

# Memorial to Limerickmen executed after they were set free from court

Memorial erected at Cross of Grange, Tipperary Road, the scene of the 1920 shootings in which two men died

A MEMORIAL was unveiled last Sunday in honour of two Limerickmen who were killed by Crown Forces prior to the civil war. The pair were shot dead, execution style, after escaping conviction for the alleged murder of a British policeman.

The memorial is erected at the Cross of Grange on the Tipperary Road where Michael Blake and James O'Neill were killed by unidentified members of the Royal Irish Constabulary on November 20, 1920.

It was unveiled by historian Seamus O'Suilleabhain and a large gathering was

addressed by Des Long, chairman of the Blake O'Neill Memorial Committee.

James O'Neill and Michael's brother, Patrick had been arrested and charged with the murder and manslaughter of a constable in July 1920.

The men were tried in Dublin but for the lack of serious evidence against them, the case was thrown out of court and the men were released.

Patrick Blake, his father John, and his brother Michael, made their way home by train, deciding to get a taxi from Limerick Junction to their home on



Organising committee chairman Des Long views the new memorial prior to its erection at the site in Cross of Grange.

Rosbrien Road in

masked.

The men fired two shots into the taxi, fatally wounding Michael Blake, mistaking him for his brother, Patrick.

Meanwhile James

O'Neill was travelling with his sister Kitty by motor coach. The coach too was stopped at the Cross of Grange and James O'Neill was

removed from the vehicle and led towards the railway bridge in Cappamore. A white scarf placed over his eyes and he was shot four times.

## Burglaries and hand bag snatches

HENRY Street gardai are investigating a number of minor crimes this week including handbag snatches and burglaries.

Atlantic Homecare was entered by three men after they smashed a rear door at 11.20pm on Wednesday night last. It is not yet known what, if anything, was taken.

And at 10pm on Saturday, two youth grabbed a handbag containing a small sum of cash from a woman walking through Palmerstown Court.

Two youths fitting a similar description are being searched for in connection with a break-in to a car parked in the church grounds on St Patrick's Road shortly after noon earlier that day. The suspects are described as being aged between 13 and 14 years, and wearing dark tracksuits with hoodies.

And a cashbox was grabbed in an opportunist crime at a college in the Old Town Hall Centre at lunchtime on Saturday. It contained a small sum of cash.

## Assault enquiry

A MAN in his 20s required hospital treatment following an assault on the Dublin Road on Thursday night. Investigating gardai say that a row broke out between two people at around 1am. While no-one has yet been arrested, a definite line of investigation is being followed.

**Harvey Norman**

Check out the

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