

The background of the newsletter cover is a photograph of a town street. In the foreground, there is a large, curved flower bed filled with orange and blue flowers. A young tree is supported by wooden stakes. In the background, there are stone buildings, a black car, and a white van. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# **Fethard & Killusty NEWSLETTER 2002**

€7



*Neighbours lending a helping hand with the latest exhibit, a 19th century horse-drawn fire engine, at Fethard Park and Folk Museum. L to R: John Barrett, Christopher Mullins, Christy Mullins and Paddy Shine.*



*The Opening Meet of Tipperary Foxhounds leaving Fethard by the town's medieval North Gate on Bank Holiday Monday 28th October, led by new huntsman, Pat O'Brien from Rosegreen, and James O'Donnell, St. Johnstown.*

# **FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2002**

*Dedicated to our friends and relations  
living away from home*

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# Table of contents

A night to remember . . . . .	77	Fethard Tidy Towns . . . . .	50
Abbey Christmas greetings . . . . .	6	Fethard, Tipperary and Bath, Somerset . .	91
Abymill Theatre . . . . .	12	From Fethard to Eldoret . . . . .	74
Acknowledgments . . . . .	126	From Vancouver to Las Vegas . . . . .	121
An Irish Emigrant . . . . .	122	I sold Leprechauns in Fethard . . . . .	71
Church of Ireland . . . . .	7	Jim O’Keeffe . . . . .	32
Community FÁS Scheme . . . . .	49	John O’Donnell . . . . .	11
Community Games . . . . .	13	John Roche’s 1952 350cc Bullet . . . . .	120
Coolmoyne Creamery . . . . .	70	Killustey Community Group . . . . .	90
Crossword . . . . .	36	Killustey Pony Show . . . . .	88
Days gone by on the farm! . . . . .	67	Killustey Soccer Club . . . . .	119
Deaths in the parish . . . . .	21	Lazarian, Kennedy, and The Bomb . . . . .	95
Diamond Jubilee Wedding . . . . .	53	Legion of Mary . . . . .	9
Donations Received . . . . .	124	Leonia and Richard Everard . . . . .	123
Faith of two islands . . . . .	16	Marriages . . . . .	19
Fethard & District Credit Union . . . . .	22	Memories of 1952 . . . . .	103
Fethard & Killustey Anglers . . . . .	34	Memories of a Fethard man . . . . .	61
Fethard & Killustey Community Council .	81	Nano Nagle Primary School . . . . .	110
Fethard Abbey . . . . .	54	Our dear departed 2002 . . . . .	20
Fethard Athletic Club . . . . .	101	Parish Christmas greetings . . . . .	6
Fethard Badminton Club . . . . .	10	Pictures from the Past . . . . .	35
Fethard Ballroom Company Ltd . . . . .	33	Poetry . . . . .	100
Fethard Boy Scouts . . . . .	68	Robert Emmett Gaelic Association . . . . .	40
Fethard Branch Irish Red Cross . . . . .	27	Seasons greetings! . . . . .	5
Fethard Bridge Club . . . . .	39	Sothebys Day at Grove . . . . .	8
Fethard Civil Defence . . . . .	112	St Patricks Boys School . . . . .	80
Fethard Community Playgroup . . . . .	120	St Rita’s Camogie Club . . . . .	25
Fethard Country Markets . . . . .	48	Table of contents . . . . .	4
Fethard Day Care Centre . . . . .	86	The Chapel Bell . . . . .	94
Fethard GAA Club . . . . .	113	The language natives do not know! . . . .	115
Fethard Girl Guides . . . . .	42	The Late Mai B. McCarthy . . . . .	60
Fethard Historical Society . . . . .	23	The Monument . . . . .	44
Fethard Judo Club . . . . .	58	The Neighbour . . . . .	117
Fethard Macra na Feirme . . . . .	31	The Real Taoiseach . . . . .	9
Fethard Players . . . . .	48	The return of Redser Ryan . . . . .	41
Fethard Rugby Club . . . . .	38	The Undertaker . . . . .	28
Fethard Secondary School . . . . .	106	Well Done Bernard! . . . . .	41
Fethard Senior Citizens Club . . . . .	69		

# Seasons greetings!

*Joe Kenny (editor)*

Greetings to all our readers at home and away. Over the past few years we have made contact with many new friends through the Fethard website ([www.fethard.com](http://www.fethard.com)). We are delighted to welcome all our new readers, in particular all those who have found Fethard connections thought to be lost. The internet has proved a very useful means of making contact for those interested in undertaking family research without the added expense of travel, especially when following vague leads that may have been otherwise lost. When one can verify that there is a definite connection with the area, then it is a lot easier to justify the expense of visiting for further exploration. We are happy to report that most visits this year have proved successful. In next year's issue it would be lovely to include some articles of how our new readers made contact with home or what pieces of information were handed down that ignited the spark.

It is very encouraging to receive the comments from readers who really enjoy the Newsletter and read it from cover to cover every year (or so they tell us!). Maybe there are others who get tired of reading the similar type of stories repeated every year and would like something different. We are very

open to suggestions, keeping in mind it is a Fethard & Killusty Newsletter and the content should have a connection with the area. I'm confident that if you asked ten different people what they remember most about their childhood or growing up in the area, all would be different. The same applies to every generation although the buildings, the streets and the people are common to all stories. It is very refreshing to have some new contributors to the Newsletter every year as this compliments our regular features and also encourages others to write. Short stories or funny incidents are as welcome as detailed articles. Maybe a good start would be to write a half page about a Fethard character you remember! Why not do it now as there is no more appropriate time than when your memory is jogged by reading other Fethard articles!

I would like to thank all of you who make donations, either by returning the enclosed address / donation slip (included with Newsletters posted free of charge), by credit card through the Fethard website, or by contributing at home to our church gate collection etc.

Without your kind support, this Newsletter could not be published and enjoyed by those who do not, or are unable to contribute. ♦

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**Donations, letters, etc.**

*Address: Carmel Rice, Brookhill, Fethard, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 31134*

## Parish Christmas greetings

Greetings to all the readers of the newsletter at this time. The year has passed so rapidly that I ask where has it gone? It no doubt has brought its joys and sorrows to all.

The English proverb, 'Peace within, makes beauty without' is perhaps what we all wish for at this time.

May we have the vision to see God's love in the world in spite of human

failure, and may the peace of Christ bring to all of us a resolve to express that peace in our community, our country and in our world; or that all of us, wherever we are, may rejoice in 'The Peace of Christ'.

We ask the Lord to guide us in all we do and may God bless and care for each of you at this time. ♦

*Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Canon James Power*



*Photographed at the Golden Jubilee Mass for Canon James Power held in Holy Trinity Church Fethard on 26th June, 2002, are. Back L to R: Fr. Timmy Walsh, Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA, Fr. John McGrath, Fr. Christy Maguire, Fr. Jim Fogarty, Fr. Albert Hayes, Fr. Michael Ryan, Fr. John Meagher OSA, Fr. Tony Lambe. Front L to R: Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Fr. Michael Meagher, Canon James Power, Fr. John Dwyer and Fr. Michael Barry.*

## Abbey Christmas greetings

Greetings to all from the Abbey community which now numbers four members: Fr. Malachy Loughran from Drogheda and Frs. John Meagher, Tim Walsh and Gerry Horan, all from Limerick.

The long-awaited renovation of the Abbey is now scheduled to begin in

the Spring of 2003. While the bulk of the work will involve extensive renewal of the roof, there are plans to make minor alterations within the building also. Further updates will be forthcoming as soon as details are confirmed. Our sincere gratitude is extended to all who have contributed

so generously in order to make the project possible.

Looking further ahead, it is planned to make 2005 a Jubilee Year of celebration and thanksgiving for 700 years of Augustinian presence in the town of Fethard. We are hopeful that the Friends of the Abbey will play a major role in planning and implementing the events of the year. The input of our friends in exile would be most welcome also and we look forward to hearing your suggestions during the coming year. We are always pleased to welcome our exiles back to the Abbey, so feel free to visit when you next find yourselves in Fethard.

In conclusion, we wish to record our sincere gratitude to Fr. Tom Breen, P.P. and Canon James Power, two true friends of the Abbey, for their continued friendship and support. We extend

warm Season's Greetings to all our friends, at home and abroad, in words which Saint Augustine spoke on Christmas morning in another place and time:

*"What greater favour could  
God have shown us  
Than to make his only Son  
a human child  
That he might in turn make  
the human child a child of God?  
You may ask who deserved this.  
What claim required it?  
You will find none.  
Nothing but Pure Gift*

— (Saint Augustine)

*Fr Gerry Horan, OSA, Prior,  
Fr Timmy Walsh, OSA,  
Fr John Meagher, OSA,  
Fr Malachy Loughran, OSA, (Callan)  
Fr Michael Clifford, OSA, (Callan)*

## Church of Ireland

We held our annual carol service in Holy Trinity Church on 23rd December 2001, which attracted a record attendance. The church looked wonderful and the collection, also a record, was donated to Fethard Meals on Wheels.

The Harvest Festival was held on the 18th October 2002. Kevin Hickey was the organist and Fr Gerry Horan OSA preached to another record attendance. Again, the church had been beautifully decorated for the occasion.

On Thursday 4th July this year we held a fund-raising day at Grove House and gardens, by kind permission of Mr Harry and Mrs Rosemary Ponsonby. People came from all over the county and brought along a wide range of objects to be valued by the

three experts in attendance from Sothebys London. On the day we also held a raffle, a cake stall, had garden plants for sale from David O'Donnell and Marie Mockler, and of course, teas. Many people enjoyed a walk around the garden before the weather broke. This successful day raised nearly €2,800 for restoration work in the church.

Congratulations to John and Melissa Stokes, Ballybough, who christened their daughter, Zoë, on 5th May 2002.

Congratulations also to Elizabeth Lalor on her win in the Ladies Race in Tralee recently, on a horse trained by Pat Flynn.

We would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. ♦

## Sothebys Day at Grove



*Petranelle Clifton Brown (right), Cashel, talking to Rosemary and Harry Ponsonby, at the fundraiser for Holy Trinity Church of Ireland held at their residence, Grove House, Fethard on 4th July 2002.*



*Looking after teas were L to R: Thelma Griffith, Mary Danaher, Heather Bailey and Diana Hazel.*



*L to R: Mrs Bridget Quinlan, Phyllis and Billy McLellan from Clonmel and formerly from Fethard.*

# Legion of Mary

The Legionaries of Mary extend greetings and salutations to all readers as we celebrate another Christmas and New Year. We are happy to have an increase in membership. Fr. Meagher is now our Spiritual Director. We are grateful to Father John and to all the Augustinian priests in the Abbey for their co-operation, direction, and generosity during the past year. We were moved and grieved at the death of Father Anthony Hourihan OSA, but we were happy that Father was laid to rest in Fethard where so many were touched by his kindness. May he rest in peace. So many of our friends and family members have been called home to their eternal reward this past year, we remember all of them as we pray the Rosary in our cemeteries during November. They are not forgotten by their many friends and relatives here in Fethard.

The Legionaries of Mary continue the work of providing parishioners with Catholic literature each week. We sell *The Irish Catholic*, *The Universe*, *The Catholic Times*, *The Catholic Herald*, and *The Catholic Standard*. We make the free paper, *Alive*, available in the local churches each month. Those who purchase these papers and those who try to distribute the *Alive* paper do help us and encourage us to continue this work.

Without the cooperation of all the people, young and old, it would be a formidable task to continue the work of The Legion. We read in *The Catholic Herald* that a worldwide study reveals that two out of three Christians are persecuted for the faith. This is a huge scale of suffering. A

priest stated lately that we may have faith, but there must be a response to that faith. We can let the practice of the faith die and wither away or we can get up, get ourselves together to co-operate to revive our own faith. We can be positive in the practice and in the passing on of the gift we treat so smugly, so lightly.

Did God do enough for us? We know He did. Do we do enough for God? Courage, determination and prayer will help to make a difference to us and to those around us. Let us face another year, conscious always of the presence of God and of Our Blessed Mother. ♦



## **Jack Ryan Tribute 'The Real Taoiseach'**

*by John Joe Keane*

*No more shall we see  
the stick and Fedora hat  
or embark on the voyage  
to Clonmel enjoying a chat*

*The students and shoppers  
Continue to live and learn  
But Jack Ryan has gone  
and has no more to give, astern*

*Those political speeches, so grand  
astride the butter-box gaily  
after many a milking cow, did throw  
In Kerry Street long ago.*

## Fethard Badminton Club

Fethard got the season off to a start by playing in the Tipperary County Shield competition. This competition consists of Div 1 and Div 2 teams combined, making a total of eight teams. Fethard had good wins over Grange and Hillview which resulted in them reaching the county final when they played Ballycommon. Fethard put up a brave battle here against a strong team and proved worthy winners. Team: Pat Ryan, Ger Browne, Jim Connolly, Catherine Morrissey, Fiona Lawrence and Mary Nugent.

Our next competition was the Tipperary County Cup. This team event consists of 2 Ladies' doubles, 2 Mens' doubles and 2 Mixed. Fethard clocked up wins over Drangan and

Grange and met Ardcroney in the final where Fethard went down after some fine displays from all players. Team: Pat Ryan, Ger Browne, Jim Connolly, Catherine Morrissey, Fiona Lawrence and Mary Nugent.

Fethard decided to venture out of Tipperary and play in the Waterford County League. This competition proved to be one of the best league competitions that we ever played in with 10 matches being played home and away, giving us lots of games. Fethard rallied very well winning most of the matches and qualified for the County Final when they played Tournaneena in a very well contested game. Fethard took the lead early and won with on an overall score of 4-2



*All round athlete, Catherine Morrissey (right), being presented with the Ladies Captain Prize from Bernie Carroll at Cahir Golf Club on 24th August 2002.*

making Fethard the Waterford County League Champions for 2002.

Team: Pat Ryan, Ger Browne, Jim Connolly, Catherine Morrissey, Fiona Lawrence, Mary Nugent.

Fethard ventured back to Waterford and contested the Division 2 County Cup but on this occasion went down in the first round to Lismore.

Catherine Morrissey represented Fethard on the Tipperary team which took part in the Class 2 All Ireland championships held in Galway. Tipperary put on some great displays and were crowned All Ireland Champions. Catherine played all the singles on this occasion.

Catherine was also a member of the Tipperary Brewster Cup team which played in Limerick. This competition

is played over one day and tests the fittest of players. In total 45 games took place. Tipperary were in fine form on the day playing great doubles and singles matches. At the end of the day Tipperary met Waterford in the final. Tired legs and bodies were beginning to tell on all but Tipperary pulled out all the stops to claim gold. Catherine played all the singles and doubles on this occasion. She also represented Tipperary on the County Butterfield Cup team.

Ger Browne and Jim Connolly played in the 3rd Division Waterford Championships and claimed victory. Fiona Lawrence, partnered with a lady from Lismore, won Division 4 and 5 County Doubles in Waterford.

Well done to all! ♦

## John O'Donnell

*by Tony Newport*

John O'Donnell, better known locally as John Daniel, a well remembered personality of the thirties and forties was an excellent gardener and horticulturist. John spent most of his working life as gardener / caretaker at Fethard's Presentation Convent. The Convent Garden, under his care, was always greatly admired by the many who came to visit the Sisters. he specialised in his flower garden in the production of a very beautiful variety of Arun White Lilys.



*John O'Donnell, August 1928*

John was very generous in distributing tubers of his favourite flower to friends. The chances are very great, that if you have lilys blooming each year in your garden, the original tuber was produced by John O'Donnell. Their perennial flowering is a fitting tribute to his memory.

John was also actively associated with Fethard GAA Club, serving a long term as secretary during the thirties during which period the club meetings were held in his house at Grove Road.

# Abymill Theatre

The beautiful building of Abymill nestling beside the sanctified environs of the Augustinian Abbey again had a year of productions.

The Fethard Players had a very successful early winter run with "Drama at Inish" which was followed closely by the Patrician Presentation transition year with "Oklahoma".

Seamus Hayes and Abymill Youth Theatre staged a very interesting play set in the North of Ireland during the troubles, called 'Wednesday's Child'. Unfortunately the Hogan Musical Society did not stage a show, but like the phoenix will

hopefully rise soon from the ashes!

"On your toes" dance group and other visiting shows contributed to the general 'buzz' of the theatre and this year we can look forward to so much

more with a special visit by Opera Ireland in December with Mozart's "Magic Flute". May it be a 'showfull' year.

Board of Directors for 2002: Michael McCarthy (chairperson), Marion Gilpin (secretary), Agnes T. Evans (treasurer), Austin O'Flynn (administrator), Carmel Rice,

Eileen Maher, Jimmy O'Shea, Noelle O'Dwyer, Joe Kenny and Mary McCormack. ♦



*Lisa Ryan on stage in the 'On Your Toes' concert*



*L to R: Paddy Moloney, Roger Neville, Collie Morrissey, Ken O'Neill, Noel Whyte, Lory Dineen and Paddy Lonergan. Taken in Fethard Lawn Tennis Club, Burke Street. c. 1959*

# Community Games

by Peggy Colville



*Community Games Committee photographed August 1989. L to R: Tom Marshall, Margaret O'Donnell, Canon Power P.P., Peggy Colville and Joe Keane.*

Community Games Movement was revived in Fethard/Killusty area in 1985 and has been holding its own ever since, having a reasonable amount of success every year.

I remember Tom Marshall, who used to live in Knockbrack, calling for me on a wet and windy October night to go to a meeting. The meeting was instigated by Noel Heffernan, Ballyvaden, who is a black belt in Judo. The development officers from the County were Jerry Lyons, Ballynonty and Maureen Guiry, St Johnstown. About fifty people attended the meeting and I returned home holding the exalted position of area secretary, a position I held for thirteen years, before moving on to my current position as P.R.O. I often wonder what would have happened if Tom Marshall had not called that night.

Members of the original committee were: Tommy Butler, Bro. Raymond Forde, Liam Cloonan, Concepta Hurley, Maura Tynan, Tom Marshall,

Pat O'Donnell, Stephen McCormack, Johnny Sheehan, Eamon Dwyer, Pat Ryan (R.I.P), Pat Colville (RIP), and Michael O'Meara (RIP). The committee was very small at one stage but things have improved over the past couple of years. Adults and parents are still thin on the ground, but the children enjoy participating and that is what it is all about.

I think our area must hold a record at having won gold medals at all National Finals during the past seventeen years. This year was no exception, with two gold and one bronze medal coming to Fethard. Stephanie Lawrence, who competed with Fethard for many years, also won a gold medal in Mosney, but was representing Clerihan this year as she has moved with her family to live in Coleman.

The individual events entered in were: Athletics, Art & Model Making, Judo and Swimming. We were represented in team events in: U/10 GAA, U/12 Girls Soccer, U/13 Hurling, U/12

Boys Soccer, U/11 Boys Rugby, U/16 Girls Volleyball and Cross Country.

In the cross-country county final were Michael Costello, Woodvale Walk; Ben Walsh, Main Street; Ciara O'Connor, Ardsallagh; Lolo and Hannah Trehy (representing Killenaule), and Darragh Dwyer (representing Powerstown). All members of the Fethard Athletic Club qualified for Mosney. The National Finals clashed with First Holy Communion and Michael Costello was the only one who travelled from the area.

Christopher Taylor, Barrack Street won the U/16 Art County Final and competed at the ESB National Finals.

Judo County Champions were: Padraig O'Shea, The Valley; Michael Costello and Bernadette Costello, Woodvale Walk; Cathal Gorey and Richard Gorey, Moanbeg; D.J. Gorey, Redcity and Samantha Feery, Claremore, Killusty. Silver medallists in the county were: Mary Ellen Reilly and Bridget Reilly, Barrack St. and Sarah McManus, The Valley. Bronze medallists were: Mattie and Seamus Holohan, Killusty; Ben Walsh, Main Street and Katie O'Shea, Woodvale Walk.

The winners competed at the Munster Finals in Limerick University with the three Goreys winning their way to Mosney. Richard and D.J. won gold medals and Cathal won a bronze.

Our qualifiers for the County Athletics Finals were: - Áine Phelan, Coolmore; Brian and Eoin Healy, The Green; Emma and Damien Morrissey, Barrack St., Louis Rice, Everardsgrange, Gerard and Richard Gorey, Siobhán, Noel and Kate O'Brien, Redcity; Aobh O'Shea, The Valley; Emma and Ben Walsh, Sarah McManus, Kelly Fox, Jenny Pyke, Catherine Trehy, Ciara O'Connor,

Aisling Sullivan, Niamh O'Connor, Jake Maher, John Lalor, Carrigheensharagh, Alan O'Connor, St. Patrick's Place, David Sullivan, Barrettstown, and Joey Feery, Claremore. David won the 1500m event and Joey qualified in the U/17 Marathon. Both boys gave a good performance in Mosney.

The rugby team reached the County Final and were beaten by New Inn who failed to turn out a team for Munster, so our boys were in with a chance again and reached the semi-final in U.L. The team consisted of: - Seamus O'Keeffe (Capt), Mark Ronan, Johnny Grassick, Sam Manton, Matt Sullivan, Daniel Hickey, Stephen Maguire, John Lalor, Eoin Healy, Michael John Murphy, Tim O'Hagan, Jerome Ahearne. Coaches: Sean Devaney and Valerie Colville.

Killenaule beat the U/12 girls' soccer team. The U/12 boys' soccer team played all their games in terrible conditions. They had two great wins over Clerihan and Tipperary Town but were defeated by Carrick in the South Final.

The team consisted of: Adam Lyons, Kieran Ryan, Darren Connolly, Matthew Fitzgerald, Damien Morrissey, Padraig O'Shea, Den Walsh, Aaron Conran, Daniel Hickey, Adrian Lawrence, Philip Doyle, Owen Healy, Alan Lawrence, Colm Shanahan, Jake Maher and Patrick Kearney. Team coach is Bernard Feery.

The U/16 Girls Volleyball team were Ashley McCormack, Helen Frewen, Sarah Mai Ahearne, Suzanne Gorey, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Margaret Smyth, Emma Walsh (Knockbrack), Mary Gorey, Evelyn Fogarty, Kelly Anne Nevin, Jillian O'Connell and Susan Harvey. Team coach is Denis Burke.

These girls made it to the Munster final where Skibbereen, Co. Cork, very narrowly beat them.

The U/13 Boys Hurling Team was beaten by Cashel by a very narrow margin in a well-contested game.

Last but certainly not least, the brilliant under 10-football team gave their parents, mentors and supporters many hours of joy and excitement. Beating Clerihan, Clogheen and Powerstown on their way to the county final, they had a wonderful game defeating the well fancied Moycarkey. The boys were then drawn in the preliminary round of the Munster Final against Kenmare, Co. Kerry, who just got the better of them and went on to win it out. Team members were: Tommy Sheehan, Frankie O'Donovan, Aaron Conran, Brian Delahunty, Colm Shanahan, Daniel Hickey, Alan Lawrence, Damien Morrissey, Dillon

Fitzgerald, Ronan Fitzgerald, Cathal Hurley, Philip Maher, Michael Smyth, Ciarán Walsh, Ciarán O'Meara, Mamie Walsh and Dean Sharpe. Team coaches were Tommy and Michael Sheehan. Approximately 300 children participated overall at area level.

The present Community Games committee is: Patron, Tom Butler; Chairman, Joe Keane; Secretary, Bernard Feery; Assistant Secretary, Caroline Hall; Helena O'Shea, Denis Burke, Fintan Rice, Michael Fitzgerald, M.C. Maher, Josephine O'Hagan, Michael O'Dwyer, Rose Gorey, Sean Devaney and Miceál McCormack.

We always get wonderful co-operation from local clubs. We will hold our Annual General Meeting in January and we hope to see some new faces on this committee.

Wishing everybody a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy New Year. ♦



*Community Games group photographed in September 1986. Back L to R: Pat Ryan (RIP), Concepta Hurley, Maureen Connors, Mandy Conway, Mary English, Mildred Lawlor, Debbie Coen, Margaret Quinlan, Johnny Sheehan, Fr. John Stapleton (RIP). Middle L to R: Fr. Anthony Hourihan (RIP), Maura Tynan, Anthony Heffernan, Peggy Colville, Martin Coen, Dorothy Keane, Alice Ryan, Liam Cloonan, Tom Butler. Front: Paddy Ryan, Valerie Colville, P. J. Colville, Bro. Raymond, Michelle Fogarty, Jackie Conway, Kenneth Sheehan and Pauline Coffey.*

## Faith of two islands - Ireland and Sri Lanka

by William Mullins

Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary worldwide, chose my friend Joe Pilendiram from Sri Lanka in 1959 to be their Legion Envoy for East Africa. That region, consisting of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania was a federation with a British Governor in each country. The now famous Edel Quinn initially introduced the Legion of Mary throughout those three countries. The best story of her life has been written by Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens, the late Archbishop of Malines in Belgium. The Cardinal was also one of the four moderators appointed by Blessed Pope John XXIII. At the time my friend Joe went to East Africa, the Legion in the whole region was ruled by what is known in the Legion as the Senate in Nairobi.

Frank Duff had the foresight to know that each of those three countries would soon become independent. John Nagle, another stalwart and expert on Africa, advised Joe to extend and consolidate the Legion established in those regions and if at all possible to establish a Senate for each of those countries. As anticipated by Frank Duff, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania gained their independence from the British during the period of Joe's Envoyship. During

the course of his work, he had established a separate Senate in Kampala which was the capital for Uganda and extended the Legion very widely in that area.

When I asked him to tell me a little more about his work in Kenya, his face lit up and explained to me that Kenya was the most advanced of all the three countries. When Edel Quinn worked in that region as Legion Envoy, she made Nairobi her headquarters during her period of work from 1936 to 1944. She died on 12th May, 1944 and is



*Edel Quinn's grave in the Missionaries Cemetery at Nairobi. Edel died on 12th May 1844*

buried in the Cemetery for Missionaries. Joe then urged me to read the book written by Cardinal Suenens. Edel Quinn was born not too far from Fethard in a little town called Kanturk in the county of Cork which adjoins the county of Tipperary in the south. Cardinal Suenens describes her birth most vividly and

Joe, still urging me to read her full life, said: "I must pass on to her death, and it is there I wish to pick up the threads to continue with the rest of the article for the Fethard and Killusty Newsletter." Then Joe continued to tell me that he had read in her biography when the last moment came on 12th May 1944, there were a few

friends including priests and nuns round her deathbed. A Holy Ghost Missionary and a very close friend of Edel Quinn administered Extreme Unction. Then they carried her to her bed and it was there that Mother Arsenia, another close friend of Edel Quinn, assisted her in her last moments. Mother Arsenia belonged to the Convent of the Precious Blood Sisters. Knowing the deep devotion Edel Quinn had for Our Blessed Mother, she held a small statue of Our Lady of the miraculous medal model as given to the visionary, Catherine Labure, in Paris in 1830. Edel Quinn kissed the statue and breathed her last.

When Joe went to Nairobi in June 1959, one of the first things he did was to go to the grave of Edel Quinn which was well tended and full of varied tropical flowers — all maintained by the

local Legionaries in Nairobi. He said that during his whole period of Envoyship, she remained an inspiration and support for his work. The last time he visited Edel's grave was in August 1985 when he attended the forty-third Eucharistic Congress in Nairobi. It was also the period when our Holy Father Pope John Paul II did his third African pilgrimage, taking him to Togo, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, the central African Republic, Zaire and finally attending the Eucharistic

Congress in Nairobi, Kenya. In fact, he recalled that a large number of Legionaries from England and Ireland attended the Eucharistic Congress led by Bishop James O'Brien, Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster Diocese, in England. In order to remind those attending the Eucharistic Congress of the fearlessness of a young lady, frail of frame but courageous beyond doubt who toiled in Africa for eight long years, there was a Eucharistic celebration on an altar erected facing the

cemetery where Edel was buried. There were many bishops and priests who celebrated and the presiding celebrant was Cardinal Sin from Manila Philippines.

When my friend commenced his work in Nairobi, he established contact with quite a large number of friends who knew

and loved Edel Quinn. She had died only fifteen years before he arrived in Nairobi. Naturally, on his round of work he met priests, bishops, religious and quite a large number of lay people who knew her. Joe told me that after having read her life a number of times, he one day visited the Convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. They were of course most cordial, kind and loving. After tea, the conversation of the sisters turned to the subject of his predecessor Edel Quinn. They mentioned to him how selfless she was in



*Cardinal Suenens addressing a gathering in Westminster, London. Joe Pilendiram is presiding on the Cardinal's right hand side.*

her work for the Church and all the praises that were rightly due to her. The sisters also sighed that Mother Arsenia who assisted Edel Quinn had also passed away. Just before Mother Arsenia died, she called a young nun by the name of Radigundis and entrusted the statue to her saying that it would be a relic one day as Edel Quinn will one day be recognised as a saint by the Church. Then Sister Radigundis told Joe that although she would not like to part with the statue, there was an inner feeling within her that as he was the successor to the work Edel Quinn carried out, the statue of Our Lady should be in his possession. Sr. Radigundis most obligingly told Joe that she was giving the statue to him as he had come to



*Blessed Pope John XXIII receiving in audience, Joseph Pilendiram, 29th June 1962.*

Nairobi to continue the work Edel Quinn had done up to her dying moment. Joe Pilendiram happily accepted the precious gift and took it along with him in all his travels and work in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

As Joe was carrying out his work most of the time in different parts of East Africa, among different tribes of people in different missions, he would always return to Nairobi where his headquarters were. It was customary for him to call on the then Archbishop of Nairobi, the Most Rev. J. J. McCarthy C.S.Sp and also the Papal

Nuncio, Archbishop Guido Del Mestri, to keep them informed of the progress of his work. While talking to Archbishop McCarthy, Joe mentioned also the happy news of his having come into possession of the statue of Our Lady which Mother Arsenia had given to Edel Quinn before she died. At that point, the Archbishop posed a question to Joe: "Don't you think that this statue should be retained by the Legion Headquarters in Dublin?" Joe

felt a pang with the thought of having to part with that statue. However, he wrote to headquarters in Dublin and told them of how he came to acquire the statue and would now like it sent to Dublin. In the summer of 1960, Joe

Pilendiram was invited to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Munich. When he attended, there was also delegation of Legionaries from their headquarters in Dublin to whom the statue was handed over. Today that memorable statue of Our Lady is in the possession of the Legion of Mary in Dublin. As the readers of Fethard & Killusty Newsletter spread far and wide will know, the cause of Venerable Edel Quinn is advancing and we ask you to pray that her eventual beatification will add lustre to the glory of Ireland. ♦



## Marriages



### *Weddings in the parish*

Louise Moloney, Redcity, to Stephen Lalor, Killenaule. (Killusty)  
 Martina Delaney, Redcity, to James Grimes, Cabinteeley, Dublin (Fethard).  
 Áine Cloonan, Killenaule Road, Fethard, to Mark Sadler, England (Killusty)  
 Patricia Morrissey, Cashel Road, Fethard, Matt Hennessey, Coleman (Killusty)  
 Katie Magnier, Coolmore, to David Wachman, Carrick-on-Suir (Fethard)  
 Catherine Allen, Killusty to Mr Paul Tann, Manchester (Killusty)  
 Martina Morrissey, St. Patrick's Place, to Mr James Cowlard, London (Fethard)  
 Clare Coffey, Burke Street, Fethard, to Mr Richard O'Brien, Drangan (Fethard)  
 P.J. Ahearn, Prospect, to Noelle Murphy, Fethard (Fethard)  
 Jimmy Connolly, Main St. Fethard to Lauren Fullager, Kent, England (Killusty)  
 Catherine Tierney, Bannixtown, to Mr McCarthy, Quinn, Co. Clare (Killusty)

### *Weddings outside the parish*

























Vincent Murphy Main Street, Fethard, to Sarah Crooks, New Zealand, (New Zealand)  
 Gillian Murphy, Main Street, Fethard to Peter Collier, Meath. (Magorban)  
 Ena O'Meara, Milestown, to Michael Dunphy, Mullinahone. (Cloneen)  
 Ruth Delaney, Redcity, to Brendan O'Meara, Cloneen. (Cloneen)  
 Thomas Meehan, Lismortagh, Fethard, to Ms Suzie Drake, (Australia)  
 Criostóir McGrath, Clonmel to Ms Linda O'Connell, Moyglass (Moyglass)  
 Mary Lou Holohan, Abbey Street, Fethard, to Signor Tersten Edvar, Milan. (Cork)  
 Thomas Croke, St. Patrick's Place, Fethard, to Ann Heffernan, Enniscorthy, (Glenbrien)  
 Deirdre Lawlor, Mockler's Terrace, Fethard, to Mr Donie Tobin, Patrickswell, (Holycross)  
 Michael Power, Louth to Alexander Koster, Germany (Holycross)



*"The Irish Wedding of the Year" — marriage of Katie Magnier, Coolmore, to David Wachman, Carrick-on-Suir, at the Augustinian Abbey, Fethard, on 24th August 2002*

# Our dear departed 2002

*from available photographs*

				
<i>Christy Hall</i>	<i>Elsie Butler</i>	<i>Fr Anthony Hourihan</i>	<i>Fr. Bat O'Dea</i>	<i>Frank Meagher</i>
				
<i>Gracie Maher</i>	<i>Gus Kenrick</i>	<i>Ian Maher</i>	<i>Jack Ryan</i>	<i>Jim O'Keeffe</i>
				
<i>Jimmy McCormack</i>	<i>John Harrington</i>	<i>Mary Byard</i>	<i>Kathleen McGivern</i>	<i>Mae Moclair</i>
				
<i>Mai Maher</i>	<i>Mick Quinlan</i>	<i>John and David Phelan</i>		<i>Peg Conway</i>
				
<i>Peggy Martin</i>	<i>Seamus Cummins</i>	<i>Jim Danaher</i>	<i>Tony Synnott</i>	<i>Fr Ormonde OSA</i>

## Deaths in the parish

The following is a list of deaths that occurred in the parish during the year. We have also included many of the deaths (from information supplied) that occurred away from Fethard and in brackets, the place of funeral service if known.

Belton, David, Oxford (Oxford)  
 Butler, Elsie, Garrinch, Fethard (Calvary)  
 Burke, Tommy, Spittlefield, Fethard (England)  
 Byard, Mary, Burke Street (Ballingarry)  
 Cahill (Walsh), Lily Baptistgrange (Dublin.)  
 Carey, Hugh, Coolbawn (England)  
 Casey, Catherine (Delaney), Redcity (England)  
 Casey, Paddy, Sneem, Co. Kerry (Sneem.)  
 Croke, Bill, Derryhuskin, Fethard (London)  
 Cummins, Seamus, Burke Street. (Calvary)  
 Cunjiffe (O'Keeffe), Miriam, Barretstown (Calvary)  
 Conway, Margaret 'Peg', Coleman Cross (Calvary)  
 Danaher, James 'Jimmy', Sparagoleith (London)  
 Danaher, James 'Shem', Congress Terrace (Calvary)  
 Fitzpatrick, William (Bill), Ardsallagh (Calvary)  
 Flynn, Helen (Nellie), Derryhuskin (Calvary)  
 Hall, Christy, Slievenamon Close (Calvary)  
 Hanly, Patricia, Coleman Abbey (Clerihan)  
 Harrington, John, Abbey Street, Fethard (Calvary)  
 Hourihan, Rev Fr. Anthony, OSA (Augustinian Abbey)  
 Keane, William 'Bill', Kilconnell, Cashel  
 Keane Catherine, Cloneen  
 Kenrick, Gus, Barrack Street (Augustinian Abbey)  
 MacKearson (Heffernan), Alice, Green Street (Boston.)  
 McCarthy, Mai, formerly of Burke Street (New York)  
 McCormack, Jimmy, Kilnockin (Calvary)  
 McGivern, Kathleen 'Kit', Knockbritt House (Moyglass)  
 Maher, Ian, Main Street, Fethard (Goleen).  
 Maher, Grace, Abbeyville, Fethard (Calvary)  
 Maher, Mai, Market Hill, Fethard, (Calvary)  
 Martin, Peggy, (Marnell), Coolmoynne. (Calvary)  
 Meagher, Frank, Cloneen (Cloneen.)  
 Moclair (Davin), Mai, Ballinlough. (Ballyclerihan)  
 Norton (O'Connor), Chrissie, Main Street (Woldingham)  
 O'Brien, Stephen, formerly Coolmoynne (Derby England)  
 O'Dea, Rev. Fr Bartholomew 'Batt'. (Victoria)  
 O'Keeffe, Jim, Kiltinan (England)  
 O'Donnell, Michael, 'Mick', Crampscastle (Calvary)  
 O'Rourke, Josephine Kilnockin Road (Calvary)  
 O'Rourke Noreen, Glengarriff (Southend-on-Sea, England.)  
 Ormonde, Rev Fr Daniel, OSA. (Glasnevin)  
 O'Shea, Mary, Burke Street (Portmagee, Killarney)  
 Phelan, John Baptistgrange (Lisronagh)  
 Phelan, David, Baptistgrange (Lisronagh)  
 Phelan, Jimmy, Mocklershill (Moyglass).  
 Quinlan, Mick, Tullamaine (calvary)  
 Russell, Donna Jean, Tullamaine, (Moyglass)  
 Ryan, Jack, Kerry Street (Calvary)  
 Synnott, Tony, formerly Market Hill (Clane, Co. Kildare)  
 Synnott, Tom, formerly Market Hill (Basildon, Essex)  
 Tynan, Tommy, Cattaganstown, Killenaule (London.)  
 Wells, Ida May, Grove House (Kent, England)



Josie (O'Connell)  
 Guildea  
 Died 2001



Noreen (O'Meara) Maher  
 Barrack Street  
 Died 2001



Donna Jean Russell  
 Tullamaine  
 Died 2001



Ida May Wells  
 Grove House  
 Died 2002



Nora (Dempsey) Noonan  
 Cloran  
 Died 2002

# Fethard & District Credit Union Ltd



*Killusty Table Quiz team L to R: Suzanne Large, Clodagh Large, Samantha Feery and William Power.*

It was the year of the Government's Special Savings Incentive Account, which generated a lot of activity at Credit Union level.

The highly successful primary school quiz was held in January, and this year St. Patrick's Boys High school was victorious. The Annual General Meeting of the Irish League of Credit unions was held in Killarney in April and a special E.G.M in Dublin in June. There was huge attendance at both these events, a reflection on the success of the credit union movement.

Our own credit union was busy, with Friday morning opening hours proving

to be very successful. We offer a good service and our staff do everything possible to facilitate people.

The following directors run the credit union: Marian Gilpin (chairperson); Eddie O'Brien (secretary); Kate Healy (treasurer); John Barrett (supervisor). Tellers: Phyllis Healy, Kay Spillane and Betty McLaughlin. Credit Committee: Mary Morrissey, Sean O'Callaghan, Angela Dillon-White and Jonathon Gilpin. We would like to thank Kay Spillane for her dedicated work as a director. She retired from the position this year.

We wish all our Newsletter friends compliments of the season. ♦



*Boys from St. Patrick's Boys School in this year's Credit Union Regional Table Quiz held on 16th Jan '02 in the Ballroom. L to R: Christopher McGrath, Jonathan Fleming, Michael Costello and Darren Prout.*

# Fethard Historical Society

The year 2002 was a year when the pieces of a jigsaw finally came together. For over 10 years now the Fethard Historical Society has been planning a Medieval Town Trail, a sign-posted walking tour that would show off the unique heritage of our old walled town. In 2002, it was all finally put in place on the ground.

It must be noted here that many other people and organisations have played their part over the years in carrying out the building, restoration and maintenance that was needed to make the town trail possible. These included the Friends of Fethard, for the

Town Wall restoration, the Department of the Environment, for funding the footbridge over the Clashawley and the County Council for land acquisition and the development of the park areas and walkways all along the valley area. The Ballroom Committee, the Abymill Group, the Church of Ireland, the Augustinians, the Tidy Towns and of course Jimmy O'Shea have all played a part, along with other townspeople, in making the old town area more presentable and accessible.

The Medieval Town Trail itself consists of ten stops, beginning at (1) The Town Hall (c.1600) and taking in (2) Holy Trinity Church (c.1300), (3) North Gate (Sparagoleith), (4) Chapel Lane, (5) Madam's Bridge, (6) Town Walls (Valley Area) (7) Edmond's Castle (c.1500), (8) Sheela-na-gig (Watergate), (9) The Augustinian Abbey (c.1305) and finally (10) Court Castle before return-

ing to the Town Hall again, or to a pub, or restaurant or whatever.

The wording for the plaques, based on the research of Dr. Tadhg O'Keeffe, was supplied by Mary Hanrahan and others from the Society.

The Historical Society is particularly thankful to Mary O'Halloran of the South East Tourism Authority for sourcing funding so that the County Council could erect the map, plaques and finger signposts around the town. Tony O'Neill from the Council Offices must also be thanked for translating that money into action on the ground.

The official opening of the Fethard Medieval Town Trail was held on Friday 14th June, in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church of Ireland. The event was jointly funded by the Historical Society and Fethard & Killusty Community Council. A very large crowd turned out and Mary Hanrahan proved an excellent and most informative guide, speaking on Fethard's foundation and history for over an hour without consulting a note.

The evening concluded with refreshments in Lonergan's courtyard and a most interesting display and demonstration was given by members of History Live from Dublin which included a display of Norman weapons, clothing, and artifacts and a demonstration of how these were made and used. A tourist leaflet and map of the Medieval Trail is currently being printed. The committee would like to thank the County Council staff and participants of the Community





*Michael Smyth, Coolbawn, trying on a suit of armour at the 'Norman' demonstration given by 'History Live' from Dublin in Lonergan's courtyard on Friday 14th June 2002.*

FÁS Scheme for their help in preparation for the night.

We continue to catalogue all information collected (e.g. birth records, deaths, marriages, etc.) relating to Fethard and the Students Summer Scheme is a great help in this regard. Over the next few years we will be seeking ways of making this information more accessible to everyone - but it will take time, money and expertise to put that jigsaw together. A central information point with computer facilities and staff based in the Town Hall would be ideal.

Our annual Tipperarian Book Fair (2nd Sunday in February) goes from strength to strength and it is now the biggest such book fair in Ireland. Here we would ask for your support and ask you to donate books for the event as the book fair is our main fundraising event of the year.

We would also encourage all our

friends and well-wishers to become members. Contact any committee member or send a cheque (payable to Fethard Historical Society) to our treasurer Peter Delaney, Ballygambon, Lisronagh, Clonmel Tel: (052) 32031. Subscription is €6.50 (individual), €9.00 (family) and €5.00 (Student, O.A.P.). Membership will take you up to the Annual General Meeting in March 2004 and you will receive regular updates and news.

The present officers and Committee, who wish everyone a very happy 2003, are: Terry Cunningham (chairman), Mary Hanrahan (vice-chairman), Catherine O'Flynn (secretary), Margaret Newport (assistant secretary), Peter Delany (treasurer), Gemma Burke (planning officer), Joe Kenny (public relations officer), Kitty Delany, Marie O'Donnell, Gerry Long, Diana Stokes, Chris Nevin and Eddie O'Brien. ♦

## St Rita's Camogie Club

The Annual General Meeting of St. Rita's Camogie Club took place on Friday night March 1st 2002. A sincere welcome was extended to our new Club President, Fr Tom Breen and the club graciously thanked Canon James Power for his support and loyalty in his capacity as President over the past number of years. The following officers were elected: Chairman: Gerry Ahearne; Secretary: Emma Fitzgerald; Treasurer: Sharon O'Meara; County Board Delegates: Gussie Fitzgerald, Joe Keane and Stephen Fitzgerald. The committee comprises the above in addition to Martha Sheehan, Pat Sheehan, Lisa McCormack and Declan Browne.

In our quest to attain some silverware in this year's Intermediate Championship, we were privileged to retain the services of Declan Browne as trainer despite his commitments to Inter-County teams and his new role as

captain of the Moyle Rovers senior football team. We appreciate the effort he made to accommodate us in to his busy schedule and wish him a successful, injury-free season.

It is necessary to reiterate that juvenile teams will be catered for in the future and a proper coaching system put in place. The club hopes that the young girls of the area and beyond will choose to play with Fethard and therefore play an active part in allowing this long-standing club to continue well into the new millennium.

The committee members attended a meeting on Friday 8th of March in the Tirry Community Centre which was followed by a players meeting to finalise training arrangements. Our Annual Dinner Dance, held in conjunction with Fethard GAA Club, took place on Friday March 15th in Cahir House Hotel.

Our intermediates took part in the



*Photographed above are Fethard camogie team who were beaten by Portroe in the County Intermediate League Final. Back L to R: Pat Sheehan, Laiose O'Connell, Jennifer Keane, Niamh Sheehan, Imelda Ryan, Louise Wade, Nora O'Meara, Sandra Maher, Vanessa O'Donnell, Edel Fitzgerald, Audrey Conway, Fiona Conway, Declan Browne. Front: L to R: Jean Morrissey, Sharon (Lawton) O'Meara, Caroline (Fitzgerald) Quinlan, Ailish Sheehan, Annette Murphy (sponsor), Sandra Spillane, Gillian Murphy (sponsor), Joan O'Donnell, Jennifer Fogarty, Lisa McCormack, Marie Houlihan, Mia Treacy and Emily Sayers.*

Celtic-Pan Camogie Blitz in Kilkenny. This comprised of 80 teams from all over Ireland and the UK. We beat a team from Offaly and a team from Galway but were beaten by Kinvara of Galway, who made it through the final stages of the competition. Due to work commitments we were missing about five players. The club wishes to sincerely thank the following sponsors for their generosity: Jimmy Hayes (sports bags), Annette Murphy (T-shirts) and Gillian Murphy (Socks).

Following the roaring success of the barbecue, which we held last year to raise much needed funds, we were tempted to emulate this success. Another barbecue was held on Friday night, May 31st in Lonergan's Bar. Music by DJ K and there was a raffle and spot prizes.

We reached the Intermediate County League Final and played Portroe in The Ragg. Portroe emerged worthy winners,

their experience from senior status standing to them. Fethard, however, played far better in the second half and finished up the stronger team, which created an exciting climax to a well-contested and physical game. Edel Fitzgerald's contribution in the back line is worthy of mention as she was outstanding in defence and caught some amazing balls. The final score was 2-7 to 1-5. Fethard will have learned a lot from the game and hopefully this will stand to the team in future. The team lineout was: Jean Morrissey, Ailish Sheehan, Vanessa O'Donnell, Edel Fitzgerald, Emily Sayers, Imelda Spillane, Sandra Maher, Niamh Sheehan 0-2 (f), Jennifer Fogarty (0-1), Marie Holohan, Caroline Quinlan, Sandra Spillane, Jennifer Keane, Sharon O'Meara 1-1 (1-0f) and Audrey Conway 0-1 (f). Subs: Norah O'Meara, Lisa McCormack, Laoise O'Connell, Louise Wade and Joan O'Donnell. ♦



*Photographed above are L to R: Maureen Condon, her son, Sean Condon and Billy Condon, on a visit to Paddy Lonergan, The Square, Fethard, during the past year. Paddy was the last Fethard man to see their brother Jimmy before he disappeared in Borneo. Paddy and Jimmy met on the train at Farranaleen as they both left Fethard for London in 1963.*

## Fethard Branch Irish Red Cross



*Presentation of certificates on 8th October 2002 to participants who completed the First Aid Course organised by Fethard Red Cross. Back L to R: Marie Murphy, Aidan Lonergan, Margaret Tuohy, John Lanigan, Ruairi O Caisleain, Helen Guiry, Rosemary Lalor, Eileen Tobin, Mary Holohan, Ann Darcy, David Lawton, Marie Lanigan, Frank O'Donovan, Brian Guiry, Richard Cummins, Katie Murphy, Paddy Croke, Austin Kenny, Dermot Riordan. Front L to R: Darren Ryan, Carri Acheson, Maureen Guiry, Tony Lalor, Bridget Trehy, Frank Coffey, Mary Tierney, Jackie O'Gorman and Clodagh Barrett.*

The Fethard Branch of the Irish Red Cross commenced their classes in First Aid on March 5th in the Tirry Community Centre. This year we were delighted that many new members also joined and the course proved a great success. Our own Red Cross members from Tipperary delivered the lectures required for the course. All our participants were successful in the examination which was held at the end of the course. Certificates were presented to all the participants in the Tirry Community Centre which was followed by a very enjoyable party.

In October the Red Cross acquired a new ambulance. It was an historic day for the Red Cross as this is the first new ambulance the group has ever owned. In the past we had to rely on second hand vehicles, which cost a lot

to maintain. Unit Officer Jackie O'Gorman, Lisronagh, was appointed in charge of the new vehicle.

The Irish Red Cross is the only voluntary organisation allowed and trained to carry cardiac defibrillators to restore heart action after a massive heart attack, so it necessary to have a modern ambulance to cope with every emergency.

New members are cordially invited to join our branch. Young people, especially those interested in nursing or medicine, should consider joining to gain experience in what might be their future careers.

The Red Cross also sends aid to war-torn countries where there is famine or other disasters.

We would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. ♦

# The Undertaker

by Vinny Murphy

Undertaker! "You're not really, are you?" . . . "Yes I am." . . . "But you couldn't be an undertaker, you don't look like one." These are among the reactions I regularly receive when people ask what I do for a living.

So what does an undertaker look like? I think that people have an image of an undertaker that is largely derived from film and television where the undertaker isn't far removed from the popular image of Count Dracula. I don't think I fit the bill on that one.

It wasn't what I dreamed of doing when I was growing up. Then again, how many people put up their hands in class when asked what they wanted to be and declared that they wanted more than anything else in the world to be an undertaker. That would have been social suicide. I, like most other kids wanted something more glamorous. An airline pilot when I was young, but as I progressed to my teenage years I

wanted to be a rock star. What teenager doesn't? The cool clothes, the fast cars, the girls, oh... and the music.

But it just wasn't to be. Age thirteen, I was roused from my room where I was terrifying the patients waiting downstairs for Dr Cleary in his surgery. I was sure that they were all enjoying listening to the latest Police album at top volume on my new stereo, accompanied by me at the top of my lungs. I was Sting. That other fellow was just keeping my place warm for me until I was ready for world domination of the music charts.

It seemed that world domination had to be put on hold, as someone had to go with Bob Grace in the hearse to collect a corpse. I, the budding rock star, was the easiest to trace. My mother just stuck her head out the door, heard the music and collared me. I wasn't too keen on going. I had only ever seen one dead person before in my life, my



*Photographed at the International Athletics meeting in Fethard. c1978. Back L to R: David Hayes, Noel Kenny, Marcus Tobin, Brian O'Sullivan, John Lonergan, Johnny O'Sullivan. Front L to R: Vincent Murphy, John Ward, Aidan Ward and Willie McLellan.*



*Fethard School ballad group c.1980 photographed outside the Tirry Community Centre.  
L to R: Mary Maher, Deirdre Barrett, Linda Kane, Kay O'Riordan, Eddy Sheehan.*

grand-aunt Beatty, and I wasn't too keen on seeing any more. I hadn't been too impressed with what I'd seen. She was laid out in a dark room, surrounded by candles and she looked kind of...ahem... dead. She was pale and didn't move, which was unlike the grand-aunt who used to give us bars of chocolate and a tumbler of Guinness.

My options were limited. They were to go in the hearse or, to go in the hearse. What a choice. Luckily, my cousin happened to call at that very moment, so he was nabbed as well. At least it wouldn't be too bad. He hadn't any experience in the undertaking trade either and even though he was a few years older than me, he was equally as nervous.

And so we set out with Bob in the hearse. Bob drove while my cousin and myself shared the passenger seat. As it was Saturday afternoon, Bob's driving was a bit shaky. He had been in the pub all afternoon watching the rac-

ing on the telly, drinking a few large bottles of Guinness with a few whiskeys to chase them down. At least his driving skills kept our minds off of the job that lay ahead. "That fecker Piggott cost me a treble," said Bob. In other words, he had backed the wrong horse. While telling us this bit of information, Bob forgot that he was driving the hearse. There in front of us was a ninety-degree bend that Bob was about to negotiate without turning the steering wheel. I didn't think that Bob's approach was the best, so I screamed something like, "oh dearie me there's a bend fast approaching", or was it, "shiiiit". Either way Bob got the message and swung the hearse around the bend. "That was a close one," he said. We didn't say anything. It wasn't until we pulled up at the house that I remembered what we were here to do.

Bob went into the house while we waited in the hearse, hoping that we would be forgotten about until all was

finished. About ten minutes elapsed before I decided to go and see what was going on, as Bob hadn't reappeared. I knocked on the door and was ushered into the kitchen, where Bob was sitting at a table with a large tumbler of whiskey in his hand. I knew the drive home was going to be good. And then I got the quiz. "And you're a son of Stan aren't you?" Yes. "Are you going to be a jockey?" No. (A large number of my family were jockeys) "What are you going to be?" Standing in a kitchen, waiting to collect a corpse in the next room, I didn't think that "rock star" was the right thing to say, so I answered like most people would have done. I gave the classic teenage "Don't know". "Ah shur maybe you'll stay at this game". I will in my arse I thought to myself.

A few minutes later, Bob's glass was empty, and I protested on his behalf that he didn't want a refill. Bob was dying for a refill, but I just wanted to get the job done. We couldn't get the coffin into the room, so Bob decided that we would coffin the man in the hallway. We entered the room. It was brighter than the room where I had seen my grand-aunt, so it wasn't as eerie. Also Bob was half shot, so he wasn't speaking in hushed tones, as people had been the previous time.

And so we lifted up the corpse from the bed. He was as cold and rigid as a plank. We had to angle him out of the room as it was so small, and there were three of us to get through the door as well. And then, whatever way we angled him, his head hit the wall and I got the giggles. The family were looking on as we manoeuvred our way into the hall, the three pallbearers, one drunk, one with the giggles, and one in shock. Luckily I stifled the giggles into a cough, the drunken one didn't fall over, and the one in shock just stayed very quiet.

And that was it. There was no great drama. We got back to Fethard in one piece, narrowly grazing a few ditches on the way.

I never made it as a rock star. I did have a few musical journeys playing the bodhrán, the tom toms, a few other percussion instruments and a

bad experience with a bass guitar. In the end those people in the kitchen that first day were right. It looks like I was destined to be the local undertaker.

There are a lot of good stories to be told, which I've gathered over the years. Like the time I drove in the hearse with Bob after coming back from a few months away and he came out with the classic line, "I was dead for a while, when you were away!". But that's another story. ♦



*Vincent Murphy reading his favourite Beano at a Garden Tea Party at Grove House in the late 70s.*

## Fethard Macra na Feirme



*Macra Members sing for Fethard Senior Citizens November 1985. Include are L to R: Fintan Rice on guitar, Jim O'Donnell, Cecila Kehoe, Sean O'Donnell, Finola Lynch, Larry Heffernan, Kevin McGivern, Theresa Quinn, Caroline O'Flynn, Josephine Harrington and Noreen Harrington.*

Another successful year has come and gone for Fethard Macra na Feirme. As with every year we have been kept on our toes during 2002. Our year began with our Christmas Party, which was held in Cahir House Hotel and was an enjoyable night for all who attended. At our Annual General Meeting this year the following officers were elected: President, Avril Colville; Vice President, Thomas Grant; Chairperson, Kevin Whyte; Vice Chairperson, Brendan Morrissey; Secretary, Lar Looby; Asst. Secretary, Sarah Whyte; P.R.O., Gary Williams; Asst P.R.O., Thomas Grant; Treasurer, Mary Barry; Asst. Treasurer, Corina Cleary; Recruitment Officer, Lil Grant; Asst. Recruitment Officer,

Marry Barry; Avonmore Delegate, Brendan Morrissey.

Activities during the coming year include Macra capers, debating, volleyball, basketball, race nights, discos, karting and bowling. Our meetings take place on every second Tuesday night in Loneragan's Bar. Our members come from all walks of life so if you are interested in enjoying yourself, making new friends, learning new skills, improving your social life and availing of travel opportunities, then Macra is the place for you. Any of the above committee members would be delighted to hear from you. We would like to thank all those who helped make the past year a successful one for the club and we are looking forward to the coming year. ♦

# Jim O'Keeffe

by Tony Newport

The death of Jim O'Keeffe, a former contributor to the Newsletter, on August Bank Holiday Monday, came as a great shock to his many friends in the Fethard area.

Jim left his native Kiltinan for England as a young teenager in 1952. His very varied career as a hotel worker, navy and sailor has been well chronicled in his excellent book "Odes of a Slievenamon Emigrant." He sailed the Merchant Navy ships, oil tankers and cruise liners visiting parts world wide. Working on the railroad, motorways and building sites he met with all varieties and types. Like many other emigrants, he always felt the pain of emigration and never lost his great love for Killusty, Kiltinan and the Valley near Slievenamon.

While held for a weekend in a Wellington New Zealand prison yard (the charge was underage drinking), Jim noticed that the graffiti on the walls stated the undying love of previous occupants for their hometown, football teams such as Liverpool, Spurs, Chelsea etc. Not to be outdone, Jim wrote a poem on his adventure concluding with the lines:

*"Yet up there on the wall  
there was nothing quiet like mine,  
For in large letters, bold and black,  
I wrote Let Fly Coolmoyne"*

The rallying cry of his fathers old hurling team's supporters.

Somewhat prophetically, the editor of this Newsletter received two poems from Jim, two weeks before his unexpected death, entitled 'School Photo' (see page 100), Jim's alma mater in Killusty, and 'The Barracks', telling once again of his love of his native place goes as follows:

## The Barracks

*There's a ruin on the cross-roads,  
that means so much to me.  
It was my home in Ireland,  
before I crossed the sea.  
A lovely building it surly was,  
which was admired by all.  
And all that's left to remind me now,  
is the great stone wall.*

*As I look through the iron gate,  
where I spent many happy hours.  
In our lovely garden,  
playing amongst the flowers.  
I see my Mother sitting there,  
like the way it used to be.  
Rocking in her little chair,  
with the cat upon her knee.*

*Slievenamon looks proudly down,  
at all that's going on.  
And my mind goes wondering back,  
to days that are long gone.  
I think of all my school pals,  
and girls I used to love.  
But many too have left us,  
to join the man above.*

*Then the stranger came and bought the place,  
where our house used to stand.  
And for me from that day on,  
it was forbidden land.  
The proud house was neglected,  
and allowed to fall,  
Now all I see when I come home,  
is just the Barrack wall.*

*For as the Barrack it was known,  
where I knew now every nook  
And the stone that's on the top,  
said 'twas built by Bobby Cooke.  
This man was a magistrate,  
and in Clonmel made his stand.  
His remedy for justice,  
was Van Demon's Land.*

*The time has come for me to go,  
so I will move along.  
I leave behind the Barracks,  
and dear old Slievenamon.  
Farewell to the big yellow signpost,  
which said seven miles to Clonmel.  
Farewell to my home on the crossroads,  
the place that I loved so well.*

This was Jim O'Keeffe's final farewell to the Valley.

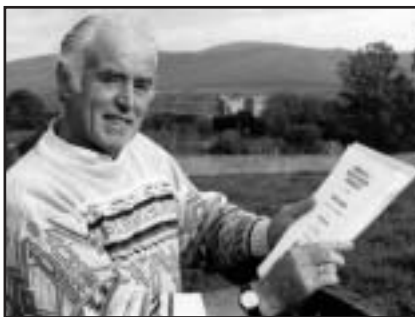
Farewell to Jim, he certainly led an exciting and adventurous life of ups and downs, sometimes more downs than ups. What kept him going was his wonderful cheery disposition and smile. He was certainly, in the words of the old traditional ballad, "Always light hearted and airy."

His book "Odes of a Slievenamon Emigrant", still available locally, should be a must on the list of anyone who worked on the motorways or building sites in England.

Eminent scribes have written many books on the history of the "Irish

Navy", and get their information from research and interviews. Jim got his from Personal experience, as he had. "been there, and done that" big time!

He died in Kilmore, Co. Wexford and is buried in England. ♦



## Fethard Ballroom Company Ltd

We review the last twelve months with a great sense of achievement as it has been our most successful year to date for the Ballroom Company. The company continued to develop the premises as a multi-facility for the community. Our main events catered for during the years were, dancing on Sunday nights, which is proving very popular with a very good attendance, this is our single biggest source of revenue; volleyball; dancing classes; card games; Girl Guides; Boy Scouts; Macra; keep fit classes; parties; 'On Your Toes'; Fethard Youth Club; Annual Book Fair; funeral catering; National Culchie Festival and private meetings. There is ongoing emphasis on health and safety and the Ballroom is proving to be an excellent community facility, which we are continually improving.

We are repaying our debenture holders on an ongoing basis and are happy to say that we are now in a very strong

financial position. The directors, who are exceptionally committed, generated a safe, friendly, comfortable and pleasant atmosphere for all patrons to enjoy and aim to continue their work of maintaining and improving the ballroom facility for its patrons.

To our dancers, clubs and individuals who use the Ballroom, many thanks for your support. We hope we provide a good facility and service and look forward to your continued support. To all who helped in any way that we haven't mentioned already, many thanks also. We would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Board of Directors for 2002 are: Mick Ahearn (chairman), Seamus Barry and Monica Ahearn (joint treasurers); Gay Horan, Paddy Hickey, Sean Spillane, Margaret Phelan, John O'Connell, Breda Spillane, Catherine O'Connell and Robert Phelan (honorary secretary). ♦

## Fethard & Killusty Anglers

The excellent fishing available locally is sometimes taken for granted by many anglers. The heavy rainfall last Spring created a good flow of water on the Anner and the Clashawley rivers which ensured a good run of trout for 2002. Thomas Fogarty, club chairman, made a special appeal to all interested in fishing to attend their Annual General Meeting held in the Tirry Center on the 15th February 2002. The officers elected for the coming year at this meeting were: Tom Fogarty (chairman), David Grant (secretary), and Mattie Fleming (treasurer). Committee: Tom Sayers, Jim Sayers, Tony Quigley and Norman O'Regan.

We held two competitions this year, the first was for the John Sayers Trophy and the Tom O'Shea Cup. Heavy flooding of the Anner and Clashawley rivers caused the postponement, for the second time, of the John Sayers Trophy and the Tom O'Shea Cup competition before they were eventually run off at Thorny Bridge on Sunday, June 16th. The clash with the Ireland v Spain World

Cup match resulted in a smaller than usual entry and the overall winner was Irish International fly-fishing team member, Jim Sayers. Mattie Fleming was 2nd, Brendan Doolan 3rd, and John Fleming, following in his father's footsteps, won the heaviest catch.

Conditions following heavy rain-fall were far from ideal for the John 'Jack' O'Donnell Cup and the Eddie O'Neill Cup competitions on 4th July, nevertheless, some good catches were recorded. The winners were as follows: The John 'Jack' O'Donnell Cup was won by Thomas Fogarty, 2nd was Eddie Casey, and 3rd was John Fleming. The Eddie O'Neill

Cup for the heaviest trout caught was won by Eddie Casey.

A notable catch made this season was a 3lb 15oz trout caught by Tom Sayers. Tom's brother Jim, while fishing for sea trout on Lough Currane in Kerry, caught a specimen sea trout weighing over 6lbs.

The Annual General Meeting next year will be in February and we cordially invite anyone who has an interest in our rivers and fishing to try and make it to our meeting. ♦



*Georgie Fee and Dickie Butler fishing in the 1950s*

## Pictures from the Past

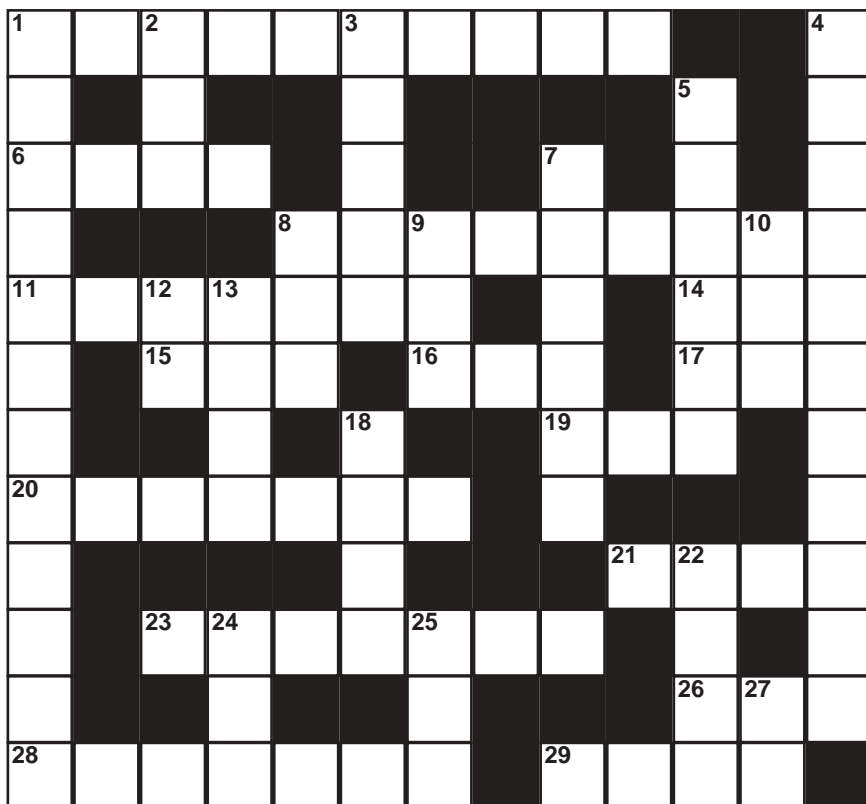


*Dancing in the 1950s are L to R: Peggy and Dick McCarthy, Angeline and Sean Kennedy, Burke Street.*



*'Rose of Tralee' Beauty Queens on Fethard Carnival lorry L to R: Annette McCarthy, Rita Bulfin, ?, Joan Fergus, Breda Ryan, Mary Kennedy, Amy Morrissey, Eva McCarthy, Rena Scanlon, Mary O'Flynn and Honor Mulligan.*

# Crossword



## Clues Across (F) indicates a Fethard connection

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Did they have to climb this to trade?<br>(6,4) (F)                          | 17 Our town's namesake is on this (3) (F)                           |
| 6 When it calls, it must be done (4)  | 19 Easy as this. You could eat it (3)                               |
| 8 "Tricky Dicky's" downfall and<br>Clashawley portal (9) (F)                  | 20 This road leads to Sparra go leith (7)<br>(F)                    |
| 11 Walter ___ introduced the Augustinian<br>Friars to Fethard in 1305 (7) (F) | 21 Clinkers (4)   |
| 14 Drill for it (3)   | 23 Honey meadow seven and a half miles<br>south of I across (7) (F) |
| 15 An Irish one (3)   | 26 You might need this to get 14 across (3)                         |
| 16 An objective and needs a sense of<br>direction (3)                         | 28 This family lived in a mansion on the<br>Main Street (7) (F)     |
|   | 29 Demo a fashion (4)   |

**Clues Down** (F) indicates a Fethard connection

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 River crossing approaching from Kerry Street (6,6) (F)                                      | 9 Sounds like a note to follow 12 down but with jam and bread (3)         |
| 2 Beaten track - don't get stuck in it (3)  | 10 Formality decrees it should be black (3)                               |
| 3 Something pleasant for a change (5)   | 12 A note to follow soh (2)   |
| 4 Ah legs in age to be found in a wall in 8 across (6,2,3) (F)                                | 13 "The hay saved and ___ bet." (4)                                       |
| 5 William de ___, a Norman 22 down, who founded Fethard, in the reign of King 18 down (6) (F) | 18 The English King when Fethard was founded in the 13th Century. (4) (F) |
| 7 Would you get a contraction of muscles in this old Fethard castle? (6) (F)                  | 22 Master at the Manor (4)  |
| 8 Sounds like the English equivalent of 15 across and is victorious (3)                       | 24 Offspring of this legendary nobleman were not ugly ducklings (3)       |
|   | 25 Insane dam (3)   |
|   | 27 Initially, that is (2)   |

**Answers in Next Year's Newsletter**

If you can't wait that long email: [solution@fethard.com](mailto:solution@fethard.com) for an immediate reply!



*Fethard Fat Stock Show 1950's.*

# Fethard Rugby Club



*Ireland Blitz team Back L to R: David Kelly, Paul Tierney, Colm Blackmore, Paul Mackey, David Gorey, Sam Manton, Seamie O'Keeffe, J.P. McGrath, William Power, David Hall. Front L to R: Andrew Yates, Shane Kavanagh, James Kelly, Joe Kelly and Josh Halley.*

This year's Fethard boys under-11 team are a very young team and comparatively new to Community Games rugby. They had a great season, reaching the quarter finals of the Munster championships and being defeated by Tralee, Co. Kerry, by the very respectable score of 10 tries to 6.

This game was played in University Limerick on the 13th July and all the players gave a great performance on their first time reaching a Munster final. The team first competed in Community Games only last year when they won silver medals at county level. There was wonderful parental support in Limerick and the boys benefited from this experience.

The team members were: Seamus

O'Keeffe (captain), John Lalor, Sam Manton, Mark Ronan, Matt O'Sullivan, Stephen Maguire, Tim O'Hagan, Johnny Grassick, Michael John Murphy, Jerome Ahearne, Daniel Hickey and Eoin Healy. Team managers / Coaches were: Sean Devaney, Valerie Colville and Paul Kavanagh.

It was a great club achievement in our first year, as we are now fielding four teams, under 8s, 10s 12s and 13s, with both under 10s and 12s representing their age group at provincial level.

The under 12s played in the all Ireland Blitz with over 25 teams taking part, playing four teams on the day, winning two games and losing two narrowly. The under 10s reached the final of the community games. ♦



*Community Games Under-12 team. Back row L to R: M.J. Murphy, Stephen Maguire, Sam Manton, Matt O'Sullivan, Valerie Colville (Coach), Seamie O'Keeffe, Jerome Aherne, Tim O'Hagan, Paul Kavanagh (Coach) Front L to R: Eoin Healy, Johnny Grassick, Mark Ronan, John Lalor and Daniel Hickey.*

## Fethard Bridge Club

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 26th year and still going strong. Our President's prize lunch was held in Hotel Minella, on 19th May 2002. The President's Prize winners were Betty Walsh and Brigid Gorey. Margaret Hackett and Berney Myles won the Committee Prize. Player of the Year, for which the O'Flynn trophy is presented, was Teresa Cummins, and the Club Championship, for which the Hayes trophy is awarded, went to Teresa Cummins and Alice Quinn.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on 25th September and 2nd October and the winners of the gross free sub were Rita Kane and Kay St. John. Annie O'Brien and Marie Delaney won the nett free sub. Our

Christmas party was held on 18th December at J's Restaurant Fethard at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 29th May 2002 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Margaret Hackett, Vice President: Breda Walsh, Secretary/PRO: Gemma Burke, Treasurer: Bernie O'Meara; David O'Meara, Breda Walsh, Berney Myles, Kay St. John, Teresa Cummins, Frances Burke, Alice Quinn and Betty Walsh.

May we take this opportunity to wish all bridge players (and non-bridge players!) at home and abroad a very happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ♦

# Robert Emmett Gaelic Association

In 1964 and 1965 a group of young Irish emigrants began to gather weekly at Reservoir Park in West Hamilton, Canada, to play their native sports of hurling and gaelic football. These men talked and planned for the development of a Gaelic Athletic Association in Hamilton. On a trip to Ireland in 1965, Seán (John) O'Donnell from Fethard bought back a set of hurleys. The Irish Canadian Club of Hamilton was very supportive and in 1966 that group, led by Seán (John) O'Donnell, formed the first Hamilton G.A.A. club and called it The Robert Emmett Gaelic Athletic Association.

Tim O'Mahoney became the first president. They approached the St. Patrick's G.A.A. in Buffalo to enlist some support. The Buffalo club represented by Sean Coakley and Mary Brown attended the first meeting of the Hamilton G.A.A. It was agreed that the Buffalo players would help Hamilton to field a team in the Toronto league and the Hamilton players would assist Buffalo to field a team in the North American League. The first group from Hamilton, John

O'Donnell, Tim O'Mahoney and John Ahearn went to Buffalo for a Carlton Showband dance at the Chuckwagon. Thus began a strong alliance between the two clubs. From formation, the sporting and social events of the G.A.A. brought the young Irish community of Hamilton and Buffalo together.

There are many stories to tell of the games at Macassa Park, the dinners and sing-songs at the Hillcrest after every game and the trips to Montreal and Ottawa.

After games in Buffalo there was always a home cooked meal at the old Bishop Duffy Center catered with love by Mrs Casey, Mrs Moriarity, Mrs Courtney and Mrs Byrne. How everyone loved their homemade bread.

The year 1968 may be considered one of the most successful for St. Patrick's Buffalo G.A.A. club when they won the North

American Championship. The competition included Toronto, Montreal, Syracuse, Rochester and Cleveland. The Robert Emmett hurling team won a seven-a-side tournament, defeating Toronto in the semifinal and Rochester in the final. ♦



*L to R: Brendan O'Donnell, Maureen O'Donnell and Seán O'Donnell. The late Sean O'Donnell started teaching Irish and founded the GAA in Hamilton, Canada. His star pupil was an Italian who later became a priest. Seán did his Leaving Cert at Fethard Patrician Brothers School and continued his studies at the Franciscan College in Clara. - (supplied by Jimmy O'Donnell)*

## The return of Redser Ryan

Jimmy O'Donnell was the winner of two awards at the Ballina arts festival. He won them for his short story "Back to Britain on the Mail Boat" and drama, "Redser Ryan's World of Corrigduff" or "The return of Redser Ryan". It won two of three writing awards. Based on an "emigrant" who writes home, falls asleep and dreams from the heart he is back home. Redser is a lyrical character with a good ear for his native place.

Ray Montgomery, reviewing the play for a London competition states:

*"Although the content could easily be accused of following Irish cliché – religious fervour and the demon drink – it manages to transcend these fears with*

*evocative colloquial language and colourful characters. All the usual*



*While on a visit to Granada television Studios, Jimmy O'Donnell was nabbed in the newsroom, to read a news-over-sound for transmission. So, yes! That was a Fethard accent you heard.*

*suspects are here, the half-hearted cleric, the feisty young barmaid and 'Redser', the young man destined for 'better things'. It's a compact little play with the majority of dialogue conducted in the informal surroundings of the pub which adds an episodic feel to it. All the characters have something to say for themselves and although some of the conversation is twee and poetic it is nevertheless very believable and in many cases comical. It is a lovely, colourful and evocative portrayal of rural life and I very much enjoyed the humour and construction." ♦*

## Well Done Bernard!

Congratulations to Killusty athlete, Bernard Feery, who was in flying form during the past year. Bernard and his two sons, Anthony and Joey, took part in the John Joe Barry 5k memorial race last May where Bernard finished in second place. Bernard then went on to Templemore the following week where he showed his speed and skill by winning the 1500 metre event.

Bernard stole the limelight again when he won the Munster

Championship over 3,000 metres in Waterford R.T.C. knocking 40 seconds off last year's time.

Bernard qualified for the All Ireland finals in August. He is a great example as secretary of the local community games. Bernard also led the parish community games under-12 boys soccer team to contest the south final against Carrick-on-Suir at Carrick United soccer pitch, St. Mollerans, Carrick-on-Suir.

Well done Bernard! ♦

# Fethard Girl Guides



*Fethard Brownies photographed in Fethard Ballroom on 17th February 2002. Back L to R: Ailish O'Connell (leader), Rachel Prout, Nicole Looby, Fay Manton, Rebecca Fogarty, Catherine O'Connell (leader). Middle Row L to R: Mary Jane Kearney, Louise O'Donnell, Emma Fleming, Danielle Breen. Front L to R: Zoë McManus, Deirdre O'Dwyer, Audrey Tynan, Tamara Timlin and Sarah McManus.*



*Fethard Guides photographed in Fethard Ballroom on 17th February 2002 L to R: Amy Smyth, Teresa Hurley (leader), Kelly Walsh, Judy Doyle (leader) and Leisley Looby.*

This year the Irish Girl Guides celebrated 90 years of guiding in Ireland. 'Bouncing Beyond 90 Years' was the theme for the year's events. On the only fine Saturday (or so it seemed) in May, Fethard hosted an area fun day in the GAA field for ladybirds, brownies and guides from Thurles, Cashel, Two-mile Borris and Durrow. A great day was enjoyed by all and each participant received a beautiful 'Bouncing Beyond 90 Years' badge. Thanks to Susan O'Meara for co-ordinating the event.

February saw us all off to Thurles for the annual thinking day celebrations where we met our fellow guides from the area.

We hold our weekly meetings during the school year on Monday evenings from 7-8 pm in the Ballroom. We run a varied programme which integrates the guide laws, and we always try to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible by organising cookouts, hikes and other outdoor activities.

'Solas 2002', a huge international camp, was held in the show grounds in

Mitchelstown in early July. In total 12,000 girls and leaders from twelve countries enjoyed a fine and sunny week under canvas. Unfortunately none of the girl guides from Fethard had enough camping experience to go,



*Fethard Ladybirds. Back L to R: Aobh O'Shea, Emma Morrissey, Kylee Higgins. Front L to R: Nicola Hannigan, Susan O'Meara (leader) and Áine Proudfoot.*

but Judy Doyle went as a leader for three days and it was an unbelievable experience. Sandra Stewart, a former leader, now living in France, had a group of French guides at the camp.

Our most recent outing was to the gang show in the Premier Hall in Thurles on Saturday 11th November. A lively group performed a 'Barbie Girl' routine, under the eagle eye of Margaret Gorey, our young leader.

Thanks to the parents for their help on the day and also Teresa Hurley, who travelled with the girls.

We wish and thank all our leaders — Susan O'Meara, Teresa Hurley, Catherine O'Connell and Judy Doyle and our young leader Mary Gorey, for their commitment throughout the year. Help is always welcome, so, if you have some spare time, call down any Monday night. ♦

# The Monument

by Pat Tynan

As a small lad in Tipperary I wandered the local roads on foot and by bike; once the skills of the bike were finally mastered my feet never saw the ground much again. If they did it was usually at great speed to escape the vocal refrains of my grandfather, followed by the shuffling of his hob-nail boots on the stone kitchen floor, his usual method employed to show that I had best be gone.

My neighbour Eamon Cummins and I knew all the secret places around Woodhouse and Arbour Hill ring forts, streams, cross cuts, stiles, old foot paths, even the routes the animals used which in those days served as an easy way to find your way around the overgrown fields. Hedges and ditches were much wider then, ditches were allowed to grow wild and beautiful; the process of manicuring hedges and ditches was some time away in the mechanised future.

At an early age we overheard some of the adults referring to a place known as "The Monument" a secret place up in the fields at the back of what was then Major Keane's house. We knew the Major's house as 'The Rectory' although my grandfather and I always referred to it as 'The Parsonage' and never as Magorban House although I

believe that is its proper name.

Prior to Major Keane occupying the premises it had been the home of Parson and Mrs Gray. Parson Gray was the minister of Magorban Church. He may have held wider duties but I always associated him with the church in Magorban, his final resting place.

Major Keane was an interesting character, never a dull moment with the major. One of his little idiosyncrasies was to drive out the gates of the Rectory at great speed giving the minimum glance to see if anything was coming along the road. Locals travelling on foot or by bike would exercise great care when passing the gates of the Rectory. The major exercised similar bravado at Silverfort Crossroads. The Major's driving skills were always the cause

of much discussion locally. If memory serves me well he drove a very early model of the Karmann Ghia which in the fifties would have been some car, still is. Out along the road the major always saluted me as he sped past in the blinking of an eye.

Now, the talk we overheard about the Monument was of great interest to Eamon and me. We decided that an exploratory trip had to be arranged to discover its whereabouts. The task in hand would be to persuade someone to



*Eamon Cummins and Pat Tynan, two intrepid explorers aged eight and five.*

take us there, it was after all a little beyond the territory we knew; if Mr Grub or the major spotted the pair of us we would be for it. So it was not a trip to be undertaken lightly and preferably not alone, eight and five are tender ages for serious explorers.

At that age I did not have a clue what a monument was, all I knew is that it was there, and if it was within our territory it needed to be found. When we first broached the subject with either Tommy Brien, Eamon's uncle or my grandfather, we were given short shift. However, we persevered and gradually we started to learn more about the monument. All the arguments were made for not taking us there, but gradually after much badgering we could feel them weakening and victory was almost at hand.

We discovered what we believed was the location of the Monument. With this new knowledge we made our way along the road to the area where it was supposed to be situated. There was a gate leading into the field, but the problem was that the monument lay beyond this field. In innocent childhood wonder we would climb onto the ditch and stare at the meadow and imagine what must lay beyond the dense tree line at the far end of the field.

Now to my shame I cannot remember if it was my grandfather or Tommy Brien who finally gave in and agreed to take us to see the Monument, after all it is forty five years ago. Eamon assures me that it was my grandfather Jim Neville who took us on that first trip.

When the day finally arrived the sense of excitement was beyond belief — we were going to see the Monument, whatever it was. On a warm summer's evening we set off to discover what lay

beyond the tree line at the end of the field. Once through the gate we entered another world, we had never been this far before, this was new territory a voyage of discovery into the unknown

The way ahead was difficult as no one had visited here for years. As far as the eye could see there were trees and more trees, all growing very closely together forming a jungle type canopy. It was dark and cold here even though it was the middle of summer, and I will have to admit it was a little scary.

After a short walk through what was very thick undergrowth and densely packed trees we came to an opening, however we could go no further. In front of us lay a moat, were we standing on the outer circle of a ring fort? I knew about ring forts and fairies; we had a ring fort just above our house in Woodhouse. Eventually we found a way to cross the moat and enter what appeared to be an inner circle, the vegetation here was much thicker, but still no sign of the Monument.

Then a voice shouted "There it is boys, there it is boys," What? I thought, I couldn't see a thing, "See there the big tower of ivy, that's it, that's the Monument." There was great excitement as we moved towards this green mass. The spooky dark grove we had just cut our way through did not seem to matter now we were about to see the Monument.

It was wrapped in ivy from head to foot but with a little bit of work we soon revealed the stone, and from that day to this I judge all monuments and statues by that wonderful carved piece of stone. The stone was much neglected and it was impossible to read the inscription due to the amount of lichen that had built up on it over the years. Being so

young, it looked big to me; I had never seen anything so impressive outside of a churchyard.

This was indeed a great day for two small lads; we had finally made it to The Monument. We came away from that voyage of discovery older and wiser — we were after all real explorers. Thereafter every time I passed along the road I looked up through the field with certain knowledge of what lay beyond the tall trees at the end of the meadow.

As a child I did not absorb the true meaning behind “The Monument” so throughout my many years away from Ireland I have often wondered about the story behind the memorial stone. There are conflicting recent accounts of its history, all with a central theme *“The death of a young man much loved by a grieving family.”*

The Moyglass Newsletter Christmas 1976 edition stated that the inscription reads:

*“Thomas Brocklesby Godfrey who died 18th July 1808 aged 18 years.”*

*“Who ere thou art in after years,  
Who dost these lands enjoy,  
Oh spare this stone for Jesus sake,  
And do not it destroy.”*

The article went on to say, *“The Godfrey family resided in Beechmount House at the beginning of the last century. Tradition has it that young Godfrey was fatally injured while horse riding on*

*his father’s land. A plaque in Magorban Chapel commemorates the young Mr Thomas Brocklesby. The whole grove was really a garden of remembrance and evidence of this still exists in the profusion of flowers which blossom there every summer.*

*Thomas Godfrey’s sister married John Phillips of Gaile, Holycross. Their four grandsons, John Godfrey, Richard, and Samuel died in the USA. John Godfrey*

*saw active service in the Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902) and his youngest brother Hugh was a participant in the same war as a member of Baden Powell’s police force.*

*Richard spent his formative years in the Canadian Mounted Police. Colonel Phillips was a member of the former grand jury of The South riding of Co Tipperary and landlord of the townlands of Magorban and Foulkstown.*



*The Monument*

*The enactment of the Hogan Land act in 1923 severed a friendly relationship between Col Phillips and his tenants. The three Phillips brothers died within a brief period, Richard died in February 1926, Col Phillips in December 1927 and Hugh in March 1928. All are interred in Magorban Churchyard.*

*The monument in the Moyglass district perpetuates the memory of the Godfrey family long since extinct.”*

While the book entitled *“The History & Folklore of Moyglass & Killenaule”*

reports on page 36 under the heading Magorban Protestant Church,

*In the churchyard near the parish church is a tomb with this inscription at the end of it,*

*"Within this vault lie the remains of Thos. B. Godfrey Esq. Only son of John Godfrey Esq. of Beechmount, who departed this life the 29th Jan, in the 26th year of his age,*

*"By an esteemed friend"*

*"Stop gentle travler, pause a moment here  
Shed o'er this cold and silent tomb a tear  
The youth whose body lies beneath this stone  
Whose soul to heaven on serphs wings has flown  
Respectful would have paused, oh more have wept  
Where the remains of anie Christian slept  
Tears from his eyes would there have stolen away  
Like dew drops glitting in the morning ray  
Virtue and truth he loved, with hope was blest  
His guide to bliss in relms of lasting rest"*

*The same book on page 122 reporting on Magorban House (The Rectory) states:*

*"At the rear of the rectory which was built in 1720, there is perhaps the finest example of a ring fort in the parish. On the inner circle of the fort, there is what is known locally as "The Monument". This was erected to the memory of Thomas Brocklesby Godfrey, who was killed in a duel on 18th July, 1808. aged twenty six years.*

*The Monument, a local landmark in Moyglass, perpetuates the memory of the Godfrey family. It also exemplifies the very great parental affection which the family had for their prospective heir. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:*

*Sacred*

*To the memory of*

*Thomas Brocklesby Godfrey Esquire*

*Who was with every virtue blest*

*That could adorn the human breast*

*He departed this life*

*Jan'y 29th 1808*

*In the 26th year of his age*

*This monument was erected by his father*

*John Godfrey of Beechmount Esq.*

*To his beloved son*

*October 1819*

*Who ere thou art in after time*

*That dost this land enjoy*

*Oh spare these stones for Jesus sake*

*Nor do thou them destroy*

*(Note two separate dates Jan 29 & July 18)*

Some years ago a letter arrived here at my home in London from my friend Eamon Cummins in New York. From the envelope there dropped some photos, one of a large stone monument, and the other of the two intrepid explorers aged eight and five or thereabouts who set out to rediscover the Monument all those years ago.

There it was in colour "The Monument" an image I had not set eyes on for over forty years. In the photograph it was much more visible now as most of the trees that had surrounded the stone had either fallen or been cut down.

Resident in London I am unable to verify the dates or the cause of the young a man losing his life. Next time I return home it will be one of my holiday tasks, was it a duel or did he fall from a horse? Perhaps the person who penned the account in the Moyglass Newsletter surveyed the stone when the grove was overgrown and dark and examined the inscription through the build up of lichen with some difficulty. And why the differing dates in the second article? Was he eighteen or twenty six? For one hundred and eighty three years "The Monument" has remained in its lonely spot placed there by a grieving father and a loving family coming to terms with the loss of a son. ♦

## Fethard Country Markets

Here in the country markets after 55 years of trading we have seen many changes. Earlier this year we had to cope with the change to Euro. Thank God we managed and the customers got used to it very quickly.

We are noted for our great display of

plants and cut flowers. We are proud to say that many winners of the tidy town competition dealt with us during the year.

Best wishes to all our overseas friends and we look forward to their next visit. ♦

## Fethard Players



*Members of the cast are photographed above after their performance of 'Black Comedy' on Saturday night 16th November 2002. L to R: Joe Walsh, Lisa Rice, Jimmy O'Sullivan, Niamh Ryan, Eoin Powell, Gerry Fogarty, Anne Connolly and Shane Dempsey. The play was produced by Austin O'Flynn.*

Fethard Players enjoyed yet another very successful show this year with their presentation of "Black Comedy" by Peter Schaffer. So successful were the bookings that the players were able to add an extra night, which is becoming a tradition over the past number of years. The group donated the proceeds of this extra night to charity.

The play was a farce, set in South Kensington, London, in the mid sixties. The imagination of the audience was called into play, as the action on stage happened in the 'dark'. So although we, the audience, could see

all that was happening, the actors had to pretend to be in the dark, feeling and groping their way through a blackout. They did an excellent job.

The performers this year were Jimmy O'Sullivan, Anne Connolly, Lisa Rice, Gerry Fogarty, Eoin Powell, and the three newcomers to the players, Niamh Ryan, Shane Dempsey and Joe Walsh. The play was produced, directed and generally teased out of the cast by Austie O' Flynn. Well done again.

Committee for 2002: Chairperson, Carmel Rice; Secretary, Geraldine McCarthy; Treasurer, Lisa Rice. ♦

# Community FÁS Scheme

by Joan O'Donohoe



*Photographed above are the participants Fethard FÁS Community Employment Scheme outside the Tirry Centre on 4th June 2002. Back L to R: Michael Keane, David Standbridge, Martin Bolger, Sylvia O'Brien, Melanie Ryan, John Neagle, Tom Purcell, James Roche. Front L to R: Monica Aherne, Janet Byrne, Joan O'Donohoe (Scheme Supervisor), Joe Nixon (FÁS Regional Officer), and Patsy Lawrence.*

It has been a very busy year in the Tirry Community Centre; we saw our building being transformed. It was a challenging time for the participants on the scheme, as they went from their normal routine to being painters and decorators, carpenters, and as the song says, "all kinds of everything".

I would like to thank each and every one of them for all the extra time and tremendous work they put in over the months and indeed all through the year. We fondly remember the craic we had and our lovely fry-ups in the 'canteen' every morning.

At the present time we have 10 participants on the Scheme, Janet Byrne, Melanie Ryan and Sylvia O'Brien are our cooks, Brud Roche, Sandy Shine, his favourite song being "Slievenamon" (figure that one out) and David

Standbridge are once again our "kitchen mechanics" and general maintenance of the building. Monica Aherne and Patsy Lawrence work in the community office, Martin Bolger and Tom Purcell on Tidy Towns and Michael (Chas) Keane in the Sports Centre.

We have lost one place on the scheme due to cutbacks within FÁS. Government Minister Mary Harney is determined to make even more cutbacks, so it is a matter of how many more we may lose. As people finish their time on the Scheme they are not being replaced. I would appeal to everyone who cares about their community and especially the Day Care Centre to make representations to Ms. Harney re these cutbacks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Council and Joe Nixon

C.S.O. FÁs, Clonmel for their continued support throughout the year.

On a personal level, I had a very busy but successful year. I was conferred in the National College of Ireland with a Certificate with Distinction in Community Workplace

Management and completed my first year of a Diploma in First Line Management. All that is left for me to say is a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and I look forward to another year with all the staff and patrons of the Tirry Centre. ♦

## Fethard Tidy Towns



*Photographed above, on Monday 11th November, are members of Fethard & Killusty Community Council and those involved in arranging the planting of a Christmas Tree on The Square. L to R: Gráinne Murphy (SAP Nurseries), Jimmy Connolly, Christy Fitzgerald (Coolmore), Gerard Manton, Jonathan Cooney (South Tipperary County Council) and Thomas Fitzgerald (South Tipperary County Council).*

Fethard Tidy Towns have had a very successful year especially due to the partnership approach which was established with the County Council. Every other month a representative group meet in Fethard with South Tipperary County Council Area Engineer Johnathan Cooney, his Fethard Town foreman Tom Fitzgerald, local councillors John Fahy, Susan Meagher and Seamus Healy, and offi-

cials from the County Council as current community needs require from month to month. For most of our own issues, and those brought to our attention, we end up dealing with housing, garden and environment departments.

As a result of having these meetings a budget was provided to carry out a number of agreed projects each year and we have had considerable input into other ongoing projects.

### *Tidy Towns Garden Competition Results 2002*

**(1) Knockbrack, Spittlefield, Mocklers Tce.**

*Nora & John Coffey*

**(2) The Valley, Watergate**

*Pamela & Liam Sweeney*

**(3) Kerry St, Congress Tce., Red City**

*Mary & Dan O'Riordan*

**(4) Cashel Road**

*Margaret & John Fitzgerald*

**(5) Main St., Rocklow Road**

*Catherine & Eamon Kennedy*

**(6) Burke St., Abbey Road**

*Castle Inn*

**(7) The Green, Barrack St.**

*Mary & Austy Slattery*

**(8) Strylea, Cedar Grove**

*Audrey & Christy Devitt*

**(9) St. Patrick's Place**

*1st : Mary O'Shea*

*2nd : Marguerite Lawlor*

**(10) Slievenamon Close**

*Mary & Benny Morrissey*

**(11) Fr. Tirry Park, Canon Hayes Court**

*1st : Margaret & Paddy Grant*

*2nd : Noel Coffey*

**(12) Woodvale Walk**

*1st : Julie & Joe Needham*

*2nd : Marion & Dan Murphy*

**(13) Best Business Premises**

*Centra*

**(14) Best Baskets**

*Paula & Tommy Gahan*

**(15) Best Window Boxes**

*Dymphna & John O'Donovan*

**(16) Best Large Garden**

*Pat O'Brien*

**(17) Best Overall Area**

*Woodvale Walk*

The following are some of the issues which were high on our agenda this year: (1) A more comprehensive programme of spraying herbicide around the town in the early part of the year. (2) The sowing of practical and effective bedding in the beds at Main Street and also the use of tubs which were spectacular compared to previous years. (3) We continued to lobby for the completion of necessary work on storm water drainage and surfacing of internal roadways at Woodvale Walk which was estimated to cost €25,000. (4) The erection of lights at the new bridge at the valley and a connection made available for a power connection to the Town Wall lights was agreed and completed. (5) The modification of litter bins was agreed and carried out, where grids were added to prevent birds and dogs pulling refuse out on the street. It also helped prevent some people from using litter bins for dumping their bags of domestic waste. (6) It

was with great disappointment that we agreed to the removal of the seat which had been placed on the river bank walk, this was due to the high level of vandalism and littering of the river which had occurred there. (7) The entrance to the GAA Field is to be upgraded before the end of the year with a border footpath to St Patrick's Place and defined parking spaces. (8) The New Year will see the results of thousands of daffodils sown on our approach roads. If the results are effective we will continue this project in other areas. (9) The new picnic tables in the Valley were also the result of our initiatives at these meetings.

We wish to thank all the County Council officials who worked with us and especially their staff whose work on the ground made such a difference this past year. Our thanks also to our FÁS Community Scheme workers, Tom Purcell and Martin Bolger, who carried out a great clearance at the

Convent Hall entrance, which was so overgrown. Anyone who felt cheered up by the rose beds at The Green and Watergate should pass their compliments to Tom. Martin worked hard all year maintaining the grounds in Fr Tirry Park. This year we were grant- aided by the County Council Housing Department to complete an upgrade of the gravel paths in the estate which were hollowed, overgrown and collecting water. We plan to continue our improvement works here in the coming year.

We are grateful to all who supported our church gate collection again this year as this is our main source of funding for the year. Thanks to Anna Cooke who organised the Garden Competition

this year. Our judge this year was Marie Moclair. Thanks to all who sponsored the prizes for this event and to Joan O'Donohoe (FÁS Scheme Supervisor) for her assistance during the year.

We hope this will be an encouragement to people to make an effort to add colour to their own place which will add to the overall appearance of the town.

Fethard Tidy Towns is a sub-committee of Fethard & Killusty Community Council. The elected officers and committee for this year are as follows: Peter Grant (chairperson), Jimmy Lawrence (vice chairperson), Anna Cooke (treasurer), Thelma Griffith (secretary), Nellie O'Donovan, Diana Stokes, Rita Kelly and Pat Fitzgerald. ♦



*Winners of The Carrigan Cup 18 Hole Singles Stableford competition played at Slievenamon Golf Club on 14th and 15th September 2002. Back L to R: Liam Meagher (gents 3rd place), Marie Delaney (ladies captain), Mai O'Brien (ladies runner-up), Margaret O'Meara (ladies 1st gross), Denis Burke (gents 1st gross). Front L to R: Patricia Walsh (ladies winner), Conor Carrigan (sponsor of the Carrigan Cup) and Brendan Kenny (gents winner).*

# Diamond Jubilee Wedding



*The above informal gathering was pictured on the occasion of the latter presentation Left to right, Front: Mr. F. Loughman, T.D.; Mr and Mrs O'Flynn; Mr. D. Breen, T.D. Back: Messrs. Sean Cleary, N.T.; J. Stapleton; P.J. Coffey, B.E.; Rev. Fr. John O'Flynn; Messrs. John Feehan U.D.C., Cashel; Michael Davern, T.D., J. Kennedy, M.C.C., T. Ryan. (Source: The Nationalist, Saturday July 6, 1957)*

From friends over a wide area, sincere felicitations were extended to Mr and Mrs Patrick O'Flynn, Burke Street, Fethard, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding, which they celebrated on Thursday 27th June 1957.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated in the Parish Church on that morning by their son, Very Rev. John O'Flynn O.S.A., Rome and was followed by a reception in Cahir House Hotel.

The happy couple were the recipients of a Special Blessing from His Holiness the Pope and among the hundreds of congratulatory messages received was one from His Grace Most

Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, Coadjutor Archbishop of Brisbane.

A special privilege was given to their daughter, Sister Kevin, of the Sodality of St. Vincent de Paul, Dublin, to attend the family reunion.

Mr O'Flynn was one of the first to join the Sinn Féin movement and was a founder member of Fianna Fail, since when he has been chairman of the Comhairle Dail Ceanntair.

One of the many gifts received in honour of the occasion, was a beautiful set of Waterford Glass from the three local Fianna Fail Dail deputies, Messrs. Breen, Davern and Loughman. ♦

# Fethard Abbey

*article supplied by Tom Butler*



*Augustinian Abbey Interior c.1900*

The Augustinian Friars first came to Fethard in 1306, or rather their establishment was confirmed by the King on the 22nd of July that year. Already they had been in the town and for a while perhaps had been staying with the Canons Regular.

However, soon a generous man named Walter Mulcote gave them an acre and a half of his land by the south wall of the town, on which they could build their Church and Priory. For this they received the blessing of the then Archbishop of Cashel, Maurice MacCarwell. However, in the King's interest the grant was brought to court. but on the 22nd July the King's pardon was given, and the friars were confirmed in their foundation.

In the same century there were two more royal grants to the Friary (or

Abbey, as it came to be called). And so it grew, and by the time of the suppression under Henry VIII it seemed to have been a valuable property indeed.

That would have been the legal and ecclesiastical beginning of Fethard Abbey, with Edward I, Archbishop MacCarwell and Walter Mulcote. At the time Fethard itself was a walled Anglo-Norman town, with its own mayor, who acted as governor. In common with many European towns of the day, it had its own laws and tolls and customs and court and its own elected council. As we have seen it also had its charter. Now we have no documents to guide us through the history of the Abbey from its foundation up to its confiscation in 1540, but we know that it prospered and grew. On the 8th April 1540 it was surrendered by the Prior,

Fr. William Burdon, and four years later Sir Edmund Butler obtained a grant of the Abbey lands, and no doubt the buildings. And so the community was disbanded. However, the Order still believed itself the rightful owner, so doubtless, as in many other places, some friars stayed around the district to keep an eye on the property (as well as administer to the people), and to await the opportunity of returning to full residence.

Then came the Rebellion of 1641 and the Friars and Monks in the Confederate area got back their places. And so the Augustinians came back to Fethard Abbey. We know that things were so stable in 1649 that a Provincial Chapter was held there. Father William Tirry, who was later hanged in Clonmel, and whose name is on the list of Irish Martyrs before the Holy See, possibly came there in 1644 when the infamous Lord Inchaquin scattered the religious of Cork City.

But then in 1649 Cromwell came to Ireland and again the religious were disbanded and their places re-confiscated. In 1650 he came to Fethard and took the town but did not interfere with the existing civic arrangements. There was no blood-shed. Cromwell himself mentions in a letter that in the suburbs of the town he came on an old Abbey and some cabins and poor houses and that here the army spent the night. A bad one it was, one gathers.

For a long time after this it is unlikely that there was a resident community in the Abbey, though we have a list of Priors duly elected down to 1668. However, after the example of Father Tirry and his contemporary Father O'Driscoll (who died of exposure near Fethard) there must always have been a

friar or two in the locality. From 1668 onwards to 1766 there is no official record of priors, but for the latter year the name James Slattery is given as the holder of the office. So by then the Friars were surely back, and from that time there has been an unbroken line.

It was not until 1830, however, that the Augustinians regained legal possession of their land and buildings. The good man who restored it was William Hamilton Latham, and the Prior who received it was Father James Lonergan. And so for ever the Augustinians received back their Church and ruins and their property for a shilling a year.

Before this time the Friars had been living in a small thatched house immediately opposite the west entrance to the Abbey, and here they said Mass for the people. In 1840 they moved to the corner house opposite the gate to the grounds, and in 1856 to a house they bought a little way down the Drangan Road. Here they lived until they moved into the present modern house which overlooks the Abbey grounds and Grove and the countryside stretching out to the Mountain.

Meanwhile the old Church was repaired. Fr. Condon began this as early as 1820 and by 1823 (seven years before the Friars got legal possession) the half nearest the altar was ready for service. At the opening of this the Ven. Archdeacon Laffan, P.P. of Fethard preached the sermon. This was fitting, since he had been Fr. Condon's greatest support in the work of restoration. Later the other half of the Church was restored, and the Friars were back permanently in Fethard. In our own times under successive priors, this old medieval church has been further restored and beautified.

Owing to lack of the necessary expertise I cannot point out the noteworthy characteristics of the Abbey Church and ruins as they exist today. About the Church, I believe, one can say that it is essentially the original one that was built on the site sometime after 1306, and it is one of the few such churches in use in Ireland today. Ballintuber Abbey is another, St. Mary's, Kilkenny, and Holy Cross Abbey, Thurles. The Abbey Church in Fethard, then, is substantially the original one. Most of the walls remain, with the notable exception of the front entrance wall, which is completely new — and so the original tower is completely gone. Some of the side windows along the main walls are also originals, but of course the glass (as in all the windows) is modern. Therefore the whole window over the high altar is new, as are the windows over the main entrance. The roof too is modern and the floor, the altars and all the furnishing — with the notable exception

of a venerable black carved statue of Our Lady (about which, however, we know very little).

One unroofed original side-chapel still remains jutting out beside the modern cemetery, and what is now the Lady Chapel also belonged to the original church. Access to this is through two original arches from the main nave. Off the Lady Chapel we find the existing ruins of the original Priory. It is quite extensive and well preserved, with two stone stairs, one leading up to what must have been a dormitory, and the other to what must have been an infirmary. From the latter one has a view of the sanctuary through an original 'leper's squint' window.

Apart from all that special mention should be made of the valuable grave slabs and monuments, which lie around the place. The oldest of these dates back to 1524. Another — that of the Dunboyne family — is dated 1640. Passing judgement on these is beyond my competence, as it is on such things



*Grounds of Augustinian Abbey photographed by Patrick Kenrick c.1900*

as the strange little figure of 'Sheela na Gig' which is now inserted into the orchard wall beside the modern sacristy.

At the time of the suppression, some hundreds of acres of land outside the town belonged to the Abbey, and some nine acres around the Church itself, together with (or including) an orchard, two gardens, a cemetery, a mill, a bakery, dwelling houses for staff, farmyard buildings and so on. Different accounts enumerate things differently. Today there is still an orchard, a cemetery and some ground near the church and one adjacent field and a small farmyard.

Today then, without its tower the Abbey Church does not look very imposing on the outside, and inside the floor slopes gently to the sanctuary.

Still it stands there as a living witness to good days and bad, to joy and to suffering, and it is still the same quiet haven of prayer at the verge of the town that it must have been in the first bustling days after its foundation, when Fethard was young and eager. Today Fethard is quieter, and the Augustinian Abbey may be less of a centre of activity than it used to be. But they have their memories, and what is more important still, to my mind, they have their inestimable relic in the remains of Father William Tirry, from which in God's Providence may there spring a new chapter, a new inspiration, and a new dawn that will echo again the glory of the past in a modern idiom. ♦



*Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlý, concelebrating Mass in the Augustinian Abbey.*

## Fethard Judo Club



*Members of Fethard Judo Club photographed at their grading ceremony on 25th October 2002.*

The club once again enjoyed another very successful year under the coaching of Eric O'Donnell, Roy Gorey and Josephine O'Donnell. In all competition the club amassed a total of fifty-two medals. The year has also seen three of the club's youngest charges, D.J. Gorey, Richard Gorey and Martin O'Donnell, join the Munster and National squad.

The club's first outing took us to Finglas, Co. Dublin for the All-Ireland Championships on Sunday 3rd February. The club collected a total of eleven medals. At minor level Alan Brannigan and Michael Campbell collected gold, Tom Woodlock collected silver, Niall O'Donnell a bronze, and Pdraig O'Shea a brave fourth. At junior level Martin O'Donnell and Richard Gorey collected gold, with silver for Cathal Gorey and Stephanie Lawrence and a fourth placing for

Grace Maher. At youth level Martin O'Donnell again collected gold, Roy Gorey received silver and two bronze for the Hally brothers Liam and Philip.

On 9th and 10th of March eighteen players and sixteen parents headed west to the Salthill Hotel for the Galway Open weekend. The competition proved to be of the highest calibre. The club collected a gold, 2 silver and three bronze. In the under 54kg category D.J. Gorey beat his cousin Richard in the final. Silver also went to Stephanie Lawrence with bronze for both Cathal Gorey and Bernadette Costello.

On the 23rd March three competitors travelled to Ardfert, Co. Kerry where Pdraig O'Shea and Orla O'Donnell collected gold and Orla's brother Niall O'Donnell received silver.

The next trip for the club was to the Community Games Finals in Mosney

where the club has always had a great tradition for winning. This year was no exception with gold for Stephanie Lawrence, D.J. and Richard Gorey, silver for Tom Woodlock with bronze for Niall O'Donnell and Cathal Gorey.

On 28th of September the Leinster Open was held at University College Mallow. Competition was unusually strong for this time of year. The club collected four silver medals all from the Gorey family, Roy (one) Richard (two) and Cathal (one) and six bronze — Tom Woodlock, Samantha Feary, D.J. Gorey (two), Martin and Josephine O'Donnell.

The club's biggest test came in the Irish Open which was held in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght on the 12th and 13th of October. The competition was the toughest seen in Ireland in many a year. Teams came from as far away as Norway, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova and Australia. An extremely strong team came from Wolverhampton in England as well as the National team from

Wales. The first day we had four people in action. Roy and brother D.J. went close for bronze, while Richard and Martin O'Donnell failed to get to the knockout stages. The second day proved more successful as the club

collected four bronze. D.J. and Richard came out again and performed excellently, as well as Samantha Feary and Stephanie Lawrence who all collected a bronze. Tom Woodlock, Cathal Gorey and Niall O'Donnell all proved to be unlucky on the day.

Just recently the club travelled to Co. Cork where they collected a total of five gold, three silver and four bronze in the Samurai Open, which has set the club up nicely for the Munster Championship. As you can see Fethard Judokwai is as strong as ever

and is again looking forward to another wonderful and sporting year. Once again the club must thank Rose Gorey, Helena O'Shea and Sharon Maher for the mountain of work they put in and to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a great New Year. ♦



*Richard Gorey (jnr) Fethard Judo Club, who was chosen for the National Judo Squad to represent Ireland in the Under-16 Welsh Championships to be held in Cardiff early in the New Year. Best of luck Richard.*

## The Late Mai B. McCarthy

Miss McCarthy, Security Coordinator, Walter Darwin Teague Associates, earned a B.A. degree at Hunter College, majoring in English Writing and Philosophy, and an M.A. degree from New York University, in English Literature, with study in Gaelic as part of her required work toward that degree. In addition to her security work at Teague's, she is editor of the Company News. Her avocation is painting, and she recently participated in the Annual Art Exhibit at the Ballard School.

Mai McCarthy, formerly of Burke Street, Fethard, died recently in America at the age of 96. Born in Fethard, she emigrated to America to teach with the nuns of the Ursuline order. During World War II she joined the US Navy, receiving a citation for

her work there. She then joined the firm of Walter Darwin Teague, Industrial Designers, as deputy security officer, one of the few women in the country to do so at that time. Upon retirement she returned to her other avocation – art, particularly Chinese brush. She had many one-woman-shows and demonstrated and taught art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She earned a masters degree from New York University in English Literature, with gaelic as part of her 'required' work towards that degree. For many years she corresponded with Irish playwright, Sean O'Casey.

Mai is survived by her sister Teresa, a niece, Mrs Stewart Robinson, Huntingdon, Scotland, and two grand-nephews. ♦



*The photograph on the left was taken in Kilburn, London, 1961. L to R: Charles Timoney (later to become a priest with the White Fathers), Mossie Patterson (a brother of the late Frank Patterson) and Paddy Lonergan. The photograph on the right was taken in Loneragan's Pub where Paddy Lonergan met up with Fr Charles after 41 years. L to R: Paddy Lonergan, Larry Kehoe (Kilcass) and Fr. Charles Timoney (Clonmel).*

# Memories of a Fethard man (almost)

by Tom Cooney, New York

Memories can be tricky when I looked back on from a distance. People remember things slightly differently as the years pass. While I was thinking about what to put into this piece I realised that, apart from chasing after cows in the rain, all my memories are about sunny days. Pretty strange –selective memory. When I go back for a visit these days, people will tell me something about someone, from Fethard. When I don't give a sign of recognition, they probably think my blank look is the result of senility or something.

Well, it's not a lapse in my memory but a product of where and how I grew up.

I was not really from Fethard. I was born and raised in Rathdrum (Coleman). We were parishioners of Clerihan not Fethard and I went to Primary school at Coleman N.S. First Communion and Confirmation were also in Clerihan and my altar boy service was in Clerihan. (Ballyclerihan was a suburb of Clerihan, or so I thought at that time) Coleman and Fethard were only a few miles away from each other but back then it often seemed like worlds apart.

Despite all that, the postal address was Fethard, and over the years when

ever I speak to other emigrants over here about "home", it's about Fethard.

The Fethard of my early youth meant occasional visits on fair days, for the carnival, the pantomime and the cinema. It was the town to us Culchies (although that term was not used then, to my recollection). It's inhabitants were the townies.

Growing up on a small farm was no

fun, but most of life then was tough. I remember when I was very young, a lot of our cows died one year, from what disease I am not sure. It was pretty catastrophic, no insurance or government help that I am aware of.



*L to R: John Whyte, Peter O'Flynn and Tom Cooney. School friends 1956. There were four in the leaving cert class, the other being Don Byard who took this photograph.*

Thinning beet or turnips on your hands and knees, in short pants, coping with pebbles, thistles and occasional nettles, with the sun beating down on your back was not my idea of the good life. Walking through bogs in the rain after stray cows wasn't too appealing either. I avoided as much farm work as I could and determined to get away from it as soon as possible.

I remember my mother staying up all night to watch over sows having bonhams so that they would all survive. They were needed as a valuable source of income. The threshings were a lot of fun, when most neighbours

gathered at one farm or another in turn to help out with threshing of wheat, oats, barley – Woodlocks, Crottys, Breens. There would be big feasts afterwards with drinks late into the night, lots of fun for us young lads, sneaking sips of porter or whatever. It was a way of life that was dying out rapidly as combine harvesters came on the scene.

When I saw my first picture at the Capitol at a very young age, it had scenes of heavy rain and severe flooding. I remember being surprised when I came out to find everywhere was dry. The crossover between fantasy and reality had just occurred. It happened later for us then, no TV, etc. Once I discovered the cinema, I cycled into Fethard as often as my mother could spare the admission price (after I got a bicycle that is).

We had no running water or electricity. Frequent trips to the well in Woodlocks for drinking water and paraffin oil lamps were the norm for everyone around.

Games of 25 with Woodlocks were often interrupted by arguments between John Woodlock and Jackie Crotty about the rules, and sometimes broke up in disarray.

Increasingly there were trips to Fethard for Mass at the Parish Church as well as the Abbey. The Corpus Christi procession is a long held memory of youth.

On some occasions I remember going to town for Mass by pony and trap, and then, for some period, in Johnny Murphy's taxi. One time I

remember sitting in the middle of the front seat beside him, poking my foot under the carpet. He grabbed my leg, lifted it up and slammed it down on top of the carpet where it belonged, in his orderly mind. I got the message.

Trips to Newport's to get the paper; which paper you got branded you politically. Maybe that's why Mr. Newport folded the paper in half with the name inwards when handing it to us.

(Reminds me of a story some years later, in Chicago, at a golf dinner between a bunch of us who worked for the IDA, Bank of Ireland, Aer Lingus etc. One guy said how difficult it was to keep up with local news at home, like not knowing when you went home for a visit who had died since the last visit, even though you read the papers that came in on the flights each day. His friend looked at him and said, "Yes John, but the people we know don't die in the Irish Times".)

Ice-cream at Newport's was a special treat. I still think it was the best I have ever tasted. Just ice-cream, between two wafers, great taste. No chocolate, coverings or sprinkles.

Other memories of the time include passing by Bill Hurley's at Coleman



*Mrs Margaret Cooney, Rathdrum,  
a sister of Bishop Quinlan.*



*L to R: Frannie Delahunty, Mike Cooney, Lena Butler, Tom Barrett and Mary Hurley.  
Coleman August 1927.*

Cross Bill would call out  
 “What time is it, Tom?”  
 “3 o’clock Bill”,  
 “Is that your time Tom, or mine?”

Bill didn’t subscribe to this newfangled Summer time notion of messing with the clocks.

At the one room national school in Coleman we learned as much as Mrs. O’Dwyer and Miss O’Donnell could get across to us in a chaotic situation. There were kids from about four up to giants close to fourteen years old, waiting to reach leaving age, all in the same room. The older guys spent most of the day outside in the field / playground. Probably much to Miss O’Donnell’s relief.

The arrival of Mr Granville as head teacher signaled a change he was a tough taskmaster, but a dedicated teacher. I learned a lot during my last year or two with him as teacher.

A Patrician Brother recruiter (a native of Roscrea I think, Br. Cyprian (?)

Kennedy, I’m not sure of his Religious name) arrived at our house towards the end of my last school year in Coleman. I think my brother had previously promised to go to Mt. St. Joseph’s in Tullow, Co Carlow but backed out. I was pressed in as a replacement, but I was willing. I wanted to get an education and not end up hanging around until I was 14 and then just vanishing into exile like so many others at that time. (Or I just wanted to get off the farm)

He clinched it by asking my mother, in my presence (as if I wasn’t there), if I liked the pictures. She told him very definitely YES: he said good, there would be plenty of them to see. He must have been talking about pictures on the walls because during my three years in Tullow, I recall seeing the same Laurel and Hardy movie, once each year, on a rickety old projector. (There were not too many pictures on the walls either)

Getting to Tullow then was quite a

trip. A bus from D'Arcy's cross in to Clonmel, then a bus to Kilkenny, a bus to Carlow, where a van covered the rest of the way to Tullow. It took about eight hours in total.

Mt. St. Joseph was a large country estate with big old houses which had been converted into classrooms, dormitories, refectories and various facilities, for a bunch of boys, about twelve to sixteen years old.

It was formerly the country estate of the Wolseley family, and is now the home of Mount Wolseley Golf and Country Club, since the departure of the Brothers. They used to tell us that the trees on the estate were laid out to depict the formation of Wellington's army at the Battle of Waterloo. I don't know how many of the trees are still there, but if you play there and lose a golf ball up a tree, maybe Napoleon's ghost grabs it.

A lot of our time there was spent in silence; silence in the classroom of course, silence in the refectory except for the scripture readings, which we took turns at, silence during the evening study periods, silence during our work details, which were many. They included gardening, cleaning, tending to the furnace, as well as digging/landscaping with picks and shovels. The only relief was during hurling, football and handball practice, which was fairly frequent, thankfully.

We marched, in silence, down to Tullow every morning, for Mass, and marched back, in silence to start classes, in silence.

When I got there for the first time, in 1951, Tipperary had just won their third in a row All Ireland Hurling Final. Reddan, Byrne, Brennan, Doyle, Finn, Stakelum, etc. I could

recite that team better than any poem.

When I met my new classmates from Cork, Clare, Kilkenny, Wexford, Laois, Galway and so on they didn't share the same high opinion of Tipperary that I had. Another part of growing up.

The year before I went to Tullow, my uncle, Mons. Tom Quinlan, who I had never met, disappeared and was listed as missing at the start of the war in Korea, where he was a Columban Fathers Missionary. At the time I didn't really appreciate how much anguish this caused my mother, having her brother missing 10,000 miles away.

In April 1953 he was suddenly released and the Brothers allowed me to read the paper every day as his trip across Russia, and on through Berlin and London, was detailed until he arrived at Dublin Airport to a big reception party including Sean Lemass, Frank Aiken and Dan Breen. I finally got to meet him later that year before he returned to his mission in Korea, in 1954. He returned home for a few more visits after that but wanted to be with his flock in Korea, where he died on December 31st, 1970.

After three years in Tullow, we were given a harsh decision to make a couple of weeks before the inter cert. exam. The options were: sign up to take first vows, or get sent home without doing the exam. In addition we were told that having spent three years in almost an enclosed state, we definitely had a vocation and would be flying in the face of God by leaving. A tough decision for fifteen year olds, with no contact with their families to help them. No phone calls to or from home back then of course, while all

letters to and from home were opened and read by the Brothers, even if we had enough time to write home and get back a response. We all signed up, did the exam and got inducted or accepted or whatever the correct name was. Civilian clothes were sent home and we dressed in clerical garb and transferred to the more enclosed setting of the Novitiate in Tullow town. By October I finally got up the courage to tell the Br. Superior that I did not have a vocation and wanted to leave. After failing to dissuade me, they told me I would have to wait until they wrote to my parents so that my civilian clothes could be sent on. I waited about a week for that to transpire with everyone instructed not to talk to me. Fear of contamination I suppose.

And so I ended up in Fethard Patrician Brothers School in October 1954, a bit late into the school year. Br. Albert was in full flow about all things Latin as well as hurling and football.

John Whyte, Don Byard (R.I.P.), and I, would wait in hope each morning for Peter O'Flynn to arrive. Peter could tell us if Br. Albert's blind was still down, at the Monastery in Burke Street, which, if it was, brought great relief because it meant he was not coming to school that day. Of course most of the time we were disappointed and he did show up, but we did learn, we had no choice. Another fine teacher was Timmy O'Connor. Br. Gelasius was the history teacher. He made each of us get 15 shillings from our parents to buy a big book about the Geraldines who were a great family by his reckoning. When the books finally arrived, he had an almost ceremonial first reading. A couple of pages in, there was some reference to a liaison between two people who were not married to each other. The "filthy" books were ordered to be closed immediately, never to be seen again. Fifteen bob down the drain (a lot of money then).



*Fethard minor football team South and County champions 1957. Back L to R: Bro Albert, John Burke, Tom Cooney, Michael Casey, Vincent Allen, Tony Woodlock, Jackie McGrath, Liam Condon, Liam Flaherty, Joe Fitzgerald, Michael O'Donnell, Tom Power (South Board Chairman). Front: Pat Leahy, Pat Woodlock, Johnny O'Shea, George Hackett, Billy Mackey, Seamus Hackett (captain), Sean Clarke, J. J. Morrissey and Sean Gunne.*

Br. Albert was the driving force behind the school and minor teams, and very unforgiving of mistakes. The shout from the sideline, "What are you doing, you ould Johnny?" was dreaded by all. We had a pretty good team though in 1954, 1955 and 1956.

I remember us playing Clonmel Commercials in Kilsheelan during that time on a very windy day. I took a kick out after a Commercials wide, kicked the ball badly and watched it curl back over our end line for a 50 to them. I looked over and saw Albert looking at me with his hands on his hips, but for once he was speechless.

I was back again frequenting the cinema for every change of feature. I remember once holding the door open for a young lady, and hearing of her comment later that it was good to see there was one gentleman around the place.

I wondered what happened to the rest of them. In truth I was fairly shy and all those years of silence in Tullow meant that I didn't talk a lot or hang out much. I was christened the Student Prince by some people who shall remain nameless, but maybe that was because of a slight resemblance to Edmund Purdom, the star of the movie of the same name. But, being called "Cadam" I could never figure out – it was a brand of soap. My complexion wasn't that good.

And there was always the stop at Jimmy Hanrahan's neat little shop on the way out of town after school, for lemonade and biscuits. I haven't been able to get anything like it since.

After the Leaving Cert in 1956, the attempt at finding work became an exercise in frustration for me, for the next year, as it was for many others. Finally

after several interviews, I got a job in Shannon Airport as an Aer Lingus Temporary Traffic Clerk, in May 1957. The starting pay was £4.15.6 pence. Shannon was the cross-roads of the airline world at the time, with just about every Trans Atlantic flight landing there on the way to or from Gander, the U.S. or Canada on the way to or from Europe.

It was a very interesting experience to see the likes of Danny Kaye, Jayne Mansfield, Glynis Johns and many others passing through after having seen them



*Tom Cooney, originally from Coleman and now living in New York, photographed in Fethard, June 2001.*

on screen.

And so I was gone from Fethard at the age of 18. Such are my memories on a fairly superficial level. In reality I didn't spend too much time in or around Fethard in my youth but I am still drawn to Fethard as a source of my beginnings in a way. The Newsletter and the Fethard News on the web are both great ways to keep the connection alive.

I suppose I could now be classified as being 'of' Fethard, rather than from it. ♦

# Days gone by on the farm!

*supplied by Tom Butler*



## Fethard Boy Scouts



*Fethard Boy Scouts who carried their troop and the national flag at St. Patrick's Day morning mass at Holy Trinity Church Fethard. L to R: Damien Shine, David Kennedy, Paul McCarthy, Philip O'Donnell, Dermot Culligan, John McCarthy, Declan Doyle, Ciarán Barrett, Bobby Phelan and Mike McCarthy*

Fethard scouts and their leaders certainly had a busy year in 2002! It was a year memorable for many reasons: the hikes, the weekends and the fun enjoyed by all.

We renewed a tradition of combining our activities with the Kilsheelan troop during the year with a hike in the Nire Valley. We spent a weekend with them in the excellently equipped Rathgormack mountain rescue / community centre where hiking, indoor football, basket ball, indoor rock climbing and numerous other activities were enjoyed by all over the weekend. A return trip is planned in the New Year.

True to the saying, these boots were made for walking, plenty of hiking was done throughout the year. Our hikes included old reliable Grove Wood where many a sausage was cooked and eaten, with longer hikes on Slievenamon and Nire Valley also being completed.

Regional events were also plentiful during the year with Paul McCarthy and Declan Doyle winning the

Regional Under-13 orienteering competition. We also took part in the Regional Shield in Parsons Green where we shared first prize in the camp log competition. Our team consisted of Michael McCarthy, Patrol Leader, Damien Shine, Dermot Culligan, Kieran Barrett, Paul McCarthy Declan Doyle and Kieran Leahy. We spend two weekends in Mount Melleray Scout Centre where the emphasis was on fun. In June we took part in the Regional Fun weekend where we celebrated 75 years of the Association and we returned again for the Annual Fun Weekend in October.

As has been tradition for many years now, the Fethard scouts joined the Clonmel and Ballymacarbry Scouts on their annual camp for two weeks in Courtmacsharry in West Cork. If only the weather was as nice as the place! Still, we're a hardy bunch and spirits weren't dampened as an excellent two weeks was enjoyed by those who attended. Highlights of the trip included the visit to Courtmacsharry

Lifeboat and the daytrip to Cork, to mention but two.

Training played a big part also during the year both for scouts and leaders. Scouts Michael McCarthy and Dermot Culligan attended the National Patrol Leader training in Mount Melleray Scout Centre in March, and the whole troop took part in a regional training weekend in Ballymacarbry and troop training days. Leaders participated in training courses and weekends throughout the country during the year.

Keeping to the scout principal of doing a good deed, the troop were involved in the National Bag Pack in Clonmel in May in aid of the Special Olympics.

While Cub Pack was inactive during the year, Grove Wood saw 80 cubs from the region hike and have an enjoyable day out there in spring sunshine in April for the Regional Cub hike. An active, fun and adventurous cub programme

is currently being prepared, which will be up and running for the New Year.

When we are not out and about having fun, we meet in the Fethard Ballroom on Saturday mornings. We would always welcome new members of any age, as you're never too old to join scouts. Ages for our youth members are: Cubs 8-11 years, Scouts 11-16 years and Leaders 18 plus.

We would like to thank all who supported us and contributed to our fundraising throughout the year, the 12 Days of Christmas raffle, our Flag Day and Church gate collection. Finally thanks to all the leaders who give up their time regularly for the scouts, John Cloonan, Philip O'Donnell, Robert Phelan, John McCarthy, David Kennedy and John Noonan and not forgetting our Unit Treasurer Mary O'Donnell. ♦



## Fethard Senior Citizens Club

The Senior Citizens Club enjoyed a very successful and enjoyable year in 2002. There are new members joining all the time. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Tirry centre where a nice tea with sandwiches and cakes is served. This is followed by entertainment and a chat. Sometimes there is bingo or maybe a visit from someone who will give a talk or a demonstration that is useful, interesting and informative.

A very enjoyable summer outing took place in Tramore in June. We even watched the world cup on our way. A visit to Lonergans in September for high tea was very much enjoyed by all and the evening finished with a song.

The Christmas Party will be held in December. Christmas dinner will follow Mass in the Abbey and a great day is guaranteed, as always. Maybe, Santa Claus will call to visit us! ♦

# Coolmoyne Creamery

by John Flynn, Area manager Glanbia



*Coolmoyne Creamery, closed its doors for good on Friday, 27th September 2002. The occasion was marked by inviting past workers and neighbours for refreshments. James and Kieran O'Connell children in front. 1st Row L to R: Ann Gleeson, Richard O'Connell, Donal Morrissey, John O'Flynn, Eileen Egan, Jimmy Walsh, Vincent Slattery, Carmel Maher and Mrs. Vincent Slattery. 2nd Row: Michael Smyth, Mary Smyth, Dennis Morrissey, Richard Delaney, M.J. Ryan, Mrs Betty Lanigan, Elizabeth Egan, John O'Connell, and William Cummins. Back Row: Gussie Smyth, Eamon Morrissey, Phil Fogarty, Nancy Walshe, Eamon Quirke, Pat Heffernan, Sean O'Dea, Christy Bowe, James F. Barry, John Walshe. Very Back: Tom McGivern Francis McGivern, Jerry Lanigan and James Barry.*

Coolmoyne creamery has closed after 108 years of service to the local community. The creamery has changed dramatically from the days when the milk was delivered by horse and cart to today where milk is collected from the farm and processed centrally. The Coolmoyne creamery was set up in 1894 to serve the needs of the local farmers.

It was only eight years ago that we celebrated the centenary of Coolmoyne creamery, when we had Mass on the premises. Two hundred people attended further celebrations in Grants Castle Hotel, Cashel that night, which continued into the early hours of the following morning. A large number of people attended Coolmoyne creamery on the last day of business. Christy Bowe told his happy memories of the last sixty years about the butter-making and the butter boxes which formed part of the furniture in many houses. Michael

Smith told of his fond memories of such simple things as the pot bellied stove in the old building. The numbers involved in farming have decreased since those founding days, but most noticeably in the last ten years. The number of milk suppliers in the area is now down to just ten and therefore it is not possible to give them an adequate or efficient service from Coolmoyne Creamery. The group of farmers have agreed to be serviced from Fethard branch.

Fethard is a modern branch with the full range of inputs including bag and bulk facilities. It has a modern superstore and carries the full range of building supplies, hardware, oils, fuels, gardening chemicals and veterinary supplies. I have no doubt with the continued support from all the shareholders, customers and employees, that Glanbia will continue to serve the needs of the people of Fethard and Coolmoyne in the future. ♦

# I sold Leprechauns in Fethard *by Tony Synnott*

When I started working three or four evenings a week, on a part-time basis for Sean Slattery in Glenconnor, Clonmel, I was working full-time in the pram factory. There I earned seventeen and sixpence (€1.11) a week. Take-home pay was fifteen and a penny (95 cent) after stoppages. At the factory I had a brief spell on piecework when, because of an error by an inexperienced clerk who fancied himself as a work study expert, I earned six pounds, two weeks in succession. The error was soon discovered when every available space in the factory was full of prams. I returned to standard time and its magnificent financial reward.

The writing was on the wall for me. I asked Sean Slattery for a full-time job, which I was given on the spot. The work at Slattery's was piecework; each employee was expected to work from 9am to 6pm with an hour for lunch (dinner in those days). Anyone who wanted to work longer hours to increase his earnings could do so.

The business was the making and selling of souvenirs. Blarney Castles, Lismore Castles, St. Lawrence's Gate Drogheda, Irish Cottages and Leprechauns in three sizes, the largest of which incorporated an ashtray! I loved the work, good companionship and a fair boss. The bicycle trip to Glenconnor every day was most enjoyable. I soon discovered that the best time to do overtime for extra earnings was in the early morning, before anyone else got to work. I often started at 6am. Sean Slattery's mother, kind woman that she was, when she saw my bicycle, would bring me a big mug of

hot, sweet tea and a huge slice of well-buttered bread. God be good to you Mrs Slattery for all your kindness.

When the mixture of plaster and water had set, we removed the product from the mould, then tidied up any rough edges, filled in any air bubbles and put them into the oven to bake until dry. Then came the enjoyable task of painting. We worked at batches of a dozen at a time.

When the boss had checked your work, he entered it in the wages book and then told you what he needed next from the order book. Blarney Castles were my favourite and at 9 shillings a dozen (57 cent) they were a gift in every sense of the word. Sean inscribed each item with Indian ink and then varnished them.

The main salesman was Sean's elderly partner who lived in Clontarf, Dublin. The Dubliner did not drive, so he made his journeys by train and bus. To assist him in getting his orders, Sean sent out one or two of the longer serving members to canvas orders in some of the smaller towns in Munster. Following an unfortunate incident in a shop in Dungarvan, the shopkeeper phoned Sean with a complaint. This resulted in two lads getting their "marching orders". Their misfortune was my good fortune.

The following day I was given the job of trainee representative, with driving lessons from the Slattery's neighbour in Glenconnor, Terry Dempsey. I was "made up". I got a shilling (6 cent) an hour for driving the Ford 5 cwt van (HI 5602 in dark blue) the number plate is embossed on my brain, plus 2½ % commission on



*Staff at McDonnell's Butchers 1970's L to R: Frank Carroll, Tony Hanrahan, La Walsh and Jim Carroll,*

wholesale orders, together with as much evening or early morning work on making and painting as I wished.

Before long, the Dubliner gave up the bus and train journeys. Instead I travelled to Dublin in the van on Sunday nights and stayed overnight with him and his family in Clontarf. On Monday mornings we would set out for a week on the road together, maybe Galway, Clare and Limerick one week and Mayo, Sligo and Donegal the next. I always dropped him off on the outskirts of Dublin on Friday evening and headed for

Clonmel. I soon learned the selling game from that man, the training I got from him was invaluable. He was the typical gentleman commercial traveller in every way. Dark brown trilby hat, good shirt and tie, nice sensible suit and sturdy shoes, always shining, solid gold signet ring, good leather sample case, firm handshake and impeccable manners. He always wrote his orders with a nice fountain pen.

Twenty years later his training stood me in good stead, when I became Regional Sales Manager for one of the biggest ice cream manufacturers in the

world, with responsibility for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Midlands and North of England.

I was later transferred home to Ireland, as General Sales Manager of a Unilever owned chocolate company. That resulted in my appointment as Sales Director for the leading ice cream and frozen food company in this country (but all that could perhaps be a story for another day.)

Whilst still in Glenconnor, I covered Munster, except Killarney, on my own. Killarney took the Dubliner and me the best part of a week and gave me a taste for hotel life. At that stage we had progressed from the van to a Ford Prefect Saloon.

When I was given my first order book with 100 pages in triplicate in 1952, I filled page one in Mick McDermott's shop in Irishtown, Clonmel. Mick (God rest his soul), being the gentleman that he was, ordered what he thought he would sell on 3/4 of the page. I honestly believe that the rest of the order was just for sympathy. Happily for me I returned to McDermott's thirty years later and Mick introduced me to his sons Tom and Michael, who stocked and sold our ice-cream and frozen foods in their three shops. I had a great chat with Mick, especially about the time I sold him all the souvenirs, and as I was leaving he gave me a Hickey's Brack to take home to Clane. Thinking of that kind gesture now brings a tear to the eye. Mick was Anna Henehan's brother-in-law, and the other Fethard connection with those days was that Sean Slattery's sister, Maureen, lived at the top of Market Hill, she was Mrs Tim Walsh.

The happy carefree days I had driv-

ing that van were golden. Friday mornings were particularly enjoyable. I would take Sean's wife Betty into town. Whilst she was doing her shopping, I would petrol, oil and water the van at Prendergast's garage and collect paints, turps and any other requirements for the workshops from Phil Kenny's. Then a visit to Kavanagh's woodworks for shavings, which Sean used for packing orders to go by rail to the various parts of the country. The last call on Friday was to Woolworth's where Maureen Hayes would give me empty cardboard boxes from their storeroom,

I occasionally got evening or early morning jobs collecting or returning Sean's brother or sister from or to the boat at Waterford, usually at holiday time. A long day out would be a trip to Dublin airport with an export order for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the U.S.A.

To get back to the order book, page two was completed in McCarthy's shop opposite the Parish Church on Main Street Fethard, so you see; I did sell Leprechauns in Fethard as far back as 1952. Not a tall story, only a small story, as the Leprechauns were only three inches high! ♦

### ***Congratulations***

*We congratulate Tony Newport on receiving the South Tipperary GAA / Nationalist 'Hall of Fame' award for 2002 at a very successful function held in GAA centre in Clonmel on Saturday 9th February.*

*Our congratulations also to 'Footballer of 2001' award winner, Willie Morrissey (second time receiving this award), and to Dick Cummins, GAA life president, on receiving his presentation.*

# From Fethard to Eldoret

by Bro Paul Brennan



*Bro Paul with Moses Waweru at a Past Pupils Reunion of boys from St. Patricks School, Iten, Kenya.*

Fethard and Eldoret have each seven letters and something else in common! Simply, that I have spent very happy times in both places. It was in 1978 that I got the opportunity to volunteer for the Kenyan Patrician apostolate and took up a teaching post in St. Patrick's High School, Iten, in the Kenyan highlands, on August 19th of that same year. Three days after I reached base, the President of Kenya, the renowned Jomo Kenyatta, passed away quietly in his sleep while on a working holiday in Mombasa. The nation went into mourning at once and the predominant Kikuyu tribe throughout Kenya believed he would rise again on the third day. He didn't. This year, in fact this month, the man who took office then as President will step down from that lofty perch and hand the torch on to a younger man. Throughout those 25 years I have worked as a teacher and a coach in various sports and have been lucky to be associated very closely with a multi-

plicity of Kenyan athletic stars. But time marches on and now I am retired from teaching. Fortunately, I have had the chance to be involved very actively with the very first Patrician Primary School in Africa and am now the Coordinator of the Patrician Primary School and Dispensary at Kabongo, Eldoret. It is on this project that I am now spending all my time. This project will see the light of day when we enroll the very first students into Standards 1, 2, and 3 on January 14, 2003. These very young children are all children of very disadvantaged people, most of whom are destitute. But education is a priority among them and they will make every sacrifice imaginable to further their children's education. It will be an objective of the young Kenyan Patrician Brothers who will teach in and manage the school to give girls the same opportunity as the boys. It is common for the girls to be considered "less important" than the boys in many



*Phase one of the new school in progress — the first four rooms of a sixteen room school*

Kenyan families. That's another story!

Our new Patrician Primary School will eventually accommodate up to 640 young people who are very keen on being educated and may in the future expand into a Secondary School as well. This new school will be built of natural stone with a galvanised roof but will have to do without electricity or water for the foreseeable future. So far, friends of the Patricians around the world have assisted us, and me personally, to construct Phase 1 and 2. And

there are three more phases to consider. Phase 5 will consist of a dispensary and a nurse's house and will be adjacent to the school. This health facility will be absolutely essential to the people of the area, an area that is susceptible to all sorts of health problems like malaria, birth problems, skin diseases, and especially HIV/AIDS. Kenyan Patricians who are professionally trained in this line will staff the Health Care Centre. It will be operational, with God's help, at the beginning of



*Local children who will attend the new school when it opens on January 7th 2003. In the background is their old one-roomed school. Included is their teacher and Br Barasa, Kenyan Patrician Brother.*

2004.

It may be a long way from Fethard to Eldoret in the Kenyan Highlands, but nowadays, only a fax, email, or phone call away. I always enjoy meeting Fethard people and I find it hard to believe that it is 40 years since Dinny Burke held up the Kinane Cup in Semple Stadium to the cheers of Davy Fitzgerald, Mick Ryan, Paul Raleigh, Pierce Ryan, Austie Woodlock and a host of fans from Fethard. Where are they all now, I muse!

I, along with thousands of others, wait anxiously for the Christmas

Newsletter each year. Wonderful reading indeed. Many thanks for same. If any of my many friends from Fethard ever think of visiting Kenya to do a safari, be sure to give at least three days warning! It would be such a pleasure to meet you here.

In the meantime, stay well, and if you have a chance to use email, why not! My email is [stpat@multitechweb.com](mailto:stpat@multitechweb.com) or [paulbrennan27@hotmail.com](mailto:paulbrennan27@hotmail.com) My postal address is Box 5064, Eldoret, Kenya. ♦



*Fethard Patrician Brothers 1963 Kinane Cup winning team photographed outside the secondary school. Back L to R: Garda Joe McNamara (trainer), Pat Butler, Paul Raleigh, Willie Harrington, Gerry Casey, Pierce Ryan and Philip Byrne. Middle: Tony Fitzgerald, Pat Barrett, Jimmy O'Connor, Pierce Coady, Austin Woodlock, Gerry Leahy, Mick Ryan and Bro. Paul. Front: Danny Ryan, Joe Morrissey, Denis Burke (captain), Davy Fitzgerald and Willie Frewen. Missing from photograph is Pa-Joe Purcell.*

*The replay of the drawn game between Fethard P.B.S and Doon C.B.S. in the Munster college's junior hurling Final (Dr. Kinane cup), took place at Thurles sportsfield. The first half never really developed into the classic witnessed in the first encounter. In the second half spectators got something to enthuse about.*

*The game was just one minute old when Fethard pointed and in the 10th minute they raised a green flag followed a minute afterward by another. Aided by the wind in the second half, Doon started putting on the pressure and numerous overs should have been turned to better account. With ten minutes to go Doon launched a determined attack from which a goal resulted, followed by a point reducing the margin to five points. Then an exchange of points took place before the final whistle went to leave the score Fethard 4-5, Doon 3-3. Scorers for Fethard included: P. Ryan (2-0), P Butler and G. Leahy (1-0 each), P. Byrne (0-2), D Burke (0-2, one from a '70'). Fethard P.B.S. was the only school in county Tipperary to take a Munster College's title to the county that year.*

## A night to remember

by Tom Shine



*Photograph L to R: Christy Matthews, Tom Shine, Connie Fitzgerald, Pat Shine, Sean Noonan, Jimmy Noonan and Billy Morrissey.*

The above photograph was taken on Friday June 26th 2002. The occasion was a gathering of family and friends for my brother Pat's 70th birthday in England. What a night! Over one hundred people attended, old school pals from the past plus many of his friends in England.

In certain parts of England it is difficult to get a suitable premises, not like here in Ireland. The night started at 7.30pm because the building had to be vacated at midnight. By nine o'clock everyone had arrived.

Needless to say, like the seven in the photo, 'The Magnificent Seven', we had a lot to say to each other. I hadn't seen most of the group since the late forties and early fifties. The first to arrive was Jimmy Noonan, who I hadn't seen in 50 years. He in turn met everyone as they arrived, which was easy as it was a small hall. The Tipperary flags were flying inside and outside so one could be forgiven for

thinking it was all happening at Crampscastle.

After enjoying the plenitude of food and drink available we, of course, went way back to our school days, remembering Brs Columbian Cronin, Aidan Dunne, MacCarton Duffy, and many more. We remembered the big boys playing football in their bare feet before school started, Tommy Wall from the Green driving his imaginary train, and Benny Ryan running away from school. We grew the beet again, also potatoes, and we brought Jimmy McEnery back with his dog to "kill the rats".

During the night we were entertained by music played by a lovely band. The highlight of the night was a surprise for Pat. His daughter Maria is a former Irish champion dancer and has her own school of dancing in London. She organised a performance from her senior dancers and small children. It was a treat to see them perform all types of Irish dancing, plus

excerpts from 'Riverdance'.

Like all good things the night's music had to end at midnight. The lights dimmed slowly, giving everyone thirty minutes to drift back in time again. Needless to say Benny Ryan ran away from school many times, Jimmy McEnery's dog killed many rats. Peter Napier made some lovely cocoa; Phil McGrath made colm balls for the fires. We dug the potatoes, crowned the beet, and recalled Bro Columbian and Sergeant Byrne walking up and down the avenue for hours leaving classes 5th, 6th and 7th to go wild.

Today's generation of people will find it hard to understand our walk down memory lane. Others may think it was an agriculture college we attended. But no, it was our primary school days. They were really happy days. No points to worry about.

Finally the time arrived for us to say our last goodbyes, sadly, for most of us for the very last time. We will probably never meet again. The night ended with Pat singing 'Slievenamon'. Many tears were shed before we finally sang the Irish National Anthem. What a night! It was truly a night to remember.

Back to the original 'Magnificent Seven' photograph — we all had one thing in common; our first venture into working life was via the local farmers. To name a few, Johnny Hunt, Ned Whelan, Son Byrne, Willie Cummins and Jim St. John. What an education. It was better than university. For three of us, Pat, Billy Morrissey and myself, our next real job was in the post office. We were to become telegraph boys in the days of few phones and only telegrams. In

later years, one could graduate to postman. Sadly that no longer applies.

On the left is the baby of the pack by ten years, Christy Matthews, born and lived in Kerry Street, his uncle George still lives there. Christy, on leaving school at fourteen, worked for a short time with the farmers. At that time I was manager / projectionist at the Capitol Cinema in Fethard. I was in need of a trainee projectionist and someone sent Christy to me. From day one I found him very intelligent and knew he would make the grade. It was a pleasure to teach and work with him. After three years I got him into the Castle Cinema, Carrick on Suir, as chief projectionist, where he remained for five years. He then went to London and worked in a West End cinema before moving to bigger things in security business. He is now retired from that business, after years at Heathrow Airport.

Next is myself — my life in Fethard has been well documented in past Newsletters. 1963 saw me leaving Fethard and going to the Capitol Cinema in Cahir where I remained until its closure in 1969. It is now the Co-op store. I started a taxi business in 1975 the graduated to mini buses, now run by my son, T.J. with coaches, mini-buses and cars. I still do a little bit of car work, just a little.

Next is Connie Fitzgerald from Knockelly. Connie became a barber (today a hairdresser), serving his time in Clonmel with Paddy Hassey. Gladstone Street. He cycled to Clonmel every day for three years. I still remember his curly ginger hair blowing in the wind as he cycled through the town. Connie, where are the curls now? 1949 saw Connie emigrate to Bradford England, where he



*Fethard - London Reunion Group in the 1960s. Back L to R: ?, Billy Fitzgerald, ?, Tommy Carey, ?, ?, Canon Lee P.P., Tommy O'Connor, Tom Shine, Jimmy McNerney, ?, ?, Percy O'Flynn, Pat Shine, ?, Ben Shine and Nessa Shine. Front L to R: ?, Nicky O'Shea, Peggy O'Shea, Alice Fitzgerald, ?, ?, ?.*

ran his own business up to his recent retirement. He still resides in Bradford.

Next, my brother Pat, who took the same road. Telegraph boy again. The early fifties saw him going to England. He entered a factory to learn the building trade including painting and decorating. He specialised in wallpapering, a trade he is renowned for in parts of London. He is now in semi retirement.

The Noonan brothers are next, Sean and Jimmy, also from Crampscastle. Again the early fifties saw them taking the boat to England. Both ended up doing well in life, Sean in a tarmacadam business, Jimmy building and carpentry. Both are now in retirement.

Last in the photograph is Billy Morrissey. He hailed from Grove Lodge. His first job was as a telegraph boy, and then he spent three years in

the Irish Army. Then a few years in insurance before emigrating to England. In England he had a variety of jobs including bus driver and insurance before his entry into local government. Having reached the highest possible point, is now retired from same.

Not bad for seven poor boys having left school at 14 years through no fault of our own. Perhaps we could be called the 'Magnificent Seven'! ♦

### ***New Bistro Opens***

*Best wishes to Bert and Janneke van Dommelen who opened their new 'Bert's Bistro' at Lonergan's bar on Thursday night, 4th April 2002.*

*Their new Bistro is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 6pm to 10pm and for Sunday lunch from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. For reservations phone 052 30871 or 087 2312315.*

## St Patricks Boys School

We have had another busy year in 2002. Our school book fair organised by Mrs Fitzgerald proved a great success. Our under 11 'B' football team won the county final. The match was held in Boherlahan against Upperchurch. We would like to thank Marie and Jim McGrath, Liam Hayes and Ian O'Connor who train all the boy's from 1st to 6th class in hurling and football skills every Wednesday.

Our spring bric-a-brac sale organised jointly by the school and the parents association was enjoyed by all, with many bargains to be had.

In April many of our pupils took part in athletic meeting held in Clonmel. The boys came home with the overall schools trophy.

This autumn our runners all won medals at a running fete in Marlfield. We would like to thank Fintan Rice for coaching the boys in athletics every Friday. All their hard work is paying off.

The drama group Can Cluana came to the school this November with their production of 'Deirdre of Sorrows' which was enjoyed by all the pupils.

Best of luck to our mini sevens team who are through to the final round. ♦



*St Patrick's Under-11 football team, winners of the Cumman na mBunscol 'B' County Final. Back L to R: Alan Lawrence, Adam Lyons, Jerome Ahearne, Andy Walsh, Ben Walsh, Damien Prout. Middle Row L to R: Kevin Hayes, Glen Maher, Eoin O'Connell, Thomas O'Connell, Michael Costello, Darren Connolly. Front L to R: Philip Doyle, Jonathon Fleming, Adrian Lawrence, Darragh Dwyer, James Kelly and Ciarán Ryan.*



*St. Patrick's Boys 6th Class 2002. Back L to R: Kevin Brown, Christopher McGrath, Adam Power, J.P. McGrath, Stephen Healan, Thomas O'Connell, Eoin O'Connell, Darragh O'Dwyer. Middle Row L to R: David Hall, Mamie Carroll, Darren Prout, James Kelly, Dick Walsh, Robert Ahearn, Colm Horan. Front L to R: Kevin Ryan, Michael Costello, David Gorey, Adrian Lawrence, Jonathan Fleming. Missing from photograph is Ciarán Ryan.*

## Fethard & Killusty Community Council

This year has been a productive and positive one for the committee members of the community council. The annual general meeting was held on 15th October and we were delighted that all the objectives set out at the previous AGM had been realised. Our main achievements of this year have been the completion of the magnificent extension to the Fr. Tirry Centre and the elimination of the debt on the Convent Hall.

The extension to the Fr. Tirry Centre was carried out by Kilknockin Construction and was completed within six months of commencement (Wednesday 17th April). The extension, which cost approx €120,000 (partially funded by the South Eastern Health Board) greatly improves the

facilities and comfort for the members and staff of the Fethard and District Day Care Centre.

Fethard Bridge Club used the new extension at the Tirry Centre for the first time on Wednesday night 25th September. The 'new' Day Care Centre re-opened on October 14th 2002 under the management of Geraldine McCarthy. The Community Council would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all those who worked so tirelessly and efficiently in getting the building ready for use. The centre is open five days a week and, with the help of the participants of the FÁS Community Employment Scheme, voluntary helpers, South Eastern Health Board, and the committee, tremendous work

is being done to help our elderly citizens have much needed services available under one roof.

Up to recently, Austin O'Flynn, John Whyte and Tim Slattery held the Tirry Community Centre in trust for the community. The premises have now been legally assigned to the Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Ltd, who have also recently purchased the Convent Hall for future community use. The Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Ltd are a voluntary community group with charitable status and trade under the name of Fethard & Killusty Community Council. Sub committees of the Fethard and Killusty Community Council include the Fethard & District Day Care Centre (incorporating the Meals on Wheels), Fethard Tidy Towns, Fethard and Killusty Community Lotto, Woodvale Walk Residents Association and St. Patricks Place Residents Association.

The Coolmore Stud sponsored Golf Classic in aid of the new extension to Fethard and District Day Care Centre

held at Slievenamon Golf Club on 30th and 31st August was a great success with over 50 teams competing for the excellent prizes on offer. The main sponsor of the event was Coolmore Stud, which was backed up by tremendous local sponsorship and support by entering teams, green sponsorship and tee sponsorship on the day. The total income for the Classic was €9,158 with expenses of €2,145, leaving a profit of €7,013. Helping out on behalf of the Fethard and District Day Care Centre were Michael Keane, Marie Murphy, Melanie Ryan, Geraldine McCarthy, Joan O'Donohoe and Jimmy Lawrence.

The winning team of Vincent Woodlock, Davy Woodlock, John Lonergan and Sean Lonergan achieved 101 points which is now the Slievenamon Golf Club record to date. The winners each received a top-class D.V.D player worth approximately €300. In second place at 99 points were Ann and Des Delahunty, Mary Stakelum and Ray Morrissey. The



*The winning team, on 101 points, Golf Classic at Slievenamon Golf Club in aid of Fethard & District Day Care Centre are photographed above at the presentation of prizes on Saturday night. L to R: Denis Burke (Slievenamon Golf Club Captain), Vincent Woodlock, Davy Woodlock, John Lonergan, Joan O'Donohoe (representing Fethard & District Day Care Centre), and Brendan Kenny (Slievenamon Golf Club Secretary). Also on the team was Sean Lonergan, missing from photograph.*



*Helping out at the Golf Classic at Slievenamon Golf Club were L to R: Michael 'Chas' Keane, Marie Murphy, Melanie Ryan, Geraldine McCarthy, Joan O'Donohoe and Jimmy Lawrence.*

winners of third prize at 94 points, decided on the back nine holes, were Ted Cummins, Billy Healy, Jack Bergin and John Lacey. In fourth place, also on 94 points, were Michael Leahy, Tom O'Neill, Paul Boland and Billy Quirke. The 'nearest to pin' winner was John Queally at 2' 6". The longest ladies' drive winner was Catherine Morrissey and the gent's winner was Joe Gleeson. We would like to thank the staff of Slievenamon Golf Club, all those who entered teams, sponsored greens, tees and prizes, and those who helped in any way to make the Golf Classic such a success.

The Convent Hall is our next sizeable project to be undertaken. The Community Council is about to develop a strategy which will put the building to the best use in providing educational / resource / childminding facilities in Fethard. This strategy will incorporate a plan to enable adequate support and funding to be sourced. We are delighted to declare that the purchase debt of €68,000 has been cleared – within twelve months of pur-

chase. This has been facilitated by the income generated by the Community Lotto. Now that the building is debt-free and is in Community ownership, the prospects for securing public funding are strengthened considerably.

This achievement, and the extension to the Fr. Tirry Centre were made possible by your continuous support for the Fethard & Killusty Community Lotto, for which we would like to thank you most sincerely. The committee would also like to thank sincerely all who donated to their recent Church Gate Collection. A sum in excess of €1,000 was collected. Thanks also to the local girls who ran the Dublin City Marathon in aid of the building fund.

In April the Tipperary S.R. County Council Housing Department purchased 8 acres of land on the Rocklow Road (Purcell's Field) for a sum of €600,000. The land, stretching from Rocklow Road to Strylea will be used for housing. The Community Council have been reliably informed by Cllr John Fahey that the County Council Housing Department have no plans

drawn up for the housing scheme as yet and that planning permission will be sought before any development.

Confirmation that South Tipperary County Council will cover the energy costs of flood lighting Fethard Town Wall was received by John Bolger, ESB. The lights are now ready to be connected to the town supply and we expect them to be turned on before Christmas. The Town Wall lights were first installed by the Friends of Fethard and switched on by President Mary Robinson on Saturday 24 July 1993. Due to high running costs and the disbandment of the Friends of Fethard, the lights were switched off some years later. The late Cllr John Holohan was promised that The Town Wall lights would be switched on again thanks to a motion agreeing to take over the running costs of the Wall's lighting which was carried by Tipperary S.R. County Council at their meeting on Monday 5th October 1998. It has been a long wait!

The Pound gate by the Town Wall

has been locked as it was becoming unsightly with litter collecting inside the walls. We would like to thank the local County Council for organising this and supplying keys to the Fethard Historical Society and Community Council. If anyone needs to visit The Pound, a key will be available from any of the above.

Representatives of the Community Council met with the South Tipperary County Council Planning Officer, Pat Slattery, and Housing Engineer, John Moloney, on Wednesday 19th June to discuss the provision of a community playing field in Fethard. The results were very positive and it was decided to have a follow up meeting which will take place after we make a formal community plan of where facilities, walkways and housing for the future should be implemented in the Fethard Development Draft Plan due to be published next year. The next Fethard Development Plan will be completed in 2004 and apply to the following five years. As a follow up, a draft docu-



*Photographed at the signing of contract for building the extension to Fethard Day Care Centre are L to R: Joe Kenny, chairman Fethard & Killusty Community Council; Tom Anglim, Kilnockin Construction; Jimmy Connolly, treasurer Fethard & Killusty Community Council, and Suzanna Manton, Manton Solicitors Fethard. The project is being funded by the Fethard & Killusty Community Lotto, South Eastern Health Board and fundraising by the Day Care Centre.*



ment (of the community development plan) was circulated to each organisation in Fethard, to allow them to submit proposals to be included in the final document. This community development plan will enable a strategic approach to be taken in the Development of Fethard over the next five years.

Congratulations to Joan O'Donohoe, supervisor of the Community Council FÁS Employment Scheme who was presented with a Distinction in Community Development Management after completing the FÁS course in conjunction with the National College of Ireland.

At a meeting on Monday 11th November, it was decided to proceed with the planting of a Christmas Tree in The Square. The County Council agreed to prepare the site before Sap Nurseries plant the tree. At the meeting were: Christy Fitzgerald, tree specialist with Coolmore Stud Farm who kindly agreed to supply the tree; Jonathan Cooney, South Tipperary County Council engineer; Thomas Fitzgerald, foreman with South

Tipperary County Council; Gráinne Murphy, manager SAP Nurseries who would plant the tree; and Jimmy Connolly, Gerard Manton and Joe Kenny representing the Fethard & Killusty Community Council.

The committee are currently in negotiations with suppliers of seasonal street lighting to supply and erect same in Fethard this year. The initial cost of erecting and purchasing this year's lighting will exceed €19,000. A 'Christmas Lighting' committee was formed to help fund the project annually from now on. The Community Lotto will donate €10,000 towards this year's lighting plan, Coolmore have agreed to donate €5,000 and the balance will be supplied by local businesses.

The Board of Directors appointed for the coming year elected at the recent A.G.M: Chairperson, Joe Kenny; Secretary, Edwina Newport; treasurer, Jimmy Connolly; P.R.O., Marie Murphy; FÁS Scheme coordinator, Peter Grant. Board Members: Brian Sheehy, Thelma Griffith, Diane Stokes, Fr. Tom Breen, John Barrett, Jimmy Lawrence, Gerard Manton, Liam Hayes. ♦

# Fethard Day Care Centre



*Fethard and District Day Care Centre members photographed above with the centre's supervisor Sr. Christine, who was presented with flowers at her last committee meeting with the Fethard group. Sr. Christine, now transferred to Clonmel, was instrumental in getting the Fethard Day Care Centre off the ground and will be missed by the committee members, helpers and the many patrons from Fethard and district who attend the centre every week. Photographed above back L to R: Nellie O'Donovan, Phil Wyatt, Brian O'Donnell, Jimmy Lawrence, Joan O'Donohoe, Jimmy Connolly, Megan Sceats, John Pollard, Pauline Sheehan, Mary Fennel (South Eastern Health Board). Front L to R: Carmel Rice, Agnes Evans, Sr. Christine, Thelma Griffith and Marie Murphy.*

On behalf of the Fethard and Killusty Community Council, I would like to wish all readers at home and abroad a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Fethard & District Day Care Centre is now in its 7th year and is going from strength to strength. We open five days a week and accommodate clients from Fethard, Drangan, Killenaule and surrounding areas. Clients, staff and volunteers merge so very well together that it is a very happy place to visit. Breakfast is served at 10.30am followed by music provided by Pauline Morrissey, Jimmy Lawrence and John Pollard. These musicians come voluntarily each day to entertain the troops

and are responsible in no small way for creating the wonderful atmosphere in the Centre. Lunch is served at 12.30, followed by bingo at 1.30pm. We serve afternoon tea at 3pm and then depart for home at 3.45pm. Our own minibus is used to ferry the clients backwards and forwards.

Two outings are organised each year to various places of interest, which includes a meal en-route. We hold a daily raffle at the centre to raise funds for these outings.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar is held in October for which the ladies sew, knit and crochet beautiful articles for sale. The whole ethos of the Centre is warmth and friendship.

Sr. Christine, our Day Care Supervisor for the last five years, left in June to take up a new position at the Presentation Convent in Clonmel. She was greatly loved and appreciated by all and everyone was very sad to see her go. The new supervisor was appointed in late September, a local lady, Geraldine McCarthy who is already well settled in, endearing herself to all. We wish the very best to Sr. Christine and Geraldine in their new appointments.

The big news is our new extension. We closed our doors for four months in the summer and in that time a beautiful new extension was added to the existing Tirry Centre, consisting of a dayroom, state of the art kitchen, offices and toilets, all wheelchair friendly. A grant from the South Eastern Health Board partly funded this building. The balance will be helped along by local fundraising. A huge thank you to all concerned with this fundraising, those involved with the Golf Classic and the ladies who ran the Dublin Mini Marathon, and of

course the Community Lotto.

The Meals on Wheels are prepared in the Tirry Centre kitchen together with the lunches served in the Day Care Centre. They are delivered three days a week to approximately 25 clients in the town by volunteer drivers aided ably by the 4th year students from the Patrician Presentation Secondary School during the school term. The same students also attend the Day Care Centre for an hour or so before the meals are delivered and chat with the people or sing along with them to the music. It is a very worthwhile project for them, and their elder friends love to meet them. The three meals, which are usually delivered out, are, stew, chicken, potatoes and vegetables, and bacon with cabbage or turnip and potatoes . . . and guess what the firm and all time favourite is? Good old 'bacon and cabbage'!

Finally thanks to everyone concerned with the running of the centre and for the wonderful atmosphere they create, and the marvellous facility it is for our valued senior citizens. ♦



*Ladies who ran the Dublin Ladies Mini-Marathon in aid of Fethard Day Care Centre. L to R: Dolores Costigan, Helen Galligan, Celia Allen, Eileen Ryan, Josephine Shelly, Mary Connolly and Donna Reddy*

## Killusty Pony Show

The Committee of Killusty Pony Show were very fortunate on Show Day Saturday 6th July, that the only summer storm in the area was the pony named 'Ardfry Summerstorm'. Given the hazardous weather conditions to date in the showing season it was a relief to all concerned that it was virtually dry all day. The atmosphere as a result was second to none and all appeared to go home happy. The weather had an effect on the entry in the in-hand ring, as many ponies have not come to hand as expected in the gloom. The worthy winner of the AIB Slievenamon Championship was Cork man Brendan Laffan's yearling, 'Barrera Fatal Attraction', who left Patricia Relihan's older 'Valmore Irish Mist' in reserve. Best local was Bridget O'Brien's 'Rathsallagh Lady'. The southwest came to the fore in the Milestown Mills Stud Broodmare Championship when Michael Hourigan's 'Ahane Sue', from Lisnagry, left Tim Hurley's 'Romany Girl', from Tralee, as reserve. The Welsh Championship went to Cork, when Michelle McMahon's 'Muskerry Charisma' again relegated 'Valmore Irish Mist'. The exception to the rule of fewer ponies in the in-hand ring was the Connemara Division, which goes from strength to strength. The worthy winner of the Butler Connemara Championship was the dun stallion from Clare, John Joe Bolton's 'Dunmore Dancer', with 'Lishmar Lady Donna' in reserve.

In the ridden rings there was quantity and quality in abundance. John Walsh of Dumnaway took the Coolmore Stud Killusty Championship with

'Hilian Sky Rocket', with Sonya Steyn's 'Red Squirrel' in reserve. Mhairi Rawluk from Malahide, Co. Dublin, was the first winner of the Tate Croome-Carroll Memorial Equitation Championship, with Jane Byrne of Kildare in reserve. This is a new division, which is proving very popular as the rider is judged and not the pony. The Mini Championship rosette has gone to Tyrone following Stuart Whittle's 'Ridings Tiger Lily' triumph over Nesta Fitzgerald's 'Larchgrove June' produced this season, by Joanne O'Dwyer of Callan. Mrs Bricknell's Open Show Hunter Championship returned to Limerick when Mary Blennerhassey's 'Moonlight Saunter' got the nod over Aileen Davis's 'Captain Scarlet' from Wicklow. The Lady Lloyd Webber Novice Show Hunter Champion came from Cork in the form of Deirdre Kidney's 'Kilshane Bluebell', with Claire Crawford's 'Ardfry Oberon' in reserve. The long drive to Corofin in Galway must have flown for the Crawfords for it was a very successful day for their ponies. The GAIN Novice Working Hunter Championship was divided between 'Ballymoe Ardfry Shadowlands' and 'Ardfry Summerstorm'. Although the Starter Stakes Champion was Suzanne Garrigan's 'Oldcourt Whiskey', 'Ardfry Ahab' now owned by Linda Young, was Reserve. In the Clonmel Oil Working Hunter Championship, 'Ardfry Cedar', sire of 'Ardfry Summerstorm' and 'Ardfry Oberon', showed that he could do it himself, and became Champion ahead of 'Ardfry Ahab'. The Intermediate Champion was the show hunter, Sarah Collen's 'Mayday of



*Killusty Show in the 1960s. Phil Shea, Tommy Pollard, Pierce O'Donnell, Nicky O'Shea, Rody Houlihan, Captain Curtain, Rody Hannigan, Mr Ryan. Front: Jim Noonan, Lory Noonan, Mildred O'Flaherty, Monica Kane, ?, Jim Clarke, ? and Ray Dunn.*

Harcourt', ahead of Aoife Smithwick's gallant servant 'Kilcreene Pine'. In the Performance Working Hunter Ring, two well-known ponies came to the top when M. Stephen's 'What Next' took the championship with Brendan Watchom's 'Bonheur' in reserve.

Of particular local interest, John and Olivia Holohan's 'Shangan Chrystal Boy' won the Local Handy Pony. It also took the prize for the best pony from the Parish of Fethard and Killusty. Mary Hayden's 'Watchful Anne' from Drangan, won the Special Lead-Rein Class and there were many local prizewinners in the Working hunter rings. The Fancy Dress was a credit to all who took part, as the standard was very high indeed. The Dog Show attracted nearly seventy-five entries and gets larger every year.

It was a long day with six rings in operation throughout. It could not have

happened without the contributions from our landowner who was very brave to let us continue given the forecast, also the sponsors, judges, stewards, course builders and designer, caterers, car parkers and gatemen. During the course of the afternoon, the show chairman presented tokens of esteem to long-term members of the committee: Judy Butler, Christopher Horsman, Nicky O'Shea, Rosemary Ponsonby and Johnny Sheehan. Any committee would be privileged to have their like as members. For a very small village in Tipperary, Killusty Show is one of the biggest and most prestigious Pony Shows on the annual calendar. It was good to be back this year having missed last year due to 'Foot and Mouth', and particularly satisfying to have completed our programme when so many shows have been cancelled this year due to the inclement weather. ♦

# Killusty Community Group

by Kevin Ryan

This group is now in its second year and after the good work of last year, enthusiasm was slightly dampened this year by the severe weather conditions, especially during the months of May and June. But one good thing to report was the completion of the netting around the tennis court, well done to Jim, Paul, Ken and Adrian. We are hoping for more favourable weather for next year to help us to continue our developmental plans.

Our parish priest, Fr. Tom Breen, has undertaken an extensive renovation programme for our beautiful little Church of the Sacred Heart, and to coin a well-used political phrase, 'a lot

has been done, with more to do'. Local tradesmen and volunteer helpers under the supervision of Johnny Sheehan have taken on the work. A major part of the funding is coming from a diocesan 'super-draw' which is currently in progress. Well done to all those involved, keep up the good work.

Killusty National School has also undergone some renovation work, with the addition of an extra classroom. The old stone wall on the Kiltinan road has been beautifully restored, thanks to the efforts of Larry, Billy, Eddie and company. On a sad note, this year marks the retirement of our school headmaster Danny Kane after thirty-five years



*Copy of Killusty National School Pupils c.1965 when Danny Kane started teaching there. Back includes L to R: Philip Prout, Michael Sheehan, Raymond Dunne, Patrick Sheehan, Dean Lee P.P., Mary Aylward, Carmel Bowes, Caroline Wade, Mary Donovan, Breda Halpin, Miss Mary Flood (teacher). Middle Row includes L to R: Michael Halpin, Bernard Feery, Keith O'Donnell, Noel Murray, Alice Halpin, Richard Wade, Denise O'Donnell, Alice Halpin, Mary Dunne, Catherine Dunne, Jacqueline Holohan, Caroline Wade, Margaret Bowes, Helen Boses. Front L to R: Eugene Duggan, Paul Duggan, Noel Wade, Debbie Outram, Rena Sheehan, John Murray, Kieran Duggan, Tony Aylward, John Murray, Chris Coen, Helen Bowes and Debbie Coen.*

of dedicated service. He will be remembered for the freshness he brought to the classroom and his ability to make learning interesting and fun. Wishing him and his wife Rita many years of happiness. Pupils past and present will fondly miss him.

Killusty Community Alert, now in their tenth year, provide awareness and support for many in the community,

especially the elderly and those living alone. The group also install smoke alarms and provide personal security alarms to those who require them. Given the current climate for daytime robberies, which are on the increase, the group urges members of the community to be more vigilant and to monitor any unusual activity in the area. ♦

## Fethard, Tipperary and Bath, Somerset

*by Canon Mattie Hayes*

One hundred and ten years separate the ministries of two Fethard priests in the fair city of Bath. Michael McCarthy was parish priest of St Mary's, Bath, Somerset, from 1890 to 1892. The writer, Mattie Hayes, was parish priest of SS Peter and Paul's, Bath, from 1975 to 1983, and is now living in retirement in the same city.

Michael McCarthy was born in the well known hotel on the Main Street, Fethard, in 1857. Very likely he would have attended the local National School, and he must have gone on to get some extra education before going to St Patrick's College, Thurles, where he did his early seminary training from 1876-81. By that time St Patrick's, now regrettably closed as a seminary, had become a fully ecclesiastical college concentrating on the education of students for the priesthood. However, Michael McCarthy was sent to

Maynooth for his theological studies in September 1881 and was ordained for his native diocese of Cashel and Emly in July 1884. Shortly after his ordination he came to Clifton diocese in England on temporary mission for four years.



*St. Mary's Church, Bath, England*

In Clifton diocese he ministered for short spells as curate in St Mary's, Bath, and in St John the Baptist's, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. He returned to St Mary's as parish priest in 1890,

and remained until 1892. His name is inscribed as third in the list of parish priests of St Mary's, which church was opened in 1881.

Fr McCarthy was recalled to his home diocese in 1892 and appointed curate in New Inn-Knockgraffon parish, where Fr Michael Power, a native of Ballingarry, was then parish priest. In 1897 he went as curate to Loughmore-Castleiney, where he

spent sixteen years. There he served firstly under Canon Thomas Hackett, who renovated and added to the lovely old parish church in Loughmore, now demolished and replaced with a modern structure, and secondly under Canon Tom Godfrey, a native of Greenane, Tipperary, and my grand-uncle. Fr McCarthy was there when the Cormack brothers' remains were exhumed in the prison yard of Nenagh Jail, and brought to Loughmore churchyard where they were laid in a mausoleum erected by Canon Hackett in the presence of thousands of people from all parts of the county.

Michael McCarthy got his first parish in 1913 in Kilbehenny and Anglesboro. He became parish priest of Caherconlish-Caherline in 1922 and was made Canon in 1932. He died in June 1937 at the age of 80 and is buried in the new graveyard at Inch St Lawrence, close to an ancient graveyard in that Co Limerick parish.

Fr Michael, who lived in the Castleiney side of the parish, was a talented piano player and had a pleasant singing voice. I remember my mother telling of her summer holidays in Loughmore with her uncle, Canon Tom Godfrey, then parish priest, and how Fr Michael used to entertain them after a meal with his playing and singing. His nephew, Jack McCarthy,

was similarly gifted and used to play the piano in the hotel bar in his time.

The Diocese of Clifton covers three counties in southwest England, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Bristol, our largest city, is where our cathedral and the bishop's residence are located. There are now 22 parishes in the city itself; 107 in the diocese as a whole.

Bath is only 13 miles southeast of Bristol and the older of the two cities. The River Avon is shared by both, widening as it gets to Bristol and entering the Bristol Channel at Avonmouth, the huge intercontinental container Port of Bristol.

Whilst Bristol, originally known as Brigstowe, was but a settlement on the river, Bath was a highly civilised town and spa, built by the Romans soon after the conquest of Saxon Britain in 43AD. They called the place Aquae Sulis, waters of Sulis, after a Celtic goddess of wisdom. Her Roman counterpart was Minerva. Early in the 5th century the Romans left Britain for no urgent or pressing reason.

They left after them a fine legacy, straight roads, towns, temples, bridges, market places, arenas; most of all, their civilisation and law. Bath owes its name and fame to the hot springs that were here ever before the Romans.



*Memorial in St. Mary's Church, Bath, with parish priests names inscribed on it, from 1882 to 1987. Fr John Michael McCarthy's name is third on the list.*

It was they who built the first town here, which became a place of convalescence, rest and recreation for weary men from the Legions. Thousands of tourists and visitors visit the Roman Baths every year. It is the thriving industry here. Roman plumbing still pipes hot water from the springs.

Rome sent something else to Britain, the Christian Faith. St Augustine came in 597, at the behest of Pope St Gregory the Great. His mission was to consolidate the Faith that was already there, as well as to convert. Abbeys, convents and parish churches were founded all over the country. Irish missionaries must be given credit for their contribution.

There was a Saxon abbey in Bath where St Dunstan, as archbishop of Canterbury, though by birth a Somerset man, crowned Edgar as first king of all England in 972. In 1088 the Normans built a larger church and Benedictine monastery on the site. This thrived until the Dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in

1535. There is still an abbey in Bath, on the same site, but post-Reformation. It is no longer a Catholic monastery. It is noted for its beautiful fan-vaulting ceilings, and carvings on the west front. This is another great

tourist attraction. The interior of the church has more memorial tablets than any other church in the country.

The Elizabethan Settlement and the Penal Laws had little effect on the Catholic population of Bath. Royalty and gentry from Europe, mainly Catholics, came to Bath "to take the waters," and were accorded freedom to practise their religion. The locals could hardly be discriminated against, openly at least. Mass

was said in private houses and safe inns. Eventually a Catholic chapel was built. Benedictine monks and Jesuits provided the manpower. After Catholic Emancipation our present parish churches were built, St John's, near the Abbey, in 1863; St Mary's in 1881, and St Alphege's in 1931, probably the finest church of the Clifton diocese.



*Hayes family Rathcoole. Back L to R: John, Pat, Mattie.  
Front L to R: Gerry and Willie.*

In the 18th century, during the time of George III, Bath had a revival, mainly due to a flamboyant character, Richard "Beau" Nash, who had a flair for public entertaining, and notables and writers came to live here. Bath became the "Georgian City" with its particular style of architecture. The exquisite Royal Crescent and The Circus were designed and built by John Wood, father and son. Many other fine buildings went up in the same century, thanks to the enterprise of a shrewd businessman, Ralph Allen, who enriched himself from quarrying Bath stone in Combe Down, a hill overlooking the city. He built himself a fine mansion nearby, Prior Park, where he entertained literati and other notables. Since 1829 this building has been in Catholic hands as a successful boarding school, and I myself spent a few years as a boarder there.

I'm afraid I have strayed somewhat from what I set out to write about, namely, what Bath has in common

with Fethard. Each is a walled town, with more of Fethard's walls surviving. There is Fethard Abbey, contemporaneous with Bath's Norman abbey. Fethard's is still doing what it was built for. We share martyrs. Bath's is St Alphege (953-1012), Abbot of Bath and Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered by marauding Danes. He would not allow his clergy to pay a ransom for his life. Fethard has Blessed William Tirry, who ministered from the ruined abbey

during years of persecution, and who was hanged in Clonmel in 1654. Cromwell visited both places and Fethard fared a bit better, apart from poor Fr Tirry.

Last but not least, our respective rivers. The Clashawley can hardly match the Avon in size or importance. However, it has its gentle ripples and clear water as it meanders past Rathcoole, through Fethard to meet the Anner and Slievenamon. I'll swap it any time. ♦

## The Chapel Bell

*by Tony Newport*

Workers erecting scaffolding last February on the spire of Fethard Parish Church have confirmed the chapel bell was cast in the Dublin foundry of J. Murphy in 1879. Since its erection, the bell has certainly played a great part in the day-to-day life of Fethard town. Time was, when watches were almost non-existent and clocks scarce enough, it heralded dinner time and finishing time for workers within earshot as it tolled out the Angelus at 12 noon and 6pm. The Angelus was also rung at 7am. Half an hour before mass, it also rang loud and clear, followed by a five-minute

latecomers reminder bell before mass commenced.

The bell, now electronically operated, was up to recently operated manually. Perhaps it would not be a bad idea when we visit the church, to remember those who so faithfully rang the bell so many times each year. Ned Gould, The Valley, and Mrs Matthews, Kerry Street, were two very long serving sacristans of the last century who diligently carried out their duties. We might also remember the countless people of Fethard parish for whom the bell tolled as they made their last journey to their final resting places. ♦

# Lazarian, Kennedy, and The Bomb

*by John Fogarty*

President Kennedy was coming at the end of June and Brother Lazarian had us all driven mad talking about him and telling us what a great man he was. Brother Lazarian was principal of the boy's school on the Rocklow road (affectionately known as The Slaughter-House) and taught fifth and sixth class. Most days he'd take a twenty-minute after-dinner doze and when he was fully recovered he'd stand up from the desk and stretch himself, yawn, and then start pacing back and forth across the dusty floorboards that lay between our desks and the blackboard.

'President John Fitzgerald Kennedy,' he would say (he always gave him his full title) was the first

Catholic to be elected president of the United States of America.'

He'd throw us a look then which left no doubt in our minds that there had been some kind of conspiracy to make sure that no Catholic- and most certainly no Irish Catholic - could ever become president of the USA. And even though we were thrown across our desks in a semi-comatose slump and were willing the hands of the clock on towards three thirty and freedom we knew that it would be advisable to at least fake some concern at this treatment of our fellow Catholics in America. We also knew that while he was talking happily on his favourite subject we weren't in any danger from the 'bata'. Not unless someone did



*Photographed at Grove Wood in the 1970s are L to R: Liam Leahy, John Fogarty, Jim Maher, Gerry Fogarty, John Coffey and Thomas Barrett.*

something stupid.

Sometimes he'd heave one haunch onto the edge of his cluttered desk, and shove a hand into the slit on the side of his black soutane and ramble on about how Kennedy's grandfather - or maybe it was his great-grandfather- had miraculously survived the coffin ship trip to America. How he'd prospered in America. How President Kennedy's brother, Joe, had been killed heroically in the Second World War. How President Kennedy had been a war hero in the Pacific where he'd hurt his back. He'd give us another look then, a reproachful look mingled with disgust, which seemed to imply that all of those Kennedy heroics had been for us, ungrateful and undeserving though we might be. But somehow we were never too enthusiastic about naval heroics in the distant Pacific, or anywhere else. Not even in war films in the Capitol Cinema when John Wayne was single-handedly reclaiming every island in the Pacific from the swarming hordes of the Japanese army. No, we were Wild West aficionados, mainly interested in circled wagons, bows and arrows, six-guns, repeating rifles, scalping and last minute cavalry charges.

The worst thing of all though, was when he stood in front of our desks and began, 'Now, which of ye can tell me.... (This was the ominous preface to a question and answer session that could be benign - if you answered correctly - or pose a serious threat to limb, if not life itself, if you answered incorrectly).... what county did the President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's ancestors come from?' That one was easy. Wexford. Thirty or more hands, fingers clicking with mock enthusiasm

would shoot into the air, thirty voices would desperately call, 'Bruh, Bruh,' dying to be asked such an easy one. Knowing that there were sickeners to come. But of course the easy ones always went to one of his pets. Next question. What was the name of the townsland where the ancestral Kennedy home stood? The arms would go up more cautiously on that one. A sigh of relief when a bright spark in the front row was asked and correctly answered, 'Dunganstown.'

One day Maurice Ryan, in from Killenaule for sixth class, suffered a temporary lapse into insanity and decided to mimic Lazarian.

'Now which of ye can tell me,' - he stage whispered, through contorted lips - 'what's the name of Kennedy's dog, is it Old Shep or Shite?' Unfortunately for him his attempted ventriloquist act coincided with an uncharacteristic moment of absolute silence in the room. He was caught. Lazarian glared at him.

'Come up here, the allyawn from Killenaule,' he growled, advancing threateningly along the desk aisles.

The rest of us sat back, each happy that it wasn't him, and watched the little drama that followed. Maurice, in a desperate attempt to escape retribution, threw an accusing look towards the fifth class desks as though the real culprit lay there, was grabbed by the ear and dragged squealing to the front of the class to receive his punishment.

'What did you say, ya dyin 'spideog,' Lazarian roared.

'Nothing Bruh, I said nothing Bruh, I'm sorry Bruh, ah Bruh!'

We all knew from experience that such pleas were useless. Six times the bamboo cane swished through the air,

then a boot in the arse that sent him snivelling back to his seat. Six palmers wasn't bad for such an offence.

And Lazarian loved the famous lines from J.F.K.'s inauguration speech, the ones that had a biblical ring to them. He had written an extract on the board one day for transcription.

'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask rather, what you can do for your country.'

We'd learned it by heart, like a prayer.

And because Kennedy's ancestors had come from Wexford he'd spent days with his tuning fork teaching us to sing 'The Boys of Wexford' and 'Kelly the Boy from Killane.' – 'Seven feet was his height with some inches to spare/ and he looked like a king in command,' we'd sing, without any great enthusiasm, while Lazarian wearily waved his tuning fork. The result was that we were fairly sick of

Kennedy before ever he landed at Shannon.

And we'd had plenty of Kennedy the previous October as well, when the Cuban Missile Crisis was in full swing and everybody was going around saying the world was going to end and anyway wasn't it all foretold in the prophecies of Columcille and Moore's Almanac. Paddy Kearney, who had spent time in America and had read a bit and had turned into something of an atheist as a result, said it was all a matter, that the Russian had loads of Sputniks up in space and God knows what they'd do with them. Ellie Power sat on the form beside the fire in our kitchen and shook her head gravely and said in a quavering voice that all of this was definitely part of the Third Secret of Fatima but only the Pope knew it for sure and hadn't the poor man that was there before the present man turned grey when he read it, but



*Home from School on the Grove Road c.1935. No danger of oncoming traffic in those days. L to R: Gus Cummins, Sean Cummins, Ollie Fitzgerald (RIP) and Michael Morrissey (RIP) all living in Spittalfield.*

sure God was good, she said, and maybe we'd be spared on account of all the prayers going up from Ireland. Mamie Croke would lean sorrowfully over the half-door as we passed home from school.

'Are ye in dread of The Bomb?' she'd ask, sounding a kind of death rattle. And if we weren't in dread then we definitely were after hearing her. Brother Lazarian said we should pray harder for the conversion of Russia and every day there were pictures of Kennedy and Kruschev in the papers: one glamorous as a film star, the other like a haggling horse-dealer at a fair. One a Catholic, the other a Communist.

Then some Russian ships set sail for Cuba, loaded with nuclear missiles. Kennedy gave Kruschev an ultimatum: turn the boats back or else. The world waited. We crowded anxiously round Mamie Mackey's half door and saw pictures of three sinister-looking Russian ships powering inexorably across a vast grey ocean, loaded, we were told, with nuclear missiles. There was something eerie about those ships, seen through the flickering light of that kitchen where Mamie sat by the fire and Johnny, her brother, ironed clothes on the table while the dark October evening closed in at our backs. And we were afraid. Mamie shook her head and pulled on a Woodbine and declared that the world was going to end. There were no two ways about it, she said if Kruschev didn't order those ships to turn around then the world would end. Kennedy and Kruschev would press buttons somewhere and 'twould be all the same to us then. All blown to smithereens. We shivered. And then

Mickey Kearney appeared in the dark behind us not bothered at all that the world might be about to end.

'Oh me heart lies in Tipperary there, at the foot of Sliabhnaman,' he sang raucously, and struck a match and tried to light his pipe and foosthered at his pockets before walking his bike off into the dark. There was a glassy, clinking sound as he went. Mamie came and leaned on the half-door and looked after him, just in time to hear a ripping sound followed by a loud sigh.

'Listen to that dirty aul' article,' she said.

'Let ye go off home to bed outa that now,' Johnny called to us from inside. And home we went.

At home we sat quietly on the wooden forms beside the fire trying to read comics while solemn voices on the radio spoke about mysterious things called Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and fallout. It sounded bad all right. Later on we lay in bed talking about what the end of the world would be like and fell asleep wondering would it blow up and scatter into space or would everybody just be killed and the earth stay orbiting away with nobody left alive on it?

When we woke up the next morning the world was still there and I was never so glad to see Ned Bulfin outside on The Valley with his little red cart and milk churns measuring quarts and pints of milk into jugs and chatting with Ellie Power and Josie Barrett. The Cuban Missile Crisis was over. The Russian ships had turned back and weren't seen on telly anymore. Kennedy was the world's hero and we all felt great because he was three-quarters Irish and a full Catholic.

Kennedy finally arrived with his

wife near the end of June and for three or four days the country nearly came to a standstill and people crowded round black and white tellies to watch as he was welcomed and mobbed like a conquering hero. He had more glamour and charm than any Hollywood film star and beside him and his equally glamorous wife all of the Irish dignitaries looked old and washed out. He smiled constantly, a big white-toothed smile that nobody could match or resist, and the country was at his mercy. And after the way he faced Kruschew down we loved him, he was like a three in one version of John Wayne, Audie Murphy, and Kelly the Boy from Killane.

In the evenings after school we'd sneak up to Mamie Mackey's half-door hoping Johnny was working in the laundry so that we could see whatever coverage of the Presidential visit was on the telly. If Johnny was there and in a contrary mood he'd hunt us away and we'd try to sneak into McCarthy's hotel and if Nell hunted us from there we'd have to settle for watching it in the window of Jack O'Shea's shop, which was better than nothing even if the sound couldn't be heard through the glass of the window and even if the coverage was displacing some of our favourite programmes.

When the day of Kennedy's departure arrived it was like an American wake for the whole country. It was the kind of feeling you get when Christmas, or the summer holidays, comes to an end and you face the painful return to the ordinary.

That morning, the morning of his departure Brother Lazarian stood before us in that drab classroom, his

pride in his hero almost palpable as he conducted us through a ragged version of 'The Boys of Wexford'. There was a strange sense of oneness between us that morning - a feeling that we would never experience in that classroom again - as we listened intently to him telling us that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy would be leaving our shores that day. He would be travelling by helicopter from Dublin to Shannon from where Airforce 1 would take him away from us and back to America. The helicopters, he informed us, could possibly pass over Fethard on their way to Shannon.

And did we really stream out of those classrooms at midday on that long-ago day and stand in that threadbare football field beside the school and gaze hopefully into the sky, waiting, wondering how long more the helicopters would be? Did we really see those helicopters in the distance and wave and cheer madly as they disappeared westward carrying our hero away, and did we tell each other as we walked reluctantly back into the classrooms and the ordinary, everyday things of our lives that he must have seen us, that surely he would have looked down and seen us far below and waved. Yes, I think we did, I'm sure we did. ♦

### ***Coleman School Reunion***

*Some past pupils of Coleman National  
Primary School have expressed an  
interest in a School Reunion.*

*Preliminary enquiries to Robert Phelan:  
Tel: (052) 31378 & 086- 2446085*

# Poetry

## ***Fethard Memories***

by John Joe Keane

*Ding dong dedero in the green  
Tar bubbling in the summer, on the street  
Flowers adorning the altar at mass  
Richard Fallon's high jump feat.*

*Tennis down by the river, or confessions  
In Monroe, watching the basket maker do  
Corpus Christi and May processions  
The commotions of a Fair Day, phew!*

*The carnival's fancy dress parade, so gay  
Reading posters on the blind window  
Watching the steam train from Boody Bridge  
Climbing Slievenamon to pray*

*Zam Buc, iodine, corduroy pants  
Hobnail boots, the half door and shawl  
Amusements, matches and the Circus  
The music of the Town Hall dance*

*Watching the hunt at Sparagoleith  
Admiring Scully's black car  
Up to the Dispensary for a bottle  
A fist of sweets for a jar.*

*The bakery and the laundry  
Currants from Dolly's lane, in a ball  
Swimming at Breens, Newbridge or Whelans  
Running along the Barrack Field wall.*

## ***Historic Fethard***

by Unknown!

*The Tullamaine Foxhounds  
are famous for hunting,  
And the people of Fethard  
are famous for punting,  
And Singing and acting  
and kicking the ball,  
But for hurling, the never  
could touch Killenaule.  
But fair-dues to Fethard  
for rebuilding the walls  
That Cromwell knocked down  
with his big cannonballs,  
And fair-dues to Watergate's  
Jimmy-Ryan-Buck,  
The Man who succeeded  
in drowning a duck!*

## ***Gus Kenrick***

by John Joe Keane

*Fethard and Kilmore 21/11/02*

*Of regal stature with keen demeanour  
A presence of history allied with  
a subtlety of nature  
A regular mass goer;  
Daily to the Abbey at 10.30  
Fully organised and independent  
Dressed smartly with distinction*

*Experienced war in his youth,  
played golf with enjoyment  
Exercised his pet dog dutifully,  
Of an old Fethard family  
When Illness struck, bore it with dignity  
His salutation a greeting with a smile  
Now that he has shaken this mortal coil  
May God have mercy on his soul.*

## ***School Photo***

by Jim O'Keeffe

*I look at old photos and what do I see?  
Faces of my childhood, they stare back at me.  
I remember 'em clearly and then I recall.  
The days of my childhood, were not bad at all.*

*A photo of my schoolmates,  
of days now long gone,  
In that dear little school house,  
beneath old Slievenamon.  
There were sixty or so  
and in the front row is me.  
It seems it was yesterday,  
'though 'twas nineteen forty three.*

*I study the faces, there's a tear in my eye.  
As I remember the living and those that did die.  
Then I would wonder, where they are today.  
But from what I can gather  
they're in lands far away.*

*In Australia and Canada, it's good there they say.  
But more they have settled in the great U.S.A.  
More never travelled, as it says in the song.  
They stayed by the 'Anner'  
and sweet 'Slievenamon'.*

## Fethard Athletic Club



*L to R: Hannah Trehy, Kate O'Brien, Siobhán O'Brien, Bernadette Costello and Aoife O'Gorman.  
Bernadette was the winner of the clubs "Athlete of the year award".*

In terms of medal winning performances, the 2001/2002 season has been our most successful in recent years, but our greatest achievement of last season is that almost one hundred young boys and girls from the area are affiliated to the Athletic Association of Ireland through the Fethard Club. The participation of these athletes in club training sessions is the foundation stone to our success in the competitive arena. To compile a list of medal winners, in both cross-country and track would be a lengthy and tedious process and would detract from the club's *raison d'être*, which is to encourage the youth of Fethard and its surrounding parishes to partake in and enjoy the ancient sport of Athletics.

However, two athletes deserve particular mention, namely Bernadette Costello (Woodvale Walk) and Lolo Trehy (Mobarnane) who were the winners of the clubs "Athlete of the year awards. These annual awards are pre-

sented to children who, through determination, discipline and sheer hard work, achieve their potential in both competition and training.

Club activities revolve around our twice-weekly training sessions, which take place in the boy's school field in summer and the G.A.A. field in winter. The Club is deeply grateful to both St. Patrick's Boys School and Fethard G.A.A. Club for the use of these facilities. Other activities organised by the club during the year include our Annual Christmas Party, a trip to Carrick swimming pool, a sponsored walk and our annual local sports evening.

It is the ambition of the Fethard A.C. in the upcoming 2003 season to provide a more balanced coaching service to our juveniles, by spending more time on technical track events such as hurdling, jumping, relay running and throwing. To achieve this the club needs to enlist the help of former athletes and persons interested in

Athletics to assist in coaching and supervision. Those willing to help should contact any of the club officers in the New Year.

Finally, to finish with an encouraging story for those who continually find themselves toward the back of the field at the end of exhausting cross-country races: Twenty years ago a young English girl decided to take up the challenge of cross country running but she showed no great natural ability and in her first

race finished second last. Undeterred, she worked hard for four years qualifying for all England cross-country championships where she finished 299th. Throughout the next ten years of her senior career her work rate, commitment and determination were unquestioned and yet she continually

finished out of the medals in big championship races. But she continues

to persevere and to believe. On an October morning in 2002, she crossed the line of the famous Chicago marathon; the clock read 2 hours, seventeen minutes and six seconds. Paula Radcliffe, world cross country champion European and commonwealth 10,000 meter champion, hero of all England became the fastest woman in history to complete the classic

marathon distance. Believe!

Fethard Athletic Club officers: President, Dick Cummins; Chairperson, Miceál McCormack; Vice Chairperson, Carmel Condon; Secretary, Mary Trehy; Treasurer, Laura Lyons; Assistant Treasurer, Peggy Sullivan; P.R.O, Fintan Rice. ♦



*Gregory Henry who won the boys AAI under-9 County Cross-Country*



*L to R: Ryan Laslett, Conor Prendergast, Lolo Trehy, Michael Costello, Shane Gorey, Kevin Quigley and Ben Walsh. Lolo was the winner of the clubs "Athlete of the year award".*

# Memories of 1952

by Tom McCormack



*South Tipperary Minor Football final 1952 after returning with cup. Back L to R: Bill 'Councillor' O'Dwyer, Gerry Mackey, ?, Tom McCormack, Tom Heffernan, Tossie Stapleton, Joe Dalton, Paddy Tierney, Jimmy Ryan, Paddy O'Flynn, Austin O'Flynn, Brian O'Donnell, Sean Condon, ?, Jarleth Finn, ?, A. O'Connell, Dick Byrne, Dick Fitzgerald, Austin McDonnell, ?, Mikie 'Cautious' Cummins. Front L to R: Alfie Brett, Paddy O'Rourke, Liam Connolly (captain), Pat Ryan, Mick Dineen, Mick O'Keeffe, Tom McCormack (Ballintemple), John Keating and Dick 'Reidy' Power. Sitting in front L to R: Gus Neville, Percy Flynn and Bro Alberty Small (manager).*

A visit to see a friend who had recently been hospitalised brought back sporting memories of fifty years ago. The year 1952 was the defining year for senior and minor hurling in Fethard Parish. It was the time Coolmoynes appeared in a South Senior Final and the clubs minors won a South minor title. Fethard seniors had been beaten early that year in the 1951 final against Ballingarry at Killenaule before an attendance of 2000. They went down by one point after a dour struggle. Later that year the Coolmoynes senior hurlers lost their South crown to 'Carrick Swans', however, in October of that year they redeemed their proud tradition by defeating Rahealty in a belated 1951

Junior County Final held at Cashel on a wet and windy Sunday in October. This was the first and only county title won by Coolmoynes. This year of '52 was, I always felt, the demise of senior hurling in the area, however, the club did reach a Junior Final years later but lost to Solohead.

While both senior teams, Fethard footballers and Coolmoynes hurlers, lost south finals that year, the underage teams had a really glorious year, winning the Cusack Cup in the County Schools Football Championship (senior). Fethard won the Tom Keating Cup by winning the South minor football title and Coolmoynes hurlers won the John O'Shea Cup by defeating Carrick Swans in the minor final.

This was a remarkable treble. It was achieved by Fethard twenty-two years earlier when the club won the South minor football, hurling, and the county schools urban football title. A reference to the treble in the Nationalist Newspaper praised Bro Albert of the Monastery for his untiring efforts in training the boys. It is indeed worth noting that Bro Albert was still around doing the same job. I should also mention that it is easier to achieve now because of the number of grades available. To clubs back in those days, there was just one Grade (A).

The Cusack Cup competition started early during that school year when we travelled to Cashel to play Abbey CBS Tipperary and after a game of close encounters we came out on top. Clonmel High School was our next obstacle and after a hard fought game we emerged victorious with the score line of 4-2 to 3-3. The final was played in Templemore against the local CBS. However, on the day they proved no match for the Fethard boys who went on to win with a score of 5-5 to 1-2 and so the first of the underage cups came back to the 'Friary Town'.

The minor football championship began with a decisive win over a poor C.J. Kickhams (Mullinahone) side in Drangan followed by the narrowest of wins over Drangan, played in a Thursday evening downpour at Killusty. We went on to win 0-3 to 0-2.

The final saw us matched with Clonmel Commercials in a keen exciting final. Leading 1-5 to 0-3 at half time we were on the defence all through the second half and only a disallowed Commercials goal saved the day leaving us lucky winners of the Tom Keating Cup. The score at the

final whistle was Fethard 2-5 Commercials 0-8.

In the minor hurling championship, played in the Barrack Field, we had a resounding win over Wild Rovers by 14-7 to 0-3. At half time the score stood at 3-2 to 0-1. We played Killenaule at the same venue in what was a hard, low scoring game that ended in a draw. A bit of luck, and the home venue, helped a fair amount in achieving the result. The replay was held in late July on a rock hard Killenaule pitch, watched by a large crowd in what was described as one of the best minor hurling games ever seen in the division. We went on to qualify for the south minor final and the result was, Coolmoynce 6-6, Killenaule 1-4. The sports reporter for the Nationalist wrote, "Although the scores would suggest a one-sided victory for Coolmoynce this was not the case". He went on to state, "first time pulling, ground hurling with fast vigorous exchanges were all part of an outstanding game".

It was then with high hopes we marched on to meet the Swans in the divisional minor decider. The game was fixed for mid-September and the curtain raiser to the county senior final between Swans and Borrisoleigh. We took the lead from early in the game and a half time were in front 2-3 to 2-2. We clung to our lead during the half and when referee, Paddy Quinlivan, blew the full time whistle we were winners on the score of 3-5 to 2-5. This victory ended a year for the under-age groups of the parish. Most of the team were winning their first South Tipperary championship final.

Of course lots of other events happened in 1952 in the Friary Town. On



*Coolmoynce 1952 South Final winning team. Sitting L to R: Tom McCormack. Mick O'Keeffe. Front L to R: ?, Gus Neville, M. O'Connor, Tommy McCormack (captain), Dermot Barry, Pat Ryan, Tom Treacy, Paddy O'Rourke, Bro Albert Small. Back L to R: Denis Noonan, Alfie Brett, Paddy Tierney, J. Clancy, Liam Connolly, Bill Meaney, Michael Dineen, Jarleth Finn, Dickie Byrne, Mick O'Shea.*

St. Patrick's night, the Patrician High School presented a three-act comedy, "Swan Song" with full supporting programme. Admission was 2s.6d, 2s.0d and 1s.0d.

The Fethard Players were presenting their third annual pantomime, Robinson Crusoe in the Capital Cinema. The Fethard Lawn Tennis Club advertised their open competition for the Gibson Cup at the club grounds. Adm: 1s. Teas 2s.6d. A dance would be held in conjunction with the competition. Venue was the Town Hall with music by the Twilight Serenaders. Dancing from 9 to 3am. Adm. 5s. Bar and refreshments served. I should mention that Fethard (A) went on to beat Kilkenny (A) in the final of the Gibson Cup. The Cup with miniatures was presented to the winners by Club President, Mr. Joe Coffey.

The railway was still in use and you could catch the train to Thurles to see

the Munster Senior Hurling Semi-Final at 12.01: Return Fare 3s.3d.

Muintir na Tire had students from the Sudan staying in Town. Mr Monsa and Mr Diab both were studying at Oxford University. The pair were studying social conditions in the area as guest of Muintir na Tire. They hoped their experience could help them gain a diploma in Social Science. The committee of Muintir na Tire also decided to ask all clubs to participate in An Tostal Festival of Ireland in 1953. Whether they did or not, I can't say.

That year also there was trouble with the County Council regarding a delay in the Fethard Water Scheme. I think it is still going on!

Rev Bro K. Crowley, who taught at the Monastery National School at various periods, passed away at the Brothers Scolasticate in Galway. And that was a brief glimpse of Fethard 50 years ago! ♦

## Fethard Secondary School

As it draws near to Christmas once more we are pleased to visit you in the annual newsletter. One of the most significant events of the year was the retirement of Mr Paddy Broderick. Paddy was part of the school for so many years, that he will be hugely missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement. The position of deputy principal has been taken over by Mrs Marion Gilpin.

January didn't bring the snow but did bring a variety of activities for our students. Our 5th year debating team of Barry Shee, Jodie Gilpin, Ciarán Duggan and Kersty McCarthy bowed out of the 'Concern Debate', but at least had the satisfaction of being there. Our thanks to Mr Justin McGree, who coached them. Mrs O'Donnell was busy with the young entrepreneurs who were competing at both junior and senior level in the country. Evelyn O'Connor and Ailish O'Connor were chosen to travel to Lourdes as helpers. And our senior maths team were getting ready for the annual maths quiz.

On the sports front, the boys' events were overshadowed by the girls' big win in volleyball. Nevertheless it is effort and

participation which makes it all worthwhile. Thanks to Ms Keogh, who got married in June, and to Mr Prendergast.

On March 21st we undertook our first trip abroad for a number of years, to Paris, city of love, city of springtime. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all forty students, accompanied by teachers Marian Gilpin, Michael Leonard, Justin McGree and Noel and Marie Maher. Disneyland Paris was certainly a highlight, and not to be missed by the young

and the not so young.

On the morning of April 15th, Transition year set out to Delphi, Co. Mayo. This place is special to our transition year who have enjoyed so many activity breaks there in the past.

Another special visit was our Leaving Certs to Glendalough, where they spent a reflective day before returning to their graduation Mass in Fethard.

The presentation to Mr Paddy Broderick, on behalf of the students, took place on Wednesday 22nd May. The pupils assembled to wish him well in his retirement and presented him with a print of his favourite animal, Istabraq!

On our last week of classes, house exams were held and our Leaving and



*Mr Paddy Broderick (centre) and his wife Nell with Mr Ernan Britton, Principal, Patrician Presentation Secondary School, Fethard on the occasion of his retirement from teaching and the post of Deputy Principal in the school.*

Junior Certs finished up. The Transition Year evening included displays of all the work completed by transition year's students during the year; a photographic display; and Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Breen P.P. with singers accompanied by Kevin Hickey.

Mrs Carmel Rice, representing Meals-on-Wheels and the Lourdes Invalid Association, gave the height of praise to all the students who had helped with Meals-on-Wheels and the wonderful work done by Mr Prendergast and the students in raising enough money to sponsor an invalid to travel to Lourdes. The two students chosen to travel with the Lourdes Pilgrimage this year are Kyle O'Donnell and Claire Ryan.

We extend best wishes to Ms Caitriona McKeogh of the English / R.E. Department on her recent marriage and best of luck also Ms Joan Walsh of the Science Department, who is taking a year out to return to University to study counselling.

Following the success of the Senior Girls All-Ireland Volleyball win last year in the C Division, we had a lot to live up to this year. The turnout of students to after school sports activities has been phenomenal. To date, volleyball for the seniors has been the main focus. At least 30 students from the Junior and Cadette teams were apparent every Wednesday while approximately 25 from the senior cycle were training on Thursday evenings. Newcomers such as Stephanie Lawrence, Christopher Sheehan, Aaron O'Donovan, Declan Doyle and Kevin Maher show extreme potential and commitment.

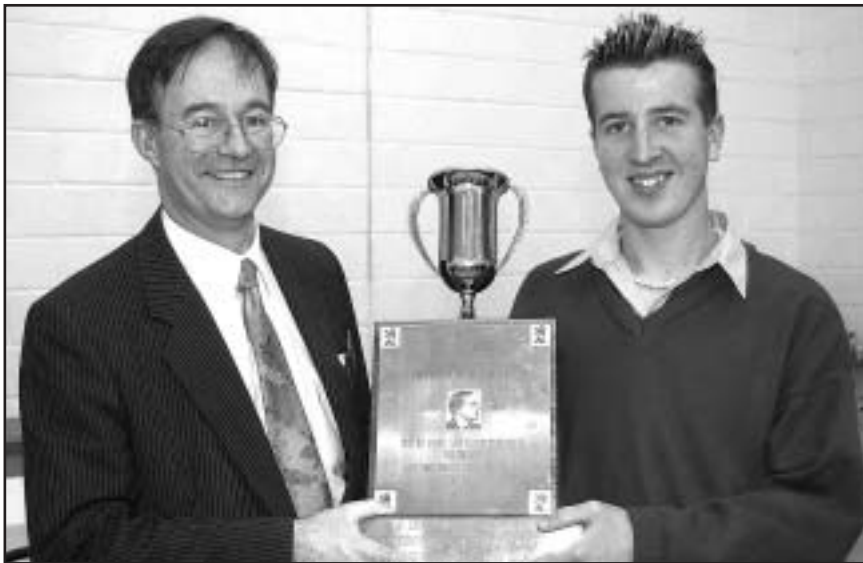
The senior girls show great love for the game and following the All-Ireland win last year a certain degree of pres-

sure has been put on them to perform well. The team was as follows: Vanessa O'Donnell (Captain), Kersty McCarthy, Evelyn Fogarty, Zoë Cooney, Ailish O'Connell, Helena McCormack, Evelyn O'Connor, Sarah Whyte, Kelly Anne Nevin, Sarah Standbridge, Maria Keane and Miriam Carroll. The girls jumped up to Division B due to the success in the previous year. The ability levels being much higher, was also daunting. With the VAI League the girls travelled to Mountmellic in Co. Laois. Fethard came third, which left the players heart-broken. Considering the jump in the division the girls should be very proud of the way they played. All girls played well and showed good team spirit and encouragement to fellow team-mates.

The boys also played in Mountmellic. The boys trained with the girls, which gave them good game practice against a strong girls' team. The following was the team: Eoin Maher (captain), Shane Aylward, Liam Frewen, Paul Kenny, Philip Ryan, Darren Sharpe, Gavin Ahearn, Brian O'Connell, Lar Looby, Noel Walsh, Damian Prout and Niall Maher. Fethard came third and went through to the quarterfinals in Laois.

All of these happy events figure prominently in our annual school magazine, 'Off the Wall'. Great credit is due to Mrs Mulhall and the transition year Mini Company group who produce this magazine every year.

And so came the exams, Junior Cert and Leaving Cert on August 15th. We were overjoyed with incredible Leaving Cert results. Jennifer Frewen achieved an outstanding 565 points and will study architecture at the Dublin Institute of Technology. Twins Paul and Michael Walsh also achieved an aston-



*Mr. Ernan Britton, principal Patrician Presentation Secondary School Fethard presenting student David Kennedy, Fethard, with the 'Padraig Pearse Perpetual Memorial Cup' for his academic excellence in Irish, History and English in the Junior Cert examination.*

ishing 1125 points between them. Paul will study chemical engineering in C.I.T. and Michael will study the same subject in U.C.D. Linda Coleman, Rebecca Carroll, Peter Kenny and Anne Marie Tierney also achieved stunning results. All our other Leaving Certs acquitted themselves very well, as also did our Junior Certs in September.

As Halloween mid-term approached the entire school and staff of Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School assembled in the school hall for the annual Mass and awards ceremony. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Tom Breen P.P., Fr Gerry Horan OSA Prior, and Canon James Power. Kevin Hickey was the accompanist for the Mass with a solo 'Bread of Life' from Jodie Gilpin of 6th Year.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Mr Ernan Britton, school principal, welcomed and introduced Dr Pat Guiry,

Lecturer in Science U.C.D., and guest speaker and past pupil to the occasion. The principal presented Dr Guiry with a commemorative framed photograph to mark the occasion.

Dr Guiry then presented the awards for the best Leaving Certificate results of 2002 to joint winners Paul Walshe and Jennifer Frewen, followed by the 'Student of the Year' awards, Evelyn O'Connor (6th Year), Amy Quigley (4th Year), Sarah Mai Ahearne (3rd Year), and Ronan Shee (2nd Year). The following were commended: Barry Shee (6th Year), Gillian Shine (6th Year), Helen Frewen (4th Year), Connie O'Flynn (4th Year), Suzanne Gorey (3rd Year), Kate Hanrahan (3rd Year) and John Frewen (2nd Year).

The principal then presented the Padraig Pearse Perpetual Trophy to Brian Kennedy (winner 2002) and plaque to Claire Ryan (last years win-

ner). The Paddy Broderick Award for best Junior Cert geography student was presented to Sarah Kennedy. Director of the local Credit Union, Jonathan Gilpin, presented the award for Business and Enterprise to Martin Sheehan (2002 winner) and plaque to Gerard Walsh (last year's winner). Mr Denis Burke presented the 'Sports Star of the Year' awards to Linda Nevin and Billy Hunt (Leaving Certs 2002).

Mr Britton then presented the best school attendance awards to Eimear Fogarty (6th Year), Jack Kenny (5th Year), Connie O'Flynn (4th Year), Sarah Flynn (3rd Year), Christopher Horan and Ronan Shee (2nd Year).

The STAG Art Awards were presented to Jennifer Frewen (senior) and John Frewen (junior). Highly commended were Sarah Flynn, Christopher Taylor, Sara Condon and Linda Nevin. The Poster Competition Awards for the Autumn Horticultural & Flower Show were presented to Eimear Fogarty (1st

Year), Katie Murphy (2nd Year), and Roseanne Meaney (3rd Year).

Finally the 'Prefect Badges' for the year were awarded to Barry Shee (Head Boy), Evelyn O'Connor (Head Girl), Evelyn Fogarty (5th Year), Amy Quigley (4th Year), Suzanne Gorey (3rd Year) and Ronan Shee (2nd Year).

The principal, Mr Britton, then concluded the ceremony by wishing all a restful mid-term break with, of course, a measure of study undertaken by exam classes.

The Transition Year show 'T Y Tops 10' for this year is currently under rehearsal. It is a compilation of the hits from the last ten years — Grease, Oliver, Godspell and Superstar to mention a few. Opening night will be Tuesday December 10th and it will continue on Wed 11th, Fri 13th and Sat 14th at Abymill Theatre.

Seasons greeting to all our staff, students and you: - our Newsletter friends in lands afar. ♦



*Full group of award winners at the Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School Awards Ceremony in Fethard on 25th October. Back L to R: Linda Nevin, Billy Hunt, Jennifer Frewen, Christopher Horan, Kate Hanrahan, Sarah Mai Ahearn, Mrs Walsh, Gerard Walsh, Sarah Flynn, Connie O'Flynn, John Frewen, Martin Sheehan, Suzanne Gorey, Barry Shee, Ronan Shee. Front L to R: Jack Kenny, Sarah Kennedy, Amy Quigley, Dr Pat Guiry (guest speaker), Mr Ernan Britton (school principal), David Kennedy (student of the year award), Evelyn O'Connor and Claire Ryan.*

# Nano Nagle Primary School



*Starting school at Nano Nagle Junior Infant Class this year were Back: L to R: Eoin O'Donovan (The Valley), Kiya Burke (Woodvale Walk), J.J. Roche (Woodvale walk), Nicola Thompson (St. Patricks Place), Vicky Cummins (Mocklers Tce), Thomas Condon (Woodvale Walk). Middle: Mrs Margaret Gleeson (teacher), Aine Proudfoot (Strylea), Alex O'Donovan (Garrinch), Amy Tynan (Barrack Street), Natasha Murphy (Woodvale walk), William O'Meara (Woodvale Walk), Jessie McCarthy (Derryluskin). Front L to R: Paul Maloney (Prospect), Cassie Needham (Slievenamon Close), Dean Dorney (Woodvale Walk), Mike Earl (Cannon Hayes Court), Luke Grant (The Valley), Annie Prout (Derryluskin). Missing from photo: Sadie McGrath (Rathcoole), Laura Ryan (Tullamaine), and Corey Carroll (Slievenamon Close).*

## **'School' by Kate O'Brien (6th class)**

I've been going to school for about eight years. The school is called Nano Nagle. My teacher is called Mrs Kenny. She teaches 5th and 6th class. There are eight teachers and eight classes.

If you leave out P.E. and art, history is my favourite subject; learning about the past is fascinating. I also like break. If it is nice and sunny we can go out to the playground. But if it is wet the children in 3rd class and under

go into the hall while the older classes stay in their classrooms.

In our playground there's a hopscotch yard and basketball court. Also there's some grass where we can play if it isn't damp. I like playing wheelbarrow and three legged races with my friends. Sometimes my sister plays with my friends and me. We also play Red Rover, 52 bonkers, 1,2,3 and Uppy and the hunt.

We've done paintings of a mummy case and have just finished doing a

project on islands. The blackboard is in front of the room. We've got a motto for our class: Respect, Honesty, Friendship. One of my friends called Aoife Delany made it up.

On a wall near the hangers where we put our coats, is a big project of the two English Queens, Elizabeth and

Mary. There's a library where there's a selection of books.

I've been attending school since I was five. School is on for about six hours, it starts at 9.30am and ends at 3.10 p.m. I don't like school that much, but there's some things that are okay.



*Portraits from Sixth Class*

*L to R: Carrie Sweeney by Aisling Breen, Sarah Conway by Ida Carroll, Siobhán O'Brien by Bernadette Costello*

## **School**

*by Sarah Conway*

*I go to school everyday  
Well, five days at the most.  
I get up early in the morning  
And have some tea and toast.*

*I go up in my car  
Not feeling very good  
I'd love to run back home  
Yes I really would.*

*I do my Maths and English  
But I love Art the best  
But when it comes to Friday  
It's time for a test.*

*I'm sitting in my place  
Can't take it anymore  
And when I hear the bell  
I run for the door.*

*At 9.00 each morning  
We go to school each day.  
To receive lots of knowledge  
Until it's time to play.*

*Some of us travel to school by car  
Others come by bus,  
Some come by walking  
To avoid all the traffic fuss.*

*After the doors open  
We all rush inside,  
To avoid the unwelcome cold  
From which seems hard to hide.*

*When it's time for break  
We all go outside,  
Only if it's raining  
Are we allowed to stay inside.*

## **School**

*by Aoife Delany*

*Some of us like reading  
Some prefer drawing,  
Others love to chat  
Until they hear the teacher calling!*

*Later on we have our lunch  
And back inside again,  
To finish off the long school day  
Which seems to never end!*

*Finally it's 3.00  
And we must tidy up  
And pack our bags for going home  
With all our homework stuff.*

*After that we hear the bell  
And it's out of school we go,  
Running out the gate  
To reach our relaxing home!*



*This years sixth class at Nano Nagle School Back: L to R: Kelly Morrissey, Aisling Breen, Lisa Anglim, Kate O'Brien, Chloe Gough, Aoife Delany, Samantha Morrissey, Siobhán Pollard, Sarah Hayes, Bernadette Costello. Front L to R: Ida Carroll, Emma Fox, Mary-Anne Keane, Michelle Bradshaw, Carrie Sweeney, and Sarah Conway.*

## Fethard Civil Defence *"Civil Defence Helping the Community"*

Civil Defence was once again quite active for the local unit under instructor Tony Kennedy.

The unit meets every Tuesday night at the Tirry Centre for general training and some weekends they travel to the Fire Training Range in Clonmel for rescue practice. Members took part in Multi Service exercises in Dundrum and Clonmel during the year. A number of members took part in the Annual Training Weekend Camp in Lahinch in June.

Once again Rory Walsh played a major roll in the catering side for the weekend, where we provided all meals to an excellent standard. Members of the unit attended a number of events where they helped out with stewarding and first aid:- Mitchelstown Music Festival, Cahir and Clonmel Car

Rallies, Killusty Pony Show, Horse Trials at Grove, Cycle Races in Carrick-on-Suir and the Culchie Festival in Fethard.

First aid training was provided for students in transition year at the Patrician Secondary School. As we come to the end of 2002 plans are in preparation for the holding of a County Exercise in Fethard in February 2003. The Fethard Unit have been given the task of organising this event. We would hope to hold most of the event on the lands of the Ponsonby Family in Grove who each year provide us with sites for training, this we very much appreciate.

We would like to send Christmas and New Year Greetings to all who took part in our activities over the past 52 years. ♦

# Fethard GAA Club



*The Fethard Under-21 Football Panel photographed outside Burkes Bridge Bar (sponsors) on Monday 6th May, with county and south trophies, after beating Galtee Rovers in the county final in Cahir on 5th May, on a scoreline Fethard 1-13, Galtee Rovers 0-5. This unique team have won four South titles and three County titles. Back L to R: Martin Burke (sponsor), Alan Phelan, Kenneth Byrne, Owen Doyle, Kevin O'Donnell, Michael Aherne, John Fitzgerald, Cian Maher, Michael Dillon, Mamie McCormack. Middle L to R: Pat Sheehan (selector), Tom Anglim (selector), Ian Kenrick, Philly Croke, Diarmuid Bourke, Conor McCarthy, Ronan Maher, Do O'Sullivan, Tommy Sheehan (selector), Noel Byrne (selector). Front L to R: Shane Walsh, John Hanrahan, Glen Burke, John Noonan, Tommy Gahan and mascot Ronan Fitzgerald, Brian Coen, Kenneth O'Donnell, Karl Maher and Nicky Murphy.*

*Missing from photo is Paul Hackett.*

Fethard under 21 'A' football team's success continues with three in a row county titles (2000, 2001, 2002) and four in a row south divisional titles (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002). This gives the club eight county titles and nine divisional titles. This year's achievement equals the club record (1966, 1967, 1968). Families represented on both teams are, Fitzgerald's (Kiltinan), Burkes (Red City) McCarthys (Fethard) and the Byrne family (Killusty) who hold all six county medals and seven south medals.

The 2002 campaign started in Clonmel on 17th March with the fol-

lowing results: Fethard 2-10, Killenaule 1-3; the semi final on 31st March (South), Fethard 1-17, Newcastle 0-7; the south final, Fethard 0-12, Ardfinnan 0-9 (the fourth year in a row meeting Ardfinnan in the finals); the county semifinal, Fethard 1-10, Moyne 0-2; and the final played on 5th May, Fethard, 1-13 Galtee Rovers 0-5. The team was: Tommy Gahan (capt), Philly Croke, Michael Aherne, Nicky Murphy, Alan Phelan, Cian Maher, Ian Kenrick, Kenneth Byrne, Owen Doyle, Brian Coen, Kevin O'Donnell, Michael Dillon, Karl Maher, Conor McCarthy,

Kenneth O'Donnell. Subs used were: John Noonan and John Hanrahan.

This team have been undefeated since their minor days in 1999, amassing a total of 21 competitive games, which is a Tipperary record. We wish all these young players the very best in the future and heres hoping senior success will not be too far away.

Our senior footballers won their 27th south title in style. In the semifinal the score was, Fethard 1-6, Cahir 0-7, and in the final, Fethard 0-13, Moyle Rovers 0-8. The team was: Paul Fitzgerald, Michael Aherne, Damien Byrne, Michael Quinlan (capt), Willie Morrissey, Cian Maher, Stephen O'Donnell, Kenneth Byrne, Aidan Fitzgerald, John P. Looby, Willie O'Meara, Brian Coen, Karl Maher, Miceál Spillane and Jimmy O'Meara. Subs used were: Glen Burke and Tom Anglim. In the county championship, after two draws in the quarterfinal and semifinal against Galtee Rovers and Aherlow, the club had to play each replay within 24 hours of the drawn

game. All this in the space off fourteen days, with a south intermediate hurling in between, took its toll and victory went to Aherlow, and with it our chance to put county titles back to back.

It is ten years since we last won the Intermediate hurling south title (1992) and this year we claimed our fourth in total. Having played four games to qualify for a semifinal showdown with old rivals Ballybacon, we won on a scoreline, Fethard 1-17, Ballybacon 0-13. In the final played on 27th October, the score was Fethard 1-15, Cahir 2-6. The team was: Paul Fitzgerald, Shay Ryan, Michael Ryan, Willie Morrissey, Tomás Keane, Stephen O'Donnell, Michael Aherne (capt), P. J. Aherne, Cian Maher, John P. Looby, Miceál Spillane, Brian Coen, Ciarán Treacy, Kevin O'Donnell. Subs used were: Damien Byrne, and Michael Dillon. The county series is now in progress.

Club officers for 2002 are: chairman, Mick Aherne; secretary, Noel Byrne; Treasurer, Nicky O'Shea. ♦



*Fethard senior football team captain Michael Quinlan being presented with the South Cup from Willie Barrett after beating Moyle Rovers in the final.*

# The language natives do not know!

by Tony Newport

Each year in early autumn, I attend an annual function where I am greeted by a friend with similar interests with the old Irish wish. ‘*Go mbeirmíd beo ag an am seo arís*’. This wish in Irish was also used annually by my aunt Mary Jane when the new seasons potatoes appeared on the table for the first time, ‘May we all be alive this time next year’.

This set me thinking. What has become of the dozens, if not hundreds, of Irish words, names and proverbs commonly used in every day vernacular some 40 or 50 years ago, but, for few exceptions, never heard by the younger generation at present: *ciotóg*- a left handed person, *sliotar*- a hurly ball, *sleán* - a turf cutting spade, are some of the very few Irish words still in everyday use. I will endeavour to give some examples of the very many that seem to have disappeared forever, that were in common everyday use a generation ago.

A berth of firewood- *scraith*, a sod i.e. ‘*scraith*’ turf on Slievenamon; *lúidín* - the little finger; *brus*- he made ‘*brus*’ of it, little pieces. Are you with me so far? *Maith go leor* - half drunk; *slog* (pronounced ‘slug’), a drink from a bottle “give us a ‘*slug*’ of that”; *slo-gaide*- a swallow hole or drainage outlet; *gabhlóg* - a fork for a catapult; *súgán*- a straw rope; *raiméiseach* - rubbishy talk; *casaoideach* - complaining; *crónán* - singing.

The very many Irish words, each describing the same things but with a different meaning depending on the person they were applied to, are typically exemplified by the description of

a person whose elevator did not quite reach the top story: *Amadán* (male) and *óinseach* (female) - a foolish person; *sraoillíocht* - a person untidy about their dress; *gamal* - a fool or lout; *bastún* - a stubborn individual; *ainniseoir* - a miserable person; *mí-ádh*- misfortune; *griog* - tease or irritate; sitting on his ‘*ghrog*’- haunches; he made a ‘*glam*’ - grab at me; *flaithiúlacht* - generous; and the latest one I heard, *goss*, which I found fascinating. I went out for a ‘*goss*’ of straw (from Mick Kearney, Friarsgrange). *Goss* is an armful, and it comes from the six strokes of a reaping hook, used by the reaper of old and the amount required for a women following the reaper to bind into a sheaf.

These words and expressions were the last link with the time when native Irish speakers resided in the area. How long ago? 100- 200 years ago.

I certainly never met or remember anyone who could recall a native Irish speaker in the area. I believe the late Mrs Barnable of Slievenamon who died in the early fifties aged over 100, used many Irish phrases. She also knew a number of prayers in our native tongue, handed down in her family from previous generations. I wonder if anyone ever collected and recorded them.

Is there any hope for a revival of Irish as the spoken language in our country? Very little, I suppose, with the lack of interest being the big problem. Speak a few words in Irish to some of our present teenagers, and they might look at you as if you were speaking Chinese, not having a clue what you are saying. What a pity we

have not a few more like Johnny Sheehan, St. Patrick's Place. Johnny, when in his early seventies not so long ago, decided he would like to become more proficient in his native tongue. He attended Gaelic League classes in Clonmel and within two years or less, he became a more competent speaker of our first language. Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, the well known G.A.A. games radio commentator and current chairman of the Gaelic

League, does not hold out much hope of Irish being revived as a spoken language. He has great hopes, however, of Irish people, especially those with second and third level education, becoming bi-lingual and using whatever Gaelic expressions they have when the occasion warrants.

Remember, *'Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná béarla cliste and le cunamh Dé go mbeirimid go leir beo ag an am seo arís.'* ♦



*Fethard Show Committee in the Town Hall in the 1960s. Back L to R: ?, John Kearns, ?, Dick Fitzgerald, Ollie Fitzgerald, Fr. Kennedy. 3rd Row L to R: Jim Ryan, Tommy O'Connell, Jack O'Shea. 2nd Row L to R: Fr Cooke, Paddy O'Shea, Michael Fitzgerald, Eddie Lawless. Front L to R: Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Byrne, Helen O'Connell, Monica Keane and Mrs O'Keeffe.*

# The Neighbour

by Miceál McCormack



*Miceál McCormack and Jack Ryan photographed in Kerry Street in 1960's during the visit of Tom Hanlon and his wife Peg and family. Peg is a sister of the late Jack Ryan.*

When the word filtered through on that wet and cold October evening that Jack Ryan had passed away, another little piece of life as I knew it in Kerry street had been taken away. I suppose it was an appropriate time as the referendum for a “yes” or “no” vote was about to be balloted the following day. With Jack’s affinity to the Soldiers of Destiny there could be no better time.

For over fifty years my late neighbour was part of my growing up: be it a message to the chemist for his medication, giving a hand on the farm or driving him to the hospital — the latter on many occasions. In those years Jack was one of the many young men and women who lived on the street. Slowly but surely his own family of Willy, Mary, Reg and Elsie went State

Side, Kathleen went nursing to England and Breda, the youngest, had to stay to mind Paddy and Kathy the parents.

Around the same period Betty and Marie Dineen went to England. Michael, Jim and Sean McCormack likewise, and the Matthews — Christy and little Christy.

The Connollys and the Hurleys moved out of the street. The O’Riordan brothers, Mick John and Timmy, arrived from Kanturk. Ned Browne of the Forge died, also the ‘Pig Man’, Paddy Maher, John Mackey and Mickey Mackey. Din Burke bought the shed. Willy Matthews moved to Crossard and Martin Carthy moved in beside me.

During all this time Jack Ryan looked after his farm out in

Derryluskin, walking or getting a lift there twice daily. The land, as he called it, was of top quality and was worked in beet, barley and hay with 10 to 15 cattle grazing on it. In later years he 'let' the land and got great satisfaction telling of his 'good money' for the letting. Lory Dineen reminded me at the funeral of the day we spent on the combine harvester lugging bags as big as ourselves.

Jack was very proud of the part his late father, Paddy and mother Kathy, played in his fight for Irish freedom. Eamon DeVelara, Dan Breen and Mick Davern were all family friends. As a young man Jack was on first name terms with these people. In later years Charlie Haughey and Noel Davern T.D. were the men of the day for Jack Ryan.

Jack's wonderful singing voice often turned a head when he gave a rendering of the ballad 'The Ragged Man'. Like the sunshine of the past, I suppose that the words of this song are lost and gone forever.

Then ten years ago disaster struck. Jack's residence at Kerry Street was destroyed by fire, leaving him with the clothes he stood in. From then on things were never the same. He lost interest in the farm, living in Tirry park was just passing time, and his health deteriorated resulting in hospitalisation in Clonmel, Clogheen and Carrick-on-Suir.

Eventually the wear and tear took its toll and the body could take no more and closed the story of my friend and neighbour.

May he rest in Peace. ♦



*Photographed at the West London Irish Society St. Patrick's Day function at Barkers, Kensington, London, in 1974 are L to R: Jimmy and Moira McInerney, Jim 'Shem' Danaher, Sheila and Billy Morrissey.*

# Killusty Soccer Club



*Taking part in the sixth annual 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition' were Back L to R: Ciarán Ryan (Fethard), Liam Tobin (Fethard), David Lee (Killusty) Lorraine Feery (Killusty). Front L to R: Shane Power (Cloneen), Robert Anglim (Cashel) and Kelly Aylward (Bray).*

The highlight of the soccer season in Killusty took place on Sunday 8th September, when Killusty F. C. held the sixth annual 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition', confined to juvenile players under 14. This year's competition, which attracts over 100 players annually, was won by: David Conway (Fethard), Stephen O'Meara (Fethard), Lory Kenny (Fethard), Tony Myler (Fethard), Shauna Casey (Dualla) and Sinead Lee (Killusty). Runners up were: Katie Ann O'Byrne (Cashel), Jason Lawrence (Fethard), Daniel Conroy (Clonmel), Pádraig O'Shea (Fethard), Aisling Slattery (Killenaule), Alan Lawrence (Fethard)

and Adam Lyons (Fethard).

In third place were: Patrick Kearney (Killusty), Owen Condon (Fethard), Michael Feeney (Clonmel), Brian Anglim (Cashel), Owen Dillon (Fethard), Emily Aylward (Naas) and Yvonne Slattery (Killenaule). Finishing in fourth place were Ciarán Ryan (Fethard), Liam Tobin (Fethard), David Lee (Killusty), Lorraine Feery (Killusty), Shane Power (Cloneen), Robert Anglim (Cashel), and Kelly Aylward (Bray). Player of the tournament award went to David Conway, Fethard.

Mrs Kathy Aylward, mother of the late Pat Aylward, presented the Pat Aylward Memorial Shield to the winning team. ♦

## Fethard Community Playgroup

**F**ethard Community Playgroup opens from 9.30am to 12.30 from Monday to Friday during the school year. The playgroup is affiliated and promotes the aims of the Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association. We work to advance the education of pre-school children that they may take a constructive place in the community and help parents of pre-school children to further the education of such children.

The Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association is committed to enhancing the lives of children and their families by supporting the development of quality, play based, early childhood care and education.

If you are interested in sending your child to our playgroup or if you need further information please telephone Helena O'Shea at 052 32316 or call upstairs to the Health Centre at Rocklow Road. ♦

## John Roche's 1952 350cc Bullet

**J**ohn Roche was a larger than life character who moved from Eire to Gloucestershire in the early 1940s. He was a wanderer and travelled everywhere on his bike, mostly visiting his seven brothers and seven sisters. John Roche's motorcycling days came to a premature end in the late 1970s when he fell off 'The Bullet' twice on the return leg of one of his trips to his birthplace in Rathkenny, Fethard.

Deciding he was too old to ride the Bullet safely, he put it away in his shed. Over the next decade it slowly deteriorated. Just a few weeks before he died in 1994 he telephoned his nephew John Roche (Jnr) and told him to collect 'The Bullet'. It took John four years to restore the bike back to its original condition.

John, a carpenter, is soon to leave for Romania where he'll work volun-

tarily for two weeks helping to refurbish one of the rundown hospitals that house orphaned children. On his return, he plans to take the Bullet on a nostalgic trip to the now tumbled down



*John Roche (Jnr)*

Irish ancestral home, a croft, so often visited with John senior in the 1950s and '60s. By doing this John will honour the promise he made to his uncle - that he would take the bike 'home' to Eire when it was roadworthy. The trip will also nicely coincide with the bike's 50th anniversary.

John plans to hand the Bullet on to his son, Stephen, when he feels the time is right. "He's motorcycle mad. Before going to university, he took himself off to India on a Blazing Trails Bullet tour and had a great time. Uncle John's Bullet should stay in the family, but it'll be many years before I've finished riding it!" ♦

# From Vancouver to Las Vegas

by Jimmy Ryan

When a Mexican crosses the Rio Grand illegally, they are called wetbacks, but when you come in over the St. Lawrence River from Canada, you are known as a greenback. It happened to me.

There were three of us. Along with me there was one from Germany and another from Leighlinbridge on the borders of Carlow and Kilkenny, and he did not know the side of the river he was born on. He was only about 5 foot and a bit, but one of the hardest men I ever came across. The other was a German from Hamburg.

The three of us came together in a bar and we decided to go to the States. So we drove on and arrived in the 'windy city' Chicago, pulled into the Italian section, Cicero, but they directed us to the Irish section. Mayor Daly was in power at the time.

We went into an Irish bar and called for a couple of beers. The bar owner asked us if we were working. No. If you want work, go up to the union office in the morning, fill in the form, put a fifty dollar bill in and you will get a ticket. Everything worked as we were told; so straightaway we got work on a building site. I cannot describe what we were doing but by God it was cold.

The three of us went on the dry, saving every dollar for St. Patrick's Day. On St. Patrick's Day all the beer is coloured green, so we decided we had enough of the windy city. We decided to go to a warmer part of the States, Las Vegas. We bought a red, white and black Dodge from a black car lot for 500 dollars, filled up with gas and took off for Vegas, stopped at every

hotel, motel and brothel on the way, finally arriving in Las Vegas loaded. We were the guys that were going to break the bank. The last of the big spenders. When you go to the casinos all the drink and meals are free while you are gambling.

We were staying on a trailer site outside the city, but like all good gamblers we went bust. No money to get out. I got a job pearl diving (washing dishes), in Caesars Palace. They were coming in on an assembly line. I was one side of the dishwasher and there was a black lady on the other side putting them into the dryer.

After a couple of hours working I copped on to the glasses — most of them full or half full with all types of alcohol. So I asked one of the other kitchen porters for a bucket. He bought me a stainless steel bucket, and I filled it up with everything that was coming in.

I asked the lady who was on the drying machine, if she would like a drink. We were drinking out of two coffee cups and after the third cup she said to me, 'God that's some cocktail, give me more'. So the two of us got stuck into the bucket and the result was we got drunk, and cups and saucers and plates were piling up and falling off the belt. She started singing, 'Way down upon the Swanney river' and I started singing 'Slievenamon'. I will leave the rest up to your imagination — what happened when the kitchen manager arrived, ankle deep in broken crockery and glasses and all the staff dancing. Good luck for now, have a good Christmas, especially to Tommy and Lillian O'Shea. ♦

# An Irish Emigrant

by Tony Newport



*Meeting in Lonergan's Pub are L to R: Gus Cummins, Joe Dalton and Jimmy MacInerney*

Each year over 1,100 copies of this Newsletter are sent overseas to Fethard Emigrants. Who are these emigrants who look forward to receiving this treasured link with their native Fethard each year? Many of them are numbered amongst the hundreds who left Fethard for England in the 15 year period from 1945 to 1960. Joe Dalton was one of those and perhaps his story is a typical example of most of the others, with the location and type of employment changed.

Joe was born in Redcify eighty-two years ago. Married and working as a farm worker for the princely sum of 10/= per week (50p or 65 cent) in 1945. He quickly realised that there was not much future in this. Taking the emigrant ship in 1945 he went to Peterborough where he secured employment in the local sugar beet factory. He worked at the beet campaign of 1945/46 and 1946/47.

He recalls sending home £7 from his week's pay to his wife, Annie, who

thought it was a fortune. Securing a country house, which he subsequently purchased and still resides in today, he was pleased to bring Annie over to join him in Peterborough. On leaving the factory, he then worked for a short time on the railway before becoming a bus conductor with the Eastern Counties Bus Company. He was asked if he would like to become a bus driver and on completing the company's bus driving course, he passed the single and double-decker bus driving tests at his first attempt. Joe spent the rest of his working life as a coach driver, first as a route driver with the company and subsequently joining the very large private fleet of Alec Head Bus Company.

He stayed with Alec Head for thirty-five years, driving groups all over England on outings to the seaside, to football matches, athletic meetings and holiday trips. During this period he never had so much as a scratch on any of his vehicles. Once, however,

driving a party of ladies to the seaside and Mablethorpe, Lincoln, he went for a meal in a local café. A fellow diner, who had been looking at him intently, finally came over and asked him if he was Joe Dalton. When he confirmed he was he had to admit he did not know his new-found friend. "You should be ashamed of yourself after the many times we played together through the streets of Fethard in Tom Hickey's Band." "I'm Paud O'Shea," proving once again it certainly is a small world.

Looking up the list of annual subscribers to the Fethard Newsletter, he noticed a James Cummins residing in Peterborough. On a hunch he found James' number and rang him. "This is James Cummins speaking" was the reply. That was all Joe needed, "You might be James over here but you were Gus when I knew you going to school to Bro Leo in Fethard." He recognised the accent although they had not met in 52 years.

They arranged to meet at a local

church and have been great mates since, regularly holidaying together in Fethard.

Joe was married for fifty-seven years to Annie Sayers, a member of one of Fethard's oldest families. Annie died two years ago and Joe still misses her greatly. Still going strong he has spent a recent holiday in Fethard with Gus Cummins, having just come back from a seven-week stay with his daughter in Florida. Joe, when in Fethard, loves to meet old friends and discuss over a pint or two the old days in Fethard, especially his time playing in Fethard Brass Band of which he is one of the only four survivors we can trace. He is another who felt the pain of emigration deeply and he also never lost his love of his native place. An avid reader and regular subscriber to the Annual Newsletter, he eagerly looks forward to receiving it each year.

There you have it, the story of Joe Dalton, a typical Fethard emigrant. Long may he and Gus Cummins continue to be able to visit their native town. ♦

## Leonie and Richard Everard

The following is taken from a letter received by Anne and Paddy Lonergan from Leonie Everard.

This is a sad note to tell you Richard passed away last Friday 4th January.

The visits to Fethard and to see Burncourt Castle were memorable for him. We often talked of you both, a wish Richard would have been so happy to be granted was to live in and around Fethard. The old 'gate' formerly from

the old house (now at sports ground), which you drove us to is now a small framed snapshot with Richard standing in front of it!



I thank you very much for making Richards visit so memorable. It and Ireland was very important to him, very sentimental, be it history or song.

My sincere thanks and best wishes also to Christine Nevin and Tony Newport. I hope all is well

with you too. ♦

# Donations Received

*Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th Nov. 2002. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.*

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*If, for any reason, we have omitted your name, please let us know and we will acknowledge your donation next year.*

## Acknowledgments

*Joe Kenny (editor)*

I would like to thank Sarah Murphy for typing, Carmel Rice for looking after correspondence and donations, Brendan Kenny for distribution and Gemma Burke for proof-reading. I would also like to thank all who subscribed to our Church Gate Collection in Fethard and a special thanks to all those who make annual donations which help make the whole publishing of this newsletter possible. ♦

# *A Journey Home*

*(To the memory of Mick O'Donnell, Crampscastle)*

*Light in the morning, every morning,  
the journey to work, to the land.  
You could set your watch, wheels turn,  
whistling, the road gate opens.*

*"Hup, hup, hup," the hum of milking machine,  
"Good morning Mick," "Hello Austy,"  
singing, a gentle tap on the rump of the last cow.*

*The methodical, unrelenting,  
unhurried working of fork, sprong and shovel.  
Veined, muscled forearms  
ash handle worn and polished by calloused hands,  
conversation and never an unkind word.*

*Day slips towards evening and cows.  
Cap worn backwards, homemade apron  
head resting upon flank, man and beast as one.*

*Days work done, the sanctuary of home and garden awaits  
Spotless wellington boots slowly turning  
the chain wheel against wind and rain.  
Cap on head great coat over shoulders,  
milk can swinging from handlebars,  
whistling, the road gate closes.*

*Wheels turn.  
A country man returns to the land, to God.*

*(by Fintan Rice)*





*Presentation Patrician Secondary School Transition Year pupils production of 'T.Y. Tops Ten' — a mixture of the past ten musicals performed by the past Transition Years. The show, produced by Marian Gilpin, opened in the Abymill on Tuesday 10th December 2002 and ran for four nights.*



*Members and leaders of Fethard Youth Club photographed after completing a three week beauty treatment course run by Bronagh's Beauty Parlour, Claremore, Fethard. Back L to R are leaders: Marie Murphy, Rita McCormack John, Bronagh Galvin, Patricia Fitzgerald and Claire Hannigan. Front L to R: Louise Neagle, Helen Frewen, Sarah Kennedy, Tracy Coady and Ashley McCormack. Missing from photo is Samantha Sheehan who also completed the course.*