

DEEL VIEWS



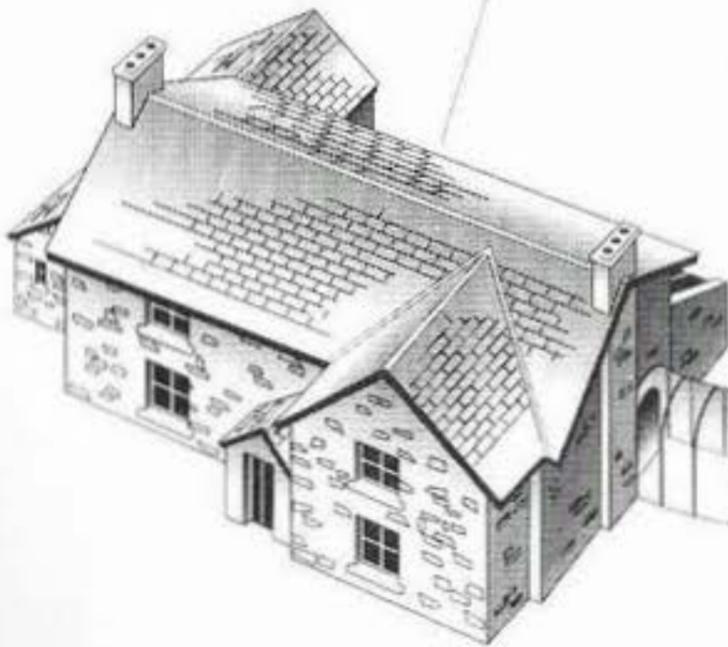
Muintir na Tire

EASTER 1992

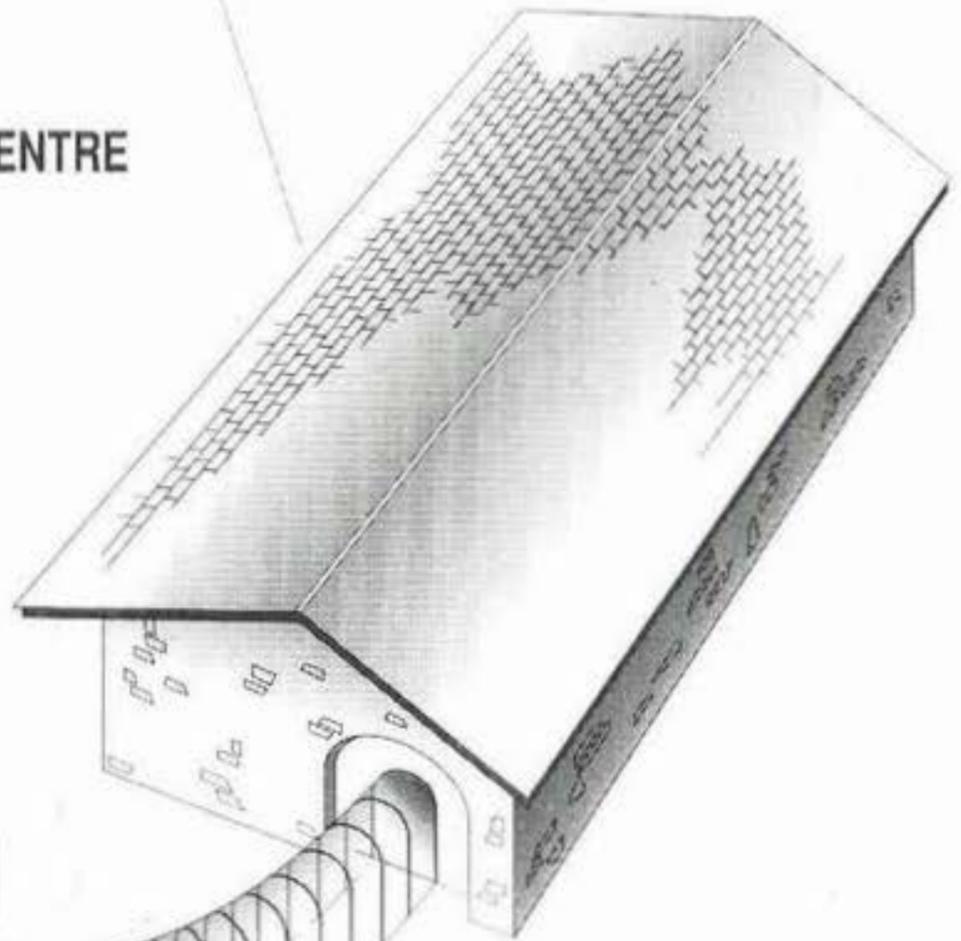
Price 50p

An artist's impression of the
THE IRISH PALATINE HERITAGE CENTRE
being built at Rathkeale.

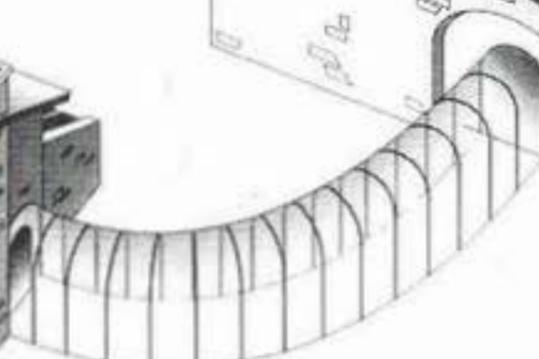
Phase One



Phase Three



Phase Two



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Editorial

The town of Rathkeale is facing probably the most significant development in its long history. From the 12th century it has been an important part of one of the main access routes to the South West from the rest of the country. Later this year all through traffic on the route will begin to traverse the new by-pass road from Amogan to Reens.

Practically overnight the serious traffic congestion and long delays in the Main Street will be eliminated. The new road - for so long under consideration - will finally become a reality. But what of the other consequences of this major alteration in the local topography?

Obviously the business community will be concerned. Some will say that the removal of such an amount of traffic will have a serious detrimental effect on commerce in the town - but how much of it provided business opportunities in the past? Long delays create frustration and annoyance and certainly do not encourage anyone to remain longer than is necessary in the town. Nevertheless most

rival towns depend on passing trade to a significant extent for their prosperity. In this context the future is worrying.

From a social aspect, the improvements are most obvious. The streets will once again be 'user friendly' to pedestrians. The modern scourge of lead pollution in the atmosphere will certainly be considerably lessened and physical damage to buildings and streets will undoubtedly be ameliorated.

From surveys of other towns in a similar situation it would appear that the benefits outweigh the losses but a considerable effort will be required, especially from commercial and community interests, to ensure that this be the case.

We must all help to create an environment in the town which will encourage travellers to leave the 'through' road and ensure that Rathkeale does not become a forgotten backwater between Dublin and Kerry.



"The town takes on a new look"

DOOHYLE LOUGH DEVELOPMENT

We must congratulate the committee of the above organisation for the outstandingly successful social function in the Community Hall on St. Valentine's Night.

A full house was entertained royally with music, song and dance in a most delightful atmosphere as well as being provided with refreshments and food to a standard of which any top grade hotel would be proud of. Over 200 people attended and all are eagerly looking forward to next year's event. .

This group which administers the leisure centre at Doohyle deserve the highest commendations from everybody. A fantastic amount of improvements have been completed in the last twelve months with the aid of FAS and a very dedicated committee. There is now no better place in the locality to spend a nice Summer's day - whether or not you have any interest in boats or fishing etc. The surroundings are magnificent with much planting of flowers and shrubs etc. and plans are in place to make further improvements.



Tree planting - Doohyle Lough

Many foreign visitors have visited the area and local tourist groups and hoteliers have included it in their "places to visit" or "things to do" columns. With the proposed new road bringing the Lough much closer to the passing public it is expected greater crowds than ever will visit during the coming year.

It would be desirable, however, to have some arrangement in place for the casual visitor to gain access to the complex. At the moment it seems to be more often than not under lock and key. I am sure the committee have this matter well under consideration.

The old swimming pool may be no more but a new and exciting development of great potential has taken its place.



Blessing of Boats - Doohyle Lough

Limerick City and County Library



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RATHKEALE - AFTER THE NEW ROAD

By Senator Dan Neville, M.C.C.

In July/August of this year a change which will have far reaching effects on the town of Rathkeale will take place. The through traffic to West Limerick and Kerry will cease to pass through on the opening of the new road. Gone will be the noise of heavy traffic, the buildings' vibrations and the traffic jams. Gone also will be the casual visitor who stops for break in his or her journey.

The effects of the change will have either of two consequences for the town:

(i) The town becomes "introverted" and withdraws from its role as one of the leading trading towns in Co. Limerick

OR

(ii) The town sees the change as a challenge to develop and attract new business, and businesses.

The choice of which route to take is in the hands of the residents. It must now be accepted that, with some notable exceptions, officialdom does not favour Rathkeale. Occasional flourishes of goodwill and expressions of support are followed by the hollowness of inactivity and non-delivery. It does appear that one must knock harder at the door to obtain support for the development of Rathkeale.

Rathkeale has special problems - unique to any other town in Ireland. This has been recognised by many agencies. What has been done to deal with them? Precious little.

In May 1988, four years ago, a special meeting took place in Rathkeale to look at these problems. At this meeting we received laudable commitments from agencies like the Department of the Environment, Department of Education, Department of Health, Mid-Western Health Board and the County Council. A day long meeting, which included a walk-about in the town to see at first hand the problems, took place. This meeting agreed that a special study of the needs of the town should be made and that the resolution to the problems of Rathkeale was beyond the capacity of the County Council and would require the involvement of various Government departments and voluntary agencies.

Four years down the road, with the notable exception of Limerick County Council and the occasional

nod from the Department of the Environment, the agencies who were so keen in their support for the project are silent and fail to attend any of the follow-up meetings.

It is interesting to recall the views expressed at the meeting of 2nd May 1988:

- That there is little integration between the two communities in Rathkeale and little likelihood of this in the foreseeable future.

- That the educational needs of the travellers, particularly of the young adults, were not being met.

- That health problems arose because of the lack of adequate facilities for caravan dwellers.

- That policing problems arose because of lack of adequate manpower.

- That the commerce of the town cannot proceed and develop in an orderly way because of the different lifestyle of one section of the community.

- The use of houses and storage areas is a mis-use of dwelling houses and detracts from the value of neighbouring properties.

- That the provision of a halting site alone would not resolve the problem as such had been provided by the Council over 20 years ago.

- That the town is being decimated by the number of families leaving to live elsewhere and the reluctance of new families to set residence in Rathkeale.

- That there is a genuine fear that the town will be owned lock, stock and barrel by one section of the community within the next decade.

- Rathkeale is carrying the highest percentage of travellers of any town in Ireland and this does not auger well for the social and economic development of the town.

Very little has changed in four years. The special study of the town was completed by Limerick County Council. This has its limitations in that it did not deal with the underlying sociological problem that the presence of two distinct cultures causes in the town. It was felt by many of us that a

complementary study by a qualified sociologist should take place. It is not too late yet for this. It is, however, getting late.

The resulting report was published in July 1990 and adopted by Limerick County Council. This report by S. Mulcahy, M.R.A.I. saw as its purpose "to highlight the problems of the physical environment of Rathkeale and to propose an approach to the revitalisation of the town". It made 40 recommendations.

The steering group has met November 1990, September 1991 and March 1992 to discuss the implementation of the report. It is regrettable that the only public agency which has attended these meetings has been Limerick County Council. Local voluntary organisations have always been represented. Where are the others from 1988 - the Departments of Health, Education, Environment and the Mid-Western Health Board ?

The implementation of the Mulcahy report is not the solution to Rathkeale problems. It has a role. The solution is much more complex and requires officialdom to deal with them. The people of Rathkeale must demand this. There is no other way of obtaining it.

The town, through the various bodies, must now look at life after the new road is open. A plan of development, based on the many reports available, must be drawn up. This must incorporate the dealing of the separate cultural norms of the two communities. The concerns of the settled community for the future of business, property values, policing and normal living conditions must be addressed.

P.S. The County Council Task Force comprises Christy O'Connor, Environment; Liam Crawford, Draughtsman; Paul Crowe, Engineering; Jimmy Feane, Personnel.



COISTE OIDEACHAIS GHAIRME BEATHA CHONTAE LUIMNÍ

(County Limerick Vocational Education Committee)

58 O'Connell Street : Limerick : Telephone: 061-314612/412692
Fax: 061-414671

SEAN BURKE, M.R.D., B.A., H.D.E.
Chief Executive Officer (acting)

Senator Dan Neville, M.C.C.,

Kiltannan,

CROAGH,

Co. Limerick.

23rd March, 1992.

Dear Senator Neville,

Further to our recent correspondence and your subsequent query, I wish to inform you that the Department of Education has formally approved the advancement of the new Community College Project in Rathkeale to Stage 3 of the Planning Process and has also agreed that Stages 4 and 5 (i.e. Detail Design/Contract Documents) be combined and taken as one.

This, of course, will significantly speed up and expedite the planning and development of the new College and is very much in keeping with the V.E.C's objective of completing the development in the shortest possible timeframe.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Burke

Chief Executive Officer (acting)

DEN DILEMMA

From "Deel Views" Easter 1982

We're almost at that time of year when most of us look forward to being out in the garden, out for a walk, out of the house for a bit of change from the wintery indoors.

Children are no different and while they seem to be impervious to the weather at all times, still Spring and Summer bring special rewards to them, especially if they are connected with the Irish Girl Guides or the Boy Scouts of Ireland. A day for Brownie Revels, a cookout for the Cubs, a weekend Camp for Guides, orienteering and hiking for the Rangers and Scouts, active individual units or units sharing the adventures together.

Needless to say, all of these activities need planning, both by the children and by the adult Guiders and Scout Leaders who are with them all year long at their meetings. But, oh, what delight comes to a Leader's heart when she or he hears those magic words, "Would you like some help on that day out you're planning for the children?" "Could you use another car to take them to Curragh Chase?" Lovely words, indeed, and ones that need not be restricted to "Guide Mothers" or "Scout Dads". If you are interested in the children of Rathkeale and can give them a lot of time, or just an hour in a while, go along to any of the adult Scout or Guide Leaders and let them know. You'll get as much as you give.

While the birds are busily building their nests at this time of the year, it is also the time for Guiders and Scouts to take a hard look at their own little "nest" up the lane from the Post Office. The Chalet has been in need of repair for some time and, on top of this, it was vandalised during the Christmas holiday. The parents of the Guides and Scouts have agreed that a temporary repair job should be done, but are now giving thought to the possibility of finding a new place for Rathkeale's Guides and Scouts to meet. Inquiries are being put to the limited number of existing places in town but, because of the number of Guide-Scout groups to be accommodated, seven in all, it is difficult to imagine getting a permanent place in a building which is not their own.

Many happy years have been spent at the Chalet and the possibility of staying there is not being ruled out. The cost of repair and renovation would be high and the location, which we have not had

trouble previously, might not be the best, but it is one choice. The alternative would be for the Guides and Scouts to be given a site, either by a private party, the Community Council or the County Council, and then fund-raising events would have to be undertaken to accumulate the considerable amount of money needed to build a new Guide-Scout "Den".

It is hoped that all residents of Rathkeale are interested in the 145 local children who belong to these organisations in this town, and any suggestions that anyone can make to help solve the dilemma of the meeting place, would be most welcome.

Following are the names of the adult Leaders connected with the boys and girls of Rathkeale in the Scout-Guide programme:-

Brownies: Anne Brennan, Mary Brennan, Peg Duggan.

Cubs: Paddy McEnery, Noel White, Pa Dunne.

Guides: Patsy Cronin, Brid O'Rourke.

Scouts: Michael Walsh, Liam Kennedy.

Rangers: Joan Walsh, Rose White.

FIRST PAST THE POST

"Highway Girl" owned by John Shiels and trained by Mrs. E. Finn won an amateur Flat Race (value £2,000) at the St. Patrick's Day Limerick Races. He was ridden by Brian Murphy and started at the very generous odds of 12 to 1.

A.I.B.

Reconstruction work is now complete in the A.I.B. and doors will open to the public before Easter.

HINTS FROM THE PAST

Glasses which are stacked one on top of another often stick together. Run some hot water into the innermost glass and they will separate.

Mayoral Reception for Limerickman

The Mayor of Galway, Dr. Michael Leahy recently hosted a Mayoral Reception in Galway City Hall in honour of Limerickman Neil Johnson who won the Junior Chamber International World Public Title at the finals of the competition which were held in Helsinki, Finland in November.

Neil, who is from Reens, Ardagh, Co. Limerick is presently living in Galway and is a member of Junior Chamber, Galway. His historic victory brings the World title to Junior Chamber Ireland for the first time ever in the history of the competition.

Neil, who represented Junior Chamber Europe, competed against representatives from Asia, Africa/Australia and America. Speaking on the topic "Economic Development and Environmental Destruction - Can we have one without the other?". Neil's speech was simultaneously translated into Spanish, French and Japanese for the benefit of an estimated audience of approx. 2,000 Junior Chamber

delegates from over 100 countries throughout the world.

Neil's win is the ultimate achievement in a competition which saw him win at local, regional, national, European and now world level. The World Final was the last stage of a competition in which several hundred speakers throughout the world competed, over a twelve month period, for the coveted world title.

Among those attending the Mayoral Reception were Neil's parents - Mr. & Mrs. Donal Johnson, Reens, Ardagh, Co. Limerick - and his brothers, Derek and Ian. Mayor Leahy congratulated Neil on what he described as an "outstanding achievement".

Photo shows: Left to right - Mayor of Galway, Dr. Michael Leahy, Ms. Mary Fahey, President - Junior Chamber, Galway, Neil Johnson, Junior Chamber International World Public Speaking Champion 1991.



RATHKEALE BRASS BAND

Rathkeale Brass Band reached a new pinnacle in its long history on receiving overall prize in its category at the International Band Competition for St. Patrick's Day held at Limerick City. The Band also received this prize last year at the same event.

Not only does this mean due recognition from the Parade organisers and judges, but gave a sense of belonging and taking part in an event which is of great importance to the Band and its presence in the community.

The Band now has forty members, well capable of playing, some of them playing and marching for the first time. The uniform has also been modified to give a more colourful

appearance-with white shirts and golden ties.

The highlight for the Band, and year, is St. Patrick's Day. Leading the Parade through Rathkeale, the pride of the Band could be seen, each member wanting to be at their best. It is generally agreed that the Band gives a sense of occasion to the Parade and pride to the community. Parades at Askeaton, Adare and Newcastle West were also attended with a prize being won at Askeaton. However, it is in Rathkeale - its home town - that the Band favours playing best.

Rathkeale Brass Band takes this opportunity to thank the people of Rathkeale for their generous support and help.

BAND MEMBERS:

Joe Dunleavy
Ned Daly
Paddy Collins
Dave O'Grady
Sean O'Shea
Stephen McDonnell
Colin O'Reilly
Grace Clifford
Edel Ryan
Mary Woulfe
Ann Marie White
Michael White
Joanne O'Dea
Declan O'Kelly
Barry Topley
Seamus McCarthy
Martin Daly
Deirdre Ryan
Amy Hayes
Tara Hennessy
Lorraine Lynch
Francis Lynch
Olga Noonan
Miriam Kelly
Michael Collins
Valerie O'Riordan
Heather Hayes
Brendan Kennelly
Sinead Sheehan
Barry O'Riordan
Keith Smith
Robert White
Edel Kennelly

Cathal Doherty
Pádraig Roche
Loyola Hennessy
Byron Power
Jarrett Power

MAJORETTES
Joanne Murray
Kelly Topley
Lesley Hayes
Vanessa Naughton
Crona Vereker
Cathriona Lynch
Maeve O'Toole
Clare Young
Orla Ryan
Elaine Wilmott
Jenifer Lynch
Marie O'Shea
Jessica Hennessy
Kate Murray
Christina Woulfe
Grainne White
Nicola Daly
Julie Guiney
Asling Ryan
Clara O'Flaherty
Mairead Jones
Susan Collins

In charge of Majorettes:
Eileen Ryan
Mary Woulfe

Baptisms

Declan Cornelius Maune
Victoria Noelle Moloney
Kate Louise Dundon McNamara
Anthony Martin McCarthy
Triona Elisa Keating
Thomas Kealy
Patrick Quilligan
Margaret Sheridan
Janice Mary Morrissey
Catherine Antionette Flynn
Seán Bernard White
James Chawke
Rory Eamonn O'Flaherty
James John O'Donnell

Deaths

Maura Madigan
Brid Dunleavy
Malachy Hanley
Denis Kelly
James David Walsh
Jack Hogan
Mary Keating
Joseph O'Connor
John S. O'Grady
Christy Lynch
Peggy Fitzgerald

Marriages

James O'Brien and Lilian Ann Murphy
Jeremiah O'Brien and Martina Sheridan
Patrick Quilligan and Jean Quilligan
John Culligan and Philomena Quilligan

Abraham's Golfing Society

At the recent A.G.M. of the Society the officers and committee were elected as follows:

President: Con Noonan
Captain: Irene Donovan
Vice-Captain: Jack O'Dwyer
Hon. Secretary: Noel Harnett
Hon. Treasurer: Monnie Wilmott

Committee: Andy O'Dea, John O'Connor, Mary O'Sullivan, Michael Noonan and Tadgh O'Connor (ex-officio).

The first outing took place to Killarney on March 14th on Killeens Course. There was a fine turnout of 42 players and the prize-winners included:

Men: 1. Liam O'Sullivan
2. Andy O'Dea
3. Jack O'Dwyer
4. Patsy O'Sullivan

Nines: Ml. Hennessy
Billy Neville

Ladies: 1. Helen Roche
2. Eileen Noonan
3. Nora Dwane

Nines: Chris O'Connor
Marjorie O'Connell

The prizes were kindly sponsored by O'Sullivan's Ironworks.

The next outing will be to Charleville Golf Club on May 9th at 9.30 a.m.



Abrahams Captain Irene Donovan with the Golfers of Year 1991 - Aidan Supple and Mary Hennessy

St. Patrick's Day In My Home Town When I Was A Boy

By Michael Kerins

Now that St. Patrick's Day has come and gone for the year 1992, I cannot but remember St. Patrick's Day in Ballingarry when I was a boy. About two weeks beforehand, shamrock would be gathered and would be sent to our emigrants abroad in special boxes to help to keep it fresh.

Suits that had not been worn since Christmas would be brought out and aired. Mothers would buy green ribbon for their daughters to wear in their hair on that special day.

Finally came that day. After Mass had been celebrated, as Gaeilge, by the late Canon Wall and by the Rev. Archdeacon Lyons who replaced him, the people of the parish and many neighbouring parishes formed a procession behind our Pipe Band.

What a sight to behold, as the procession wined its way up the main street, through The Spar, Clonragan, Gurteen, Kilmihill, finally arriving at St. Patrick's Well in Ballyneale.

To hear the skirl of the pipers - the O'Sullivans, O'Caseys and Clancys; Danny O'Kelly on the bass drum; and the kettle drummers - J. Keating, J. Hartnett and Pa Hogan. Last, but by no means least, that man from The Mall - Dan Tierney - who so proudly led the procession of the deaf, the dumb, the lame and blind, bearing our national Tricolour and wearing our national emblem, the Shamrock.

Arriving at the Well, the Rosary was recited, the people did their rounds as they were called, and I and many other children then went to Johnny McMahan's shop where slab toffee was then sold at the rate of two squares for one old penny.

Sadly, the band and the procession are no more although, as I write, I believe they are thinking of starting a brass band.

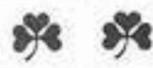
Maybe, in the not too distant future, we shall once again celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Ballingarry as we did when I was a boy, with a procession to the Well led by the band.

In conclusion, I would like to wish a happy birthday to Archdeacon Lyons who celebrated his 99th year and, with God's help, he will reach the century in 1993.





ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE





ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre Founder Patron's Scheme

In a major drive to raise funds for the completion of our Heritage Centre, the Irish Palatine Association has put in place a Founder Patron Scheme. The scheme was launched by His Excellency, Dr. Martin Elsassner, German Ambassador to Ireland, on Friday, 3rd April, 1992 in the Community Centre, Rathkeale and included a slide illustrated lecture entitled "All Ireland-is in and around Rathkeale", by Dr. Patrick O'Connor.

How to become a Patron

You can become a patron by subscribing £100 or more to the scheme. If you wish, you may also record a donation of £100 or more in memory of a deceased relative. The Patron scheme is open to both corporate and private individuals.

The benefits of being a Founder Patron include:

- A unique opportunity to participate in a project which seeks to re-present the Irish Palatine experience in all its richness and diversity.
- Free admission to the museum.
- Presentation of a special Founder's scroll.
- Acknowledgement in the Patrons' Register and on a display tablet in the reception area. Names will also be recorded in the official museum brochure and in future publications.

The development of the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre consists of three phases. Phase one will be complete and open in June of this year. Phase two and three await substantial funding.

The Centre will benefit the town of Rathkeale in a

number of ways;

1. By attracting and encouraging visitors to come and stay in the area it will be helping to improve trade in the town.
2. By acting as a tourist information point it will help to promote the area by highlighting attractions and advising on bed and breakfast.
3. The Centre will be a factor in enhancing the image of the town.
4. In an educational capacity it can be availed of by schools to illustrate the story of the Irish Palatines which links to areas of Rathkeale, Irish, English, European and American history. Also the development of Irish farming.

We are asking those interested in Palatine Heritage and/or in the development of Rathkeale to support the project by becoming a Patron. Your donation can be forwarded to the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Ireland.

Opening of Irish Palatine Heritage Centre:

The Irish Palatine Association plan to have phase one of their new Centre open June to September with the official opening in July. Phase one which will eventually house reception and archive materials will temporarily house an extended version of our present exhibition, currently mounted in the Community Centre.

BACK TO THE HEARTHSLAND: AN IRISH PALATINE HOMECOMING 25th-26th September 1992

The Irish Palatine Association, to coincide with Bord Fáilte's "A September to remember", are organising a special weekend for Association



First phase of Palatine Heritage Centre almost complete.

Boxing News

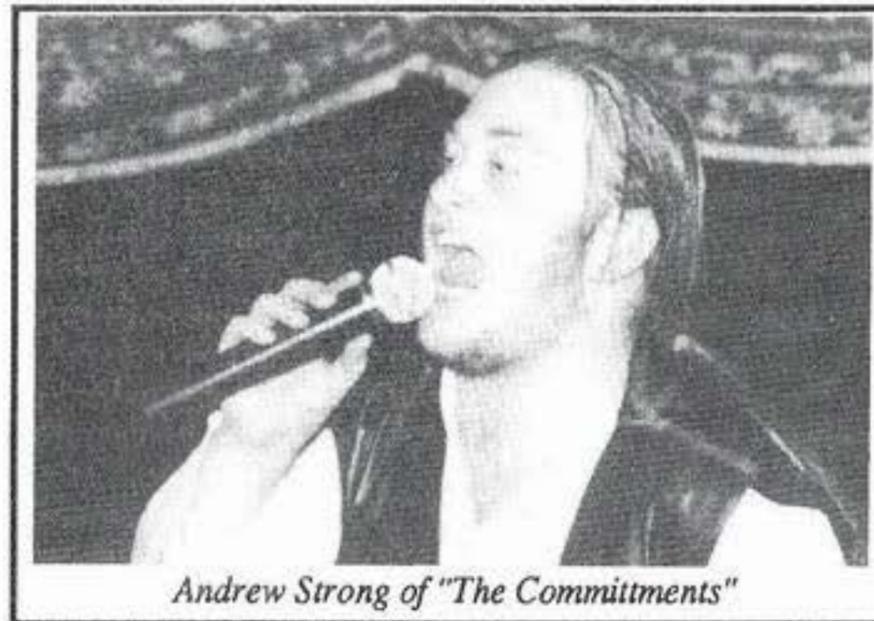
The Rathkeale Boxing Club has been part of our community for the last sixty years and in that time has been recognised as one of the best ambassadors that any town could wish for. In the last six years alone, the Club awards alone total 39 County Titles, 15 Munster Titles and 3 All-Ireland Titles. Gerard McNamara was the first boy to bring All-Ireland honours to the Club. First in 1988 and his second in 1990. Peter Williams claimed All-Ireland honours last year, 1991. When you see these results you realise the amount of hard work the boys put in training over the winter months. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the boys train at The Deel Hall under the guidance of John Jones and Joe Williams. Recently, two boys from the Club won County Titles. They were Robert Williams and Peter Williams. The boys travelled to Cork on the 11th and 12th of April in search of Munster titles and if they succeed they will travel to Dublin in Easter week to box against the cream of the 32 counties in the quest for All-Ireland titles. The Clubs top boxers this year to date are Kieran Duggan and Peter Williams.

The Committee of the Club for the 1992 season is:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| President: | Pat Joe Jones |
| Chairman: | Joe Williams |
| Secretary: | John Jones |
| Treasurer: | Joe Williams |
| Comm. Members: | Martin Daly, Tom Steel, Martin Dillon, Jerry Mulcair, Patsy Dillon. |
| Trainers: | John Jones, Joe Williams. |
| Medical Officer: | Dr. Tom Curtin. |

The aim of the committee is to encourage and help young boys to learn the art of boxing so as to keep the Rathkeale Club as one of the best in Munster. To achieve this the Club needs to improve its training facilities. Planning Permission for a new training centre at the Sports Complex was received. We were granted £2,000 from the Lottery. Such a small sum for such a big task. But the committee will strive on and would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who help us in sponsorship and trust they will continue to help the club to achieve its ambitions.

Again, thanks to all our sponsors.



Andrew Strong of "The Commitments"

Community Games

At the recent A.G.M. of Rathkeale Community Games the following officers were elected for the coming year:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President: | Very Rev. Canon MacNamee, P.P. |
| Chairman: | Noel White |
| Vice-Chairman: | Pat Vereker |
| Secretary: | Mary Nestor |
| Asstt Sec.: | Bernie Wilmott |
| Treasurer: | Mary Nestor |
| P.R.O.: | John Dinnage |
| Committee: | Sean Harnett, Mary Woulfe, Mossie Woulfe |

The 1992 season got under way with the girls Indoor Soccer U-14, which was held in Croom on Saturday, 21st and Saturday, 28th March under the management of Pat Hayes. Our girls played valiantly but were unlucky on the day and had to settle for 4th place. However, Pat is very hopeful of better luck in the girls U-15 Soccer, which commences shortly.

This year we are hoping to participate in Tennis for boys and girls U-16 and anybody interested in same should contact the Team Manager, Pat Doherty.

Following our success in the U-14 Quiz last year, Pat McElligott is again coaching his team for the Co. Final which takes place in Hospital on April 26th.

The area Art Competition was held in the Community Centre on March 14th and Maura Doherty expects to announce shortly the qualifiers for the Co. Final which will take place on Sunday, May 2nd.

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, we cannot field an U-10 football team this year. Is this the first indication of the decline in our young population?

We have a strong Athletic Club in our team for a number of years and each year our athletes have done us proud at County and National level. Already, under the guidance of Team Managers Noel White and Mossie Woulfe, preparations are under way for this year's Athletic Competitions which will be held on the week-end 27th-28th June at a venue to be decided.

As you can see, the Community Games organisation is vibrant in our town and we would appreciate the support of parents and community for the coming season.

FROM THE KERRYMAN - AUGUST 1933

Despite the threatening attitude of the weather a record crowd of over 3,000 attended at the Athletic Grounds, Rathkeale on Sunday last when Newcastle West played a drawn game against Rathkeale in the West Limerick Senior Hurling Championship, while Abbeyfeale had a meritorious win over Glin in the Western Football Final for 1932.

Both games were played in a fine sporting spirit and neither was marred by a single incident, a fact that was due, perhaps, in a large measure to the first-class stewarding and the efficient manner in which the splendidly equipped grounds were laid out for the occasion. The Rathkeale Gaels are to be very cordially congratulated on their highly successful endeavours to ensure the thorough comfort of both players and public. A special train brought a contingent of over 1,000 people from Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West and intermediate stations, while hundreds of others arrived by road in every mode of conveyance. The attendance estimated at over 3,000 was a remarkable tribute to the attractiveness of the fixtures and the exceptionally strong position of Gaelic games in West Limerick and, incidentally, very clearly illustrates the popularity and suitability of Rathkeale as a venue for important matches.

SENIOR HURLING FINAL

Rathkeale's Great Recovery
Newcastle West 2-3; Rathkeale 2-3.

A heavy shower delayed the start of the game for about twenty-five minutes. From the throw-in O'Shaughnessy put Rathkeale attacking and an exciting tussle in the Newcastle territory ensued before Cregan came to the rescue with a fine clearance. Monaghan, the Newcastle custodian, received an injury, but was able to resume after a few minutes and, on the restart of the game, Newcastle West took up the offensive, but Quinn relieved the situation with a long shot to midfield. Midfield exchanges followed, Rathkeale commenced a vigorous attack. The Newcastle West defence was severely tested, but a wide was the only result. Attacking from the delivery Newcastle also sent over twice in succession.

The puck out led to a concentrated offensive by the Rathkeale forwards. Monaghan relieved the situation with one of his many brilliant saves and Twomey sent downfield where Rathkeale fouled. The free was well centred by Ambrose to be sent over by Walsh. O'Shaughnessy, receiving from the delivery, sent well into the opposing territory and Monaghan saved at the expense of a 70 which was sent wide. Play continued for several minutes to swing from one end of the pitch to the other and the general standard of the play was disappointing.

Newcastle, with the advantage of a strong breeze, had the better of matters, but the forwards were inaccurate and slow to take advantage of the many scoring opportunities presented to them. Eventually, twenty minutes after the start of the game, Ned Burke, receiving from a touch taken by Ambrose, sent over a very neat point for Newcastle - the first score of the game. Newcastle resumed the offensive from the delivery and a 70 which was taken by O'Connor was sent wide after a tussle in the Rathkeale goal mouth.

A few minutes later Burke again secured possession and added another minor for Newcastle. Shortly afterwards, Culhane supplemented the Newcastle score with a goal from a well directed shot twenty yards out. Overs followed at both ends when Rathkeale fouled in their own territory, and Culhane, from a free, dropped a minor for Newcastle.

Rathkeale spoiled a great scoring opportunity when attacking from the delivery. They fouled in the course of a cleverly combined offensive from which a score seemed all but certain. For the remainder of the first moiety play was of a ding dong nature and overs were monotonously frequent, especially at the Rathkeale end. The backs at both ends were outstanding while O'Shaughnessy was always to the fore in the Rathkeale centrefield.

At the intervals the scores stood:
Newcastle West 1-3; Rathkeale Nil.

On the resumption, Rathkeale, playing with the wind, improved their position appreciably, but their forwards who were inclined to shoot rather wildly, were not able to penetrate the Newcastle defence, in which Cregan and Twomey were a tower of strength. A score seemed inevitable when the Newcastle forwards moved in from the delivery but Reidy, the Rathkeale custodian, effected a marvellous clearance at the expense of a 70. The standard of play continued to be disappointing and there were frequent overs at both ends. Eventually, some ten minutes after the resumption, Matty O'Shea opened the scoring for Rathkeale with a beautifully directed minor. Rathkeale forwards were pressing with great vigour at this stage, when play was interrupted by an injury to Walsh (Newcastle) who, however, was able to resume after a few minutes. A free to Newcastle, some thirty yards from the Rathkeale net, was taken by Culhane who dropped a lovely goal. Monaghan came to the rescue with a splendid save when Rathkeale vigorously replied with an attack from the delivery. O'Shaughnessy, from a free, sent well into Newcastle territory where Fitzgerald secured possession and banged in a great goal for Rathkeale. Henceforward the fortunes of the games seemed to turn very much in Rathkeale's

favour. The combination of the Newcastle selection seemed to become badly disorganised, and were it not for the soundness of their defence and the first class display given by Monaghan in the last line of defence, Rathkeale would undoubtedly have had several more scores to their credit. The Newcastle forwards at the other end continued to render a good account of themselves, but there the Rathkeale defence, in which Quinn was outstanding, was quite a formidable one. O'Shaughnessy continued to be a source of great worry to the Newcastle defence and, after a series of vigorous encounters in the Newcastle territory, Rathkeale netted another goal from a scrummage around the Newcastle goal. Excitement reached a feverish pitch when Guinane, receiving from a touch, sent over a point for Rathkeale, thus reducing Newcastle's lead to the slender margin of one minor.

Monaghan was outstanding in a series of subsequent clashes around the Newcastle goal mouth, and there was a tense moment when Rathkeale failed to register a score from a free thirty yards out. From the delivery Newcastle launched a surprise attack which caught the Rathkeale backs napping, but Reidy in goal saved the situation with a splendid clearance. Hectic moments followed as Rathkeale concentrated all their endeavours in an effort to equalise, but their attacks were reportedly beaten off by the Newcastle's defence which was fighting tooth and nail to retain the slender but valuable lead, which in a few brief minutes would have made all the difference in the world - to both teams.

Rathkeale got their chance at last - and not a moment too soon - in the form of a free in front of the Newcastle net. Matty O'Shea, Rathkeale's hero of the day, was entrusted with the fateful task, and there was an air of suppressed excitement as he paused for a moment to steady his judgement. Then, with unerring accuracy, he sent the ball over the bar and the Rathkeale supporters nearly went mad with excitement. In the excitement that followed nobody seemed to hear Mick Neville sound the final whistle, which left the scores level as set out above.

Mr. Mick Neville (Kilfinny) was a very capable and impartial referee.

The following were the teams:-

Newcastle West - Joe Ambrose (Capt), P. Monaghan (goal), M. Flynn, J. Kennedy, J. Twomey, E. Cregan, M. O'Keefe, P. Walsh, J. P. Connor, M. Geary, J. Sheehy, J. McMahon, E. Burke, J. J. Culhane, O. O'Brien.

Rathkeale - W. Quinn (Capt), J. Reidy (goal), Ed. Quinn, M. O'Shaughnessy, P. Brennan, J. Guinane, J. Young, J. O'Sullivan, J. Quinn, M. O'Shea, P. Roche, J. Quinn, P. O'Grady, J. Fitzgerald, M. Healy.

The Siege of Rathkeale

FROM TIMES PAST

How familiar it all seems - crowds protesting on the streets, policemen being stoned by unruly mobs. Her Majesty's troops being called in, even bayonet attacks by British soldiers on protestors, and great amounts of malicious damage being done by protestors to public property.

But this story is not about the North; instead it's about an incident in the quiet town of Rathkeale. But the protestors did not want anything so high-minded as national freedom - no, all that they wanted was food.

The year 1847 brought Rathkeale and its hinterland to its knees. The poorer land between the town and Askeaton on the Shannon Estuary had been hit by the famine like few other areas in the country. The people were literally starving. And, uniquely in Rathkeale, the Protestants were as badly hit as the Catholics.

The poor peasants had two choices - enter the Rathkeale Workhouse or starve. And the Government in London had told Rathkeale Workhouse Guardians that entering a workhouse should not generally be an object of desire and should not be attractive, and should encourage paupers to leave as soon as possible.

But in October of 1847, as another failed crop of potatoes was turning the land to slime, a movement began to seek aid for the people without their having to enter the workhouse. They wanted the Government to set up work-camps where they could labour in return for some food to bring home to their families. All they wanted was enough to keep body and soul together.

By the third week of October, this idea had captured the imagination of the starving peasants, and word was spread that all of the people should march on Rathkeale Workhouse on the following Monday, to petition the local gentry who would be assembled in the Boardroom of the institution.

On the Sunday, notices were posted on the

gates of all of the Catholic chapels in the area calling on the people of each parish to assemble to converge on the Workhouse to demand their rights. And, at midnight, straw fires were lit on the hilltops as a general signal for the people to gather and, before dawn, horns were blown in each parish to bring the people out.

And so, quietly, from every parish, the people walked in long bedraggled processions on their march to save their own lives and those of their children.

TENSION

As dawn broke over Rathkeale town the silent streets had a tangible tension. The Quarter Session Courts were sitting that day and a few souls straggled in in the early morning.

At mid-day, the gentry met in the Workhouse for the weekly meeting of the Board. There was still no sign of the expected demonstration. But, shortly afterwards, word came that the crowd was gathering at a crossroads about a half-mile from the Workhouse. A few informers told those in the Workhouse that the crowd was growing by the minute and was getting ready to march.

On hearing this, the Master of the Workhouse, Mr. Hall, gave directions that the building be secured. All doors were locked and bolted, and Hall ordered that nobody other than staff be admitted.

Some of the members of the gentry who had been attending the Court now came out from town, having heard of the impending trouble, and two of them spoke to the crowd at the gate of the Workhouse as the assembly arrived. But the crowd, now well over two thousand in number, refused to disperse.

It was agreed that a deputation of ten or twelve would be received by the Board, and the Board promised to ask the Government to bring in a scheme of labour such as they were demanding. The paupers' delegation was satisfied, went out to advise the crowd to disperse, but confusion from the arrival of

other groups added to the state of affairs and, apart from anything else, promises are no answer to hunger.

INVASION

Out from the town came a further contingent of drunken and excited young men who rallied the crowd, now three thousand strong, to rush the door. The door gave way and, battling against the staff, the leaders made their way upstairs to the Boardroom. About sixty entered the Boardroom and shouted abuse at the gentry.

They jumped, screamed, whirled their sticks and banged the table. A report in the British Parliamentary Papers for 1847 states that several of them were intoxicated by whiskey.

Two Catholic curates from Rathkeale eventually persuaded them to withdraw from the Boardroom, but the near-riot was still going on downstairs. The main body of the crowd had broken down a number of other doors and were running through the main part of the Workhouse. The master tailor and a pauper bravely defended the office, despite being lacerated by sticks from outside.

The mob ran through the girls area, and through the classroom, shouting threats and obscenities as they went, and frightening the girls out of their wits.

The crowd at this stage had determined to loot the foodstore of the Workhouse, and threatened the Matron who stood in front of the big door. The two priests persuaded the mob that the food was needed for others such as they in the Workhouse, and the stores were saved.

DRAGOONS

The law arrived at this stage in the form of a party of dragoons under an officer. They cleared part of the crowd from outside the gate, but the soldiers were surrounded and pelted with sticks and stones. The officer and two of his men were severely hurt. The soldiers were completely exposed to the anger of the mob, and they were about to surrender when they were relieved by a party of infantry and about a dozen policemen who waded into the crowd, sparing nobody. One man was severely hurt by a soldier's bayonet, others were battered and bruised, but the Workhouse was cleared.

The injured peasant was taken into the Workhouse where he was treated by the house physician, and he swore he had been forced to join the mob. He had been digging his fields at dawn, he said, when the crowd came upon him and forced him away against his will.

It seems that, apart from starvation and frustration, many of the crowd wanted to wreak summary vengeance on the officers of the Workhouse who had lately been instrumental in bringing thieves to book both inside and outside the Workhouse.

The crowd did not completely disperse until midnight, keeping the gentry and officers in a state of siege until then.

Even though a small force of armed police was to be permanently stationed in the Workhouse itself for months to follow, Rathkeale still buzzed with proposed armed invasions by starving paupers. Indeed, a smaller repeat of the October riot occurred in November as Winter drew in. This time it was women with babes in arms who invaded, and wept and shrieked, begging food.

Such was the pathetic sight that they portrayed that the Guardians resigned the following week, in total frustration at how little they could do for the starving poor. But London told them that the law could not be changed and that no member of the Board could abdicate his responsibility just like that.

The spirit of the people broke that Winter and their will to campaign died away. In fact, many of the people themselves also died away.

Rathkeale Show....

The 24th Annual Rathkeale Show will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, 1st and 2nd July at the Vocational School, Rathkeale. This year there are sixteen Cups and Trophies to be awarded and numerous cash prizes.

At present we are finalising details of this year's Show and we expect schedules to be available in the Library and local shops by 1st June.

Our sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Show over the years.

What I Saw In Russia

By Billy Fitzgibbon

For a moment I wondered where I was. I had ordered a pint of Guinness from a Cork barman who was serving behind a typical mahogany bar counter, a large Saturday night crowd, most of them English speakers, many of them Irish. But the militia men at the door reminded me that this was not Sullivan's or Dan the Dutch's but the "Shamrock", a kilometre from Red Square and in the heart of Moscow!

Last October I found there were at least two Russias: one where all doors were open if one had dollars, and another where there was nothing save empty shelves and long queues and poverty. The dollar Russia was inhabited by tourists and wealthier Russians; on its fringes were found various shady characters, currency sharks, thieves and ladies doing a little private business! The hotels were common ground for everyone, everything was forbidden but everything was possible. Stern guards at the door kept out ordinary people but did not stop the thieves who regularly robbed the rooms.

In October the pace of break-up was accelerating. It could even be seen on all the main streets - empty plinths marked where statues to glorious Communists had recently been removed. The rouble was tumbling and no one wanted it - even the immigration officials sought American cigarettes. An old age pension would hardly buy a few pints in the "Shamrock".

I wandered the Kalinin Prospekt in Moscow and saw the imposing buildings and shops completely empty, save for bottled fruit - and more bottled fruit. At one end the Russian White House, where Yeltsin strode onto the tanks and addressed the crowds during the coup. At the other, Red Square where Lenin lay in his tomb and the changing of the guard was solemn and impressive. But it was all change in October and every day brought new crises. Couples were still coming to Red Square to lay wreaths in their wedding day finery but nearby was a sign of the times: an altar with icons sheltered under a wooden canopy.

The Kremlin itself is a surprising oasis of peace in all this: a collection of lovely golden domed churches and palaces, 19th century classical buildings and the seat of Government itself and Gorbachev's (now Yeltsin's) office, the most accessible place of

government I had ever seen.

My aim was to see more of the people. It was easy to see why they appeared glum. Everywhere there were obstacles, not the least of them being the hours of queueing, necessary every day, and the total absence of basic urban comforts like cafés and restaurants. Opposite the unlikely setting of the former KGB headquarters I found a takeaway. Overcoming the nauseating smell, a mixture of sweat and burnt meat, I peered in to see what was for sale. At first it appeared as if an old boot was being turned on a skewer. It was certainly meat but difficult to come to any final conclusion from the rather odd burnt taste.

Of course, I visited the Bolshoi. Our private box included a sitting room, useful for 'dangerous liaisons' if one had the opportunity! We looked out over the gilt and velvet, saw the attentive crowds below and at the back the old Imperial box where latterly Lenin and Stalin had taken the applause. This was something to remember.

St. Petersburg is always lovely and especially for us when we were blessed by what the Russians call "the womens' Summer" - bright, late October sunshine, a dark blue afternoon sky only found in Northern latitudes, a crystal clear atmosphere for once hid the drudgery and deprivation evident everywhere. The Nevsky Prospekt is two and a half miles long, the most elegant street in Europe; the palaces of the nobility, pre-Revolutionary banks and office buildings, the great Cathedral of Saint Kazan are all nearby. For a moment one could imagine the Tsar being driven along in his carriage to his palace at the majestic Hermitage which dominated Admiralty Square.

But look into the empty shops and see the tired faces and you realise that this is 1991 and there is nothing there. The exquisite Art Deco "Gastronome 1" is no fancy delicatessen but an empty grocery store; "Big Shop Number 1" was a department store as big as Clery's, crumbling behind scaffolding and off its long corridors in little alcoves occasionally things are to be found, served by surly and indifferent staff - here a little heap of childrens' shoes, there some curtains, seldom of any quality.

I decided I would try and buy a book: a big statue of Lenin stood in the "Dom Knihy" ("the House of Books"), his hand outstretched, he could have been a displaced traffic policeman but his presence did not speed up the service. I queued to choose the book, queued to get a docket, queued to pay at the cash register, and returned with my docket to collect the books.

Across from our hotel was found the Alexander Nevsky Monastery. On my way to the Monastery I passed the graves of Tchaikovsky and Doestoevski and other famous writers and musicians. Few Irish worshippers would stand through the normal three hour service but the Russians came in and out as they wanted, praying for a short while, or greeting old friends, some doing a circuit of the church and kissing the icons in reverence. The priest chanted the service, to a back drop of exquisite choral music from the cantors. Incense rose above the gold encrusted vestments of the priests, past the icons and towards the old ladies now fervent in prayer, out into the foggy night.

We did not entirely neglect culture. I was getting wise in the ways of the Russians and did not simply buy a ticket to the Kirov - I negotiated with a succession of determined old ladies in the foyer until the price dropped as the music began. But the ballet was safer than the bars where bottles of champagne were ordered by the dozen and the pictures in the art galleries looked very different after all these late nights.

It was a brief but eventful visit to a country which deserves better than the hard times it is going through now. Long may they prosper.



Four generations of one family
 Great Grandmother - Kay Moloney, Croagh
 Grandmother - Margaret Molloy, Manchester
 Daughter - Tina Cox (nee Molloy)
 Grand Grandson - Christy Cox

PEOPLE

By Lorraine Markham,
 Rathkeale Secondary School. Age 14.

Some people fear not of financial distribution
 Others try to rid the world of toxic air pollution
 Nothing in the world could make a man of God
 cease love
 Others can't permit themselves to turn to God
 above.

Some people are lonely and need advice
 Others just need some friends
 But with those in Africa and Ethiopia
 Starvation never ends.

People who are cruel and heartless
 And care but for number one
 Time for them to see the light
 Stand back let in the sun.

People who are senile
 Or are on the brink of death
 All are welcome in the house
 Of 'life with no regret'.

Crucifixion doesn't call
 For the colour of one's skin
 Or for a person's religion
 Or for their next of kin.

Some people think that they're successful
 With every prospect sighted
 If others had but half their share
 I'm sure they'd be delighted.

People have their different views
 Opinions from their minds
 The world today will benefit
 Because it takes all kinds.

These here lines may not be true
 But can be changed by me and you

Stop the wars and violence
 Let the killing cease
 People may be different but
 We can all live in peace.



USEFUL INFORMATION

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

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union:

Monday: 2-4 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Library Opening Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday: 10.00-12.30; 5.00-8.00 p.m.

Thursday: 10.00-5.00 p.m.; Friday: 5.00-8.00 p.m.

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle. Wednesday - Calf & Pig.

Post Office:

Monday-Saturday 9.30-5.30 p.m.

Thursday 9.30-1.30 p.m.

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 Monday 8.30 p.m. Secretary: Brid Guinane

Boxing Club: Secretary - John Jones

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: Ml. Kerins. Tel. 64622.

Bridge Club: Mrs. Phil Ruttle. Every Tuesday.

G.A.A.: Ml. Hanley, Hon. Secretary.

Soccer: Juvenile - Sean Harnett

Abrahams Golf Society:

N. Harnett, Hon. Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursdays. Youth Centre.

Community Hall: Tel. 64908

(ANYONE WHO WISHES TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR)

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