as the cow painter has been entertaining and impressing people in Adare all week. Kelly Hood's new exhibition, entitled The Cows are Back in Town, went on open display in the Draoicht Gallery on Main Street on Monday but the official opening will only go ahead this Thursday.

Meantime, however, Kelly's paintings, in a photo-realistic style and with titles which play on words, have been amusing visitors to the gallery. "I'm regularly asked, 'why cows?' and it's probably because the cow is an universally loved animal," Kelly Hood says, explaining the inspiration behind her work. "The cow represents different things to different people all around the world. She's sacred, she's historical, she connects us to our past; but the common feeling is one of affection. She simply makes everyone smile."

Besides, she adds: "I eat them, I wear them, and I paint them... I owe them something, don't I?"

Born in Ballydavid in the Dingle Gaeltacht, Kelly spent every summer on her grandmother's farm, helping to milk Daisy the cow. She came across her first cow subject in 2008 and says, with a hint of broad humour: "We bonded over a barbed wire fence. I determined then that I would paint her and one cow led to another."

"The cows' curiosity and quiriness makes them a good subject, and because they have always been part of the Irish landscape, we can all identify with cows," she says.

Dan Mullane of The Mustard Seed will open the exhibition at 7.30pm this Thursday.

Unique history of city sporting club chronicled

■ Story of Athlunkard Boat Club includes many fascinating old photos

Eugene Phelan

IN recent times they have been overshadowed by the tremendous feats of Shannon Rugby Club, but at long last the achievements of Athlunkard Boat Club have been chronicled for future generations in Limerick and in particular St Mary's Parish.

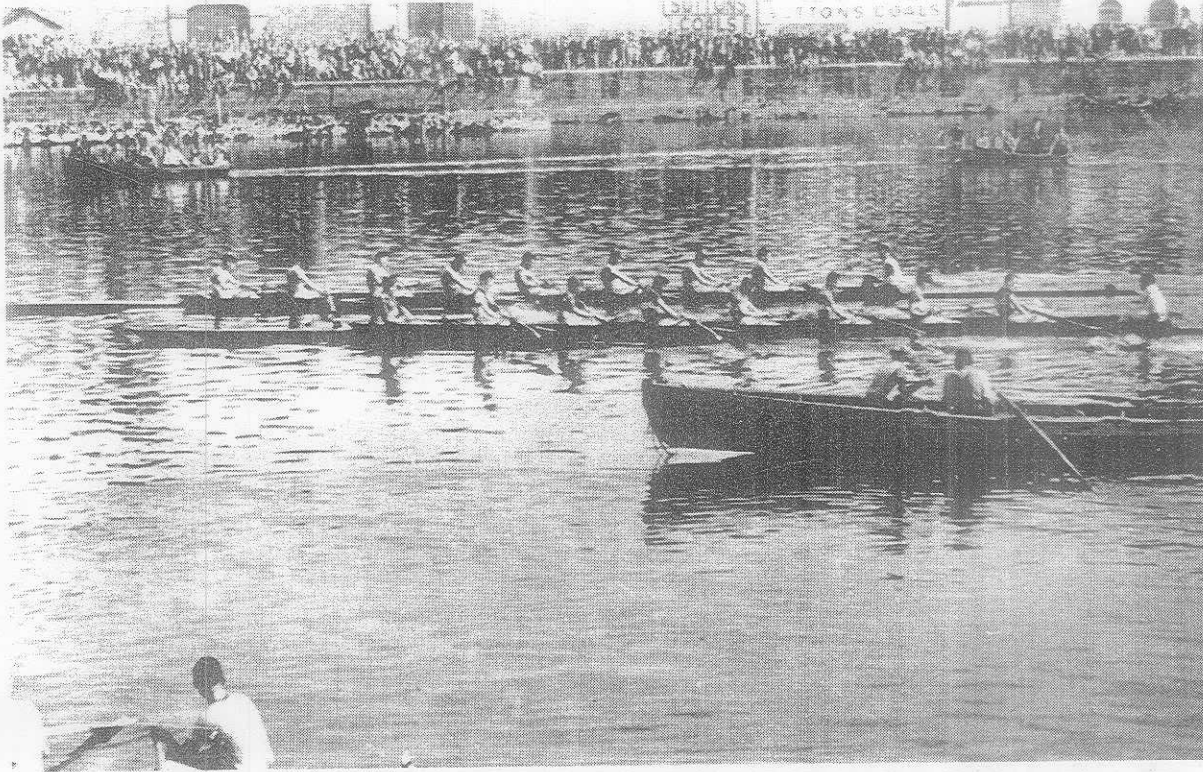
The Story of Athlunkard Boat Club, founded in 1898 has just been completed by club secretary Michael Kiely and established author Denis O'Shaughnessy.

Athlunkard, is one of three sporting clubs and organisations set up at the end of the 19th century; Shannon RFC in 1884; St Mary's Fife and Drum band two years later and Athlunkard a further three years down the line.

What many rowing and sporting enthusiasts may not know is the unique record of the club - the only one in the province to have won all three IARU eight titles, plus the inter-provincial championship, a proud record that will stand for all time.

The impressive club house looking out onto the Abbey River as one heads towards Corbally has played a huge role in Limerick sporting life in the parish with hundreds of young people taking up the sport in the club.

Mike Kiely believes that the big turnabout in the club's rowing fortunes came with the boathouse fire in August 1995. "This kickstarted a campaign to put in place a rowing facility that would stand the test of time and replace the substandard structures we had become used to. The response from people at the time was immense and resulted in not alone the opening of a modern rowing facility, but within



Winning: The Athlunkard maiden eight, on the outside, pipping Shannon RC for the Quin Cup in Limerick in 1946. Note the huge crowds on the river bank viewing the popular sport.

a relatively short space of time led to almost €100,000 being invested in new rowing equipment."

There are many fascinating stories from how the club survived during the two world wars to the severe financial difficulties it found itself in the 1980's arising from the awarding of two public liability court cases against the club.

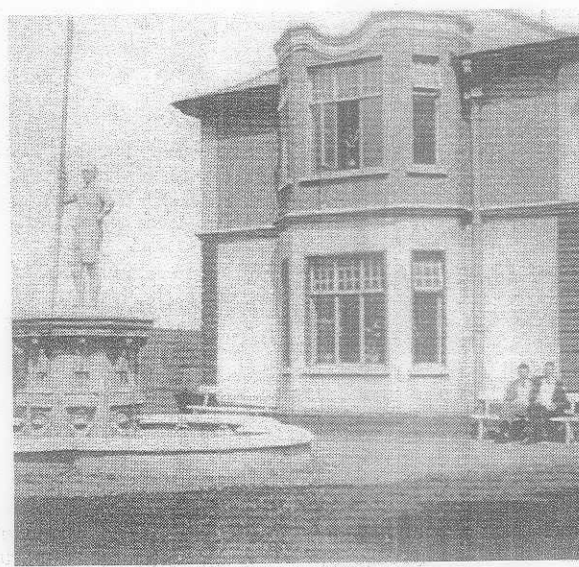
In the two unrelated incidents it was alleged that two non members attending a function in the club had suffered injuries when falling into the well of the fountain on their way out. Unfortunately the club had no third party insurance and not for the first time in its history there was a proposal to sell the premises. The club survived but the

awards led to the beautiful fountain being covered in with concrete.

Along with many splendid articles, including one titled 'Christmas Night in the Boat Club' by Mae Clancy-Leonard, the photos from down through the years make this a must for anyone associated with the club or rowing in Limerick.

They even managed to get their hands on a photo of the founding members back in 1898 and the first winners of a Maiden eight in the same year, with the names of the participants.

The 136 page history is selling in various outlets in St Mary's Parish including the Credit Union, Treacy's Shop and the Mall and Corbally bars. You can also get one by ringing Mike Kiely on 087 6717822.



The new Athlunkard clubhouse in 1925 with the erected statue of an oarsmen. The fountain had to be filled in after two people made claims that they injured themselves falling into the well while at functions.

Civic reception for Bóthar's 21 years

Alan Owens

TWENTY one years to the week since Bóthar landed its first ever airlift of Irish dairy cows to an impoverished African community, the Limerick aid agency has been given a civic reception to mark its remarkable life-saving work worldwide.

Bóthar - who lifted 6,000 people worldwide out of destitution last year with livestock donations - was honoured by Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Gerry McLoughlin, both for its aid work and for flying the flag for the city abroad.

To mark the Treaty 300 celebrations in 1991, the



"Bóthar has made Limerick a worldwide iconic name," he said. "You have demonstrated the greatness of Limerick over the years across Ireland and across the globe. You have shown how to turn possible starvation into sustainability and made farmers out of destitute people."

Mr Ireton was in attendance at the event, as was daughter of the founding chairman, Julianne Smith, plus Archbishop of Cashel and Emly Dr Dermot Clifford, who devised the name for the organisation.

John Finucane, chairman, said the organisation had

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