

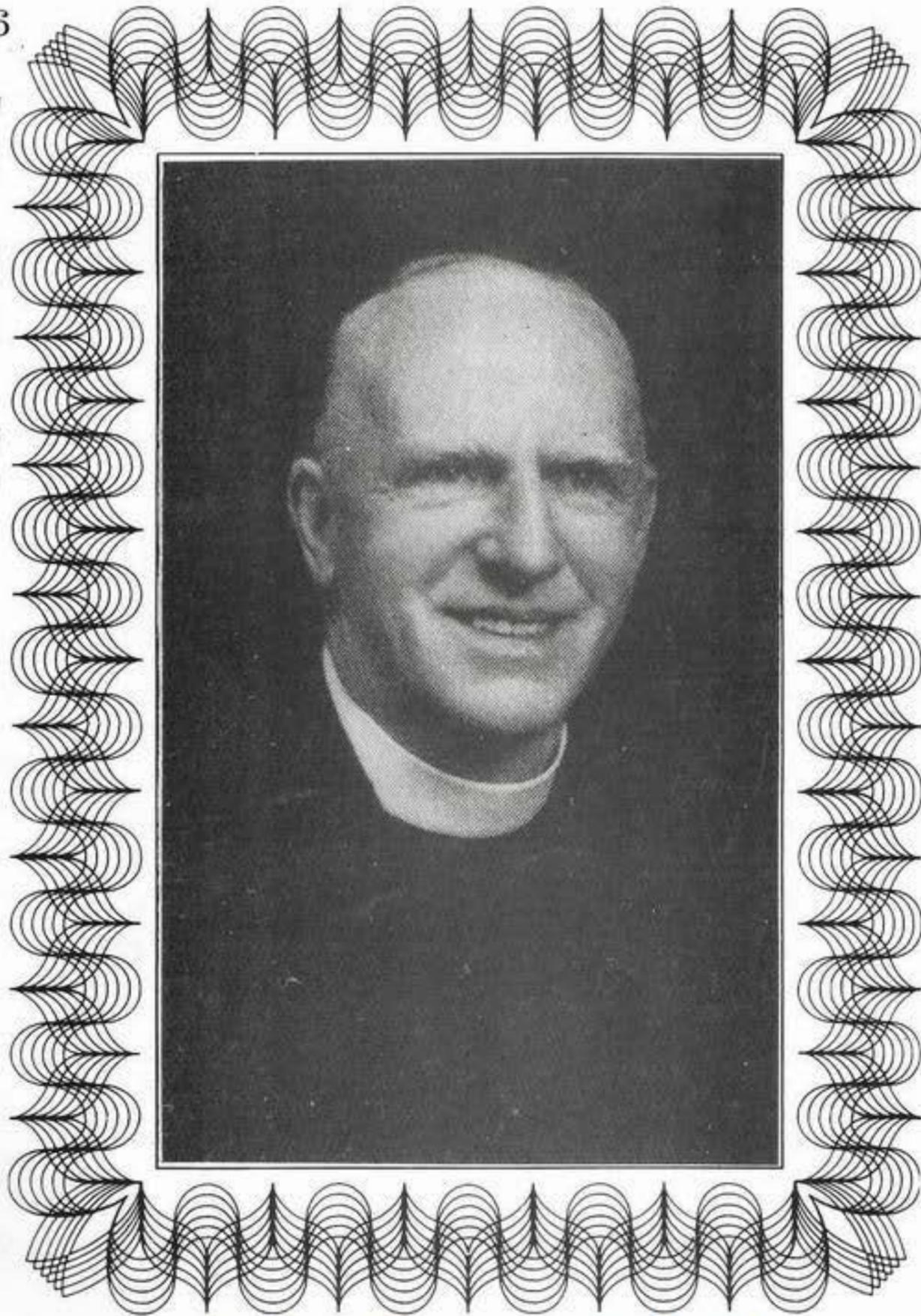


DEEL VIEWS

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Summer 1996

Price: 50p



Right Rev. Dean Thomas Costello, P.P.V.F.
1900 - 1996

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Editorial

We have written elsewhere in this issue of the recent visit of a group of Germans to our town and of the marvellous tributes paid to their hosts: the Community Council and the Palatine Society. They brought with them wonderful food and music but they also brought some interesting historical links with the Palatines. They originate in the town of Bornheim which is part of the Palatinate province of Rheinland Psalv and has a population somewhat smaller than Rathkeale although growing at a faster rate. The area is largely agricultural, with particular emphasis on wine production. We have spoken before of the possibility of "twinning" Rathkeale with a foreign town or district and Bornheim would appear ideally suitable in this regard. A good foundation has now been laid and should be built on. The benefits of "twinning" are multifold: social, cultural, educational, sporting etc. and it is especially important in the context of the developing European Union. The Community Council might initiate further action in the matter.

Baptisms

Patrick Joesph Naughton
Kathleen Quilligan
Michael Quilligan
John Anthony Lynch
Nora O' Brien
Eimear Frances O' Connor
Nora O' Brien
Megan Marie Bradshaw
Ian Patrick Fitzgerald
Nicole Joanne Supple
Chloe Edel Keating
Seán Patrick Hayes
Nicholas James Hayes
James Michael Flynn

Deaths

John Curley Culligan
Bridget Madigan
Edward Roche
Bridget Fitzgerald
Christopher Fitzgerald
Patrick Flynn
Rev. Dean Costello
John Goodwin
Kathleen Quilligan

Marriages

Stephen Condon and Eileen Phlomena Bradshaw
Denis Flannery and Patricia Josephine Roche
Kevin William Enright and Finnola Patricia Woulfe
Mark Anthony Brouder and Lynda Marie Hennessy
James Gerard Noonan and Joan Chawke
Arik Ellierse and Teresa Mary Culhane
William O' Flynn and Alice Marie McNamara



Right: Visit of President Mary Robinson to Rathkeale

DEATH OF DEAN COSTELLO

We are sad to recall the death of Right Rev. Dean Thomas Costello who for so many years of his priestly life was synonymous with the parish of Rathkeale. Many worthy tributes have been paid elsewhere to his memory and we would like to add to these by recalling his involvement for many years with the Community Council and, prior to that, with the Guild of Muintir na Tíre. He was a great member and supporter of both from their beginnings. He had long associations with 'DEEL VIEWS' from its inception in 1973 and, in fact, following a request to our readers at that time to help choose a suitable name for the magazine, Dean Costello's was the one selected and has remained ever since. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. The following article was his contribution to a booklet published on the occasion of the opening of the Community Centre in 1982.

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Origin

As late as 1964 there was neither a Parish Council nor a representative committee of any kind in Rathkeale. The need for a Council was discussed by Maurice Cowhey, B.E., Manager of Shannon Meats, Canon Costello, P.P., and the late John Hennessy, garage proprietor. They came to the conclusion that an individual had no longer any influence with the powers that be, that a strong Council was needed in the parish - the stronger, the better. It was decided to call a public meeting for the purpose of electing a Parish Council.

A public meeting was called, an interesting discussion ensued and eventually it was decided to form a Guild of Muintir na Tíre. It was felt that a link with a National Council would give the local Council greater influence. Contact was made with the County Organiser of Muintir na Tíre, Frank Liddy. A well attended meeting was held in the Vocational School on 20th November, 1964. The meeting was addressed by Frank Liddy, Nellan Stephens and Fr. Purcell, Thurles, organisers of Muintir na Tíre; Mrs. O'Riordan, Askeaton and Mrs. Doyle, County Librarian, also spoke.

It was unanimously decided to form a Guild of Muintir na Tíre and the following officers were elected:

President: Canon Costello, P.P.
Chairman: Maurice Cowhey, B.E.
Treasurer: John Shier
Joint Michael Power, Stationmaster
Secretaries: Joan Lyons, N.T.

The following were represented on the Committee: workers, farmers, professions, youth, ladies and business people.

The energetic Committee settled down to work at once.

Courthouse and Library

About this time a controversy arose about the Courthouse and the Carnegie Library. The Courthouse, the property of the County Council, had been allowed fall into disrepair. Estimated cost of repair was about £10,000 and the County Manager temporarily transferred the Court Sittings to the Library, without any reference to any local body, even though the Library had been left by the Carnegie Trust for the benefit of Rathkeale. Before that time it was used as a secondary school by day and after school hours it was used as a place for meetings, plays, concerts, auctions etc.

The County Manager transferred the Court permanently to the Upper Room of the Library, had the books removed to the ground floor and offered the Courthouse in The Square to the Guild of Muintir na Tíre as a Community Centre. This offer was spurned by the Muintir na Tíre Committee. Repairs to the Courthouse would cost too much and it claimed that the Library rightfully belonged to the people of Rathkeale. Since the Court would only use the Library rarely, it claimed the right to use the courtroom for its usual activities such as meetings etc. This right was conceded by the County Manager, provided permission was sought.

The Courthouse now became derelict. Colonel O'Driscoll looked for it to set up a museum but the County Council was not prepared to grant the required lease so the Courthouse, the outstanding building on the Limerick-Killarney roadside, was allowed fall into disuse. For a period it was even used as a dog kennel!

Relieved

Eventually it was suggested that the Courthouse would be pulled down. The people were aghast at this proposal - it was the focal point of the town, steeped in history and had to be saved at any cost. Negotiations took place between the Community Council (former Muintir na Tíre) and the County Council and it was agreed that the local people would take over the Courthouse as a Community Centre and the repairs would be subsidised by the Community Council.

Accommodation for the Army has been reserved in the Courthouse.

The Transformation

And so, thanks to a wonderful Community Council, the old Courthouse has been completely transformed and is now one of the finest Community Centres in the country. It is the focal point and holds the place of honour on the main street. The clock is symptomatic of the change - it preserves its old face but everything within is changed. A beautiful parquet floor now covers the courtroom, it still has an 'upstairs, downstairs', but all who enter it are equal. It is a standing monument to the combined effort of all pulling together. Their effort calls to mind the old Irish proverb "ní neart go cur le chéile" (strength is only realised in pulling together) and we hope that "le chéile" will be the motto which will inspire all future activities in the Centre

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

SHELTERED HOUSING

The President of Ireland visited Rathkeale on 25th June to formally open the Sheltered Housing complex at Abbeylands. This was the second occasion for our town to be so honoured, following on from former President Hillery's visit in 1982 when he opened the newly renovated Community Centre.

President Robinson was greeted by a large gathering and despite inclement weather the event was a huge success. The Chairman of the Sheltered Housing committee - Joe Dunleavy - welcomed the President and showed her around the houses, introducing her to the residents. She was later presented with some mementoes of her visit by the committee and the Community Council.

PITCH AND PUTT

Also at Abbeylands, the new pitch and putt course was opened for play recently and has attracted considerable interest, particularly from the younger age groups. A game can be had by becoming a member of the club or on a pay-as-you-play basis.

GERMAN VISITORS

Also during June a large group of German tourists spent a number of days in the vicinity. This event was largely the results of the efforts of the local Palatine Society and followed on from a corresponding trip to Germany by a Rathkeale group a couple of years ago. The highlight of the visit was a reception entirely organised and managed by the visitors in the Community Centre. Upwards of 150 people were treated to a typical German meal with wine prepared specially for the occasion and labelled with photographs of the town. All the cooking etc. was done by our guests and the evening was rounded off with musical and dancing entertainment until the early hours. It was evident that our German friends really enjoyed their short stay in the neighbourhood and credit is due in no small way to Austen Bovenizer and the Palatine Society for their efforts. It is hoped that contacts will be maintained with a view to reciprocal visits in the future.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The purchase of the old creamery buildings has finally been completed and the Industrial Development sub-committee of the Community Council is now proceeding with plans to put the property to use - primarily with a view to creating employment.



Limk. County Primary Schools Champions with Coach. Nora Dwane

Sportsman Extraordinary

What Sonia O' Sullivan is to Cobh and Michelle Smith is to Rathcoole could well be the position of outstanding athlete Damien Wilmott of Rathkeale in the not too distant future.

This young runner first came to notice at the age of six when he was runner-up in the Limerick County Community Games under 8 60m. race and since then has competed in numerous National Finals of the Games in Mosney from 1988 onwards both in individual sprints and relay races. In 1994 he finished 4th in the under 16 100m metre final in Mosney.

Damien then moved onto bigger and better things and joined Dooneen Athletic Club in Limerick and last year won his first All Ireland title when he took the under 16 championships at 60m in Nenagh. He also won the 100m and was third in the 200m. At this time he held the Munster record for 60m at 7.00 secs.

He then moved on to make a name for himself in schools athletics proceeding through county and provincial competition to reach the National Finals where he came second in the under 16 100m. He also represented Irish Schools in Wales in the Quadrangular International against England, Scotland and Wales. Damien finally reached the pinnacle of Community Games when he won the National Final of the under 17 sprint at Mosney in 1995.

This year he has really begun to make his mark and moved on to adult level both indoors and outdoors. He came first at under 17 and junior (U.19). He was also a member of the winning U.18 relay team in the B.L.O.E. finals.

Damiens career to date has followed the same pattern of all successful athletes of recent years particularly in regard to participation in Community Games and we have no doubt that given proper coaching and good training facilities he will be heard of at the top level in the near future. The Olympic Games parties of the year 2000 in Sydney may well be held in Rathkeale.



Photograph taken at Robertstown Church, June 3rd 1946 on the occasion of the wedding of Ned Prendeville and Chris ?

The second photograph shows the same group on the couples Golden Jubilee at Cappagh Church, June 3rd, 1996. The bridesmaid is Theresa Enright (Hennessy) and the Best Man is Billy Kirwan (Neds nephew). Ned and Chris live at Doohyle, Cappagh.



*Golden
Jubilee*

The Parish of Rathkeale

P. Coleman

This brief account of our parish seeks to trace the development of the origins of Rathkeale parish. Ireland is unique in Europe in having two parish systems - the Civil parish system and the Catholic parish system. Of these, the Catholic parish system dating from the period of the Penal Laws is the more modern. The Civil parish system dates from the period before the Reformation and remains the parish system of the Church of Ireland. Indeed the basis of the Civil parish system almost certainly dates back to the period of the Anglo-Norman invasion. It is unclear what ecclesiastical system existed prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion, however it would appear that apart from a number of Viking towns along the coast, which owed their loyalty to Canterbury, that a parish system as we understand it did not exist over the greater part of the country. It was the need for a major reform of the Irish church that led the then Pope to issue the Papal Bull 'Laudabiliter' to King Henry II of England, authorising him to invade Ireland and to bring the practices of the Christian Church in Ireland back into step with those advocated by Rome.

The name of Rathkeale has its origin from the Gaelic name Rath Caola. Those authorities that study the meanings of place-names invariably explain the meaning of these words as "the fort of Caola". Caola is generally explained as having been an Irish king or rí. People should be careful not to think of the term king/rí in the modern sense of the word. Celtic Ireland was a land where many kings/rí's competed for control over one another. While these kings/rí's exercised great powers over their subjects, the subjects were in effect members of the extended kin or family group. If Caola was a significant king/rí rather than a purely local figure, he would have to have forced a number of other local kings/rí's into submission to him. In truth the boundaries ruled over by the king/rí would have ebbed and flowed according to the local balance of power. Whether the Anglo-Norman usurped the territory ruled over by the descendants of Caola and defined it as the parish of Rath Caola/Rathkeyle/Rathkeale is not clear, but it is possible. The Civil parish system may have reflected the balance of power at the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion.

The tradition within the parish is that Rath Caola, the actual fort of Caola, was located in a field at the back of the Marian Shrine and adjacent to Mount Southwell. If this tradition bears out the true location, then both the Anglo-Norman and indeed the later English settlers located their main centres in close proximity to the old Gaelic centre. The manor lands of the parish of Rathkeale consisted of

the townlands of Castlematrix and Courtmatrix. "Matrix" appears to have its roots in the family name of Maltravers. The Maltravers inherited the parish through the female line from the Waspayl family. The Waspayls appear to be the Anglo-Norman family who first received a grant of the lands of the parish. These families or their representatives would have farmed some of the lands of the parish themselves - namely the manor lands - and sublet the remainder of the lands.

It appears that the Maltravers, who were a Dorset family, were absentees for much of the time that they had control of Rathkeale. However, it does seem that a member of the family did answer the King of England's call to various absentee families to come to the defence of Ireland at the time of the Bruce invasion. Given the absence of the Maltravers from the locality for such long periods, the estates would almost certainly have been administered by their representatives. These would have been the Augustinian monks who were located in the local abbey, the ruins of which can still be seen at Abbeylands to this day. This abbey appears to have been endowed by an earlier Anglo-Norman who was named Gilbert Harvey. Nothing else is known of Gilbert Harvey. As monks, the Augustinians had two major advantages for the Anglo-Norman lords. Firstly, like the other orders that were popular at the time, they prayed for the souls of the dead of their patrons. Secondly, unlike most of not all the orders then popular, they did not devote their time exclusively to this purpose. They devoted time also to secular activities, part of which would have been the administration of the local estate.

The Civil Survey of the mid-17th century, which was one of the first land surveys carried out in Ireland, indicates that the lands of Castlematrix and Courtmatrix, along with those of "Inishgousse .. Ballyvinterrouke .. Lissadine" were all under the ownership of Edmond Southwell. The lands of Rathkeale had passed into Geraldine hands circa the mid-15th century. The defeat of the Earl of Desmond in the late 16th century saw the confiscation of his lands and their passing into English hands. It is unlikely that these other townlands would have been part of the original manor lands of Rathkeale. More interestingly from the point of view of the development of Rathkeale town, the Civil Survey indicates that the lands of Castlematrix had located on them "a Castle, an orchard, a grist mill and a tucking mill". The castle would have constituted a defensive site where people could have built small houses of wattle and daub alongside to place themselves under the protection of the local

Lord. The mills and manor house would have been the centres of employment. The town of Rathkeale is probably an amalgam of this village site and of two other villages located at other sides in what is today the town of Rathkeale. These sites would be located close to Rathkeale Castle, where Pollocks house is now located, and in the area of the Abbey. The 1841 Ordnance Survey namebook indicates that the urban area of Rathkeale consisted of six townlands - Castlematrix, Enniscouch, Rathkeale, English Tenements, Abbeylands and Wolfesburgess East.

The Civil Survey indicates the curious amalgam that constituted the parish of Rathkeale. The Survey indicates that the townlands of Gortnecrehy and Carrowmore, which are located at the far end of Clouncagh, were part of Rathkeale parish. This may have been an error as, in the 1659 Census, Gortnecrehy is located in Clouncagh parish, though Carrowmore does not appear at all in this Census. The townlands of Riddlestown and Cloughnarold constituted the Civil Parish of Dundonnell. The townland of Rathnasare was part of the Civil Parish of Nantenan. Apart from these anomalies, Canon Begley in his comments on a list of Catholic priests active in the Diocese of Limerick in 1704 suggests that the Civil Parish of Kilcolman (today the Kilcolman portion of Kilcolman/Coolcappa Catholic parish) was divided between Kilcolman Superior and Kilcolman Inferior. Kilcolman Superior was identified as the townland of Kilcolman, in the Catholic Parish of Rathkeale. Kilcolman Inferior was in the Civil Parish of Kilcolman as presently constituted. As Kilcolman Superior would have constituted the old parish centre of Kilcolman parish, it must only have become part of Rathkeale parish at a somewhat late date, probably in the 16th or 17th century.

In the 1841 Ordnance Survey map, Kilcolman is an integral part of the Civil Parish of Rathkeale. However, Dundonnell remains a parish in its own right. The townland of Kilquane is a detached part of Rathkeale parish. Nantenan still retained the townland of Rathnasare and now includes a small portion of Enniscouch townlands within its boundaries. As this archaic structure was retained by the Established Church (from 1866 the Church of Ireland) it is necessary to point out that, in attempting to overcome the anomalies, Unions of parishes were established. Thus I believe that in 1830 Rathkeale Union included among others the parishes of Rathkeale, Nantenan and Dundonnell. This would have effectively negated the difficulties of organisation outlined above, however it did not overcome all of the anomalies that existed. Among the disparate townlands incorporated into the Civil Parish of Nantenan for instance were a number located along the Co. Kerry boundary.

The Catholic Church were addressing the anomalies in the Civil Parish system from quite early in the Penal period. In the late 17th century, Dr. Brennan who served as the Catholic bishop of Waterford and later as Archbishop of

Cashel was on the run from the English authorities. While on the run he wrote a number of letters to the Papal Representatives based in Brussels. While he does not indicate any specific cases of parochial re-organisation, he does state that because of the persecution of priests and the depopulation of the countryside that a priest could be ministering to anything from 2-5 parishes. While the first of these points has an element of truth to it, the second point may not have been allowing for major and important developments of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Civil Parish system, as already indicated, was built around the Anglo-Norman manor house. Where such estates were small, it is difficult to believe that they ever had the population base to support a priest. Some examples from this area would include the Civil Parishes of Morgans, Tomdeely, Iverus, Dundonnell and Grange (near Newcastle West). Some of these parishes would have had as few as two townlands. It is doubtful that any had more than five townlands. Previously the Lord of the Manor would have supported the priest; now with the change in land ownership and the hostility that existed to the Catholic Church and its agents, this situation could not continue. Undoubtedly Archbishop Brennan was expressing genuine sadness and regret in his letters. However, the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church did not shirk their responsibility in effecting changes in parish organisation. The effect of this re-organisation was evident in the lists of priests and their parishes published as part of the Penal legislation in 1704. This list indicates that priests throughout Ireland were administering unions of parishes at that time. While much changing of boundaries was to continue down to the end of the 19th century (not always peacefully), a basic Catholic parochial framework was already in existence from at least as early as 1704.

It would appear that the boundaries of Rathkeale Catholic parish were already in existence from this early date. The 1704 list tells us that Fr. James Stritch was parish priest of Rathkeale at that date and Vicar-General of the Diocese of Limerick (bishop of the diocese in all but name). Fr. James Moor was listed as parish priest for, among other places, Dundonnell and Kilcolman Superior. Canon Begley, in his 'History of the Diocese of Limerick Vol. 3', suggests that as the Catholic Church was not allowed to retain curates under the legislation, that they were simply getting around the legislation by making Fr. Moor parish priest of this area. In effect, Canon Begley suggests that Fr. Moor was curate of Rathkeale parish. Even if we are not to agree with Canon Begley, Fr. Moor succeeds to Rathkeale parish on the death of Fr. Stritch in 1719. This would appear to be the latest date that the Catholic Parish of Rathkeale as presently constituted came into being. One minor adjustment would appear to have occurred between the mid-18th century and the mid-19th century. A small portion of Rathkeale parish was given to the parish of Ballingarry so that the Catholic Mass House/Chapel of that parish would be located in the parish that it served. ♦

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a National Crime Prevention Scheme, operated in conjunction with the Garda Síochána, which encourages communities to be good and caring neighbours and to work together to reduce crime.

Neighbourhood Watch is simply neighbour looking after neighbour. You watch out for your neighbours' homes while they are gone and they watch for yours when you are gone and immediately report suspicious activity to the Gardaí.

It was originally established in response to the ever increasing crime rates of the mid 70's and early 80's. It was the possibility that crime was not only becoming more frequent but also more sinister in terms of damage inflicted on life and property that made crime a topic of public concern.

Neighbourhood Watch is based on the ideal of shared responsibility between the Gardaí and the community for crime prevention and reduction.

The three essential objectives of Neighbourhood Watch are:-

- ◆ **Reduce crime by reducing the opportunity for crime to occur.**
- ◆ **Reduce residents' fear of crime.**
- ◆ **Develop closer liaison between residents in a neighbourhood and between residents and the local Gardaí.**

The first Neighbourhood Watch experiments were established in the Dublin area in 1984. Six years later the number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes operating in Ireland exceeded 1000, involving some 200,000 households. Neighbourhood Watch continues to expand nationally and on average ten new schemes per month are being established.

The Community's part in the Neighbourhood Watch is to observe and report on the criminal activity in its own locality - if possible before a crime takes place. The Garda Síochána play a vital part in preventing crime, in detecting and apprehending criminals.

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership. The Gardaí rely on the community for support and co-operation, and the community rely on the Gardaí to respond. Together the community and the Gardaí can reduce the opportunity for crime.

The individual members of the scheme are the people who give Neighbourhood Watch its real meaning. Their day to day interest and awareness is the key factor which determines how well the scheme works.

The effects of crime on society generally and its victims in particular are immeasurable and far reaching. That car stolen, that lady assaulted, that house burgled could easily be your vehicle, neighbour, friend or home. It would be criminal to allow such crimes to become merely a statistical record. At the end of the day, the choice is yours.

A new committee has been formed in order to put in place and manage a Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the locality. The Chairman (pro tem) is Peter Donovan with Jan Andringa as V.Ch. The secretary is Breda Feane with Asst.Sec., Maire Nix and Treasurer John Dinnage. Each district has a number of local representatives who will liaise with the committee and the basic aim of the scheme is for everyone to be alert to any unusual activity, strange cars or people or anyone acting suspiciously and to report same to Gardaí as soon as possible. All such calls will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and the motto should be "Better sure than sorry". Garda Con Horan is providing the overall guidance on behalf of the Garda Síochána.

Abrahams Golfing Society

There have been three outings so far this year commencing with Killarney in April where the winners were:

Gents. 1. A. Supple 2. P. Dillon 3. J. O'Dwyer 4. F. Geary 5. J. O'Connor
Ladies. 1. E. Neville 2. P. Noonan 3. E. Noonan 4. I. Donovan

The winner of the President's Prize (Nora Dwane) at Adare Manor in June was Tom McNamara with 42pts. Others to win prizes included:

Gents. 1. N. Hartnett 2. J. O'Connor 3. M. Cregan 4. T. O'Connor 5. L. O'Sullivan
Ladies. 1. E. Noonan 2. H. Roche 3. B. Tansey 4. P. Noonan 5. E. Newell

The most recent competition was held in Charleville in early July where the following were successful:

Gents. 1. J. Shier 2. N. Duggan 3. M. Hennessey 4. F. Geary
Ladies. 1. P. O'Connor 2. E. Keating 3. M. O'Connell

The society breaks new ground for the next outing which takes place in Ballykisteen Golf Club on Saturday August 10th from 12 Noon to 2.00 p.m. and the Captain's Prize (N. Hartnett) is scheduled for Newcastlewest (Ardagh) on Saturday August 31st.

Below: Visit of President Mary Robinson



Arranging the Senior Citizens Outing



At the Launch of Dr. Pat O'Connors book
"All Ireland is in and about Rathkeale"

*Photo
Shoot*

**ORATION BY SENATOR DAN NEVILLE
AT THE 75th COMMEMORATION OF
THE DEATH IN ACTION OF BRIDGE COMMANDANT
SEAN FINN 28th APRIL 1996 AT HIS GRAVESIDE IN RATHKEALE**

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be invited by the Rathkeale Historical Society to address an important historical occasion. It is right that the Society should, as its first major event, commemorate the 75th anniversary of the death in action of Seán Finn. One is humbled at this distance in time to speak about a man who had achieved so much at 22 years of age that Seán Finn achieved.

The man was a great leader. He had the moral, mental and physical attributes of a born leader. He led the Old IRA/Sinn Féin in West Limerick to enormous heights and was killed by British Forces in 1916, months before the Truce. It is amazing to look back and see that a man of 22 years would have played such a major role in the War of Independence. That he would, at the age of 17, be involved in the organisation of the Old IRA in West Limerick and become Captain of the Rathkeale Company. Ernest Blythe visited here to re-organise the Volunteers after the 1916 Rising. At 17 years of age Seán Finn commanded a force in Rathkeale of eighty volunteers which had increased from the number of people prior to Blythe's visit.

Finn went on to organise the Old IRA in West Limerick, beginning with Ballingarry, Croagh, Cappagh and Ardagh and when he was made Brigade Commandant he commanded the Old IRA in West Limerick, a force of 2,000 volunteers, reporting directly to the Movement's leadership in Dublin.

When we remember Seán Finn, we think of his military success. He was also a great administrator in that he organised the Sinn Féin Courts in West Limerick and, in fact, effectively took over the policing of West Limerick from the R.I.C. and openly had his volunteers controlling traffic at various functions throughout this area. He was a man of enormous ability and it is interesting to speculate what contribution he would have made once independence was obtained if he wasn't gunned down in Ballyhahill on 30th March, seventy five years ago. It is fitting that we remember him and his comrades for what they did for Ireland, what they achieved for us, for the opportunities they gave us. Those of us involved in public life have a duty to serve our country in a way that he would want us to do so. That is the objective we as politicians must look towards.

Looking at Ireland today, what would Seán Finn and his comrades think of the situation? Let's all hope and pray that we have a resumption of the IRA ceasefire and progress can be made for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. That is everybody's wish and I know, sure as we remember Seán Finn today, that it would be his wish and hopefully he is praying for that in his heavenly home.

I have no difficulties in commemorating the people who fought and died in 1916 to 1921. We as constitutional politicians have a duty to remember and pay tribute to those who obtained our independence. Every post colonial country commemorates its independence and I am disappointed that we as a nation do not commemorate it better than we do. Hopefully as things improve on the national issue we will remember in a better way those who gave us what we cherish today - the independence of our country.

Again, Chairman, I congratulate you and your Committee that the deeds of Seán Finn and his brave comrades are remembered and hopefully this is the start of the contribution that you and your Society will make to remembering the deeds of people like Seán Finn and those who, for generations before him, ensured that we as a nation survived and now can enjoy our independence.

Go raibh míle maith agat.

POSTSCRIPT

On Monday, 1st July the new Chairman's Gallery, which includes photographs of the Chairman of Limerick County Council since its inception, was formally opened by the Chairman of the County Council, Mr. Matt Callaghan and the County Manager, Michael Deigan.

One of the places in the gallery is a portrait of Seán Finn which was completed by artist Frank Bouchier and taken from a photograph which hung in the Council offices for over seventy years. On the request of the County Manager, I completed the following caption

The caption reads: "Commandant Seán Finn 1897-1992 O/C West Limerick IRA, killed in action by British troops at Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick"

As a result of my continuing interest in having Seán Finn honoured at the offices of Limerick County Council, the County Manager gave me the original photograph that hung in the office. It now hangs on the wall of my office at Croagh.



SEAN FINN,

Commandant of the West Limerick Brigade I. R. A.,
Who died in Action, 30th March, 1921.

City Printing Co., Limerick.

Remembering Past Events

By P. J. Madigan

1971

On Thursday, 7th January, 200 children were guests of St. Mary's G.A.A. Club at an informal party in the Vocational School. Tom McNamara, Secretary of the Club, extended a welcome to all who attended the function. Rev. Fr. Irwin, C.C., thanked the Club for their invitation and Pat Cahillane, Principal of St. Joseph's Boys' National School, spoke of the many school matches played during the year which helped to promote a spirit of sportsmanship among the young players. The following were presented with medals won as a result of the tournament played in July 1970 at the Gymkhana organised by Cappagh Pitch and Putt Club who donated the medals: Noel Harnett, Billy Barr, Connie Naughton, Vincent Hayes, Denis O'Dea, Frank Hayes, Niall Hogan, Ted Clyne, Andy Fitzgerald, Sean Harnett, Pat Naughton, John Daly, Frank Dalton, Mike Sullivan, Tony Fitzgerald, Paul Hayes, Mike Fitzgerald, David Meehan, Sean O'Connor, Michael Meehan, Joe Kennedy.

The wedding took place in January at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale of James McGrath, only son of the late Mr. James McGrath and Mrs. Margaret McGrath, Ballycullane, Kilmallock and Mary Wilmott, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Wilmott, Rockfield, Rathkeale. The best man was Martin O'Shea, Rutagh, Herbertstown, and the bridesmaid was Bridget Wilmott, sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Irwin, C.C., Rathkeale and the servers were Thomas and Martin Wilmott, cousins of the bride. The organist was Mr. F. Conway.

The AGM of Rathkeale Community Council was held in the Library on Friday, 15th January and was well attended. The following officers were elected for 1971: President - Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P; Vice-Presidents - Rev. D. Wall, C.C. and Rev. W. H. Nicholson, Church of Ireland, Rector; Chairman - Pat Cahillane; Vice-Chairman -

Loretta Hickey; Secretary - Michael Hanley; Treasurer - Con Crowley.

The AGM of the Sean Finn Fianna Fail Cumann was held in Rathkeale House Hotel on Saturday, 23rd Jan. Mr. Gerard Collins, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, and Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D. both addressed the meeting. Miss Maria Finn, M.C.C. announced a £75,000 scheme for 22 houses in Mulcahy's field in the New Road. The following officers were elected for 1971: Chairman - Gerry Fitzgerald; Vice-Chairman - P. Fitzgerald; Secretary - John Griffin; Joint Treasurers - Maria Finn and Bridget O'Donnell; Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair - M. Hayes and P. Fitzgerald.

On Saturday, 6th February at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between Thomas Steele, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Steele, Church Street, Rathkeale and Goretta Conners, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conners, Glenarrold, Rathkeale. The best man was Liam Hanley and the bridesmaid was Kathleen Conners, sister of the bride. Another sister, Jacinta, was flowergirl. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Wall, C.C. The soloist was Thomas Glenny and the organist was F. Conway.

The following local pupils of the Dalton School of Dancing were successful in the Rural Dancing Section of Feile Luimni on Saturday, 20th February:

Solo reel under 8: 2nd Fiona Madigan. Solo reel under 10: 2nd Brian Mooney. Solo slip or single jig under 10: 3rd Brian Mooney. 3-hand reel under 10: 1st Fiona Madigan, Brian Mooney, Martha Fitzgerald. Solo reel age 11 or under (for competitors who had not won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any open Feis): 3rd John Madigan. 4-hand reel age 12 or under: 1st Marie Madigan, Seamus Doherty, Anne Fitzgerald, Richard Mooney. Very highly commended: Rosemary Hughes, Declan Mooney, Eileen O'Shea, John

Madigan.

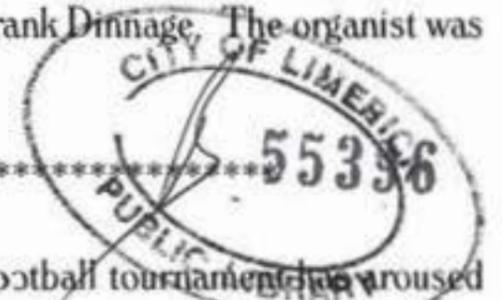
On Sunday, 21st February, pupils of St. Anne's Convent School and the Boys' National School were awarded prizes and certificates at a presentation ceremony held in the presence of parents and teachers in the Convent Assembly Hall. The lucky pupils were among 2,000 children who had entered exhibits in the Fleetwood Munster Child Art Competition, held in conjunction with the 'Maid of West Cork' Festival. The Festival Director, Mr. James F. Forbes, presented the awards to the following: Laurence Curtin (trophy and £3), Mary Shier (certificate and £2), Annette Dollery (£2). Certificates to the following: Seamus Roche, Brian Mooney, Kevin Donovan, Elizabeth Lenihan, Eileen Gammell, Marie Madigan, Alison Flaherty, Caroline Hogan, Michael Coleman, James Stackpoole, Michael Keating, Teresa Conmy, Anne Fitzgerald.

On Monday, 22nd February at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the marriage took place between Garda Frank Tiernan, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Tiernan, Springfield House, Elphin, Co. Roscommon and Sheila Geary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Geary, Lower Main Street, Rathkeale. The best man was Patrick Tiernan, brother of the groom, and Phil Fitzgerald, sister of the bride, was matron of honour. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. G. Enright, P.P., Janesboro, Limerick, assisted by Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P., V.F., Rathkeale. The soloist was Mrs. Mary Hawkhead, another sister of the bride. The organist was Emer Madigan.

On Thursday, 11th March at the Church of Christ the King, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, England, the wedding took place between Mr. Jeff Box, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Box, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire and Mai Farrell, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Farrell, Church Street, Rathkeale. The best man was Mr. John Costello and the bridesmaids were Michele Box and Siobhan O'Reilly. The ceremony was performed by Fr. Edmund Jones, O.S.B. and the honeymoon was spent in Paris.

On St. Patrick's Day, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between Patrick Moran, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Moran, Foynes and Joan Daly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Daly, St. Mary's Terrace, Rathkeale.

The best man was Oliver Moran, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Mary Daly, sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Wall, C.C., Rathkeale. Soloists during the Mass were Patrick Flaherty, cousin of the bride, and Frank Dinnage. The organist was Emer Madigan.



The seven-a-side school football tournament has aroused keen competition between the teams from the Boys' National School. The following are the teams for 1971:

Kickhams: M. Wilmott (capt), M. Enright, M. Neville, P. Neville, P. Barr, B. Goodwin, C. Crowley.

O'Connells: D. Crowley (capt), D. Harnett, G. Cahillane, M. O'Brien, D. Markham, N. Johnson, T. Barr.

Sarsfields: M. Roche (capt), S. Doherty, M. Doherty, B. Dillon, C. Cahillane, D. Mooney, S. O'Shea.

Sean Finns: D. Cuddy (capt), M. Zoncada, B. coleman, S. Prendeville, P. Dollery, P. O'Dwyer, C. Hogan.

Emmets: S. Coleman (capt), K. Walsh, L. Keating, D. Reidy, T. Kett, B. Mooney, C. Baggott.

Wolfe Tones: S. Kennedy (capt), R. Dollery, E. Dollery, D. Dalton, S. Roche, J. Feane, R. Madden.

Geraldines: M. Daly (capt), T. White, J. Hennessy, W. Madden, J. Madigan, B. White, B. Kennedy.

Sean McDermotts: L. Kennedy (capt), E. Goodwin, T. Keating, J. Fitzgerald, P. Cahillane, J. Roche, J. Connolly.

On Thursday, 25th March at Ballingrane Methodist Church, the wedding took place between John Bryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bryan, Enniskeane, Co. Cork, and Barbara, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ruttle, Fort View, Rathkeale. The best man was Gordon Bryan, cousin of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Elva Byrne, a friend of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Coates, assisted by Rev. J. B. Jennings, uncle of the bridegroom. The organist was P. Jeffers.

On Wednesday, 14th April at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between John Corridan, Knockmeal, Abbeyfeale and Catherine Wilmott, Rockfield, Rathkeale.

The bridesmaid was Bridget Wilmott, sister of the bride and the best man was Frank Corridan, brother of the groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Irwin, C.C., Rathkeale and the organist was Emer Madigan.

Also on Wednesday, 14th April at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between Patrick Madigan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Madigan, Assumpta Park, Newcastle West and Mary Doherty, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Doherty and the late John Doherty, Ballyallinan, Rathkeale. The best man was Michael Madigan, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Kathleen Doherty, sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Wall, C.C., Rathkeale, assisted by Very Rev. Canon O'Brien, P.P. Newcastle West. The organist was Emer Madigan.

The wedding took place in April at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale between Elizabeth Clancy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clancy, Ballyea, Rathkeale and Brendan Murdock, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Murdock, Dun Laoghaire. The best man was Brian Murdock, brother of the groom, and two cousins, Michael Small and Patrick Molloy were groomsmen. The bride's two sisters, Mary and Kathleen, and friend Mary Griffin were bridesmaids. The bride's trainbearers were her two nephews Patrick and Seamus Clancy from Cappawhite, Tipperary. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Luke Griffin, O.M.I., assisted by Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P., Rathkeale. The soloist was Hilda Moore, Limerick and the organist was Emer Madigan.

The wedding took place recently at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Dublin Airport between Jim O'Shaughnessy, The Square, Rathkeale and Mairead Dowds, Balybofey, Lifford, Co. Donegal. The best man was John O'Shaughnessy, brother of the groom. The groomsmen were Bernard Dowds, Rena Dowds, sister of the bride was bridesmaid and another sister, Mrs. Raymond Treacy, was matron of honour. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. William Deasy, P.P., Finglas East, Dublin, assisted by Rev. Fr. Halpin, Blackrock College.

On Wednesday, 5th May a question time and public speaking competition took place in St. James School, Cappagh, and teams representing Cappagh, Rathkeale and Killeedy Community Councils participated. Cappagh were success-

ful in both contests. The Cappagh question time team were: Dominic Culhane, Denis Hawkes, Michael Clancy, Tim Lane, N.T., and James Noonan. Those taking part in the public speaking were: Basil Ruttle, Noel Hawkes and John Healy. The question master was Mr. D. Doyle, County Librarian, and the scorekeeper was Miss R. Nash, Assistant Librarian.

The school sports were held in the G.A.A. field on Thursday, 10th June. The following are the results:

Finals U-9:

Sack Race: 1. M. Binchy. 2. J. Feane. 3. P. McCarthy.

Three-legged Race:

1. M. Coleman and J. Dillon. 2. B. Dillon and M. Doherty.

Wheelbarrow Race:

1. B. White and B. Dillon. 2. P. Cahillane and L. Johnson.

High Jump: 1. B. Dillon. 2. M. Doherty. 3. N. Byrnes.

Long Jump: 1. B. Dillon. 2. M. Doherty. 3. B. Mooney.

Sprint: 1. M. Meade. 2. B. White. 3. M. Doherty.

Relay: 1. M. Doherty, C. Hogan, G. Mulcaire, R. Doherty.

Finals U-11:

Long Jump: 1. S. Doherty. 2. L. Fitzgerald. 3. C. Crowley.

Sack Race: 1. P. Neville. 2. J. Connolly. 3. M. O'Brien.

Wheelbarrow Race:

1. P. Meade and T. Mulcahy. 2. P. Dwyer and J. Connolly.

Three-Legged Race:

1. J. Madigan and S. Roche. 2. M. O'Brien and J. Fitzgerald.

High Jump: 1. T. Kett. 2. S. Roche. 3. J. Fitzgerald.

Sprint: 1. P. Meade. 2. N. Johnson. 3. M. O'Brien.

Relay: 1. S. Doherty, B. Kennedy, N. Johnson, S. Roche.

Bicycle Race: 1. M. O'Brien. 2. P. O'Grady. 3. S. Prendeville.

Finals Over-11:

Sack Race: 1. T. Keating. 2. W. Keating. 3. S. Kennedy.

Three-Legged Race:

1. M. Daly and S. Coleman. 2. D. Harnett and L. Kennedy.

Wheelbarrow Race: 1. S. Coleman and P. Dollery. 2. T. O'Shaughnessy and T. Daly.

High Jump: 1. S. Coleman. 2. D. Crowley. 3. M. Enright.

Long Jump: 1. T. Daly. 2. W. Keating. 3. D. Cuddy.

Sprint: 1. D. Cuddy. 2. M. Daly. 3. M. Enright.

Relay: 1. M. Reidy, D. Harnett, R. Mooney, J. Fitzgerald.

Bicycle Race: 1. M. Enright. 2. S. Coleman. 3. D. Crowley.

440 Yards: 1. M. Meade. 2. M. Doherty. 3. B. Dillon.

Convent Boys Race: 1. P. Power. 2. D. White. 3. A. Flaherty.

Convent Girls U-9: 1. H. Mulcair. 2. C. Wall. 3. N.

Mulcahy.

Convent Girls U-11: 1. A. Dollery. 2. S. Tobin. 3. C. Carroll.

Convent Girls Over 11: 1. A. Roche. 2. M. Crowley. 3. E. McCarthy.

Best all-round athlete: Tie between B. Dillon and M. Doherty with 12 points each.

Members of the staff of Shannon Meats Limited staged a very enjoyable concert on Wednesday, 23rd June. The guest artist was Fr. Michael Cleary who was appearing in Rathkeale for the first time. Others taking part were 'The Rebels': the Murphy brothers from Ardagh; Maura Hogan, vocalist, and John Meehan and his group. Lady Gregory's "Workhouse Ward" was presented by Dan Neville, Peggy Curtin and Dick Woodroffe.

The following prices obtained at the Golden Vale Mart in Rathkeale on 2nd August:

Cattle: Beef bullocks £10.50 to £10.75. Beef heifers £10.00 to £10.60. Store bullocks £10.75 to £11.50. Store heifers £10.00 to £11.00. Lightweights £11.00 to £12.65. Fat cows £7.25 to £8.00.

Calves: Hereford cross bulls £25.00 to £38.00. Hereford cross heifers £18.00 to £27.00. Friesian bulls £20.00 to £32.00. Friesian heifers £17.00 to £25.00.

Weanlings: Bulls £44.00 to £58.00. Heifers £37.00 to £46.00.

Pigs: Fat pigs £18.00 to £20.50. Store pigs 50lbs £8.00. Store pigs 64lbs £8.60. Store pigs 92lbs £10.50. Store pigs 72lbs £9.40.

Work commenced on the new County Council housing scheme in Mulcahy's field. Twenty-two houses will be built there. Work is also going ahead on the serviced sites in Well Lane where purchasers of sites may build their own houses. As a result of these schemes there is general satisfaction in the town that the housing problem is being tackled with determination.

On Monday 2nd August at Holy Trinity Church, Adare the

wedding took place between John Brennan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brennan, Holycross, Rathkeale and Ann Kilmurray, daughter of Mrs. Mary Kilmurray and the late Mr. Kilmurray, Adare. The best man was Patrick Brennan, Dundalk, brother of the groom. The groomsman was John O'Shaughnessy, brother-in-law of the bride. The bridesmaid was Mary Naughton, Adare, a friend of the bride. Mrs. Mary O'Shaughnessy, sister of the bride, was matron of honour. The flower girl was Ann Kelly, New York, niece of the groom and the page boy was Peter Brennan, Jnr., nephew of the groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Liston, C.C., Adare and the organist was Lena Chawke.

On Thursday, 12th August at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between John Conaghan, son of Mr. and the late Mrs. P. Conaghan, Newcastle West and Elizabeth Dinnage, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Dinnage, Church Street, Rathkeale. The best man was Gerard Conaghan, brother of the groom, and Mrs. S. Condon, sister of the bride, was matron of honour. Child attendants were Caroline Condon, flower girl; Anne-Marie Dinnage and Robert Cunningham, train bearers, nieces and nephew of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P., V.F. Rathkeale, assisted by Very Rev. Canon O'Brien, P.P., Newcastle West.

On Saturday, 21st August at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale the wedding took place between John O'Donnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver O'Donnell, Newcastle West and Elsie Kelly, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kelly, Abbeylands, Rathkeale. The best man was Kevin O'Donnell, brother of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Bridie Kelly, sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Wall, C.C. Rathkeale. The organist was Emer Madigan.

THE RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE INCIDENT, NOVEMBER 1921

From "The Old Limerick Journal"

At the meeting of the Second Dáil, which was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on the 16th and 17th of August, 1921, Alderman W. T. Cosgrave presented his report on the activities of the Sinn Féin Local Government Board. The Irish Times reported that one of the topics being dealt with was the abolition of the workhouses which "bred a peculiar race, people who had no civic pride or sense or civic responsibility. A great attempt was now being made to wipe out the workhouse, as it was known, and to provide instead district hospitals and county homes for the aged and infirm". Despite the fact that war could be resumed at any moment, this proposal was implemented by the local government administration which largely owed allegiance to Sinn Féin outside Ulster.

On 28th September 1921, the Irish Times carried a report on a meeting between the Wexford Board of Guardians and "a woman inspector of Dáil Eireann", who stated that "If it was possible, she would like to see all the old Unions burned, but it was not practical politics". Subsequently, that newspaper carried reports of the occupation of the workhouse at Celbridge, Co. Kildare, the commandeering of the building in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal by a crowd of 200, the presence of armed I.R.A. at the opening of Roscommon County Home and a question in the House of Commons on the occupation of Ballyshannon Workhouse, where a sentry was posted.

In the report on the aftermath of the events covered in this article, the Irish Times of 26th November 1921 said that the Rathkeale Workhouse had been occupied by a large force of the Irish Republican Army for a period of two months. The workhouse had been abolished under an amalgamation scheme and the inmates had been

transferred to the County Hospital, Croom and to the County Home, Newcastle West. The report was carried under the heading BREACH OF THE TRUCE and this note attempts to give some of the background to this incident which occurred at a critical juncture in the negotiations which were going on in London. Where possible, the original documentation is quoted verbatim and is largely self-explanatory. The following handwritten unsigned and undated note is contained in a file entitled "Rathkeale Raid" which is held in the Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE

1. I received notification on 20th inst. from enemy G.H.Q. that they intended to occupy Rathkeale Workhouse by (sic) troops on 25th inst.
2. My Liaison Officer in Limerick was advised by Col. Wyatt (enemy) that the building was to be taken over by British Forces at 10 a.m. on 25th inst.
3. Acting on instructions received I notified enemy military L.O. at 2 p.m. on 24th inst. by phone that the building in question was occupied by our troops and that they would not vacate it. I suggested to him that they would cause something in the nature of a crisis. I requested an interview with Gen. Macready and was told that it was impossible.

I requested this interview thinking that difficulties likely to arise might be obviated. I emphasised the fact that in speaking to Col. Stewart I made it quite clear that if their attitude remained the same regarding the taking over of the building, there was bound to be friction. His attitude was that he was quite satisfied. From information received it is quite clear that the enemy had every intention of fulfilling their threat re occupation.

I was informed this morning at the Castle that during the night the building had been evacuated by our people and had been absolutely destroyed by the fire. They allege that this was done by our forces. I was also informed that a wire had been received by British G.H.Q. at 8 p.m. last night 24th inst. from London. This wire instructed the British Military "to hold their hand for a few days re Rathkeale".

Seeing that they allege that the burning was an act perpetrated by our people, and in view of my warning during the day, it appears to me as gross neglect that I was not advised of a change in their attitude i.e. that is the altering of their ultimatum to occupy the building in question.

This incident of a wire arriving late corresponds with a similar occurrence in the Galway Prison case. It appears to be a game to place us in the wrong and to give them every advantage regarding publicity. I consider it a case that should be shown up as we obviously have nothing to loose (sic).

This note was, almost certainly, written by Commandant Emmet Dalton, Acting Chief Liaison Officer, Oglai na hEireann at his office in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. In the note there is reference to Liaison Officers (L.O.) who had been appointed by both sides in the aftermath of the Truce, which had been agreed to take effect from 12 noon on Monday, 11th July, 1921, effectively ending the War of Independence. As Oglai na hEireann had not been precluded from retaining their arms there was an obvious necessity for a mechanism which would sort out local difficulties and prevent hostilities breaking out as the result of such difficulties. General MacReady, General Officer Commanding, Ireland wrote, in his autobiography, *Annals of an Active Life*:

I had hoped that the persons nominated to act in liaison with the General Officers throughout the country would have helped to smooth over the difficulties that arose almost daily, but unfortunately, the men chosen by Sinn Féin for this work were persons who appeared determined to do everything to irritate and annoy the officers with whom they were in touch, losing no opportunity of posing to the public as the ruling power in the country. When complaints were brought to their notice, supported by reliable evidence, they dismissed them as devoid of any semblance of foundation without making an effort to ascertain the truth on their side.

Another difficulty with these Sinn Féin liaison officials was that they used letter paper headed "Irish Republican Army" and after their signatures added an Army rank, generally that of General. I passed word to the Divisional Generals that neither the I.R.A. nor any military rank could be recognised by us, because if the peace negotiations broke down, the Irish would at once argue that we had recognised their Army status and claim to be treated as belligerents.

So difficult did the liaison business become, owing mainly to the selection by Sinn Féin of persons with whom it was impossible, even with the best of goodwill, to deal that it soon broke down so far as the Army was concerned, and communications were carried on through the civil authorities at the Castle.

The Sinn Féin liaison people were known among ourselves as the "a charas" from an Erse expression with which they commenced their letters, and which was the sum total of the knowledge of the Erse language possessed by all but a very few of them.

This sometimes jaundiced view of the "a charas" and their work in the extremely difficult situation which prevailed in the period from the Truce to the Treaty was not shared by Dalton, who was not a man to suffer fools gladly. In his report to the Minister

for Defence (Richard Mulcahy), when he relinquished his post in the Liaison Office, he is fulsome in his praise of the "competent and hardworking" staff with whom he worked. He said:

In many cases, I regret to say, they were looked on by our own side as traitors on account of their association with the then British enemy. Furthermore, in addition to their liaison work, many held minor commands in the Army, and while always in the unenviable position of peacemaker, they showed themselves capable of protecting the interests of the Army creditably, when the occasion arose.

Some ideas of the difficulties under which Liaison Officers worked can be gained from the fact that, as Tim Pat Coogan points out in his biography of Michael Collins, "nominal IRA strength was listed as 72363", while at the time of the Truce it stood at some three thousand. Dalton in his report refers to "a most unprecedented outburst of brigandism which had swept the whole country. Armed holds-up (sic) and motor thefts were of daily occurrence", while MacReady tells of the "everyday violation of the truce terms by de Valera's followers which was a constant source of trouble and anxiety up to the signing of the treaty .."

A series of letters and memoranda in the Military Archives file allows one to follow the sequence of events as they unfolded. The first letter, dated 10th November 1921, is from the Chief of Staff (Mulcahy) to "Mick" and reads:

1. RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE. The President spoke to myself and the Minister for Defence this evening with regard to Workhouse and he takes up the attitude that we must maintain that the Workhouses are the property of the people and that "the guardians of the poor in the district are the real owners". They have to come to some decision on this point and he asked the Minister for Defence to have you sent a copy of this decision.

According to his ruling we cannot evacuate the Rathkeale Workhouse, in order to let the enemy in. Further, as a counter-offensive in this matter, he has arranged that the Minister for Defence will get the Minister for Local Government to get the Guardians of any Workhouse into which the Enemy have gone since the Truce, to send him (the Minister for Local Government) particulars of the case, with a view to having our Chief Liaison Officer demand evacuation.

The reply, dated 11th November was:

RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE. Yes, this is quite alright, but if we ourselves evacuate the place - I mean if the Minister for Local Government decided on the evacuation under his amalgamation of Union Scheme - where do the Guardians of the Poor come in then? Of course, we can say as much as we like that these buildings are our property - they say they are theirs. It seems to me it is scarcely worthwhile quarelling on the words of the decision.

The next document is a letter dated 19th November 1921 from Colonel E. Prout, Deputy Quarter Master General, General Headquarters, Ireland, which informs the Chief Liaison Officer that the workhouse is to be occupied by troops on 25th November 1921. Captain O'Shaughnessy, Liaison Officer, 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick is informed of this intended move by British Forces in a letter from the Acting Chief Liaison Officer, which is dated 22nd November 1921. A memorandum which details the notes passed between the Liaison Office, the Chief of Staff and the Minister for Defence (Cathal Brugha) follows the notification of the intended occupation of the workhouse. In his communication to the Minister, Mulcahy writes:

Rathkeale Workhouse is with my approval held by three rifle-men and 12 shotgun men, with the intention of holding it against the enemy, for such time as will permit of the building being destroyed rather than allow occupation. The Div. Comdt. 1st Southern

Division was very emphatic that if they are to be expected to fight again in this area the enemy should not be allowed to occupy this building.

I did agree with the D/L 2 or 3 weeks ago that I would not advocate a fight on this question from a military point of view. The enemy decision is probably of political intent and I should be glad of instruction as to the steps which it is desired should be taken by us in this matter.

The Minister replied on 23rd November 1921:

The British should not be allowed to take possession. If necessary the intention mentioned by you at the beginning of this communication should be carried out. I am requesting M/Local Government to instruct the Local Guardians to inform the British that the building is their property and that they object to their taking possession of it.

A handwritten comment in the margin of the latter communication reads, "The wording of this memo is most confusing", and is initialled J.E.D. (J. Emmet Dalton).

In a letter dated 23rd November 1921, from the Liaison Office, 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, the Liaison Officer I.R.A., Commandant T. J. O'Shaughnessy, writes to the Chief Liaison Officer, Gresham Hotel, Dublin.

I have yours of 22nd inst. re occupation of Rathkeale by enemy troops on 25th. I have been already advised by Colonel Wyatt here that the buildings were to be taken over by the enemy at 10 a.m. on the date mentioned and I at once took up with the O/C West Limerick Brigade. I took up with Colonel Wyatt and represented to him that the occupation would be construed as a breach of the Truce particularly as the building was at present occupied by our men.

A note card, headed Gresham Hotel, has the following handwritten message:

20 lorries, 2 tanks, 2 armoured cars, extra ration for men have gone to Mount Brown, phone message from I.O. Mid-Limerick at 7.30 p.m.

On 24th November, Mulcahy wrote to the Chief Liaison Officer:

Will you at once inform the enemy authorities that occupation of Rathkeale Workhouse by them cannot be concurred in by us.

The next document in the series is

REPORT - RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE

Adj. 1st Southern Division

Rathkeale Workhouse was burned at 2.30 a.m. this morning by our forces. Military forces - 6 lorries, 1 armoured car and one tank - arrived from Limerick to Mount-browne at 5.30 p.m. yesterday.

At 10 p.m. yesterday a message from the Liaison Officer, Limerick giving a copy of communication which he had received from O.C. enemy 18th Infantry Bde, Limerick was received by Div. Adj. 1st Southern, intimating the fact that he intended adhering to his original decision to have the Workhouse taken over at 10 a.m. this morning.

Acting on this information I ordered the destruction of the Workhouse at 2.30 a.m. which was duly carried out.

At 9.25 a.m. the 25th inst. 2 armoured cars and 2 lorries, 1 military lorry and 1 R.I.C. lorry arrived from Mount-browne at the outer gate of the Workhouse, and after viewing the building from a distance of about 150 yards they returned in the direction of Mountbrowne.

At 9.45 a.m. 2 lorries of military arrived from Newcastle West and proceeded towards Mountbrowne.

The series of letters and memoranda ends with a letter, dated 30th November 1921, from E.S. O Dugain to Dalton which reads:

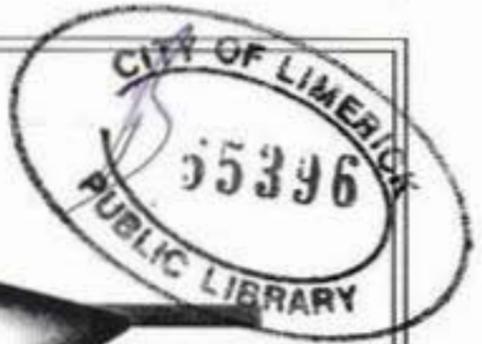
RATHKEALE: I think we came very well out of this and can quite understand Macready's anxiety to avoid the issue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is deeply indebted to Commandant Peter Young, Captain Victor Laing, Sergeant Joe White, Corporals Brendan Mahony and Bertie Egerton, Private Paul Reilly and the staff of the Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.



Princess of Desmond 1996
Deirdre Downes

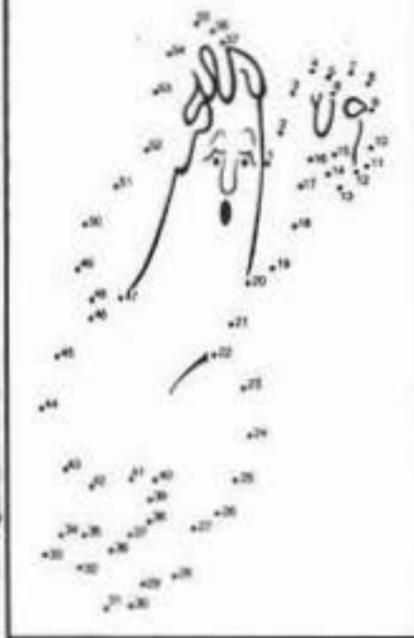


Kids Club

A picture to colour



Connect The Dots



The Leaves Are Falling

Can you fill in the missing letters to make names of trees?
Each dash represents a letter.

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Apple | Elm | Fig | Cherry | Spruce |
| Ash | Willow | Redwood | Oak | Maple |
| Pine | Olive | Pear | Palm | Cedar |



PAIRS PUZZLE

ALL THESE THINGS ARE FROM NURSERY RHYMES. CAN YOU PAIR THEM UP?



ANSWER: (1'9)(01'5)(8'3)(6'2)(4'3)

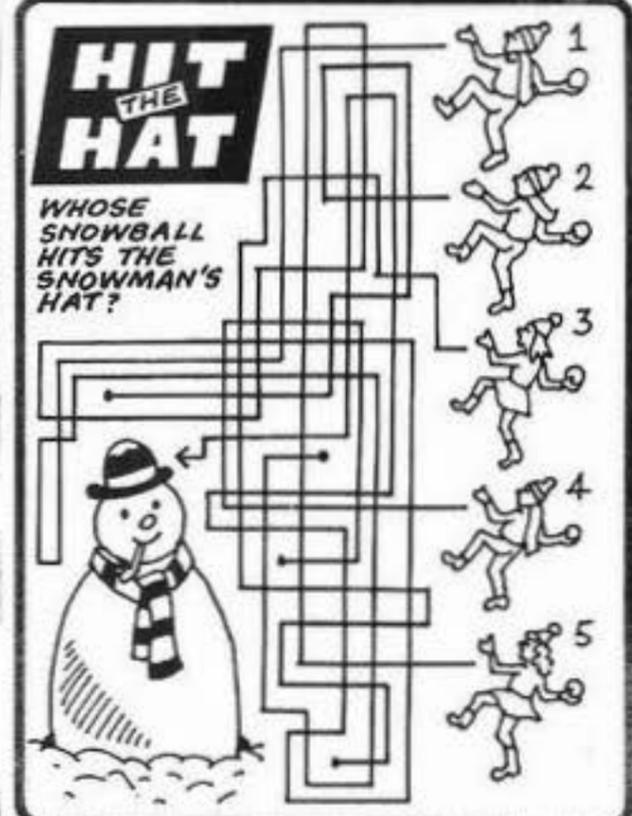
You've Got To Be Joking

Laurie: I bet I know how I can keep you in great suspense.
Bill: Oh yeah? How?
Laurie: Tell you later.

Ben: Why are squirrels so poor?
Greg: Tell me.
Ben: Because money doesn't grow on trees.

Betty: A traffic warden just gave my beagle a ticket.
Billy: How come?
Betty: He was parked too close to a fire hydrant.

Cindy: How does a dentist examine a great white shark's teeth?
Sam: How?
Cindy: Very carefully.



Unscramble

Rearrange the letters to find out these 9 sports that take place in the summer.

1. NENITS _____
2. RACSE RINGHO _____
3. IMPMSGW _____
4. OFGL _____
5. SHLETATIC _____
6. KIETCRC _____
7. OQUECRT _____
8. LSBOW _____
9. SHIFNG _____

Cross Out

Cross out the nine months that are hidden in this puzzle. Then read across the remaining letters in each row to find a stuffed mystery gift.

A	T	J	U	N	E	E	J
U	M	A	R	C	H	D	A
G	D	A	P	R	I	L	N
U	J	U	L	Y	Y	B	U
S	E	A	M	A	Y	R	A
T	O	C	T	O	B	E	R
F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y

???????????

Do you know...

how thick would a book with a million pages be?
If a book had a million pages it would be 70 metres thick - as high as a 23-storey skyscraper

USEFUL INFORMATION

Deel Views: Jack O'Dwyer. Tel. (069) 64210

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union:

Monday: 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Thursday: 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Friday: 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Saturday: 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Library Opening Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m.; 6.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m.

Thursday: 10.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m.; 2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

Friday: 2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.; 6.30 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle; Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

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

Thursday: 9.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m.

Dentist: Ml. Brosnan, Thomas Street

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch: Half day Thursday

Dr. Curtin: Half day Wednesday

Dr. Teahan: Half day Thursday

Church/Mass Times:

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday: 8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.30 a.m.

Monday to Saturday: 9.30 a.m.

Saturday: 8.00 p.m. (Summer) 7.30 p.m. (Winter)

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10.30 a.m.

4th Sunday 11.00 a.m. alternating with Askeaton &

Castletown

Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church

Sundays: May & July 11.30 a.m.

Sundays: June & August 10.00 a.m.

Sundays: January, March, Sept, Nov. 12 noon

Sundays: February, April, Oct, Dec. 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

Social Services: Secretary: Breda Morrissey

Red Cross: Secretary: Tim Shiels

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy.

Meeting alternate Mondays

I.C.A. Secretary: Mrs. Joan O'Toole. 2nd Thursday

G.A.A. Hon Secretary: Pat Sheahan

Soccer: Juvenile: Seán Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society: Ml. Cregan, Secretary

Scout Cubs: Thursdays, Youth Centre

Community Hall: Tel. 64908

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Tourist Information Centre - Irish Palatine Centre
Open June-September 7 days 2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

Castlematrix Tours 10.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. 7 days.
Lunches and banquets by appointment. Tel. (069) 64284

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre
Open June-September 7 days 2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

Dohyle Lough: John Griffin

Sports Complex
Squash, Racketball, Handball, Snooker, Pool

Tennis Courts: Tel. (069) 64622

Kyletaun Tennis Club. Contact Pat O'Doherty (069) 64086
Affiliated to Tennis Ireland. Floodlit international size.
Open 7 days.

Bridge Club Every Tuesday night September-June.
Contact Ann Roche, Park Lewis.