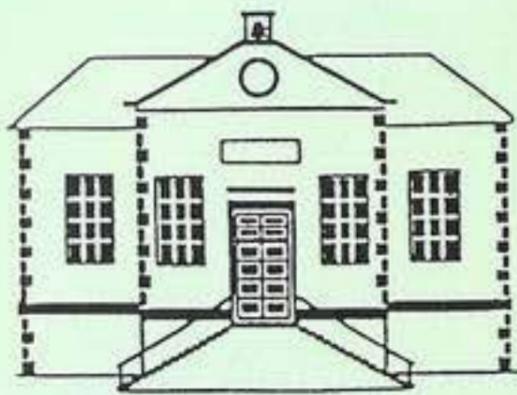


Deel



Views

*Rathkeale
Community
Council*

Summer 2001

Price: £1



*Ordination to the Priesthood
of Fr. Michael O'Shea*

941
9493
005

Editorial

LEADER, which is the EU Community Initiative for Rural Development and which provides an opportunity for rural communities to involve themselves directly in their own development, has been one of the most important developments in rural areas in recent years. The "bottom-up" philosophy and the guiding principles on which the programme is based are ideally suited to the long tradition of voluntary community and co-operative activity in rural areas.

The initial programme was in operation from 1992 to the end of 1994 and was highly successful. Leader II followed until 2000 and proved equally successful. Thirty four local action groups were approved to implement the programme, and West Limerick Resources Ltd. was selected in the West Limerick area. There was a particular emphasis on community development and partnership in Leader II in Ireland. With Leader's help local communities have been enabled to identify their own needs, undertake relevant training, devise developmental strategies and implement these strategies for the benefit of their own areas. The accessibility of the programme at local level has been an important factor in Leader's success.

Leader + was expected to follow on from Leader II early in 2001 but has been delayed and is only now about to be launched. It has been decided that the number of action groups to implement it will be reduced to twenty four or so and it is expected that W.L.R. will continue to be one of these.

There will be two separate programmes--- Leader+ with a budget of £55m and a National Programme with a budget of £59m and the former will be based on four distinct themes:

1. The use of new know how and new technologies to make the products and services of rural areas more competitive
2. Improving the quality of life in rural areas
3. Adding value to local products, in particular by facilitating access to markets for small production units via collective actions.
4. Making the best use of natural and cultural resources.

Rathkeale Community Council is represented on the Board of West Limerick Resources Ltd. and participates fully in all it's activities. The local community has benefited extensively from this participation and has received significant financial assistance over the years from the Leader programmes and it is expected that this will continue under Leader+. It is well worthy of our continuing involvement and support.

The Who's Who of Irish Politics 1921

At the Wedding of Tom Barry & Leslie Bean de Barra

This photograph must rank as one of the most significant photographs in the history of Ireland. It was taken in the Garden of Vaughan's Hotel, Parnell Square, Dublin on the 22nd August 1921, on the occasion of the wedding of Tom Barry and Leslie Bean de Barra. We have the names of all the invited guests including Eamon DeValera, Countess Markievicz, Harry Boland, Eoin Duffy, a shy looking Michael Collins, Rory O'Connor and Emmet Dalton. It represents a 'who's who' of Irish Politics at a crucial time in our history. (Photo courtesy late Lil Foley. Photo restoration courtesy Bob Wright).



Left to right:

1. Seated on ground: Dick Cotter, Bob Price, Eoin Price, Phyllis Ryan (Mrs. Sean T. Kelly), Gearoid O'Sullivan.
2. First Row Seated: Mairin McCavock, Harry Boland, Mrs. Jennie Wyse Power, Archdeacon O'Callaghan P.P., Mrs. Price, Liam Deasy, Leslie Bean de Barra, Pres. DeValera, Tom Barry, Dr. Nancy Wyse Power, Mr. Price, Miss Mary McSwiney, Countess Markievicz.
3. First Row Standing: Sean Lehane, Kathleen Kerrigan, Jack Price, Peter Kearney, Jim Hurley, Ted Sullivan, Michael Collins, Sean McCarthy, Mick Crowley, Dick Mulcahy, Mrs. O'Donovan, Eoin O'Duffy, Mrs. Tom Cullen, Kathleen Phelan, behind her is Liam Tobin's forehead, Emmet Dalton, Maire O'Reilly (big hat), Tom Cullen, Aoife Taaffe, Rory O'Connor, Susan Colum, behind her is Sean McSwiney, Fr. Tom Duggan, Fiona Plunkett, Treasa Ni Mhodhrain, Dan Corkery, Una Ni Mhodhrain, Tadhg Sullivan is behind her, Sean Buckley, Eileen Colum, Agnes Sharpe.
4. Second Row Standing: Prop. of Hotel, Sean Hales, Liam Devlin, Vincent Gogan, Paddy Dalton, Mick Price, Jim O'Reilly (Bantry).



TOWNS AND TOWNLANDS

Since at least the medieval period every county and parish has been divided into small land units known generally as townlands. These units were formerly called by a variety of local and regional names such as 'balliboes' in parts of Ulster, 'tates' in Fermanagh and Monaghan, and 'ploughlands' in some southern counties.

Despite frequent enlargement and division ('Donovan's Survey of 1839' mentions a number of amalgamations and amendments including abolition of townlands) the basic townland pattern has survived to the present day. Of varying area, townlands average 250 acres (1.3 sq. kms), large enough to contain a number of farms whose owners were kin and traditionally co-operated in various ways. Townland boundaries are usually marked by streams or deep ditches, banks or old hedges. There are over 60,000 in the country but they no longer have much significance as units of agrarian or social life. However, in a country of dispersed rural settlement where farms lack individual names (as found in Great Britain), they still have use for conveying topographical information and for postal addresses.

Many townlands share the same name e.g. Dromore, Ballywilliam, Kilcool etc. They were named at a very early time and often the name was derived from some local physical feature or landmark such as mountain, bog, forest, village or church. The townland became standardized as the unit of measurement during the 17th century surveys. The names were originally in Irish Gaelic but they became modified as a result of England speaking clerks writing the names as they heard them, using the Latin alphabet to approximate Gaelic word sounds. The Ordnance maps of 1846 contain details of 60,462 townlands in Ireland, with the areas and boundaries of each.

In the late 18th and early 19th century, the Catholic Church had to re-organise its parish system. These units became the principal components of social reorganization in the countryside and are made up of townlands. This is the smallest administrative division and is the most ancient geographical unit in Ireland. It is the one with which researchers struggle when searching for their ancestors.

A distinction has to be made between civil and religious parishes in that a number of differences are evident between Griffith's list in his Valuation of the 1850's and the present Catholic parishes. With regard to Rathkeale, Griffith included five townlands which

do not now form part of Rathkeale parish - Ballybrown, Doonbeirne, Islandboy, Ranahan and Stoneville. Likewise, a number included in my list were registered by Griffith in various neighbouring parishes which I have indicated in the list of townlands.

Interestingly, Griffith (of valuation fame) when testifying before a select committee of the House of Commons stated as follows:

"The boundaries of parishes are always boundaries of townlands, that is to say, one townland cannot be contained in two parishes; it sometimes happens that an estate may lie on both sides of the boundary of a parish and the townland in each parish is called by the same name and is considered to be the same townland. In such cases, I have always divided the townland and added the word upper or lower, east or west, to the original name, to serve to distinguish them. As each parish will be separately assessed, it is necessary that no confusion should arise as to the boundaries of any denomination or division belonging to it. Consequently, in all cases, the boundary of a parish must likewise be the boundary of a townland as far as that parish or the county assessment is concerned".

Townlands are thus grouped into civil parishes which are grouped into counties which in turn are grouped into provinces.

Abbeylands - 105 acres

Land of the monks. 44 landowners.

Ardbohill - 265 acres

Height or Point (aird/ard). Place of young people. Alternatively bohill could mean crosier. 7 landowners.

Ardnaveagh - 183 acres

Hill or point of the birches (or deer). Dundonnell.

Ardnanean - 114 acres

The height of birds. 1 landowner.

Ballinlyny - 266 acres

Lands of the Leinstermen or possibly of someone called Lynn. Registered by Griffith as being in Kilsannell.

Ballyallinan - 618 acres north and 668 acres south

O'Hallinan's lands. 44 landowners.

Ballyea - 641 acres

Lands of O'Hea. 18 landowners.

Ballyeawood - 246 acres
5 landowners.

Ballynamucky - 391 acres
Land of the swine herds. 16 landowners.

Ballywilliam - 251 acres north, 259 acres south and 212 acres demesne
Could refer to William or to a mill. 46 landowners.

Ballywinterourke - 479 acres
Muintir O'Rourke. 23 landowners.

Ballywinterourkewood - 349 acres
11 landowners.

Bealduvroga - 477 acres
Entrance to glen, valley or pass. Mouth of Dubhrog stream. 32 landowners.

Beechmount Demesne - 250 acres
4 landowners.

Blossomhill - 297 acres
Of flowers or possibly buttermilk. Cnoc Blaithe. 84 landowners.

Castlematrix - 230 acres
Traisce meaning thrush. Trask might also be a stream. 21 landowners.

Courtmatrix - 392 acres
Mansion of the stream. 68 landowners.

Cloghnarold - 243 acres
Stone castle of Harold. Registered by Griffith in Dundonnell parish.

Cloghatride - 331 acres
Castle of the fight or of someone named Cottreddy. 12 landowners.

Curragnadeely - 31 acres
Marshy land of the Deel. Registered by Griffith in Nantinan parish.

Dromard Demesne - 722 acres
Height or ridge. 21 landowners.

Duckstown - 790 acres
Land of the puddles or a muddy place. Baile na Lathach (misread as Lacan). 21 landowners.

Englishtenements - 81 acres
24 landowners.

Ennishcouch - 401 acres
Island of the caves or hollows. 27 landowners.

Graigue - 119 acres
Small village. 15 landowners.

Kilcolman - 447 acres east, 249 acres west
Church of St. Colman or Columba (fav. Irish saint). 13 landowners.

Kilcool - 147 acres
Church in the angle or corner. Registered by Griffith in Dundonnell parish.

Killeheen - 347 acres
Small church. Also little church of Eichen. Registered by Griffith in Kilsannell parish.

Knockaunavad - 157 acres
Little hill of the boat (not dog). Cnoc Bhan an Bhaid. 2 landowners.

Kyletaun - 469 acres
Little wood or growth of underwood. 31 landowners.

Loghill - 509 acres
Elm wood. 21 landowners.

Moanwing - 98 acres
Marshy bog. 1 landowner.

Parklewis - 48 acres
5 landowners.

Rylanes - 203 acres
Garden or level place for dancing. Also in Ballingarry. 14 landowners.

Rathnasare - 484 acres
Fort of the carpenters or craftsmen. Registered by Griffith in Nantinan parish

Reens - 186 acres east
Point or promontory. Registered by Griffith in Kilsannell parish.

Riddlestown - 820 acres
Registered by Griffith in Dundonnell parish.

Wolfesburgess - 132 acres east, 145 acres west.
28 landowners.

Some points worth noting:

Ard or aird can mean big, high or point. Baile could refer to endowed lands e.g. of a family or homestead or alternatively of a religious order. Kill/Cill can sometimes be read as referring either to a church or wood. It can be sometimes resolved if the ancient Irish name can be found but, where a name follows the word, it usually signifies church.

References for further information:

1. Irish Local Names Explained. P.W. Joyce.
2. Logainmneacha na hEireann Vol. 1. Art O Maolfabhail.
3. Irish Placenames. Deirdre and Laurence Flanagan.

Rathkeale AFC

CLUB DIRECTORY

| | |
|------------------|---|
| President: | Jimmy Dollery |
| Chairman: | Neilly Hogan |
| Vice-Chairman: | Timmy O'Sullivan |
| Hon. Secretary: | J.J Riordan |
| Hon. Treasurers: | Sean Harnett and Ann O'Brien |
| Committee: | Johnny Daly, Eddie Lawlor, Mike Walsh, Mike Kerins, John Lyons, Damien White, Denis Kelly, William Daly, Tom Hogan and Kenny Hogan. |

The club had the following teams affiliated to the Desmond District League:

3 Junior Teams, Youth Team, Under- 17's

The School-boys were affiliated to the Limerick Schoolboys League with teams from under 10's up to 16's.

Team Managers for the Season were as follows;

A Team - William Daly & Timmy O'Sullivan

B Team - John Lyons & Noel White

C Team - Eddie Lawlor & Michael Walsh

Youths - Timmy O'Sullivan

Under 17's - Sean Hamett

Schoolboys - Sean Harnett

A Team

The Season 2000-2001 saw the A's make Desmond League history as the first team to complete the Treble of Premier Division, Desmond Cup and the League Cup. In the League Cup they met NCW in the final for the third year running. In an excellent match the first part of the treble was secured with a 4- 1 victory. This was the night that the younger players came of age. Without some of our more experienced players due to injuries they attacked NCW with pace and skill that they had no answer for. Keith Harnett won the Man of the Match award on the night.

The second part of the treble was the Desmond Cup, where we met Knockaderry in the final. It took a replay to over come a spirited Knockaderry team. The A's won the replay 2-1 with goals from Paul Lynch and Chester Woulfe. Barry O'Shaughnessy collected the Man of the Match on the night.

The final part of the treble was the Premier Division. It came down to a crunch match with Shanagolden , who were at home and needed to win to clinch the title. On

the night the A's put in one of their best performances of the season winning 5-0, with goals from Chester Woulfe, Paul Lynch, Peter O'Dea, Barry Riordan and Barry O'Shaughnessy. John Woulfe received the Man of the Match that night. Great praise must go to William Daly and Timmy O'Sullivan for their work throughout the year. It was a difficult year with all the disruptions due to the weather and the Foot and Mouth. They kept their squad of players focused and they got the best out of each player when required. They suffered a share of injuries towards the end of the season , namely Keith, T.J, Puddin, Seamus and James. I would like to wish all these players a speedy recovery.

B Team

Under the guidance of John Lyons and Noel White the B's had a very mixed season. At one stage they were at the top of their Division and playing excellent football and then all of a sudden they went free fall. They did lose a few important players over the season due to work commitments which didn't help their cause.

They were beaten by Foynes A in the Desmond Cup. There was no Reidy Cup due to the Foot and Mouth.

C Team

Eddie Lawlor and Mike Walsh were in charge of the C's. They had a very good season, finishing mid-table in a very competitive division. Like every year a lot of youth players were introduced to junior football. This is what the C-team is about and it is continuing to play an important role in the development of the club.

In the Desmond Cup they were beaten by Ballyagran. They also just missed out on a place in their League cup.

Youths

The Youths for the last number of years have been a difficult team to manage. Nowadays most lads have Saturday jobs and it is getting increasingly difficult to field a team on a Saturday. As a result of this they finished at the bottom of their division. The team was looked after by Timmy O'Sullivan.

Keith Harnett and Seamus Giltenane were selected again for the Desmond League Youth Squad.

Schoolboys

As usual the schoolboys were under the stewardship of Sean Harnett. The Under 12's won their league.

Congratulations to Keith Wilmott, Francis Shire and Mike Sullivan on their selection for the under 13's Limerick County Schoolboy League Squad.

Field Development

The toilets and storage shed have yet to be completed. This is due to the shortage of personnel on the Fas Scheme. We only have them for a day or two every couple of months. Towards the end of the season they lined the pitch's every Friday, which was greatly appreciated.

In the next couple of weeks we will be spreading 100 tonne of sand on each pitch. They will also be Verti-drained twice before the start of the season. Also the coming weekend we are hiring a Draining machine to insert some extra drains. All this we hope should improve the pitch's. This work will cost about £4,000.

During the season our Lottery reached £9,000. This was a tremendous boost to our finances. The Treasurers report will show that. The Jackpot was eventually won by Brid Meehan of Holycross in April and it has been won twice since. Towards the end of the season the club brought a Sky Blue Polo Shirt which has been very popular.

I would like to thank all our team sponsors who are Kathleen's Bar, Homestyle. Keogh's Bar, Sean Hennessy and Val's.

I'd like to thank the Weekly Observer for their coverage over the year. Also thanks to Gerry Molyneaux and Seamus Hogan for all the photographs.

Thanks also to all the businesses that have continued to take out advertisements around the pitch, and to those who have helped us out in other ways.

A word of thanks also the people of Rathkeale for their support at the games towards the end of the season.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Committee for their continued support through out the year.

Finally I would like to finish up by wishing any player that got injured during the season a speedy recovery and hope to see them again at the start of the season. I would like to offer my condolences to anyone associated with the club who suffered a bereavement during the year.

Yours in Sport,
J. J. Riordan Hon. Secretary

(from "Deel Views" 1981)

Bird's Eye View of Rathkeale

By Ethel Naughton, aged 11.

I awoke early that morning. Dressed swiftly and quietly. I ran to the kitchen and opened the back door. I had decided not to tell them. It would not be the same if they knew. I jumped on to the wall, up, up and away. I was flying, floating on air. I could dive and soar and hover as well as any bird. I flew over the dew-drenched fields of Castlematrix, the sleeping cows and the gleaming Toyotas of Brian Geary Car Sales, and the fast moving trucks that had travelled safely through the night.

I came near the waking town of Rathkeale. I passed the Shrine and the Number Two school and down Church Street. I never thought that my maiden flight could be so interesting - back gardens, clean and dirty, nice ones and untidy ones, lines of white washing, corrugated iron shed roofs, dogs barking, cat 'meowing' and people late for work speeding past in their cars.

I neared the Deel, straight banked and fishless, flowing as always towards the river Shannon. The jewellery factory was starting its machines and switching on its lights; the creamery with its row of waiting cars and tractors; the Mart steadily filling up with cattle; the back of the garage black with oil grease and scraps of cars and overgrown with weeds.

Then over the school, which could be heard long before seen, with screams and laughs and slamming of doors. I flew over the school but had to go because a ball landed on the roof. I flew up Main Street. The smell of bread from the PBR was heavenly in contrast with that of Shannon Meats. The most to be seen in Upper Main Street were the beer barrels standing sedately in rows in front of the many pubs.

Then, of course, Fair Hill. A mixture of litter and carpets and old furniture, caravans, huge cars, vans and beautiful mansions but in the wrong place, waiting patiently to be shifted to their rightful situation - somewhere in Beverly Hills! But time was moving on and I had to leave. I flew down Main Street where a traffic jam was holding up traffic. I passed the Mart and the Deel. I came lower to look at the shining new Opel Kadetts of Rathkeale Motors. On my departure the town was wide awake. I passed the 16th century Castlematrix. I came down to earth with a bump to hear Mammy calling me: "Where have you been, my young lady?", she said. "Getting a bird's eye view of Rathkeale", I said.

Rathkeale & District Credit Union

A BRIEF HISTORY

Getting started

Rathkeale & District Credit Union Limited was established in 1975 by a sub-committee of the Rathkeale Community Council. The idea was strongly promoted and encouraged by James O'Kelly and Canon Costelloe. A £10 contribution from each member of the council provided the initial seed capital to commence business. Rathkeale & District Credit Union Limited was first opened for business, in a rented premises on Main Street, Rathkeale, in May 1975.

The first loan was issued on July 4th 1975 for the princely sum of £100! An operating loss of £206 was incurred in the initial year. However, by September 1977 matters had improved and a surplus of £916 was generated. Loan balances at the end of September 1977 amounted to £17,500. By June 2001, assets exceeded £10 million and loans exceeded £6 million. Members savings amounted to £8.9 million.

Collection points

A major factor contributing to the successful growth of this credit union was the establishment of collection points. Adare was started in 1978, Croom in 1983 and Ballingarryin 1993.

Premises

As a consequence of the growth in membership it was necessary to purchase office accommodation. The first premises, formerly 'Roches Shop', was purchased in Rathkeale in 1984. T. J. Maher officially opened the new office. In 1995 we moved to our current location in Main Street which by coincidence was where we first started in 1975. Mr Frank Kenny, President of the Irish League of Credit Unions, officially opened the office in Croom, in 1986. Mr Matt Heffernan, representing the Irish League of Credit Unions officially opened the office in Adare, in 1991.

The Rathkeale premises has just been renovated and all are welcome to view it.

Information technology

Prior to 1986 all transactions were processed manually and this involved a huge amount of voluntary effort. Many late nights and long weekends were spent diligently recording and balancing transactions. In 1986 we first invested in technology with the purchase of "Monroe" counter machines. In 1991 we purchased our first computer. To day, we have a very modern fully computerised operating system. All offices are on line, in fact we were one of the first credit unions in Ireland to provide on line services to members at branch level.

Staffing

On the staffing side we recruited our first employee, Mrs. Helen Mc Enery, in 1988 and our first Manager, Mr. Con Costelloe, in 1998.

The future

The success of this credit union is a result of a combination of a number of factors, namely the unselfish voluntary input of very many people, the professionalism of the staff and, above all, the tremendous loyalty and support of the local community. We face the future with confidence and great expectations.



Rathkeale & District Credit Union Limited

What your Credit Union provides for you.....

- A secure place to save
- A good return on your Savings
- Free Life Assurance cover on your Savings
- Source of Credit
- Loans at competitive rates
- Fixed Maximum rate of Interest
- Interest is paid only on balance owed
- Free Life Assurance on your Loan
- V.H.I. + BUPA Group Schemes (10% discount)
- Home Union Home Insurance Scheme
- Auto Union
- Repayment Protection Insurance (RPI)
- Travel Insurance
- Bureau de Change
- A six day service to all our members.

OPENING HOURS:

| | | |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| RATHKEALE: Tel: (069) 64444 | Monday | 2pm - 4pm |
| | Tuesday | 10am - 4pm |
| | Wednesday | 10am - 4pm |
| | Thursday | 10am - 6pm |
| | Friday | 10am - 5pm |
| | Saturday* | 11am - 4pm |
| | | |
| CROOM Tel: (061) 397783 | Wednesday* | 10.30am - 4pm |
| | Friday* | 10am - 5pm |
| | Saturday* | 10am - 4pm |
| | | |
| ADARE | Thursday | 1pm - 6pm |
| | Friday* | 10am - 5pm |
| | Saturday* | 10am - 4pm |
| | | |
| * Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1pm | | |
| BALLINGARRY (Community Centre) Tel: (069) 64444 | Friday | 7.30pm - 8.30pm |



More on the Pubs of Rathkeale

Pat Coleman

Since my last article on the various licensed premises in Rathkeale down through the years, a number of people have approached me to add to the information I had or to point out errors I had made. I fully acknowledge responsibility for the errors that did occur. Firstly, I failed to include a number of pubs that existed in Main Street. These included the Abbey Bar which was owned by Conways; McDonnells which was across the road from the Community Centre and which stopped serving alcohol about 1935; Windle/McNamaras and the Rovers Return.

The pub referred as McDonnells was operated by Stephen McDonnell's father and Stephen informed me that it was the original Rathkeale House and the oldest public house in the town. He also told me that it was known as the 'early house' because of the hours it opened. This may be related to the fairs and the granting of early licences to some pubs to be able to cater for those selling and buying cattle. In my own childhood, McNamaras had a pub in the Square. Anne McNamara married Windle and they ran a pub for a number of years. It has since passed through many hands.

Today, the Blue Danube - or as it later became the Rovers Return - has been closed for some time. In my youth it was a gathering place for those just reached eighteen and beginning to drink for the first time. Those pubs in which I never had the pleasure of a pint include Kate Noonan's and Jack Culhane's.

A very relevant point made to me by Maurice Cowhey was the changing role of the pub over the years. Speaking of his own younger days, he recalled that the pub was one of a number of facilities available within business. Thus, Cowheys, Fitzgibbons and others operated shops and indeed the shops were the mainstay of the businesses. Most of these business people also ran farms to augment their income. Furthermore, these shops/pubs tended to draw a lot of their custom from the locality or parish from which the owner originated. People from the Croagh area would go to Cowheys and so on.

Maurice recalled also the expression 'Rathkeale lived from fair to fair' which indicates the importance of the fairs to the town. Sporting events were also of major importance to the local economy and particularly to the pubs. There would always be special trains for the bigger games, with a return ticket from Newcastle West at one period costing 1s. 2d. It was on such occasions and the fair days that the pubs did most of their annual trade.

I was told recently how the old interior of Conway's

Abbey Bar had been retained intact until very recent times. This premises and Cahills, and possibly others, operated as eating houses on big occasions.

The significance of fair days allowed some of the local characters among the publicans to come into their own. I am informed that one local lady insisted on all her customers (invariably men in those days) removing their hats and caps on entering her premises. This was to ensure that they all paid their debts before leaving - the hats and caps being returned on payment of the bill!

I was told the story of a farmer's wake. The farmer in question was of pale complexion and, when he went on the liquor, he became even paler. On this occasion he would appear to have had a particularly heavy day's drinking. He disappeared from the establishment where he had been imbibing and some time later was discovered asleep in one of the beds by the lady of the house. She, being of jocose nature, decided to have the body 'waked'. Candles were set out and a number of customers were invited upstairs to pay their respects. As this story was related to me, the unfortunate farmer never heard about his 'wake'.

Ger Fennell believes the pub his antecedents owned in Church Street once belonged to a Fitzgerald family and not to Walshes as suggested. He also believes the two said families may have been related. He dates the purchase of the pub to 1916-17. Because of war time rationing, the Fennells maintained the licence and opened one day a year in order to achieve this. This also would guarantee that they would get two quotas of beer. Whether this is correct or not is somewhat unclear as the pub appears to have been retained long into the inter-war years on the same basis.

Sean Hayes was able to confirm the information I had about Magners at the New Road corner. My information was that the pub had been in Magners ownership for three generations and Sean added that the Magners family married into the premises. For at least two generations before that it was in the ownership of the Mulcahy family. This must make it a serious contender as the pub which remained in the same family ownership longest. Sean also informed me, and this was confirmed by John Dinnage, that the shop now occupied by the latter was once a pub owned by O'Shaughnessys.

John Griffin tells a story which I had heard many years ago from Margaret Reddan and had since forgotten. The Carey family who once owned Sullivans/Damien O'Grady were very well off and owned all the property on

that side of the Main Street between the dry cleaners and Kate Noonan's. The children of the family were indulged by their parents with mixed results when they reached adulthood. One of the boys emigrated to the United States and lost contact with the family. Willie lived out his days in Rathkeale in very reduced circumstances. The remaining two brothers became priests and one of these, Canon Bernard Carey, wrote a book relating his life story. At least two copies of this book are still in local hands in the town. In the book he recounts of an experience he had in New York where he was doing relief for another priest on holidays. The parish in question contained a number of the 'doss houses' of the city and, on his first

night, the Canon visited some of these houses to administer to the sick and dying therein. One man close to death told him not to bother him as religion had done nothing for him throughout his life. Bernard recognised the man as his brother and didn't know how to handle the situation. If he introduced himself he feared the shock might kill the man. He continued to visit the house but invariably got the same response. One night, having completed his rounds, he received a call from the overseer of the 'doss house' requesting his attendance. He found his brother very close to death but asking for the last sacraments. Bernard performed his duties, they spoke for a while and that evening his brother died peacefully.

Abrahams Golfing Society

Results of Outings to date:

Shannon Golf Club in April

Gents: 1. J. Dunleavy
2. V. O'Kelly
3. N. Duggan
4. P. Donovan (Snr.)
Nines: T. Corden/J. Roe

Ladies: 1. C. O'Connor
2. I. Donovan
3. B. Keating
U. Finn/H. Roche

Charleville Golf Club in May

E. Duggan (V. Cpts. Prize)
Gents: 1. P. Keating
2. G. O'Connell
3. J. Roe
4. S. Harnett
5. D. McCarthy
Nines: T. Corden/M. Cregan

Ladies: 1. U. Finn
2. M. Conway
3. P. O'Kelly
4. B. Keating
P. Supple/P. Ruttle

Dooks Golf Club in June

Gents: 1. S. Goodwin
2. G. O'Connell
3. D. Donovan
4. N. Duggan
Nines: S. Harnett/T. Keating

Ladies: 1. I. Donovan
2. P. Supple
3. M. Wilmott
4. P. O'Kelly
N. Dwane/M. O'Sullivan

Adare Manor Golf Club in July

E. Neville (Pres. Prize)
Gents: 1. M. Cregan
2. S. Harnett
3. P. Donovan (Jnr.)
4. J. O'Connor
Nines: B. Dillon/P. Neville

Ladies: 1. E. Newell
2. I. Donovan
3. P. O'Kelly
N. Dwane/M. O'Sullivan

The next event will be the Captain's (Mary O'Sullivan, Ballingarrane) Prize Day in Newcastle West Golf Club on August 25th. Those who have not entered their names for this competition should do so as soon as possible.

AN
Advice & Caution

TO THE PERSONS CALLING THEMSELVES
“3 and 4 Years Old.”

HOW melancholy it is to think that Irishmen should be found so deluded and so unnaturally wicked as to bind themselves by the solemn obligation of an oath, in direct violation of the Laws of God and Man, to take away the lives of their Fellow-Christians and Fellow-Countrymen, if they happen not to have been sworn by some *Cunning and Hired Ruffian*, in other words, by some *Paddy M'Kew*, a member of the particular section of *duped and degraded Miscreants*, into which they themselves have been initiated, under the ludicrous denomination of “**THREE AND FOUR YEARS OLD.**” My unfortunate and misguided Countrymen, it is anxiously hoped you will begin to become wise in time, and, in the spirit of deep regret for the Disgrace you have brought on yourselves, and the great Scandal you have given to the Community at large, withdraw from those vile and drunken associations; a perseverance in connexion with which must, sooner or later, lead you, according to the scale of your guilt, to the **TREAD-MILL**—the **CONVICT SHIP**—or the **GALLOWS**—and thereby plunge into additional *destitution and misery your poor families*. The People of Rathkeale, always desirous to give their humble co-operation to those *great and good men*, whose study it is to improve the existing state of this Country, and to rescue you, if they can, from your poverty and privations, deeply deplore your, irrational dissentions, and view with unfeigned regret the obstacles your savage violations of the Peace are throwing in the way of your friends. Your Clergymen, the watchful Guardians of your spiritual and temporal Interests—**Mr. O'CONNELL**, your uncompromising advocate, and the indefatigable assertor of your Rights and Liberties—every real friend to Ireland, to Order, and to National Regeneration—in short, Law, Reason and Religion are opposed to your *ridiculous and ferocious Combinations*. In the name, therefore, of God—in the name of your Country—and for the sake of your own peace and comfort, you are called upon, nay implored, to relinquish at once and for ever those wild and barbarous exhibitions, and join your fellow-countrymen in their peaceful and constitutional efforts to better the condition of a long oppressed and suffering People.

Should you, however, still recklessly persevere in your Criminal determination, it now becomes my painful duty to tell you, in this public, this undisguised manner that the hitherto *peaceable and independent* town of Rathkeale shall not be, henceforward, made the theatre of your disgraceful contentions. Whatever impressions to the contrary may now exist in your mind, I beg to assure you that with the exception of the *few unfortunate Recruits*, allured lately to your brainless confederacy, in this town, by their *inordinate love for whiskey*, there is not a man who is not pledged and determined, if forced by you to the very disagreeable alternative, to assist in making you amenable to that Law which, when enforced against you, shall speedily annihilate your present imaginary but momentary importance. These admonitory observations, these salutary cautions are addressed to you by one sincerely interested in your welfare and who, in common with the great majority of his town's men, will feel delighted if you attend to the advice thus disinterestedly given to you, and, by that means, avoid the unhappy consequences, which must eventually result from a blind perseverance in your present illegal course.

W A Lover of his Country.

Remembering Past Events

By P. J. Madigan

1977

RETIREMENT

Mr. William Goodwin, Church St., Rathkeale retired on Christmas Eve, having completed 40 years' service with Limerick County Council. For 35 years he was employed as a lorry driver and, during World War 2, he brought the first lorry load of turf to Limerick Regional.

NEW CRIB

A new crib is now on view in St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale. It was made and erected by Mr. Tim O'Shea, Church Street. The original figures from the old crib were repaired and painted by Mr. Harry Gazette, Ballywilliam. The work has been highly praised.

I.C.A.

The A.G.M. of Rathkeale I.C.A. Guild was held at the Vocational School. Present were Mrs. O'Connor, Federation President, and Miss Donovan, V.C.O. Elected for the coming year were:

President: Mrs. H. Roche
Vice-President: Mrs. Mai Geary
Secretary: Miss H. Madigan
Treasurer: Mrs. D. O'Connor
Press Officer: Mrs. Maura Mooney
Production Officer: Mrs. M. Wilmott
International Officer: B. McEnery
Teachta: Mrs. D. Donovan
Competition Secretary: Mrs. Mary Geary.

Committee: Mrs. B. Daly, Mrs. K. O'Dwyer, Mrs. J. O'Brien, Mrs. I. Donovan, Mrs. A. Brennan.

CERTIFICATES

The following local children were presented with certificates for life-saving by the County Manager, Mr. R. B. Haslam, in Pallaskenry: Danny Walsh, Kay Coleman, Pat Madigan, Breda Dollery, Patricia White, Margaret Williams, Brigid-Ann Duggan, Noel Coleman, Helen Mulcair, Thelma Fitzgerald, Michael Giltenane, Robbie Zoncada, Bernie Curtin, Helen Kenneally, Ita Kenneally, Kevin Dunworth, Pat Neville, Mary Magner, Mike Neville, Seamus Giltenane, Sally White, Brendan Kennedy, Moira Daly, Treasa Dunworth, Aine O'Dwyer, Brian O'Dwyer.

HANDBALL A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of Cappagh Handball Club was held on Saturday, 15th January at Peter O'Grady's residence. The following officers were elected for 1977:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| President: | Mr. A. Kennedy |
| Vice-President: | Very Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, P.P. |
| Chairman: | Mr. Michael Bourke |
| Vice-Chairman: | Mr. Pat Stokes |
| Secretary: | Mr. Moss Hennessy |
| Asst. Secretary: | Mr. Tony Hayes |
| Joint Treasurers: | Mr. Sean O'Grady and Mr. Michael Stokes |

Representatives to County Board and West Board: Michael Hanley and Tony Hayes.

WEDDING

On Saturday, 22nd January, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between Seamus Moloney, son of Mr. & Mrs. Moloney, Castlemahon, and Bridie Meehan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Meehan, Rathkeale. The best man was Liam Moloney and the groomsman was Eamon Moloney. The bridesmaids were Catherine and Josephine Meehan. Timothy Dillon was page boy and Angela Meehan was flower girl.

A.G.M.

There was a very large attendance at the A.G.M. of St. Mary's G.A.A. Club which was held in the C.Y.M.S. Hall on Wednesday, 9th Feb. The following officers were elected for 1977:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| President: | Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P. |
| Vice-Presidents: | Rev. J. Irwin, C.C., Rev. A. Elliott, C.C. |
| Chairman: | Frank Neenan |
| Vice-Chairmen: | Michael Neville and Joe Williams |
| Secretary: | Michael Hanley |
| Joint Treasurers: | Peter Brennan and Noel Harnett |
| Registrar: | Neilly Duggan |

Committee:

Mattie Williams, Seamus Cawley, J. 'Blondie' McEniry, Denis Kenneally, Michael Dillon, Jerry Fitzgerald, Patsy Doherty, John Griffin, Christy Jones, Pdraig Feehan, Michael Keating, Tom White.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Two scholarships, tenable at the Irish College, Ballybunion, have been awarded to pupils of Rathkeale Primary Schools. The successful pupils are: Grainne Donovan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Donovan, Thomas St., and Frank Geary, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geary, Ballywilliam. These scholarships are awarded from the proceeds of the Irish language collection taken up on St. Patrick's Day.

ANGLERS A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Rathkeale Branch of the Deel Anglers' Association was held in Geary's Hotel on Monday, 7th March. Officers elected were:

President: Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P.
Chairman: Michael Geary
Secretary: John Dinnage
Treasurer: John Roche

Committee: Stephen McDonnell, Jimmy Dollery, Jimmy Glenny, Joe Culhane, John O'Grady, John Griffin, Frank Kennedy.

YOUTH CLUB

County Limerick Inter Youth Club Competitions were held in the Olympic Ballroom, Newcastle West on Saturday, 19th March. Rathkeale Youth Club were successful in the following:

Boys Table Tennis U-21: Denis Crowley, Pdraig O'Dwyer, Martin Daly. Girls Table Tennis U-16: Mary & Brid Meehan, Marion Neville. Quiz U-12: Pat Coleman, John Talty, Marie Madigan, Yvonne Teskey.

WEDDING

On Saturday, 12th March at Ardagh Parish Church, the wedding took place between James Hayes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hayes, Cappagh, Askeaton and Theresa Upton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Upton, Old Mill, Newcastle West. The best man was James Nash, uncle of the groom, and Mrs. Angela Keogh, sister of the bride, was matron of honour.

SCORIOCHT

The county final of the Junior Scoriocht took place in Templeglantine on April 20th. The winners were Tournafulla and Rathkeale were second. The members of the Rathkeale Group were: Margaret Lynch, Pat Madigan, Josephine Fitzgerald, Joseph Morrissey, Peter Morrissey, Mike Barr, Catherine Fitzgerald, Mary Meehan, Brid Meehan, Orla Dillon, Catherine Dillon, Christina Lynch, Raymond Doherty, Martin Doherty, Sean Markham, John Madigan, Theresa Morrissey, Gerard Barr.

BOXING

A meeting was held in the C.Y.M.S. Hall in order to revive the boxing club. The following officers were elected:

President: Johnny White, Church St.
Secretary: Christy Jones
Joint Treasurers: Patrick Jones and Edmund O'Reilly

Committee: Johnny Daly, Tim Dillon, John Jones, John Fitzgibbon, Pat Shanahan, Jerry Jones.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

The following are the results of the community sports which were held in the local G.A.A. field on Sunday, 19th June:

Marathon, boys under 17:

1. L. Kennedy; 2. D. Hogan; 3. S. O'Shea.

80m. boys under 8 final:

1. Shane Hourigan; 2. Dan Donovan; 3. Derek Dunne.

100m. boys under 12 final:

1. Patrick Mulcahy; 2. Patrick Reidy; 3. Michael Power.

100m. boys under 8 final:

1. John Keating; 2. Sean Riordan; 3. Paul Hennessy.

200m. boys under 10 final:

1. William Daly; 2. E. Geaney; 3. B. Wilmott.

200m. boys under 12 final:

1. T. White; 2. M. Duggan; 3. J. Teskey.

100m. boys under 14 final:

1. D. O'Brien; 2. B. O'Shea; 3. R. Doherty.

100m. boys under 10 final:

1. Michael O'Connor; 2. Pdraig Doherty; 3. Joseph Kerins.

High Jump boys under 16:

1. Brian Dillon; 2. Ml. O'Shaughnessy; 3. Wm. Hogan.

800m. boys under 14:

1. Barry Dillon; 2. B. Hayes; 3. James O'Connor.

1500m. boys under 16:

1. P. McCarthy; 2. P. Jones; 3. P. Power.

Boys under 12 relay:

1. P. Reidy, B. O'Connor, J. Kenneally, P. McCarthy.

2. J. Teskey, G. O'Shaughnessy, P. Madden, J. Kennedy.

Boys long jump under 14:

1. A. Flaherty; 2. S. Hough; 3. T. O'Connor.

100m. boys under 16:

1. M. Meade; 2. J. O'Connor; 3. J. Mulcair.

80m. girls under 8 final:

1. Rose Reidy; 2. Claire O'Connor; 3. Pauline Kerins.

100m. girls under 12 final:

1. Orla Dillon; 2. Felicity Doherty; 3. Valerie White.

100m. girls under 8 final:

1. Maeve Donovan; 2. Mary O'Connor; 3. Angela O'Sullivan.

200m. girls under 10 final:

1. Bridget Chawke; 2. Victoria White; 3. Siobhan Donovan.

200m. girls under 12 final:

1. Deirdre Keating; 2. Anne Hogan; 3. Dolores Neville.

100m. girls under 16 final:

1. P. Doherty; 2. M. Power; 3. Elma Hogan.

100ml girls under 10 final:

1. Mary O'Shaughnessy; 2. Joan Giltenane; 3. Anne Fennell.

High jump girls under 16:

1. Nora Mulcahy; 2. Lisa Teskey.

800ml girls under 14:

1. Anne Hogan; 2. Catherine Fitzgerald; 3. Antoinette Hogan.

1500m. girls under 16:

1. Helena Hogan; 2. Josephine Fitzgerald; 3. M. Mulcahy.

Girls under 12 relay:

1. Orla Dillon, Felicity Doherty, Valerie White, Dolores Neville.
2. Victoria White, Geraldine Woulfe, Anne Kerins, Anne Fennell.

Girls long jump under 14:

1. Nora Vaughan; 2. Kay Coleman; 3. Margaret Teskey.

100m. girls under 16:

1. Brid Meehan; 2. M. Giltenane; 3. B. Giltenane.

100m. Mothers' Race:

1. Mrs. Maureen O'Shea; 2. Mrs. Dillon; 3. Mrs. Lynch.

100m. Fathers' Race:

1. Michael Walsh; 2. Joe Williams; 3. Liam Woulfe.

POLKA GROUP

The Rathkeale polka set group won a competition on Friday night, 8th July, in which seven polka set groups participated. The Rathkeale group, each of whom received a plaque, were: John Hughes, Marie Madigan, Richard Mooney, Mrs. Mary Hughes, Michael Dillon, Mrs. Margaret Kennedy, John Madigan and Mrs. Maureen O'Shea.

FANCY DRESS

The principal attraction at the Rathkeale Festival on Sunday, 24th July was the Childrens' Fancy Dress Parade. The winners were as follows:

Walking Groups: 1. Election 77. Joint 2nd: Flower Queen and Miss World. Joint 3rd: Charley's Angels and Black & White Minstrels.

Groups on Floats: 1. King Carolos opening Spanish Parliament. 2. Roots. 3. Queen's Jubilee.

GARDENS COMPETITION

The Roadside Gardens Competition, sponsored by the Festival Committee, was judged last week. Small front garden: 1. Mrs. Leahy, Church St. 2. Mrs. Lynch, Enniscouche. 3. Mrs. Mai Ahern, Boherbui. Larger garden: 1. Tom McNamara, Rockfield. 2. Tom Frawley, Abbeylands. 3. Mrs. Enright, Holycross. H.C. Tim Geaney, Killeheen and J. O'Dwyer, Ballywilliam.

BANQUET

A Gourmet Medieval Banquet was held at Castlematrix on Saturday night, 3rd September. The function was organised by the Rathkeale Fianna Fail Cumann to celebrate the appointment of Mr. Gerry Collins, T.D. as Minister for Justice. Mr. and Mrs. Collins were present, also Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D. and Mrs. Noonan. Also present were Senator Rory Kiely and Mr. Sean Hayes, M.C.C. A total of 70 guests attended the seven-course banquet.

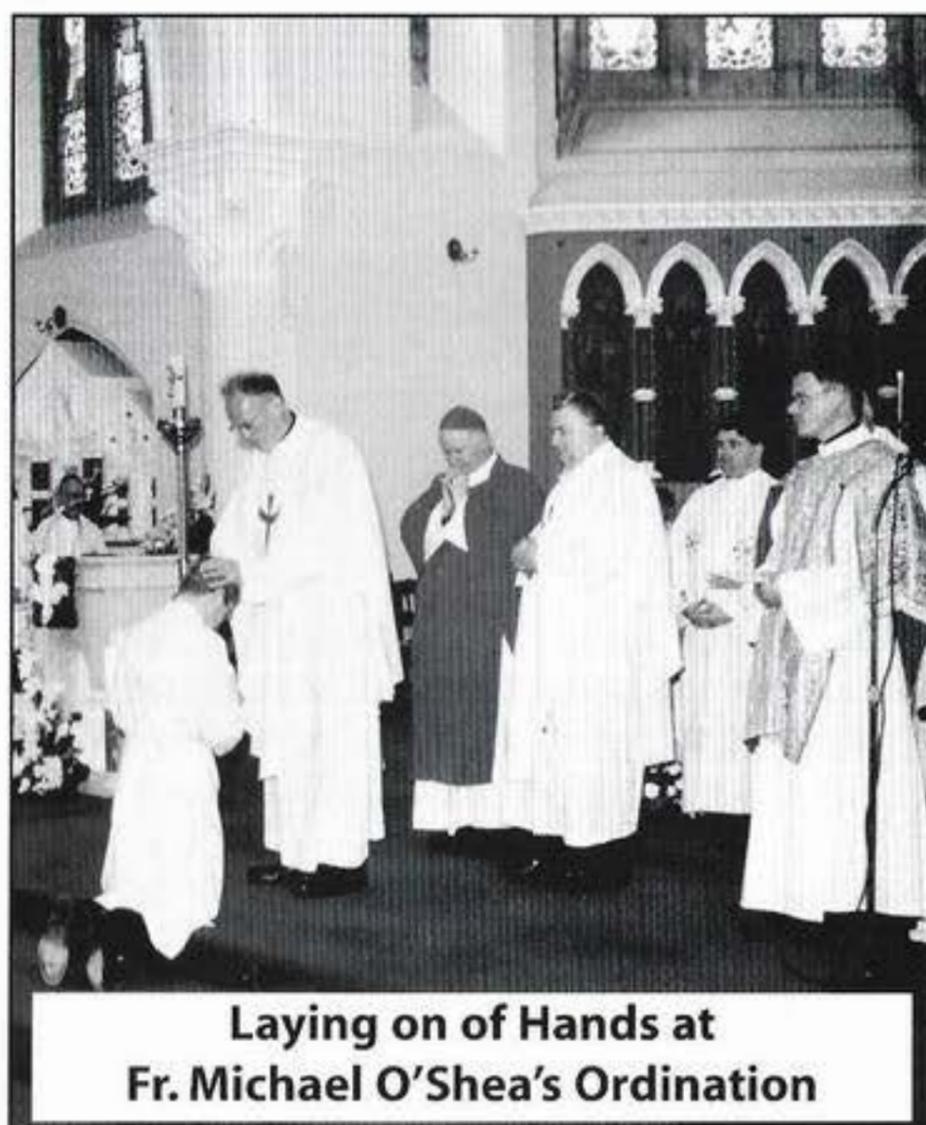
WEDDING

The wedding took place at Croagh Parish Church between Declan O'Connor, son of Mrs. O'Connor and the late Mr. O'Connor, Ard-na-Coille, Blarney, Co. Cork and Margaret Costelloe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Costelloe, Kiltannin, Croagh. Best man was Fergus O'Connor and the groomsman was Kieran O'Connor. The bridesmaids were Ann and Bernie Costelloe, sisters of the bride.

ATHLETIC CLUB

At a recent meeting it was decided to organise an athletic club. The following officers were elected:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President: | Very Rev. T. Canon Costello, P.P. |
| Chairman: | Patrick McCann, Snr. |
| Vice-Chairman: | Michael Dillon |
| Secretary: | Michael Hanley |
| Treasurer: | Michael McNamara |
| Committee: | Michael Walsh, Anthony Frawley, Noel Harnett |



**Laying on of Hands at
Fr. Michael O'Shea's Ordination**

Rathkeale Community Fun and Sports evening 2001 at Sean Finn G.A.A. Field, Rathkeale



One big happy party



Michael Brennan M.C.C., Chairman of Limerick County Council making the presentations at Rathkeale Community Centre.



We are the best... with medals to prove it!



Rathkeale Community Group - Silver Medalists at the Rathkeale Community Fun & Sports evening held on Friday last, July 27th at Sean Finn Park, Rathkeale.



St. Senan's - Guests at the Rathkeale Community Fun & Sports evening held on Friday July 27th at Sean Finn Park, Rathkeale.



Medals Galore!

(from 'Weekly Observer' 1915-16)

A CONTINUATION OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES BY MR. WILLIAM HAYES

The heroes of 1821, hailing from that historic town of Rathkeale, visited Clare and captured a small cannon. Fitzgerald, whose brother was killed at Incharourke, wanted to fire on the troops who were escorting his dead brother but his friends succeeded in preventing him from doing so. Capt. Mulqueen of Askeaton knew all the haunts on the Shannon and was a remarkable hero and loved by all his comrades.

Note

Referring to the River Deel in the last issue, I respectfully stated that the first time Mr. Michael Austin, M.P. was elected I wrote to him to try and get the river drained. He brought it to the attention of the Congested Districts Board but to no avail. This river is destroying thousands of acres of the finest lands in West Limerick through the overflow of its banks. The river is blocked in various places and needs to be cleaned. The farmers held numerous meetings trying to have something done but the delay in any action is blamed on the War. Messrs. Johnstone of Castlematrix Mills are doing all in their power to keep the gates clear. They are often blocked with bushes and, if there was sliding sluice close to the gates, twenty yards wide, it would have the effect of clearing the floods faster. They are too narrow and the splendid lands which are being destroyed would more than pay for the cleaning necessary. Great losses are suffered every wet year.

The heroes of Ballysteen were remarkable for their daring and bravery during the insurrection of 1821. The Walkers of Castletown were great track layers around the district, trying to induce the poor Catholics to become 'Soupers' in those famine years. When the crops failed there were soup houses set up as a temptation. The great old Carroll Nash of Ballycullen fought hard to assist his Catholic friends and neighbours in those dark and evil days. There was a clubhouse in the old Desmond Castle where the Walkers, Royces, Hunts, Hewsons, Taylors etc. were wont to meet. On one occasion they attacked Mr. Nash, who was a noble gentleman and ardent Catholic. He and his coachman cleared out the clubhouse and the gentlemen had to flee for their lives. The name Carroll Nash and his family was revered in West Limerick and the family vault in the old abbey is still visited by locals who pray for them.

Very Rev. Archdeacon Fitzgerald, P.P. was in Askeaton at the time and he was summoned by Royce to appear in court. At the trial Royce referred to the priest as "Mr. Fitzgerald" but was pulled up by Carroll Nash and asked to call him by his proper title. Mr. Royce mentioned that the priest was a well known poet and the Archdeacon replied that he was not half such a poet as he was a dancer. The kind hearted priest was faithful to the poor Catholics and was supported by Carroll Nash.

Mr. Martin O'Shaughnessy of the Craggs was another great hero and respected by his comrades for his daring raids against the enemy. Mr. John O'Shaughnessy of Beteville House was a great friend of Archdeacon Fitzgerald and also was the grandfather of Mr. P. J. O'Shaughnessy who was M.P. for West Limerick.

The P.P. was the first I knew in Rathkeale and, when I was a child, he had a residence on the New Road. In those times, after the famine years, his kindness to the poor was unbounded. He was in the habit of keeping a large rick of turf which he distributed to the needy at Christmas time. He later left his house to the Christian Brothers, whom he had invited to Rathkeale to start a school, and went to live to Hospital House.

During the lifetime of Archdeacon Halpin, P.P., Very Rev. Dr. O'Shea, P.P. was a great benefactor to the Brothers whose eventual departure was a huge loss to both Rathkeale and Newcastle West. Incidentally, Fr. Fitzgerald was once a curate in Kilmeedy and was wont to refer to the old families - Scanlons etc. - who were transported in 1821. My namesake, Rev. Brother Hayes, Superior, was loved in both towns.

This being Christmas time the old town has a gay appearance at present. The splendid supply of beef and mutton exhibited for sale can compare with any town in Ireland. The Rathkeale Co-Operative Society has purchased thousands of all types of fowl and Mr. Joseph White is also doing a large business. The farmers of the surrounding districts are grinding their own Irish wheat which is being manufactured to a high standard in Castlematrix Mills. Many farmers from Kerry are sending their wheat for grinding to the same mills.

(From "Limerick Leader" 1931)

Notable Jubilee Celebrations - Rathkeale and Its Ancient Landmarks

In view of the widespread interest being taken in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Rathkeale Confraternity, which will be held on Sunday next, the occasion is opportune for some account of historical landmarks in the town, especially those of a religious character.

By a happy coincidence, the venue where the celebrations will be brought to a close and where His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Keane will give Benediction is beside the site of the old Rath (proper pronunciation 'Rawh') from which Rathkeale receives its name. Joyce, who so far is our best authority on placenames, give the derivation as the Fort of Gaola but does not say if Gaola stands for the name of some particular person. The "Book of Rights", compiled before 900 A.D., has Rath Guala where it states that the fort belonged to the King of Cashel. A royal tale in the "Book of Leinster" makes reference to the plundering of Rath Gaila (Argainn Rath Gaila). O'Daly's "Tribes of Ireland" writes of Rath Caela. Rakele, or Rathkeale which is considered more polite, is an Anglicised corruption and one is as good or as bad as the other. Rath Caola is the proper pronunciation and it does not matter whether the second word is spelt with a 'g' or a 'c'. Caola is still the proper pronunciation because of a certain rule in Irish phonetics which students understand.

Having said so much about the neighbouring Rath, we must not forget that the field itself is beautifully located amidst picturesque woodland scenery and is bordered with hedgerows which, if the hawthorn happens to be in bloom on Sunday, will add an extra touch of natural beauty to a very pretty piece of landscape.

Standing on this beautiful vantage ground and looking across the Deel, which sluggishly trails its way beneath, we get a grand panoramic view of the town on the opposite slope. To the left and close by is the old burial ground which has headstones with inscriptions which date back to the 17th century. Here was located the old Catholic church of pre-Reformation days and in its place is a Protestant church, a modern structure built in 1831 of unmistakeable architecture. This church stands almost on the site of the old building, of which nought remains except a piece of wall a few feet high covered with moss and grass.

Looking across the Deel once again we can see in the distance, at the north east end of the town, the ruins of the

old Augustinian Abbey with its gaunt gable appearing above the tops of the surrounding houses. Canon Begley in his "History of the Diocese of Limerick" gives the names of some of the Priors and Canons connected with the monastery from the 13th century down to the 16th century. In the year 1318 Thomas Purcell was Prior. He was accused of violence at Moyero (Croagh). In 1462 John O'Keit, Canon of the Order of St. Augustine, as Principal, bound himself to the Apostolic Camera for the first fruits of the Priorship of St. Mary's, Raidgeilla, of said order in the Diocese of Limerick, about to be vacated by the privation of William O'Keit who failed to pay his first fruits. In 1463 Pope Pius 11 addressed a letter to the Prior of Raydgella and, in 1476, Philip O'Ronayn, Canon of Limerick, Bachelor of Degrees, as Principal and private person, bound himself to the Apostolic Camera in the name of John Geraldinis, perpetual Vicar of Cloenach (Clonagh), for the first fruits of the Priorship of St. Mary's of Ragely (Rathkeale). Canon Begley gives the names of others down to the year 1518, from which date to the time of the suppression of monasteries in Ireland there does not appear to be any record in existence that would help trace its history.

Local tradition also mentions a graveyard attached to the Abbey and human bones and coins have been dug up in the vicinity from time to time. Not so many years ago a human skull and bones were excavated in Miss Purcell's yard, which is part of the Abbey's precincts, and it is a curious coincidence that, in the year 1280, another Miss Purcell (Alianor Purcell) gave a grant to the Abbey and today the nearest house to the structure (in fact, it is attached to the very ruins) is occupied by Miss Maggie Purcell, a native of Rathkeale and descended from old stock of the town.

With the Protestant Reformation came the confiscation of monasteries and churches and the monastery in Rathkeale suffered the same fate as hundreds of others all over Ireland. Today nothing remains of this once famous institution but crumbling walls, a fitting monument to the pious memory of Harry of the Wives, the 'Virgin' Queen, Betty na Muice, and psalm singing Oliver who murdered men, women and children for the love of God. Only the caw of the jackdaw is heard from where monks prayed and chanted hymns of praise to their God while the consecrated grounds where their bones rest awaiting the last call - nay, the very sanctuary where Holy Mass was offered - is only a shelter for cattle from the heat of

the summer sun and the persecution of vicious flies.

People who come to the Jubilee celebrations and take part in the procession will get a close up view of the Abbey as they pass from Beechmount and we hope that nobody will forget to salute the venerable ruin and say a prayer for the dead, some of whom are probably buried beneath the ground they tread upon.

After passing the Abbey and Courthouse the processionists will come to O'Shaughnessy's (Round House) corner where they will notice a little laneway on the right. This is Chapel Lane. How significant and reminiscent is the name, an epitome of the history of the Penal times. At the head of Chapel Lane is another landmark in the religious history of Rathkeale. After the parish church and monastery were confiscated here, as in every town in Ireland, the Mass bell was silenced and religion was homeless and so it remained until the Penal Laws were relaxed. We find the noble church, at one time accustomed to regal glory, glad to take shelter in a laneway chapel - the title chapel having originated with the persecutors as a term of contempt when they tried to lower and belittle what they could not destroy.

Nothing now remains of this building but an archway which formed the entrance up to the early 19th century. There are people living in the town whose grandparents went to Mass in Chapel Lane and some can remember hearing from them how the parish clerk, who was by the way a small little man, would go through the streets on Sunday ringing a small hand bell to notify the people that it was time to come and hear Mass. It was not permitted even then to hang a tower bell. According to tradition, it was a nice little church in its time, with two side aisles each having an entrance door and the altar faced the archway entrance. Over one hundred years ago the chapel was closed when it was replaced by a larger one in Thomas Street and it is here in this latter church, which is now the Convent School, that the Rathkeale Confraternity was founded in 1871. This church also closed when the new church of today was built, consecrated and opened for public worship on 17th August, 1873.

Let the visitor to Rathkeale on Sunday ponder on the many events that have occurred since the Fort of Caola was first founded. The plundering of the town written of in the Book of Leinster - who were these plunderers? Were they fierce Norsemen who came up the Shannon, Deel or Maigue in their long boats? If so, what a sight it must have been when these Vikings raided and slew and plundered in the names of their gods Oden and Thor, while their helpless Christian victims beseeched Iosa, Muire and Joseph to come to their assistance and protect them from the ravages of the pagan attackers.

Or again, think of that day centuries later in 1579, when

Malby, fresh from the butchering of the monks at Manister, came to Rathkeale with his army and made a bonfire of the town. Then there is that other terrible day in 1580 when the English encamped here on their way to Smerwick and the massacre of Dun an Oir and where the proud courtier Raleigh, who was responsible for the butchery at Dun an Oir and whose name survives as 'boogey man', still remains to frighten children at Smerwick where they say 'cughat an Puca Rowley'. This same Raleigh prepared for Dun an Oir by carrying out a little butchery at Rathkeale for the fun of it on his way west.

The old town, from the Rath to the Abbey, saw this and much more and through it all one thing has survived - the faith that Pádraig preached and neither is the language in which he preached dead. Both went through the same hands of the persecutors. We still say, in the language which helped preserve the faith, 'moladh agus bu'ochas le Dia' and 'Beannacht Dé le hanama na marbh'.

Presentation to Jim Dalton on his retirement as Caretaker of Community Centre



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LUIMNIGH

Bosca Poist 53,
Áras an Chontae,
79/84 Sraid Úi Chonaill,
Luimneach.

Seoltar freagraí go dtí an Rúnaí Chontae.



LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 53,
County Buildings,
79/84 O'Connell Street,
Limerick.

Tel. : 061-318477.

Fax : 061-318478.

All replies should be addressed to the County Secretary.

12 June, 2001

Mr. Dan Neville, T.D., M.C.C.,
Kiltannan,
Croagh,
Co. Limerick.

RE: Unauthorised developments

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your representations regarding the following and wish to inform you of the up to date position.

Development of roadway at the rear of St. Mary's Terrace, Rathkeale.

Injunction proceedings were taken by Limerick County Council on this matter and an order was granted in the Circuit Court, Limerick against Mr. Thomas Slattery requiring him to remove the roadway and to restore the land to its original state. Mr. Slattery has failed to comply with this order and the County Council's legal agents have been notified to have this case entered in the courts.

Fred O'Donoghue.- Parking of caravans at Lr. Main St, Rathkeale.

The County Council propose taking enforcement proceedings against Mr. O'Donoghue to cease the use of the yard for parking of caravans.

Store at Roches Road, Rathkeale – Patrick Simon Flynn

Mr. Flynn has been put on his final notice to have this development rectified. Should Mr. Flynn fail to comply with this notice the matter will be referred to the County Council's legal agents within the next 21 days to instigate legal proceedings.

Yours faithfully,


(for) COUNTY SECRETARY.

Births Marriages and Deaths

Baptisms:

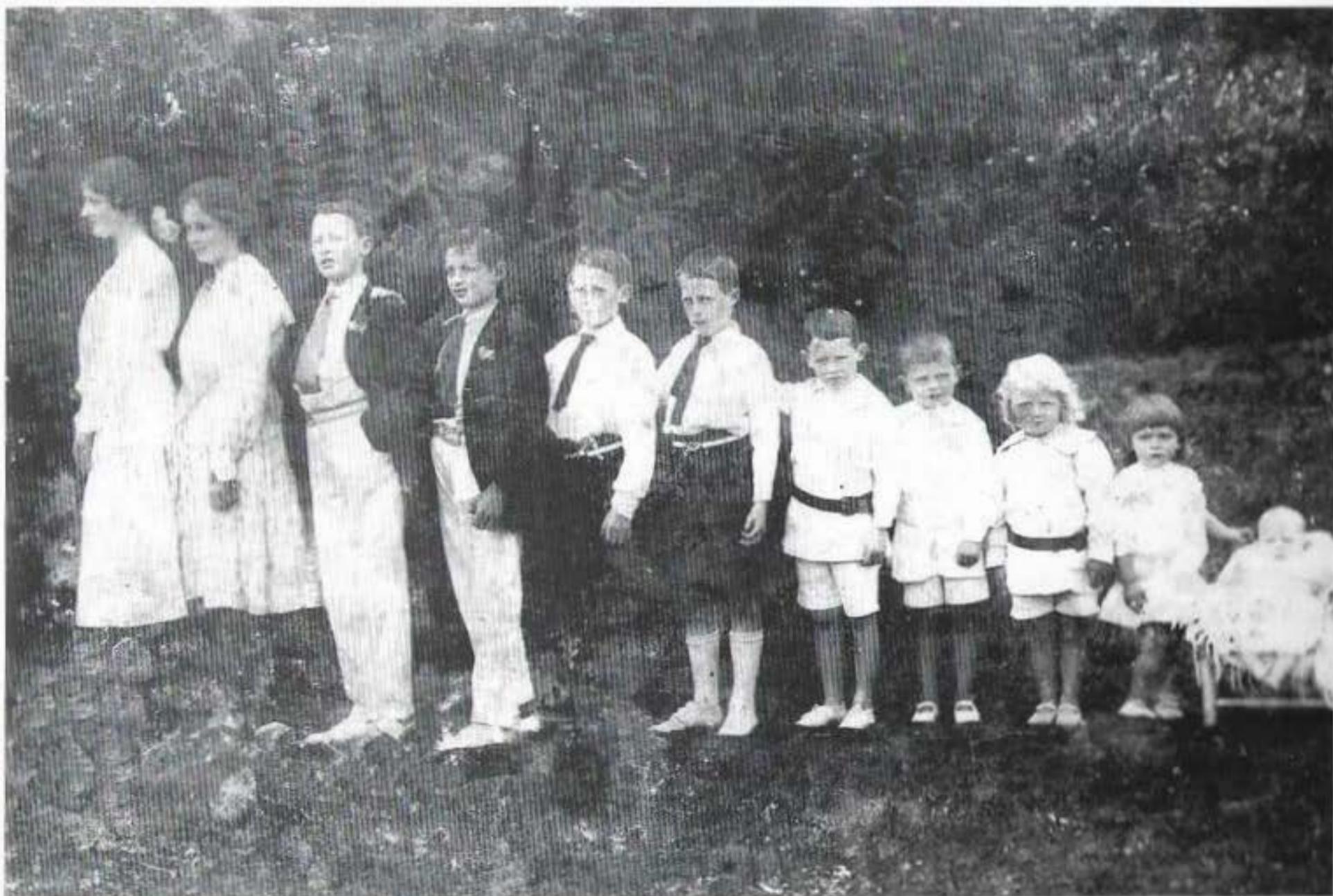
Mark Fahy, Ronin Maika Kelly, Kathleen Thompson, Daniel O'Brien, Kathleen O'Brien, Aaron Patrick Lillis, Eoin Michael Sheahan, Edward Patrick O'Driscoll, Mikaela Josephine Lawlor, Niamh Eileen Mulcaire, Claire Marie Houlihan, John William Hourigan, Nora Philomena Sheridan, Frederick Hegarty, Mary Sheridan, Laura Nora O'Driscoll, Marie Quilligan, Sean David Malone, Eileen Alice Roche, Patrick Michael Enright/Gallagher, Mary Lisa Marie Quilligan, Conor Patrick O'Flaherty, Dean John Joseph Kenneally, Bridget Quilligan, Nicole Lawlor, Orlagh Marie Enright, Christopher James Walsh, John O'Brien, Maria Savana Sheridan, Emily Kate Clancy.

Marriages:

*Shawn Thomas O'Sullivan and Margaret Ann Egan
Dan Sheridan and Mary Theresa O'Donoghue
Michael Anthony Flynn and Nora Lisa Quilligan*

Deaths:

Denis Sheridan, Mary Dalton, Danny Boy Quilligan, Christina Neville, Margaret Gammell, James Flahavan, David Sheridan, Dan Patie Quilligan, Julia O'Brien, Nancy Rossiter, Catherine Casey, Jimmy Roche, Nellie Geaney, William Culhane, John O'Malley, Eileen Guilteneane, Michael Daly.



Mrs. Mary Ita Ryan of Bank Place has the original of this old photo.
Can any reader help to identify the family?

Ceist Pharlaiminte

Chun an Aire Oideachais agus Eoiaiochta To the Minister for Education and Science

To ask the Minister for Education and Science the position regarding the provision of a special package to overcome difficulties at St. Anne's Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School, Rathkeale, County Limerick.

Dan Neville.

**For WRITTEN answer on Tuesday, 12th June, 2001.
Ref No: 16649/01**

Freagra

Minister for Education and Science (Dr. Michael Woods, T.D.)

A comprehensive examination of provision for Traveller education in the two primary schools in Rathkeale has been carried out by my inspectorate in co-operation with management, staff and parents representatives. In parallel, the schools, with the support of the National School Development Planning Service, have engaged in a process of needs identification and planning. In the light of the inspectors' findings and of the plans drawn up by the schools, I am providing a package of supports to help the schools to address the issues identified. The package includes:

- The allocation of additional teaching staff and special needs assistants to both schools
- The creation of a post of administrative principal at St Joseph's National Schools with the consequential appointment of a classroom teacher
- Augmentation of the current funding to the schools in respect of care-taking and secretarial services
- The funding of a comprehensive in-career development programme in both schools
- Refurbishment and other works at both schools.

The package has been explained in detail to the Boards of Management and teachers of both schools, and to parents' representatives at meetings held on 25th May 2001.

In addition, support will be provided to the two schools under the School Development Planning Initiative until the end of 2001. The two schools have also been assigned to a member of the National Educational Psychological Service. An officer of this service will be in contact with the principals of both schools to discuss the arrangements for this service.

I have also indicated my willingness to consider any further proposals from the schools aimed at benefiting the children, parents and teachers involved, and the Boards of Management have been invited to bring any proposals they have in relation to their long-term accommodation needs to my Department's Planning and Building Section.

The intensive work being done by the management and teachers of St. Anne's and St. Joseph's schools in co-operation with parents' representatives, visiting teachers for Travellers, School Development Planning facilitators, psychologists and inspectors will build upon existing good practice and ensure that education of an excellent standard is provided for all the pupils. It is my intention to keep developments at these schools under review to ensure that this continues to be the case.

From "The Sunday Times" 1822

Atrocious Outrage - the following we insert on unquestionable authority:-

At a very early hour on Friday night, two dwelling-houses, the property of Mr. James McMahon, on the lands of Graiges, near Nantenan in this county, were surrounded by a well-armed party of lawless incendiaries who, after placing sentinels at the doors of each house, in order to prevent the egress of their inhabitants, communicated fire to the thatch, by which the houses were in a short time burned to the ground. Just as the roofs were about to fall in, the half-suffocated, half-burned creatures who were hitherto kept inside, were allowed to drag themselves from the devouring flames.

On the 22nd of February last, a horse, the property of the above-named gentleman, was shot on said lands. Mr. McMahon had been under-agent to Mr. Hoskins during the period he remained in Newcastle and from the date of his employment as under-agent up to the present moment, his life has been repeatedly endangered by several bold and daring attacks made on it by those assassins who, I am sorry to say, still exist in this country, a disgrace and a lasting reproach to that generous and high-minded spirit which characterized our peasantry.

It is a truism that several parties of hired assassins, well appointed as to arms and ammunition, have several times within the last two years lain in wait for Mr. McMahon. "There's a special Providence in the fall of a sparrow" and to a similar Providence Mr. James McMahon attributes his numerous "hair breadth escapes" from those assassins. At the last fair of Nantenan, near Rathkeale, Mr. McMahon and his brothers, as they were about to quit the fair at an early hour, were treacherously surrounded and in the most cowardly and brutal manner nearly beaten to death with stones by a gang of nearly forty ruffians. Mr. McMahon and his brothers owe their lives to the human interference of several respectable individuals who were then at the fair.

Extract of a letter from Dublin, dated Oct. 14: "The state of this country was never more alarming than at present. The spirit of disturbance has again broken out in those very districts where so many victims were lately offered up to the vengeance of the laws. The worst apprehensions are entertained for the general peace of the ensuing winter, and it is thought there will be a greater demand than ever for special commissions and military executions. Such are the fruits of that inexorable system of coercion to which this country has been doomed, but still nothing like conciliation appears to engage the attention of the Government. The application of the bayonet and the halter seems to be the only statesmanship necessary for the Government of Ireland. To ameliorate or improve is a task that does not disturb the repose of authority. The intervals of the conflict are not devoted to the discovery of any moral preventive against its recurrence. The seat of Government is insulted with impunity by the Orange provocations to public discussion, so that the alteration of the person in the chief power has not changed at all the system which had so long harassed and degraded Ireland".

Useful Information

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

Banks: Late opening Tuesday

Credit Union, Rathkeale. Tel: (069) 64444

Monday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Thursday: 10.00am to 6.00pm

Friday: 10.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday: 11.00am to 4.00pm

Library Opening Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Tuesday: 10.00am to 1.30pm, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Thursday: 10.00am to 1.30pm & 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm to 5.00pm and 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Mart: Tuesday - Cattle, Wednesday - Calf & Pig

Post Office:

Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm

Thursday: 9.30am to 1.30pm

Dentist: Ml. Brosnan, Thomas Street

Doctors:

Dr. Lynch Half Day Thursday

Dr. Curtin Half Day Wednesday

Dr. Teehan: Half Day Thursday

Church/ Mass Times

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am

Monday to Saturday 9.30am

Saturday: 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10.30am

4th Sunday 11.00am alternating with

Askeaton & Castletown

Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church

11.30am every Sunday

Festival Show: Mrs. Ann O'Connell

Community Council: Monthly Meeting

First Monday 8.30pm Secretary: Lorraine White

Social Services: Secretary: Breda Morrissey

Red Cross: Secretary: Tim Shiels

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy

Meeting alternate Mondays

G.A.A. Hon Secretary: Jack Daly

Soccer: Juvenile: Séan Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society: J. O'Connor, 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 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre
Open June - September 7 days 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Dohyle Lough: John Griffin

Sports Complex
Squash, Racketball, Handball, Snooker, Pool
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: Mary Kennedy (069) 68330