Innocents of 1921 honoured by memorial

by Brian McLoughlin

LIMERICK teenage boys shot dead by RIC and Black and Tans 92 years ago were remembered at the weekend when a memorial was unveiled at the site of the tragedy.

Despite the freezing temperatures on Easter Sunday up to 200 people came to Blackwater just outside Limerick on the road to Corbally for the unveiling ceremony.

The memorial was unveiled by Mary O’Donovan Limerick Park, Limerick a niece of the two victims, Eoin (18) and Aidan (14) O’Donovan from Ennis Villas, Thomondgate, and Jim O’Shea who lives in Corbally, a nephew of another member of the family, and a well-known former prop forward for Young Munster.

As a show of remembrance, a wreath was laid at the location on the Ballymac Road across from the Ennis Market on Sunday February 26, 1921. The three of O’Donovan brothers, Eoin, Aidan and Thomas, and their first cousin, Thomasie, set out after Mass to search for birds’ nests at Blackwater Mill, four miles from their home.

A party of Black and Tans arrived at the spot and without warning opened fire on the boys. Eoin and Aidan were killed instantly before an officer intervened to stop the shooting.

A military tribunal later and a court enquity left unanswered questions regarding the incident with particular regard to who gave the order to fire.

Relative, historian, clergy and the people of Blackwater came to remember the memory of the three O’Donovan brothers, shot dead by Black and Tans in 1921 while out hunting for birds’ nests at the mill.

Burglary

Man charged with burglary

A man who appeared in court after he was arrested for burglary on a house in Limerick City has been remanded in custody.

Car Crime

Gardai investigate arson attacks on cars

GARDAI are following a damaged and set alight since

Health

Minister to blame for hospital crisis

THE "terrible decisions" made by Health Minister James Reilly are to blame for the current crisis in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, according to Limerick Fórsa Páirtí Néill Collins.

Meanwhile, the HSE is facing calls to restore emergency services in the nearby Ennis and Nenagh hospitals to help tackle overcrowding in Limerick.

However, according to a spokesperson, neither hospital has the appropriate surgical or medical staff to manage a 24-hour emergency department.

The HSE has revealed that plans are underway to open 20 beds in St. John's Hospital over the coming days and further beds in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, once the new Critical Care Block is fully occupied.

Commenting on the high numbers of patients waiting on trolleys, Deputy Collins said: "This crisis is fast descending into a farce and the silence from the Minister for Health has been deafening."