

DEEL VIEWS



 Muintir na Tire

Christmas 1992

Price 50p



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EDITORIAL

Once more our community has suffered a major loss. This time through the actions of the County Registrar in transferring the official Election count from Rathkeale to Adare.

Apart from a period of a few years when the old courthouse was unavailable, this important event has taken place in the town since the beginning of the century. It has been an important feature of the locality at election time and brought a much needed stimulus to the business and even the social life of the community.

The removal of the 'count' follows on the losses in recent years of the E.S.B. office, the Carnegie Hall, the railway line etc. and tends to reinforce the strongly held view that Rathkeale is fairly low down in the priority lists of many public bodies.

What are we to expect next? Rumour has it the Mart is in danger, resulting from some new E.C. directive. Will the proposed Community School be moved to Askeaton? The cry must be raised "so far and no further". All public bodies must be pressurised much more vehemently and persuaded that we in Rathkeale will no longer accept the continuing erosion of the community infrastructure.

The Community Council and Chamber of Commerce must be congratulated on their efforts to rectify the most recent wrong and these bodies should be supported in every way if and when a similar situation were to arise in the future.



"Sounds of Other Days" Jack Hayes Ensemble

From Left: Jim McGrane, Jack Hayes, Tommy Morrissey, P.J. Madigan, Jim Hayes & Paddy Benson

SEWERAGE SCHEME

P. Geoghegan



ALIENS INVADE RATHKEALE !

Rathkeale's much needed new sewerage scheme is now at an advanced stage. Pipe-laying commenced in early August in the Main Street. Section 1 from the Deel Bridge to New Line corner got off to a slow start for various reasons. Progress was very slow due to exceptionally hard rock, especially around Rathkeale House Hotel. This section was 3 to 4 metres deep. Large manholes had to be installed at the New Line junction for connecting the sewer line to the Ballywilliam area. In the early stages it was decided by the Limerick County Council to replace the existing water-main. Telecom Eireann and the E.S.B. have decided to lay underground ducts to take all overhead cables in the Main Street.

Section 2 from New Line corner to Thomas Street corner commenced mid-September. Progress was reasonably good. The storm and foul pipes were again laid in this section. Section 3 from Thomas Street corner to Roches Road com-

menced mid-October. This section to the Fire Station, storm water pipe only to be laid as the foul pipes are adequate. Extra machinery was brought in by the contractor to speed up completion of the job and they started from the New Line corner towards Danahers Cross. Progress in this section is excellent. A number of extensions to the sewerage are requested and a survey has been carried out by the consulting engineers and a report sent to Limerick County Council. To date there has been no reply.

As each section is completed the road is tarred and chipped and all damaged footpaths repaired. It is envisaged that Rathkeale will get all new footpaths in due course as existing footpaths are in a dilapidated state. Overall progress has gone very well and work is now three to four weeks ahead of schedule.

Regular meetings with the contractor, the consulting engineers and town representatives are held every month to deal with progress and any



problems that arise. Representing the Chamber of Commerce at these meetings have been John Dinnage, Pa Sheehan, Paddy Geoghegan and Sean Hennessy. On behalf of the Community Council Michael Brosnan has been present. Mr. T. Cliffe has represented the contractor, Pat Mulcaire. The consultant engineer on the scheme is Mr. C. O'Sullivan of Cork and his staff on site include P. Sheppard, R. Trotter and Ms. M. Attridge.

To conclude I would like to pay tribute to the engineers, Mr. T. Cliffe and his team of workers for their co-operation and dedication at all times as it is a very trying time for all the people of Rathkeale and surrounding district, including employers and employees.

Hopefully, by mid-1993 there will be a new asphalt finished surface in Rathkeale town.



ALIENS INVADE RATHKEALE !

ABRAHAMS GOLFING SOCIETY

Except for the Christmas outing to Newcastle-West Golf Club on December 12th, our year has now ended. It has been most successful and the prizes have been well distributed. The final outing will be a team event and also a "bring and win" occasion. Presentation Social will take place in Rathkeale House Hotel.

Results from recent competitions:

DROMOLAND -

President's (Con Noonan) Prize

Men	Ladies
1. Jack O'Dwyer	1. Marjorie O'Connell
2. John O'Connor	2. Mary Hennessy
3. Ml. Hennessy	3. Bríd Larkin
4. Vincent O'Kelly	

ADARE MANOR -

Captain's (Irene Donovan) Prize

1. Billy Neville	1. Monnie Wilmott
2. Declan Mooney	2. Laura Keating
3. Patsy O'Sullivan	3. Mary Hennessy
4. Neally Duggan	4. Eithne Neville
5. Billy O'Sullivan	
6. Pat Neville	

BALLYBUNION -

Sponsored by M. & M. Hennessy, M.P.S.I.

1. Maurice Noonan	1. Eileen Noonan
2. Jack O'Dwyer	2. Chris O'Connor
3. Ml. Cregan	3. Laura Keating
4. Neally Duggan	4. Monnie Wilmott
5. John O'Connor	

ARGENTINA

By Billy Fitzgibbon

On the map it seemed very far away: my finger traced a line from Spain, off the West Coast of Africa, across the South Atlantic and down towards the end of the Continent before it reached Buenos Aires. Days later, and after a 17-hour flight, I found myself for the first time in the southern hemisphere. I had no other ambition than to go south and to see some of this vast country, one third the size of Europe, more than 2000 miles long and 900 miles wide in places.

I had come from a European Autumn to a warm Spring. This is a city built on a grid pattern like New York, large squares linked by wide streets its only resemblance to Paris. At times it was difficult to remember one was in South America; the faces of the people were no darker than at home, the films on Lavallo were the same as those playing in London and Dublin. The record shops blared out the pop music. I spotted people with cellular 'phones in the more expensive cafes. However, a huge demonstration outside Congress by old age pensioners who could not live on their small pensions reminded me that this was not Europe. The police looked menacing and there was considerable passion in the crowd who shouted insults at the politicians hiding inside.

This country has had a troubled history: spend-thrift and corrupt governments were succeeded by brutal dictatorships. During the time of the last military junta 30,000 people "disappeared". I was told that wages averaged \$300 per month and prices are not particularly low.

But there is more to Argentina than Buenos Aires and I left on a night train for Patagonia and the south. In the early morning I had seen the lush grass of the Pampas and the huge herds of cattle which provide the best beef I had ever eaten. Bahia Blanca looked cold, wet and uninviting and

I crossed the track to take another train, not knowing how long it would take or where exactly my ultimate destination would be. The train had seen better days, but through the shattered windows of the dining car I could see a different landscape, the beginning of the bleak desert-like setting of Patagonia, a vast, windy tree-less expanse of low rainfall and sparse population (the whole country has 32.8 million people, but Patagonia with an area ten times greater than Ireland has a population of only 600,000).

The train halted before crossing the Rio Negro, the outer edge of this area, I got off the train at Viedma and straight away regretted it. Only one train a week passed through here and I was the only one who got off. Viedma had once been named as the site of the new Federal capital but nothing had been done since and it could boast pot-holes in its roads which any County Council would be proud of. It still retained a frontier appearance and I half expected Butch Cassidy to come around the corner in one of countless pick-up trucks which were the principal mode of transport. I soon tired of the town's limited entertainments, of the cold breeze which seemed to blow all the way up from the Antarctic, the dust and the mud.

Throughout my journey my few hundred words of Spanish were indispensable as English was not spoken: Argentina gets relatively few tourists from our part of the world. Using this limited Spanish at 8 o'clock the following night I bought a ticket on a bus line aptly called "El Pronto". With a name like that it had to be half an hour late and for the next few hours I was alternately roasted by the heat, deafened by the noise of the driver's music, crushed by crowds, and thrown about every time we hit a bump on the steadily worsening road. At various odd hours of the night

we stopped in places which looked like they had been built the year before - a few concrete corrugated iron shacks, a stretch of footpath and a street lamp.

I survived until dawn and quickly understood the source of the bumps and screeching of brakes. There was virtually no roads but a gravel track which occasionally deteriorated to mud. Every so often the driver would stop the bus and hit the tyres with a hammer to establish that we could go on. This was indeed the desert, bleak, windswept, dusty and dry, nothing growing save cactus, an occasional little settlement and, for most of this 17-hour journey, we met only a few cars.

We reached Bariloche at 4 o'clock the following day. It had proper tarred roads, 70,000 people, restaurants and with its nearby ski-resorts and lakeside setting could have been an Austrian winter resort. It was a cosmopolitan place with a lot of Irish names, a reminder that Argentina was a popular place to emigrate to in the 19th century. A travel agent volunteered that he was of Irish stock and it was a slight shock to see signs in Spanish from an Argentinian estate agent called Thomas Shanahan. This was southern Argentina and no welcoming lights glistened across the water. It was the end of winter, the skiing was almost finished but a heavy fall of snow transformed the city and it almost seemed like Christmas in September.

Every journey was lengthy, the smallest the same distance as from Paris to Madrid. My journey north was on a better road; the highest mountains in South America on one side, on the other canyons and gulches which would not disgrace an old cowboy movie. A reminder of the older way of life was the sight of a lone horseman on a hill - a wide brimmed hat and leather waistcoat and leggings made him a perfect model for the Gauchos who rode the Pampas in the old days.

I reached Mendoza, centre of the country's wine

industry. Another city, another setting and now I could discard the heavy jumpers and gloves which kept me warm in Patagonia. This was a real warm Spring, hotter than an Irish Summer, in a city where I could enjoy breakfasting in the pavement cafes and sampling the excellent local wine in the evenings. Santiago de Chile was only six hours away but I had no time to travel further. This was a relaxed place with a southern European feel to it. The city closed for the siesta between 12.30 and 3.30, but shops stayed open late and those coming from work gathered to talk or drink coffee in the main squares.

I was now very short of time and flew back to Buenos Aires, over the Northern Desert, San Juan and Cordoba. It was the weekend and a few late nights reminded me that this is a New World town which does not sleep - returning home at four in the morning, restaurants and bars were still open, you could buy a book or go to a dance or a film. I had seen only a little of this vast country, travelled a finger length on the map and had memories of the extraordinarily varied landscape I had passed through.

RATHKEALE GOING STRONG CLUB

This club is in existence for about twelve years, running a get together at the end of each month which consists of tea and sandwiches, music and dancing in St. Mary's Youth Centre from 3 to 6 o'clock. A bus is also provided for anyone wishing to avail of it. A Christmas dinner is also given.

The committee comprises: Jerry Enright, President; Lilian O'Connor, Chairperson; Annette Hogan, Secretary; M. Dowling, Treasurer.

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHURCH CLOCK

The Council has undertaken, as a major project, the restoration of the clock and the steeple of the Catholic Church. A detailed examination was carried out recently by an expert in clocks and their workings and a scheme of repair and refurbishment has been proposed as follows:

Installation of a micro-processor control panel which will provide minute pulses to the three faces and will give hour and half hour striking on a new magnetic bell hammer. The striking can be programmed for night silence and also to ring the Angelus. The faces of the clock will be illuminated at night.

This will be a big undertaking but should, when completed, significantly add to the already fine impact that the view of the Church makes on the community. This is especially the case from the new road and also at night time when the flood lighting is turned on.

The total cost will be of the order of £4,000 and a subscription fund has been opened by the Community Council.

BY-PASS ROAD

The County Council, their engineers and all the contractors concerned must be congratulated on the expeditious completion and opening of the new By-Pass road. It is proving a major facility for all the through traffic, particularly the heavy freight lorries.

The road also contributes in another way in opening up some interesting views of the town and surroundings - not all of them to their advantage unfortunately. In this context it should stimulate interesting discussion on town improvements in the vicinity of the road and this will arise

particularly in the case of rear views of housing estates.

Much work remains to be done on the By-Pass and especially in regard to lighting and road signs. The major junctions, both to north and south, need considerable improvement as regards definition and certainly need to be extensively lighted. It is often all too easy to overshoot the exit points from the main road. Likewise, when entering the new road, particularly in the Holy Cross area, the absence of proper lighting and markings poses a serious hazard.

500 CLUB WINNERS

Draw for fully paid-up members

£200 *Pat Ahern, Bank of Ireland*

£100 *Mrs. O'Connor, Duxtown*

£50 *Gerard O'Connor, Askeaton*

Week 1

£200 *Joe Downes, Newcastle West*

£100 *Blaine Woulfe, Castlematrix*

£100 *Kay Mullane, Ardagh*

£50 *Dan Hourigan, Ballywilliam*

Week 2

£200 *Bernie McEnery, Moanwing*

£100 *Denis Kenneally, c/o P.B.R.*

£100 *Michael Keenihan, St. Mary's Park*

£50 *Kathleen Lawlor, St. Mary's Park*

Week 3

£200 *Sean O'Grady, Dohile*

£100 *Patsy McCann, Church Street*

£100 *Eithne Neville, Abbeyview*

£50 *Mick Daly, Riddlestown*

Week 4

£200 *Nellie Geaney, Rathkeale*

£100 *Peggy Devaney, Croom*

£100 *Maisie Geaney, Killaheen*

£50 *Mrs. D'Alton, Duxtown*

FROM RECENT MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Outline plans have now been drawn up for the Voluntary Housing Scheme and have been sent to Limerick County Council for planning permission. It is important to proceed quickly with this proposal in order to avail of the present E.C. funding. A company will have to be formed locally.

The possibility of setting up a town twinning - maybe in the Palatinate area of Germany - is being investigated.

Contractors have been approached with a view to erecting a floodlighting system at the Abbey. This would be a very attractive addition to the building and would also hopefully help to deter some of the vandalism that is occurring in the vicinity.

Under the auspices of the West Limerick Resource Group, a seminar was held recently in Newcastle West on "Job Creation and Rural Development". All the speakers urged the group to go ahead and form itself into a legal entity which will enable it to apply for the next round of 'Leader' funding from the E.C. Projects which have been identified as suitable for such funding include aspects of the Mulcahy Study of the town;

Doohyle Lough; Palatine Centre or any business project. Job creation would have to be central to any 'Leader' funding.

There has so far been a poor response to the '500 Club' and the Council's finances are having to be carefully monitored. The Bingo needs more support and the Card Game has now restarted for the winter months. Support would be welcome, especially locally, for these ventures on Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Community Hall.

The Sports Complex is working well at the moment and the opening hours have been revised. Considerable improvements have been effected under the FAS Scheme. This team is also undertaking work on the three schools and the Community Hall.

The Meals-on-Wheels committee thanked the Festival Committee for the proceeds of this year's event and the money has gone towards the purchase of new kitchen equipment. Upwards of twenty people are now receiving hot meals twice each week. The areas include Ballyallinan, Croagh, Newbridge and extra help is always welcome.

A DAY OFF

So you want the day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break, that accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 48 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leave you only 20 days available for work. We offer 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year which leaves you only 1 day available for work and I'll be damned if you're going to take that day off!!

FROM AN IRISH-AMERICAN MAGAZINE 1992

Recent Irish Immigrants to the D.C. area

The reasons for Irish immigration to the United States have changed only slightly over the years. Famine and British rule over the Republic of Ireland are no longer the primary reasons for Irish youth to leave their homeland. As in bygone days, the search for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow still calls many young, talented, and highly motivated Irish men and women to leave heartbroken parents and a familiar culture and seek their fortune on the 'Shores of Amerikay', as the song goes.

Despite these immigrants' best efforts, the job market in Ireland is quite limited. Thus, as in earlier generations, leaving Ireland to make a life elsewhere has become an accepted part of life for the youth of Ireland.

Because of these conditions in Ireland, the Washington, D.C. area has been blessed with a great new influx of young Irish immigrants during the past ten to fifteen years. They have distinguished themselves in many local Irish and non-Irish activities and professions. This article highlights one of these recent Irish immigrants.

Aine O'Dwyer is a native of Rathkeale, County Limerick, in the west of Ireland. Although well educated in Ireland - she received a business degree from Limerick University - seeking better job opportunities in the United States was her goal for a long time. She got her first taste of the United States when she did an internship here during her college years. After returning to Ireland and completing her degree, she moved back to the United States at age 23, because it seemed like the "way to go" for so many people she knew. She arrived here in January 1989, after obtaining a Donnelly Visa and receiving assistance from an uncle in getting settled.

Aine left her parents, four brothers and a sister behind in Ireland. Three older siblings had already left Ireland. Although she feels

"at home" in the United States and believes that "home is the place you want it to be", she still misses the opportunity to experience Irish culture on a day-to-day basis. She notes in particular the ability of the Irish to interact with each other in a subtly sarcastic, but witty and friendly way. Some she has met here are not as quick-witted.

Aine attributes her feeling of being "at home" in the United States to the tremendous support, both emotional and otherwise, extended to new Irish immigrants by the many Irish organizations and Irish pubs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. She has also enjoyed the great diversity of social activities generally available in the United States, in comparison to the more limited variety in Ireland, and has made many American friends. Having become part of the culture here, she believes that it would be hard to live in Ireland again.

Aine's experience working in the United States has been that people here are rewarded for hard work and that it is relatively easy to get a new or second job. In contrast, people in Ireland feel lucky to have even one job and are reluctant to risk losing work altogether by leaving a job to seek new work that might be better. On the down side, although Aine believes that the work ethic is good in the United States, she notes that U.S. workers get very little vacation time in comparison to their counterparts in Ireland and other parts of Europe.

Although Aine currently works as a marketing manager for a publishing company, she is perhaps best known in this area for her acting skills. A regular in the cast of the annual play sponsored by the Washington Gaels, Aine had the lead role of 'Nora' in this year's production of "The Plough and the Stars" by Sean O'Casey. We can look forward to more of her outstanding theatrical performances

THE OLD TOWN

By Desmond Shier (From "Deel Views" - Christmas 1982)

Some months ago, in a moment of weakness, I promised Peter Donovan an article for the Christmas number of DEEL VIEWS and, as I can remember Rathkeale over sixty years ago, I thought it would be a good idea to record some of my early memories.

I was born in Ballingrane about three miles from Rathkeale in July 1914. The family made regular trips to Rathkeale and, as I got a little older, I found out that there was a Great War on. I can well remember the Black and Tans and the burning of Rathkeale Workhouse and the Courthouse as the Army Headquarters. We used to pass the Courthouse on our way home and the whole road was covered with barbed wire, sand bags, all over the place. On top of the Courthouse steps there was a very large sentry box.

At the age of about seven I used to stay at my grandmother's Mrs. Kirby and my aunt Lily Kirby at Cross Lane, the shortest street in the town. At that time, Dinny Daly used to supply fresh water from Well Lane pumps, he used to sell the buckets of water to most of the town. In those days there was no water supply except the pumps at Well Lane, a pump at Church Street and a pump at Abbeylands. The streets of the town were just ordinary dirt roads, the holes repaired with loads of stones.

Well Lane sixty years ago was a hive of industry. Joe Thornton had a large tailoring business. The Roche family had a butcher stall and Jack Foley had a large drapery shop. Mike Kane operated a forge next to the People's Bakery who then had their bakery on the side of the street. In later years they moved it back and built the present shop and offices. As a little boy I remember taking breakfast to Charlie Mulcahy, the baker, he used to lodge at my grandmother's. I thought the smell of the fresh bread was wonderful and my reward was a hot crust from the end of the batch.

Across the road, John and Patsy Fennell operated another forge. Rathkeale was a great forge town. Thomas Fennell had a forge at Abbeylands, Frank Fitzgerald had a forge near Patsy Scanlan's at Lower Main Street. As far as I can remember it was to Frank Fitzgerald that the late Willie

Dunne first came to work in Rathkeale. Then over the bridge, the Quinn family had yet another forge.

To come back to Well Lane, a short distance down lived one of the most important men in town - Jim O'Neill, the town carrier. He kept the town supplied with all the goods for the shops. He made regular trips to Limerick City in all weathers on his large horse drawn cart. He had a very large creel on top and it was always full. He had two sons, Danny and Desmond, who both emigrated to the U.S.A. Next there were three pubs, Tom Costelloe and Michael Hennessy on one side and Soda Hennessy's family on the other side. Tim Kirby had his shoe repair shop, and I think that was a large amount of business for a small part of the town.

In the mid-twenties my father had a serious illness and we had to sell out in Ballingrane and come to live in Rathkeale. First we lived in part of Paddy Mulcair's house in the Square, next we moved to part of Ward's house in the Square, finally we moved to Thomas Street where the family is still there today.

There was no E.S.B. The town got its electricity supply from the power house over the bridge (now the Deel Hall). The power house was in the charge of Bernard Tansey, Jimmie Hassett and Michael Joe Guinane and I am sure that Mick Russell of Church Street claims a part in keeping it going. The sound of the two large engines could be heard all over the town.

Coming on to the late twenties life seemed to settle down to a more relaxed way of life. There was no television, a very odd radio and most families made their own enjoyment. There was a great family spirit in the town. From very early Spring to the end of September, most of the people used to go for walks in the evening, out beyond the Five Cross Roads. Looking back now, I can still see the beautiful countryside, everything so green and alive, it was a wonderful sight. The courting couples used to use the Ballingarry Road up to Danagher's Cross and the Bog Road. Does anyone now venture as far as the Dark Road?

In these years we had a big number of large families in the town. Looking back now I can see the wonderful people our parents were, they lived for their homes and their families. Our mothers could make an excellent meal out of nothing. There is only one way to describe them - they were the salt of the earth.

In the early thirties we had three great social events in the town. The annual visit of the famous John Duffy Circus to Neville's field at Abbeylands. They used to hold two shows and have a big parade through the town. Next we used to have the Annual Hunt Ball and then best of all, the Grand Annual always held on a Saturday night. All dances were held in the local Library and we danced till early morning.

Rathkeale was always a great town for pubs and fairs, we used to have thirty seven pubs and the cattle and horse fairs were famous in the South of Ireland. The local railway played a very large part in the life of the town, eight to ten trains to and from Limerick each day. We did not get the first bus until the late twenties.

We had two bakeries in the town - the People's Bakery, then owned by the Fitzgibbon family and later taken over by Mr. Binchy, and Finn's Bakery where Sean Hayes had his Post Office. This bakery was moved to the back of Miss Histon's (Mrs. Finn's sister). Later this house was the home of the Finn family. The People's Bakery had no shop in the Main Street. When May Kennedy died, her shop was closed for a long number of years. The People's Bakery bought it and changed it to the beautiful shop it still is today.

We had two chemists in the town, Whelan's, later John Wall's, and Paddy Hickey's, now Donovan's. When Paddy Hickey died suddenly it shocked the town. The shop was taken over by the late Dan Donovan. In those days, Dan D. as he was known all over the town was a real fashion plate, always with his bowler hat and beautiful suits and striped trousers. His shop became famous for his great sale each year. If you bought any Rexall product, you got one free. That was a great breakthrough in those days, today we take it for granted.

Another big change in the town in those days, there used to be a hardware shop next to Sheahan's butchers stall owned by Brennan

Brothers. They bought the Ambrose Hotel in the Square and opened up with a big splash - hotel, bar, hardware shop, timber store. They kept a great stock of everything and were there for years. Then it was sold to Joe Healy who kept the bar going and opened a large garage.

There were two large poultry and egg stores - Joe White, next to Martin Culhane's corner pub, and Stephen Power and Jimmie McMahon, with the help of Timmie Neville, had a large store where the fire station stands today.

We had at that time a great saint in Rathkeale. I refer, of course, to the late Right Rev. Monsignor Michael O'Donnell, P.P., V.G., Dean of the Diocese. He was the shining light of the streets of Rathkeale for over 36 years. He guided both young and old in all walks of life. He was a great man for the poor. They were always on his doorstep and nobody came away empty handed. He died at his home after a very long illness and, like so many great men, he died a poor man. That is, poor in the goods of the world, but he did not die poor in the eyes of his Master. Some of the people of the town believe that he still helps Rathkeale from his Heavenly home.

Well, dear friends, these are a few of my memories of a wonderful old town. I hope that the people that live there today know how lucky they are in having such wonderful people to look after their welfare. I refer, of course, to the Community Council. The excellent job they have done with the Courthouse, with facilities for young and old to enjoy themselves, which will be there long after we have all passed on.

I understand there are other improvements on the way. What a change from the Rathkeale we used to know. You have an excellent cattle mart in the New Line, a fine swimming pool and lots of beautiful new houses. I am delighted to see that a large number of the old buildings still stand as they were sixty five years ago.

We have not been to Rathkeale for the past eight years. We made our permanent home here in one of the most beautiful parts of Surrey. We have the River Thames on one side and Richmond Park on the other side. We hope to visit Rathkeale in the not too distant future, please God, we still love the old place. Our nearest and dearest are laid to rest there and we look forward very much to seeing you all soon.



IRISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

A two-man truck driving team from the Irish Red Cross left Ireland on Tuesday, 27th October to work in the transport of goods with the Red Cross in the former Yugoslavia.

Cornelius Mulvaney (42), from Old Bawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 and Martin Vaughan (40), from John's Gate Village, Limerick travelled to Brussels on Tuesday, 27th October. From there, they will drive their first supply trucks for the Red Cross to Zagreb on the following day. Both men will work with the Red Cross in the former Yugoslavia for an initial three months.

The ICRC are carrying out humanitarian work in Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The Red Cross primary concern is to provide humanitarian care for all victims of the Yugoslavian conflict.

Since June 1992, the Red Cross has been helping victims of the conflict in many different ways. Tracing, providing aid and protection, registering and visiting prisoners are priorities in their aid operation in all six republics.

The Red Cross has initiated a winter programme for the former Yugoslavia. The demand for humanitarian assistance will increase in the bad weather conditions expected and, therefore, the distribution of relief supplies will be made even more difficult by snow and ice.

For those most in need there will be 420,000 family parcels and 100,000 tonnes of food rations distributed. In addition to food supplies, warm clothing and about one million blankets and 10,000 small heaters will be provided to protect people from the worst effects of the winter months.

RATHKEALE BRASS BAND

Rathkeale Brass Band is very much on the move these days. One of its biggest moves in years is about to take place in March 1993. The musicians, with families and supporters, are due to set out for the bright lights of London in March next.

On 13th March they will take part in a concert in London especially for Rathkeale emigrants in Britain. On Sunday, 14th March they will march from Horse Guards Parade to Westminster Cathedral for Mass. On Sunday night a concert will take place under the auspices of the Limerickmen's Association. The group will return home early on Tuesday, 16th March.

During the stay in London a number of sightseeing tours are being organized, especially for the junior members viz. Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Madame Tussaud's etc.

Meanwhile, a fundraising campaign is under way, part of which is the production of a very fine calendar now on sale for £2. The committee wish to thank all the sponsors of this venture - the response has exceeded all expectations. Thanks are also expressed to the Parents Committee for encouragement and help throughout the year.

The band is presently in rehearsal for the festive season and is looking forward to the great adventure in the Spring.

BATS AND BRIDGES

Contrary to public belief, bats are furry, intelligent, social creatures. Bats are not blind and do not become entangled in people's hair. They have a complex life cycle and are particular in their roosting requirements, using a variety of sites throughout the summer and winter.

There are seven species of bat in Ireland which constitute just over one quarter of all our land mammals. Five of the seven species have been found under bridges. Due to the decline in bat numbers, all seven species of bat are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976.

The greatest threat to bats in bridges appears to be the danger of encasement and exclusion during bridge repairs. As bats have been observed in bridges at all time of the year, including single bats in winter, there is no safe period for maintenance work.

The practice of pumping liquid cement under pressure into the crevices in the stonework of bridges entombs bats and renders the site unsuitable for future use. It is extremely damaging to bats and large numbers must be killed as a result. Many of the older bridges were built in the last century to take pedestrian and equestrian traffic and are now being replaced by concrete or steel bridges, with the subsequent loss of suitable roost sites for bats.

This habit of roosting almost exclusively under bridges sets the Daubenton or water bat apart from the other four species which occur only occasionally under bridges. Although the figure of two hundred roosts might lead to the assumption that this species is abundant, most of the roosts contained less than five bats.

The main reason why most roosts are so small (bats can form some of the largest known collections of mammals) is that the cracks and crevices under bridges, which are the most favoured roosting sites, are small and cannot accommodate large groups of bats.

The most important feature that makes a bridge

suitable for bats is the presence of a secure roosting site in the form of a deep crevice, generally in the roof of the bridge. For this reason, stone bridges are the most suitable while those built of concrete and steel are unsuitable.

Although most Daubenton bats use bridges that span running water, dry arches with suitable cracks are also used. Surveys indicate that bridges with suitable roost sites but showing no apparent use by bats are few, but tend to be over rivers that lack trees and shrubs. These bridges are usually in flat areas with meadow or pasture land on each bank and the water is generally slow flowing and turbid.

In those parts of the country where detailed survey work has been conducted, for example, Cork, Waterford and Offaly, local authorities are aware of the importance of bridges to bats and consult their local wildlife officials before undertaking any repair work. This practice needs to be extended throughout the country.

The 1976 Wildlife Act states that it is not an offence for a person involved in road construction, building operation or work of engineering construction, to kill or injure bats or to destroy or injure the breeding place of bats.

RATHKEALE RATHKEALE
SUPER SUNDAY

*****BINGO*****

SPECTACULAR

Sunday 20th December 1992

£1,000 in Prizes

Admission £4.00 & £6.00

Time: 3p.m.

*** SPOT PRIZES ***

Turkeys - Christmas Cakes

MONSTER RAFFLE

for £100 Hamper

FROM "THE FIELD NAME BOOK OF LIMERICK"

Placenames as explained by John O'Donovan with the landholders or owners in 1839.

ABBAYLAND - 105 acres. George Lake.

ARDNANEAN - "Height of the birds". 115 acres.

Lord Southwell.

ARDBOHILL - "Boys Hill". W. Butler, under Lord Southwell.

BLOSSOM HILL - Thos. Lloyd, under Lord Southwell.

BALLYWINTEROURKE - "O'Rourke's Town". Julius Delmege.

BALLYWILIAM NORTH - John Pigott.

BALLYWILLIAM SOUTH - David Ferguson.

BALLYWILLIAM DEMESNE - George Maunsell.

BALLYEA - "O'Hea's Town". Colonel White.

BALLYEAWOOD - John Mahony, Limerick

BEALDUVROGA - "Mouth of stream". John Odell.

BALLYNAMUCKEE - "Of the swine herds". Richard Croker.

BEECHMOUNT - Thos. Lloyd.

CURRAGHNADEELY - "Moor of the Deel". A small farm in Cloghatrida containing a lead mine. John S. Brown.

DROMARDE - "High Ridge". John S. Brown.

MOANWING - "Marsh". Colonel White.

PARKLEWIS - Rev. C. Smith.

RATHNASARE - Ed. Tierney, Dublin.

RATHKEALE - John Hewson, Abbey. Wm. Browne, Wilton. John Studdart, Elm Hill. John Pigott.

RYLANES - Major Odell.

STONEVILLE - J. F. Massey.

WOLFESBURGESS E. - Maurice and Jas. Studdart.

WOLFESBURGESS W. - John Pigott.

CASTLEMATRIX (inc. Mill) - John S. Brown.

MOUNTBROWN - John Walker.

COURT LODGE - Tobias Delmege.

BROWNVILLE - Pierce Brown.

ORMOND SCHOOL in Ardbohill established in 1825 by Lady Ormond.

WILTON HOUSE - William Browne.

DANESFORT - Henry Brown.

BALLYWILLIAM HOUSE - G. M. Maunsell.

BALLYWILLIAM GLEBE HOUSE - Archdeacon Warburton.

SPRINGMOUNT HOUSE - William Browne.

GROVE HOUSE - Major Odell.

FORTWILLIAM HOUSE - A herdsman.

ENNISCOUCH HOUSE - John Hewson.

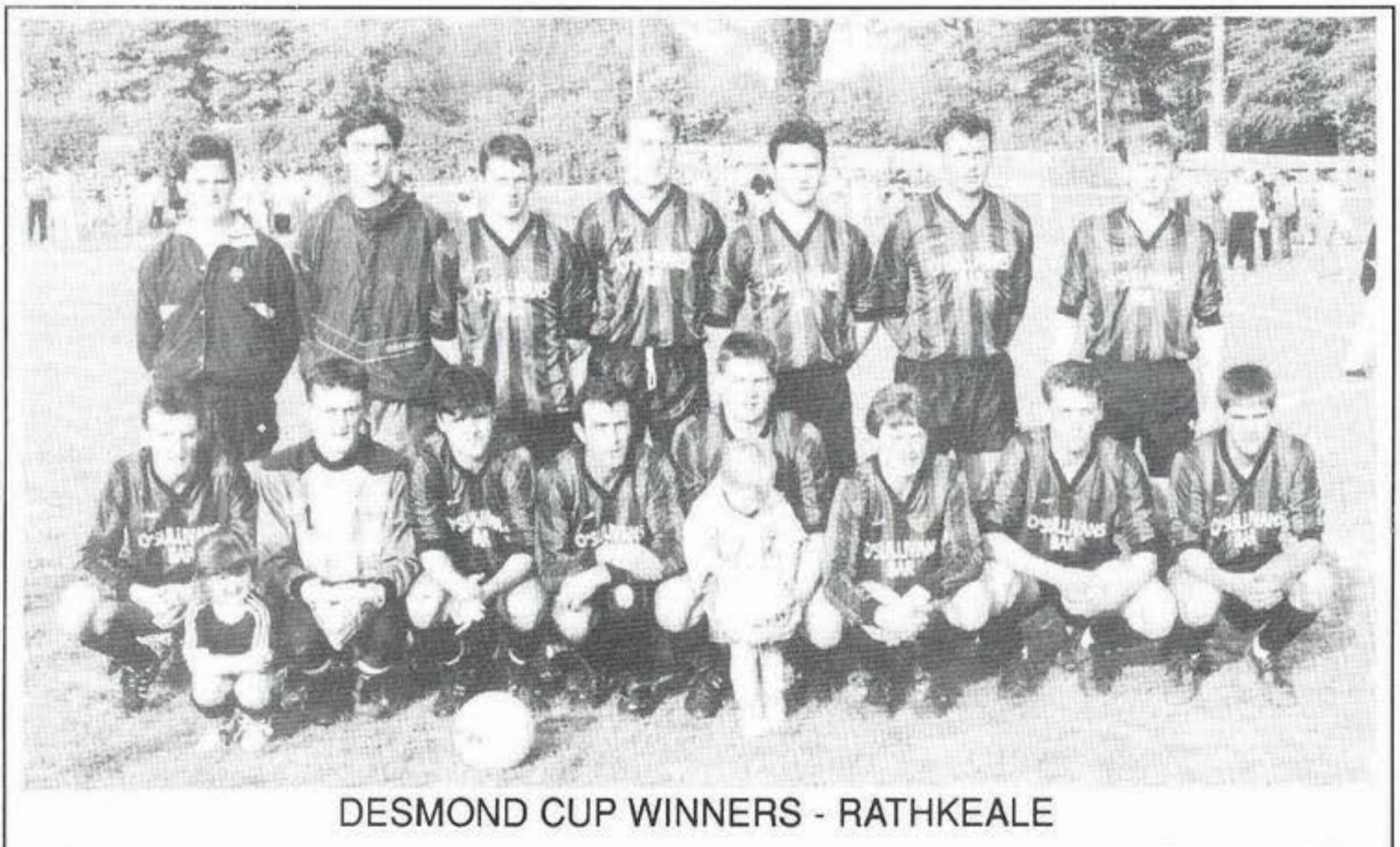
MOUNT SOUTHWELL - Francis Brown.

DUCKSTOWN - O'Donovan's translation "Baile na lathach" - town of puddles. Owned by Colonel White.

GRAIGUE - a village. Ed. Tierney, Dublin.

KYLETAUN - "Little wood". J. Studdart.

KNOCKAVANA - "Hill of the dog". J. Studdart.



DESMOND CUP WINNERS - RATHKEALE

FROM "LIMERICK EVENING POST" August 1813.

Submitted by Pat Coleman.

Irish Hurlers - Monday, the fineness of the day attracted a vast concourse of people to Kennington Common, London to witness a hurling match between the provinces of Leinster and Munster. The engagement was entered into between two gentlemen of the respective provinces who each at the head of their own party entered the Common about four o'clock when fourteen stout young Hibernians were selected on each side; the Leinster were distinguished by red caps and the Munster by blue. At half past four the ball was thrown up, and the play commenced, the stewards being mounted and keeping the ground clear.

The agility displayed in striking the ball with the hurley without ever taking it in hand - so different from the game of cricket - was much admired by the English part of the spectators and, though there were several falls from the jostling that is allowed in this game, we are happy to say there was no accident. After an hour and a half's handsome play, the Munster party were fairly goaled, which was celebrated by the victors with cheering. The Leinster gentlemen entertained their hurlers with a good dinner, plenty of good liquor and music at the Horns Tavern, while the Munster gentlemen entertained their party, in a similar way at the other house".

SOME COMMENTS

I must say I was somewhat taken aback when I came across this account. While I know hurling is an old and established part of our culture, I would not have envisaged it being played in London so long ago.

Some points in the report are of interest. The fact that the organisation of the game is attributed to 'gentlemen' from the two provinces is of particular significance. I am aware that 18th century records suggest that in places like South Tipperary, East Limerick, East Cork and Kilkenny among others, landlords kept teams of hurlers. These men would have been kept in the landlord's pay and would have played against teams fielded by

rival landlords. Frequently, no doubt, a little (or indeed, large) wager would also be involved. Given that both teams were wined and dined to the sound of good music at local taverns after the match, the gentlemen on this occasion would appear to have been of substantial means. One final point about the presence of gentlemen is the fact that both teams are of fourteen men. It is unclear if these were the agreed rules or whether the gentleman functioned as a non-playing captain.

Speaking of the rules, we get some interesting insights here of those that applied. The game seems to have been very much a ground rules game, as the report indicates that hands were never used. The length of time of the game seems to be flexible, depending as it does on a team being 'goaled'. This implies to me that the game may well have been played over a much larger area than the modern game and that the first team to score a goal were, in fact, the winners. Despite the length of time it appears to take for that goal to materialise in this game, I would also have a suspicion that all the players were outfield players. The reference to 'jostling' and 'falls' indicates a pretty rough and tumble sport.

One will occasionally come across references in old police records from the early 19th century of massive fights erupting at some of these games in Co. Limerick. However, their comparative rarity indicates that overall, the players and crowds during this period were reasonably well disciplined. Interestingly there is no reference to a referee at the match. Possibly, the stewards filled that role as well as controlling the crowd. The only other point of significance to emerge from the report is the use of caps to distinguish the two teams.

If anyone could add any other information about the rules of the games, or accounts of it being played in unusual places, I would very much like to hear from them.

CONSUMER CURRENTS

From "Consumer Choice" Magazine

IRISH CHARITY CARDS

Many members have written to us complaining about Christmas cards being sent to them, unsolicited, from a charity in Cork. One answer - if you want to support a range of Irish charities - is Irish Charity Christmas cards. These cards are Irish-made and profits from sales go to eight leading charities. The cards come in packs of six with a choice of eight designs and are on sale in card shops and department stores. The price, at six for £1.99, could perhaps be more competitive. The charities included are:

* The Alzheimer Society of Ireland * The Arthritis Foundation * Central Remedial Clinic * Irish Wheelchair Association * Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland * National Association for the Deaf * Polio Fellowship of Ireland * Rehabilitation Institute.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Every Christmas "Consumer Choice" gives the same warnings and every January our Advice-Information Service is besieged with callers asking: "What can I do?". When shopping for Christmas, DON'T:

* Buy from a shop that has suddenly opened up for Christmas only. By January it will probably have closed down again.

* Buy from street traders - apart from harmless baubles or decorations.

* If you are buying a gift, tell the retailer at the time that you are assigning your Sale of Goods Acts rights to another person. Or, give a note with the gift formally giving your rights to the user. (Only the person who actually buys the goods has rights under the Acts). If the gift is an item of clothing and you are unsure of the fit, get agreement from the shop, in writing, that it can be changed after Christmas.

A lot of toys that need batteries don't come supplied with

them, so buy batteries at the same time to avoid disappointment on Christmas Day. When a toy needs to be assembled, do this ahead of time. Then you will know if the instructions can be followed or you can call in all the help you need to decipher them. If the toy is not up to standard, there will still be time to do something about it.

DRINKING AND CHRISTMAS DRIVING

It is a lot easier to go over the legal blood alcohol level of 100mg than most of us realise.

Blood alcohol level is measured in milligrammes per millilitre. A blood alcohol level of 50mg means that one litre of body fluid contains 0.5g of alcohol. When a 80kg man drinks two beers his level will be about 60mg. If a 55kg woman drinks the same two beers she will be over the limit, at 106mg. At a reading of 50mg to 80mg our judgement of distances is impaired, we cannot react as quickly and our concentration is not as sharp.

Apart from the damage we can do to others, for our own self-preservation it is safer not to drive after a drink. The penalty for a blood alcohol level over the limit is up to 6 months in jail or a fine of up to £1,100. At the time of going to press the limit was still 100mg, but legislation is before the Dáil to reduce this to 80mg.

Drinking on an empty stomach accelerates alcohol absorption. Drinking with a meal merely delays the process. Remember, too, that fatigue, stress, illness and medicines can intensify the action of alcohol.

Most of us assume that, even if we drink a little too much the night before, by the morning all will be fine. Not true. Take a person at a party who has four beers bringing their alcohol level to 200mg at midnight. It will be 8 p.m. the following evening before their system is clear of alcohol. At 7.30 a.m. the next morning, as they drive into work, they could still have a level of 130mg, well over the legal limit.



PILLARS OF THE CHURCH (Sometime in the 1920s)

Left to right: MI. Francis Hennessy, Tom Magner, Moss Fennell, MI. O'Donnell, Mossy Joe Roche, Bomby Roche, MI. Joe Guinane, Berty Murphy, Frank Kennedy, Christy O'Donnell, Gerard Guillinan, Patrick Guinane

COMMUNITY GAMES

Community Games usually begins for someone as their local sports day or local competitions. The joy of winning a medal makes them want to continue on and compete again. At county level, the chances of getting a medal are slimmer and if you don't get one, you'll want to come back again and have another go.

Sometime you might be lucky enough and win through to the National Finals in Mosney. This is always special to the individual as you get the chance of representing your county and also you get a weekend away from home!

Mosney itself is a great experience when it finally comes around after the long summer months of waiting are over. You hear the legendary rumours of the state of the food and how you'll never get any sleep. But you don't think of these when you are starving or when you are tired after a few days. The weekend seems to be over before it ever begins as one full day is taken up with competition and you spend the rest of the time trying to get to know the place.

Everybody has the same impressions of Mosney. The first one is that you can't understand people's accents and then other people actually say that Limerick people have an accent! You always meet so many new people in Mosney who never bring any great rivalry into the competitions. By the time you are just getting to know your way around and got to know some people, it's suddenly time to come home.

On the train home, you realise how tired you are and how hungry you are. Most importantly, you've realised that you've enjoyed yourself and you would just love to go back. You get a sense of the Community Games spirit which is about meeting new friends and enjoying yourself, leaving aside the rivalry and complications that can occur elsewhere. The saddest thing is when you are too old to compete and you wish that you could just start out again as a little under-8 competitor, hoping to get a medal in the local sports.

BAPTISMS

Seán Martin Sheahan
Anthony Kevin Supple
Brian Anthony Moloney
Louise Teresa Jinks
Daniel Nicholas Herwich
Dan O'Brien
Derrick Michael Dillon
Michael Denis Sheehan
Kieran Robert Walsh
Richard Alan Cunningham
Mary Marie Quilligan

MARRIAGES

James Flynn and Mary Flynn
Brendan Jones and Agnes Kenneally
Timothy Larkin and Julia Shelia Enright
Gerard O'Shaughnessy and Jacqueline O'Grady
Declan Wilmott and Siobhán O'Dea
Gerard Mulcaire and Maureen Dillon
John Anthony Lynch and Bridget O'Brien

DEATHS

Josephine Fitzgerald
Kathleen Gore
Bernard White
Michael Meehan
Margaret O'Sullivan
Sr. Marcellino Sheehy
Michael Murphy

The above are all as recorded in St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale only.
If any readers wish to include details from outside the parish please
contact the Editor.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

A Community Enterprise Group is being set up as a sub-committee of the Community Council with a view to initiating local job creation. The following contains some explanatory notes of what is involved.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Community Enterprise Programme offers community groups and co-operative groups a comprehensive package of advisory and financial assistance to help them become involved in enterprise and job creation. The Programme is designed to complement rather than compete with services available from bodies such as the I.D.A., Shannon Development, Udaras na Gaeltachta, the V.E.C.'s and County Development Officers.

The assistance provided to community groups under the Community Enterprise Programme includes:-

- * a series of management training programmes which includes relevant and practical assistance for new enterprise groups;
- * advice and assistance on project development;
- * grant aid for business development and start-up;
- * back-up services.

The objectives of the Programme are both economic and social.

Economic objectives include new jobs in community businesses directly supported (*jobs aided*), new jobs in other businesses indirectly supported through workspace etc., (*jobs assisted*), and extra value added or income (*from tourism, mariculture etc.*).

Social objective include fostering of enterprise skills, attitudes and culture, particularly among the unemployed and in disadvantaged communities.

THE CONCEPT AND GOAL OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Community Enterprise can be described as a business initiative that:-

- (a) is community owned and controlled - community can be geographical (*e.g. Finglas*) or common interest (*e.g. redundant workers group or group interested in crafts*).
- (b) is primarily concerned with the creation of jobs and is not therefore primarily concerned with the maximisation of return on capital in the form of dividend.
- (c) is located within a local area or within a network of interest.
- (d) is capable of becoming commercially viable and that can survive when initial state support ends.
- (e) develops the business management skills of the communities team and thus enhances their ability, individually and collectively, to impact on economic development and job creation.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GROUPS

These groups may be organised as a Community Co-Operative, a Voluntary Community Association or a Workers Group/Co-Operative. They may be legally structured as an Industrial and Friendly Society or a Limited Liability Company.

- (a) **Community Business:** set up a business that is owned by the Community Enterprise Group which has as its primary objective the creation of new employment.
- (b) **Community Business Advice and Support:** set up a Community Business Advice and Support Service i.e. the provision of workspace, handholding support, advice panels and seed capital funds to people starting off a business.
- (c) **Worker Co-Ops:** Establish a business as a workers co-operative. Workers Co-Ops are businesses that are controlled by all the workforce. A Workers Co-Op seeks to generate employment and a reasonable income for its worker-members. Community groups and individuals may invest in Worker Co-Ops.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

EDUCATIONAL MODULES

Throughout Ireland people are coming together to create new businesses and thus new jobs. In communities of place and/or interest enterprise initiatives are being launched and through time some become trading entities.

Many of those involved in this type of community enterprise have never had business experience. Even those who have had such business experience must learn to apply it within the process of group activity and decision making. These modules were designed therefore to:-

- (a) help community and co-operative groups succeed in their enterprise initiative, and
- (b) to increase the productivity of state investment in such enterprise initiatives.

The format and context of each module is designed to match specific steps involved in the development of a business initiative.

- MODULE A Exploration: for those who are interested in the idea of community enterprise but have devised no concrete plans or proposals.
- MODULE B Organisation Development: to enable groups to develop an organisational base, to link into the community and to explore business ideas.
- MODULE C Idea generation: to encourage the development of ideas for business and to discuss their feasibility. This module is linked to the business planning grant.
- MODULE D Enterprise development: to help with the detailed planning and establishment of an enterprise, the development of a business plan, the management of staff and the development of key skills. This module is linked to the enterprise worker grant.
- MODULE E Trading: to help established groups during the first year of trading. This is linked to the commercial aid grant.
- MODULE F Consolidation: to provide a consultancy option to meet particular needs during the second year of trading.

The modules offer a relevant and flexible package of practical assistance for the new enterprise group. They are not an academic or theoretical exercise, but a practical guide to the tasks involved in the creation of a co-operative or community enterprise. The modules concentrate on the development of team management skills, the discovery of business ideas and the development of certain key business skills. Each module ends with the group establishing an action plan involving clear decisions upon the future direction of the group.

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 & Wednesday: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 12.30; 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Mart:

Tuesday - Cattle

Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday-Saturday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Thursday: 9.30 a.m. - 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 p.m. Sunday 8.30 a.m. 10 a.m. 11.30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church:

Sunday Service 8.30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Embury Heck Church, Ballingrane:

Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.

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. 069-64622

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. 069-64908

ANYONE WHO WISHES
TO BE INCLUDED PLEASE
CONTACT EDITOR

~ADVERTISERS~

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"DEEL VIEWS" would welcome new advertisers. We sell approx. 600 copies of each issue and our readership is almost 3,000. Our rates are £20 for this space and pro rata for larger or smaller.

***Next issue to printers: 26th March 1993***