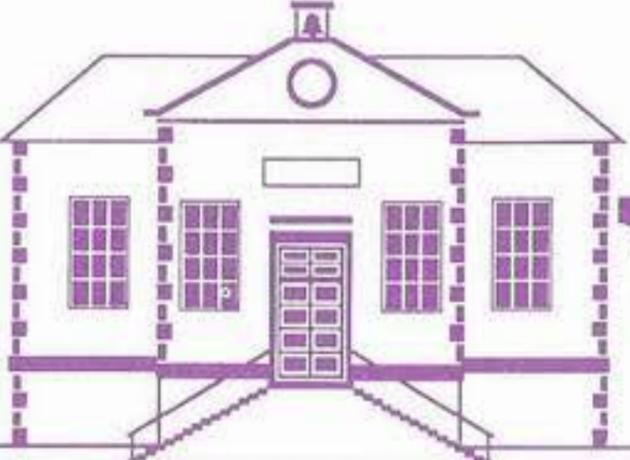


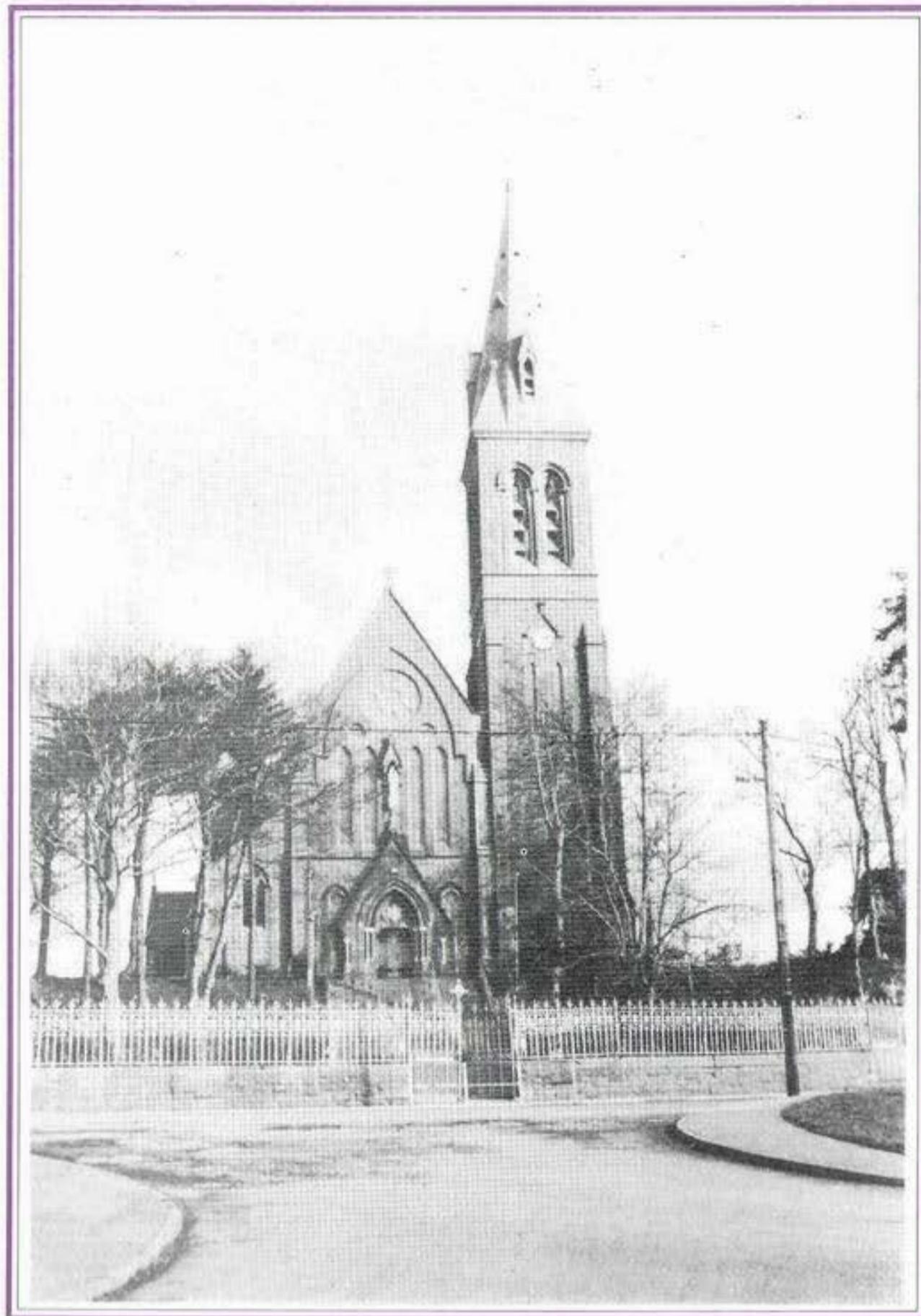
DEEL VIEWS



RATHKEALE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EASTER 1993

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EDITORIAL

Since our last issue at Christmas the town has once again had to cope with very serious problems arising from the misbehaviour of a certain section of our community.

To those living in or doing business in the centre of the town these problems seem to be never-ending and come to a head usually around the Christmas period. The recent happenings have caused major concern to many of our citizens and the matter has been discussed - once again - at great length at Community Council and Chamber of Commerce meetings. The County Council officials, Gardaí and the media have all made their contribution but, at this stage, it is difficult to see a satisfactory resolution of the problems.

However, one thing is certain. The situation will have to be resolved in some way before next Christmas. The matter cannot be allowed to fester amid such strong feelings of helplessness of many people.

We welcome the ongoing efforts to all concerned, especially the Chamber of Commerce which is engaged on a wide ranging investigative survey of citizens' attitudes and suggestions. We hope that all groups involved - particularly the statutory bodies - will accept the seriousness of the situation. We believe the problems of Rathkeale are unique in this regard and the solutions must not be solely based on similar happenings elsewhere.

FRIENDSHIP

...can only occur when we offer ourself to the other, and to offer ourself to someone else is the most risky of all human endeavours.

... is an invitation, a gift, a promise.

... is only for those who believe that they do have something worth revealing to a friend, that there is an intrinsic value in them which others ought to find attractive.

... cannot exist if one person does all the giving and the other all the getting.

... is a bursting out, a breaking of chains, a tossing aside of shackles, a liberation from bonds.

... is a game, a game that demands stamina and vigorous exercise.

... is love and, like all other love, requires faith and hope; indeed, friendship produces ecstasy in us precisely because its love challenges our faith and our hope to the ultimate in their resources.

... is not optional. And so, whether we like it or not, all of us have to learn to love one another.



Mr. Neville presenting a cheque of £500 towards the new Church Clock (Proceeds for Poker Classic)

Sergeant Joe Dunleavy

A few weeks ago Rathkeale said farewell to Joe Dunleavy as its local Garda Sergeant. To be precise, he served his last day in uniform on Friday, 26th February.

Since the foundation of the Gardaí Joe has been only the fourth sergeant to serve in Rathkeale, having arrived here first in 1968 in succession to Sergeant Kirke. Prior to that we had Sergeants Keegan and White.

Joe began his career when he left his native Sligo for the Depot in Phoenix Park in 1954 and his first assignment was to Fitzgibbon Street. He spent up to ten years in Dublin and even then was very active in other activities outside his official duties. He was competent at football, basketball and boxing with the Gardaí and became a most popular and well known personality in Dublin at that time.

In 1964 he was promoted Sergeant and had to leave the city to which he had become so attached. His destination was the small town of Carrigkennedy in Co. Mayo. He served in numerous small outposts in the Mayo/Galway region for up to two and a half years but yearned to get back to Dublin. As it happened his application for transfer to the city resulted instead in his fateful move to Rathkeale. He arrived here in December 1966 and the rest is history.

His twenty six odd years in Rathkeale have seen Joe become not just an outstanding personality in his job but a most eminent person in practically every aspect of Rathkeale society. He is presently chairman of the Community Council and the Brass Band. He is also secretary for many years of the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul. Among his other interests, he is on the Social Services committee, 'Meals and Wheels' and organiser of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. His

leisure pursuits, when he has time, include snooker and golf and in the recent past he has been captain of both Abrahams Golfing Society and Adare Manor Golf Club.

He has combined all these activities and interests most effectively with his duties as a member of the Gardaí and it is fair to say that Rathkeale has never had a more popular and accomplished guardian of the peace. Incidentally he has served in three different stations since he first came to the old "barracks" on Fair Hill.

Sadly, Joe's wife Brid, whom he married shortly after arriving here, passed away in 1991. We wish him long life and happiness in his retirement in the company of his two fine sons, Kieran and Nathy.



Abrahams Golfing Society

The A.G.M. took place recently and the following officers were elected for 1993:

President:	Bea Tansey
Captain:	Jack O'Dwyer
Vice-Captain:	Pat Neville
Secretary:	Noel Harnett
Treasurer:	Monnie Wilmott
Committee:	Michael Cregan, Michael Noonan, John O'Connor, Mary O'Sullivan
Ex-Officio:	Irene Donovan

Outings for the year have been finalised and the Society will be visiting Killarney, Charleville, Dooks, Fermoy, Adare Manor, Ballybunion and hopefully Newcastle West.

A significant amendment to the rules was passed at the meeting and in future the maximum number of penalty strokes is fixed at three while the maximum number of bonus shots will be five.

It is again most important for each outing that as many members as possible are at the venue before the designated starting time. All courses are now charging a rate per hour on the tee and the times are being strictly controlled. The "Golfers of the Year" in 1992 were husband and wife team Liam and Mary O'Sullivan of Ballingarrane.



Irish Palatine Association News

The past year has proven to be the busiest and by far the most absorbing to date for the Irish Palatine Association. It is also a year of considerable accomplishment. Three areas of activity in particular stand out:

1. The planning, launching and implementation of a founder patrons' scheme in order to raise funds for the completion of the Heritage Centre. The scheme was launched by the German Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Martin Elsasser, in the Community Centre, Rathkeale on April 3, 1992. In his address the Ambassador spoke of cultural identity and regional particularity in the context of the new Europe. He stressed the possible significance of roots, new contacts, discovery of family bonds, growth in tourism and awareness of identity.

Earlier, Dr. Patrick O'Connor, addressing the theme 'All Ireland is in and about Rathkeale', called for positive discrimination, propounding the view that the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre would offer a fresh statement to the world about a town and its history. He referred to how a local journalist had put it, "this venture has to be one of the best things to happen to Rathkeale for years".

The measure of local support for the patron scheme has been most gratifying. So also has been the wider measure of support, as the patrons list vividly attests.

2. Completion of phase one of the Heritage Centre and its opening on 4th July. From the foundation stone laying ceremony in May 1991 to the opening of its doors in July 1992 an immense amount of time, energy and vision has been invested in the making of phase one of the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre. On moving to the new Centre the range of exhibits was considerably augmented and enhanced.

3. Hosting a major conference entitled, "Back to the hearthland: an Irish Palatine homecoming" on the weekend of September 25-27. The conference had attendance from all of the major countries connected with the Irish Palatine story - Australia, Canada, England, Germany, United States, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Participants included the Palatine names of Baker, Bovenizer, Fitzelle, Micks, Piper, Poff, Ruttle, Shier, Shouldice, Schumacher, Smeltzer, Sparling, Spearin, Switzer and Teskey and was attended by the German Ambassador, Dr. Martin Elsasser and Dr. Rüdiger Renzing, author of Phälzer in Irland. There was also press representation from German newspapers and television.

The programme of events commenced on Friday evening with a cheese and wine reception for which wine had been specially brought from the Palatinate. This was followed by a lecture by Dr. Patrick O'Connor based on his book, "People Make Places, the Story of the Irish Palatines".

Saturday morning's programme commenced with a viewing of books of Palatine interest that have been donated to the Irish Palatine Centre's library. In the mid-morning there was a slide illustrated lecture by Austin Bovenizer on a recent visit to the Palatinate and after lunch a guided bus tour of the parent colonies of Ballingrane, Courtmatrix and Killeheen. In the evening all attended a banquet in Adare Manor.

The weekend's event came to a close with a special ecumenical service in Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church. The 'Homecoming' brought much business to the area and guests were provided for at local B & B.

As well as such major undertakings as the three events above, we can also point to a broad and diverse range of activity throughout the year. Dr. Patrick O'Connor hosted a number of bus trips for different groups. These included a church group from Kilcooly, Co. Tipperary and students from the University of Limerick. Austin Bovenizer played host to a group from Bad Dürkheim, Germany. In July Esther O'Connor guided a group of American Methodist ministers around the new Heritage Centre; in November she entertained a group of academics who teach German in Irish universities. Numerous other visitors came throughout the year and it was a pleasure to meet with people who in the more recent past have come to warmly espouse the Palatine cause.

A considerable effort was invested in promotion throughout the year. In May, Austin Bovenizer and Esther O'Connor tended to a display stand at the Adare County Fair which could legitimately lay claim to being the outstanding exhibit on view. New and striking advertising brochures were prepared and distributed widely. Shannon Development, in their publicity material, again disseminated news of the Irish Palatine experience as a tourist attraction. An item on the new Heritage Centre featured in the "Summer Journeys" series on RTE television in August and both Lily Baker and Austin Bovenizer acquitted themselves superbly well in the course of illustrated interviews on aspects of the material culture of the Palatines. In April and November Dr. Patrick O'Connor lectured on aspects of the Irish Palatine past to interested groups at the University of Limerick. Most significant of all, perhaps, the two Bovenizers, Austin and Vernon, ranged widely over the Palatine/Pfalz region of Germany in the course of a summer sojourn, and succeeded in attracting considerable media attention as well as making a number of very fruitful contacts.

And so we come to the present and our plans for the coming year. In January we were favoured with a grant of £21,500 from the Irish Dept. of Agriculture and Food. It is planned to use the funds to help build a coffee/tea room, extend our exhibition and to furnish

our library and office. For this grant to become operative we, as recipients, are obliged to raise matching funds and have the work completed within the year 1993. We are therefore faced with the task of not alone raising £21,500 in the current year but also completion of the work as mentioned.

The Association hopes to organise a number of fund-raising activities and these are as follows:

SPONSORED WALK THROUGH THE PALATINE COLONIES - the Association are at present organising this event. It is planned to walk through the Palatine Colonies of Ballingrane, Courtmatrix and Killeheen. Various groups will be accompanied by a guide who will point out the various areas and items of interest. Sponsor cards will be distributed in advance and those participating will be asked to collect as much as they can.

CULTURAL WEEKEND - In the Autumn it is hoped to host a weekend's entertainment so that both Irish and Palatinate/German communities may become better acquainted with each other's culture. To this end the Association hopes to present entertainment from the Palatinate and the local Irish community. Slide illustrated lectures on the Palatinate and Ireland will be organised and those attending will be able to sample Palatinate wines and foods.

PATRON FUND - (Private and Corporate). This scheme continues in operation and is open to individuals and groups at a cost of IR£100 or more. (Corporate £1,000). A brochure that sets out the strategy involved as well as the benefits that will accrue to participants may be had on request.

MEMBERSHIP - Members presently received an annual newsletter and are informed on and invited to all Association special activities. Annual subscription is IR£10.00.

DONATIONS - The Association will always welcome donations, no matter how small.

MUSEUM ADMISSIONS AND SALES - Preparations are being made for the coming tourist season and significant improvements are being carried out to our exhibition. 10,000 flyers in English and German will be distributed to keypoints throughout Limerick, Kerry, Clare and Tipperary. Road signage will be erected and the grounds will be greatly improved. Admission for the coming season will be: Adults £2.00; Children £1.00; Family £5.00. The Centre will be open daily June-September 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Other times by appointment. It is hoped that admission and sales will make a good contribution towards matching funds for our grant.

YOU CAN HELP THE IRISH PALATINE HERITAGE CENTRE PROJECT BY:

1. Organise a group and arrange with the Association to visit the Centre.
2. Become a member for £10 per annum.
3. Become a Patron for £100 or more (Corporate £1,000).
4. Make a cash donation.
5. Request and distribute literature to people that may have an interest.
6. Become involved in fund-raising activities.
7. Purchase of Irish Palatine Association Newsletters.
8. Sell Irish Palatine Newsletters on behalf of the Association.
9. Encourage others to undertake any of the above.

If you wish to help in any way, receive information, or purchase any publications please contact the Irish Palatine Association, Irish Palatine Centre, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. Tel. 069-61080/64397. Fax: 069-64220. Contact: Esther O'Connor/Austin Bovenizer. It is good to be able to report that the Association has met and answered all of its challenges to date.



Presentation of a Founder Patron Certificate to the Rathkeale Credit Union for their generous donation of £500.00 as a patron. Pictured left to right: Helen McEnery, Esther O'Connor, Austin Bovenizer, Lily Baker, Padraig Feehan and Richard Naughton.

It is some sixteen years since I wrote the following article. Sixteen years since I had the opportunity to talk to my visitor to Rathkeale. Recently I again came across him on his travels. He looked at what I had written all those years ago and smiled. He made just one comment this time ... the new masters, the new landlords now lived within the town and others, within the social structure, had either gone to live in other places, or on the perimeter of the town. Yet another change in the fate of the town.

FICTION.. A TOWN DESERTED

This is meant to be a work of fiction and yet .. it might pass as non-fiction. Read it carefully and then take from it whatever meaning you choose.

A man once had occasion to stay in a particular town. He was a very observant and articulate person. He had the capacity to always make mental notes of whatever he saw or heard during the course of his travels. He compared places and people but, all in all, people were his favourite subject.

In this town, somewhere in Co. Limerick, he noted that the social structure had four divisions: the well-off, the do-gooders, the indifferent and the tinkers. From gossip he gathered the town was once prosperous but now a decline had set in. Recreation-wise there wasn't much either. Like all small towns, its destiny was being decided by bureaucrats but also, in this case, there was another aspect.

The tinkers had, down the years, taken over and were now the chief influence locally. He looked closely at what the other three sections were doing. He found only indecision, inaction and division. Unity did not exist. All talked about this growing influence but fear, avarice and weakness only prevailed. On the one hand he found a dying people, on the other he found a new race, a new breed, new masters. These new people had their own ideas as to what kind of town they wanted and how they were going to go about changing the old order of events.

Years later I had the pleasure to meet my traveller friend and asked him had he visited that Co. Limerick town recently. He had. I asked him how things went. He sadly told me that the change had been completed. The NEW MASTERS had conquered - utterly. A new order had been created. But one remarkable thing he had discovered on his second visit. The do-gooders, the indifferent and the well-to-do were still in a world of their own, still talking, unaware of the change that had come about around them. They had failed to act when time was on their side. They were now failing to face the inevitable. They no longer owned the town. You see, there were now NEW LANDLORDS.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BAPTISMS:

*Paul Eric Sheahan
Nora Quilligan
Nora Natasha Gammell
Mary Rachel Flynn
Patrick O'Brien
Ann Kealy
William John Power
Lorraine Helen Egan
Patrick Edward Gammell
Daniel O'Brien
Conor Christopher O'Shea
James Quilligan
Ruth Quilligan
Ruth Louise Quinn
Gavin Thomas Lyons
Denise Bridget Daly
Bridget O'Brien*

MARRIAGES:

*Daniel Sheridan & Ellen Flynn
James O'Brien & Catherine Hegarty
John Quilligan & Nora Flynn
Thomas Wright & Marie Giltenane*

FUNERALS:

*Catherine O'Brien
Denis "Mansie" Brennan
Noel Kelly
Mary Markham
Margaret Roche
Kitty Mulcahy
Hannah Mulcahy*

SEWERAGE WORKS

The pipe laying is now virtually complete and despite some very adverse weather conditions early this year the work was carried out with the minimum of inconvenience to the public. The contractor is to be congratulated as is the liaison from the Community Council and Chamber of Commerce who monitored progress as well.

The important task of renewal of the road surfaces still remains and together with the replacement of footpaths this represents another major undertaking.

We understand that work on the streets may be delayed until a decision can be reached on the financial assistance available from Central Government/E.C. sources. This will determine the extent to which footpaths can be rebuilt or merely repaired and until such time as the footpaths have been dealt with road surfacing will not commence.

RATHKEALE BRASS BAND

LONDON TRIP

On Friday, 12th March forty-three people departed Rathkeale by bus to London. The group consisted of band members, parents and friends. At last the weekend to play in the London St. Patrick's Day Parade had arrived. They got a great send-off and good wishes from everyone on their departure, only to arrive in London, beaming with sunshine, early Saturday morning.

After breakfast and a little relaxation everyone was in great form. They visited St. Paul's and saw the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace along with Westminster Abbey. All this before even booking into their hotel! Then onto Madame Tussaud's via Regent's Park. That evening a concert was given for the Rathkeale Reunion, held at Solls Arms Hotel.

Sunday arrived at last - the day of the Parade. After assembly at Horse Guards Parade, the musicians lined in perfect formation along with other bands. The 2-mile Parade to Westminster Cathedral began. The band looked terrific and proved excellent ambassadors for Rathkeale and Ireland. It was great to hear and see them play, being lead by the Rathkeale banner. They marched right into Westminster Cathedral for Mass where they had a special place with other bands.

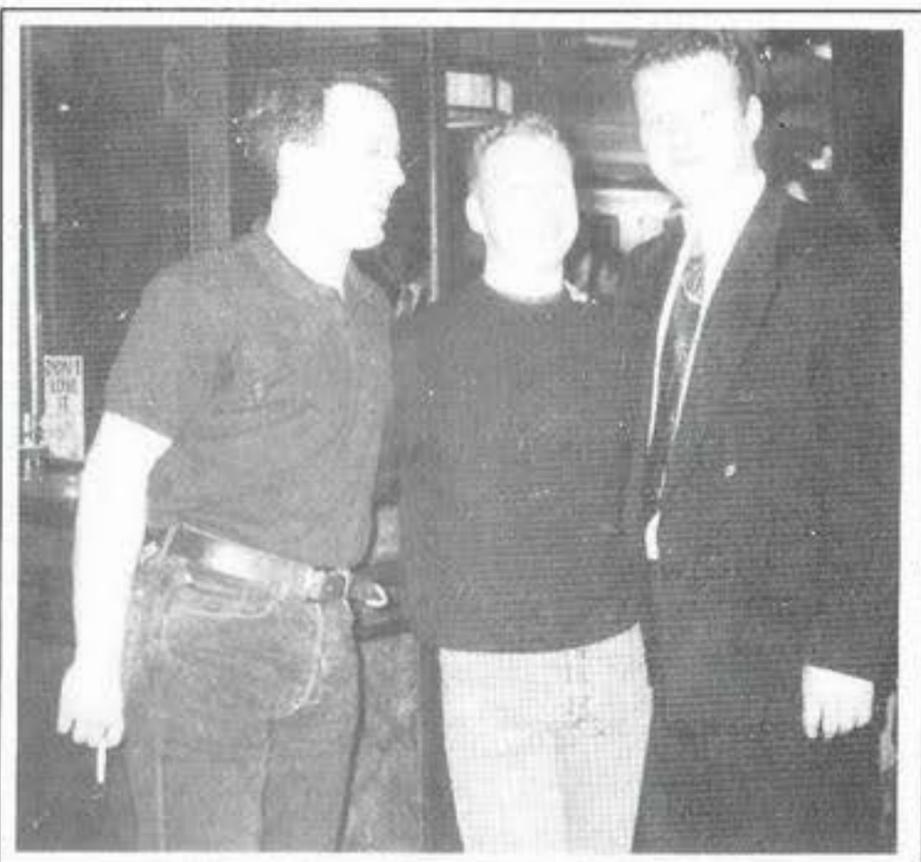
The rest of the day was spent sight-seeing and keeping in touch with relatives and friends. That evening was spent at the Irish Centre, Hammersmith where some musicians and singers from the band gave notable performances.

The following day some time was spent in Oxford Street before visiting Wembley Stadium for a tour. This proved a great experience for all, lasting two hours. It was now on for home via Chester where arrival in Rathkeale was Tuesday morning.

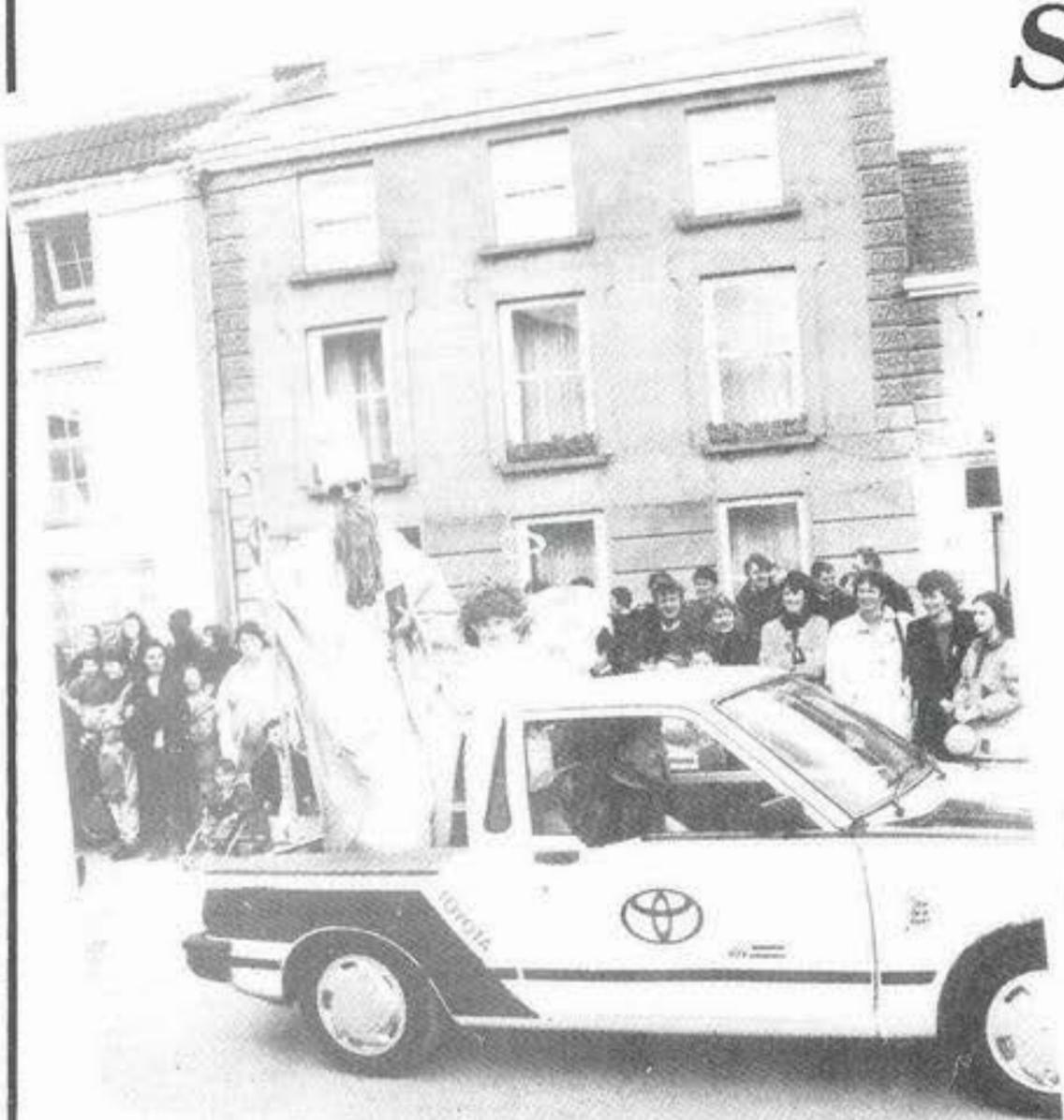
On Wednesday it was St. Patrick's Day Parades in Rathkeale, Askeaton & Adare, taking 1st prize in Askeaton.

The band wishes to thank its sponsors and the people who supported them on this great trip. Also to the parents who encouraged their junior members to save for one year towards this trip and prepared the majorettes for St. Patrick's Day. To the Community Council for organising the Rathkeale Reunion and bringing everyone together.

"RATHKEALE MARCHES IN LONDON"



ST. PATRICK'S



S DAY PARADE



SALAMANCA - A SPANISH EXPERIENCE

Maurice Foster

During the end of last year and the beginning of this year I had the opportunity to both study and teach in Spain. The chance to do so arose through the E.C. Erasmus/Lengua University Student Exchange Programme between Irish third level institutions - in this case my own University of Limerick and other European universities, namely for me, La Universidad De Salamanca situated in the ancient kingdom of Castile y Leon, Western Spain.

Salamanca, on the right bank of the Termes River, is a university city with an ancient history. The city, then called Melmántica, and originally a fortified Roman camp, was a city in the flourishing province of the Roman Empire known as Hispania. One of the most important vestiges of its role as an enclave on the so-called Ruta de la Plata (the Route of Silver) is the city's beautiful bridge, one of the best preserved examples of Roman engineering in Spain. The city is awash with monuments and has a thriving tourist business. The monuments, too numerous to mention in total are steeped in ancient history and some are indeed worth mentioning.

La Plaza Mayor, begun in 1729, during the reign of Felipe V and finished in 1755. Until almost the middle of the 19th century the bullfights were held there. Then there is the College of Arzobispo Fonseca (Irlandesse) - the connection with Ireland being that it was a resting place for the ancient Irish nobility in their flights from persecution to the Continent. Next we move to the magnificent and well-known Monterrey Palace (belonging to the powerful Dukes of Alba, and an outstanding example of Renaissance civil architecture), and to the city's two Cathedrals, both standing side by side and almost indistinguishable from each other except that the Old Cathedral relates to the 12th century while the New Cathedral was begun in 1513. Right next to the Cathedrals one finds the beautiful Plaza De Anay wherein lies La Facuhiad de Fildhogia, namely my former department. Formerly the Episcopal Palace, it also served as a residence for General Franco during the Spanish Civil War.

The University of Salamanca, the first founded by Alfonso IX of León about 1218, is the oldest in Spain. It caters for some 27,000 students, 4,000 of which could well be studying the Spanish culture and language. The University itself is divided between thirteen faculties and eleven schools of learning. When one notes that the population of the city of Salamanca is some 170,000 inhabitants, one sees the importance of the University to the

economy of the city.

The province of Salamanca encompasses some beautiful scenery including the Sierra de Francia, with its exceptional micro-climate, has many delightful villages including La Alberca and from which it is possible to go on up to a splendid viewpoint, known as La Peña de Francia, the highest point in the province. Within Castile y Leon itself one finds the magnificent Aqueduct of Segovia and Algázar or Moorish fortress.

It is sad that when most Irish do go to Spain, they tend to go to Andalucia, in particular such places as Malaga. May I respectfully point out that there is a lot more to Spain than the southern part of the country. So next time you do go there, do discover the real Spain.

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Marcellino (Betty) Sheehy

1936-1992

On August 13, 1992 our beloved Sr. Marcellino gave up her nine year battle with a killer disease. Elizabeth Sheehy was born at Rathkeale, a town in Limerick, on June 7, 1936, the youngest of eight - seven girls and one boy. From an early age, Betty's remarkably sweet singing voice was well known in the town as in family circles. When as a young boarder she came to St. Francis College, Letchworth where her sister Peggy (Sr. Amelia) was a student, it was heard and noted by Sr. Loyola Waters under whose direction it developed in the school choir.

After school and some time at home with her beloved mother to whom she was greatly attached - her father had died when she was three - the big metropolis London was the next port of call. Betty secured a secretarial post which she held for a few years. With her good looks and charm she quickly became popular in social circles in the "bright lights". Visits to St. Francis's and the Sisters, however, were faithfully kept up.

On her return to Ireland she took a job in Rathkeale where her best friends were Brenda Liston (Sr. Lucienne) and Mary Hartnett (ex Sr. Bernardino). There were dances, romances, gaiety galore yet the link with the SCJMs was never broken. There is an old Irish saying "Wherever the world is heading, head the

other way". Periodically she would head for the peace of Moore Abbey in company with her two friends.

After profession on August 20, 1961 she went to train as a primary school teacher and joined the community and staff of St. Francis College. An excellent teacher, competent and resourceful, she was greatly loved by her pupils but a need arose in the school at Hollymount, Tottington. Sr. Marcellino said a reluctant farewell to her Alma Mater.

Soon her classroom in the big yellow brick building of St. John Berchmans School was a happy busy place, the walls lined with colourful charts.

Marcie was soon involved in the life of the parish and the diocese. She became engaged in vocation promotion, her contribution greatly valued by the priests and brothers among whom she made many friends. The community benefited not only from her gift for singing but also her fine hand at pastry cooking and bread making.

It was in the early eighties that the first symptoms of lymphoma gave cause for concern. She bore the diagnosis with courage, she resolved to fight it with positive thinking, continuing to live her life to the full, trusting in the love of God and the support of the people she loved. The end came very peacefully, with Fr. Morrissey, Monica and the three Sisters at her bedside. On this earth, a bright light went out. Pray for us, Marcie, as we pray for you.

St. Joseph's Church, Bury was crowded for the funeral Mass on Thursday, August 18. Sr. Joan Yates, Provincial, the Sisters, her family and many friends were there to celebrate the passing of a beautiful life. Fr. E. Morrissey was chief celebrant and the homily was delivered by Fr. Mulcahy. "The praying and singing of her lifetime", he said, "may have been the sacrament that strengthened her Christian courage for her long ordeal".

Sr. Marcellino was laid to rest in the little Hollymount Cemetery beside Mother John Walsh who, away back in the 1930s, blazed the trail to her beloved congregation for many of her young compatriots.



G.A.A.



The following are the officers for St. Mary's G.A.A. Rathkeale for 1993:

Hon. President & Life Member:	Peter Brennan
Hon. Vice-Pres. & Life Member:	Patsy Doherty
Chairman:	Joe Roe
Vice-Chairman:	Patsy Doherty
Secretary:	Jack Daly
Asst. Secretary & Registrar:	Pat Sheahan
Treasurer:	Frank Geary
Asst. Treasurer:	Jerry O'Connell
P.R.O.:	Martin Doherty

General Committee: Matt Hogan, Neilly Duggan, Con Enright, Michael Sheahan, Joe Williams.

Bord na nOg Committee: Joe Williams, Mossy Woulfe, Noel White, Jack Daly.

Fields Development Committee: Pa Wilmott, Jerry O'Connell, John O'Connor, Patsy Doherty, Joe Roe, Pat Sheahan.

Trustees: Sean Hayes, Peter Brennan, Frank Neenan, John Griffin, Michael Dillon, James McEnery, John Kennedy (deceased).

St. Mary's G.A.A. certainly have great aspirations for the coming year. With only seven teams fielded last year we have doubled our participation for the coming year. A maximum fourteen teams from the Intermediate football team all the way down to under-12 hurling.

The success of 1991, when Rathkeale won four cups, attained Intermediate status in football and reached the West hurling final, was followed by a dismal and barren year in 1992.

While the performances on the field during 1992 earned no accolades, behind the scenes a diligent and industrious committee succeeded in completing phase two of the developments at Sean Finn Park.

The support of the local people through their participation in the Mackey Draw enabled such developments to be completed and make Rathkeale's G.A.A. field one of the finest in the county. The field's Development Committee are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by all who support this draw and realise that, only for these people, the infrastructure would not have evolved.

Now that other work on the field has been completed for moment a major drive is underway to prepare and equip all the teams for the forthcoming leagues and championships. Hopefully we will have something to show for our endeavours when the year is over.



RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Senator Dan Neville



On 10th March the Minister for Education listed to Dáil Eireann thirteen second level school building projects scheduled to be commenced in 1993. Minister Niamh Breathnach did not include Rathkeale Community College in this list. Construction therefore will not commence during this year. There is no impediment to commencement of this school project. Co. Limerick Vocational Education Committee will complete its final planning stage within weeks. It is then up to the Minister to provide the monies and advertise the project for tender.

How long more will Rathkeale have to wait for a Community College? It has waited 27 years. By any measure this is unacceptable. The procrastination must now cease and immediate action take place. Construction must commence. It is 5 years since the full site was acquired. It looked at that time as if the Dept. of Education meant business. In my debate with the Minister for State at the Dept. in early March of this year he was evasive and vague about the Government's intentions. Within days the Minister informed the Dáil that Rathkeale was not included for 1993.

The school project has had four such debates in the Seanad. I have raised the matter on the adjournment of the house on the following occasions: June 1990; April 1991; June 1992 and March 1993.

The Dept. is very aware, from the discussions, of the urgent need for a new second level school at Rathkeale. I engaged with private discussion with the then Minister Mrs. Mary O'Rourke, T.D. following the debate in June 1992. This was most encouraging and I felt that she was fully conversant with the difficulties and was committed to doing something about it. She agreed to give further impetus to her Department's role and keep me informed of developments. I felt that she was genuine in this and felt heartened that at last something would now happen. I was also satisfied that the VEC who assumed its role in the project was giving it its top priority.

I am not satisfied that Mary O'Rourke's successors in Education gave it the same attention. Every opportunity must be used to interest the present Minister for Education on this matter. I have requested as a matter of urgency that she review her decision not to allocate monies in 1993. I will, at every opportunity, impress on the Minister the urgency of this.

The Minister must take into account the difficulties with regard to the new road. Traffic is now coming into the town via this road. This has heightened the difficulties with access to the classrooms.

It is now 27 years - in 1966 - that the Dept. of Education suggested joint facilities for the schools in Rathkeale. At that time, the Sisters of Mercy purchased land to build a voluntary school. In fact, plans were completed for this and

a deposit paid to a builder to commence construction. The Sisters of Mercy stopped the project on the understanding from the Dept. that there were firm proposals for the construction of a comprehensive school in Rathkeale. There

was no word from the Department until 1973. At that time the staff of both Scoil Bannion na nAingeal and the Vocational School wrote to the Department, expressed their concerns about the facilities and asked for details of the proposals. The then Minister replied and said that there was an obvious need for rationalisation in Rathkeale and that a large school would be built there. In 1975, 18 years ago, the Department confirmed its policy.

On 29th May 1983 the then Minister for Education decided to authorise the provision of a new Community School, to incorporate the Vocational and Secondary schools. In December 1983 a joint committee was formed comprising the management of both schools. The objectives were:

- (a) to expedite the programme as soon as possible;
- (b) to ensure a good structure was provided for the school;
- (c) to ensure that good facilities were available.

In 1985 a site was identified in the area of the Vocational School. The site was purchased. In 1986 a schedule of accommodation was agreed. A draft plan was finalised in 1988. In June of that year, Rathkeale Community Council met the Minister for Education, Mrs. Gemma Hussey, T.D. and was informed that the project was in the top five for consideration.

In Seanad Eireann on 7th June 1990 the then Minister for State, Mr. Frank Fahy, T.D. stated in reply to me that a full review of the size of the school because "demographic trends in the Limerick area have been quite dramatic and we have to take this factor into account". He further stated "every effort will be made to have the review of requirements completed as soon as possible so that planning can proceed without undue delay".

In December 1990 the Minister for Education sanctioned a change from a Community School to that of a Community College which delegated responsibility for planning to Co. Limerick V.E.C. In April of 1991 the then Minister for Education, Mrs. Mary O'Rourke, T.D. outlined to me in detail the effects of this change in a Seanad debate.

It is time that this saga ends and now that Co. Limerick V.E.C. has completed the planning process that work commences as a matter of urgency.



MY MEMORIES OF THE COURTHOUSE

By Tim Geaney (From 1983)

My earliest memory of the Courthouse is attending the Sunday night dances organized by the local G.A.A. in the early thirties. They were known at the time as the "fourpenny hops", as the admission was fourpence and the dance was from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. They were a great source of enjoyment for the local young people at that time.

My next and more lasting memory was when I was appointed to the post of Engineer's Office Assistant and Storekeeper by the County Council to cover the Engineers area of Rathkeale. This was May 1940, and I continued to work there until the Council abandoned the premises about 1971.

I can well remember the first time I entered the basement of the building where the Council Store was being set up. The basement consisted of about twelve small very dark prison cells, and the moment you entered at the door you had to have a light to see your way, as the cells were very low with arched ceilings, so that you could only stand upright when in the middle of the cell. There were no windows, only narrow openings with iron bars on one wall of each cell, and all the cells had iron doors. The ceilings showed signs of burns, etc. where some of the inmates had bits of candles to enable them to read. All in all, it was a very morbid looking place at that time. The Council had most of the arched ceilings removed and windows etc. fitted, thus removing the jail-like appearance of the place.

The caretaker at that time was Mrs. Dufficy and she often recalled her experiences to me - of events both during the occupation by British Forces and during the Civil War. She told me that she often longed to try and comfort the prisoners, but they were out of bounds to her, and the only time she would see them was from her own back window when they were being exercised in the small yard at the rear of the living quarters, which was for about half an hour each day.

As the Second World War was in progress when I took up employment with the Council things changed rapidly and all road making materials became scarce, as did fuel and transport. Consequently, all work on roads etc. at that time was manual. One part of the Courthouse building was used for drying chippings and mixing macadam by hand, which was then taken by horse and cart to areas as far west as Glin, north to Pallaskenry, east to Adare, and south to Ballingarry for the repair of pot holes. This method helped keep the roads in reasonable repair in the absence of surface dressing.

Another part of the building was used for making concrete drainage pipes and fencing posts, also by hand, to meet the Council's requirements, while another part was used as a carpenter's shop where the wheelbarrows used in the quarries were made. All in all, there were about ten men employed at the various activities.

In the 1940s the L.D.F. was established and again the Courthouse became its centre. For a number of years parades and training were carried out about three nights weekly, also an L.D.F. brass band was formed. One of the rooms, known as the Jury Room, was used as a band room so the Courthouse was a centre for many activities during

this period.

I can also recall the disastrous outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the locality when again the Courthouse became the centre for the Dept. of Agriculture officials fighting the outbreak. I can recall seeing two of the cells in the basement filled from floor to ceiling with tins of disinfectant, pumps, clothing etc. and every time we entered or left the building we were disinfected. The County Council supplied a special gang at the time whose duty it was to go in and disinfect the farms affected, when the animals on the farm had been slaughtered.

The usual monthly Courts were also conducted in the building and also what was then known as 'The Quarter Sessions' or what is now known as the Circuit Court sittings. My early recollection of the Circuit Courts at that time is that they usually lasted more than a week at each sitting.

When I look back over the years which I spent in the Courthouse, I am convinced that the building has always been a centre of the activities in the area, and I think that the local Community Council deserves the support of the people in the development and maintenance of the building as a Community Centre, and that the people of the parish will make full use of it as such.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The sub-committee of the Community Council, in association with the Chamber of Commerce, has conducted a random survey involving three hundred households, with a view to ascertaining peoples views and opinions on a range of subjects affecting the community. The University of Limerick is providing the professional input for the survey and the findings will be announced and made public at an early date.

WEST LIMERICK RESOURCE GROUP

Meetings in centres around West Limerick are continuing - the most recent being held in Rathkeale on March 23rd. The group has thirty associations affiliated and has formed a number of active committees which are doing considerable work for the betterment of West Limerick.

At present the emphasis is on gaining some of the European funding under the Leader Project and an application is to be made along the lines of Ballyhoura Fáilte. It is important in order to be successful that as many serious and viable projects as possible are submitted to the group within the next few months.

The range is limitless and extends from tourism to industrial to education/training and practically any idea which would help to promote the social and economic development of the area. It can be from an individual or based on a local community.

The outline of the project should indicate:

1. Name of proposer
2. Nature/activity of the project
3. Estimated cost
4. Potential benefits

Anyone interested should contact either of the following:
Dan Murphy, Main Street, Abbeyfeale. Tel. 068-31109.
Deirdre Enright, Kilscannell, Ardagh. Tel. 069-76495

RATHKEALE SPORTS COMPLEX

The Rathkeale Sports Complex is a facility and amenity which any parish would value and avail of. It offers Squash, Handball, Racketball, Pool, Snooker and Tennis. The facility is under utilised and thus any prospective member need not unduly worry about court availability. The committee would like to encourage and offer membership to the Sports Complex. Details relating to and the rates of membership for the Sports Complex can be obtained from its manager Michael O'Kane who is contactable at (069) 64622. The court usage costs are very reasonable by comparison to other clubs and we have no hesitation saying it offers excellent value for money.

Rathkeale, a town which is proud of its snooker and billiards tradition, shall soon see one of its sons, Tom Enright, go one stage further than before when he enters this year's Irish Amateur Snooker Championship. Tom will play in Limerick on April 17th and he hopes that he will finish in the top three as that is the quota from the Limerick zone. The Rathkeale snooker club is proud to have an entrant in this championship and we wish him every good fortune.

On a possibly controversial topic, snooker players have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction at the bad state of the snooker table. This table which is undoubtedly associated with many fond memories, is in a less than satisfactory condition and needs expensive repair jobs carried out periodically. It has been suggested that a new table be bought and ideally the existing one kept also. It is the hope of snooker players that they will be soon able to play on a new, perfectly level, standard dimension table. This is a topic which evokes arguments both for and against replacement. The issue will have to be debated fully before a final decision is made.

In Squash a new annual tournament will take place as a result of the kindness of the Credit Union who sponsored a lovely Squash Shield. This Shield, which is currently being played for, is a Shield for Mens Squash and it is hoped we will receive sponsorship for a Ladies Shield in the coming year from some kind benefactor.

Proposals have been put forward for the further development of the Sports Complex, such as the building of a gymnasium onto the existing building, another suggestion is that an extension for a club for the young people be built which would contain a mineral bar and a jukebox where they could socialise together.

Rathkeale Sports Complex has the potential for further development, maybe even along the lines of Croom Sports Complex which has a club bar licence. The level of further development will depend on the future levels of participation and effort of the local people.

Oaklands,
2117 New South Wales,
Australia.
12th March 1993

The Limerick County Library,
Limerick, Ireland.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wonder if you have any records of the MEANEY family who were living in Limerick in the 1850s and earlier. My great-grandmother, ANNE MEANEY, was born in Rathkeale, Limerick about 1824, daughter of MAURICE MEANEY and BRIDGET (nee CARNEY). Anne Meaney came to Australia in 1853 and died in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia on 19th May, 1890.

As a result of research I have done here, I have found on the Griffiths Valuation that there was a BRIDGET MEANEY living at Blossom Hill, Rathkeale. Also from the Tithe Applotment books I found a MAURICE MEANEY had land at Ballywilliam and Wolfesburgess, also in the parish of Rathkeale. The family here in Australia believe that Anne Meaney left at least one brother behind in Ireland but we do not know his first name.

Have you any information that would identify the above MAURICE and BRIDGET MEANEY as being the same found at Blossom Hill, Ballywilliam and Wolfesburgess and/or any other record of this same MEANEY family? Would you happen to know of any descendants of this family living in the area now? I would be very pleased if they would write to me if you would pass my address on to them.

I enclose a photo of ANNE MEANEY that you may like to put on a notice board should you have one, or some other suitable place.

I look forward to a reply as soon as convenient and enclose two reply paid coupons to cover the cost of the same. Please let me know any additional cost involved for information available before you send it.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH WATSON



ANNE MEANEY

~~ RATHKEALE REUNION, LONDON ~~



Doreen Guiry, Castlematrix; Helen Leahy, Church Street, Peter and Mrs. Nash, Tallyho and Lodon.



The Reddans and Ryans of Roches Road, St. Mary's Tce. and London.



The O'Connors, Tallyho and Woulfes of Ballingrane and London.



The Lynch's, Enniscouch and St. Mary's Park.



Pa Wilmoth, Madge Kirby, Monnie Wilmoth and T. J. Kirby.



Shiels Family members.



Stephen McDonnell, Jim Culhane and Ned Daly



Liam Doyle, Sean Hennessy, Jack Lyons, Patch Markham and Brendan Markham.

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

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. O'Kane. Tel. 069-64622

Bridge Club: Mrs. Phil Ruttle. Every Tuesday

G.A.A.: Jack Daly, 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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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.

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