



DEEL VIEWS

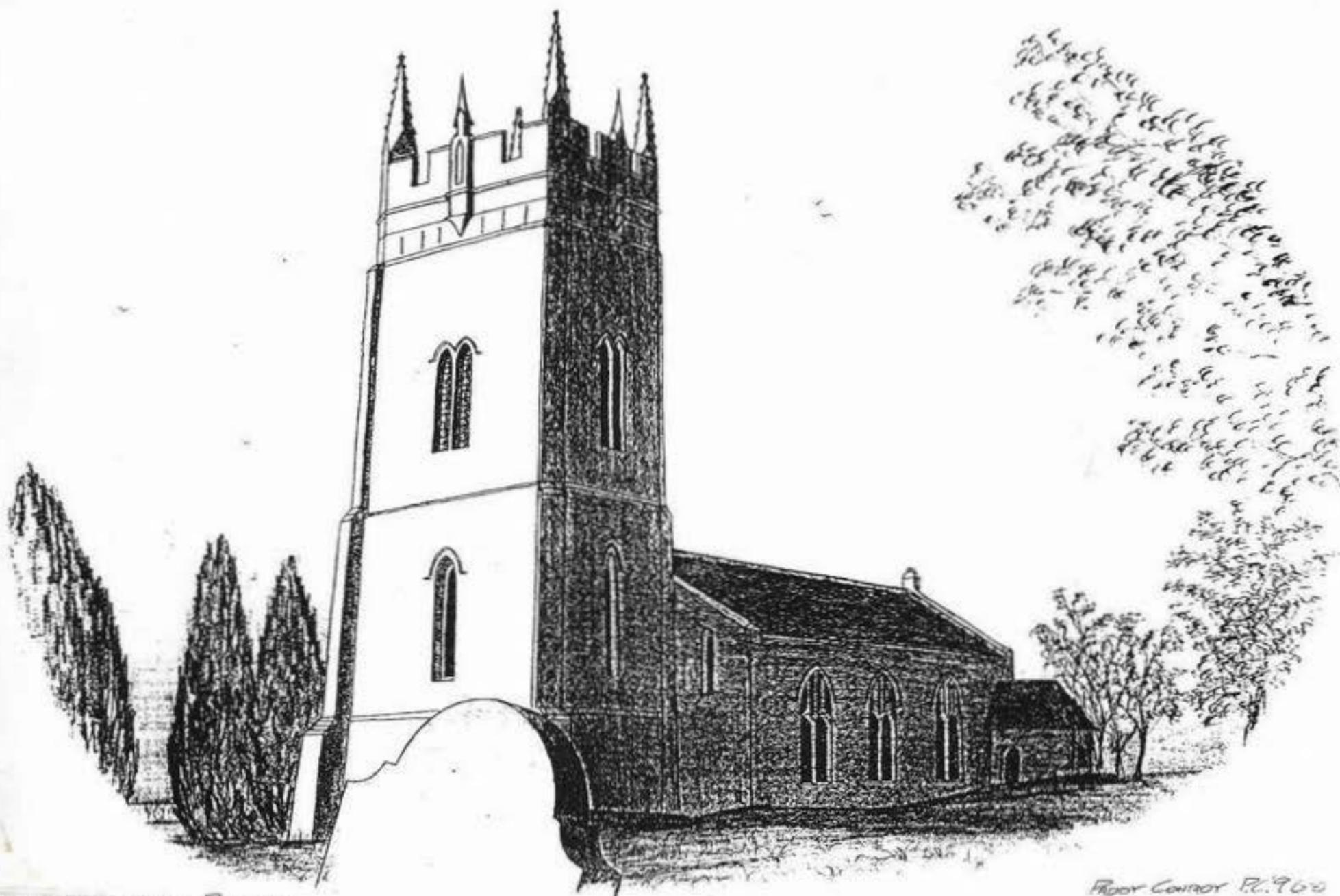
RATHKEALE
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL



Christmas
1996



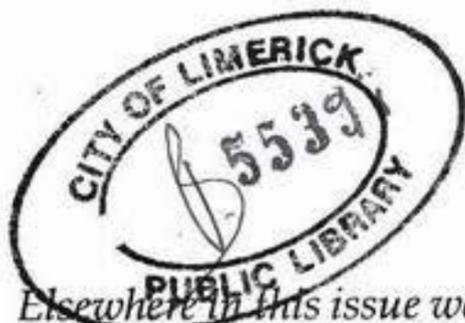
Price 50p



HOLT TRINITY CHURCH, RATHKEALE.

FLOOR COVERING P.L. 960

941
9493
085



Editorial

Elsewhere in this issue we have included an article on the recently formed Rathkeale Enterprise Group. This group, which is representative of practically all bodies in the town, social, sporting, artistic and educational, has launched a programme for the development of the area in the fullest sense of that term. An excellent and comprehensive report has been prepared and various projects listed with a time scale for their completion.

A most professional approach has been adopted towards improving the town and surrounding area and the West Limerick Resource Group is lending it's considerable support, particularly financial.

While we have had other reports over the years which were excellent in any ways this one is different in that it is essentially a local production compiled largely by people who work and live in the town. The Bolton Street Survey of the 1970's and the more recent Mulcahy Report both provided a basis for progress and should not be overlooked in the work of the present group. We wish them every success and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours in due course.

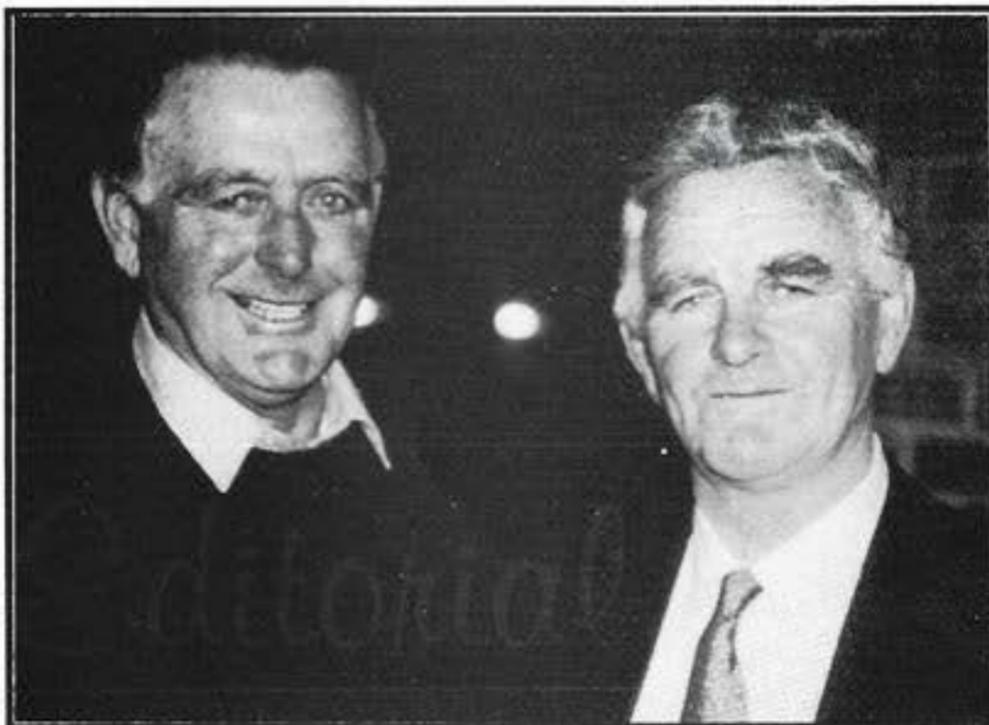
Rathkeale Bridge Club

Rathkeale has a very active and social Bridge Club. It has 40 members who play every Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in the Youth Centre.

Recently a very successful charity night in aid of the West Limerick Workshop was organised. As a result a sum in the region of £850 was handed over to aid the handicapped.

Other major competitions are organised during the year including the President's Prize which was won this year by Mary Donovan and Eileen Kennedy.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Any further information can be had from Ann Roche, Park Lewis (Hon. Sec.) or any member would be only too willing to help.



LEFT:
Phil Dollery (left) who retires from the ESB this December pictured with his brother Jimmy at the ESB Rural Electrification Golden Jubilee Dinner in Castletroy Park Hotel

Right:
Mary Meehan and Aiden Brennan who were married recently in Rathkeale



Limerick City Library



3 0002 00141721 1

LOCAL NEWS

from "Weekly Observer"

THE DRIVEN on Tour

"The Driven" featuring Brendan Markham, Darren Mullins, 'Ned' Kennedy, all from Rathkeale and Paul Power from Newcastle West, who are now based in London, commence their major tour of Britain with a gig in Leeds on this Wednesday night. The tour will see the quartet performing in some of the biggest concert halls in Scotland, England and Wales and will conclude with an appearance in the Astoria, London at the end of November. The group will be releasing an E.P. this week to coincide with their British tour. The artwork for the sleeve of this E.P. was carried out by M.T.V. artist, David Knopoff. Using Rathkeale dialect, Brendan Markham came up the title of the E.P. as "Sublas and Mushes". The boys are already putting the finishing touches to their first album which is due for release in early '97. They hope to spend Christmas in Rathkeale and Newcastle West before they embark on a European tour.

WINTER EVENINGS

Are you looking for something to do during these winter evenings? Have you considered playing squash, handball, billiards or snooker? Rathkeale Sports Complex has all of these facilities available at a very nominal cost to individuals, schools, factories, social and sporting clubs. The complex is available every evening. For details of bookings and nominal charges contact Donie Hourigan or Brian McEnery. People from outside of Rathkeale are more than welcome to avail of these fine facilities.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment was expressed during a recent meeting of the Community Council that the V.E.C. is to switch its Youthreach operations from Rathkeale to Shanagolden. "Youthreach" which provides invaluable training for young school leavers, has been housed in the Deel Hall for a number of years but it is to be moved to the old Vocational School in Shanagolden.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT

There is good news on the local employment front this week as a result of increased operations at the AIBP (Shannon Meat) Plant. It is understood that the boning hall which had been closed for some time has reopened and that extra employees have been taken on. This is certainly good news for Rathkeale.

If and whenever the sporting history of Rathkeale is chronicled by some historical or historical society we hope that the author or authors will refer to the middle of November 1996 or to be more precise, the weekend of November 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th because it proved to be a memorable weekend for many Rathkeale people on the sporting front. First to get the ball rolling was Eric McNamara of Beechmourt who sent his horse "Dancing Vision" to Cheltenham where he was ridden to victory at odds of 4/1 by John Thomas McNamara (no relation) of Croom. Patrick Johnson of Courtmatrix had his horse "Chiquitta" at Millstreet International Horse Show where he was superbly ridden by Peter Leonard of Ringwood, Newcastle West. While on the subject of Millstreet we must congratulate Jack Shorten of Lake View Stud, Ballingrane. "Sam the man" an eight year old gelding, ridden by Bodo Battenberg of Germany and bred by Jack Shorten has been ranked 23rd in the world. This is indeed a great achievement and it is most pleasing for the Ballingrane horse breeder. On Sunday afternoon, Joseph O'Connor Jnr. of Ballywilliam was wearing the West Limerick Athletic Club singlet at the University of Limerick campus when he won the County B.L.E. novice cross country championship title. Joseph gave an inspirational display of running and led his clubmates to winning the county team prize. Joseph must most certainly be "the find" of the year when it comes to athletics. Since representing Limerick in the Community Games National Marathon Final in Mosney, Joseph has gone on to win the county under 16 and 17 and well as novice cross-country championships. He has competed in the Munster U/16 and 17 championships where he finished well up to qualify for his place in the national B.L.O.E. Championships. This is not bad for a young man who four years ago was faced with the possibility of spending the rest of his life confined to a wheelchair as a result of an accident when he fell from a horse. It just proves that with heart, determination, a will to win and a handful of prayers, life can be good and some handicaps can be overcome.

As for sport in Rathkeale, the story does not end there. Paddy O'Grady, who plays in the second row, scored two tries for Garryowen who outplayed Old Wesley in a senior club game at Dooradoyle, to win 35-17. And to make it sweeter, Dan Larkin from Reens was there to convert one of them. Yes, Rathkeale most certainly has its sports stars.

HOUSING

A private developer has lodged an application with Limerick County Council, seeking permission to construct a number of houses on the outskirts of the town. This type of initiative and proposed development is indeed very welcome and it should encourage others to invest in Rathkeale. A major drive to improve Rathkeale and to promote what the area has to offer is badly needed. With more investment and housing, it is only natural that Rathkeale will prosper.

RE-ELECTED

Congratulations are extended to the quartet of Rathkeale people, namely Mary Nestor, John Dinnage, Noel White and Tommy Steele who have been re-elected to the executive committee of Limerick Community Games. The A.G.M. of the association was held in Ballingarry Hall on Sunday last. Delegates representing Rathkeale at the meeting were Mary Woulfe, Bernie Wilmott and Mike Hanley. The meeting was a very positive one and many Motions were passed, the result of which will probably see more children participating in a range of games ranging from art to athletics. In fact, up to thirty different sports are catered for in Community Games.

Full marks must go to the people of Ballingarry for hosting the A.G.M. in their beautiful hall. Indeed the hall is a credit to those who look after and maintain it. A special word of praise must go to whoever keeps it clean and tidy. Well done Ballingarry and also well done to the ladies who served up beautiful refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT

There has been another serious accident on the Rathkeale by-pass, this time involving a bus and a car. One person was seriously injured and detained in hospital. The accident which occurred at around 9pm on Sunday last was at the town junction near the roundabout.

CEMETERY COLLECTION

£801 was subscribed to the Cemetery Collection last weekend. This committee would like to thank all those who subscribed. Those who have not yet subscribed and who may wish to do so should forward their donations to Tim Geaney, Killaheen, Reens or Mrs. Mary Kenneally, Parish Clerk, St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale. All donations will be appreciated and will go towards the cost of maintaining and cleaning the cemetery attached to St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale.

VICTORY DINNER

Rathkeale has been selected as the venue for the hosting by the Limerick Ladies Gaelic Football Association, of a victory dinner and dance. The function which will be held at Mann's Hotel on Saturday December 14th, will mark Limerick's first ever Munster Championship title success when the U/14's savoured victory and the juniors finished as runners-up to Clare. In addition the County juniors qualified for the National League semi-final. The social, for which tickets will be strictly limited, promises to be a memorable event. The contact for tickets in the Rathkeale area is Joe Williams. Mentioning Joe, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his election as Hon. Treasurer of the County Board at the A.G.M. which was held in Rathkeale on Wednesday last.

LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

There is good news for those who frequent the public library in Rathkeale. The premises is to get new furniture in the very near future and the library is to be upgraded through the introduction of computers.

Great credit must go to County Librarian Damien Brady who is doing so much to upgrade the County Library service.

MUNSTER BILLIARDS

Rathkeale Snooker and Billiards Club members are making a big impact in the Munster Billiards Championship. Last weekend Bill Conroy and Pat O'Flaherty played exhibition stuff when defeating strong opposition from County Tipperary. Both Tom Enright and Anthony O'Flaherty have progressed to the next round of the competition which is open to players from all parts of Munster. The Rathkeale players have one more round to play where victory for any one of them would guarantee them a place in the Munster final.

Rathkeale Sports Complex is now providing great facilities for those with an interest in either billiards or snooker. The club is open every night. For details of bookings and membership, contact Ray Moloney at the Sports Complex.

CO. LIMERICK ADULT LITERACY SERVICE Lifeskills PROGRAMME

Free help with

- * READING
- * WRITING
- * SPELLING
- * FORM FILLING
- * LETTER WRITING
- * SELF DEVELOPMENT

Tuition is given in small groups or one-to-one and can include an introduction to computers. If you left school early or just generally want to brush up on your reading and writing skills, this is for you. It is also an excellent preparation for employment.

For help and advice please contact....

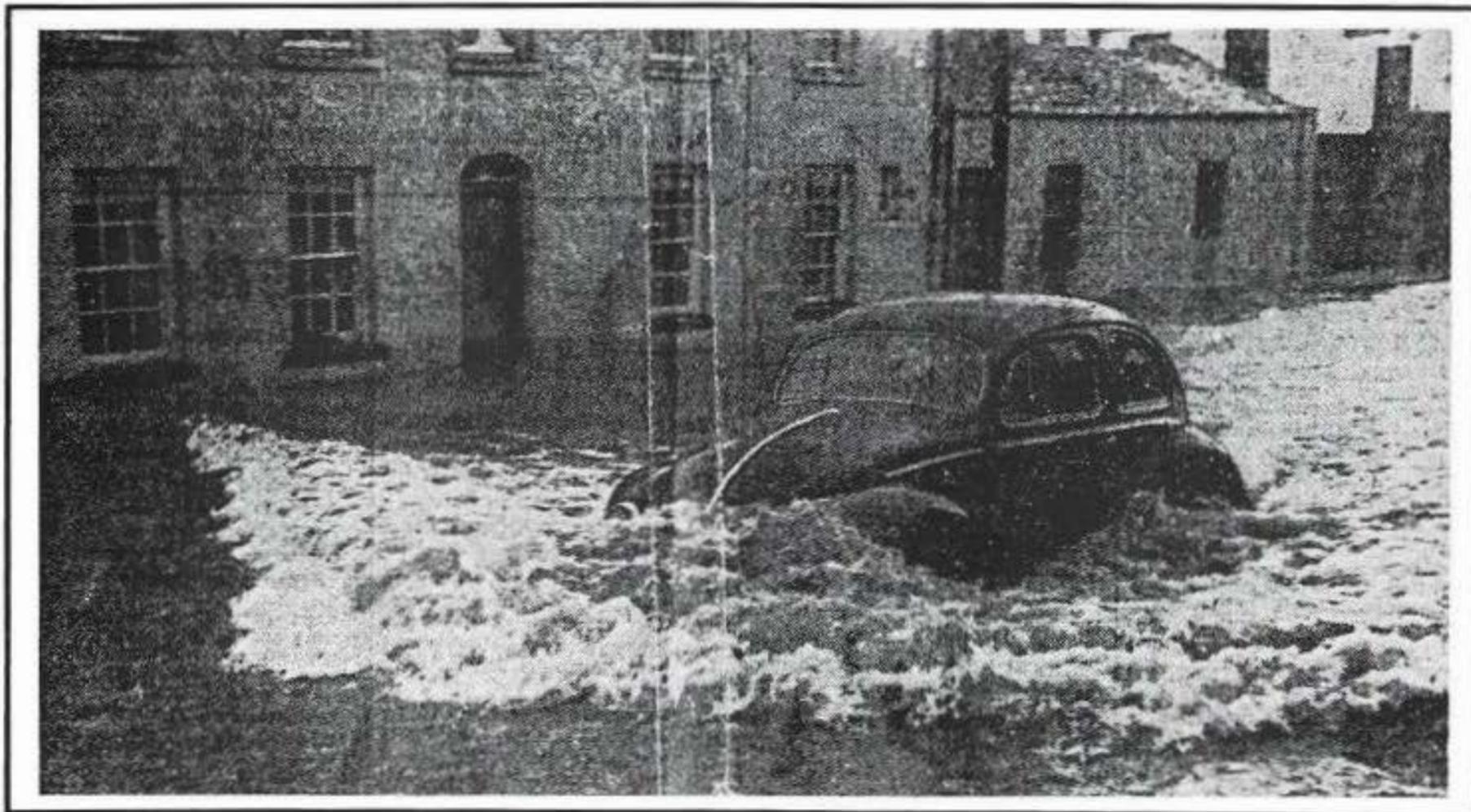
**The Organiser at 061-315412
58 O'Connell Street, Limerick.**

LOCAL:

Mrs. M. O'Connell, Castlematrix.

FLOODS IN RATHKEALE - DECEMBER 1960

RATHKEALE WAS HAZARDOUS AREA



A motorist driving through the flood at Rathkeale.

The River Deel overflowed its banks and several houses like the one in the picture are isolated.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

A new FAS Scheme has commenced under the sponsorship of the Community Council. The main focus of the work programme will be the old creamery buildings which have now been acquired from Golden Vale. However a number of other areas are also benefiting viz. The St. Vincent de Paul shop, Meals on Wheels, Sports Complex and the National School. Fifteen people in total have been taken on under the supervision of Donie Hourigan.

A Billiard Tournament is presently being organised in the Sports Complex. You will notice a report elsewhere of the success of some of our top billiard players at Munster Championship level.

Rathkeale Brass Band is planning another venture to London next year and details are now being finalised. It is hoped to be leaving Rathkeale on Friday morning, March 14th and returning Sunday night. Anyone interested should contact any member of the Band as soon as possible. Those who participated on the last occasion will have fond memories of the trip.

A small group from the Community Council met recently with the new County Manager, Riobárd O'Ceallaigh, in Limerick. A number of different matters of importance to Rathkeale were discussed - specifically:-

1. The inadequate signage and lighting on the By-Pass road.
2. The proposed new Town Walk which will traverse County Council property.
3. The upgrading of the Library.
4. The retention of Court facilities in the town.
5. Completion of work at the new cemetery.
6. The reactivation of the Task force set up by the County Council some years ago.
7. Loss of Election Counts to Adare.

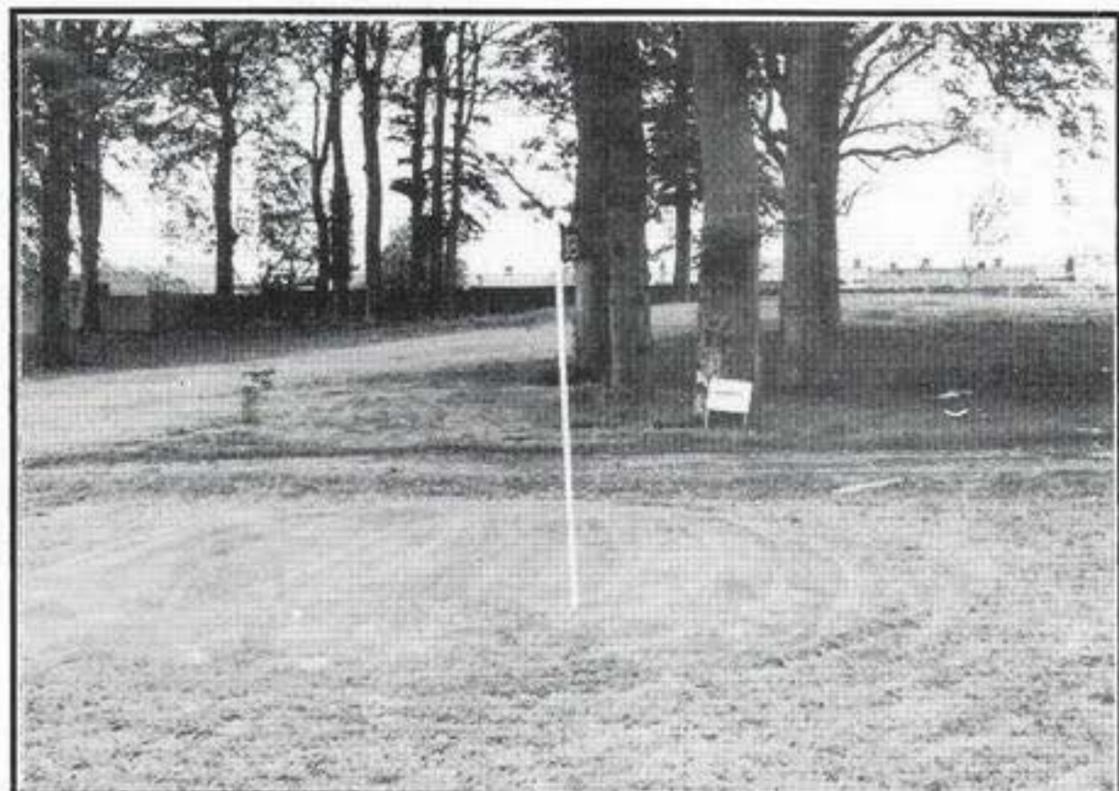
The Manager was very interested and promised to respond positively when he has become fully briefed on the matters raised.

RIGHT: Pitch and Putt Club

The Community Alert Scheme for the town and hinterland is making progress and should be fully in place shortly. This is a very worthwhile scheme for the protection and security of persons and property and is very relevant to the serious problems faced by society in general. Everyone should be willing and ready to co-operate in assisting the authorities to deal with such problems.

The Blessing of the Crib and Christmas Tree is planned for Saturday December 21st after 7.30pm Mass. The Band and Choir will be in attendance.

BELOW: Old Creamery presently under renovation



COMMUNITY COUNCIL BALANCE SHEET

DEBITS

General Account	720.62
Bingo	7,683.88
Deel Views	426.50
St. Patricks Parade	67.79
Development Association	10,600.00
Sports Complex	814.23
Bank Charges/Cheque Book	242.00
	<hr/>
	£20,555.02

CREDITS

Mega Link Bingo	472.70
Lotto	4,841.00
Cards	356.82
F.A.S.	1,530.00
	<hr/>
	7,208.52
Balance on hand	15,208.15
	<hr/>
	£22408.67

Balance on hand at 30th September

£1853.65

Rathkeale Going Strong Club

Rathkeale Going Strong Club was founded in 1976 by Jim Shiels - The first get-together with Christmas Dinner and Party was held in the "Shiels Arms" on Christmas Day 1976. From there it has grown from strength to strength, with Mrs. Lily O'Connor, Abbeylands taking the reins in 1986 with her merry group of helpers and are still "Going Strong" and this is 1996 - 20 years on.

There is a monthly "Get-together" in St. Mary's Youth Centre on the last Sunday of every month, from September to the end of May. For the summer recess Mass is read. For the Christmas Dinner & Party, this year on Sunday 15th December, Mass is at 1.00 p.m. and on the last Sunday in May we have Mass before the "Get-together". The committee members visit senior citizens at home, they visit the Sheltered Housing on Friday nights, where the Rosary is said, plus sing-song and tea, etc. There are usually two outings, one in June to someplace in the South, and then in September to Lisdoonvarna.

In the past 20 years a lot of our members have gone to their eternal reward R.I.P., gone but not forgotten, as they are all remembered in our prayers and masses.

With this, I feel that Mrs. O'Keeffe, O'Connor and now Fr. O'Sullivan deserve our unfailing thanks as they have been very good over the years.

Every year it gets harder and harder as funds are so hard to find. We are in need of funds for the Christmas Dinner/Party, and anyone wishing to make a donation to the A.I.B. in Rathkeale, we extend our grateful thanks and appreciation. We hope that in 2016 A.D. we will still have a Going Strong Club in Rathkeale, with Gods Help..



Look after your eyes....



**YOU'LL NEVER GET
ANOTHER PAIR!**

Olwyn Delaney Optician

Dip. Oph. Opt. F.A.O.I. Member I.C.L.S.

now practising

at

**DONOVAN'S PHARMACY,
RATHKEALE**

Every 2nd Tuesday from 2.00pm - 6.00pm

Did you know that you are entitled to a free eye test
and glasses if you pay full P.R.S.I.?

Your husband/wife can also qualify on your stamps.

Retired people can also apply.

Forms available at Donovan's Pharmacy.

If you have been tested at the Clinic through your
Medical Card we can dispense your Prescription here.

Telephone: (069) 64145

FRAMES FROM £10 TO DESIGNER!

*Member of Association
of Optometrists Ireland*



SERVICES AVAILABLE AT RATHKEALE:

- * Friendly, Professional Service
- * Thorough Eye Examination
- * Glaucoma Screening
- * Colour Vision Testing
- * Stereopsis Check
- * Muscle Balance Analysis
- * Driving Licence Test
- * Health of the back of the eye checked.
- * VDU testing
- * Specialised Lenses - thinner, flatter, lighter
- * Value for Money.

**OLWYN DELANEY -
for personal, professional eyecare.**

RATHKEALE BRANCH RED CROSS

We are proud to report that Tom Daly, Riverlawn has gone as a volunteer to the Havac Republics, being on of our members. This is Tom's third mission for the Red Cross. We wish him "Bon Voyage".

One of our Cadets, Marian Larkin, pupil from Mercy Community College, Rathkeale, has reached the All-Ireland solo competition in First Aid, which is taking place in Bantry, Co. Cork. This is a first for Rathkeale. Congratulations to Marian and the best of luck in the Final.

Our Committee continue to do house visits and hospital visits. Our Bazaar/Sale of Work was held on the 8th November, and was a success. Our thanks go to the people who baked, those who donated money and other items, etc, and all those who helped in anyway. Sincere thanks to all.

The Annual Red Cross Christmas Dinner and Party takes place this year at Dave Mann's at the new time of 2.00p.m. on Sunday 8th December. Hoping to see all our Senior Citizens, etc, there. We wish all a Happy Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

R.I.P. :- Since the last issue of the Deel Views, Dean Costello P.P. who was President for a number of years has passed to his eternal reward, also Mrs. Doherty, Balleninan one of the hardest workers, and had 45 years service, has passed away. Surely the above two have gone to Our Lord in Heaven.

rathkeale historical society

The first meeting of the year took place in the Palatine Centre in November. Mr. Liam Irwin of Mary Immaculate Training College spoke on "Pre-Christian Ireland" and provided a very stimulating evening for an audience of about thirty. This was the first meeting of the society in the Palatine Centre and we are grateful for the wonderful facility provided.

The next event on the calendar will be on January 22nd - venue to be arranged - when, in a repeat of last year, local speakers will contribute on aspects of local history. Remember admission is free and membership is open to all.

Muintir na Tire News

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The main recommendations of the Plan will be:

1. To build up an organisation of national standing.
2. To grow the number of Community Councils from 120 to 400 within three years; to develop a renewal and revitalisation programme for existing Community Councils where necessary; to firm-up support services to Councils from Central Office, and to consolidate and copper-fasten the organisation's ownership of and relationship with the existing 900 Community Alert schemes within the next 3-4 years.
3. To develop a communications/information's pack to enhance the image of Muintir na Tire.
4. To develop Research/Intelligence gathering
5. To identify and secure the necessary level of funding to safeguard the on-going development of the organisation, and to ensure value for money.

The ESB have made a special presentation to the organisation of a bronze sculpture depicting the erection of the first pole in the Rural Electrification scheme of 50 years ago. The presentation was in recognition of the sterling work done by Muintir na Tire activists in canvassing in the early days of Rural Electrification.

Since September, Muintir has been able to put five full-time Development Officers in the field to promote Community Alert in the new Rural Garda Divisions. There are now over 900 schemes throughout the country. With the help of the Gardaí it is hoped to hold AGM's of all Community Alert groups before the end of next April.

As you may be aware, Muintir na Tire celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1997. We would encourage all Muintir councils to consider marking the occasion locally, to compliment the celebrations at national level.

Muintir has started a campaign to have the meanstesting of non-contributory pensions raised to £10,000. Under the present scheme, a pensioner is meanstested with savings of £2987.50. With savings of £10,000 pensioners would stand to lose £14 per week from their pensions, while only gaining a maximum of £7 per week if those savings were in-

vested. We believe that this loss of their pensions is one of the major reasons why pensioners continue to keep large sums of money in their homes.

We have also publicised the fact that there are 21,000 pensioners in receipt of Living Alone Allowance who are not claiming their Free Telephone Allowance. The Department of Social Welfare has written to the 21,000 pensioners offering them a special connection rate of £75, agreed with Telecom Eireann. The offer includes free telephone rental, as well as 20 free call units on each two monthly bill. Because of Muintir's involvement, this offer is now being extended to the 31 December 1996. We would ask all Community Councils and/or Community Alert groups to encourage pensioners to have a telephone installed.

Public Liability Insurance is coming on the Government's agenda with the publication of the Doloitte & Touche report carried out on behalf of Minister Pat Rabbitte.

The Board of Muintir urges all Muintir Councils to publicise the aims and objectives of LEADER, Partnership and Enterprise Board serving their areas, and to apply for funding for local enterprise development projects.

Muintir personnel sat on a number of the Regional Advisory Committees set up by the Social Welfare Services to monitor the distribution of the £2m allocated by the Department of Social Welfare to provide funding for initiatives to improve the security and social support of vulnerable older people.

The organisation is having on-going consultations with the Revenue Commissioners to retain our single Charity Exemption number for the national organisation and its constituent units.

Our attention has been drawn to the changes in the revised adjudicating criteria for this year's Tidy Towns Competition for which some communities has not been prepared. For the first time this year's Competition was organised by the Department of the Environment, and following an in-depth review of the Competition under Bord Failte, a number of changes were made in the marking of the Competition. We understand that the adjudication criteria have been revised to put an increased emphasis on the longer term treatment of wildlife areas and natural amenities.

RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE

It is true to say that we live in a land rich in tradition and heritage. A land which is constantly forging links with past in its endeavour to define the modern Ireland.

Throughout the country the landscape plays host to many antiques dating from the earliest times. There is a growing awareness both nationally and internationally of the importance of an Irish Heritage.

This is reflected in the increasing demand for the study and interpretation of the diverse facts of our varied heritage. That is why today we can see a new resurgence in researching local history.

In the following pages this is reflected in a brief history of Rathkeale's Famine Graveyard, more commonly known as "The Pauper's Burial Ground". Situated on the Cappagh to Rathkeale road, near the townland of Rosemount, the graveyard lays side by side with what is now known as Dohile Lake.

It is known that at one time the graveyard stretched its boundaries as far as the site of the once used swimming pool, now in use as a marina. A line of old trees, common to those found in the graveyard, mark the boundary line of the old burial ground.

Today, all that physically exists in the graveyard are a stonewall at its entrance, two "new" walls of concrete, constructed after the swimming pool had been built, trees, (both deciduous and coniferous) and finally an old-style Celtic cross which stands, unincised, facing the entrance gate. No headstones survive to tell the history of those buried here.

On reaching the area, some old ivy covered iron crosses bearing numbers were found strewn by the old stone wall. It was impossible to find any records containing the names of the deceased who corresponded to the crosses. For this reason it is our assumption that we will never fully know, to any extent, who lies beneath the clay here.

The graveyard obtains its name (Pauper's Burial Ground or Famine Graveyard) due to the fact that it was on this site that countless hundreds of those who fell victim to poverty during the famine years of the 1840's were laid to rest. No church records containing any historical information relating to this subject are in existence. If we wish to trace the origins of those buried we must call upon information from another source, now gone into decline, the workhouses.

The history of the workhouses in Ireland can be traced back to 1838. At this particular epoch in history, the Irish Poor Relief Act was passed. In the intervening years it was to benefit the establishment of the old poor law system.

The immense size of the problem faced by the poor law commissioners in Ireland was colossal. The only relief sanctioned by the Act was relief in the workhouse, therefore the first task was to found

almost one hundred large buildings as workhouses.

The poor law commissioners found that a legal reference prevented them from enlisting the help of the Board of Works and its technical offices. For this reason they were under an obligation to found their own technical and administrative offices in Dublin.

The Act was passed by the British Parliament in August 1838. George Nicholls, one of the Poor Law Commissioners, was to be in charge of operations in Ireland. Mr. Nicholls reached Dublin in September 4th, 1838 and by the 11th September had set up the Dublin City Office.

He instructed the English Assistant Commissioners to make surveys of each of the four provinces to determine what buildings could be used. On returning to Dublin in October 1838 the reports illustrated the need for new buildings. Therefore the decision to employ an architect was adopted.

As architect they chose George Wilkinson, an Englishman, at that time working in Oxford. He arrived in Ireland in January 11th, 1839. His salary was to be £500 per annum. He requested an assistant; "an experienced person of accurate habits familiar with drawing and possessing a good practical knowledge of building". He also looked for the appointment of a draftsman.

The technical staff were to cost £7.50 per annum. When building would begin a clerk of works would be necessary for each workhouse. Wilkinson's proposals were agreed and work commenced on 1st February 1839.

By the time the commissioners had made their first report (1 May 1839) plans had already been approved for various types of workhouses. Wilkinson had achieved much in four months. He had to inspect the sites personally.

The British Parliament passed the Irish Poor Relief Act in 1838. By 1841 Ireland had been divided into administrative districts known as Poor Law Unions. They were responsible for the administration of each workhouse. Once a union had been formed, advertisements were published in the local papers, indicating the amount of land required. Before March 25th 1839 the boundaries of 22 unions had been declared. Limerick County had four unions declared by the above date.

In March of the following year 1840, Wilkinson stated that 64 workhouses were under construction and 10 were ready for tenders. His report (sixth Annual Report Poor Law Commissioners 1840) states that Sir Thomas Deane and Co. of Cork were the contractors in charge of the Limerick, Newcastle West and Rathkeale workhouses.

In general, two years seems to have been the term allocated to the building of the larger workhouses.

In a return given in the 1840 report, the contract for Limerick workhouse (capacity 1,600) was £10,000. September saw the signing of the contract and it was to be finished by 1841. The contract for Rathkeale was for £6,686 (capacity 660), its completion date was to be December 1840.

The terms for the Newcastle West and Kilmallock contract was for £7,000 and it was to be finished by September 1840.

The Limerick workhouse opened on 18th May 1841, Rathkeale opened on May 15th of the same year. These were a fraction over there allocated time, but weather conditions could probably be held accountable.

The Poor Law Commissioners, in their report dated 2nd May, 1842 drew attention to such difficulties;

"The weather in Ireland had been extremely unfavourable for building operations during the past 3 years, there having been an unusual quantity of rain; and this prevalence of wet weather has necessarily impeded the progress of the buildings and greatly increased the difficulty of superintendence. Even with favourable seasons, it is by no means a light task to superintend and direct extensive buildings, proceeding simultaneously in every part of the Country; but with such weather as that of the last three years and with not less than a hundred of these buildings in progress at one time and all requiring frequent inspection and constant superintendence the difficult has been proportionately increased!"

Good progress in the construction of workhouses continued and in April 1843, Wilkinson reported (in the ninth annual report of Poor Law Commissioner's) that of the 130 workhouses decided upon, 112 were now completed and another 17 were in a forward stage.

The famine years brought with them additional tasks. As was the case in Rathkeale, temporary buildings had to be provided for those with fevers of the colera epidemic. In April 1847, Wilkinson issued a general report indicating that by this time all of the 130 buildings were complete, of these 125 were entirely new and the remaining 5 were old buildings which had been enlarged and reconstructed. He gives the total cost of the workhouses, including purchase of sites, buildings, fixtures, clerks of work and legal expenses as £1,145,800. Accommodation was provided for 93,860 persons at a cost of approximately £12 per person.

Although the auxiliary workhouses were closed down after the famine time, a number of new permanent workhouses were built during the years 1849 to 1851.

At one time after the famine the accommodation provided touched nearly 290,000 but the auxiliary buildings were given up and finally 163 permanent workhouses remained giving accommodation for 176,700.

Many of these buildings are still in use today. The solid walls are much of the timber work are a living testament to the quality of the work undertaken. The erection of approximately 100 workhouses

in less than three years was an achievement, which even today would be difficult to surpass.

THE WORKHOUSE BUILDINGS

The Poor Law Commissioners laid down standard plans for the workhouses. These varied only in terms of the numbers to be accommodated. The budget allocated for each construction was limited. Chiefly they were built of limestone rubble masonry. People slept on straw lined planks which jutted out from each wall, forming an aisle in the centre. Food was rationed and in some instances, molasses was substituted for milk to feed young babies.

The workhouse in Rathkeale was situated on the land where now stands "Shannon Meats Ltd." All records containing information about the inmates were destroyed in 1921, in what is referred to as "The Rathkeale Workhouse Incident".

THE RATHKEALE WORKHOUSE INCIDENT, NOVEMBER 1921

by A Kinsella.

(The Old Limerick Journal, winter edition 1992)

- quote Summer 1996 Edition Deel Views

The link between Rathkeale workhouses and famine graveyard.

Thanks to folklore we do know for a fact that those buried in famine graveyards were inmates from workhouses of the era. However the graveyards were not only confined to accommodating those who died in the local workhouse. For example people from Newcastle West were buried in Rathkeale's famine graveyard. We shall never know for certain the names of each and every person buried in the graveyard, history and fate have deemed that. The following list of names refers to those who are recorded as having died at the workhouse in Rathkeale over a certain period of time while perhaps not all were buried in this sacred place, it is suspected that the majority of the following lay silent beneath the age-old soil. (see list of names)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Limerick City Library, Ms. Aine Boyle (registrar deaths, marriages and births, Mid-Western Health Board) National Registrar (births, marriages and deaths), Mr. John Griggin M.C.C., Mr. P. Hartnett, Sr. M. Jerome, Rev Dean Costello.

Baptisms

James Michael Flynn
Bernard James White
Brian Dominic White,
Amee Marie Fitzgerald
Tara Wyn Evans
Fionn Richard Woulfe
John Quilligan
Gemma Louise Jones,
William Gerard Chawke
Julia McInerney
Denis Hogan,
Chloe Moloney
Margaret Sheridan
Bridget Bernadette Lynch.

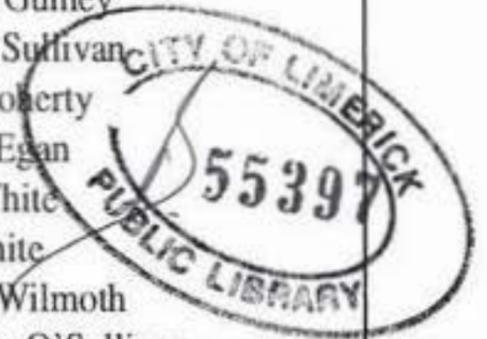
Marriages

William O'Flynn - Alice Marie McNamara
Richard Stokes - Dorita Hogan
John Gerard Walsh - Mairead Vaughan
Gabriel John Travers - Mary Noelle Geary
John Joseph Guina - Sharon Ann Carrig
Aidan Oliver Brennan - Mary Patricia Meehan



Deaths

John Goodwin
Kathleen Quilligan
Jeremiah Gore
Bridget Guiney
John O'Sullivan
Mick Doherty
Martin Egan
Tony White
Ged White
Gerard Wilmoth
Maureen O'Sullivan
Jack Lyons
Helena Baba Smith Williams
Tessie Duffy



ABRAHAM'S GOLFING SOCIETY

Our annual Christmas Outing had to be cancelled due to bad weather - the first time ever this has happened. This means that our activities have now ended for this year. Results of recent competitions as follows;

Ballykisteen, August 10th.

Gents	Ladies
1. Aiden Supple	1. M. O'Connell
2. Declan Mooney	2. M. O'Sullivan
3. Tom Curtin	3. H. Roche

Newcastle West (Captain's Prize) August 31st.

Overall: Paul Dillon	
Gents	Ladies
1. D. Mooney	1. M. Hennessey
2. J. Shier	2. P. O'Kelly
3. M. Keating	3. E. Noonan
Gross: V. O'Kelly	Gross: M. O'Sullivan

Killeline, September 15th.

Gents	Ladies
1. Billy O'Sullivan	1. Elizabeth Keating
2. Ml. Noonan	2. Monnie Wilmott
3. Pat Neville	3. Mary O'Sullivan
4. Pat Keating	

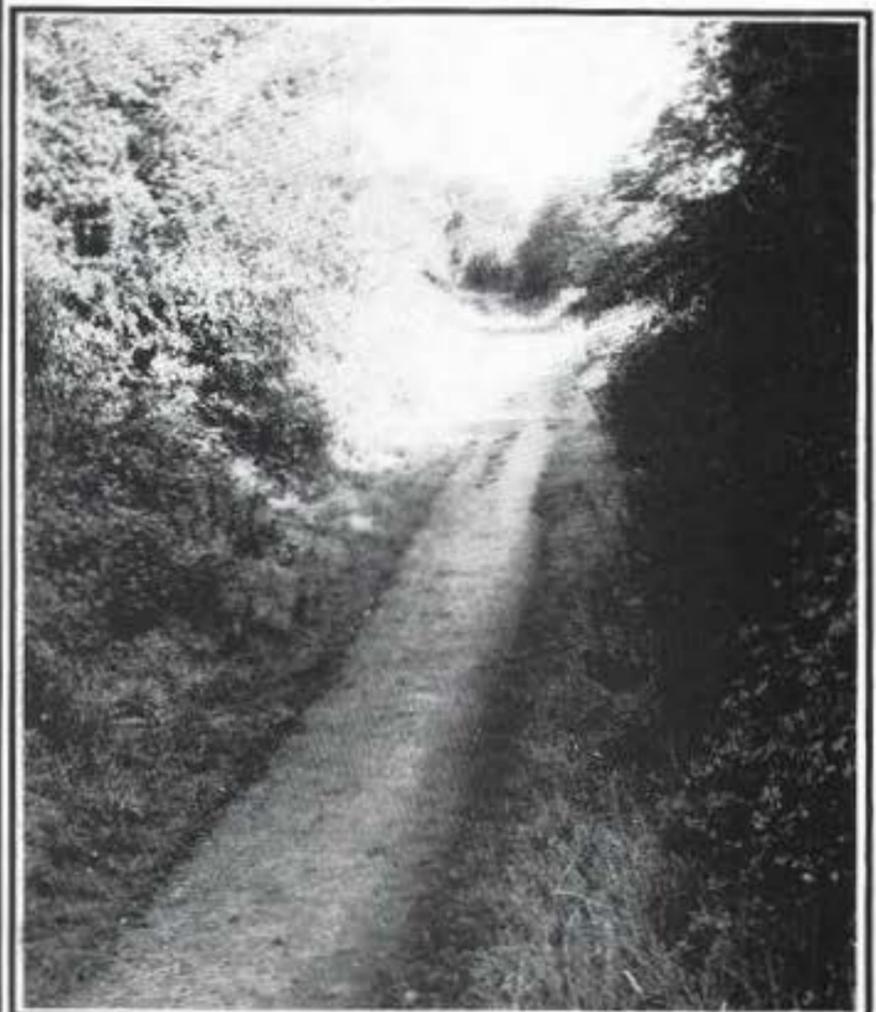
Nenagh, October 12th

Gents	Ladies
1. J. O'Connor	1. E. Noonan
2. P. Keating	2. P. Ruttle
3. N. Harnett	3. B. Keating
4. S. Harnett	

The A.G.M. will take place in February when we look forward to John O'Connor taking over as Captain for 1997.



Georgian Rathkeale



Proposed Town Walk

Remembering Past Events

by P.J. MADIGAN

1971

The marriage took place at the Holy Trinity Church, Carrickart, C. Donegal, of John Teskey, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Teskey, Killeheen, Reens, Ardagh, and Rae Graham, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Graham, Devlinmore, Carrickart. The bridesmaid was Margaret Graham, sister of the bride. The best man was Ivan Greene.

On Saturday 4th September, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Denis Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Smith, Carrigkerry, and Maura McGrane, daughter of James and the late Jane McGrane, Boherbuoy, Rathkeale. The best man was Noel Smith, brother of the 'groom, and the bridesmaids were Una McGrane, sister of the bride, and Marietta Smith, sister of the 'groom.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale between Edmond Moloney, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Moloney, Clogher West, Kilmallock, and Una Chawke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Chawke, Courtmatrix, Rathkeale. The best man was Patrick Moloney, and the groomsman was John Moloney, both brothers of the 'groom. The bridesmaids were Josephine Chawke, sister of the bride, and Bernadette Hanley, cousin of the bride.

The wedding took place on Thursday 16th September, at the Holy Rosary Church, Limerick, between Michael Magner, son of Mrs. and the late Thomas Magner, Ahalin, Ballingarry, and Ann Supple, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Supple, Enniscouche, Rathkeale. The best man was Sean Goodwin, and the groomsman was Vincent Supple Jr., brother of the bride. The bridesmaid was Pamela Supple, sister of the bride.

The wedding took place on Saturday 11th September at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, between William Downes, youngest son of Kathleen and the late Thomas Downes, Beigh, Askeaton, and Estella Enright, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs William Enright, Holy Cross, Rathkeale. The bestman was Robert Downes, brother of the 'groom. The groomsman was Bernard Fitzgibbon, nephew of the bride. The bridesmaids were E. Fitzgibbon, niece of the bride, and Regina O'Gorman, friend of the bride. The flower girl was Carol Ann Fitzgibbon, niece of the bride.

On Saturday 18th September, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Michael Dunne, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Dunne, The Square, Rathkeale, and Helen Reidy, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reidy, Abbeylands, Rathkeale. The best man was Liam Dunne, brother of the 'groom, and the groomsman was Billy Hayes. The bridesmaids were Nora Reidy, sister of the bride, and Marie Dunne, sister of the 'groom. Margaret Reidy, sister of the bride was flower girl, and Patrick

Reidy, brother of the bride was page boy.

The wedding took place recently at the Church of the Seven Precious Wounds of Our Lord, Stonebridge Park, London, between Seamus Haveron, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, and Nurse Nora Lynch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lynch, Enniscouche, Rathkeale. The best man was Christopher Walsh, and the bridesmaid was Geraldine McArespie.

A team from Rathkeale Vocational School travelled to Lixnaw to play Causeway Comprehensive School in the first round of the Inter Schools Junior Camogie competition. Rathkeale won 3-5 to nil. The members of the team were:- Teresa Hickey, Ann Doherty, Betty Lenihan, Sheila Mulcaire, Bridie Doherty, Patsy Carroll, Brid Stokes, Mary Murphy, Bridie Meehan, Mary Angela Moore, Eileen O'Keeffe, Margo Stokes, Mary Mulcaire, Marian White, Patricia Hennessy.

The marriage took place at St. Jame's Church, Capagh, of David McCoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. David McCoy, Bridge St., Newcastle West and Anne Healy S.R.N., S.C.M., R.P.N. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Healy, Cappagh. The best man was Martin McCoy, and the groomsman were Patrick and Michael McCoy, all brothers of the groom. The bridesmaids were Alice and Nellie Healy, sisters of the bride. Mrs. Mary Coolahan, another sister, was matron of honour.

The following local members of the Dalton School of Dancing were successful in the Sarsfield Feis which was held in Limerick on Sunday 7th November.

REEL UNDER 6

3rd: F. Doherty

4th: tie between P. Doherty and Catherine Fitzgerald

JIG UNDER 7

tie for 4th between P. Doherty and Catherine Fitzgerald

REEL UNDER 8

2nd: Fiona Madigan

4th: Martha Fitzgerald

SLIP-JIG UNDER 8

4th: Fiona Madigan

HAND DOUBLE JIG UNDER 9

2nd: Fiona Madigan

REEL UNDER 10

3rd: Brian Mooney

THREE HAND REEL UNDER 8

5th: Fiona Madigan, Raymond Doherty, Martha Fitzgerald

FOUR-HAND REEL UNDER 10

2nd: Mary O'Brien, Eileen O'Shea, Seamus Doherty, John Madigan

LIGHT DOUBLE JIG UNDER 10

3rd: Brian Mooney

JUNIOR BOYS REEL

1st: Richard Mooney, 3rd: Brian Mooney
4th: Martin Doherty, 6th: Seamus Doherty
Highly commended: Liam Fitzgerald

FAIRY REEL UNDER 16

2nd: Mary O'Brien, Catherine Carroll, Marie Madigan,
Eileen O'Shea, Seamus Doherty, Richard Mooney

REEL UNDER 14

2nd: Richard Mooney

SINGLE JIG UNDER 13

3rd: Richard Mooney

ANY 8 - HAND DANCE

2nd: Josie Lyons, Mary Lyons, Marie Madigan,
Catherine Carroll, Liam Fitzgerald, Declan Mooney,
Seamus Doherty, Richard Mooney

The marriage took place recently in St. Anne's Church, Vatican City, Rome, of Kieran, son of Mr. and Mrs J.J. O'Kelly, Abbey View, Rathkeale, to Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Mulvihill, Shanagolden.

Another ten teams are taking part in the school seven-a-side football league this year. The teams are :-

MITCHELS; - L. Kennedy, L. Madden, P. Daly, F. Kennedy, N. Johnson, T. Mulcahy, D. Buston.

SEAN FINS; - C. Baggott, B. O'Connell, T. Kett, L. McCarthy, J. Connolly, T. Murphy, P. McCarthy.

GERALDINES; - P. Neville, P. Dollery, S. Roche, J. Roche, T. Steele, L. Curtin, J.R. O'Connor.

EMMETS; - B. Kennedy, C. Cahillane, P. Cahillane, B. White, M. Hogan, T. Enright, A. Flaherty.

SARFIELDS; - M. Zoncada, D. Mooney, P. Dalton, P. O'Dwyer, S. Hogan, L. Kennedy, J. O'Connell.

KICKHAMS; - J. Fitzgerald, R. Madden, M. Neville, B. Dillon, P. Fitzgerald, L. Connolly, P. Jones.

PEARSES; - S. O'Shea, M. O'Brien, C. Crowley, J. Madigan, M. Meade, M. Stack, G. Mulcaire.

WOLFE TONES; - P. Barr, B. Coleman, B. Mooney, P. Dalton, J. Murphy, M. Ryan, M. Binchy.

O'CONNELLS; - G. Cahillane, D. Markham, M. Doherty, D. Reidy, J. Dillon, J. Daly, J.C. O'Connor.

McDERMOTTS; - S. Doherty, M. Reidy, D. Hogan, V. O'Grady, T. Barr, J. Feane, R. Doherty.

In the second round of the Inter Schools Junior Camogie Competition played at Rathkeale, the home team defeated Lixnaw Secondary School by 4 goals 2 pts. to nil. The player of the match was Brid Stokes who got all the scores for Rathkeale. Miss Patricia O'Callaghan, P.E. Instructor, trained the Rathkeale team, and the Lixnaw trainer was Mr. Leahy. The referee was Miss Eithne Neville.

The teams were:

LIXNAW;

Teresa Conway, Mary O'Mahoney, Teresa Daly, Joan McNamara, Brid Treacy, Bernie Vaughan, Nora Carroll, Eileen Boland, Kathleen O'Mahoney, Philomena Carroll, Kathleen Houlihan, Kathleen Carroll, Mary Tracey.

RATHKEALE

Mary Murphy, Anne Doherty, Betty Lenihan, Sheila Mulcaire, Birdie Doherty, Patsy Carroll, Brid Stokes, Mary Angela Moore, Bridie Meehan, Margo Stokes, Eileen O'Keeffe, Teresa Hickey, Mary Mulcaire, Marian White, Patricia Hennessy.

At a meeting of Cappagh I.C.A. Guild, which was held on 8th November, members were treated to a European tour on film, which was given by Miss Lily Baker.

The programme also included a film of the Spring wedding of Barbara Ruttle and John Bryan, which took place in Ballingrane Methodist Church.

The annual general meeting of the Rathkeale Festival Committee was held in Geary's Hotel on Monday, 6th December. The following officers were elected:-

President: Very Rev. T. Canon Costello P.P. V.F.

Chairman: Peter Donovan

Vice-Chairman: John Griffin

Secretary: John O'Dwyer

Asst. Secretary: Patrick Lynch

Joint Treasurers: James J. O'Kelly and Cornelius Crowley.

The wedding took place recently at the Blessed Sacrament Church, Walton Vale, Aintree, Liverpool, between Paul Hayes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, Dooley Drive, Bootle, Nancs, Liverpool, and Catherine Reddin, S.R.N., S.C.M., eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Redding, St. Mary's Terrace, Rathkeale. The best man was Robert Hayes, brother of the groom. David Roberts was groomsmen, and Christopher Mundy was usher. The bridesmaids were the Misses Margaret, Ellen and Elizabeth Reddin, sisters of the bride; Patricia Hayes, sister of the groom; and Marie Oliver a friend.

The G.A.A. local talent competition was held in the Deel Hall on Wednesday 15th December. The winners were:

SOLO SONG

Mrs. Dorothy Teskey

RECITATION

Mart Daly

QUESTION TIME

Dave Noonan, John O'Dwyer, Ned Scully

FIGURE DANCING

Lilian Markham, Marian Moroney, E. Naughton, K. Sullivan

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Patrick Collins

BALLAD GROUP

"The Rebels"

SET DANCING

Una Finn, P. Doherty, Mrs. McEnery, J. McEnery, Mrs. McNamara, N. Duggan, Nora Flynn, M. Neville.

Young swimmers from Rathkeale attended a function at the Shannon Arms Hotel, Limerick, on Wednesday 5th January, at which water safety awards were presented to them and other swimmers, by the County Manager, Mr. R.B. Haslam. The function was chaired by Mrs. J. O'Hara, chairman of the Limerick Water Safety Committee. Local recipients of awards were:-

INTERMEDIATE;

Angela Cowhey, Marian White, Margaret Williams.

ELEMENTARY;

Marie Dunne, Ronnie Dollery, Mary Magner, Joan O'Sullivan, Marie Dollery, Dermot Long, Dympna O'Sullivan, Maura Curtin, Bernie Curtin, Deirdre Curtin, Selestine Hogan, Marie Madden, Pat Madden, Pat Dollery, Maura Markham, Valerie O'Brien, Elva Mc Carthy.

The Deel Hall, Rathkeale was the venue for the semi-finals of Scor '72, on Sunday 16th January. Four G.A.A. clubs - Adare, Ballingarry, Knockaderry and Rathkeale took part. The following were the results :-

RECITATION: -

1st Rathkeale, represented by Mart Daly

FIGURE DANCING, 4 - HAND REEL :-

1st Rathkeale, represented by Esther Naughton, Lilian Markham, Marian Moroney, Kitty O'Sullivan.

MOTION SPEAKING: -

1st Knockaderry, represented by Noel Liston, N.T.

SOLO SINGING: -

1st Rathkeale, represented by Dorothy Teskey.

QUESTION TIME: -

1st Rathkeale, represented by Ed. Scully, Dave Noonan, Jack O'Dwyer.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: -

1st Adare, represented by Jack Scanlon, violin.

SET DANCING, POLKA SET: -

1st Rathkeale, represented by Una Finn, Nora Flynn, Chrissie Dollery, Hannah McNamara, Patsy Doherty, Niall Duggan, Michael Neville, Andy O'Dea.

BALLAD GROUPS:-

1st. Rathkeale, represented by Patrick Collins, violin and vocals, Bartholomew Collins, guitar and vocals, Francis Wilmott, drums.

The dancing adjudicator was Mrs Bennis, Limerick. The other adjudicators were T. Wolfe and F. Cunningham. Mr. J. Whelan was the adjudicator for Question Time.

Tom McNamara, secretary of the local club, was a very effict Master of Ceremonies.

Rathkeale I.C.A. Guild held their monthly meeting recently, and the following officers were elected for 1972:

President: Mrs. Mai Geary

Secretary: Mrs. Chrissie Dollery

Treasurer: Mrs. Irene Donovan

Press Officer: Ms. Monmic Wilmott

The wedding took place on January 12th, at the church of the Assumption, Newcastle West, between Vincent White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael White, Rathkeale, and Mary O'Connor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William O'Connor. The best man was Noel White, and the groomsman was Michael White, both brothers of the groom. The bridesmaids were Peggy O'Connor and Cathy Harnett. The flower-girls were Patricia White and Catriona O'Connor, and the page-boy was Liam O'Connor.

On Saturday 22nd January, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between William Dunne, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Dunne, The Square Rathkeale, and Pauline O'Grady, daughter of Mrs. and the late David O'Grady, Duxtown, Rathkeale. The best man was Pat Dunne, brother of the groom, and the groomsman was Sean Fitzgerald. The bridesmaids were Kathleen Doherty and Marie Dunne. The flower-girl was Mary O'Grady, niece of the bride, and the page-boy was Gary O'Grady, nephew of the bride.

to be continued.

Rathkeale Enterprise Group

Rathkeale Enterprise Group is a community based action group who are committed to the promotion and development of Rathkeale on both social and economic fronts. The group sees itself as a catalyst to combine the resources of the town - human, geographical, commercial, cultural, and historical and so stimulate a greater sense of self help and "Pride of Place" in the local community.

By operating an "open door" policy the group has galvanised participation and support from all sectors of the community including commercial, sporting and cultural interests. We adopt an informal approach to meetings with the view to providing a forum for frank and lively discussion with maximum participation and this has proven very successful to date.

Our objectives of promoting and developing Rathkeale encompass economic and industrial development together with developing amenities and facilities for the local community. Primarily we have focussed on upgrading and developing the facilities already existing in the town and actively marketing Rathkeale as a visitor and tourist destination. By raising awareness of the attractions of Rathkeale we hope to rejuvenate in the town both nationally and internationally but also to boost confidence and a sense of pride in the local community. Long term Rathkeale Enterprise Group are working towards creating an atmosphere and environment amenable to attracting industry, to job creating and enterprise and to improving the quality of life for everybody in Rathkeale.

From our inception in Summer of 1996 we set about compiling a list of specific projects considered appropriate for undertaking. We successfully secured Leader Funding to enable us to prepare a comprehensive report on each individual project. This report has now been completed and submitted to West Limerick Resources with a view to accessing Government and E U funds.

The projects themselves are diverse as individuals but all contribute to promoting a better image of Rathkeale. They range from developing an historical walk to a 3 year marketing plan. A full list detailing the proposed projects is attached.

Rathkeale Enterprise Group are taking a long term approach to development in the

community and in this regard we welcome new members and contributors. In order to inform any one who might not be aware of us we are launching the group officially on 29/11/96. We are combining this with an exhibition of local arts and crafts in Rathkeale Community Centre which will run for the whole week end.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

TITLE

1. **River Walk/Rail Walk**
Development of a town walk along the river Deel's banks to link to a walk developed on the old rail line.
2. **Historical Walk**
To superimpose an historical walk on a route mapped around the town.
3. **Tourist Office**
To establish a local tourist office.
4. **Marketing Budget**
To produce a brochure and actively market Rathkeale.
5. **Rathkeale Town Study**
To prepare a report on Rathkeale highlighting resources e.g. human, physical, industrial, etc.
6. **Development of a Theatre in the Community Centre**
7. **Pitch & Putt**
Development of crazy golf and purchase of a lawn mower.
8. **Development of an all weather soccer pitch**
9. **Restoration of Monument in cemetery**
10. **Preservation of "The China Man"**
11. **Provision of a Gymnasium.**

Below: At the launch of Rathkeale Enterprise Group



RATHKEALE ENTERPRISE GROUP

SUPPORTED BY

Rathkeale Community Council

Rathkeale Chamber of Commerce

The Palatine Museum

Rathkeale Tidy Towns

Rathkeale Historical Society

Rathkeale Soccer Club

Deel Anglers Association

Rathkeale Pitch & Putt

Mercy Community College

Desmond Singers

Rathkeale Amateur Dramatic Society

Pat Magner Contractor

Tadhg O'Connor Ltd

Wm Hutch Consulting Engineers

McCormack Crosse Accountants

Contact:

Peter Donovan

John Dinnage

MI. Hanley

Eamonn Daly

Sean Hennessy

Austin Bovenizer

Mr. M T Breen

Pat Coleman

Neil Hogan

J.J. Riordan

Sean Harnett

MI. Mulcaire

Donie Hourigan

Con Horan

Padraig Feehan

Ger Power

Eugene McNamara

Pat Magner

Tadhg O'Connor

Brian O'Connor

Bill Hutch

Marie Crosse



At the launch of Rathkeale Enterprise Group



OLD COMRADES!

**Dom White Frank Neehan, Des O'Brien,
Frank Geary and Bill Mulcahy**

ESTUARY CLEANING SERVICES

- CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
- FLOOR SCRUBBING & POLISHING

POWER WASHING • PIPE & DRAIN CLEANING
CHIMNEY CLEANING
BRUSH & VACUUM

Contact: Tony Carrig

Phone: (069) 60250

Roads of The Roman Empire

The Romans built nearly 53,000 miles of roads linking the capital to their far-flung empire. To put this amazing feat in context, consider that the United States, to date, has built 42,000 miles of interstate highways.

Major roads began in Rome and spread in every direction, spawning commerce, communication, and travel, while permitting rapid movement of Roman legions. The roads covered the empire like latticework, joining the different territories. This included Italy, Germany, France and Spain; the roads even extended as far north as Britain. To the east and south the roads linked the Balkans, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, and North Africa, including Egypt and Tunisia.

Roman roads were remarkable for preserving a straight line from point to point, regardless of obstacles. They traversed marshes, lakes, ravines, and mountains. By their bold conception, these roads have challenged and excited modern engineers.

ROMAN ROAD DESIGN SETS THE STANDARD FOR TWO MILLENNIA

Roman road building began in earnest in 312 B.C., when the Roman Senate approved construction of a 132-mile highway from Rome south to Capua—the Appian Way. From Capua, the highway was later extended eastward, ending on the Adriatic coast at Hydruntum, a total of 410 miles. The empire expanded over the next 600 years, and Roman legions required good roads to achieve their conquests and to maintain supply and communication lines.

A major Roman road such as the Appian Way was up to 5 feet thick and cambered in the middle to shed rainwater. This massive road cross section set the standard of practice for the next 2,000 years, until 18th-century French engineers developed thinner cross sections.

The width of the Appian Way was 36 Roman feet [35 English feet]. The two-way centre lane, heavily crowned, was 15.5 feet wide flanked by curbs 2 feet wide and 18 inches high on each side and paralleled by one-way side lanes 7.75 feet wide.



A segment of the Appian Way as it appears today, more than 2,300 years since it was built as a major highway leading south out of Rome.

In its most advanced stage of development, the Appian Way was constructed by excavating parallel trenches about 40 feet apart to mark the exact road location and to indicate the nature of the subsoil. The foundation was then covered with a light bedding of sand and mortar upon which four main courses were constructed.

THE ROMAN ROAD-BUILDING LEGACY

Following the collapse of the Roman Empire in A.D. 455, Roman roads fell into disrepair, and in many places the stones were dug up and used for building purposes. In spite of this, many of the roads still exist and are used daily.



LEFT:

Glory days of Limerick Hurling. Back Row: Paddy Carroll, Bill Cowhey, Jim McCarthy, Maurice Power, Paddy McMahon, John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Paddy Scanlon. Front Row: Ml. McCarthy, Paddy Mackey, Paddy Kelly, Timmy Ryan, Jacky Power, Peter Cregan, Tom Twomey. A photograph of the Limerick team playing Cork in a National League Match in 1939. Dr. Jim McCarthy and Dr. Bill Cowhey were medical students at University College Dublin at this time.

TIDY TOWNS 1996

"Caring for our environment"

Centre: RATHKEALE County: LIMERICK Category: C

RESULTS DATE OF ADJUDICATION: 22-06-96

	Max. Mark	Mark Award
Overall Development Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196

ADJUDICATOR'S COMMENTS

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH - From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have formulated a detailed professional three or five year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a positive objective for resolving the problem areas within the community.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES - The wild daisies to the generally rather overgrown riverbank were admired. Perhaps the best approach to that issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local school-children in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

LANDSCAPING - The standard in this category was very high indeed, and this is obviously something at which you excel. The window boxes filled with petunias and geraniums opposite the Church of Ireland were admired. The grotto looked quite magnificent with its freshly painted chain link fence and silver painted bollards, two raised beds filled with roses and marigolds either side and an abundance of planting as a backdrop. The graveyard with daisies to the boundary wall looked magnificent. As did the truly marvellous landscaping at the roundabout.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - Both the public and commercial buildings of the town generally looked very well on Adjudication Day, although some could be improved upon. The Church of Ireland was in good order, although the railings could be freshened up before next year. As could the Fire Station. National School and Community Centre. The Augustinian Abbey, and stone surroundings wall looked well. The library was reasonably fresh with a planted bed to the front. the Palatine museum building looked well, although the weeds to the kerbside outside looked quite unsightly. The use of out of scale inappropriate plastic signage and over use of advertising stickers in windows should be discouraged. Curved canopies should be replaced with more

traditional fabric awnings. E.Bank's is an attractive although neglected shop front which would be well worth restoration. As would Noonan's and the Art Deco cinema building. Burn's;s forecourt area was quite bare-looking, with some derelict buildings to the rear. Both bank buildings were well presented, with colourful window boxes. The raised planted beds to the front and opposite White's Food store looked very well with their colourful planting. Although the Golden Vale Marts was quite fresh, the yard area was quite weedy. Sean Foley's facade with the projecting statue looked quite charming. Sean O'Braonans looked quite flaky on the day.

LITTER CONTROL - The standard of litter control on Adjudication Day was not as good as it could have been. Some litter was noted to the river, and by the roundabout. Quite a lot was apparent along Main Street, particularly outside White's Food store, the menswear shop and near Sean Hennessy's.

TIDINESS - The standard in this category was quite inconsistent, as on first impressions the town appeared quite neat and tidy, but on closer inspection there were some problem areas. The two car parks on Main Street appeared quite neat in their appearance. The laneway opposite Sean O'Braonan's was quite weedy, as were of the road off the dual carriageway. There was a weedy yard area further along from Golden Vale which looked unfortunate, as was the untidy yard area with building materials near the river. The perspex telephone boxes were very badly stained. The area to the rear of the Palatine Museum looked unfortunate, Limerick County Council sewerage treatment plant and the industrial estate. The Industrial Estate itself was well presented. Although the new trees planted behind the timber rail fence, are coming along nicely, the area looked quite neglected.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS - The standard in this category was good. However, the derelict cottages on Main Street near the housing estate looked quite sad. The boundary walls to the housing estate looked quite grubby, and the green space had been cut back, but looked quite littered. The cottage with roses and aubretia near the grotto on the Killarney road was admired. As were the houses by the riverside with the magnificent gardens. The two unusual three story houses with the glass canopies looked well, although that beside the ICS Building Society was in bad order. Two gardens worthy of special mention were the doctor's and that with roses opposite the library, although the boundary wall to the latter could be freshened up. Court Villas were very fresh and most attractive with a stone boundary wall. The timber rail fence of the housing estate opposite the Fire Station had been freshly painted, and the houses had been reasonably well presented. A nearby house with an abundance of hanging baskets looked magnificent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS - The standard in this category was quite good. However, there was quite a lot of weeding necessary to the base of the stone walls to either side of the road off the Dual Carriageway. The beautiful stone walls on the Killarney road, were admired, although the signage was rather grubby.

GENERAL IMPRESSION - The busy town of Rathkeale looked very well on the day, but as you are well aware there are problem areas in the town which must be tackled, if you are to make further progress in the competition. Judging from your works so far, you obviously have the enthusiasm to do so.

EXTRACTS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS.....

OBITUARY

DR. RICHARD F. HAYES

The death has occurred of Dr. Richard F. Hayes, Woodlands, Rochestown Ave., Kill o' the Grange, Dublin, the eminent literary man and historian, who was for some years Irish Film Censor.

He was born in Bruree, Co. Limerick and graduated from the old Royal University. Later he entered the Royal College of Surgeons, where he obtained his F.R.C.S.I. degree.

Actively connected with the national movement, he was commandant of the Fingal Brigade, which took part in the Battle of Ashbourne in 1916 under Thomas Ashe. The engagement was regarded as among the outstanding ones of 1916. Though vastly outnumbered, the Irish Volunteers gained a signal victory. His battalion was among the last to enter Richmond Barracks after the surrender. He was subsequently sentenced to death, but this was commuted to penal servitude for 20 years.

He was imprisoned in Dartmoor. Some months later he was transferred to the Isle of Wight with Mr. de Valera. In December 1916 he was transferred to Lewes Jail and was released at the General Amnesty in 1917.

Before his imprisonment he had been medical officer of Lusk, Co. Dublin, and after his release was elected to the Earl St. Dispensary, taking up residence at Thomond House, South Circular Road.

His appointment was not sanctioned by the Local Government Board which deprived him of his salary from 1916 until 1920 when, on the election of Sinn Fein Board of Guardians, he received his payments.

ELECTED M.P.

In 1918 Dr. Hayes was again arrested and interned in Reading Jail. While there he was elected M.P. for East Limerick. He was released in March, 1919. His constituency subscribed handsomely to the Republican Loan. Again arrested in 1920 he was interned at Ballykinlar and was released at the Truce.

He voted for the acceptance of the Treaty and contested two further Daíl elections, but retired in 1923 to devote himself to his medical practice.

MANY HONOURS

In 1934 he was appointed a Director of the Abbey Theatre, representing the Government on the Board. In 1936 he was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy and of the Irish Academy of Letters. In December, 1940, the National University of Ireland conferred on him the degree of D. Litt., Mr. de Valera, Chancellor of the University, conferring it. A month previously he had been appointed Film Censor.

Dr. Hayes was a fluent speaker of Irish and French and travelled extensively in Ireland, England and France to obtain exact information for his literary works on the association of his countrymen in the service of the French armies. Among his published

works on this subject were "Irish Swordsmen of France", "Old Irish Links with France", "Ireland and Irishmen in the French Revolution", "Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France", "The Last Invasion of Ireland" and "When Connaught Rose". As a mark of appreciation the French Government decorated him with the Legion of Honour.

HIS SURVIVORS

Dr. Hayes is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hilda Hayes; his stepson, Mr. Joseph Shaw, and stepdaughters, Mrs. M. Feddis and Mrs. P. Jacobson; Dr. Richard Hayes, M.O., Limerick; Dr. Richard Hayes, St. Kevin's Hospital, Dublin; and Mr. Sean Hayes, Rathkeel (nephews); and Mother Ita, Convent of Mercy, Carysfort Ave., Blackrock, Co. Dublin; Mother Melissa Dominican Convent, Portstewart; Mrs. Tom Donaghy, Galway; and Miss Peg Hayes, Athlone (nieces).

An Appreciation by W.T.C.

It is given to few - if any - to occupy the standing of Dr. Hayes in public and private life. He was universally esteemed and beloved. He had no enemies and few critics.

He was exact and informative as a historian and as might be expected, collected and extensive library. As a consequence, his readings were copious. His memory of Irish historical events surprised his contemporaries, and his learning and knowledge were at the disposal of enquirers at all times.

A close and valued friend of Collins, his professional services were at his disposal during the most stormy years.

To the bereaved Mrs. Hayes and to the family household at Woodlands, goes out the sympathy and prayers of a great multitude of friends.

March 1924.

SEAN FINN'S MEMORY

Celtic Cross unveiled at Rathkeale.

LIMERICK'S TRIBUTE TO I.R.A. HERO

Thousands of People present.

A beautiful Celtic Cross, to the memory of Brigade-Commandant Sean Finn, of the West Limerick Brigade, was unveiled last Sunday at the cemetery, Rathkeale. Commandant Finn was one of the most popular and one of the most loveable of the I.R.A. officers who fell in the Anglo-Irish war. His matchless bravery, his pure patriotism, his burning zeal for the cause of the motherland, from his boyhood days to his last fight, and his excellent traits of character, his gentleness and kindness, won for him the warmest and dearest place in the affection of the people of his native county. His took a leading part in many of the most daring and heroic operations of the I.R.A. during the Anglo-Irish fight, and the stories of his hair-breadth escapes on many an occasion, are still told in the homesteads of the County Limerick. As the shades of evening were falling on the 30th March, 1921, a small band of his men were nearly surrounded and hard pressed by enemy forces, and he fell mortally wounded, fighting in the rear-guard to the last - in a little green slope by Shannon's wave. The news

of his death came as a stunning blow to the people of his native county; it brought a great wave of sorrow into every homestead in county Limerick. A few days subsequently his remains were interred in the cemetery in his native town of Rathkeale, and notwithstanding the fact that the town was occupied on that occasion by large enemy forces, drawn from many centres in Munster, the people came in thousands from all parts of the County to pay their tribute of love to the gallant young Commandant, who gave his life for them. Shortly after the Truce, a Sinn Finn Memorial Committee was formed to make arrangements to erect a suitable memorial cross to his memory, and on last Sunday the third anniversary of his death, this Cross was unveiled. There was an immense assemblage of people present from all parts of the Co. Limerick, and from Co. Clare, Co. Cork, Tipperary and Kerry. At 3pm nearly a thousand volunteers who served under Sean Finn's leadership, lined up in the Square, and all the members of his old column were present, with the exception of those who are at present in gaol. A draped tri-colour was borne at the head of the Volunteers, and as they marched to the graveyard, with slow and measured step, to the accompaniment of the sad and mournful strains of the Dead march, played by the Rathkeale Brass Band, the sight was most touching and impressive. Arrived at the vicinity of the graveyard, brief addresses were delivered and eloquent tributes were paid to the memory of Sean Finn. Sean Brouder, Chairman of the Newcastle West Town Commissioners, presided, and the Countess Markievicz, T.D. and Mr. J. Mahahan, also spoke. A letter was read from Mr. Sean T. O'Kelly T.D., regretting his inability to be present, owing to an engagement in London. Notwithstanding the vast crowds of people present, the proceedings were conducted with great order and decorum, and at the conclusion of the addresses, the "Soldier's Song" was sung by Mr. O'Leary, all the people present joining in the Ros Catha of the Irish Volunteer Movement.

THE DAY AT BALLYHAHILL

Sunday last, the 30th March, we celebrated the third anniversary of the death of Limerick Brigade, I.R.A. We learn there was a huge demonstration at Rathkeale in commemoration of the sad event and it was richly and meritoriously deserved by poor fearless Sean (R.I.P.). It was fitting that in the spot on which Sean Finn fell, his memory should be also commemorated, and the people of Ballyhahill and the surrounding parishes did not forget. Young children, young men and women, and the poor silver-haired people did not let the day pass without assembling to pay their undying tribute of honour and profound respect to the unsullied name and fame of poor Sean Finn. When all lovers and admirers of Sean's indomitable valour and splendid personal qualities, had duly assembled at the exact place where he fell, with emotional and deep respect the Rosary was recited by Mr. David E. O'Connor, and was devoutly and touchingly responded to by the vast concourse of Sean's friends and admirers.

Just to-day, three years ago, Brave, noble Sean and his loyal few, With hearts undaunted faced the foe, But dear Sean fell for Roisín Dú.

J. CONDON

Ballyhahill, 30th March, 1924.



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.