



Michael Kennedy (left) with Boherbuoy band colleagues in 1950 at Shannon rowing club - John Riordan (centre) RIP, and Thomas Drew.

Boherbuoy tradition maintained

BOHERBUOY

WHEN members of the Boherbuoy Band gathered outside their bandroom at midnight on New Year's Eve to play out the old year and welcome the new they were preserving a link with their proud past.

Present on that night was a band member whose involvement with the Boherbuoy stretches back over 70 years of that history.

Mr. Michael Kennedy, who lives just around the corner from the bandroom in Carey's Road, joined the band in 1923. But even before becoming a member he had an involvement with the Boherbuoy.

Mr Kennedy recalled that as a young lad he was following the band for the annual Allen, Larkin and O'Brien parade. When one of the drummers got tired he gave his drum to the young Michael Kennedy to hold for a few minutes.

Just then the parade was attacked by the Black and Tans and the drum Mr Kennedy had been holding wound up rolling down Mulgrave Street in the panic that followed.

One year after joining the Boherbuoy, in 1924 when the band played in the Mansion House in Dublin, a photograph of the band was taken and this has pride of place on the bandroom wall.

Of the 60 or so members photographed just two survive - Mr Kennedy and Danny McCormack, uncle of the band's current musical director, Paddy McCormack.

The band has survived through the years thanks to the strong support given by many local families. Mr Kennedy and band chairman, Pat Phelan, recalled the other family names which were synonymous with the Boherbuoy over the years such as Noonan, McGrath, McCormack, Crofton, Leslie, Hockedy, Benson, and so on.

Mr Kennedy recalled some of the great moments of his time with the band. He played with them when they paraded with the Young Munster team that won the Bateman Cup in 1928.

He played when the band

led the Limerick hurling team with Mick Mackey around Croke Park in 1936.

The Boherbuoy played at all the jubilees down the years and at all the major sporting events in the city.

Mr Kennedy said that in the years gone by it was easy to play through the town and out to the sporting fields. But with the volume of traffic today this is not possible.

He recalled that in the early days there were few counter attractions such as TV and discos like today so it was easier to bring young people into the band.

He also remembered going to competitions when the band would have to stand up while performing. These days there is more comfort at competitions.

But the dedication of the current band members and officers has ensured that the Boherbuoy maintains its traditions.

The band took part in the international band parade and the St Patrick's Day parade during Civic Week last month. They will be taking part in the free concert in Shannon airport on Saturday, April 3, next at 8pm when the public will once again have an opportunity to enjoy their music.

The Boherbuoy will also perform on Sunday, April 4, in St Joseph's church at 12.15pm.

The band held its annual general meeting just recently and the following officers were returned: Fr Vincent Kavanagh, life president; Deputy Jim Kemmy, life vice-president; Pat Phelan, chairman; Tony Stembridge, vice-chairman; Deirdre Heslin, secretary; Donald Phelan, treasurer; Hannah Phelan, librarian, and officers of the band Declan Hickey, Brendan Campbell and John Doyle. Paddy McCormack is the musical director.

During his outstanding service with the band Mr Kennedy held all of the positions on the committee and he was solo horn player.

He retired from the band 10 years ago though the last time he played was at the start of the New Year outside the band room.

The Boherbuoy band has a cabinet full of silverware and has won local, national and international trophies for their music down through the years.

Influ mem Ginge

GINGERBREAD

GINGERBREAD, the association for lone parents, hopes to get its own premises over the coming year to cope with the influx of new members.

The newly elected chairperson for 1993, Jennie Hogan, said they were getting members from as far afield as Newcastlewest, Ennis and Croom.

This underlined the importance of the support provided by the association and the need to improve the facilities to deal with the growing demand for membership.

She said their main objective over the next 12 months would be to acquire a premises of their own to provide the necessary support for the growing numbers seeking membership of the organisation.

Jennie was elected at the Gingerbread annual general meeting in the Glentworth Hotel recently. It was the seventh annual meeting of the Limerick branch.

Gingerbread is the only national support group for lone parents in the Republic of Ireland.

The children of lone parents are one of the main focal points of the group's activities.

They arrange subsidised holidays and weekends away for their members.

Jennie took over as chairperson from Jim Prior.



Outgoing chairperson from the inc



The incoming Ginge



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