

ht by x kids

eized to St Vincent Paul in Limerick. at would not only be a ent, honourable end to s matter, it would make mmercial sense for the v kids on the block in me Street, Dublin.

fter all, in every ner of Limerick re are children - and haps more importantly ir put-upon parents ho will potentially contributing to ercrombie's bottom line eland. If it does not nge its tune quickly, ht-minded people from s area would do well give the new Dublin re a wide berth. Call Limerick boycott - ause that is what the npany would deserve. is in the perfect sition to put a lot of iles on young Limerick es this Christmas. It uld be a near-criminal ste of good clothing bercrombie does not nge its mind.

Ve look forward to annoucement to that ect, if and when the irt case is definitely shed. Ve also look forward to nting a photograph in s newspaper of some y happy people at the al St Vincent de Paul ce taking receipt of a

richly layered past and rather problematical future. Having published a well-received book entitled All Ireland Is In And About Rathkeale in 1996 and having launched in the local community centre a Rathkeale trilogy (1989-96), I retain a deep affection for the people and town of Rathkeale and its hinterland.

I was both dismayed and disgusted by the portrayal of Rathkeale as "the town that the Travellers took over." I partook of two very extensive interviews, the first of which had to be scrapped in the absence of a sound recordist of a windy afternoon. The



Downtown Rathkeale: TV3 presented a false picture, says Dr Patrick O'Connor

second took place of a bitterly cold morning in St Joseph's Cemetery. It lasted for some 45 minutes, providing extensive coverage of Rathkeale past and present, pointing up the problems posed by a divided plural society, and advocating

screened could scarcely be less sympathetic to the town of Rathkeale as the home of people. It was presented as if Rathkeale was 'placeless', replete of moving images, shot from a moving vehicle. It was full of jerky film-making, repetitiveness, sudden shift, leading question and vacuous artifice. Commentary was inept, inaccurate and pejorative.

The presenter variously described Rathkeale as a "village", a "rural settlement" and a "town". The place was portrayed as "Mecca" and "spiritual home of the Travellers". Was the television audience therefore expected to

more than 80 per cent Traveller. Something material rather than spiritual therefore must be afoot, and our intrepid presenter has been relentless in its pursuit.

He travelled "thousands of miles" to the outskirts of Paris (Paris is 560 miles from Rathkeale) to track a gang with putative Rathkealean associations. He was following the money trail, and just on the point of stated or supposed abandonment, he hit a scamming jackpot. This came in the guise of faulty generators selling at €800. He apparently parted at ease with the full complement of cash, and duly

the 'Traveller millions' in future.

Back in the Co Limerick town the best that may be adduced of Mr Connolly's programming is summarised as follows: (1) It wakes us to a problem; (2) The problem has a territorial base; (3) It is a cry about the nature of felicitous space - proper planning, sustainable development; (4) It is a cry about social distance; (5) It is a cry about the need to address the problems of a divided plural society.

DR PATRICK J. O'CONNOR
COOLANORAN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO LIMERICK

Nash's Garage staff back in the late 50s

I HAVE just come across an old photo of Nash's Garage staff taken around the late 1950s or early 1960 [see picture, right]. On the day it was taken there were 26 people present including Mr Davy Nash himself. Sadly out of the 26 people in the photo 13 have since passed away - may they rest in peace..

At the time I was employed as storeman (I am the guy in the white coat). I am now living back in Newcastle West, having spent 40 years in Northampton in England. I am sure some of the people in the photo who no longer reside in or around Newcastle West might like to see it as your paper reaches such a wide area.

PAT SHEAHAN
NEWCASTLE WEST, CO LIMERICK

What about flags for our rugby visitors?

I NOTICED today that the flags on Thomond Bridge were being changed. The Women's Mini Marathon flags were being replaced by flags for the Lime Tree Theatre. But is this the first time that our city did not display Munster flags on a Heineken Cup weekend?

There were no flags on O'Connell Street, only Christmas lights. Is this a sign of economic times that the city



BACK	MICK GREEN (R)	ROGER ROCHE (R)	MAURICE CURTIN	DENIS ROCHE	FRANK SHIBER	NEED NAUGHTON (R)	JIM (R) DEE (R)	PADDY HERBERT (R)	TOMMY SHANAHAN
MIDDLE	MAURICE O'CONNOR (R)	JOHN HARTNETT	JIM RIORRAN (R)	PAT SHEAHAN	MICHAEL DEE	FRANK LONAN (R)	BILL DONOGHAN (R)	JOE GREEN (R)	DAVY NASH (R)
FRONT	JOE HAYES (R)	MOSS GUINNEY	JOE HICKBY	PAT BARRY (NEE MURPHY)	MURA O'SULLIVAN	MARY J. GUSHAN (NEE BOYNE)	JOE HENNESSY	TEERY NORMAN (R)	
R-RIP									

Reader Pat Sheahan sent us this lovely old picture of the staff of Nash's Garage, Newcastle West. See his letter, left

should be renamed the Removal losers if this referendum is passed. our overpaid TDs and vote No to this