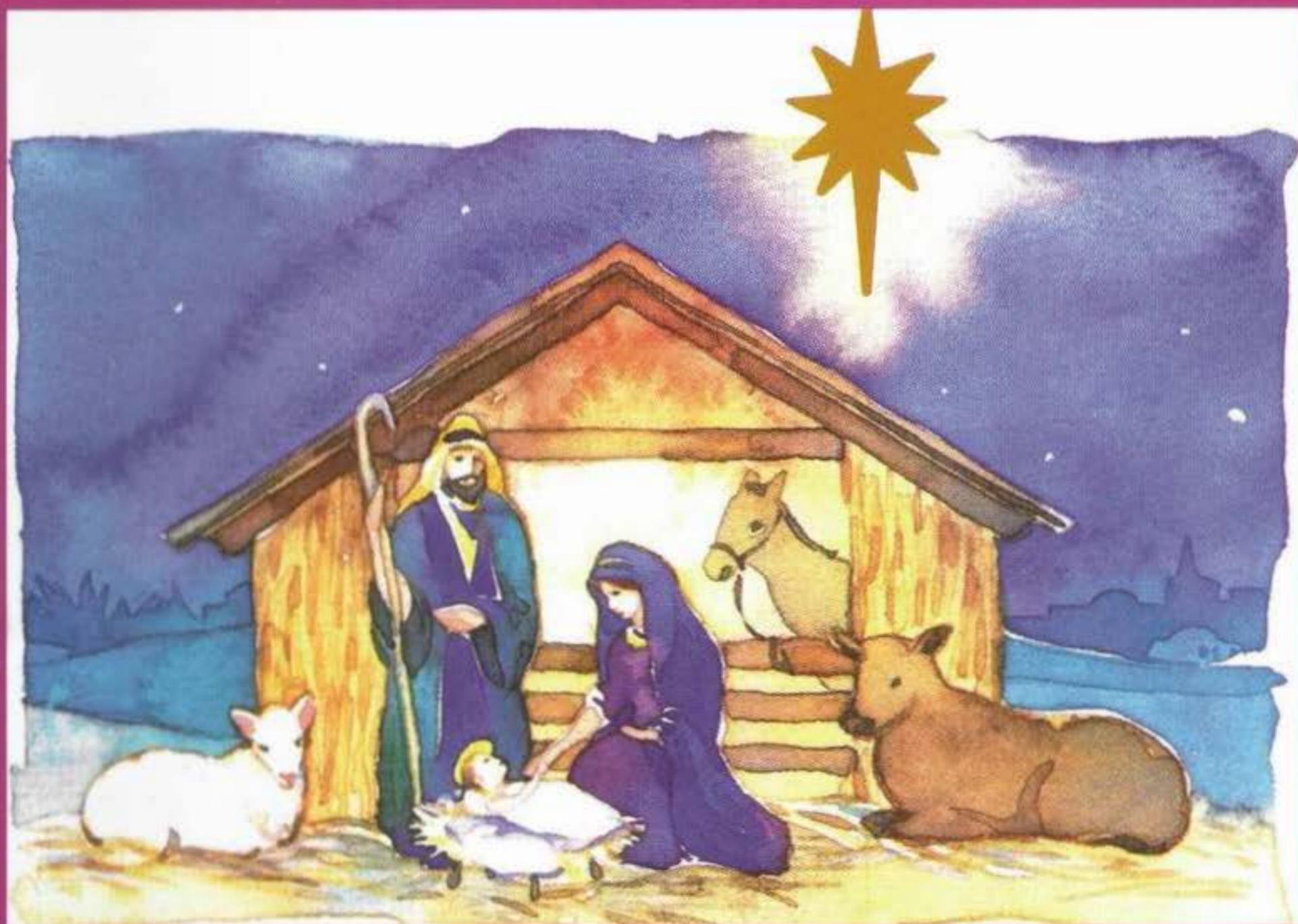


# Deel Views

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Christmas 2007

Price: €2



Peace at  
Christmas Time



# Editorial

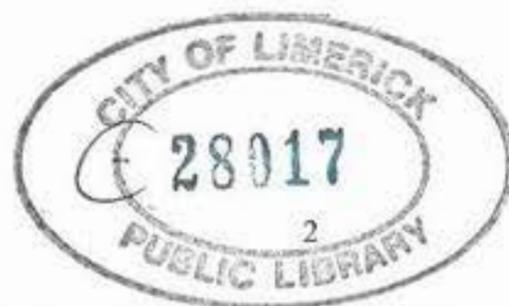
We are pleased to see the completion of the new headquarters of Limerick County Council (Aras Sean Finn), the staff, are now installed and we look forward to the early fitting out of the Carnegie Library. The building is a credit to all concerned and adds a fresh perspective to the architecture of the town.

We must also pay tribute to the developers of the other fine buildings nearing completion, O'Connors Furniture Community Creche. All three will offer some kind of balance to the many derelict site and buildings around the town, while in another sense making the latter more obvious.

It is hoped that, during the coming year, a serious effort by the local authority to deal with these eyesores.



“Aras Sean Finn” the new Limerick County Council  
Headquarter in Rathkeale



# Society Must Address Its Duty To Young People

Dan Neville TD.

Much has been said and written about the problems of young people. The generation gap is not a new phenomenon but is more pronounced today than it was previous generations. Much of my research and work keeps me in touch with young people further from the true situation. Young people are faced with unprecedented challenges and the vast majority rise to the challenges and deal with the pressures presented.

As adults we must examine how we are perceived by young people and if we understand and relate to the pressures experienced by them. The Equality Authority and the National Youth Council completed a study in how young people see their treatment in early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. According to the report they see their treatment at the hands of adults as being unequal and unfair. The research found that among young people felt that they were being stereotyped and treated unfairly by adults in general. It found that young people felt that the media as particularly prone to stereotyping then in negative ways by constantly association youth with crime, deviance, delinquency, drug and alcohol problems, sexual promiscuity and general disorderliness/ the predominant view of young people was the politicians dismissed then as being unimportant. There was a view that politicians were responding both to the media stereotyping and helping to fuel it.

The views of young people as to how their teachers perceived and treated then were mixed. In general, they feel most strongly about not being listened to and not having a say in how schools were run. They perceived that they was a poor relationship with the Garda and that gardai has a poor opinion of young people.

I do believe that there is a need to consult young people on issues that relate to them and involve them in decisions. I have always stressed that young people face pressures that previous generations never knew. They are coping with many sources of stress and many experience difficulties because of these pressures. Why do

alienated from society, the political system and official religion, even though most young people are spiritual? Many turn to binge drinking or worse as a modern day life. This demands a political response. In seeking to find a solution to the problems facing young people, however, we must be sensitive to the possibility of negative stereotyping and ensure to avoid it.

Social change has brought with it many serious challenges. Many young people feel that they have nowhere to turn. Clearly, those who fall out of education system are most vulnerable. Many of the cultural icons and authority figures of the past such as the church and the political establishment are no longer inspirational in the eyes of the young. It is worrying that young people feel so separated from adults when the role of each generation should be to lead and protect the one that comes after it.

It is also of great concern that many young people feel demonised by society. We must all seek to understand why this is so. Politically, we must demonstrate the will to recognise the equal rights of young people and develop a greater sensitivity to their particular needs. Social change and increased materialism are bringing about an identity crisis in young people. While the Celtic tiger has undoubtedly brought many benefits, it has brought many new challenges, particularly for adolescents. Why are so many of our young people in such crisis that they end their lives? Ireland has the fifth highest suicide in the EU among 15 to 24 year olds after, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland and Estonia and suicide is the chief cause of death for those under 25 years of age. The dark side of the Celtic tiger is ignored. It is increasingly difficult, the winners, those in third level and higher earners. People who are not in these categories struggle to find their identities and many experience despair.

Six times more young males than females take their lives. The critical issue for the male adolescent is to derive self-esteem and personal meaning from their identity and position in society. Issues of self now linked to materialism, consumerism

Limerick City Library



3 0002 00339 426 9

and globalisation. Increased materialism has led to weaker social ties and a decline in neighbourliness. We live in an age of uncertainty, anxiety and narcissism in which the euro is worshipped. We have lost our way and no longer know what is of true value. What we are is determined by what we buy. The overwhelming message being broadcast is that the one is only as good as what they can buy.

Adolescence is a creation of modern society. In earlier times, individuals moved from being a child to being an adult, with no stage of transition. When resources were scarce and individuals had to contend with daily survival in the basic sense there was no time for adolescence to discover themselves. An individual was either a child and dependant or an adult and provided for himself or herself. The emergence of adolescence has offered psychological time and space for individuals to consider their future when they grow up and offer limitless choices. It has enormous positive advantage that young people are given an opportunity to choose their career and is also free to fail. Adolescence is a dangerous mix, a time of opportunity and pressure to succeed. We were left in doubt about the impact of such uncertainty and distress on our young people, the suicide figures for Ireland over the past ten years indicate that something maladaptive and unhealthy is taking place.

Nobody disputes the benefits of the Celtic tiger, but there is a dark side which cannot be ignored. There is an urgent need for comprehensive research on how we can address the complex issues that face young people. The failure to put resources in places is one of the hidden political scandals of our time.

Ref: Suicidal Behaviour in Adolescents, professor Michael Fitzgerald, Chairman, Irish Association of Suicidology.

Deputy Dan Neville's office is at lower street is at Lower Main St., Rathkeale tel; 069 63610

## 17<sup>th</sup> century Nun's Prayer

*Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.*

*I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lesser cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.*

# *Rathkeale Amnesty Committee and John Daly of Limerick*

*By Tim Donovan*

The special collections at University of Limerick hold a wonderful assortment of Irish historical papers of local and national importance. While researching the Madge Daly papers recently I was surprised and delighted to discover among the personal and legal papers of John Daly (1845-1916) a carefully preserved address presented to him from the people of Rathkeale (Fig. 1). Signed by seventeen townspeople it was presented to the Fenian ex-prisoner when he visited in 1897.

Who was John Daly and what was the Amnesty Association? He was born in Limerick city in the famine year 1845 and he joined the Fenians at the age of eighteen. He was arrested in 1865 for Fenian activity and on his release he went to America where he was befriended by John Devoy (Fig. 2). He returned to Ireland and became an organizer for the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.) and was a member of its Supreme Council. He helped in the election campaign of W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P. in Kilmallock in 1874. Speaking at a victory in Bruree, Daly stated that while he accepted the doctrine of Home Rule at this time he vowed that if it failed he would return to the principles that were resorted to before.

In 1884 John Daly was arrested in Birkenhead on a bogus dynamiting charge and that he planned to bomb the House of Commons. At his trial he insisted on conducting his own defence and the evidence against him was perjured. However, he was sentenced to life imprisonment and went on to serve over twelve years, much of which was in solitary confinement. John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, became Daly's legal advisor and began a campaign for his release. Finally Daly started a hunger strike and became the first of the Irish political prisoners to use the ancient custom of 'fasting against the enemy'. An emaciated Daly was finally released from prison in August 1896 and he returned to a rapturous reception in Limerick when thousands lined the streets in a torchlight procession to the O'Connell monument. He was welcomed home by the Mayor of Limerick and by

William Nolan, Town Clerk, who was president of the Amnesty Association.

The original Amnesty Movement had been founded by Isaac Butt (1813-1879) to campaign for the release of prisoners who had been involved with Fenian outrages from 1867 on. Butt was known as the 'father of Home Rule' and favoured a constitutional settlement for Ireland within the British Empire. Daly was a militant Fenian and, while he never supported the dynamite plotters, he was a physical force patriot and fought all his life for the end of the British presence in Ireland and the establishment of a totally independent Irish Republic. The Amnesty Associations were active in many towns and continued in existence until 1898 when Tom Clarke, the last of the significant Fenians, was released. Clarke was made a Freeman of Limerick and married John Daly's niece, Kathleen.

The Rathkeale Amnesty Committee comprised W. D. Power, Chairman, with Patrick Barrett of Rathnasare as Vice-Chairman. Two Town Commissioners acted as treasurers viz. Joe Sheehy and Timothy Cusack. Michael Fitzgerald was secretary. The committee of twelve have not been fully identified and any relevant information in the matter would be welcomed by 'Deel Views'. The last named, Coroner McDonnell, has been identified as the local solicitor Michael J. McDonnell, who was a granduncle of Mrs. Miriam Johnson of Courtmatrix. He died at the young age of thirty-three.

The committee who made the presentation to Daly went on to erect the Celtic Cross Memorial to 1798 at the end of St. Mary's Catholic Church graveyard (Fig.3).

Shortly after his visit to Rathkeale, Daly sailed to America and began a very successful lecture tour with the help of his friend John Devoy. With the proceeds of almost \$1,000 he returned to Limerick and opened a bakery. He became very active in local politics and was elected Mayor of the city on three different occasions (Fig. 4). Despite poor health he remained an inspirational figure to the rising

generation of young Nationalists. In his famous speech after one of his elections he said in his wildest dreams he never imagined he would exchange the cruel iron chains of an English prison for the golden chain of the city of the violated Treaty.

When the 'Asgard' landed the guns at Howth in 1914, Tom Clarke claimed the first rifle and presented it to John Daly. Edward (Ned) Daly (1891-1916), an only boy in a family of ten, was raised by his uncle John and was Commandant of the First Battalion of the Dublin Volunteer Brigade at Easter 1916. They were in charge of the Four Courts garrison and he was court-martialled, sentenced to death and executed on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. Tom Clarke was executed on the previous day and, on hearing the news, Daly said he was proud that the Daly family were to the forefront in the struggle for Irish freedom.

John Daly himself died on 30<sup>th</sup> June, a month after the last of the 1916 leaders had been executed. Among them were his nephew Ned, his niece's husband Tom Clarke, and his two close friends, Sean McDermott and Con Colbert. His papers were eventually given to the University of Limerick and his Howth rifle was presented to the National Museum.



John Daly with John Devoy (1842-1928). Photographed in New York 1898. Devoy, Editor of Irish Nation and Gaelic American, was the greatest revolutionary propagandist of his generation and helped to fund the 1916 Rising.



Rathkeale Memorial Celtic Cross  
 Inscription on side panel: In memory of truly valiant heroes who fell for Ireland in the year 1798, 1821, 1848 and 1867.

Erected 1898. Committee: William Hayes, Founder, Joseph Sheehy, T.C., Timothy Cusack, T.C., William D. Power, P. J. O'Shaughnessy, M.P.



The Dead Fenian Chief  
 John Daly Mayor of Limerick, 1899, 1900, 1901

From  
The Rathfriland Amnesty Committee  
To  
Mr. John Daly

We greet you with a  
"Cead mille feargá" as this the first occasion you have  
visited West Kilkenny. Since the memorable year of 1841  
Your devotion to the undying Cause of  
Irish Nationality has endeared you to us. Your Pluck  
and patience in the prison cells of England has raised  
you to the Honorable position of being the Idol patriot  
of the Irish race.

"Let cowards sneer and traitors frown  
Little do we care

When a felon's cap is the noblest crown  
An Irish head could wear"

We in return pledge ourselves to stand  
by you, in the fight for the release of your gallant  
Comrades from English and Irish Gaols,  
and we hope and trust that the Nationalists of  
Ireland, will join as one man, in this grand  
and glorious demand of Freedom, for their  
Suffering Brethren.

Oigned

W. D. Power, Chairman  
Patrick Barrett Vice Chairman  
Joseph Sheehy J. C. } Messengers  
Imothy Lusack J. C. }  
Michael FitzGerald Hon Secy.

Committee

William Hayes

Michael Riedy

William Ward

John Riedy

John H. Donohoe

John H. Donohoe

W. H. Power

James O'Sullivan

E. J. Cullane

James O'Keefe

William Dowling

George M. Donnell

July 18<sup>th</sup> 1897

# *Memories of the late Sean Hayes*

*By Joe Dunleavy*

Sean Hayes of Main Street, Rathkeale passed away recently in his late seventies. Sean, the retired Postmaster, Politician, Peace Commissioner and, above all, a very fine gentleman was such a popular figure both in the town of Rathkeale and further afield. He will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him or were associated with him in any form whatsoever. In his later years, Sean would sit for hours outside his front door at Lower Main Street where he met and conversed with many old friends, and some new ones, as they passed up and down the town. The topics of the day were discussed at length and many a long summer's day was passed by him and the passers-by in discussing the past, present and future.

Sean had politics in his blood as his uncle, Richard Hayes, was a member of the first Dáil and later became State Film Censor from 1940 to 1954. His uncle Tom and aunt Maria Finn were both members of Limerick County Council and Sean himself continued the family membership later. Another uncle, Sean Finn, was killed on active service in Ballyhahill in an encounter with the British Forces during the War of Independence.

Sean enjoyed life to the full and was very much part of the social life of Rathkeale. No matter what the occasion – or where – Sean would be in attendance and would always contribute to the festivities in his own inimitable way.

When Sean was Postmaster the local telephone exchange was on the Post Office premises and had to be manned 24 hours a day. On many occasions Sean would have to get up out of bed during the night, none too happy when he would find the caller was making what he considered could have waited until morning. On one occasion the Post Office was raided when burglars were waiting for the regular mail bag from Limerick to be dropped off. As he went to bring in the bag the raiders broke in the front door and tied Sean up while they went about their work. I was called and, on getting into the building, found Sean tied with a nylon around his neck. His first words to me were "I'm going to look for f.....g danger money" and I immediately replied

that he would surely be entitled to it after what he had been through that morning. Shortly afterwards I myself went through a similar experience when a raid took place at A.I.B. on Main Street and I fully understood Sean's situation.

Sean retired from the Post Office in 1978 and there was the usual retirement party held in his honour in Geary's Hotel. I can remember it was a wonderful event and everybody present had a great time. Shortly afterwards the organizing committee met at the 'Chinaman's Bar' to review the situation and, after another enjoyable night, Sean decided that he would purchase a Cup to be played for in a pool tournament. The Cup was to be called the 'Sean Hayes Perpetual Trophy' and for many years was played for annually during the winter months in the form of a fourball. There were many exciting nights, especially when the competition reached the semi-final and final stages. The custom was that the eventual winners would fill the Cup with whiskey diluted with cider and pass it around the spectators. The Cup was often referred to as "the cup of friendship". The winners of the inaugural competition were Con Guiney and the late Dr. Con Long.

Everything changes and nothing lasts too long. The pool tournament finished after a number of years and the trophy was passed on to the Abrahams Golfing Society. The Sean Hayes Perpetual Cup is now competed for annually by members of this Society. Each year Sean, who did not play golf, would be invited along on the night of the presentation in whichever club it had been played and would contribute in his own very personal way to the festivities.

Long after we are all gone I hope the Cup will still be played for in an appropriate competition of whatever sport and will provide as much pleasure as we have all got over the years gone by.

All Rathkeale is proud to have known Sean Hayes and we are privileged to have shared so many wonderful occasions with him down through the years.



Presentation of Sean Hayes Perpetual Cup for Pool  
 Gerry Fitzgerald (R.I.P.), Brid Dunleavy (R.I.P.), Patsy O'Sullivan, Tom Upton,  
 Sean Hayes, Pa Wilmott, John Fitzgerald, Joe Dunleavy, Maurice Noonan



Presentation of Sean Hayes Perpetual Cup  
 for Golf Michael Cregan receiving the  
 Trophy from Sean Hayes



Sean Hayes, Rathkeale sitting at his doorway on a  
 summer's evening chatting with Jim Tierney (on left)  
 and Sammy Quilligan (on right).



Pictured on the occasion of  
 his recent call to the Bar of  
 Ireland is Nathy Dunleavy  
 of Castlematrix, Rathkeale,  
 Co. Limerick pictured with  
 his father, Joe Dunleavy at  
 the Four Courts, Dublin.  
 Nathy was called to the bar  
 of New York in 2000 and  
 has practiced law in  
 New York, Brussels and  
 London, most recently with  
 the Wall Street firm of  
 Sullivan and Cromwell.  
 He is now based in Dublin.

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: Rathkeale  
Ref. 466  
County: Limerick  
Mark: 226  
Category: C  
Date(s): 09/07/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	6
Total Mark	400	226

### Overall Development Approach:

Rathkeale is a large centre where a number of the challenges to be overcome are unique to itself. Your committee of six, meeting every two months, have tackled a formidable array of objectives and succeeded in many cases. Thank you for the completed entry form together with the all-essential map which was useful on the day of adjudication. There are a number of good traditional shop fronts throughout the centre. Ó Súilleabháin Lounge Bar looked very colourful. The banks, particularly Bank of Ireland and AIB, were well presented. Liam Chawke's shop was freshly painted. The Post Office will need to be painted before next year's competition. There is a major rebuilding programme taking place in this general area. The Community College looked well presented, clean and orderly, with good planting and flagpoles. The Fire Station was well presented but weeds in the foreground detracted from it.

### The Built Environment:

The Palatine Museum was well presented while the River Bridge and the Catholic Church looked well. The traditional R. Wolfe & Sons, Accountants caught the eye while both schools are applauded for their presentation and especially for their success in securing Green Flag status. These are not easily won and all associated with this singular success are applauded for their efforts. Seán Ó Bóbraonáin Public House looked well, while the Community Centre also was well painted and presented. The Augustinian Abbey was bright and well painted. We noted work in progress on the large Abbey House while the large scale building providers, Tadgh O'Connor, was most colourful.

### Landscaping:

Pride of place is certainly awarded to the grounds of Rathkeale House Hotel. The presentation of several of the housing estates left room for improvement while a number of the individual houses had excellent gardens. The Grotto looked most attractive and was very well presented with spectacular flower arrangements. A number of commercial premises had enhanced their presentation by use of flower baskets and window boxes and this practice should be encouraged on a more widespread basis.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The completion of the delightful River Walk provides a location for the development of a wildlife enhancement programme as well. Consult a local wildlife enthusiast for ideas and suggestions. Do remember that a thriving bird and wildlife population necessarily depends on the creation of a food chain to sustain and support them.

### Litter Control:

In general litter management was good but there was a surprising extent of it in the Abbey beside the toilets. A litter bag had been dumped in this area which may have been the source of a lot of the litter.

### Waste Management:

Building on the success of both schools securing Green Flag status it is hoped that the message of waste minimization will radiate out into the wider community. All of us of course have a role. Consult the Tidy Towns book on the topic and read the literature from the 'Race against Waste' organization for ideas and suggestions.

### Tidiness:

A number of derelict and shut down buildings dragged down the overall level of the presentation on the day of adjudication. The premises of Mahon at Roche's Street junction is unfortunate as the name plate over the door appears in danger of detachment and collapse. The office the Community Games was smart but the name plate does need to be washed. The former Cinema nearby looked quite tired. We applaud the good treatment of the derelict house opposite the Church of Ireland where windows have been filled in and painted with smiling faces. The removal of the overhead wires from the Main Street adds considerably to the options and possibilities here. Coupled with the major rebuilding taking place these changes offer a prospect of an enhanced vista in the near future.

### Residential Areas:

Orchard Avenue, a new riverside development, looked very well although still a work in progress. There are many splendid houses on the Askeaton road. A number of estates within the town feature many splendid individual houses, some of which have augmented their attractiveness with pleasant gardens. There is a tendency to permit weeds and spoil to accumulate at the base of walls. Haphazard long term parking of caravans and mobile homes can create an undesirable sense of clutter and congestion at a number of locations.

### Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Rathkeale are uniformly well presented. The Fáilte sign and the Rathkeale welcome sign looked very well on the approach along New Road. Flags were flying at the junction from the bypass. The driving route signs were well presented while the speed limit signs and Welcome to Rathkeale all contributed positively. The Ballingarry road (R518) had a similar positive appearance. The potentially very attractive Square area has not reached its full potential.

### General Impression:

Your committee and the community are applauded for the endeavours to improve the overall presentation of this long and sizeable centre. Your stock of significant civic and religious buildings and the success of the schools in securing Green Flag status augurs well for the future. All associated with this centre are applauded and thanked for their efforts.

# The last of the Rathkeale Connection

By Agnes Tansey

Even though I left Rathkeale fifty-eight years ago, and Ireland forty-nine years ago, Rathkeale will always be 'home' to me. Up to 2006 there was always that connection to Rathkeale, through my sister Beatrice Tansey, who died on 23<sup>rd</sup> December R.I.P. I feel in losing Bea I've also lost my home town and I feel very sad about that.

There are so many memories connected to the old home. After all, three generations of our family have lived in that house. I didn't know it when it was a pub, only to hear my mother tell the story of the night the Black and Tans came hammering on the door. Her mother and herself had gone to bed after locking up for the night. "Don't let them in, child", her mother said. "I'll have to or they'll break the door down", my mother answered.

We all know that the Black and Tans were the scum of the earth. They wanted a drink and they wanted it now. Mammy opened the door and they all rushed in. She proceeded to pour them their drinks. Standing behind the bar, with the brandy boxes at her feet, she was terrified that they'd discover the guns for the I.R.A. hidden in the same brandy boxes! They didn't, thank God, as I guess if they did my mother wouldn't have lived to tell the tale. We thought she was so brave as she was only about twenty-five at the time.

Attached to the house is the handball alley that was, I believe, built by my grandfather. I remember well all the men and boys who came to play. My father was a very good player and he and Canon Carroll got the game going. I used to love watching the tournaments from the window. Us girls weren't allowed out in the alley when the games were going on. I wonder was it because it was very much a male sport (which my sister, Patsy, was very good at and used to slaughter the squash players when she came to Australia) or could I hope that we'd have been a distraction! The alley still stands proud but, alas, no handball players play there now. Instead Bea managed to display her many pot plants there, of which she was very proud. God help any young fellow who would dare kick a ball around them, I say!!

I still have an old photograph album, filled with photos taken with an old box camera of the locals who came to play, and those who didn't. I call it my 'Rathkeale' album. Names that will be familiar to you all, some still with us, thank God, and some who have left us. Names like Gerry and Andy Fitzgerald; Kevin and Joe Duffy; Tadg O'Shea; Michael and Tom Cregan; Ned Geaney; Des O'Brien; Dom, Tony and Jed White; Neil and Michael

Power; Michael and Ted Culhane; Sean O'Connor; Jackie Shier; Frank Shier; Bill Kelly; Ronnie Sparkling; Christy Lynch; Ronnie Teskey; Sean Giltinane; Frank Guiry; Fr. Sean McCarthy; Fr. Enright; Johnny Mul (Mulcahy); Amby Meany; and who could ever forget 'The Bugs' and, of course, Daddy and Joseph.

As I look I also see photos of the young girls at that time: Mary, Phil and Sheila Guiry; Pauline, Ida and Mercy McEnery; Kitty and Aine Boyle; Mary Cregan; Betty Culhane; Kathleen Ward; Maeve, Una and Joan O'Leary; Eileen Frawley; Pearl and Beda O'Brien; Breeda Duffy; Miriam Cosgrove; Ciss Thornton; Betty Shier; not to mention my sisters, Frankie, Bea, Joan, Patsy and Rita.

And our dear neighbours – Jack, Peter, Donie, Tim and Mary Donovan. Even though I haven't got any photos of you in the old album, I have so many happy memories of your family. We loved your mother as much as our own. She was wonderful with children and didn't mind how many of us packed into your house on a Saturday evening to listen to the play on the radio, ever before we had one of our own. There will never again be women like all our Rathkeale mothers – they were the true pioneers of the time.

No, even though you can take Agnes Tansey out of Rathkeale, you can't take Rathkeale out of Agnes Tansey!

I guess this is the Tanseys' swan song!

Slán leat anois.



# The Banana Skins

One of the most dramatic and tragic failures of World War II was fuelled by envy. It was always likely to be a risky business, a bold, narrow thrust into Germany to 'win the war in forty four'. For months the Allied commanders had debated, often heatedly, about the best way to beat the Germans in the west. Britain's difficult and opinionated Field-Marshal Bernard Montgomery advocated a dagger-like thrust through Holland into the industrial Ruhr. The Americans favoured a broad push on all fronts. Indeed, if there were to be any thrusts, they would far prefer Montgomery's bitter rival, American General George Patton, to attack from the south.

After the D-Day landings, the Allies were bogged down for weeks, but now Paris and Brussels were liberated and the Germans seemed disorganized and close to defeat. Montgomery's idea, 'Operation Market Garden', was audacious. Thirty thousand British, American and Polish airborne troops were to be flown behind enemy lines to capture the eight bridges that spanned the network of canals and rivers on the Dutch/German border. An armoured corps would follow up, cross the captured bridges and pour into Germany. Montgomery was reluctantly given his head by the American Supreme Commander Eisenhower, won over by the political argument that V2 rockets launched from Holland were now landing in London.

The attack had to be planned in just six days, a rush contrasting with Montgomery's normal meticulous style. Success depended on the British assessment of the Germans being 'weak, disorderly and dispirited'. However, the Dutch Resistance suddenly reported that SS troops were near Arnhem. They were right. Two crack SS panzer divisions had arrived there to rest and regroup. A low-level Spitfire then photographed their camouflaged tanks. The operation should have been cancelled at once. But the banana skin of over-confidence struck. The Intelligence Officer who was trying to warn everyone was sent on sick leave to keep him quiet – perhaps because so many attacks had been cancelled and the airborne troops were thirsting to get on with it, 'restless, frustrated and ready for anything', as one officer later wrote.

Almost at once, things started to go wrong. After successful landings by American paratroopers on the first two bridges, the spearhead of the armoured corps, the tanks of the Irish Guards, were advancing to 'The Island', the exposed, narrow road raised above the fields between Nijmegen and Arnhem, the danger of which the Dutch again had tried to warn the British planners. 'Suddenly, there was a clang, and a Sherman tank's

sprocket wheel came flying lazily over the trees. I knew we were in big trouble', recalled a young officer as eight more tanks exploded. And, it was not just the Irish Guards that were in trouble. So was the whole plan. Soon, rows of burning vehicles blocked the road for hours, victims of the lethal German anti-tank guns, and even of infantry with Panzerfaust rockets. The 'cavalry to the rescue' were already running badly late.

At Arnhem, 'the bridge too far', it was even worse. The British airborne forces had landed seven miles away to avoid the town's anti-aircraft flak – the one thing that never materialized. To reach Arnhem quickly, they needed speed and communications. But their reconnaissance jeeps did not arrive and, incredibly, none of their radios worked. So they could neither coordinate with each other or with Allied commanders. It was a catastrophe. The lightly armed airborne forces fought against German heavy tanks for eight days with incredible bravery. But, short of ammunition and supplies, they were either killed, wounded, forced to surrender or to escape by night back across the Rhine. Out of 10,000 men, only 2,163 made it to safety.

Why did this multiple banana skin happen? Almost certainly everyone was blindly following the over-confidence of Montgomery, an egotistical and complex man. After the war, Montgomery was asked to list the three greatest commanders in history. Without hesitation, he named Alexander the Great, Napoleon and then – himself. And he was not joking. Years later, at Wellington School, he read the lesson. 'And God said unto the Israelites, and I have to say, I agree with him'. Believing absolutely in his high opinion of himself, he was jealous of the growing dominance of the Americans and envious of their masses of equipment. Thus he was determined to spite them and to pull off his own 'British victory', abandoning the cautious attention to detail that usually served him so well.

The banana skin of Arnhem was a great tragedy because 'Monty' was, in retrospect, probably right to opt for a single powerful push into Germany. If only he had been less difficult and less jealous of his own side, he might just have pulled it off and won the war in 1944. The Russians might not have reached Berlin first, and there might have been no Iron Curtain and no Cold War.



## WALL STREET AND ITS CRASH

The 'Wall Street Crash', history's greatest financial cataclysm, was above all created by envy and greed. Wall Street, named after the wall erected by the Dutch across Manhattan to keep out 'bears, Indians and the British', had, by 1929, become the symbol of a whole country gripped by a frenzy of speculation as the 'Roaring Twenties' ended.

While much of America was still poor, bizarrely the country was awash with money for speculation. Diverted from traditional uses like land and commodities, money had to go into stocks and bonds. A banana skin that fuelled the fever was the rule that people could buy shares 'on margin', putting down just 10% and often with money borrowed from their brokers. This was fine, of course, if stocks went up, but ruinous if they fell. As one stockbroker put it, 'a puff of wind – and they and their stocks bought on margin could be blown away for ever'. Two millions Americans 'played the market', but dangerously 600,000 of these were 'minnows' – on margin. Many were women, with 5,000 establishments provided for the 'Ladybulls'. Every cocktail party and dinner was dominated by market talk. All over the country, people crouched over the 'tickers', thousands of little machines that steadily spewed out a ticker tape with stock prices.

Unworldly and unwary speculators were also pushed further in their folly by the 'pools'. Heavyweight groups of Wall Street insiders, backed by pools of money, would ramp up chosen stocks, then quietly unload them on to the eager 'minnows', while they themselves pulled out with fat profits. Journalists would have been bribed to praise such stocks. Responsible trading gave way to fairground huckstering and buying AOT, 'any old thing', was now the rage.

Above all, the banana skin of envy was laid by rumours of someone else getting rich quick, not just the big boys, but the little, ordinary folk; the broker's valet who had made \$250,000; the nurse with \$30,000 following the tips of grateful patients; secretaries with mink coats and flashy cars; the waiter at the Stock Exchange Luncheon Club who had resigned \$90,000 richer, as a result of tips from his customers. The frenzy created ridiculous situations, like the Fifth Avenue hostess whose cook flounced out when she was refused her own ticker in her kitchen, or the chauffeur who would not work until the market had closed. Jockeys were lobbying for shorter races so 'they should not be too long away from the ticker'. Cinemas and even synagogues placed tickers in their entrances. The Cunard liner 'Berengaria' was the first to provide a complete brokerage office. The rich could go on speculating in mid-Atlantic. The terrible temptation to get rich even led to real fraud. In Flint,

Michigan, the staff of the town's bank, owned by Charles Mott of General Motors, were secretly gambling their customers' money.

There were a few who began to scent danger. Joe Kennedy, the father of JFK, decided to keep his cash out of the market when his favourite bootblack, Pat Bologna, 'started giving him tips'. Others thought that when that regal bank, the House of Morgan, entered the game and started a secret list of favoured customers, insider trading was going too far.

The crisis for Wall Street started far away in London when Clarence Harry's steel empire, itself a speculation, collapsed. A tremor of worry crossed the Atlantic. On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Edward Simmonds, the President of the New York Stock Exchange was on honeymoon in Honolulu while his overbearing deputy, Richard Whitney, himself heavily in debt, decided to go to the races. Jack Morgan, the bank's senior partner, was in Scotland shooting grouse. All seemed calm. But, just after noon, the market broke and shares plummeted.

The next day uneasy crowds gathered in Wall Street. Even the police arrived, 'in case of trouble'. After just 25 minutes of trading, the market started to crash and panic enveloped the trading floor. Brokers who were normally 'not allowed to run, curse, push or go coatless' became a screaming, roaring rabble. Almost unnoticed, up in the visitor's gallery, Winston Churchill stared with amazement. Far out to sea on the 'Berengaria', Helena Rubinstein, the cosmetics queen, calmly sold 50,000 Westinghouse shares and walked away a million dollars poorer.

At 12.20, Charles Mitchell, President of National City Bank, the largest in the country, was seen elbowing his way coatless through the crowds and entering 23 Wall Street, the hallowed House of Morgan. There he met Thomas Lamont of Morgans and four other bankers, representing \$6 billion in banking resources. The market steadied, remembering how in the panic of 1907 the towering figure of J. Pierpoint Morgan, with his friends, had saved the day. At 1.30 Richard Whitney, the broker for Morgan, and other banks strode on to the floor and moved from post to post, ostentatiously buying shares. Prices steadied, some gained a little. By the close of 'Black Thursday' investors had only lost \$3 billion but thousands of small 'minnows' had been wiped out.

On Friday, President Hoover intoned, 'The fundamental business of the country, that is production and distribution of commodities, is on a sound and prosperous basis'. Secretly he had been dreading a catastrophe for months. The market closed slightly up. Over the weekend sightseers came to gawp at the scene of 'Black Thursday'. On the Monday prices steadied a little but just at the

close they fell sharply and ominously. Everyone held their breath.

On Tuesday, October 29, all hell broke loose, as stocks plummeted amidst scenes of pandemonium. 'Men roared like a lot of lions and tigers', recalled William Crawford, the Superintendent. 'They hollered, they screamed, they clawed at one another's collars. It was like a bunch of crazy men'. One even dropped to the floor, 'spluttering incoherencies'. In fact, he was not mad; he had only dropped his dentures. Another, 'resembling a Bowery bum', staggered from the melee, moaning 'I'm sold out, out, out!'. Two billion dollars were lost in thirty minutes. It went on and on, with the ticker hopelessly behind the tragedy unfolding. Men wept openly, while others prayed on their knees. Messengers and taxis were steadily delivering thousands of doom-laden margin calls. At 5.32 the ticker signed off. TOTAL SALES TODAY 16,383,700 GOOD NIGHT. Hardly the right words. New York's losses were \$10 billion, twice the currency in circulation. The total loss came to a devastating \$50 billion, and the first suicide reports came in.

At least one million Americans were wiped out by the crash of 'Tragic Tuesday', but many more were affected who had borrowed to buy houses and cars, to be paid off by stock winnings that never came. The market bottomed out at a tenth of its 1929 peak. Then the Government created two banana skins of its own. First, President Hoover, against all advice, imposed tariffs on imports. Twenty-two countries retaliated. Foreign trade duly stopped in its tracks. Second, the money supply was shrunk. In America and all over the world business slowed, workers were laid off and unemployment soared. Thousands of banks failed. The tragic 'Depression', with its soup kitchens, hoboes and 'Hooverville' shanty towns had arrived. Nowhere was it worse than in Germany, with no more loans from America and millions jobless. Now, Adolf Hitler stepped into the social economic and political vacuum. Sadly, the banana skin of the 'Wall Street Crash', created by frivolous envy and greed, would directly lead to the real horrors of World War II.

#### PISA AND ITS BELL TOWER

Twelfth century Pisa was one of the great trading cities of Italy, its wealth based upon its mercantile strength and its fate locked in continuous trading and jealous military rivalry with other cities, particularly Florence. Envious of her rivals, in the image race Pisa was determined not to be outdone.

Knowing that Florence was planning its magnificent domed cathedral, Pisa's architects designed a bell tower as a dramatic competitive gesture, part of a group of buildings called the Piazza de Miracolo, comprising the

cathedral, baptistry and cemetery. Just how dramatic, but how unmiraculous it was, emerged soon after construction began in 1173, when a pronounced lean appeared in the structure. Builders tried to compensate, and the lean then reversed the other way. The tower took a very long time to complete, no less than two hundred years, because of interruptions caused by wars with Florence and Genoa, and the bells were installed in 1392. By then, the lean was 2.5 degrees from the vertical. This was a classic case of envious competition leading to rushed inattention and poor surveying, because it emerged that the tower had been built on an ancient riverbed of soft, sandy soil, and the foundation was much too shallow for a structure of 14,000 tons.

However, the earlier banana skin of embarrassment and wounded pride for the citizens of Pisa was ameliorated in more modern times by a new breed of visitor. Starting with young gentlemen on the 'Grand Tour', so-called tourists began to flock to Pisa to look at its curious leaning tower. For all its treasures, the Uffizi, the Pitti Palace and Brunelleschi's magnificent cathedral dome, Florence, bizarrely, had been outdone by Pisa's blunder.

However, this unexpected bounty could not last forever. During 1989, when the lean was 5.5 degrees, a million visitors climbed the tower's 294 steps, but experts suddenly warned that the landmark was now dangerous. For twelve years it was closed, while methods were worked out to stop the lean and even to straighten it, just enough to preserve the building, but not enough to ruin its tourist appeal.

It was to be a British engineering team that came up with the complex solution, involving 870 tons of weights on one side and the careful, slow drilling out of the soil. Gradually, the tower settled back on to the reducing soil, its lean eventually stopped at five degrees.

In June 2001, to a great fanfare, the tower was re-opened to the public on the Feast of San Ranieri, Pisa's patron saint. Now guaranteed for three hundred years, 'The Leaning Tower of Pisa' has kept its unique drawing power to those who lean towards the Christian faith, or simply as a building that should never have survived such inattention at its birth.

# Rathkeale and District Historical Society

The Society is now in its twelfth year and continues to attract fine attendances at our meetings. We usually arrange up to seven talks during the winter months from October to March. Our speakers come from all parts of Ireland and the contributions have covered every possible aspect of local and national history.

This year we started off with a talk on the history of West Limerick as featured in local newspapers and pamphlets. Further talks since included the story of the development of the town of Ballingarry, the life of John Farrar who was the first editor of the 'Limerick Chronicle' and author of the very first history of Limerick. More recently we listened to a talk on the story of the Southwell family of Castlematrix and later of Mount Southwell.

After Christmas, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, we will have our annual "local night" which will feature three or four short presentations on matters of a particularly local interest. In February, Gerard Carroll of the Thomond Archaeological Society will talk on his current book on the history of Kerry. Later on in March Dr. Cormac Ó Grada of U.C.D. will present a lecture on "Irish Economic History and the Great Famine".

All talks, until further notice, will take place in the meeting hall of the sheltered housing complex at Enniscouch. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Details are included in local notes in the 'Weekly Observer' and 'Limerick Leader'.

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## Athletics

The boys under-14 team finished off a brilliant year for St. Mary's Athletic Club in Rathkeale when they finished second at the National Cross-Country Championships which were held in the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November.

In October they won their third Munster title in a row, having been victorious in 2005 and 2006 and finishing a close second in 2004. In the National finals, the boys finished third in 2004 and 2005, were out of the medals last year, but came back even stronger this year to win the silver medals.

The heroes in Kildare were Declan Mullane, Eoin O'Donnell, Darren Jones, Ciaran English, Martin Roche and Mark Mullane. By virtue of their 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place finish respectively, both Declan and Eoin also won a National silver medal with Munster in the inter-provincial section of the race.

Historically, Rathkeale is steeped in the tradition of cross-country running but, judging by the above statistics, these boys must be ranked up there with the best teams the club has ever produced.

Also in October, Maeve Power (under-9) and Kerrie Dillon (under-13) both produced a top-12 finish in their respective Munster finals to win individual medals (top 12) and Kerrie, Mark (County under-13), Declan and Eoin (both County under-15) will contest the National finals (uneven ages) in Waterford in December. There is no National final for under-9. After that, the whole club deserves a well earned break.

### *National Silver Medal Winners*

*Eoin O'Donnell, Mark Mullane, Ciaran English,  
Martin Roche, Darren Jones and Declan Mullane.*

*Also in picture: Tom Wilmott and Dean Maune (Managers)  
and David O'Donnell (Assistant)*



# *Rathkeale: A New Arrival's Early Reflection*

*by David Breen,*

*(West Limerick Resources and co-ordinator  
of the Inter-agency Task Force for Rathkeale)*

The phone rang in late August. It was West Limerick Resources No, I didn't get the job I applied for but would I consider a more difficult role, that of coordinating the Inter-agency Forum for Rathkeale? From my interview they thought I might have the skills necessary for the task. I'd been gone from Ireland for almost 20 years and Rathkeale was nothing more than a name on a map to me. I must have been the only person in the country with no knowledge of Rathkeale's special circumstances. I listened attentively as Shay Riordan, the manager of West Limerick Resources, described Rathkeale and the position being offered, and I decided I needed to see the town before I could give an answer.

In late August the town looked very much like any small town in Ireland except for the large number of closed business premises and the high percentage of locked up houses. But neither phenomenon was unusual for me. Until I was twelve years old I had lived in the North end of Wexford town which was depressed economically and had its share of closed business premises. Today following a regeneration programme it is a thriving hub of commercial activity. When I was twelve we moved to Rosslare Strand, a seaside village and popular holiday resort. I loved Rosslare best when all the visitors were gone and their houses were locked and boarded up for the winter. In a later life I was an auctioneer in Gorey, Co. Wexford where we had a thriving holiday home trade for which I was responsible. Locked up housing estates for most of the year was where I did most of my work. So neither the closed business premises nor the locked up housing were all that unusual for me. So after a good lunch and discussion with Shay in the Rathkeale House Hotel I accepted the position.

Accepting the position meant moving from Wexford. So on September 6th my wife, son and I arrived in West Limerick to look for a home for the next four months. My background in community development suggested that it would be best to locate in Rathkeale, but I was hesitant. If I were a person alone I probably would have located here but I had a Filipino wife, new to Ireland. How she would settle in Ireland was still a big issue. How would she settle in Rathkeale a town of two communities living in tolerance but also in practical disengagement with each other? It was with very considerable relief that nothing suitable was available in Rathkeale and we turned our attention to Newcastle West.

My considerable relief at not finding suitable housing in Rathkeale is worth a little attention. Why did I feel that way? My feelings were connected to nothing other than the fact that Rathkeale has a high percentage of travellers in its population. Am I prejudiced then against the travelling community? I didn't believe I was. I pride myself on being able to comfortably cross cultural divides. After all, I had lived, studied and worked in multi-cultural contexts in Vancouver, Canada, one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world. I gained a Masters degree in theology from Regent College in Vancouver, a graduate theological college renowned around the world for its scholarship, and attracting large numbers of students from the four corners of the earth and from every imaginable Christian tradition. I worked cross-culturally in both Catholic and Protestant churches in Canada forming deep and meaningful friendships with people of every colour and race. Sometimes my living-room looked like a mini-meeting of the United Nations, so racially diverse were its occupants. Subsequently, I worked in community development in urban poor contexts in the Philippines, where I met my wife and to where I will return when my contract in Rathkeale is completed. Why then was my reluctance to live in Rathkeale connected to a sub-culture within Irish society?

In all my life I had never had a single meaningful conversation with a member of the travelling community before I came to Rathkeale. They had never given me any reason for feeling the apprehensiveness I felt then. So why then the sense of apprehension? The answer to that is twofold.

First of all, we all have a tendency to fear the unknown - and that goes for unknown people groups as much, or maybe even more, than unknown situations. When we don't know people 'different' from us we can objectify them and believe anything about them, which ultimately becomes our basis for dismissing them. That brings me to the second reason for my apprehensiveness. There is our society the widespread belief that the presence of travellers means trouble, crime, garbage and antisocial behaviour. It was the presence of this unquestioned national belief in my own mind that was the primary cause of my apprehension and the reason I set up home in Newcastle West instead of Rathkeale.

Analysing that, I have had to wake up to my own racism. It was quite a shock, as the last thing I would have believed about myself prior to that point was that I was racist. But I had, on the basis of nothing but being the recipient of an unquestioned common societal belief, made a decision not to live in Rathkeale because I associated certain behaviours with a specific group of people on the basis of their culture.

I well remember the first class I took in a course on cross-cultural communication. The professor handed out sheets of paper with statements to be completed by the students about different racial and cultural groups. "Complete the following statements identifying the dominant characteristic you believe to be true about the nationalities listed!" "The Irish are....." "The Chinese are....." And so on through the nations of the world. We all duly completed the sheets based, of course, on the little or much we knew or heard about the different nationalities. When we were all finished the professor simply stated, "If you wrote anything at all you are wrong! All generalisations will be wrong because they are not true of all the members of any society!"

After three months of working in Rathkeale I regret that initial decision. I've discovered it is statistically one of the safest towns in Ireland in which to live. I have met wonderful people both settled and traveller alike in the community. My apprehensions about travellers have been dispelled. They are people like people all over the world. They feel, think, love, fear and struggle to survive the same as any people anywhere. They have their ways, as distinct from ours as are the ways of any other culture. That many of the Rathkeale travellers have succeeded in life's struggle better than most is obvious and the success has major implications for the town. The current situation in Rathkeale is the point to which the process of history has brought us. No event in history happens in a vacuum. There is always a cause-effect relationship. We're not dealing with issues that have their roots in the all too-frequently unremembered past. We have two communities with different values and aspirations for safe living side by side in a single small town. They are also communities who are at different stages of social/anti development and those different stages give us points of tension to wrestle with.

How do we move forward? How do we find a way to live together that works for both communities? Only the people of Rathkeale can work out the answer to that question.

These photographs show the two faces of a medal which was sold in Dublin in March last. The medal was described as "A magnificent large silver medal, 3" in diameter" and inscribed on the left above "Ratheale Volunteers First Formed 1797" This shows two soldiers beside a sentry box and the initials G.R. The reverse side shown on the right is engraved with a coat of arms crowned with a harp and the motto "Tria Juncta in Uno - Ich Diem" set amidst heavy tufts of shamrock and inscribed on the rim "For the Best Shot-Transferable Prize Medal" and hall marked silver, maker W.P. The Rathkeale Volunteers would have been formed in anticipation of a French invasion of Ireland. The medal was said to have a value of between €2000 and €3000.



Senior Citizens outing to Tralee



# Rathkeale Inter-Agency Forum

A new Inter-Agency Task Force (Forum) has been set up in Rathkeale under the auspices of West Limerick Resources. The group involved contains representatives from every relevant local and national agency including the Community Council and Chamber of Commerce and Limerick County Council and a number of meetings have already taken place. David Breen, who writes elsewhere in this issue, has taken on the role of Development Officer for the task force. He is based at the FAS office in Rathkeale Community Centre and is contracted until Summer 2008. This is a very positive move and should produce some significant results over the coming months.

## 1. Role of Interagency Forum

- \* To ensure that an appropriate plan is developed and implemented with agreed and realistic targets.
- \* To take overall responsibility for the planning and implementation of the Action Plan.
- \* To support and enable the work of the task/working groups which will include additional stakeholders relevant to the specific task.
- \* To ensure appropriate community/agency input into the development/implementation of the plan.
- \* To review and monitor regularly.

## 2. Key Principles

The forum will in its work to embody the following key principles.

**Building on existing structures:** The forum intends to where possible build on existing local structures both in the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

**Community Participation and local ownership:** The Forum will operate in an inclusive and open manner, with the Community participating in the process - the structures have been designed to allow appropriate community participation.

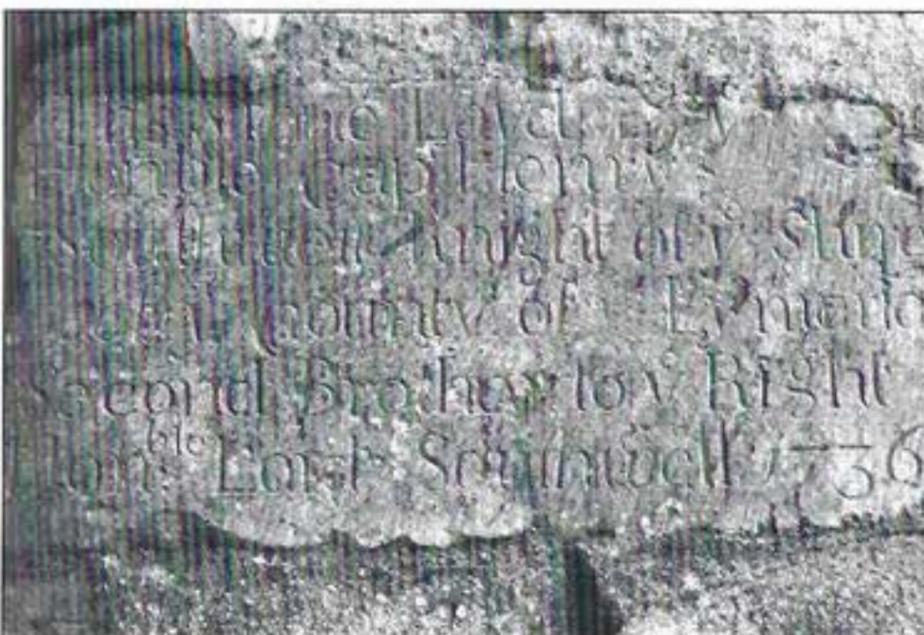
**Promotion of Strategic and Action Planning:** The Forum will provide a practical mechanism to ensure agencies and communities work together to develop a thorough understanding of communities needs and ambitions and to develop integrated solutions to meet these needs. Within the area effort is to be focused on examining current service provision in order to define methods by which this provision can be improved.

**Equality & Diversity:** The overall concept of equality and diversity must be accepted and included in the work of the steering group.

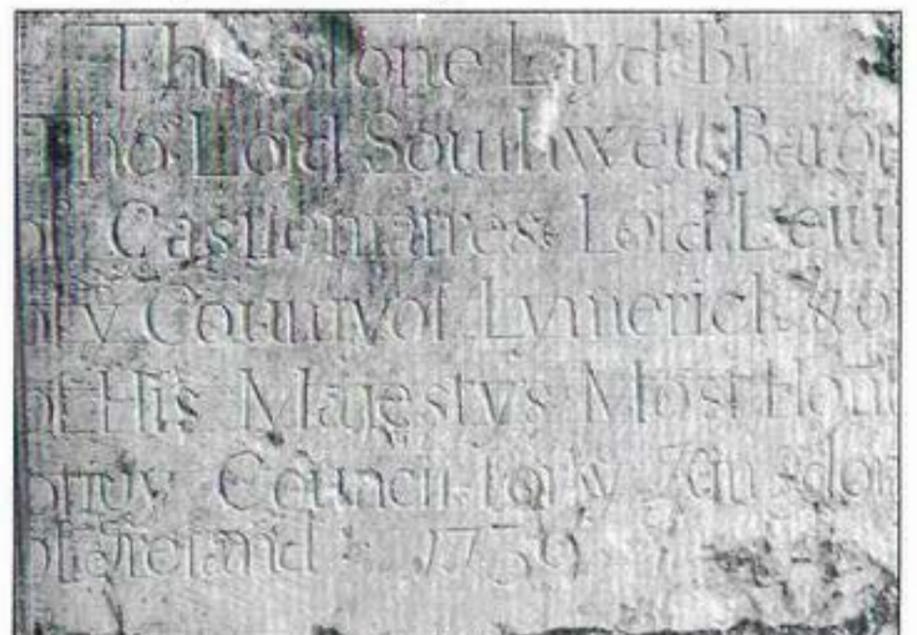
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These plaques are on the wall of the stables at Mount Southwell House. They originally came from the first house on the site which was later replaced by the present building occupied by the late Tom Enright.

This stone layd by Honble Cap Henry Southwell Knight of Y Shire of Y County of Lymerick second brother to Y Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Southwell 1736



This stone layd by Tho's Lord Southwell Baven of Castlematress Lord Leiut of Y County Lymerick and one of his majesty's most Honble Privy Council for Y King Dom of Ireland 1739



# Marriages

*James O'Connor and Kathleen Flynn*  
*Daniel O'Donoghue and Mary Boswell*  
*James Flynn and Nora Sheridan*  
*Jerry McCarthy and Mary Ann Kealy*  
*Daniel Sheridan and Mary Sheridan*  
*James Flynn and Mary Hegarty*  
*Tadgh Francis Shanahan and Miriam Kelly*  
*Daniel Quilligan and Anastasia Quilligan*  
*James Sheridan and Catriona O'Donoghue*  
*James Quilligan and Kathleen Sheridan*  
*Patrick Quilligan and Shirley Sheridan*  
*Patrick Sheridan and Angelina Quilligan*  
*Derek Francis Johnson and Bernadette Casey*  
*James Glenny and Patricia Enright*  
*Eric Thomas Steele and Therese Dalton*  
*Scott Henderson and Vanessa Naughton*  
*Colin Cleary and Grainne Teresa White*  
*Darragh Richard Davis and Michelle Meehan*  
*William McCarthy and Patricia Flynn*  
*Ronald Ian Johnson and Jennifer Stark*  
*Thomas O'Driscoll and Jean Kelly*  
*James Flynn and Mary Sylvia Sheridan*



# Deaths

*Eileen Murphy Sheridan, Bea Tansey, Denis Boswell,*  
*Johnny White, Pat Sheahan, Margaret Quilligan, Daniel O'Brien,*  
*Tom Lynch, Edward Gammell, Nancy Cronin, Mary Cregan, Kay Mullane,*  
*Mary Sheridan, Margie Ahern, Mickey Sheridan, Lisa Roche, Teresa Heffernan,*  
*Kay Harnett, Gretta Margaret Alymer, David O'Grady, Peter O'Dea,*  
*Tom Harty, Nora Gammell, Anna O'Flaherty, Molly Doherty, Danny Sheridan,*  
*Michael Moloney, David Gammell, Michael Kelly, Liam English, Irene Walsh,*  
*Josephine McEnery, Danny O'Brien, Sean Hayes, Mary Mohan (nee Kelly),*  
*Kathleen Fitzgerald, Anthony Steele, Ciss Guinane, Mary Costello.*

# Old Cuttings from "Deel Views"

This photo was taken on Sunday November 8th 1924. On that occasion the Rathkeale Brass and Reed Band played The Coursing Club through the town and on to the old Work House (now Shannon Meat Ltd) gate for its first days outing. The band was founded in 1878. Top row L-R: Johnnie Quilligan, Mick Quinn, Joe Walsh, Joe Fitzpatrick, Ger Sheehan Middle Row L-R: Matt O'Shea, Eddie Quinn, Mick Hayes, Stephen Walsh, Jimmy Heffernan, Tommy Casey Bottom Row L-R: Jimmy Reidy, Topper Giunane, Joe Hayes, Tom Markham, W. Steele, John Hayes, John Guinane, Jimmy Hayes. On the extreme right is Captain Bill Sheehan



Margi Aherne winner of the Toyota Startlet Super Prize with Mick Neville, Promoter and Brian Geary, Toyota Dealer

## 1981 500 Club Draw

Winners to date:

£100 each to Richard Woulfe, Ardagh. Liam Kennedy, Bank Pl., Rathkeale, Michael Kelly, Ballingarry, Marian Moroney, Castlematrix, Rathkeale. Peter Brennan, St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale. Rachel Hogan, Ballingrane, Mrs. Nora O'Keeffe, Ballingarry, Miss Geaney, Ardnaveigh, Mrs. Magdalen Casey, Boherbuoy, Rathkeale. Stephen Markham, Roches Road, Rathkeale. Mrs. Joan O'Brien, Riverside, Ballywilliam, Rathkeale. Mrs. Vaughan, Reens Pike.

Super-Prize Winners.

Holiday for Two in Spain - Pat Joe Scanlon, Knockaderry.

Automatic Washing Machine: Pdraig Feehan, Rathkeale.

Margi Aherne winner of the Toyota Startlet Super Prize.

## Results Community Games

Sunday 19th June 1977

### Marathon - Boys Under 17

1. L. Kennedy
2. D. Hogan
3. Sean O'Shea
4. John Feane

### 80m Boys Under 8

1. Shane Hourigan
2. Dan Donovan
3. Derrick Dunne

### 100m Boys Under 12

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

### 100m Boys Under 8

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

### 200m Boys Under 10

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

### 200m Boys Under 12

1. T. White
2. M. Duggan
3. J. Teskey
4. N. Kennedy

80m Girls Under 8  
 1. Rose Reidy  
 2. Claire O'Connor  
 3. Catherine Massey

100m Girls Under 12  
 1. Orla Dillon  
 2. Felicity Doherty  
 3. Valerie White

100m Girls Under 8  
 1. Maeve Donovan  
 2. Mary O'Connor  
 3. Angela O'Sullivan

200m Girls Under 10  
 1. Bridget Chawke  
 2. Victoria White  
 3. Siobhan Donovan

200m Girls Under 12  
 1. Deidre Keating  
 2. Anne Hogan  
 3. Dolores Neville  
 4. Anne Kerins

100m Boys Under 14  
 1. D. O'Brien  
 2. B. O'Shea  
 3. R. Doherty

100m Boys Under 10  
 1. Michael O'Connor  
 2. Pdraig Doherty  
 3. Joseph Kerins

High Jump Boys Under 16  
 1. Brian Dillon  
 2. Michael O'Shaughnessy  
 3. William Hogan

800m Boys Under 14  
 1. Barry Dillon  
 2. B. Hayes



Chairman of Community Games Jack O'Dwyer presenting the prizes for the Mother's race 1st. Maureen O'Shea, 2nd: Kathleen Williams, 3rd: Maureen Dillon

3. James O'Connor  
 4. Pat Jones

1500m Boys Under 16  
 1. P. McCarthy  
 2. P. Jones  
 3. Paddy Power

100m Girls Under 14  
 1. P. Doherty  
 2. M. Power  
 3. Elma Hogan

100m Girls Under 10  
 1. Mary O'Shaughnessy  
 2. Joan Giltenane  
 3. Anne Fennell

High Jump Girls Under 16  
 1. Nora Mulcahy  
 2. Lisa Teskey

800m Girls Under 14  
 1. Anne Hogan  
 2. Catherine Fitzgerald  
 3. Antoinette Hogan

1500m Girls Under 16  
 1. Helena Hogan  
 2. Josephine Fitzgerald  
 3. N. Mulcahy  
 4. Mary Meehan

Relay Boys Under 12  
 1. P. Reidy  
 B. O'Connor  
 J. Kenneally  
 P. McCarthy  
 2. J. Teskey  
 Gerard O'Shaughnessy  
 Paul Madden  
 John Kennedy

Long Jump Boys Under 14  
 1. Anthony Flaherty  
 2. Sean Hough  
 3. Tony O'Connor

100m Boys Under 16  
 1. M. Meade  
 2. James O'Connor  
 3. Jim Mulcaire  
 4. Tomas Meehan

Mother's Race - 100m  
 1. Mrs. Maureen O'Shea

Relay Girls Under 12  
 1. Orla Dillon  
 Felicity Doherty  
 Valerie White  
 Dolores Neville  
 2. Victoria White  
 Geraldine Woulfe  
 Ann Kerins  
 Ann Fennell

Long Jump Girls Under 14  
 1. Nora Vaughan  
 2. Kay Coleman  
 3. Margaret Teskey  
 4. Ita Kenneally

100m Girls Under 16  
 1. Brid Meehan  
 2. Marie Giltenane  
 3. Brid Giltenane

Father's Race - 100m  
 1. Mr. Michael Walsh



Rathkeale Camogie team finalists in the Co. Community Games Camogie Competition

# Some notes on the History of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Rathkeale.

Pat Coleman.

For some years I have been aware of the existence of records from Holy Trinity Church in Dublin. These parish records contain details of baptisms, marriages and deaths associated with what in the 18<sup>th</sup> and part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the Established Church of Ireland. From time to time in visits to Dublin I would dabble in these records, which are held in the National Archives on Bishop Street but was unclear on how they could be used in order to develop our perspective of Rathkeale. This year I looked seriously at an other element of the Church records namely the Vestry Books of the parish which survive for the years 1741 to 1821.

Before explaining the Vestry and how it worked I would like to note three of the items immediately inside the book's cover. The first slip is signed by Michael Switzer which reads "I will be accountable to the Minister and Church Wardens of the parish of Rathkeale for the sum of 17s and 6d, voted in the year 1812 for the purchase of a bell, March 27<sup>th</sup>. 1815. The second item, another slip, this time undated, is signed by Owen McCarthy and Daniel McCarthy and relates to the parish of Clonagh which at the time must have been part of the Union of Rathkeale. It reads Cost of building the yard and wall of the Church of Clonagh containing 100 perches at four feet high built with lime and sand mortar at 3s6d per perch providing all manner of materials and attendance for said work £17 10s, if built dry and dashed at 2s6d per perch £12 20s. the third item is of national significance because it would indicate that the number of converts from Catholicism to Anglicanism was much higher than the Convert Rolls would suggest. These rolls contain the official list of those who converted and contain only one name from, Edward Greatrakes, late Co. Limerick now of Dublin March 18<sup>th</sup> 1759." This list contains ten names some years ago. Rev. Dudley Cooney of the Methodist Church locally joked in my company that those of Rathkeale could be thankful for local inefficiency. Many of the Church of Ireland records were destroyed in the shelling of the Four Courts and Rev Cooney suggests that those of Rathkeale survived because they had not been forwarded to Dublin as promptly as they should. We can only surmise that on the basis of the Rathkeale records many local conversations took place without ever being recorded.

Who were these converts and what period do they cover?. We can identify five as women and three were men all from the one family while two more were not specified as to their sex. The period was from 1744/45 to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1754. At least three was related to marriage, with women converting to the religion of their husbands. One of the statues under Penal Law prevented Catholics and Protestants marrying and priests who conducted such a marriage were liable to be executed. I am aware of this statue being invoked only once during the period and that was in 1726 in Limerick when a Father Timothy was found guilty and executed for marrying a couple of mixed religions. The case probably had more to do with a local political dispute between a Roche family and a Thomas Pierce. To complicate matters further, the Rev. Jasper White, whose "Annals of the Diocese of Limerick" is our chief source of the Catholic history of the Siocese. Denies that Timothy Ryan was a priest at the time. In any event the execution would have created a stir locally and would most likely have influenced peoples activities for some time afterwards. It is noticeable that none of the conversations make reference to a man converting to his wife's religion of one "Wheeler", who ions recorded as having converted in 17<sup>th</sup> January 1750, all the others had Irish or Anglo Norman names, including "Mary Stritch of Rathkeale" who shares her name with that of the first Parish Priest of the town in the eighteenth century. Her conversation was not

linked to a marriage records may throw some further light on this. The service of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1754 was to see three brothers from Kilcolman convert to Anglicanism. Their father's is given but there is no indication of their religion. One other conversation is listed after this date by the name of Finn but sex is not identified but is one of five recorded as being in Rathkeale.

There is no evidence of any religious tensions arising from these later events but there is mention of problems during the 1748/49 period when the conversations resulting from marriage took place. On the death of Fr. James Moore P.P. the Southwell family supported a Fr. Charles Ryan for the position against the nominee of the local Bishop resulting in much tension at the time. This is however is a story for another day. I have strayed from the matter of the Vestry Books so let me explain how the vestry worked. Included in the book for the period 1786 to 1821 is a published extract entitled "Particulars necessary to be attended to with regard to Vestries, Churches and Church Wardens" This publication which quoted from legal provisions, set aside the Monday and Tuesday of Easter Week as the days on which Wardens and Quest Men were to be elected. Such men had to be jointly agreed by the Minister and parishioners. If not agreed then each chose one warden. The period of office was for one year unless re-elected and an oath had to be taken on the next Consistory day (a consistory being a church tribunal or court) before the bishop or his chancellor. The Chancellor of the Diocese of Limerick was traditionally the Rector of Rathkeale and the oath to be taken was "You shall truthfully and faithfully to execute the office of a Church Warden within your parish to the best of your and knowledge. So help you God". At the end of the year in office or at most a month later, the wardens had to present, before the minister of the church and the parishioners, an account of the monies spent during the year and the purpose and uses to which it was put. On leaving office they had to surrender to the parish all other property or money belonging to the church. Anyone elected to such office who refused to take the oath was liable to excommunication. Their duties included; keeping the churches and church yards in good repair, ensuring the church was furnished with all that was necessary for the celebration of divine service and preaching and administering the sacraments. The legislation indicates that the raising of money for these purposes was subject to a lot of resistance in Ireland and power was granted 'under the hands or seals of two or more justices of the peace for the county' for the raising for said monies. People who refused to pay this Cess (tax) raised by the vestry could have their property seized and sold in order to obtain the money. Any amount over and above would be returned to the offender.. from 1730 it was ruled that ten days after the initial allotments of money was made a further meeting was called with the wardens, ministers and parishioners to approve or make adjustments to the original amounts.

A warden could be sued by a colleague for recovery of any sums which he failed to raise. Wardens could also be sued by their successors for any shortfalls in funds left behind. These constituted the purpose of the vestry at this later date but however in the earlier years of the Rathkeale Vestry Book, the vestry held a meeting around September or October of each year to elect the overseers and Directors of highways for the parishes of Rathkeale, Clonagh, Dundonnell and Kilsannell. From what I have seen of the books I hope to write of their role in the Napoleonic War period before returning to the work of the earlier years.

# 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 & Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm  
Saturday: 10.00am to 4.00pm

Library Opening Hours:

Rathkeale House Hotel

Mobile Library 10am to 1pm  
Monday 2pm to 4pm

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  
Shannon Doc 1850 212999

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

Community Council: Monthly Meeting

First Monday 8.30pm Secretary: M. Guinane

Red Cross: Secretary: Kitty Guinane

St. Vincent de Paul: J. Dunleavy

Meeting alternate Mondays

G.A.A. Hon Secretary: Pat Sheahan

Soccer: Juvenile: Séan Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society: D. Malone, Secretary

Community Hall: Tel: 64908

Meals on Wheels: Breda Morrissey. Tel: 64396

Scout Cubs Mondays - St. Anne's Hall

## 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  
Contact Pat Flaherty, (087) 6207911

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 Donovan - President

Senior Citizens Club Wednesdays 2pm - 4.30pm  
Enniscouch (Contact Mgt. Geary)