

# St. Patrick's new hall opened and blessed

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ST. PATRICK'S new Scout Hall at Rhebogue was opened and blessed by Very Rev. Dr. Cowper, PP, on Sunday, February 16, 1958. The hall, which was built within six weeks, was designed by Mr. John Thompson, architect, a former member of the CBSI.

"It was a historic occasion for the parish of St. Patrick," reported the Limerick Leader the following day "when the new scout hall was opened and blessed by Very Rev. Dr. Cowper, PP.

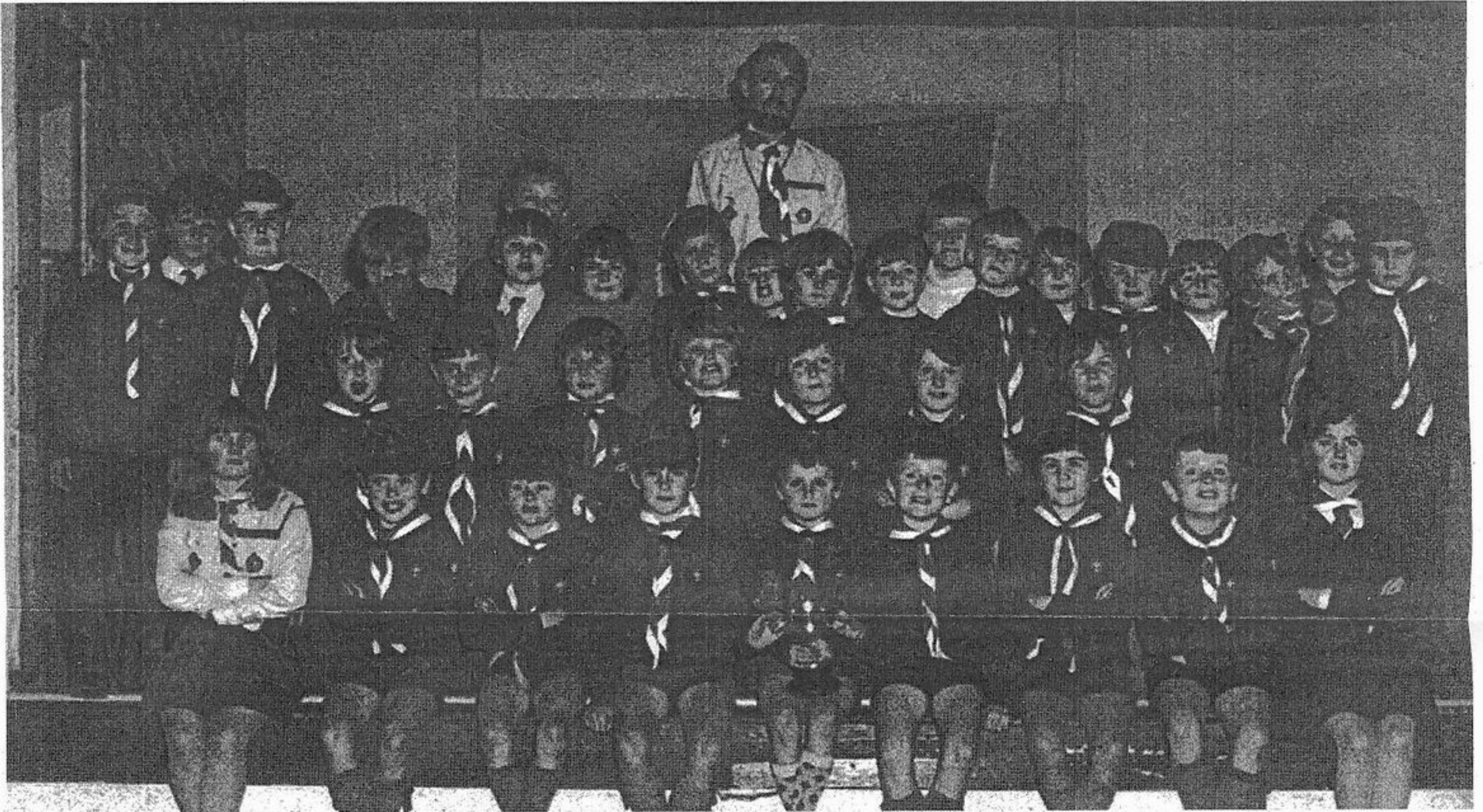
"The hall, a fine spacious building was built within six weeks and climaxed a year of intensive activity by Limerick's youngest troop who had worked voluntarily during their spare time to ensure the hall would be completed in time. It was only fitting and proper that the hall should be designed by Mr. John Thompson, who is a former member of the 1st Limerick Troop, CBSI."

Mr. James Barry, chairman of the troop, presided and the attendance included the vice-chairman, Mr. J. Costelloe, Mr. J. Carr, BC; secretary, Mr. M. Bourke; treasurer, Rev. Fr. E. Casey, CC; Mr. T. Keyes, scoutmaster, and Mr. J. McGrath, assistant scoutmaster as well as representatives of other scout troops in the city.

## FINE DEVELOPMENT

Very Rev. Dr. Cowper, having opened and blessed the hall, congratulated the scouts on their fine achievement. He described it as a historic occasion and said that the venture was made possible by the splendid spirit of generosity and loyalty that characterised the parish of St. Patrick.

It was the first time, the Rev. speaker said, that a suitable premises was placed at the disposal of the scouts in which to carry out their work. He would appeal to them not to sit down and take things easy because now was the time for them to continue to perfect themselves as scouts so as to ensure that they could train themselves as good Catholic citizens for the future. The Boy Scout movement had trained outstanding Catholic citizens and such training was a valuable asset to them in after life. Therefore, it was the responsibility of each one of them to perfect themselves as scouts.



St. Patrick's cub scouts pictured c. 1974 at the scout hall

## PRINCIPLES OF THE SCOUT ORGANISATION

The Rev. speaker then spoke about the principles on which the boy scout organisation was founded and said that if they remained true and loyal to those principles they could ensure for themselves a good, Catholic and successful life afterwards.

He congratulated the architect Mr. John Thompson, who he described as a fine type of Catholic gentleman and one whom they all felt proud of, Mr. Tom Moloney and his assistant, Mr. D. Hayes, the contractor. He paid a tribute to the ladies committee for their unselfishness in devoting their spare time for the organising of dances and concerts in order to raise funds; Fr. Green CC, Feohanagh, who was one of the founders of the troop for his indefatigable work and lastly the people of the parish for their co-operation and help at all times.

Rev. Fr. Kennedy, CC, said that while they had the goodwill and co-operation of the people of the parish they could not fail to succeed in achieving the objects they desired and expressed the hope that they would continue to get the support of the other troops in the city.

**THE CHAIRMAN**  
Mr. James Barry,

chairman, said:

"I deem it an honour and a privilege to be given this opportunity of welcoming you all here today to the opening and blessing of our new scout hall. We are glad to have with us an ex-Chaplain, Fr. Casey, who contributed in no small way to the building up of the troop.

"When this troop was formed some seven years ago, the then committee realised that the building of a scout hall was

something that would have to be faced up to but there were other and more immediate problems, too. Tents and general equipment had to be provided, the cost of which would be a drain on the resources of the committee for a long time. The committee have not alone provided these amenities but were able to put aside a substantial sum towards the building of the new hall. Of recent months the problem of providing a

hall became a matter of urgency as the old condemned building used by the troop was shortly to be demolished by the Corporation. We approached our Parish Priest, Dr. Cowper and put our difficulties before him and he agreed to guarantee us in the bank for the capital sum necessary to build the hall. Were it not for that kind and generous gesture by Dr. Cowper the building of this hall would have to

be delayed for a considerable time.

## WORDS OF PRAISE AND THANKS

"I would like to thank the architect who prepared the plans and specifications and devoted much of his time to the general supervision of the building and who refused to accept remuneration of any kind for this work. Our thanks are due to the builder, Mr. Hayes, who you will all agree, did a very good

job of work in such a short time. I would like to thank Fr. O'Regan for the many facilities afforded us during the erection of the building and to the ladies committee who were to the forefront in every project launched for funds for the troop."

Proceedings closed with singing of "Faith of Our Fathers".

● This occasional series is compiled by Sean Curtin



A 1958 picture of St. Patrick's Well with local children saying a prayer on St. Patrick's Day