

DEEL VIEWS



Muintir na Tire

EASTER 1991

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• EDITORIAL •

We pay tribute to the organising committee of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Once again it brought fun and spectacle to our town. The weather was kind and the parade brought large crowds onto the streets. Five excellent bands took part and we had a number of participants from outside Rathkeale.

However, it was noticeable that our commercial and business community was largely unrepresented on the day. It should be less difficult for these concerns to produce an entry than for many of the voluntary groups.

Rathkeale has a continuing uphill battle on its hands to maintain its position relative to other towns in the County and no effort should be spared in this task. Let us look forward to 1992 and a larger and better representation from all organisations.

RATHKEALE "WELCOME HOME FESTIVAL" NEWS

The organising committee of the "Welcome Home Festival" has been meeting since Christmas making plans for the 1991 Festival.

The dates for your diary are AUGUST 9th to AUGUST 18th. This year the Festival is being run to raise funds towards the Church renovation costs.

There are some changes in this year's programme including a new M.C. for the "Princess of Desmond". This year our compere will be Michael Lyster of RTE and "The Sunday Game" fame. The dancing programme has not yet been finalised but we will have Anne-Marie & The Ferrymen, The Vantones, Donal Ring and a special treat for the youth with the first visit to Rathkeale of Rumour Hazitt.

There will be a return to the streets with a Busking Competition, a 10K Road Race, Boxing Tournament, Special Card Game, Monster Bingo, Donkey Derby, Street Sports, Art Exhibition, Waltzing Competition and numerous other events. Also all the fun of the fair with Williams Amusements.

***So - don't forget the dates -
Friday, 9th August to Sunday, 18th August.***

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

NEW SCHOOL

During a discussion at a recent meeting of the Council it was indicated by both school authorities that full agreement has now been reached and a formal document of agreement has been forwarded to the Dept. of Education.

The cost will be funded entirely by the State and the Board of Management will be made up of three representatives from Convent of Mercy, three from the V.E.C., two teacher nominees and two parent nominees. Accommodation as planned for 400 pupils and planning is at stage two of six stages. It is thought that all such will be completed in the present year and we can look forward with real optimism at long last.

SEWERAGE

The tender for this work has been approved by the Dept. of the Environment and we await commencement of work.

SOCIAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

Unfortunately the present scheme will end in April and it may be difficult to get another one going. Most of the work has been carried out in Abbeylands Park, including completion of bandstand and porch in Sports Hall. Some work on the graveyards was cut short due to restrictions imposed by the Dept. of Labour officials.

WORKSPACE

One company - C. & G. Construction - has taken up residence in the old creamery store and is progressing promisingly. The Community Council would welcome enquiries from any individuals or groups who might be interested in starting up an enterprise.

BY PASS ROAD

Work is now progressing rapidly with the main emphasis in the Castlematrix area where the old railway bridge has been removed. Contracts have been placed for bridge construction.

300 CLUB

Present draw is coming to an end in a couple of months and has been most successful.

CARDS AND BINGO

Support for both has fallen off, particularly at the Bingo where the income has been drastically reduced. As these are the principal sources of Community Council funds, it is important that they continue. The card games continue on Wednesday at 9 p.m. and an enjoyable night is guaranteed.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The kitchen in the Community Centre has now been modernised in preparation for the "Meals on Wheels" project. It is proposed to commence the service after Easter and initially up to twenty people will benefit on a one day per week basis.

TWINNING

Preliminary investigations are being undertaken into the possibility of twinning Rathkeale with a suitable town in Europe. Further details are contained elsewhere in this issue.

RATHKEALE TOWN REPORT

Copies of this report have now been circulated to Council members and we look forward to an early meeting of the County Council Steering Committee with a view to having some, at least, of the recommendations being implemented.

The A.G.M. of the Community Council takes place on Friday, 12th April and all are welcome to attend. The Council has now completed its three year term and preparations are in hand for elections in May.



*Tim Geaney,
looking after financial affairs in Community Hall*

THE BETTER HALF..... By Barnes



"If I fall and break my neck,
will you call an ambulance at halftime?"



SEARCH FOR AN ANCESTOR

This story commences in Australia in the early 1980s. An Australian woman, Lesley Whitford from New South Wales and working with a local Family History Society, discovered that her great-great grandfather was an Irishman by name of John Sullivan. She succeeded in tracing his life from 1816 when he was transported from Ireland, having been sentenced to seven years for "disorderly, seditious and riotous behaviour". He was among a consignment of convicts who were arrested and detained in Rathkeale Jail for at least a month until tried and convicted on December 6th, 1815. On the following day they were taken to Cork Jail from whence, seven months later on July 14th, 1816, they set out on the ship "Surrey" for Botany Bay, arriving there on December 26th, 1816 (a journey of over five months).

John did very well after he completed his sentence in 1823 and acquired a grant of land and eventually became a policeman. Mrs. Whitford succeeded in tracing the complete line from Limerick to the present day.

She then began the much more difficult task of tracing her ancestral origins in Ireland. Her Society bought copies of all the telephone books for Ireland and she commenced correspondence with many people whose names she had found in her lineage. Unfortunately she got no response whatsoever for a number of years.

However, in 1986 she eventually struck lucky and another John Sullivan, living near Limerick, replied to her request for help. He spent many hours over a number of years in an effort to complete the link in Ireland. Even though of the same name, he himself bore no relationship to Mrs. Whitford. Every likely archive was searched, libraries visited and newspapers and pamphlets examined. Much correspondence passed between Limerick and Australia until early last year a dramatic find broke the deadlock. The following is the relevant extract from the "Limerick Chronicle" - from an issue that was long believed to have been unavailable.

LIMERICK CHRONICLE
Sat. Dec. 9, 1815 Vol XLIX No. 10,062

LIMERICK - DEC 9

'If any of the London Packets that are due arrive with the Mail this day, we shall give the most interesting articles of their contents in a Second Edition'.

'We are sorry to find that the haggard of Robert Smithwick Esq of Wilton was consumed by fire on

Thursday night. A large reward is offered for the perpetrators - See Advertisement!

'On Wednesday last, a Special Sessions, under the Insurrection Act, was held at Rathkeale, in this County, before Mr. Serjeant Moore, the Assistant Barrister, and a Bench of Justices, when the following were convicted as idle and disorderly persons:-'

'John Sullivan for being absent from his dwelling-house in the nights of the 5th, 11th and 19th of November last, and Denis Ryan, for being absent from his house, in the night of the 26th ult - They were both immediately sentenced to be transported for 7 years to Botany Bay; and in pursuance of said sentences, were yesterday morning sent off from this to Cork, for embarkation'.

'The following persons were also tried and acquitted:- Darby Sheehan, Michael Bourke, William Ryan, Robert Morony, alias Stacpoole and Patrick Mangan. The Sessions were then adjourned to Friday the 22nd instant, to be then held in the County Court at Limerick'.

'Serjeant Moore arrived here from Rathkeale on Thursday, and after adjourning the City Sessions to the 22nd, to be held at the Tholsel, set off, under a small escort of cavalry, for Cashel'.

'This being the Anniversary of the battle of the Nive, the gallant 84th Regiment, quartered here, which bore a distinguished part in the victory, were decorated with laurels'.

'The Recorder will sit for trials on Monday, at the General Quarter Sessions for the City'.

It was quickly confirmed that this John Sullivan was one and the same as the one in Mrs. Whitford's ancestry.

As Rathkeale was the only Irish link available the search began here and "Deel Views" was asked to help. The church records would have been of great assistance but, unfortunately, only extend back to 1811.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Whitford and her husband decided to travel to Ireland, especially to Rathkeale, hoping that the place of birth or even some blood relatives might be located. "Deel Views" met the local John Sullivan with the Australians last September. We visited a number of Sullivan families, examined many, many headstones in local graveyards and so on but, as

was expected, were unable to pin down any connection. We are aware, of course, that Sullivan, even though sentenced at Rathkeale, might have come from any parish in the Limerick region and it would have been impossible in the short time available to pursue the quest further afield.

We did, however, spend an emotional hour in the Community Centre where the actual trial took place in 1815 and Mrs. Whitford was very satisfied and happy that her long search had come so close to her beginnings. She returned to Australia and expressed her feelings by letter shortly afterwards. (see hereunder)

49 Gt. Western Hwy,
Blaxland,
N.S.W. 2774,
Australia.
17.10.90

Dear Jack & Kathleen,

Just a note to thank you so very much for enhancing our holiday as you did - by inviting us, and others to meet us, into your home; by showing us over Rathkeale and allowing us such a wonderful insight into the lifestyle etc. of John Sullivan.

I was not disappointed at not finding anything concrete about John as, with such a common name, I did not expect to be able to decide on which was his family. It was just wonderful to "feel" the area where they lived.

The Nepean Family History Society, of which I am Secretary, has a membership of c.340. Would submissions about their Limerick ancestors be of interest? I also edit and compile our newsletter so would use this as a means of asking for this material.

There are also various avenues for making lists of convicts and emigrants from Limerick. Might give some food for thought.

Once again, many thanks to you both for your kindness. We were greeted with friendliness everywhere we went in Ireland. It certainly gives you wonderful memories of a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Hope you had a marvellous holiday with your family.

Very best regards,
Lesly & Maurice (Whitford)

The story has a poignant ending. Mrs. Whitford was terminally ill at the time of her Irish trip and she knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime journey. She died in January, 1991.

Maybe some of our readers can throw some further

light on this intriguing saga and we would welcome any information.



Lesly & Maurice - November 1989

SUMMARY

Name: John Sullivan.

Birthplace: Co. Limerick.

Born: 1795

Married: Francis Nugent

17.10.1815 - Medically examined at Rathkeale

6.12.1815 - Special Sessions at Rathkeale, under Insurrection Act.

Conviction: Charged under Insurrection Act.

Convicted of "riotous, seditious and disorderly conduct". Sentenced to 7 years in Botany Bay.

7.12.1815 - Dep. Rathkeale

14.7.1816 - Dep. Cork

26.12.1816 - Arrive Botany Bay

Deported: (Limerick to Cork). "Surrey" departed Cobh 14th July, 1816 for Botany Bay, arrived Botany Bay 26th December, 1816.

Sons' names: John, Patrick, Thomas, Michael, William, James.

M.Z. ENGINEERING



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Olé Olé FOR NED'S ARMY

To the strains of Olé Olé Rathkeale Brass Band return home on Monday evening following their fantastic victory in the Senior Brass section. Over 1,400 musicians, in 30 bands, took part in the Annual Band Competition organised by Shannon Development Company in Limerick. The competition was the highlight of Limerick Civic Week and attracted bands from the United States, Scotland, England and France.

A large crowd had gathered at the Community Centre to welcome home the Band. Band leader N. Daly and Sgt. Joe Dunleavy, holding the trophies high, led the Band on a triumphant march through the town, to the band room at the Vocational School. Many friends and townspeople mingled with band members and tasted their victory. For Ned Daly it was a particularly proud day as many of the members had been trained by him over the years.

It now seems a long time ago since St. Patrick's Day 1984 when the Band first made its appearance on the streets of Rathkeale. In that time the Band grew in strength and had many successes. It will be difficult to eclipse this victory.

The total Band complement included: Flags - L. Lynch, F. Lynch, M. Collins, V. Riordan, O. Noonan, N. O'Kelly. Majorettes - J. Murray, E. Hourigan, S. Bradshaw, P. Ahern, K. Topley, L. Hayes, V. Naughton, C. Vereker, E. Lynch, M. O'Toole, C. Young, O. Ryan, E. Wilmott, G. Lynch, M. O'Shea, J. Hennessy, S. O'Keeffe, K. Murray, C. Woulfe, G. White, N. Daly, M. Jones.

Band members:- D. O'Grady, M. Daly, D. O'Keeffe, P. Fitzgerald, C. O'Reilly, S. McCarthy, M. Woulfe, G. Clifford, A. M. White, D. Ryan, A. Hayes, S. O'Shea, P. Collins, Martin Daly, S. O'Kelly, B. Topley, T. Hennessy, S. McDonnell, J. A. O'Dea, M. White, D. Dollery, E. Daly, D. Noonan, E. Ryan, W. Fitzgerald

FREE CAR PARKING

**50 SPACES.....
Secure, well
lighted and very
centra.....**

**WHERE?
MAIN STREET,
RATHKEALE.**

***Why not use it
and relieve traffic
congestion?***

APPROPRIATIONS IN BILL SEANAD EIREANN - MARCH 1990

*Extract from speech by Senator Dan Neville, M.C.C.,
Fine Gael Senate Spokesperson on Justice and Law Reform.*

I would like to deal with some issues which I am concerned with and bring them to the notice of the Minister for Finance, Deputy Reynolds. I would refer to three areas. My concern in my area with the condition of what is known as the Coast Road which has great potential for industrial development - that is the road between Limerick and Tarbert, the N 69.

I would like to deal with the bad conditions of schools in the area, especially the Rathkeale Secondary School, the need for an extension to Kilcornan School and to ensure that the educational facilities along the estuary in County Limerick are developed.

I would like to deal with a study in July 1990 - the RATHKEALE DEVELOPMENT STUDY by S. Mulcahy, M.R.I.A.I. - and hope that the Government will provide the necessary funds to implement the proposals therein.

Finally, I would like to ask the Minister to provide monies through the IDA and other authorities to develop the industrial potential and the industrial sites, especially in Askeaton and Rathkeale.

In dealing with the N 69, I regret that I have to criticise the Government for its failure to include the N 69, the Coast Road from Limerick to Tarbert, in its Operational Programme on Peripherality 1989/1993. The Government has failed to listen to the views of the public representatives of all sides and the people along the estuary with regard to the improvement of the road from Limerick to Tarbert. The condition of this road is a turn off for potential

industrialists. The Government has failed to appreciate the industrial development potential of the estuary. It has failed to give the area the chance it deserves to attract industry. The Government should review its approach to the N 69 and to ensure that the road which, at present, is a turn off to potential investors is brought to an acceptable level.

I believe it has missed an opportunity to include this development for benefit under the Community Structural Funds. The economic potential of the estuary is being choked because of this very issue. The area is serviced by two excellent ports in Foynes and in Limerick. We have an excellent international airport in Shannon but the road servicing in the area is the one black spot that hinders development. I would like the Minister to seriously look at this. The potential for industrial development and job creation which is very necessary is great, Aughinish Alumina and the development of Wyeth, and Southern Chemicals in Askeaton, the development of Foynes Harbour, is only an indication of what is possible in the area.

I would now like to turn to the problem with schools in the area and ask the Minister to consider and seriously look at the investment of monies for the provision of especially a secondary school in Rathkeale. In 1967 the Convent of Mercy proposed a school for the area and in 1983 a new Community School was authorised for Rathkeale. In 1985 a site was identified and in 1986 a schedule of accommodation was agreed. Since 1967 the school consists of prefabricated classrooms, many of them in very poor condition, causing extreme

problems for staff and for pupils. I believe Rathkeale deserves a new school and should have monies allocated in 1991 for this purpose. I would briefly like to quote from the Minister of State, Mr. Fahey, on the Adjournment Debate of 7th June, 1990 with regard to this. The Minister referred to the demographic patterns and changes in those and I quote:

"When this review is completed and the pupil numbers to be catered for in the long term established, it will be necessary to prepare a new schedule of accommodation. This in turn will necessitate some alterations to the plans and designs of the project by the design team. It will be appreciated therefore that any changes required will arise from a careful reassessment of future requirements and I am satisfied that the new school when completed will meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future.

A full range of facilities will be available for the courses to be conducted and for the numbers of pupils who will enrol there. Every effort will be made to have the review of requirements completed as soon as possible so that planning can proceed with undue delay."

Since then there has been a change from a Community School to that of a Community College. This is of no great concern. What we need is a proper school and proper accommodation with proper facilities. I would like to ask the Minister to make the funds available. I understand that the change from being a Community School to a Community College is awaiting sanction from the Minister. I would urge on the Minister to have this completed without undue delay, monies apportioned in 1991 for the construction of this school, and the necessary provisions provided for the people, pupils and the teachers of Rathkeale.

I would like to turn to the school in Kilcornan. The conditions in Kilcornan Primary School is in a deplorable state and in 1976 the Department actually decided to erect a new school there.

The Minister on 7th June promised that this would be taken on hand and a review of the pupil numbers would be completed and a new schedule of accommodation would be also completed which would necessitate the alteration to the plan and design of the project by the design team. I quote from what the Minister said. On the Adjournment Debate of 21st January on Kilcornan School the Minister stated:-

I will now turn to the provision of the introduction, with the co-operation and encouragement of both the Department of the Environment and the Department of Health, of an urban renewal report on Rathkeale which was completed by Limerick County Council by S. Mulcahy, M.R.I.A.I. This is a report which makes forty recommendations on the improvement of the situation in Rathkeale. I would like to draw the Minister's attention to this report and ask him as a matter of urgency to allocate monies to the proposals. I will quote from this report:

"As Rathkeale is located between a major city and the county town and is comparatively close to each, the commercial centre of the town is subject to greater competition than most towns of this size. The commercial centre, therefore, must offer an alternative enticement to both shoppers and visitors."

Last year I drew attention of the Minister to the proposal to have an urban renewal scheme in Rathkeale and I would now like to raise this again with the added fact that a specially prepared report, published in July 1990, confirms that this should be the approach of the Department and money should be allocated by the Minister to do so.

I will quote again from the report. It states:

"The social profile of Rathkeale differs considerably from other towns with the result that different factors must be taken into account to

making proposals for urban renewal in the town. There is a comparatively large travelling population resident in the town. Of a town population of approximately 2,500 people, 18% to 20% are travellers. Many retired travellers live permanently in Rathkeale while younger families are seasonal residents. For any process of urban renewal to be effective it is vital to build on the qualities which a place has and which make it unique."

The report highlights the difficulties in Rathkeale. Limerick County Council has submitted this to the Department of the Environment. I would urge the Minister to consult the report and allocate monies. We might have a discussion on the Adjournment at a later stage on this issue.

I would like to refer to the development in Foynes - and in Foynes Harbour in particular. I would like to voice my disappointment that, in the Operational Programme on Peripherality, Roads and other Transport Infrastructure, Foynes has not been included as a commercial port. Its status has been reduced to that of a local port. There is not a port in the west designated as a commercial sea port. Foynes is designated as a local port. This is very disappointing as it is the third biggest port in the country, the quickest developing port and one of the most successful ports. Foynes has developed more rapidly than any other port on the estuary. The progress at Foynes far exceeds the development of any other harbour in the country over the past twenty five years.

The number employed by the port, as port users, ship agents and stevedores has increased substantially over the past 25 years. The number employed in 1961 on a permanent employment basis was approximately 25 people, the number presently employed on a permanent basis is in the region of 350 and it is also estimated that a further 100 other permanent positions are directly employed in spin-off services.

I would like to refer to the financing of the developments over the past 25 years which has been £7.5 million. Borrowings accounted for £4.7 million, port users contributions £.85 million, surplus revenue £1.38 million and State grant £.57 million. I ask the Minister when he is looking at the appropriation of monies through the state and the structural funds to look at the development proposals which Foynes has submitted to the Department of the Environment. I am disappointed at the level of grant of over £500,000.

Foynes has played a major role in the welfare of the region. It plays a significant role in the agricultural industry of this country and now provides the required facilities for the importations of all types of animal feed, molasses and fertilisers; substantial quantities of meal, sugar cereals and ores are also exported through the port.

I would like to briefly outline some of the plans which I asked the Minister to take into consideration when allocating funds. The Harbour Authority plans to increase the capacity of the harbour to accommodate ships of up to 50,000 tonnes. This will require widening and deepening in the western approach channel and central harbour areas and dredging. A new berth is proposed to accommodate 50,000 tonne dead weight ships of the Panamax type. New roads, water supplies, reclamation, dredging and additional berthage are also proposed. The cost of the total plan is £19.4 million. Some of that work is on hand at the moment such as the completion of the dolphins and the improvement of the handling facilities is also on hand. These are the areas of concern I have. We have listened to some of the areas of concern in Dublin City. I would like also if the Minister would take into consideration some of these difficulties in my region and look at the development of the estuary as an industrial base by providing the proper infrastructure.

.....

PALATINE ASSOCIATION

It is now two years since the Irish Palatine Association was formed. Over this time our committee has met regularly and initiated many development plans. Our largest accomplishment to date has been the opening of our Exhibition and Information Office, housed in the Rathkeale Community Centre Complex. It is planned that this will remain open daily for the months of June, July and August each year until arrangements for our larger project come to fruition. Outside of these times we will do our best to facilitate groups or individuals who especially wish to view the exhibition.

Immediate plans include improvements to the Palatine sites at the three parent colonies of Ballingrane, Courtmatrix and Killeheen. This will necessitate having a FAS scheme clean and mark locations of churches, homesteads etc. and will be the first rung on the ladder in developing a tour route through the colonies. This work is to be complemented with a guide booklet, containing maps of locations and sites.

1991 is the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Limerick and, as part of the programme of events, the Irish Palatine Association is arranging two special days to highlight the Palatine story. Each includes a visit to the exhibition and to Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church along with a tour through the old Palatine colonies.

Long term plans for our museum are progressing. The site of the old Rathkeale Railway Station, its Station House and Storehouse has been offered by Limerick County Council as a home for our future museum. With the help of the County Council and the Department of the Environment the Station House has been dismantled, to be relocated adjacent to the Storehouse and linked by a glass tunnel to form our museum building. This site is adjacent to both the new Rathkeale by-pass and one of the new entrances to the town. The old railway on which it lies is to become a tourist adventure trail which coincidentally links the three parent colonies with Castlematrix, home of Thomas Southwell, instrumental in bringing the Palatines to Ireland in 1709, especially to the Rathkeale area.

The development of the museum project is estimated to take three years and will cost somewhere in the region of £300,000.

Limerick County Council, the Department of the Environment and Councillor John Griffin have given much support to our project to date along with Shannon Development.

The project, when completed, will be a good asset to Rathkeale and will be responsible for attracting many tourists to the area.

Austin Bovenizer,
Chairman - Irish Palatine Association

RATHKEALE SOCCER CLUB NOTES

Facing into the delightful month of April usually means a very hectic time for the soccer players of Rathkeale. I am glad to be able to relate that this coming month is like previous years in that Rathkeale are chasing for honours in many fronts.

In recent weeks our youths won the Desmond Cup when they had a resounding success over Abbey Utd, winning the final 4-0. Managers of this side were Pa Sheahan and Liam Kennedy. Team: Ml. Madigan, Peter Donovan, Mitchel Wilmott, Brian Mullins, Chester Woulfe, Declan O'Keeffe, Paul Ruttle, T. J. Riordan, John Gilbourne, Denis Maune, Pat Madigan. Res: Niall Ryan, Kieran Hough.

In the Junior scene our 'A' side, under the stewardship of Neilie Hogan and Mike Gallagher, are challenging for League honours, playing a very attractive brand of football. The 'A' side has changed in many respects from last season with the very welcome addition of new young blood to the team. Young players like Paul Lynch, Paul Ruttle and Declan O'Keeffe have now joined the older established players like Edmund Dollery and John Conmy. The 'A' side are still involved in the Desmond Cup and are also in the semi-final of their respective League Cup.

This brings us to the "Bees", who, to date, are having a very good season. Again, our second string have a fine balance of elder statesmen - namely, Seán Harnett, John Coleman and Kieran Barry, allied to the younger generation of Peter Donovan, T. J. Riordan and Niall Ryan.

At the time of writing the "Bees" are top of Division 3, still in the Desmond Cup with some notable scalps to their credit and still in contention for the League Cup. Selectors Mike Walsh and Tom Hogan would be very happy men if their charges could win promotion.

The 'C' team play in the 4th Division. Brian Og Coleman and Maurice Herwick are the team mentors and they can be rightly proud of their side who just failed in their bid for promotion. Senior citizens in this team are Don Gallagher and Eamonn Daly.

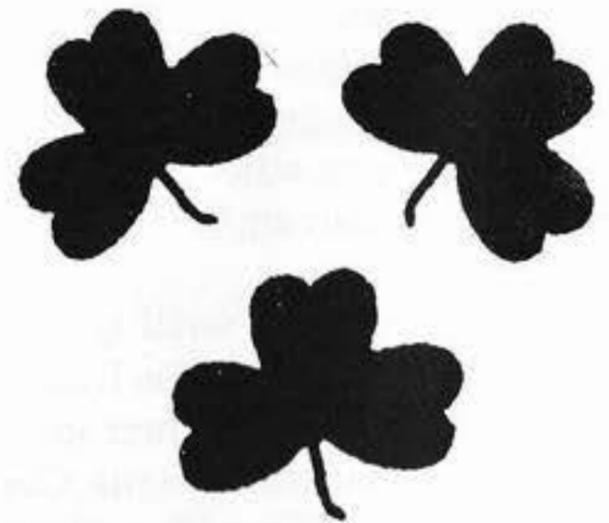
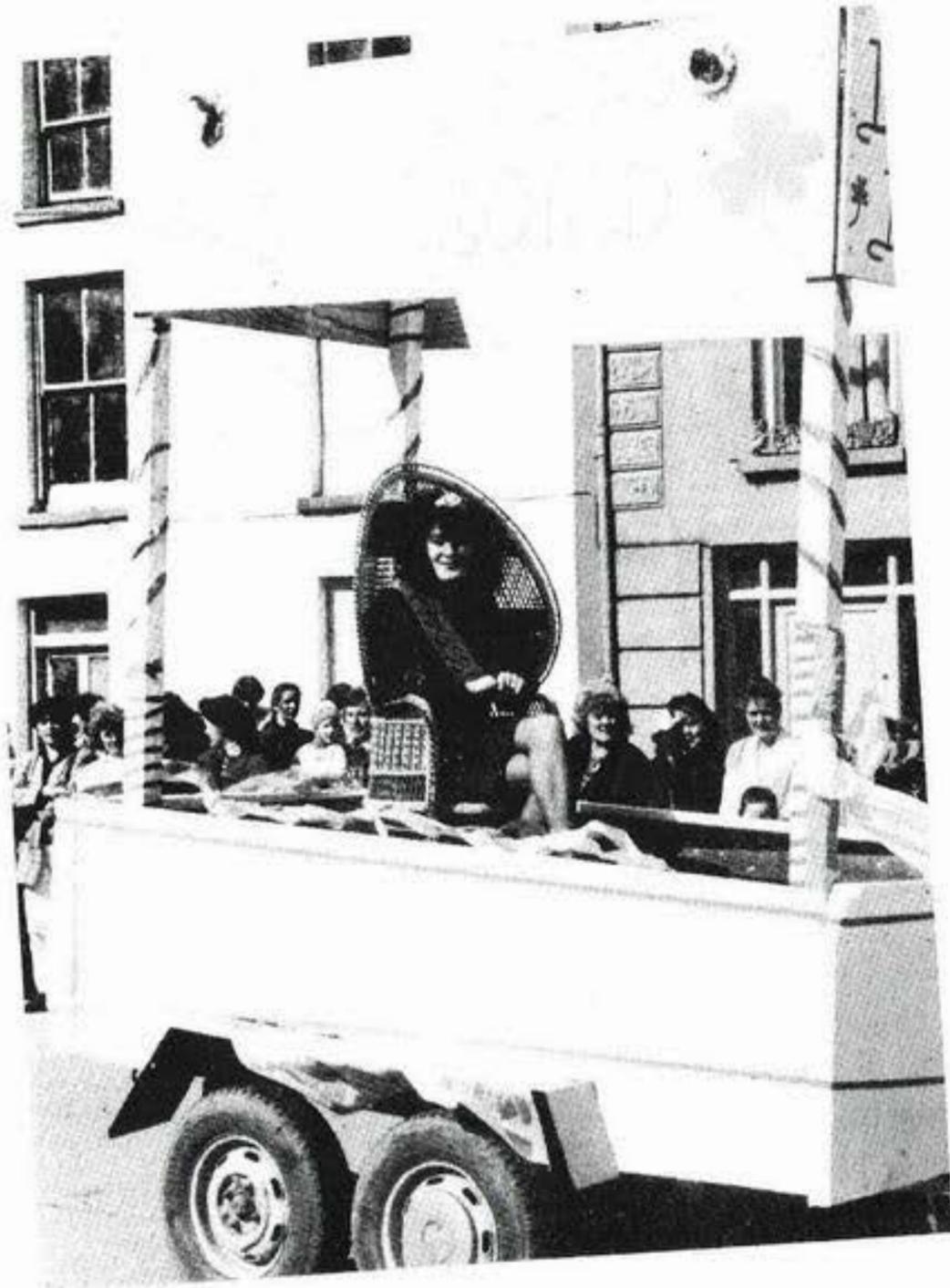
Rathkeale A.F.C. are rightly proud of their schoolboy policy and field teams competitively in the following age groups: 10's, 11's, 12's, 13's, 14's, 15's and 16's. Similar to the Junior scene, the schoolboy season is now at the penultimate stage and, literally in all age groups, Rathkeale are in contention for County honours.

The club is proud of the fact that four of its players - namely, Michael Woulfe, Noel McNamara, Kieran Duggan and Barry Doherty - have been selected on the Limerick County team (under-14) to contest the Kennedy Cup in Dublin on April 5th, 6th and 7th.

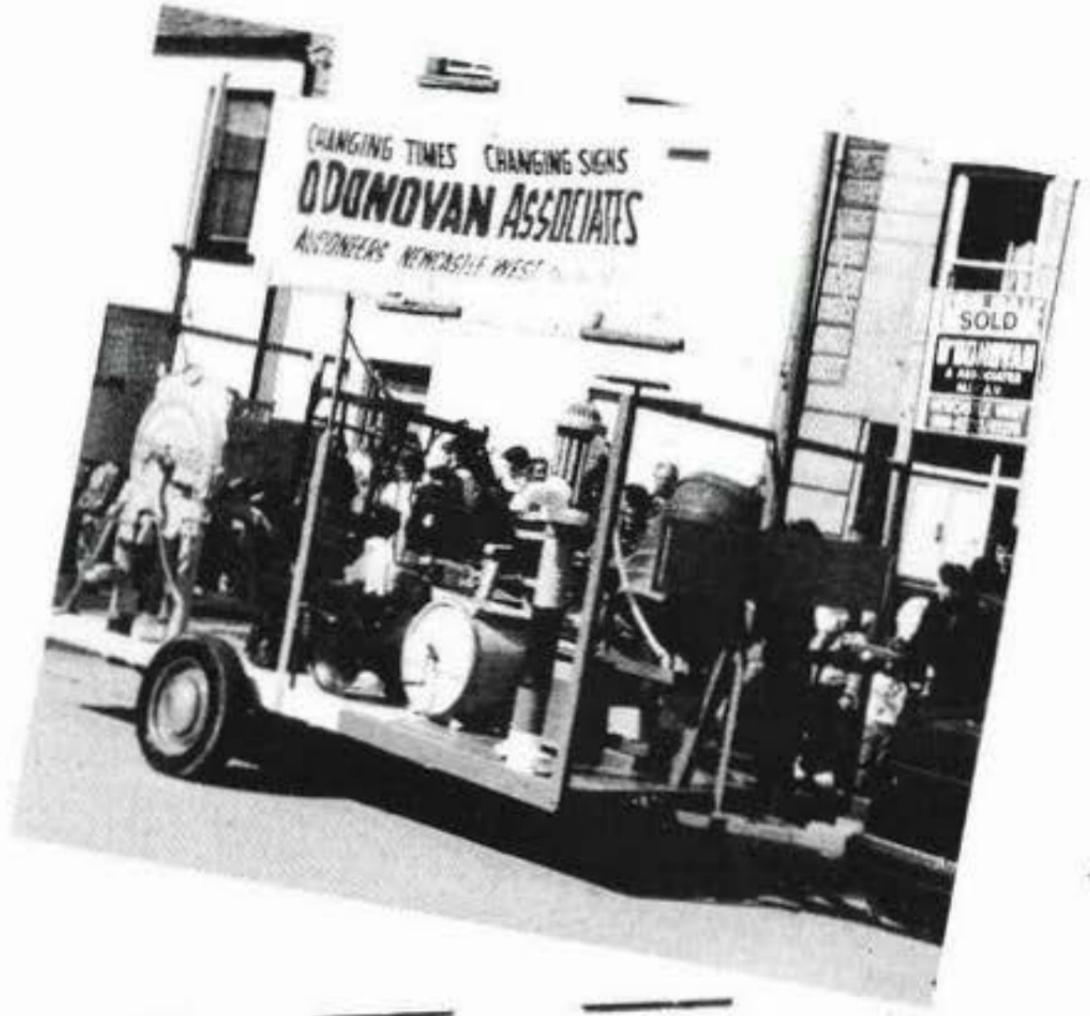
The club takes this opportunity to send Easter greetings to all readers, especially those people in foreign lands.



St. Patrick's Day



Parade, Rathkeale.



County Council Activity in Rathkeale

John J. Griffin, M.C.C.

1. New road works cropping up all over the place - Ballymacave, Blossomhill, Roches Road, Holy Cross, Castlematrix and Reens. Main road works are moving rapidly and further funding of £3 million is available for this work in 1991. A new look at the approach roads is going on and Roches Road, Holy Cross together with Castlematrix will change radically.
2. The new sewerage scheme is commencing early in May as the contract has been awarded to Mr. Pat Mulcaire. I am familiar with the track record of this contractor and I am sure that, if the public think the road works are moving rapidly, then you will be surprised at the rapid progress that will be made by contractor Mulcaire, and areas like Enniscouch, Abbeylands and Ballywilliam will soon have a proper service. The next step is to attempt to have Castlematrix included.
3. The Council is purchasing houses in Rathkeale at the moment to re-let to those in need of housing but I am only too aware of the huge need for houses. We must look at the possibility of a voluntary group taking up the option of social housing. I am now publicly inviting a voluntary group or groups - say St. Vincent de Paul or Social Services - to provide houses for the needy and I have a scheme that will cost the voluntary group no money to

provide houses.

Please avail of same urgently.

HOUSING

A new idea for house buyers on low income was introduced last month by the Dept. of the Environment. The County Council can now assist in the following manner:

- A. If you can't afford a mortgage and do not qualify for a Council house, the Council will "go halves" with you on the price of a house. You then pay rent with the intention of eventually buying out the house.
- B. Tenants of Council houses wishing to go upmarket and buy a private house will get an allowance of £3,300 on handing up the key of the Council house.
- C. House loans are up to £25,000 and in come limit to secure a loan is up to £10,000 in an application with more than one earner and £12,000 if applicant is sole earner in the family.

"Prague The Eternal"

Billy Fitzgibbon

In November 1989 we were all privileged to watch the great changes in Eastern Europe taking place before our eyes. But, most of all, I was interested in what was happening in Prague - Prague the beautiful as travellers called it. I realised a long held ambition when I visited Czechoslovakia last Autumn.

"Prague the eternal", said the old man at the bus stop as he directed me to the best view of the city from a vantage point near the Castle. From there I could see that Prague was a city of spires, of exquisite palaces, great Imperial buildings, divided by the noble Vltava. Across the thousand year old Charles Bridge, through the twin battle-mented towers on either side, the crowds came to see the Castle, the Hrad, where Emperors, Kings and, latterly, the Communist leadership presided. Below the Hrad lay the lesser town whose narrow winding streets were lined with Renaissance and Baroque palaces, now occupied by Embassies or Government buildings. Wandering at night along streets still lit by gas and coming into a quiet square or a deserted lane, one could imagine oneself in an earlier pre-motor car era. Like Paris it was spared the ravages of war and has not fallen to the worse damage caused by modern development which makes every city the same.

But my first view was dispiriting: an airport building falling apart before my eyes, lit by what seemed to be one 30-watt bulb. Some of the old habits of Eastern European Immigration Officials remained, but this was the first country I was ever asked for a credit card as identification!

In the days that followed I explored the city on foot. The broad avenues of the 19th century city were evidence of the importance the city had in the Hapsburg Empire. I found a street called Hbynerská, and only when I got home was I delighted to confirm that this was named after Irish monks who

even here had made an impact. Nearby lay the Jewish Quarter, once one of the most vibrant in Central Europe, it could only now be a memorial to its inhabitants who perished in the concentration camps of Terezin, Dachau and elsewhere. All that remains are empty Synagogues and the famous Old Cemetery where thousands of Jews were buried over the centuries, their tombstones being stacked one against the other for lack of space. In a nearby museum the copy books and drawings of Jewish children were preserved, the only testament to the thousands of young lives vanished into oblivion.

But the modern city also interested me: invaded by the Germans, the Russians and now, at last, looking forward to the future. Wenceslas Square was where the great crowds gathered in November '89 whose jangling keys were a signal to the leadership that the time had come for change. In fact, it is a long wide street rather than a square, dominated by the balustraded National Museum at one end and, in the centre, the statue of the national hero, St. Wenceslas. On Narodni (National Street) lies the Magic Lantern Theatre, an Underground Auditorium where Havel, Klaus and others discussed and plotted. On my visit this was a peaceful city street and it was hard to believe that here took place brutal attacks by the riot police on unarmed civilians.

But the pleasures of the city are not merely found in the buildings. The Czechs make perhaps the finest beer in the world and an Irishman abroad had no difficulty in the crowded pubs where people sat check by jowl while white aproned waiters tore around the place with trays of glasses foaming with beer. The food, alas, was heavily concentrated on pork and sauerkraut with little in the way of fresh vegetables - this may account for the striking beauties one sees everywhere and their somewhat rounder parents.

But in high season the city is overwhelmed by visitors and it was almost impossible to find accommodation except in private houses in the outer suburbs. I was anxious to see a little of the rest of the country and I left the crowds behind by travelling for several days through the rolling countryside of South Bohemia. Here, a little village, in its centre a baroque fountain and a pond, on a distant hilltop an old castle, its owners long gone. Small villages were untouched and often particularly well preserved.

But there was much evidence of the pollution which will haunt the country in the years ahead; trees denuded of all leaves by acid rain, stone work eaten away by chemicals in the air, in the evening the choking sulphurous smell of the fuel which fed stoves, and small cars which belched forth smoke. Travelling near the Polish border in Moravia I passed through a bleak industrial landscape of very old-fashioned factory buildings, high chimney stacks and new towns composed entirely of tower blocks.

The smaller cities, like Brno in Moravia and Bratislava in Slovakia, had a lot of Central European charm - no buses but trams, cobblestoned streets, pleasant cafes and friendly relaxed people, some of whom spoke a little German but hardly any English. Even the smallest city had good theatres and a Symphony Hall or Opera House. But the shops were so old-fashioned that it was difficult to understand how anything could be sold. I recall a large badly lit shoe shop in Bratislava, staffed by indifferent sales assistants who ignored the customers who tried to find something amongst the heaps of cardboard boxes strewn around the floor. Single shoes were displayed in lonely eminence in display cabinets which had not been dusted for years.

This is a country not much bigger than Ireland, with an equally troubled history but which will, hopefully, have a better future in the years ahead and perhaps more "Hbynerská" will be able to enjoy the openness and friendliness I found in my travels.

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY GAMES

Indoor games have commenced. Rathkeale are taking part in Art (M. Doherty), Under-10 Draughts and Table Quiz. Because of the lack of team managers we are unable to compete in other events - same old story!

In outdoor games we will be competing in Under-14 hurling (Manager John Brennan); Boys Soccer (Manager S. Harnett); Girls Soccer (Manager P. Hayes); Under-10 Boys Football - looking for a manager. Athletics: M. Woulfe and N. White.

At the time of going to press we have applied to host the County Athletic Finals. This is a major undertaking. We will have approximately three thousand children and adults in town for two days of finals - to be held in Seán Finn Park. If our application is successful we will be looking for a lot of help.

We are hosting the Finals of the Under-14 Quiz in the Community Centre on 21st April at 2 o'clock.

As you can see, it is a very busy time for the local Community Games. We could do with more help. If you are willing to give a small bit of your free time to the children of Rathkeale, or if you want to sponsor any event, contact Noel White or Mary Nestor.

I.C.A.

The Rathkeale Guild of the I.C.A. was founded in 1943 and it is still "going strong". We look forward to our 50th birthday in 1993 and are already discussing celebrations for this great day.

Though our membership is small, we are a very active Guild, and we participate in various competitions and fund-raising throughout the year. At present we are finalising details of the schedule for the I.C.A. Stand at Rathkeale Show. We have been organising this event for many years and Guilds from all over the County take part. This year, the Show will take place at the Vocational School on Wednesday and Thursday, 26th and 27th June.

Officers of Rathkeale I.C.A. are: President - Joan O'Toole; Vice-President - Mary Healy; Secretary - Maura Mooney; Treasurer - Alice Vereker; Grianán Teachta - Eleanor McCarthy; Press Officer - Kathleen O'Dwyer; International Officer - Connie Collinge; Contest Secretary - Teresa Naughton; Arts + Crafts Promoter - Anne O'Connell.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, at Rathkeale House Hotel, at 8.00 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting of our Guild will take place on April 4th and new members will be very welcome.

*Congratulations to Rathkeale Brass Band
from*

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St. Valentines Night at "Bingo"

RATHKEALE BOXING NEWS

Five years ago John Jones and Joe Rouine decided to revive Rathkeale Boxing Club and I'm sure they could never have anticipated how successful it was going to be.

They rented the Deel Hall in Church Street and every Monday and Thursday night at 8 p.m. about thirty young lads, aged from 11 years old to 17 years old train for boxing. The club has gone from strength to strength and over the five years they can boast of 28 County titles, 10 Munster titles and 2 Irish titles. Gerard McNamara was twice invited to represent Ireland, once in London and the other in the National Stadium.

Recently four boxers from Rathkeale Boxing Club were successful in winning Munster titles. They were David Clifford in the 11-year old 31kgs, Peter Williams in the 13-year old 54 kgs, Kieran Duggan in the 14-year old 39 kgs, and Gerard McNamara winning his 5th Munster title in the 15-year old 51 kgs. All four now take on the best from the 32-Counties in the National Championships at the National Stadium, Dublin, during the Easter holidays. Competition at this level is exceptionally high because North of Ireland and Dublin clubs have a lot better facilities available to them.

The committee of Rathkeale Boxing Club for 1991 is as follows: President - Pat Joe Jones; Chairman - Joe Rouine; Vice-Chairman - Joe Williams; Secretary - Michael McNamara; Treasurer - Bill Nestor; P.R.O. - Christy Jones; Trainers - John Jones, Joe Rouine, Joe Williams, John Lynch, Christy Jones; Medical Officer - Dr. Tom Curtin.

The aim of the committee is to encourage and help young lads in Rathkeale in the sport of boxing and to make the club one of the best in Munster. To achieve this, the club needs to improve its training facilities. Planning permission has been granted for a new Training Centre at the Sports Complex in Abbeylands.

Fund-raising is in progress and an application has been made for a grant. The committee is most grateful for all the sponsorship and support it has received from the people of Rathkeale and trust they will continue to help the club to achieve its ambitions.

This is a fantastic achievement for the club and great credit is due to the trainers - John Jones, Joe Rouine, Joe Williams, Christy Jones - who work tirelessly year in, year out to help these young boxers to become champions.

• BIRTHS •

*Bridget Sheridan
Daniel Flynn
Nora Mary Flynn
Eoin Peter Fitzgerald
Christopher Simon Flynn
James Quilligan
Aisling Moran
Nikita Marie Wilmot
Daniel O'Brien*



• MARRIAGES •

*Anthony Kenny & Catherine Mary Costelloe
Seán Daniel O'Shea & Janet Nessian Meehan
Frank Geary & Josephine Donovan*



• DEATHS •

*Michael Reidy
Nancy Nolan
John Quilligan
Patrick Kett
Mary Madigan
Sarah Lenihan
Joe Costello
Nora Hennessy
Sheila Casey*

CONVENT OF MERCY
SECONDARY SCHOOL
RATHKEALE

CLUB DRAW

* 5 WEEK DRAW *

Prize Money £1,500 per week

Commencing Friday April 19th 1991

Subscription £2.00 per week for 5 weeks

PRIZE MONEY

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.
1st Week 19th April:	£700	£300	£200	£100	£100	£50	£50
2nd Week 26th April:	£700	£300	£200	£100	£100	£50	£50
3rd Week 3rd May:	£700	£300	£200	£100	£100	£50	£50
4th Week 10th May:	£700	£300	£200	£100	£100	£50	£50
5th Week 17th May:	£700	£300	£200	£100	£100	£50	£50

Special Draw for All Paid Up Members on the 19th April

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
£200	£100	£100	£50	£50

**300 CLUB
DRAW
WINNERS**

OCTOBER

£700 Nora Guiltinane, Ballywilliam
£100 Patsy Doherty, Main Street
£100 Maureen O'Shea, Church Street
£50 Maureen O'Sullivan,
Ballywilliam

NOVEMBER

£700 Addie Dillon, Reens
£100 Maureen O'Shea, Ballingarry
£100 Jack Donovan, Carrickerry
£50 Mrs. Lenihan, Banna

DECEMBER

£700 Doris O'Connor, Ballymacave
£100 Mrs. Binchy, Fort George
£100 Maisie Geaney, Reens
£50 Marie Collins, Ballywilliam

JANUARY

£700 Betty Ambrose, Clouncagh
£100 Mary Langan, Ballingrane
£100 Máire Ni Gharbhi, Ballywilliam
£50 Mary Condon, Croom

FEBRUARY

£700 Mary O'Grady, Danesfort
£100 Rose Vandbrine, New York
£100 Nancy Hart, Askeaton
£50 Tom Enright, The Mount

**NEXT DRAW -
THURSDAY, APRIL 4**



Frank Geary and Josephine Donovan who were married recently.



THE FOUR GENERATIONS

Ellen (Babs) Lyons with daughter Mary Roche, grand-daughter Margaret Harte and great grand-daughter Estella Harte.

NEW SCHOOL - LAST WORD ?

John T. Griffin, M.C.C.

I have been actively promoting the provision of a new Post-Primary school for Rathkeale for some years now and I must admit at times it appeared to be an impossible task. I will preface this progress report by saying that at all times all parties to the story of the school played a constructive role. A recent query of mine at a V.E.C. meeting received the following reply:

The decision to develop a Community School in Rathkeale was rescinded shortly prior to Christmas 1990. Consequently, on foot of that decision and with a view to ensuring that the new rationalised single school concept at post-primary level in Rathkeale would not be allowed to lose momentum, County Limerick V.E.C., the Mercy Order and the Department of Education quickly came together and unanimously agreed to the development of a Community College. A joint proposal formalising this agreement was signed by both managements and is now with the Department.

It is the wish of everyone concerned, and is very definitely a committed priority of the V.E.C., to put in place as quickly as is humanly possible the new College initiative. To this end, every effort will be made and all appropriate resources at the V.E.C.'s disposal mobilised with a view to achieving our objective in the shortest possible timeframe.

The assimilation of all the permanent teachers of the two existing schools onto the College staff will result in the pooling and integration of post-primary teaching resources to the ultimate benefit of all the pupils in the area. In a time of rapid change and unprecedented demands on schools, we believe that these arrangements will provide the new College with the sound foundations and the flexibility to meet the future challenges facing the post-primary sector, and together with the excellent infrastructure and modern facilities of the new College campus, will result in the provision of all that is best by way of educational opportunity for the local community.

Being a Community College, it goes without saying, of course, that the development will be funded entirely by the V.E.C. and, therefore, no local financial contribution of any kind will be required.

The target date for completion is September, 1992 D.V.

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TOWN TWINNING

"A PARTNERSHIP IN EUROPE"

Areas of Twinning

Twinning has been formed by villages, towns (large and small), districts, boroughs, counties and regions. Village twinning can often be on a more personal basis. Larger areas may have more opportunities and varied group activities, but need more careful organisation. A twinning can be a formal or informal arrangement. It can be set up initially to develop exchanges of specified groups, e.g. schoolchildren or young people, but there should also be the opportunity for other groups in the community to make contact and exchange visits.

A Local Authority and community may, if it so wishes, form a twinning with a place in any part of the world. Distance and dissimilarity might make some twinning impractical. In making the decision, the situation should be looked at realistically. There is no value in making a twinning unless there can be useful contact, communication and exchange of information and possibly people. A twinning must be non-political and a free, independent arrangement between the two communities.

The majority of Irish twinning are with Western European towns. French and German are the main continental languages taught in our schools and travel to Europe is relatively simple.

'Ring' links may arise from a request from one partner to join in the other's links; or from a desire to extend and form another link, for

example, by linking with the Italian partner of a French or German partner, or the USA partner of a European partner. Places having 'ring' links often arrange annual meetings of all partners (the venue varying each year) to plan and develop joint programmes, and may undertake joint studies and activities.

Setting up a Twinning

Ideally, a twinning is set up by a Local Authority in consultation with the community and developed jointly. Where the initiative comes from a source other than the Local Authority, interested individuals and representatives of local schools, groups and organisations may set it up through a local Twinning Association. When this is done, the Local Authority should be represented on the association to receive officially appropriate overseas visitors.

Public Support

The support of the community as a whole is important for a twinning to be effective. Much is therefore gained by convening in the early stages a meeting of civic leaders, interested citizens and organisations, Local Government officers, representatives of commerce and of the main political parties to discuss the idea of twinning and choice of partner.

Choosing a Partner

In general it is considered desirable that the partners should have comparable interests

ABRAHAMS GOLFING SOCIETY

The A.G.M. was held recently and the following were elected to run the Society for 1991:

President:	Con Noonan
Captain:	Tadgh O'Connor
Vice-Captain:	Irene Donovan
Hon. Secretary:	Jack O'Dwyer
Hon. Treasurer:	Maurice Noonan
Committee:	Noel Harnett, Monnie Wilmoth, Michael Noonan, Marjorie O'Connell, Patsy O'Sullivan (ex officio)

There was a very good attendance at the meeting and a most successful year was reported on. Societies generally are finding greater difficulty in getting bookings in golf clubs due to the ever increasing demands from members, while costs are escalating as well. However, the first outing will be to Killarney on Saturday, March 31st.

Membership of the Society is closed and there is a small waiting list at the moment.



In the economic and cultural fields, that they should be about the same size and that they should have some similarity in character and occupations. For example, an industrial town may have little in common with a small country market town or rural district. On the other hand, there have been some very successful twinings between dissimilar places where opposites have found interest. Local Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Councils, Lions Clubs, schools, colleges and other bodies may already have developed an overseas link. There is an advantage in checking with them and, if there is such a link, it may be possible and advantageous to develop a twinning with the same place. The Institute of Public Administration will, on request, forward requests for twinning to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions central office. The CEMR maintains a central register of requests and will identify potential partners for Irish towns.

Starting the Twinning

The best and quickest method of establishing the preliminary understanding and friendship upon which the twinning will depend is usually by initial exchange visits of a few key people. These visits should not however take place until local support for a twinning has been gained and preliminary enquiries about a suitable and willing partner are satisfactory.

Organising a Twinning

To develop a twinning, each Local Authority and community will set up an organisation that reflects its local conditions.

EXTRACT FROM "LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM REPORT"

SUB-COUNTY STRUCTURE

The Advisory Expert Committee failed to agree on a sub-county structure and outlined two widely divergent options - directly elected District Councils, or District Committees of the County Councils. Both of these options should, according to the report of the Committee, be accompanied by abolition of all existing sub-county authorities.

There would be radical, but opposite, effects on Local Authority membership, depending on the option chosen. Directly elected District Councils would entail a significant increase in the number of Local Authorities and of elected members. It is estimated, in the Expert Committee's report, that 151 new District Councils would be required, as compared with 81 Town Authorities at present, resulting in a net increase of 70 Local Authorities and of over 800 Councillors. In effect, the number of sub-county authorities would almost double and there would be an increase of over 100% in the number of Councillors at sub-county level.

In contrast, the proposal that District Committees of the County Councils should replace existing Town Authorities would involve a reduction of over 700 in the overall number of Local Authority elected members. There would no longer be any separately elected member at sub-county level.

The Government considers that it is necessary to examine this important matter further as the reform programme develops with a view to formulating acceptable and realistic sub-county structural arrangements.

In view of the importance of the issue and the proximity of the Local Elections, the Government has decided to postpone the elections to Borough Councils, Urban District Councils and Town Commissioners until such time as decisions have been taken on appropriate arrangements at this level.

The entire Electorate will be able to vote in June at the County and County Borough Council Elections. The postponement of the remaining elections will only affect the 15% of the population who have a vote at sub-county level in addition to a vote at county level.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Deel Views: Jack O'Dwyer. Tel: 069-64210

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union:

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10.30 - 12.30; 1.45 - 3.30.
Friday 10.30 - 12.30; 1.45 - 4.30; 7.00 - 8.30.

Library Opening Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 3.00 - 7.00
Tuesday 10.00 - 12.30; 5.00 - 8.00
Thursday 10.00 - 5.00. Friday 5.00 - 8.00

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle. Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday-Saturday 9.30 - 5.30. Thursday 9.30 - 1.30

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday
Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday
Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

St. Mary's Church Masses:

Saturday 8.00 p.m. Sunday 8.30, 10.00 and 11.30

Holy Trinity Church: Sunday Service 8.30 and 11.00

Embury Heck Church, Ballingrane: Sunday Service 10.30

Piano Lessons: Louise Muckell, Roche's Road

Festival Show: Mrs. Ann O'Connell

Community Council Monthly Meeting:

First Friday. 8.30 p.m. 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. Meeting alternate Mondays.

I.C.A.: Secretary - Mrs. Maura Mooney. 2nd Thursday.

Sports Complex: Patsy O'Sullivan

Bridge Club: Mrs. Phil Ruttle. Every Tuesday.

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

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Harnett

Abrahams Golf Society: J. O'Dwyer, Hon. Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursdays; Youth Centre.

(ANYONE WHO WISHES TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR)

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