

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 1995

**GRANAGH**

# Biggest Assembly for 150 years

KNOCKFIERNA Heritage & Folklore Group have stepped up their programme plans in preparation for the biggest assembly expected on the scenic and historical hillside for 150 years.

Next September, Knockfierna Famine Village will receive national focus in the Great Famine's 150 year's Irish commemoration of the most devastating occurrence of recorded history in Ireland.

A number of the ancient pre-famine houses are restored, just as they were insitu, and are currently being thatched.

A site for a memorial monument to honour the natives who departed, so untimely in most cases, during the sad period of time is now being suitably chosen near the centre of the National Famine Commemoration Park at Knockfierna.

As large attendances will inevitably be by visiting the ancient village when completed. The group hopes to have all entrance roads in very good condition for the most important event of National prominence ever to take place in the area.

A major resurfacing of the old network of roadways is due as soon as weather permits.

The next meeting of the heritage group takes place at the Rambling House, Knockfierna this Thursday evening at 8.30pm sharp. All members are requested to attend please.

The AGM of Granagh/Ballingarry Bord Na Nóg Gaelic Games Club was recently held at the sports complex, Ballingarry.

From a general standard point of view it was a most successful season for the juvenile teams of the combined parishes in both hurling and football, who did the parish proud in reaching the West Limerick finals in the u/12 championship. Our u/14 hurlers

(Denny) Denis Sexton, RIP.

Winners sharing the top cash prize £240, Jim Murphy and Brendan Kelly, Rockhill, Tess and Paddy Heaphy, Knockfierna. Table prizes, Mick O'Dwyer, Fedamore, John Hartnett, Limerick City, Mary Walsh, Mike Dore, Newcastlewest, Ann O'Dwyer, Fedamore, Eileen Daffy, Knockfierna, Ethel Hartnett, Limerick City. Raffle: £40 Eileen Daffy, Knockfierna, £30 Nora Lake, Morenane, £10 each Jack Aherne, Ballingarry, Mary Noonan, Bruree, Liam Corbett, Newcastlewest, Ann Potter, Bruree, Nora Herlihy, Kingsland. The progressive 45 Drive continues next Monday night 9pm, with big cash prizes to be won once again.

Local traditional musicians/singers were recently featured on Seamus Hennessy's Open House Radio Limerick programme last Sunday night. On the invitation of the Athea promoters of traditional entertainment led by Pat Brosnan, writer/ballad composer, Mickie Liston, shanachí, Tom Aherne, singer/local historian. The programme included ballads in the traditional style by Jim Lyons, Glenwilliam, Ballingarry, songs made famous in the Gaelic language such as Rosin Dubh, were performed by Granagh traditional signer David O'Riordan. His brother John O'Riordan, gave his version of a local newly arranged ballad called 'My own Limerick home', also played his favourite pieces on the harmonic and accordion. A group of very talented young girls from Mainister gave some lovely selections of Irish dance music on concertinas, violins and accordions.

Seamus Scanlon, Ballyelan, recently made his Radio debut on Cork County sound, on the recommendation of musicians Noel Flynn, who heard him