

DEEL



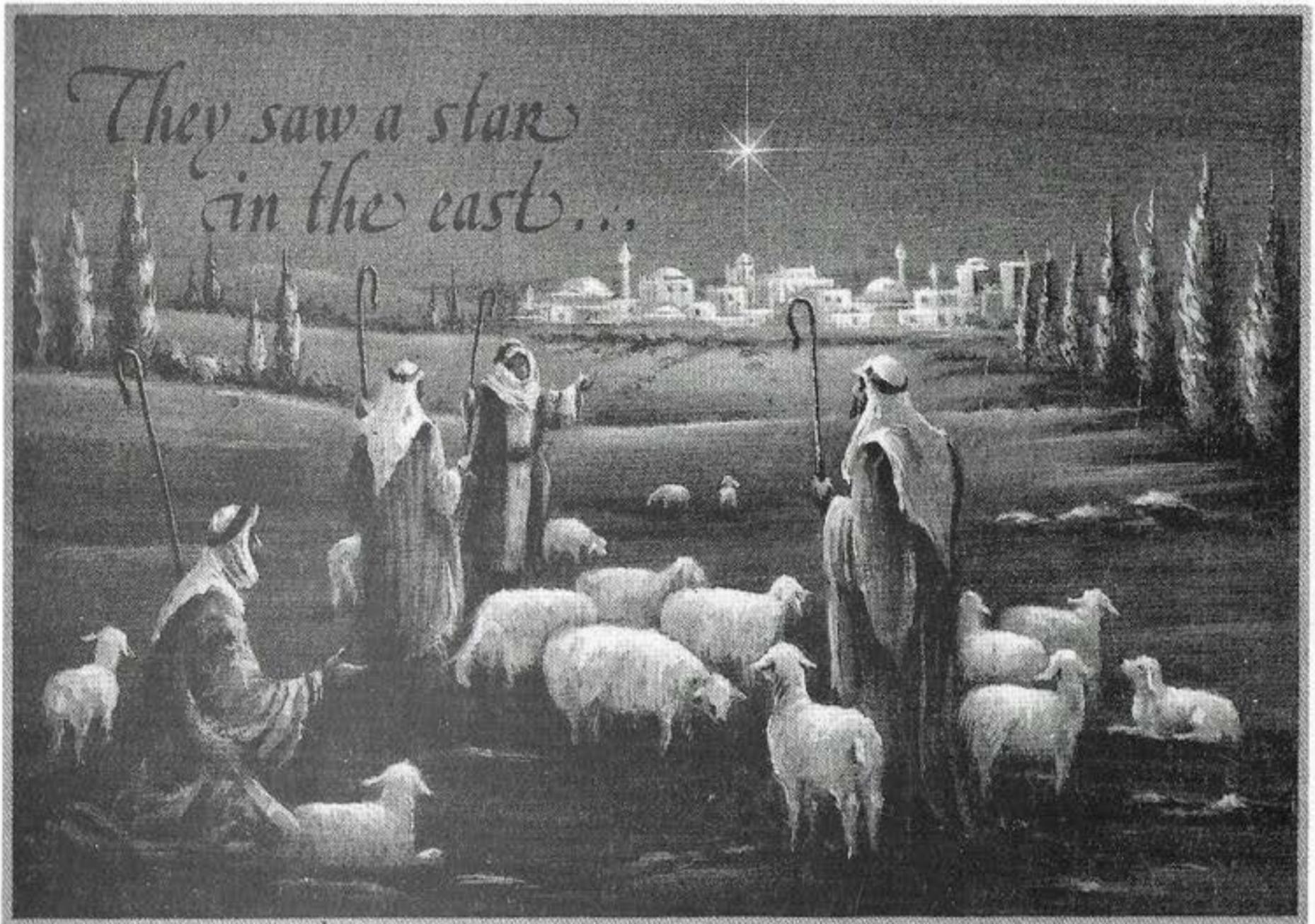
VIEWS



Muintir na Tire

CHRISTMAS 1989

Price 50p



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EDITORIAL

As we move into the final decade of the twentieth century only the most foolhardy would dare to predict the state of the world or society at its end. However we pray, whatever the changes and developments in the next ten years, that justice and equality will prevail for all. It would be our fervent hope that the dreadful evils of poverty and unemployment should be seriously tackled and eliminated and that the sad exodus of our young people to foreign lands would at least be halted.

At a local level, is it presumptuous to expect that in the nineties we will have our new school, sewerage scheme, by-pass road, and possibly a swimming pool and golf course?

"Deel Views" wishes all our readers a happy and holy Christmas and peace and prosperity in 1990.

OLD DOCUMENTS

We would very much welcome suitable material of any sort for publication in future issues of "Deel Views" - particularly old photographs and newspaper cuttings.

We thank all those who have contributed in the past and readers can be assured that all documents will be carefully managed and returned after use.

The next issue will be going to the printers on 23rd March, 1989.



RATHKEALE CAMOGIE TEAM

Back Row: Capt. Bill Shehan, Peg Brennan, M. Malone, M. O'Connor, May Keyes, E. Murphy, M. Donovan, Johnny -
Front Row: Francis O'Rourke, - Guiry, A. O'Shea, Margie Ahern, Nellie Fitzgerald, Peg Foley.

Dohyle Lough Development

Dohyle Lough, a natural amenity adjacent to Rathkeale, has been under development for a period of over two years under the auspices of Rathkeale Amenities Development Committee *, a sub-committee of Rathkeale Community Council. The project has been funded by the National Lottery, Limerick County Council and Rathkeale Community Council.

Developments to date include the conversion of the old swimming pool into a marina where boats and other water craft may be launched or stored. The renovation of buildings to be used as club houses and storage facilities, the provision of an access route to the lake.

The Lough has been stocked with fish by our fishing club and is presently very popular with fishing club members. Courses in sailing and canoeing have also been ran.

In the coming season we hope to encourage the formation of clubs to introduce young people to various water sports and make the facilities more accessible to schools, to provide courses in sports such as canoeing, sailing, skiing and fishing.

Dohyle Lough promises to have large potential as a leisure facility for the people of Rathkeale and surrounding areas. It could also be a major factor in introducing many tourists to the area which would be an asset to our business community.

** Rathkeale Amenities Development Committee was formed by Rathkeale Community Council to develop natural and man-made amenities in the Rathkeale area.*



SOME BOATMEN PICTURED AT DOHYLE LAKE DURING THE SUMMER



COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

John T. Griffin, M.C.C.

Limerick County Council, acting on behalf of Rathkeale Town Commissioners, recently passed an estimate, the bottom line of which is that £8,000 is available for improvement works. I have expressed the concern of people living in Ballywilliam, Holycross and Castlematrix at the lack of proper public lighting and I will be lobbying that most of the £8,000 will be spent on this project.

MAIN STREET

Temporary remedial surface repairs are being carried out at Main Street at the time of writing. It would be a waste of public money to deploy major monies to this project as the operation of the new town sewerage scheme will involve the excavation of the Main Street from Church to Abbey. The restoration of the Main Street after these works are complete will be a first class job and this has already been agreed with the Dept. of the Environment.

CAR PARK

One sad note. Local pressure over a long period for a car park resulted in expenditure of up to £120,000 and the provision of an excellent central car park. Where are the cars? On the footpaths on Main Street. This is a disgrace.

AMENITY GRANTS

The Dept. of the Environment has informed Limerick County Council that £5.5 million is being allocated nationally to Amenity Works out of Lottery money. If any voluntary group has a scheme in mind, apply on the form supplied by Limerick County Council before 16th January, 1990 for a grant out of this allocation.

NEW ROAD

The work on the new road from Croagh to Reens is moving ahead at a fast pace and the temporary fencing up to the Railway House in Rathkeale will be completed before Christmas. The plan is that, by 1994, the work will be finished. I say - with God's help.

RATHKEALE STUDY

A very shy quiet girl from Rosslara, O'Callaghans Mills, Co. Clare - Siobhain Mulcahy, M.R.I.A.I. - is about to present a study of the problems of Rathkeale to Limerick County Council. The first line of the Introduction of the Draft of the Study goes like this: "Rathkeale was a large and prosperous town in the 19th century, but like many middle sized Irish towns it has suffered from neglect and decline in recent years". This Study could cause major changes. More on this later.

Christmas Variety Show



**BY RATHKEALE
COMMUNITY PLAYERS**
"Comedy, Song & Dance"

**AT THE COMMUNITY HALL,
RATHKEALE**



**ON
FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER &
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER**

Commencing 8.30p.m.

THE DESERTED VILLAGES AROUND RATHKEALE

By Pat Coleman

Centuries have passed since Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village" and this poem illustrated that the deserted village is not a new phenomenon on the Irish landscape. However, before trying to identify the older variety of deserted village in this article, I will focus initially on those deserted villages left in the wake of the great Famine.

Ireland is fortunate in one respect that the British, for their own military ends, choose to map the island in the late 1830s and early 1840s. The subsequent maps which were produced - the 6" copies of the Ordnance Survey maps - are not only among the earliest of their type produced anywhere in the world, they also provide a detailed record of the Irish landscape at that time. The maps were accompanied by a series of namebooks which record every site of note which appears on the maps. Furthermore, the cartographers and their assistants frequently wrote to headquarters at the Phoenix Park in Dublin, recording any difficulties they had experienced in the course of their exercise and frequently seeking advice. It is possible to find both copies of the maps and namebooks for County Limerick at the County Library. The letters still remain in the Phoenix Park.

In 1840 Rathkeale was a major landlord town, along with being the County town of Limerick. It had a population of almost 5,000 people (compared with 1,800 today). Furthermore, ringed around Rathkeale were a series of small villages, some of which have since disappeared. These villages included the Palatine Chapel of Reens, clachans at Cappellagh (Riddlestown) and Loughill along with Croagh and Cappagh. Today, only Croagh and possibly Ballingarrane and Reens can be said to remain.

To actually put tags on the villages is misleading as within specific groups a great variety existed in their actual layout. This was particularly true of the three Palatine villages. The one feature all three had in common was the Methodist Meeting House. As regards their layout, this differed quite considerably. Courtmatrix was extremely well planned. It consisted of a square of houses laid out around a green with the Meeting House at the centre. This was the earliest of the Palatine villages to be settled in the locality (indeed in Ireland). Its layout indicates that Southwell was prepared to spend money to attract the community onto his estate. According to Mayes, each settler got 8 acres with the joint use of a commons. The Courtmatrix Commons is still used by local farmers.

At Killiheen the village was linear in shape with the Meeting House at the southern end of the village. Roughly half way between these two villages was a school built by Lady Butler for the education of the children of the two communities. Ballingarrane, which lies to the north of Rathkeale, was a far more dispersed village. The Palatines appear to have had their houses spread along 1.5 miles of roadside. However, roughly halfway along this roadway stood the Meeting House and school. In this case the school expenses were paid for by Lord Southwell, whose family were at this stage Catholics, (the Southwells were among the first Irish landlords to become Catholic with the ending of the Penal laws).

An interesting aspect of these settlements is that, during the 1820s, the Palatines were subject to sectarian attacks. While I am unaware of any such attacks on those villages around Rathkeale in the 1820s, during the 1780s some three hundred Whiteboys were to surround Ballingarrane and to relieve the in-

habitants of their guns. There were no injuries in this incident. Also of interest with regard the later outbreak of violence, the Police Inspector Willcox, who succeeded the assassinated Going, was to testify that his first duty as the Inspector for the Rathkeale area was to purge the police force of Orangemen. Certainly the reduction in violence, following Willcox assuming command, indicates that the police may well have been the agents of provocation in this outbreak of violence. Certainly, the survival of the Palatine villages at this date indicates that earlier resentment had receded.

It could be said that the Turnpike village of Reens survives today with its two pubs and its sub-post office providing services for the surrounding countryside. It would be interesting to find out how long the two pubs have been located at this site. The fact that a village existed here is evident on the map. The name-book merely indicates the presence of a small village. The book does indicate, however, that the turnpike was situated on the main Rathkeale-Listowel road which was still then under construction.

The third set of villages were clachans. These were little farming villages that grew up due to population pressure and the attempts by families to support each other and prevent the landlord from evicting the more vulnerable members. Often these villages could be said to represent a primitive form of co-operative, with everyone helping everyone else. While I know little of either of these two settlements, I do know that the buildings at Cappellagh can still be seen on later maps, such as the 1921 edition of the 6" maps. Tentative enquiries have revealed that it was only relatively recently that the ruins of this village were cleared. Fittingly, these ruins were on the land of Mr. Willie Mulcahy of Riddlestown as most of the people who were settled in this village bore the Mulcahy name though there were also some Magners. This suggests that at least one member of the Mulcahy family survived the landlords. I know nothing of the Loughill settlement and would appreciate anyone who is aware of the settlement at Loughill passing on any such knowledge to me.

The settlements at Croagh and Cappagh both would appear to have their origins in church related functions. In Croagh this is still very much evident as the ruins of the old ecclesiastical settlement still dominate the village. By 1840 the village contained "40 huts" according to Lewis. Croagh's inhabitants were to endure a particularly rough time during the Famine yet the village was to survive and today faces yet again a major struggle with the building of the by-pass - a by-pass which may yet prove the kiss of death for the village.

Patrick J. O'Connor in his book "Exploring Limerick's Past" gives a list of the occupations of the people of Cappagh from the Ordnance Survey namebook. There were a number of traders in the village, servicing the surrounding rural community and yet, of all the villages, Cappagh is the one which was clearly devastated by the Famine. The 1851 Census clearly indicates the village was swept away during those hungry years. However, the Civil Survey does make a reference to a Cappaghtowne. As the parish belonged to the Bishop of Limerick, it had obviously developed under Church patronage. One further factor of note as regards the village in 1840 was the presence of eight Constabulary Officers which suggests the troubles around the area in the 1820s culminating in the shooting of Captain Going.

Of the earlier deserted villages perhaps the most significant was that of Castlematrix. Castlematrix or Castle Mattress gets its name from the original Lords of Rathkeale. The Manor of Rathkeale was centred on the townlands of Castlematrix and Courtmatrix. Interestingly both townlands were the centres of earlier settlements. Castlematrix is recorded in the 1640s as containing a small village along with a mill. However, the inhabitants of this village were probably cleared at a later date by a member of the Southwell family and probably these people were to be the original inhabitants of Church Street, the only street in Rathkeale to be part of the Southwell estate. The remainder of the town had the Abbey as the focus of its development. This is clear both from the Peyton Survey of 1588 which shows the lands of the Abbey to be the centre for the

annual market and records the presence of buildings which could be rented as 'shops' in this area. The Civil Survey in 1654 and the 1659 Census provide us with a picture of a town stretching from the Abbey towards the Deel Bridge, containing over 600 inhabitants, where most of the property owners were old English. This implies that, contrary to McCarthy-Murrough's opinion, Rathkeale was not in fact a plantation town but had much older roots and far more substantial than people thought (Kilmallock about this time with possibly 3,000 inhabitants was almost certainly the largest inland town in the county and among the five largest in the country as a whole). Rathkeale would have been second only to Kilmallock in Co. Limerick.

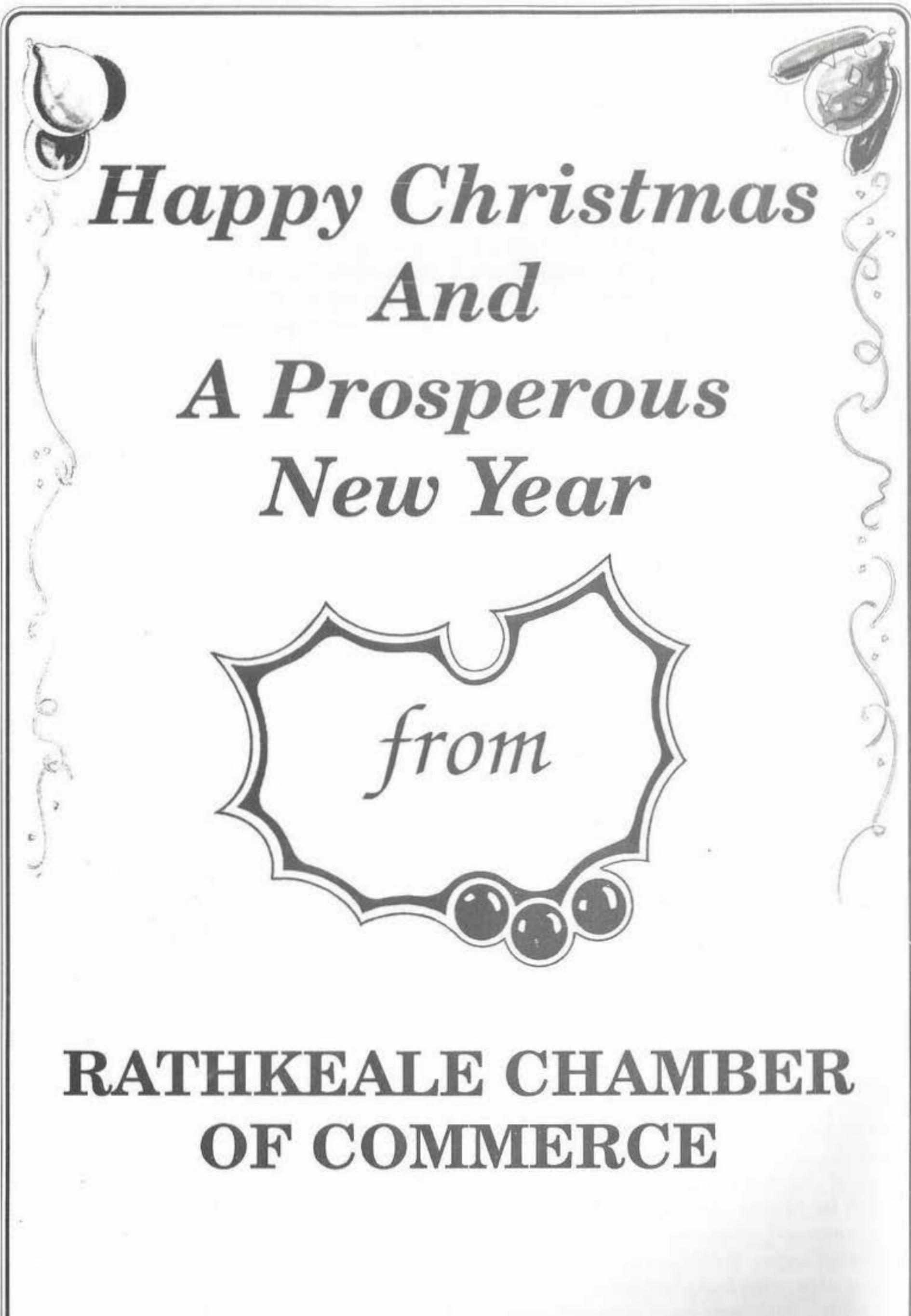
There also appears to have been an earlier settlement at Courtmatrix where, during the Irish rebellion of 1641, the Southwells records that fifteen houses at Courtmatrix had been burned. This site (probably the site of an English village) was superseded by the later Palatine settlement. Today, in an attempt to trace evidence of deserted villages from this era, historians are using two methods. Firstly, there is aerial photography, which gives a clearer view of ruins from the air than exists on the ground. There is also the 1659 Census. In the case of Rathkeale parish, apart from giving knowledge of the existence of Ballyalinan village which has long been known of, the Census also suggests the existence of a village at Ballyea of which no reference or evidence previously existed.

Other villages certainly existed at Nantenan near the Fair Green on the edge of the Royse estate and Cloghnarold House. Again the village is suggested in the correspondence of the Southwells but is also supported by the presence of the ruins of an old church close to the house. The house was built on the side of an old castle. This practice was quite common in Ireland and in the neighbourhood of Rathkeale the most noticeable example appears to be Mount Southwell which, it has been suggested, was built on the site of Rathkeale Castle. If this is true, one should also be aware of the fact that the Rath of Caola (from which Rathkeale gets its name) is situ-

ated near the Shrine. This suggests continuous settlement at the western end of town for at least one thousand years and is supported by the finding in the last century of a bracelet on an ecclesiastical site in Rathkeale though this church was never identified. The bracelet was believed to have dated from the bronze age but recently this has been dated to the Viking period.

This article has sought to identify the rich artifacts on the landscape around Rathkeale and, in doing so, to throw some light on the history of Rathkeale town. As can be seen, the town has in past periods been the centre of prosperous rural communities. The fact that these villages went into decline is usually linked with periods of crisis in Irish history. Thus villages like Ballyalinan, Cloghnarold and Ballyea (if indeed there was a village there) almost certainly went into decline in the wake of the Cromwell era. Later, villages such as Courtmatrix, Cappagh, Nantenan and Kiliheen owe their decline to emigration in the wake of the Famine, if not the Famine itself.

However, another aspect of local history which has had little attention paid to it is the extent to which outside groups settled in the vicinity of Rathkeale. Most Irish parishes had to integrate English and Anglo-Norman settlers, however small these settlements. Rathkeale, not alone integrated these groups, but also the Palatine community and a Scottish settlement. The Scottish settlement was based in Ballyalinan and was introduced by the Earl of Desmond. They belonged to the MacSheehy clan and were settled as Gallowglass (members of Desmond's army). This tradition of integrating outside communities makes Rathkeale a unique example of a 'melting pot' in Irish history. It continues today with the large number of travellers now resident in Rathkeale. In the past local landlords helped integrate these groups into our community. If the travellers are to be integrated into Rathkeale then a future has also to be guaranteed for the settled community. It is the time for a new benefactor to help in this process, namely the Irish Government, otherwise one fears that the long-term future of the town itself will be in question.



*Happy Christmas
And
A Prosperous
New Year*



from

**RATHKEALE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION

Since its inception in March 1989 the Irish Palatine Association has been exploring lines of activity which might best promote all aspects of the Irish Palatine heritage.

Some of the Association's involvements to date include an illustrated lecture on the story of the Palatines and the launch of Dr. Patrick O'Connor's book "People Make Places" which was officiated by the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery. Both functions were a great success and were well supported by both the Palatine community and the people of Rathkeale.

Presently the Association is involved in the preparation of a room supplied by Rathkeale Community Council to house a small Palatine exhibition and act as an Information Centre to interested tourists for the 1990 tourist season.

It is planned that this room should be the pilot project of a much larger development for which the Association will continue to work with the help of Shannon Development and Limerick County Council over the next number of years.

This larger project will involve the provision of a purpose built centre to present the Palatine story in a form not only of interest to those of international Palatine descent but to the public at large. The centre will include not only a museum with exhibition and archive but a database containing records to assist descendants' research their families.

As you can see, there is much work to be done in portraying the Irish Palatine saga, an important

part of 18th century Irish history in which Rathkeale played a most significant role. Its presentation will not only be of educational interest in helping people understand each other but will be an enormous asset to the town of Rathkeale in establishing a tourist trade.

The Irish Palatine Association may be reached at:

*The Irish Palatine Information Office,
Rathkeale,
Co. Limerick.*

Or

*Austen Bovenizer,
Chairman - Irish Palatine Association,
Killeheen,
Reens,
Ardagh,
Co. Limerick.*



The President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, pictured with Patrick Johnson, Chairman of the Community Council

ABRAHAM'S GOLFING SOCIETY

The major development of the year was the initiation of a proposal to provide a Golf Course for the area and to further this aim the Society has become a sub-committee of the Community Council. It is a major undertaking but, when accomplished, there will be enormous spin-off benefits.

The demand for golf facilities is expanding at a greater rate than almost any other leisure activity, both here and abroad. A top class course here would help attract many high spending visitors, particularly if it can be co-ordinated with other developments such as those on Dohyle Lough.

The primary aim is, of course, to make golf available to the local community and West Limerick in general. It is worth noting that there is no 18-hole course between Limerick City and Kerry.

It is hoped to call a public meeting early in January to report on progress to date and to seek support for the project.

Our outings during the year were most successful and very well attended. In fact, our numbers have increased dramatically from 1988. A number of new members joined and we are now at the stage where it would be difficult to cope with any more.

Among the lucky winners during the year were Liam Lynch, Pat Neville, Tadgh O'Connor, Patsy O'Sullivan, John Young, Norman Teskey, Eileen Noonan, Laura Keating, Mary O'Sullivan (Ballywilliam) and Mary O'Sullivan (Ballingarrane).

The last "fun" outing of the year takes place to Charleville on Saturday, 9th December at 10.00 a.m.

G.A.A.

It has been a year of mixed fortunes for Rathkeale Club. The Junior hurlers disappointed once again when losing out in the West semi-final to Drom/Broadford who went on to reach the County final. The footballers put up a valiant display in the West final against Athea and had they availed of their chances could have won. Unfortunately they were later defeated by Mungret in the County quarter-final. They won the West League and lost to Ballylanders in the County League semi-final.

At under-age level success eluded the Club for once but the fine U-12 and U-14 teams should be proving their worth in the next few years.

The good news has to do with the field development. After many stop-go efforts over the past few years work is now proceeding on major renovations under the aegis of a FAS Employment Scheme. There are twenty employed - ten in each alternate week - and already new toilets have been completed. The drainage is being tackled, the dressing rooms will be modernised and, of course, the pitch itself will be enlarged and improved. The entrance and boundaries are being attended to and hopefully these efforts will provide at long last a modern sports facility for the Club.

The annual raffle is under way and the draw is scheduled for Thursday, 21st December, in the Community Hall.



36 YEARS AGO
(22.3.1953)

GENERAL MELEE ENDS REPLAY OF FOOTBALL FINAL

After more than fifty minutes of almost uninterrupted thrills and spills and one of the best exhibitions ever seen at a Western venue (writes our West Limerick staff reporter), the replay of the Rathkeale Silver Cup football final between the Deelsiders and Foynes was abandoned within seven minutes of full time following an encroachment of the pitch and a general melee which ended in uproar and confusion. The premature ending of the game followed an altercation between two rival players, following which a big section of the spectators crowded onto the playing field, and in view of the general confusion that ensued the game was not continued. At the time of the unfortunate interruption, Rathkeale were leading by a point, but with the Shannonsiders pressing hard at this stage there was every indication that level scoring was near at hand. No information could be obtained as to what is to be the outcome of the incidents, but it is understood that they will be fully investigated by the West Board. Meanwhile, consideration of the question of finishing the final has been deferred.

BOTH SIDES ALL OUT FOR VICTORY

Following their hectic drawn game on the previous Sunday, both teams were obviously all-out for victory when the replay was started on Sunday. Fielding their best available championship selections, the teams served up first-class fare despite close marking and a tendency from the start towards over enthusiasm. The homesters made the most of their advantage in the opening moiety, and their

continued efforts were eventually rewarded with a goal from Arthur O'Shea. Undismayed by this rather serious setback the Foynes men fought back with determination and the sharp-shooting B. Madigan succeeded in sending over a point. Before the interval Tadgh O'Shea added a similar score for Rathkeale, leaving the half-time score: Rathkeale 1-1; Foynes 0-1.

SECOND HALF

On the resumption the Shannonsiders soon got into their old stride and notwithstanding the gallant defence of Frank Neenan and the Deelside defence, B. Madigan was again to the fore with another point. The Foynes men continued to keep up the pressure and P. Mulvihill reduced the Rathkeale lead to a single point with a fine shot over the bar. Excitement was now at fever pitch, with the Shannonsiders fighting hard for the equaliser and the homesters equally determined to hold on to their slender lead. Following the incidents already referred to, the pitch was invaded and the game had to be abandoned.

Mr. Jim Danaher (Knockaderry) refereed.

THE TEAMS

Rathkeale - S. Guiry, F. Neenan, J. Kelly, C. Magner, J. Roche, W. Mulcahy, C. Mulcahy, P. Conway, S. Giltenane, B. Carney, A. O'Shea, T. O'Shea, D. Cantam, P. Ryan, J. Fitzgerald.

Foynes - T. Hartnett, P. Mulvihill, B. Madigan, J. Madigan, J. Walsh, T. Finnucane, T. Carney, T. Frawley, J. Mullane, J. Danaher, T. Neville, J. Kirwan, T. Fitzgerald, J. Enright, J. Walsh.



Rathkeale Clothiers

Like most large county towns, Rathkeale, at the turn of the century, had its share of skilled trades and business people in the town. Among the trades for which the town was specially noted was its tailoring. There were several well established tailoring firms in Rathkeale at this time, where aspiring tailors served their time, and journeymen tailors were always sure of seasonal work. As well, some firms employed permanent staff. The Rathkeale tailors were justly proud of the quality of their workmanship and the excellence of the clothes they turned out.

There are no tailors left in Rathkeale today, the eighties saw the demise of Connie Keyes just a few months short of his 100th birthday and Jimmy Hayes who died in Dublin a short time later.

The families involved in the tailoring trade were the Nolan Brothers, Thornton Brothers, the Hayes Brothers and Keyes. These were the sons of tailors who took over the businesses established by their fathers or grandfathers. Other tailors were Peter O'Brien and Jack McEnery.

The Nolan Brothers had their workshop near the old Courthouse, there is an antique shop there now. There were four brothers - Danny, Bobby, George and Jimmy. They took over and ran the business when the older folk passed on.

Thornton Brothers had their workshop at Bank Place. The shop is now owned by Liam Chawke. There were three brothers - Joe, Mickey and Eddie. Because Eddie had his own business he did not stay at the tailoring. Like some of the other tailors, Thorntons took on apprentices who paid a fee to learn their craft. Some of these apprentices stayed on with the firm that trained them, others when trained set up their own business.

Connie Keyes had his premises at Bank Place also, almost next door to Thorntons, and whilst they were in competition for customers both families were very close friends. Connie Keyes served his time with his father around the turn of the century, the business was then known as

"Rathkeale Clothiers" and employed several staff.

The Hayes brothers had their premises on the Main Street - it is still owned by a member of the Hayes family, Mrs. Ann Shanahan (nee Hayes) who lives there with her son Pat. When the brothers were still very young their father died and their mother, who was a tailoress (she had served her time at Moloney's shop which was situated between Hickey's shop and the Central Bar), decided to keep the business going. The three boys, Jimmy, Bill and Mick, started at the tailoring as soon as they left school and over the years built up a reputation for first class tailoring. In later years Bill and Mick left Rathkeale and went to Hector Powers, the tailoring firm; the other went to England and joined the R.A.F. Jimmy eventually closed his workshop in Rathkeale and went to Todds in Limerick as a cutter. Some years later he went to O'Byrne & Fitzgibbons in Dublin to take charge of their tailoring department.

Peter O'Brien had his workshop at Kyletaun. Peter learned his trade with a large clothing firm in Cork city who specialised in making military uniforms for the British army. He worked on his own but employed journeymen tailors during the busy periods i.e. Easter and Christmas.

Jack McEnery had his tailor's shop across the road from Peter O'Brien at Holycross. Like Peter O'Brien, he was partly disabled which was a big factor in deciding to go into tailoring. He trained at Thornton Brothers and worked with them for many years. When Thorntons closed down he purchased most of their stock of cloth and started his own business.

All the tailoring firms bought their materials direct from the manufacturers. Connie Keyes bought from a firm of cloth manufacturers in Belfast, the Thorntons bought in Scotland and England, as did the Hayes brothers.

In the early 20s a suit cost £1 to make, and the material would cost from £5 to £10 depending on the quality of the cloth you chose. In those days most country folk would prefer to go to a tailor for their suit rather than buy a ready made in a shop. The cost of a tailor made suit then would have been anything from £8-£20 depending on

the quality of the cloth chosen. The tailor would charge about £1.50 to make the suit. The people that bought tailor made suits would expect to get at least five years wear out of them, this surely reflected the quality of the cloth and the skill of the tailor. A good tailor would turn out a suit in four to five days.

Connie Keyes was the oldest and, indeed, the last tailor to work in Rathkeale and with his passing the great tradition of tailoring in Rathkeale finally came to an end.

From Francis Guy's
"DIRECTORY OF MUNSTER 1886"

Tailors in Rathkeale:

Fitzgerald Michael, Main St.
Hayes James, Main St.
Moloney Patrick, Rathkeale
O'Shaughnessy Michael, Thomas St.



*JACK AND KATHLEEN McENERY,
TAILORS FROM HOLYCROSS.*

MARRIAGES

Patrick Michael Quinn and Ann Marie Fennell
Noel Anthony Forde and Christina Elizabeth Meehan
Edward Anthony McCarthy and Eileen Teresa Neville
James McInerney and Mary Flynn
John Gerard Clancy and Christina Marie Lynch
James Gammell and Nora Sheridan
Fredrick O'Donoghue and Kathleen O'Brien
James Paul Cronin and Marie Teresa Clancy
Patrick Stack and Ann Teresa O'Grady

DEATHS

Edward Naughton, Castlematrix
Thomas Fitzgerald, Dromard
Patrick O'Sullivan, Ardbouhill
Margaret Magner, New Road
Tom Flynn, Fair Hill
John Fitzgerald, Abbeylands
Catherine McKessy, Duxtown
Pat Joe Scanlan, Abbeylands
John Blondie Flynn, Roche's Road
Bridget Tobin, Tallyho
Mai Foster, Boherbuoy
Seán Vaughan, Reens Pike
Joe O'Neill, Dohile
Vincent Hayes, Dohile
John Wilmott, Stoneyman
Fergus Hennessy, Main Street
Minnie Geary, Ballywilliam
Brendan Neville, Kilfinny
Tom Daly, Tallyho
John Barrett, Rathnasaor

BIRTHS

Julia Sheridan, Fair Hill
Ciara Marie Keating, Ballywilliam
Greg Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Abbeylands
Derry Michael White, New Line
John Michael O'Connor, Ballywilliam
Gerard Martin Frawley, Danesfort
Chloe Catherine Majella Markham, Ballywilliam
Conor James Magner, Lower Main Street
Máire Josephine Magner, Main Street
Nora Mary Quilligan, Fair Hill
David Robert Collins, Ballywilliam
John Anthony O'Shea, The Square
Stephen Mortimer O'Leary, Wicklow
Robert Flynn, Roche's Road
Niamh Máire Lenihan, Ballywilliam
Liam Victor Walsh, Duxtown
Ciara McCarthy, New Road
David 'Hallickey' Sheridan, Thomas Street
Amy Bridget Morrissey, Enniscouch

Boxing

Rathkeale Boxing Club was revived four years ago by Joe Rouine, local V.E.C. teacher, and John Jones from Adare. The revival was an immediate success with over fifty juveniles turning up for training every Tuesday and Thursday night at the Deel Hall in Church Street.

Over the four year span this Club has won many County and Munster championships and the pinnacle of the Club's success must be April 1988 when Gerard McNamara brought home the All-Ireland championship to Rathkeale. This was an achievement for a Club then only two years in existence.

The Club has gone from strength to strength and, after the summer recess, the members are now back in full training. Members such as Kieran Duggan, Tony Neville, Peter Williams, Mark Clifford and Gerard McNamara are again to the forefront and must be odds-on favourites to win championships this season.

Training sessions take place every Monday and Wednesday nights between 7.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. at the Deel Hall and if anyone is interested in joining they are welcome.

The President of the Club is Dr. Curtin, the Secretary is John Jones, and Joe Rouine is Treasurer.

There is so much enthusiasm for juvenile boxing at present it was decided that a properly equipped boxing gym should be provided for these juveniles in Rathkeale. Two months ago a special meeting was held and it was decided to set up a Finance Committee to help raise funds for the new building. Negotiations took place with Rathkeale Community Council and agreement was reached to build a gym at the rear of the squash courts at Abbey-court. The Club has got planning permission and at present the Finance Committee are raising funds. This Committee is made up as follows: Chairman - Christy Jones, Secretary - Michael McNamara, Treasurer - Billy Nestor, Committee - Joe Williams, Roger Kinehan, David Clifford, Patrick Jones, Gerry Mulcair, John Jones, Joe Rouine.

Recently a door to door collection took place and the Committee are thankful to all those who helped us and contributed.

The Club will be holding their Annual Tournament and Social at the Woodlands on 21st December and will certainly be a night not to miss. Tickets will be £5 and this includes social, meal and boxing. Current and previous Irish boxing champions will be taking part. The music will be provided by Ann Marie and the Ferrymen.



SOME MEMBERS OF RATHKEALE BOXING CLUB

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

TIDY TOWNS

The full report of the judges is included elsewhere. Much dissatisfaction was expressed at the last Council meeting at the fact that little account appears to have been taken of the many improvements that have been carried out since last year. Of particular concern is that no reference was made to Abbeylands Park and surrounds. It was agreed to forward our views to Bórd Fáilte who haven't yet offered any comments.

CAR PARK

We are delighted that our new town car park is operational and there is now fine space for over fifty vehicles off the main street. We would urge all who can to avail of this facility, particularly over the busy Christmas period, and we appeal especially to those in business whose cars heretofore were obliged to occupy day long positions on the streets. The park is well laid out and well lighted and in order to justify the Community Council's demands on the County Council over the last few years it is important that it be fully used.

NEW CARAVAN PARK

The new modern park was opened during the year and is now fully occupied with caravans. A number of meetings have taken place with County Councils officials with regard to the old park and Fair Hill. The Community Council hold the view that this should now be abandoned and possibly used for building sites whereas the officials seem to want it to continue in use for the overflow of caravans. Whatever the outcome it is the aim of the Community Council, now that a first class "halt" has been provided at considerable expense, that all caravans will be removed from roadsides as soon as possible.

CLOSURE OF E.S.B. OFFICE

Despite strenuous efforts from Chamber of

Commerce and Community Council the local E.S.B. office closed down recently. Services have now moved to Newcastle West. While this was a severe blow to the town we are pleased to learn that the Department of Justice has acquired the property for a new Garda Barracks. While expressing our serious objections to the E.S.B. action we must acknowledge a significant financial contribution from the Board towards the erection of Christmas lighting in the town. This is to be undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce.

FUND RAISING

As for many years past the two principal sources of finance for the Community Council are the weekly card game and bingo. The former takes place each Wednesday night at 9 p.m. For an admission charge of £3 one can enjoy a fine game of "45" in warm, comfortable surroundings and rounded off by tea and cakes at the end of the night.

The bingo is run on Thursdays and has featured a large jackpot for some time now. This has been attracting enormous crowds and is proving very successful. More local support would be most welcome.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Following on the Community "Siamsa" show early in the year it was decided to organise a Christmas entertainment. Rehearsals have been under way since October and the show will take place in the Hall on Friday, 15th and Sunday, 17th December.

FESTIVAL

"Welcome Home Festival '89" was again a great success. It seemed to attract quite an amount of interest in the locality and all agree the events of the week brought much needed life and vitality to the town. A review of the Festival is now taking place with the aim of improving further for 1990 and any suggestion will naturally be welcomed by the organising committee.

This year's Festival was centred round the 700th anniversary of the founding of the Abbey and featured the publication of a very fine work on the Abbey and many other aspects of Rathkeale and its history. Copies are still available at a price of £1.

S O C C E R

The new soccer season started for Rathkeale in early August. What happened in the former season has been well documented and chronicled - such as being Desmond League champions in season '88/'89.

In conjunction with the "Welcome Home Festival" the current League champions played the previous Rathkeale team, the infamous Shannon Utd. (champions in 1977). This game marked the blessing of the Stand, a ceremony which was performed by Fr. O'Keeffe who, during his stay in the parish, made a significant contribution to the success and development of Rathkeale A.F.C.

PAST -v- PRESENT

The exhibition game proved to be an 8-goal thriller, shared equally by two very talented sides. Miko Dunne was a very fair and impartial referee. Three players spanned both eras - namely, Sean Harnett (player/manager), Edmund Dollery (captain) and John Coleman.

The teams for the record were:

Shannon Utd - Mike Gallagher, Frank Lynch, Noel Harnett, Timmy Mullane, Pat Lavin, Johnny Jones (Captain), Edmund Dollery, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Bill Chawke, Sean Harnett and John Coleman. Reserves - Denis O'Dea and Tom Reidy. Pa Sheahan was Team Manager and his two cohorts were Sean Hennessy and Miko Dunne.

Rathkeale '88/'89 - Brian Keating, Sean Hough, Brendan O'Connor, Noel Kennedy, Kieran O'Shea, Diarmuid O'Connell, Eddie Geaney, John Comny, Seamus Dollery, John Woulfe, Mike King. Reserves - Thomas Kenneally, William Daly.

MUNSTER CUP

During the close season, Seamus Dollery played on the Munster team that competed in

the Inter-Provinces competition. A great honour for this promising player and also his club.

In a special Inter-League competition confined to Munster District leagues, the Desmond League were defeated by Waterford in the final, having defeated Clare and Kerry en route. Rathkeale were represented by Sean Harnett, Edmund Dollery, John Comny and Seamus Twoomey. In the Oscar Traynor, Brendan O'Connor and Seamus Dollery have been added to that panel.

YOUTHS

In the Youths Inter-League competition the Club were very well represented by: Seamus Dollery, Diarmuid O'Connell, Paul Lynch, Thomas Kenneally, Paul Ruttle, Pat Madigan and Thomas O'Keeffe.

Congratulations to our Minor team under the stewardship of Pa Sheahan and Liam Kennedy who guided the youths to a League and Cup double.

In the Choice Cup - under 17 - Rathkeale won through the Desmond League and will now represent the League on the national stage.

JUNIORS

In the Junior scene the Club have three teams affiliated. Edmund Dollery is manager of the "A" side. Mike Walsh continues as manager of the "B" team. The "C" team is now under the stewardship of Tom Hogan. At the time of going to press neither of these sides are setting the place alight, although the "A"s are in the semi-final of the Munster Junior Cup (Area).

SCHOOLBOYS

On the Schoolboys' front, it is early days yet with the 13s, 14s and 15s in the semi-final of

their respective Cup competitions. The individual schoolboy awards for last season were as follows:

Under-11 Kenny Hogan
 Under-12 Noel McNamara
 Under-14 John Gilbourne
 Under-15 Peter Donovan
 Under-16 Declan O'Keeffe
 Merit Award T. J. Riordan and Kevin Clarke

A very healthy aspect from the Club's point of view at the A.G.M. held during the close season was that many of the younger players decided to become involved actively at committee level. This is sure to have benefits for the Club.

A downside for the Club was the departure of Fr. O'Keeffe - to whom we wish every success - and Jimmy Fitzgerald deciding to take a year's "sabbatical".

SEASON'S GREETINGS

On behalf of the Club, I would like to wish all our friends and supporters - especially our overseas colleagues - a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



CHRIST'S COMING

P. H. Pearse

*I have made my heart clean tonight
 As a woman might clean her house
 Ere her lover comes to visit her:
 O lover, pass not by!*

*I have opened the door of my heart
 Like a man that would make a feast
 For his son's coming home from afar:
 Lovely thy coming, O Son!*

AT THE WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL



Catherine O'Grady, Bridie Markham, Michelle O'Grady and Nancy Markham, pictured at the Open Air Concert in Rathkeale



Rev. Fr. O'Keeffe, Mr. Gerard Collins, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rev. Fr. David McNamee, P.P., pictured at the launching of the commemorative historical booklet in Rathkeale last August



Mrs. Collins, Rosemount and Mrs. McMahon, St. Mary's Park, pictured in Rathkeale during the Festival Week

ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND THE POST OFFICE

(From *Seirbhís Phoiblí Meán Fomhair 1987*)

By *Patrick Judge*

(Mr. Judge is an Assistant Principal in the Department of Finance on loan to the Houses of the Oireachtas)

Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), writer of the *The Warden*, *Barchester Towers*, *The Last Chronicle of Barset*, *Phineas Finn* etc. lived in Ireland between 1841 and 1859 while working for the Post Office. His Autobiography chronicles the years spent in Ireland and provides a fascinating glimpse into the pages of Irish history that includes the period of the Great Famine and other historical events. Trollope's observations of life in Ireland at the time, as well as his own career in the Civil Service, are worth reading in full. This article is merely a taste of what is contained in his own writings.

EARLY LIFE

Anthony Trollope was born in London in 1815. The family fortune's deteriorated during Trollope's childhood when his father, a barrister, decided to try farming. The decision was to prove financially ruinous, so much so that the family eventually had to subsist in a rented tumbledown farmhouse for a number of years.

Despite their poverty, Trollope Senior sent his sons as day pupils to Harrow and later to Winchester College. It seems that Anthony's fees were not paid by his father and he became a virtual outcast in the college. It is clear from his own writing that he benefitted very little from his education.

Trollope's mother was forced to emigrate to the United States in 1827 with three of her children. She returned after four years. Mrs. Trollope wrote a book about the United States and it became an immediate financial success. The Trollope family's fortunes improved over the following years due in the main to Mrs. Trollope's writings.

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE

In 1834 Anthony Trollope entered the General Post Office in London as a clerk. His method of entrance was rather interesting. A friend of Trol-

lope's family arranged for him to call to the Secretary's office. He was asked to copy some lines from the Times newspaper with an old quill pen, and at once made a series of blots and bad spellings. Having failed the first test he went home that night and practised his writing. Next day, when he called to the office, Anthony was seated at a desk without any further reference to his competency. No one condescended even to look at his improved penmanship.

Trollope's salary in his first years in London was £90 a year (about £4,100 in 1987 terms) and he found it very difficult to live within his means. He was unable to afford dinners and other basics and eventually he fell into the hands of a money lender. In return for £12 borrowed Trollope eventually paid something over £200 (£9,000 today) and this was after enduring almost daily visits by the money lender to his place of work.

In August 1841 when Anthony Trollope was twenty six years old he was offered a Post Office appointment in Ireland at a salary of £100 a year but his income less expenses would amount to £400 a year (£18,000 today) after travel and subsistence allowances were taken into account.



Patrick Judge

IRELAND 1841

The position taken up by Trollope was that of surveyors clerk. There were three surveyors in Ireland and to each of these a clerk was assigned, whose duty it was to travel about under the surveyor's orders.

It is clear from his account that all of Anthony Trollope's relations and friends thought he was slightly imbalanced to want to go to Ireland. However, part of his reason for going was to clear the large debts which weighed him down at the time.

Trollope's comments at the time of his transfer to Ireland are illuminating: his ideas of the duties he was to perform were very vague as were his ideas on Ireland generally. Until his posting to Ireland, he had passed his time, seated at a desk, either writing letters himself or copying into books those which others had written. He had never been called upon to do anything he was unable or unfitted to do. His new role in Ireland would be to inspect country post offices and among other things to be inspected would be the post-masters' accounts. As no one had questioned Trollope's fitness for this work, it seemed unnecessary for him to do so! On his own admission he had never mastered multiplication or long division.

Trollope landed in Dublin on 15 September, 1841, knowing no one and with only two or three letters of introduction. Initially he was based in Banagher and from there his inspecting tours were to be made chiefly into Connaught.

It is clear from his account that Trollope settled in very well to his new lifestyle in Ireland and enjoyed himself immensely. He loved hunting and rode to hounds frequently. He recounted some of his adventures in his books, namely *The O'Connors of Castle Conor* and *Father Giles of Ballymoy*.

Trollope was very generous in his comments about the life and people he met in Ireland - it must be remembered that it was very fashionable at the time for English writers to be derogatory in their descriptions of everything Irish.

Much of Trollope's time was taken up with travelling on horseback around the countryside on inspection duties. On one occasion he had to visit a postmaster in the west of County Galway, who was suspected of dipping into the till. Trollope had the postmaster teach him the use of the forms, balanced the account and found that the suspicions about the man were correct and that he was unable to pay his debt. The man was duly dismissed from his job and Trollope never had any further difficulty in dealing with such matters.

In another incident a gentleman in County Cavan had complained most bitterly of the injury done to him by some arrangement of the Post Office. It

was mid-winter and Trollope drove up to his house, a squire's country seat, in the middle of a snow storm, just as it was becoming dark. He was on an open jaunting-car and was, understandably, very cold, wet and uncomfortable when he reached the house in question. The gentleman himself hurried into the hall, and called on the butler to bring some brandy and hot water. As Trollope tried to explain the nature of his business the gentleman insisted that he should stay the night on the basis that he would not turn out a dog on such a night. Trollope was then introduced to the man's daughter and the three of them went into dinner. There was righteous indignation when the purpose of the visit was brought up once again. It soon became clear that the gentleman had no real cause for complaint. The truth was that, in his boredom, he used to sit down and write letters of complaint to all and sundry! Trollope was able to report to his superiors that the complaint had been investigated and dealt with satisfactorily and the Post Office heard nothing more after that.

MARRIAGE

In 1842 Trollope met Rose Heseltine while on a visit to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) and they were married two years later on 11 June, 1844. Soon after that Trollope began to write seriously and, while he was working in Drumsna, Co. Leitrim, he drew up the plot for his first novel, *The MacDer-mots of Ballycloran*, which was published in 1847. Immediately after their marriage the Trollopes moved to Clonmel in Tipperary.

The Trollopes witnessed much of the political agitation associated with the Young Irelanders and Daniel O'Connell in the 1840s. In general Trollope seemed to welcome the idea of Home rule, when the alternatives of monster meetings or even the real possibility of rebellion in Ireland were considered.

FAMINE

During the years 1845-1848, Trollope witnessed the worst effects of the Famine and the pestilence which succeeded it. He travelled constantly in some of the worst affected areas, Cork, Kerry and Clare. In his writings Trollope seemed satisfied that the Government of the day did all in its power to reduce the effects of the Famine. Indeed, during a visit to London in 1848, he called to the editor of the Liberal weekly newspaper, *The Examiner*, with a view to writing a series of articles for the newspaper on the truth as he observed it during his stay

in Ireland. These were duly published but Trollope never received any payment and seems to have been somewhat disappointed at the lack of support for his work on the subject.



At a later date Trollope also proposed another literary project, a handbook or guide on Ireland. He actually wrote trial chapters on Dublin, Kerry and the route from Dublin to Killarney, altogether completing nearly a quarter of the proposed volume. The manuscript was returned from the publisher after nine months and nothing came of the project. Readers today will regret that the Irish guide never came to fruition.

In 1851, Trollope returned to Britain for two years on a special assignment. At the time there was some abuse of the system of carrying letters in that letters were not delivered to some areas on a regular basis. In a very determined manner Trollope criss-crossed Britain on horseback, establishing an efficient system of regular letter delivery which lasted into the 20th century. In some districts he had found that postmen actually charged recipients for letters delivered and he succeeded in largely stamping out that illegal practice in a short space of time.

LETTER BOXES

During his stay in Britain Trollope's assignment took him to the Channel Islands. While there he became aware of a novel postal system in France

which was to have a considerable impact on postal communications in Britain and Ireland.

Guernsey,
21 November, 1851

To G. H. Creswell

Sir,

There is at present no receiving office at St. Helier, and persons living in distant parts of the town have to send nearly a mile to the principle office. I believe that a plan has obtained in France of fitting up letter boxes, in posts fixed at the road side, and it may perhaps be thought advisable to try the operation of the system in St. Helier - postage stamps are sold in every street, and therefore all that is required is a safe receptacle for letters which shall be cleared in the morning of the despatch of the London mails, and at such other times as may be requisite. Iron posts suited for the purpose may be erected at the corners of streets in such situations as may be desirable, or probably it may be found to be more serviceable to fix iron letter boxes about five feet from the ground, wherever permanently built walls, fit for the purpose, can be found and I think that the public may safely be invited to use such boxes for depositing their letters. Should the Postmaster General be willing to sanction the experiment, I would recommend the four sites which I have marked in red ink on the enclosed small map of the town, the site of the principle office being marked with a black cross. In this even no expense need be incurred for clearing the letters from the boxes, as the duty on post mornings would be performed by the person who brings in the rural receiving house bags, and at other times by the town letter carrier.

I can give no estimate of the cost of erecting such letter boxes as those proposed. It would probably be necessary to consult the town authorities before the different localities were absolutely fixed.

Anthony Trollope

ADVICE TO COLLEAGUES

During his working life in the Post Office Trollope was no armchair administrator. He travelled widely and considered it important that he should be seen regularly by the postal workers and customers alike. He passed on his ideas from time to time to other Post Office employees with whom he came in contact. In a letter dated October 1858 he wrote

from Dublin to a junior colleague in Scotland:

.. Do not lose any opportunity when you are at country offices of getting up the rural posts. Make a point of walking them all with the men whether you are employed to do so or not. You will learn by doing so the system of rural posts and it will soon be known that you have learnt it - and this will lead to your being employed as a surveyor's clerk, when there is need for such employment. You should do all you can to learn a surveyor's business when you are travelling. It will be sure to be useful to you.....

EGYPT AND THE WEST INDIES

Early in 1858 Trollope was asked by his superiors at the General Post Office to travel to Egypt to make a treaty with the Pasha for the conveyance of mail through the country by railway. He left Dublin for London and had meetings with his publishers before travelling overseas.

While in Egypt Trollope successfully concluded a postal agreement with the Pasha and after a visit to the Holy Land he inspected the Post Offices at Malta and Gibraltar on the way home to Ireland. By now he was earning about £1,400 a year between his official income and his writings (£63,000 in today's terms).

In the Autumn of 1858, Trollope was asked to go to the West Indies to clear up the Post Office system there. In due course he carried out his assignment and also completed a book based on his experiences. Soon after his return from the West Indies he had an opportunity to change his district in Ireland for one in England.

RETURN TO ENGLAND

In his Autobiography Anthony Trollope wrote affectionately about the years he spent working and living in Ireland. The family prepared to change their residence back to England and in December 1859 Trollope moved over to take charge of the Eastern District of England. And so ended Anthony Trollope's connection with Ireland and the Post Office system here.

In his writing, Trollope made it quite plain that he did not think very highly of Mr. Rowland Hill, Secretary of the Post Office, who is best remembered for the introduction of the Penny Post. The feeling seems to have been mutual between the two men.

During the American Civil War 1861-65, Trollope crossed the Atlantic on a nine months leave of absence. (This must be one of the earliest examples of a Civil Service career break !)

RESIGNATION

In 1867, Anthony Trollope, at the age of 52, decided to resign from the Post Office to devote his full attention to his writing. After 33 years he therefore retired without any pension. This was because a person had to be sixty years of age to qualify for a pension.

It was to Trollope's credit that he was responsible for a much improved postal service during his working life, including the system of availability of postage stamps in every village, and the free delivery of letters. One of his most far-seeing suggestions led to the installation of letter-boxes all over Britain and Ireland. Trollope, again ahead of his time, insisted that postmen and sorters should be adequately paid and have some hours to themselves, especially on Sundays (!). He also strove to improve the style of writing in official reports and in this he seems also to have been successful.

During the remainder of his lifetime Anthony Trollope's literary output was prodigious. He continued to take a lively interest in travel, visiting Australia in 1871, where one of his sons was a sheep farmer and in due course published a number of volumes about his tour.

Between 1847 and 1879 Trollope published 46 books in all for which he earned £69,000 (about £3 million today - before tax !)

Anthony Trollope died on 6 December, 1882. He can be truly regarded as the father of the modern Irish postal system. An Post, as descendants of the Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs, owe a great deal to Anthony Trollope, the impoverished clerk, turned successful writer, who applied his innate humanity and common sense to providing a public service that revolutionised communications before the advent of the telephone at the end of the 19th century.

It is a fascinating thought that, if Trollope had not fallen into the hands of a moneylender when he was a young clerk in London, he might not have gone to Ireland in 1841 where his writing talent blossomed and his civil service career began its ascent.

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For Your Ideal Christmas Gift Call to John's of Rathkeale

ST. BERNARD'S WELL

(From "Deel Views" - Christmas 1978)

St. Beinid's or St. Bernard's - while the historians dispute the authenticity of the latter name the ordinary people of Ballyallinan and district (as distinct from the scholars) are adamant that their beloved well is indeed rightly named St. Bernard's and tradition is on their side. From time immemorial the ceremonies associated with the well have commenced on the 19th of August which is the vigil of the death of St. Bernard on 20th August, 1153. Devotions continued throughout the octave.

St. Bernard was born of a noble family in France. His father was a knight who died on a crusade to the Holy Land and his mother died when he was a boy. Together with his brothers and some relatives he joined the newly-founded Cistercian Order and became one of their most famous and most saintly members. The Cistercians had been founded to lead monks away from wealth, idleness and pleasure to a holier way of life, and to them and to subsequent generations St. Bernard typified the monastic ideal at its best. St. Bernard founded the famous monastery of Clairvaux to which even Popes came to seek his advice. Innocent 11, at the time of anti-Pope Anticletus 11, Celestine 11 (1143-1144), Lucius 11 (1144-1145), Eugene 111 (1145-1153), Anastasius IV (1153-1154) were all contemporaries of his and most of them had troubled and stormy reigns.

St. Bernard may as well have been Pope, such was his moral authority in Church or State-Church affairs. He is believed to have saved the church of his time when it was in great need of courage and holiness. Pilgrims flocked to Clairvaux from all corners of Europe to see and hear this holy man. There were widespread reports of miracles and cures at his hands, the blessed waters at Ballyallinan are reputed to be of miraculous benefit in eye ailments.



Fr. Irwin celebrates Mass at the Well.

Another famous contemporary and friend of St. Bernard was our own St. Malachy (1094-1148), Primate of Armagh, who has been in the news again recently because of his prophecies on the Papacy. He it was who brought the first Cistercians to Ireland and he died at Clairvaux in the arms of St. Bernard. Mellifont, Roscrea, Mount Melleray (and Ballyallinan?) are among the ninety three monasteries affiliated to Clairvaux.

With the celebration of Mass by Fr. Irwin at the well for the first time in 1977, and again this year, a new era has dawned for our blessed well. Of particular significance is the enthusiasm with which the young people of the neighbourhood have helped with the arrangements. More and more people are stopping to visit and pray their rounds all through the year. The pageantry of former years has been replaced by the drama of Calvary - a development of which the saintly Bernard would heartily approve.

This year a Committee for the preservation of St. Bernard's Well was elected as follows:

President - John Keating;
Chairman - Fr. Irwin;
Joint Treasurers - Martin Egan & John Chawke;
Secretary - Paddy Murphy;
Committee - P. J. Scanlan, Patsy Keating, Miss Margaret Egan, Mrs. Nellie Chawke, Thomas Frawley, Michael O'Brien, Mrs. Ann Doherty, Tom Chawke, John McCoy, Mrs. Sheila Frawley.

1989 TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

Progress Report

Centre: RATHKEALE

Category: D

County: LIMERICK

1989 Marks: 145

EFFORT *assessment may take into account sustained effort over a number of years or the overcoming of special local difficulties*

It is obvious that there is continued efforts to improve the overall appearance of the town but these efforts are being thwarted by some individuals and sections of the community. Those involved in the Tidy Towns deserve more support and this message should be widely publicised. If the population of Rathkeale is to have any pride in its own place, then they need to get more involved individually and collectively. The travelling community cannot opt out of its responsibility, nor individual householders in some residential areas and some individual business premises along the main street.

TIDINESS *appropriate placing of litter bins, absence of litter, advertising hoardings and indiscriminate dumping*

Generally the centre of town was clean and tidy and from the Limerick Road through to the Newcastle West road was enhanced by the use of flower baskets and tubs at individual premises. The area around the river/walk was again disappointing. However, the amount of litter in the housing estates, along the Limerick Road and around industrial premises and the Enterprise Centre, is unacceptable and should not be too difficult to rectify.

PRESENTATION OF BUILDINGS *shops, business premises, banks, factories, historic and public buildings, derelict sites and buildings, statues and monuments*

Improvement noted in this section and the business community generally along the main street are making a worthwhile contribution - AIB, Bank of Ireland, The People's Bakery, McDonnells, O'Connors, Donovans, Hennessy Chemist, The Rovers Return, the Hotel, to mention a few. The Abbey ruins and park could be better presented but work in progress, when completed, will improve this area. The town hall is well maintained but more could be done to improve the square. Both churches and schools looked well. The Marian Grotto is again most attractive and deserves special mention.

PRESENTATION OF NATURAL AMENITIES *open spaces, village greens, river banks, foreshore, parks, trees*

Again the overall impression is disappointing - generally the standard of maintenance of open spaces in residential areas, the area along the river and the Abbey Park (despite the work in progress on band stand), all leave room for improvement. Much more needs to be done and nothing will be achieved here without a greater commitment at all levels.

APPEARANCE OF APPROACH ROADS *verges, streets, back lanes and footpaths, also car parks, seats, telephone kiosks, post boxes, litter bins, pumps and road signs*

The main approach roads from Limerick and Newcastle West again are reasonably well presented, despite some litter along the Limerick Road. The restored stone wall on the Newcastle West Road noted. The Ballingarry Road was the best

Max	MARKS	
	1987	1988
40	33	32
35	23	23
35	26	28
40	21	20

of the minor approach roads and the Foynes and Pallaskenry roads could be improved.

PRESENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS *including open spaces*

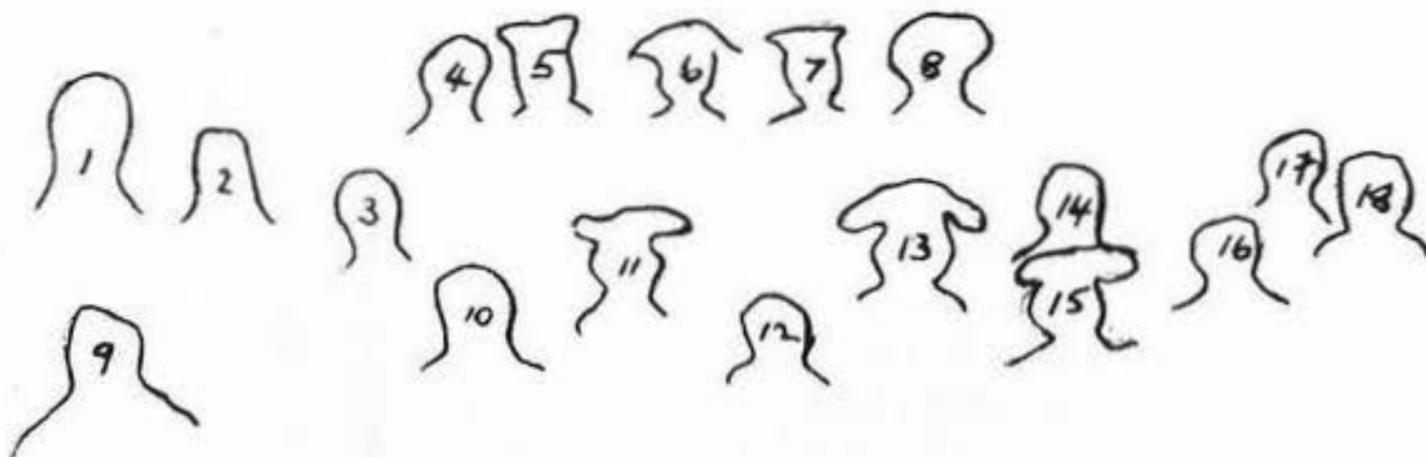
Despite many commendable individual efforts, there is obviously very mixed interest in the presentation of private houses in all residential areas. Notable exceptions are some houses on the Limerick Road, opposite Rathkeale Motors, in the town centre and along the Ballingarry Road. Perhaps sub-committees organised on an area basis/residents associations, including the travelling community, might be a way forward.

MARKS: Maximum: 20 1988: 14 1989: 13

40	28	29
20	14	13
200	145	145

OVERALL MARKS:

RATHKEALE DRAMATIC SOCIETY
THE COLLEEN BAWN C. 1915



(1) Con Boyle (2) ? (3) Kathleen O'Donnell (4) ? (5) Patk. Hassett (6) Paddy Roche (7) Jack Boyle (8) ? (9) Mai Finn (10) Paddy Lynch (11) D. Lane (12) Nan Gaynor (Mooney) (13) Joe Meade (14) Rita Finn (15) ? (16) ? (17) Ml. Hassett (18) Johnny Ward

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

187 Richmond Road,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey.

Friday, 14th April 1989

Dear Sir,

I note from your Christmas number of the Deel Views you are looking for letters to the Editor.

First our very sincere congratulations on your excellent Christmas number. It was super, so much better than your previous number.

Letter writing is not a strong point of the people of Rathkeale, indeed most of us are lucky if we get a Christmas card. That is one reason why the Deel Views is so very important to the people from Rathkeale that live over here. It is the only way that we can keep in touch with all that latest news from the Old Town.

I was deeply interested in Noel Harnett's article "London a personal view". The following are a few of my own observations. First it is just impossible for anybody to get any idea of what life is like over here in one short visit when you are trying to fit in as much as possible in a few days.

We have lived here for the past thirty years and I must add thirty very happy years they have been. From the start we loved the life over here and we have hundred of excellent friends all over the place. I retired almost ten years ago. I still work part time for our Planning & Development Office in London. In all the years we have been here I have worked for the same employer all the time.

Sometimes I wonder if we have been very lucky. We live in one of the Home Counties - Surrey is a beautiful part of Kingston. The

River Thames and Richmond Park are only a few minutes from where we live and we are only 28 minutes from London by train.

We have lived here for the past twenty years. Our first home was in Surbiton where we lived for ten years. Now we are hoping and praying that the good Lord will look after us to the 26th September, 1989 when we celebrate our Golden Wedding - 50 wonderful happy years together, something very special to look forward to, please God.

A few points to remember for anybody coming here for the first time. It is most important for them to contact some friend or relation here to make some arrangements for work and accommodation. Most of the people that we know, both here and in London, have no accommodation problems and there is no shortage of jobs over here.

About work over here. You are judged by the quality of the work you do. I have worked in the same job for over thirty years and from the very first day I have always been treated with fairness and respect and the same goes for all the other contacts I have made here. You get out of life here what you put in and, you must agree, it is the same the world over.

We attended the Rathkeale Reunion last October for the first time and it was great to meet a number of old friends. It was very enjoyable and we know that the committee worked very hard to make it the great success that it was.

One final point before I close this letter. I want to assure the wonderful people of Rathkeale that we always wish them well. We always follow with deep interest all the great work that has been done over the years to improve the Old Town.

We will always remember the people of Rathkeale with greatest affection.

God love and bless you all.

Very sincerely,

DESMOND SHIER

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
MARLBOROUGH STREET,
DUBLIN 1.

24th October 1989

Councillor John T. Griffin,
Main Street,
Rathkeale,
Co. Limerick.

Dear John,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding school facilities in Rathkeale.

I have read your letter in detail and I have noted very much the strong case you make regarding the provision of school accommodation. I appreciate your own concern regarding the matter locally and, of course, I would very much like to be in a position to help immediately. However, I know you will understand the financial position that I have to contend with regarding the Capital Programme but I would like to assure you that I am very much aware of the Rathkeale situation.

Because of your concern for the matter I will endeavour to keep you informed of developments regarding the case and please feel free to contact me at any time. As soon as I have further information regarding monies for the Capital Programme I will be in touch with you then.

With kind regards and best wishes for the present,

Yours sincerely,

**Mary O'Rourke, T.D.,
Minister for Education.**



John O'Dwyer B. Eng (Mech) and Edward Geaney B. Sc (Mat) who graduated from University of Limerick recently. They both also featured on the University's Historic Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling Team.



A MOST USEFUL BOOK FOR OUR EMIGRANTS

AVAILABLE FROM:

John Dinnage or Garda Station, Rathkeale.

Useful Information

Deel Views: J. O'Dwyer. Tel: 64210

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union: See advertisement

Bin Collection: Monday

Library Opening Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 3.00 - 7.00

Tues. 10.00- 12.30 5.00 - 8.00

Thurs. 10.00 - 5.00

Friday 5.00 - 8.00

Mart: Tues. - Cattle. Wed. - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Mon - Sat. 9.30 - 5.30

Thursday 9.30 - 1.30

Dr. Lynch: Half day - Thursday

Dr. Curtin: Half day - Wednesday

Dr. Teahan: Half day - Thursday

St. Mary's Church Masses;

Sat. 8.00 Sun. 8.30, 10.00, 11.30

Piano Lessons: Louise Muckell, Roche's Road

Macra na Feirme: Alternate Wednesdays

Contact Siobhan O'Connor

Holy Trinity Church:

Sunday Service 8.30, 11.00

Embury Heck Church, Ballingrane:

Sunday Service 10.30

Community Council Monthly Meeting:

First Friday 8.30 Secretary: Brid Guinane

Boxing Club: Secretary - Joe Rouine

Social Services: Secretary - Breda Morrissey

Red Cross: Secretary - Mrs. Mary Sheahan

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy.

Alternate Mondays

I.C.A.: Secretary - Mrs. Maura Mooney.

2nd Thursday.

Sports Complex: Patsy O'Sullivan

Bridge Club: Mrs. Marjorie O'Connell.

Every Tuesday.

G.A.A.: Jack Daly, Hon. Secretary

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Harnett

Abrahams Golf Society:

Mrs. G. Horgan, Hon. Secretary

(ANYONE WHO WISHES TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR)

ADVERTISERS

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