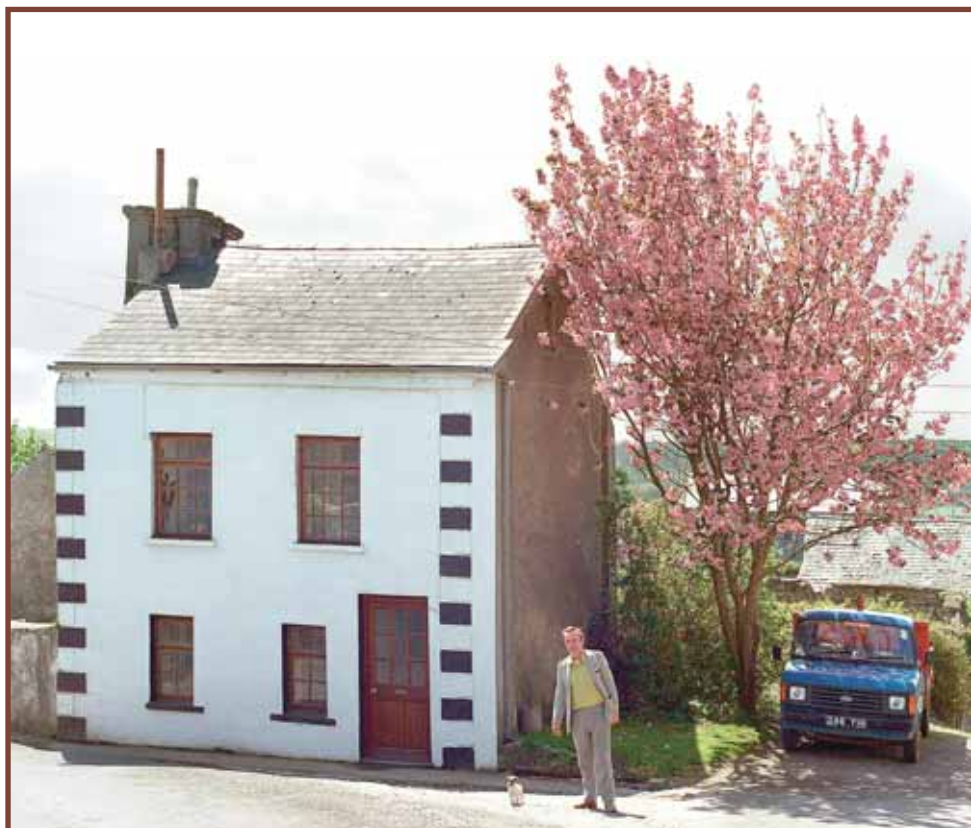




Fethard & Killusty Newsletter 2004

Augustinian
Abbey Fethard
1305-2005

€7



A man, his dog, lorry and house!
Jimmy Ryan, Watergate (13th May 1937–18th October 2004)



Bus children from Tullamaine, Barrettstown and Coolmoynne photographed with driver Gene Walsh outside Mickey Crokes, Tullamaine. Included is Paul Looby and many of his class of 1984.

FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2004

Dedicated to our friends and relations
living away from home

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Elusive 1964 Newsletter

by Joe Kenny (editor)

This year has proved to be very successful in tracking down the few remaining missing copies of Fethard & Killusty Newsletter.

Back in the 1995 issue of the Newsletter, the late Don Byard tried to shed some light on as to when the first Newsletter was published. Don joined the Legion of Mary in 1953 and was a member of the Juniors until he left in 1957 for further studies in Dublin. He returned to Fethard in 1960 and recalls,

"It was that year, at a Curia meeting in Cashel, they first saw a copy of 'An Emigrant's Newsletter' that other parishes were just beginning to send abroad. Fethard was not slow in taking up the whole idea and the first Newsletter was planned for dispatch for Christmas 1962."

Don was slightly out in his calculations because in 1998 Pat Shine discovered an actual copy of the first Newsletter in a drawer in his London home. This Newsletter was published in 1959, although it was dated 'Christmas 1960' on top. We can only conclude that Don Byard saw his first copy of "An

Emigrant's Newsletter" in 1957 before he left for his studies in Dublin, and then planned for the publication of the first Fethard Newsletter in 1959.

Further information was unearthed this year when Percy O'Flynn found more Newsletters from that period in a drawer at his home in Burke Street. These Newsletters were given to him some years ago by the late Gus Kenrick when he returned from Scotland to live in the family home in Burke Street, where Don was reared.

We now have all the missing pieces but one, the 1964 (8 page) issue, can anyone oblige?

It is interesting to note that second Newsletter was printed in Oct 1960, third in July 1961, fourth in Dec 1961, fifth in Dec 1962, and sixth in Dec 1963. We have all the issues from 1965 to the present. The 1964 was the first commercially printed Newsletter (*Sporting Press Clonmel*), referred to in 1965, *"The success of our first printed Newsletter has greatly encouraged us."*

Over 40 years later, it still does! ♦

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Parish Greetings

"Learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart (Matt 11.30)"

Greetings to all readers of the annual newsletter. Another year has gone by and we wonder how fast it has passed. It has brought much joy to some; much sadness to others; and the rest we just live on.

All of us, particularly at this stage in our history, need to reflect on the life of the one whose birthday we celebrate at this time - with particular reference to Matthew 11.30 - may we be all gen-

tle and humble with each other and may the word which God has written on the brow of every man be 'Hope'.

On behalf of the Canon and myself I wish to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity in the past year to us both. May the Lord protect you and guide you during the special search of wisdom and may the gentleness and humility of Christ be your inspiration for the year ahead.

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

Abbey - Celebrating 700 Years

It is with great joy and gratitude that the Augustinian Community present this programme of events to commemorate 700 years of Augustinian presence in Fethard (1305-2005). The jubilee year will be one of celebration and renewal in which all are invited to participate. The words of St Augustine are worth reflecting on as we embark on the journey:

"You say, the times are troublesome, the times are burdensome, the times are miserable. Live rightly and you will change the times. The times have never hurt anyone. Those who are hurt are human beings: those by whom they are hurt are also human beings. So, change human beings and the times will be changed." (St. Augustine. Sermon 311,8)

The liturgical events planned for 2005-2006 celebrations are as follows:

February 10th 2005

Opening Ceremony
Thanksgiving. Concelebrated

Mass with Provincial of
Augustinian Order, Ireland.

February 11th 2005

Theme: Blessing of the Sick.

February 12th 2005

Theme: Children

April 2005

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Five day Festival of Prayer.

April 22nd 2005

Reconciliation Service.

April 23rd 2005

Mass.

April 24th 2005

Mass

April 25th 2005

Night Vigil

April 26th 2005

Feast: Our Lady of Good
Counsel

May 2005

Triduum to St. Rita
Incorporating End of School
Year



Augustinian Priests at Fethard Abbey L to R: Fr. John Meagher, Fr. Gerry Horan (Prior), Fr. Malachy Lohran and Fr. Timmy Walsh.

May 14th 2005

School Exam Mass

May 19th 2005

Commence Triduum to St. Rita.

May 20th 2005

Mass & Reconciliation

May 21st 2005

Family Night

May 22nd 2005

Feast of St. Rita

August 2005

Sts. Augustine & Monica

August 27/28th 2005

Feast of St Monica and St. Augustine.

November 2005

St. Nicholas of Tolentine

November 1st 2005

Mass: Special Sermon on St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

November 2nd 2005

Mass: November Dead List.

November 3rd 2005

Mass: Focus on Resurrection

January 2006

Church Unity Octave

January 20th 2006

"Songs of Praise" Church of Ireland

February 2006

Lent

February 25th 2006

Youth Mass.

March 2006

Blessed William Tirry

March 5th 2006

Shrine to Blessed William Tirry Unveiled

May this jubilee year be for all of us a time of grace and renewal, as we give

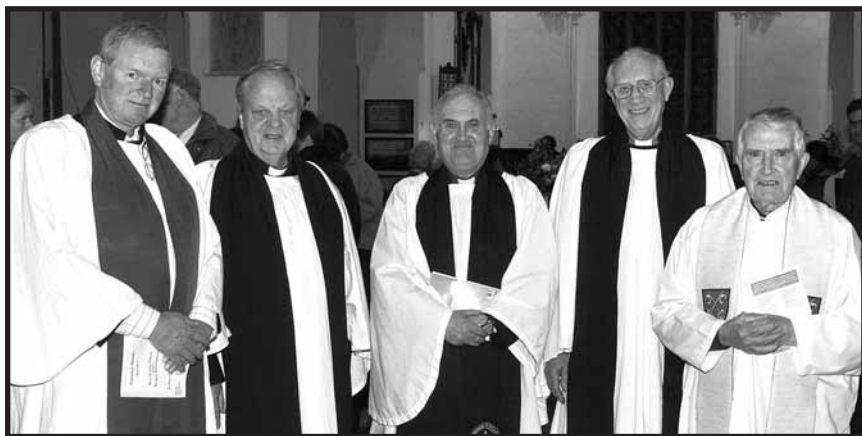
thanks for the past, praise for the present and commit the future into the tender and merciful hands of our heavenly Father.

Prayer for Seven Hundred Years Celebrations

O God our loving creator; You have accompanied us throughout our 700 years history in Fethard in many and mysterious ways. You have given us your servants Augustine and Monica

as our guides and models. The grace of your Son Jesus Christ has worked marvels of holiness through numerous faithful people of Fethard and Killusty, notably Blessed William Tirry, for all this we give you thanks. In this year of celebration we ask you to fill us with trust in your abiding presence among us and your protection. Keep us always faithful to you, and guide our restless hearts towards your peace, until we see you face to face and rejoice in you forever. Amen ♦

Church of Ireland



Photographed at the Clonmel Union of Parishes' Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland on Friday 15th October are L to R: Jonathan Gilpin, Rev Arthur Carter, Archdeacon Michael Nuttall, Rev George Knowl, and Rev John Meagher OSA.

The restoration work continues at Holy Trinity Church. On Saturday 25th October 2003 the baby daughter of Joseph and Katherine Aherne was christened Zoë Ann. On Sunday 26th October the baby daughter of Julian and Patricia Ponsonby was christened Clara Avelyn Grace. On 1st November the baby daughter of Timothy and Rosanna Smalley was christened Matilda Mary Robyn.

Sadly on 21st December Seema Major was laid to rest in the Holy Trinity churchyard following requiem mass in the Parish Church. To her husband, family and many friends we send our deepest sympathy.

On 21st December the annual Carol Service was held. It was very well attended. Again we thank the people of Fethard for their generosity to the collection which was donated to Meals



At the Harvest Service L to R: Chrissie Cummins, Rita Kelly, Joan Allen and Rose Cudden.

and Wheels.

On Saturday 22nd May 2004 the marriage took place between Nicholas Stokes and Anna Kempton. The church was beautifully decorated and we wish them the very best of good fortune in the years to come.

On Friday 15th October 2004 the Harvest Thanksgiving service was

held. The Ven. M.J.B. Nuttall preached the sermon and Mr Peter Kenny was the organist. There was a most attractive display of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

We are so fortunate to have Peter Kenny as our organist and John Nagle, who looks after the church and churchyard. ♦



At the Harvest Service L to R: Tara Bricknell, Rev George Knowd and Brian Palmer.

Legion of Mary

We wish all our readers a blessed, peace filled Christmas and New Year. Members of the Legion of Mary are aware that many people in the parish support them in their work. However, the expansion of their efforts will only be possible if new members are willing to join them. Please spare a thought for this worthwhile commitment.

We need more readers of Catholic literature. There are papers available each week and the 'Alive' paper is out each month. Could we persuade anyone to help in the distribution of any of our available papers?

Sympathy is extended to all who suffered bereavement during the year. All of us remember our departed. What better way to do so than at our Sunday Mass and when possible at daily Mass

and in praying the Rosary? It is encouraging to see an increase in daily Mass attendance and to see the Rosaries well attended during November when we visit our cemeteries.

Many are aware that there is Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament each First Friday in The Abbey. We are grateful to all who volunteer a specific time to keep company with Our Lord.

This is the year of The Eucharist. Many blessings can be gained by our love, devotion and reverence while in the presence of our Lord and our God.

Legionaries try to help and support the Church. They try to remind people of the availability of services and aids that help to make us a better people, happy and content with our lives.

We wish you many blessings during the coming year. ♦



Taylor family, Saucestown, Fethard, photographed L to R: Louis, who died this year on Thursday 30th September 2004, his daughter Marie, son Joseph and wife Margaret.

More Memories - Rineanna

Tom Cooney, New York, sent us this article as a follow up to his first article printed in the 2002 Newsletter (pages 61-66).

My career path, to use a modern term, came about due to a mixture of happenstance, luck, fate, providence, divine intervention, or so it seems now. After the Leaving Cert in 1956, the next ten months or so were spent just hanging around while periodically applying for jobs, going for interviews, without any clear idea of what I wanted to do. About the only certainty I had was that I didn't want to work on a farm. In any event there was no large pool of jobs available. There was no career guidance counselling either. Going on to university was not an option either, for most people.

After several interviews (not too many) with the Bank of Ireland, Agricultural Credit Corps. etc., I applied for a job with Aer Lingus at Shannon Airport, and was called for interviews in Limerick. There were several interviews, necessitating long round trips (time wise) via bike, bus and train.

Eventually I was hired as a Temporary Traffic Clerk and told to

report to Shannon Airport on May 13, 1957. When I arrived that day there was nothing much going on, partly because there was a lightning strike underway. Apparently the loaders didn't want to handle the smelly crates of live monkeys, which were being transhipped to/from freighter aircraft operated by Seaboard & Western Airlines.

After some negotiation the matter was settled by the company agreeing to

pay a premium to each loader for each crate of monkeys they handled. All of the loaders were local Clare men, mostly farmers. But, although they presumably were accustomed to the smell of pigs, they realised that there was no money to be had from their own pigs.

They quickly re-educated newcomers like myself. We were working in Rineanna, Co. Clare, a townland across the Shannon River

from Foynes, Co. Limerick, which the transatlantic flying boats had used as a transit base between North America and Europe. The flying boat era had ended and Shannon Airport had been established to handle the increasing number of flights between Northern



Tom Cooney photographed with his mother on Confirmation Day c.1951

Europe and North America.

Most of them operated during night time hours, which was another reason why there was very little activity at Shannon the day I started.

After some training, I was assigned to one of the four shifts operating at that time. It was a rotation of 3 day shifts - 3 evenings, 3 midnights, and 3 days off. The midnight shift was from midnight to 9.30am to match up with the CIE bus schedule or maybe the bus schedule was designed to match the work activity.

Generally the west-bound flights arrived from the U.K. and Northern Europe between 8pm and 2am before continuing on to Gander, Newfoundland and the U.S.

After a short lull the eastbound flights started to arrive from

North America from about 2am until about 8.30am, before continuing on to London, Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, etc. There was a lot of activity throughout the night in all kinds of weather. The 9.45am double-decker bus to Limerick felt like a luxury coach, with exhausted staff trying to get some sleep. A lot of people had trouble sleeping during the day, and after three midnight shifts, the three days off were barely enough to catch up on some rest before starting the rotation all over again. The day shifts were boring, the evening shifts

were exciting and the midnights were drudgery. One chap who joined with me couldn't sleep at all during the day and, exhausted, told the manager that if Aer Lingus were serious about wanting his services he would have to be given permanent day shift duties. The man-

ager bid him farewell, maybe not that politely.

The airlift of Hungarian refugees to the US from the failed uprising against the Soviet Union was winding down. Some of the aircraft were old and rickety, with too many people crammed into them. As they trundled down the runway trying to get up enough speed to get airborne, we could only wonder if they would make it across the Atlantic. All aircraft at that time were propeller driven and radio commu-

nication was extremely poor. It was not unusual for the Shannon tower to lose contact with aircraft soon after take off. But they carried on. Many hours later a telex would come in from Gander to advise that the aircraft had made contact with them. Some did not make contact and were presumed lost.

One time a President Airways DC6, loaded with refugees, barely got airborne in Shannon when it lost power and crashed back into the River Shannon killing all 95 on board. In those days the total count was



Three lovely lassies from Coleman / Ballinlough, Mary O'Dwyer, Margaret Griffin, Rena Moclair, early 1950s on a trip to Tramore.

expressed as "95 souls on board", including crew. The sight of numerous coffins in our warehouse over the next few days brought the stark realisation that this was a dangerous business. There were a few other fatal accidents during my time there but that was the worst, because the aftermath was so visible and not out in the Atlantic somewhere.

I lived in various places in Limerick. First was in digs at Miss Byrne's in Sexton Street. Full board for 2 pounds 10 shillings per week. The grub was great, and regular, and in the early days it was a stabilising atmosphere. The remainder of the weekly pay packet went on pictures at the Royal, the Savoy or one of the other cinemas. Some went on loan to veteran colleagues of 21 or 22 years of age who smoked and had a few drinks. They borrowed it on Wednesday, paid it back on payday (Friday), borrowed it again on the following Wednesday and so on, and on (without interest I must add).

That started to wear thin after a while and so I decided to accompany my money when it went out for a good time. Also, a youthful sense of adventure caused a lot of us to forsake the comfort and regularity of Miss Byrne's meals and seek out rooms or flats in places like Mallow Street, Henry Street, etc. Pretty soon we didn't

have any money on a Wednesday either.

This was the Limerick that Frank McCourt described in grim detail in "Angela's Ashes" but he had left some 15 years or so before I got there. I didn't notice it as being all that bad but then the circumstances were different.

I enjoyed my six years in Limerick. The social life – cinemas, dances and so on – was okay.

Each shift was like a team and we had inter shift football games from time to time. When we had soccer games we frequently had to rope in guys like Bill Treacy of Cappawhite to play in goal. He had no time for these foreign games and we had to watch him like a hawk to make sure he didn't stray outside the box and handle the ball. Stubborn was his middle name. He was also the one who sent me out in the ramp van to the end of the runway one very foggy night at the request of the control tower. I was to radio

back and tell them how many perimeter lights I could see. They could then calculate the approximate visibility and advise incoming aircraft (very scientific). I could see very little and the radio failed. While I was wondering what to

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Advertisement from National Geographic, April 1948

do, an aircraft came whizzing in over my head. I don't know by how much it missed me, but I hightailed it to the intersecting taxiway as fast as I could before another might pancake me. It didn't knock a feather out of Mr Treacy of course. We also had shift outings to places like Ballybunion, Lahinch, and Lisdoonvarna. These days, when I go back to the Cliffs of Moher, I shudder when I remember the horseplay we used to indulge in along the edge, pretending to push each other in. Pretty stupid when looked back on in cold reality.

Apart from the fact that our weekly pay packet came from Aer Lingus, we had little contact with or knowledge of Aer Lingus operations, except for a DC3 flight which arrived from Dublin each night and returned there next morning. Our function was to handle the aircraft operated by Pan Am, TWA, Lufthansa, Air France, BOAC (now British Airways), Swissair, Sabena and others.

Jet aircraft started to come to the fore about 1960 and their increased range caused Shannon Airport to be bypassed and to lose business. Aer Lingus had decided to re-establish an Atlantic division, Aerlinte, to operate flights to/from New York and Boston. The service had been launched in 1948, but had been cancelled and the aircraft sold off, when there was a change of government.

A letter which appeared in the Aer Lingus staff magazine, Aer Sceala, in September 1948 (and reprinted in Feb 2001) read in part, "Some mothers train their sons to walk with their toes turned in. It helps them to move in circles, not too far removed from the parish pump." And, "We in Aer Lingus

can ill afford the time to listen to the miserable few who, in unctuous moments, would explain and apologise for us. We are busy people, building up a new industry with all the energy of our national life". Pretty strong stuff, maybe intended for the incoming government, but in any case it would take more than turned in toes to stem the waves of emigration of those days, initially re-started in 1958 (thanks to Sean Lemass I believe).

With Super Constellation aircraft leased from Seaboard, the inaugural flight from New York with Mayor Wagner and Cardinal Cushing on board, spent 24 hours in Gander for an engine change. Feathered props and engine changes were frequent occurrences in those days. Later Aerlinte acquired Boeing 720 jet aircraft. They were the wrong aircraft for the route in that they didn't have the range to make the Shannon/New York trip with a full load thus needing a refuelling stop en route on most flights.

It was pretty exciting to be part of this expanding industry, though we probably didn't fully realise it at the time. (When Aer Lingus was celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1986, 50 years seemed like a very long time in this fledgling industry - but then it dawned on me that I had been around for 29 of those years myself).

Some people blamed Aerlinte for driving away airlines like Pan American and Trans World Airways, but they were already over flying Shannon and carrying passengers to London, where they waited all day for a flight back to Shannon that evening.

By 1963, the time between flights dragged on and work became boring. One midnight tour, we were sitting

around, nodding off. Our supervisor, Sean McEoin, took a 'Staff Vacancy' notice for a job in Boston from the bulletin board, slammed it down on the desk in front of me (and others) and said, "Here, Cooney, put in for that job. You don't want to spend the rest of your days hanging around here."

I had not given much thought, if any, to moving to the US, but I sent in the application anyway. After an interview, the only other guy who obeyed the same ultimatum from McEoin, got the job. I said, "Oh well, I didn't really want to go anyway." A few weeks later I was told that the Operations Manager from Aer Linte, North America was coming through, en route to Dublin, on the flight next morning and wanted to see me. I thought he was going to explain to me why I had not gotten the job, but instead he said there was a job

available in New York and was I interested. I said, "I guess so," and he said, "be there in two weeks."

Thus by another happenstance I became a transferee/emigrant and after a mad scramble I managed to get a visa from the US Embassy. And so I left for New York on July 21, 1963. We landed first in Halifax, Nova Scotia for fuel. When I arrived in New York, I thought I had died and gone to hell as the temperature each day for about 10 straight days, topped 100 Fahrenheit. Fortunately my pal Alf Kelly from Roscrea had preceded me by a year and took me to Mays department store next day for some light clothes and I survived.

I did spend a lot of time at work in the following weeks with my feet under running cold water as my ankles swelled up from the heat. But, 40 years later, I am still here! ♦



Coolmoyne National School in the early 1960s. Back L to R: Celia Flanagan, Geraldine Moroney, Ann Neville, Josephine Ryan. Middle Row L to R: Joseph Leahy, Frank O'Connell, Andrew O'Rourke, John O'Connell, Peter Nagle, Mrs J. Ryan. Front L to R: Breda Ryan, Hanna Frewen, Eileen Moroney and Marguerite Neville

Parents' Association

Patrician Presentation Secondary School



At the Information Evening on Substance Misuse on May 19th 2004 are L to R: Garda Des Bell, Junior Liaison Officer; Johnny Casey, South Eastern Health Board; guest speaker John Lonergan (Governor of Mountjoy Prison), and Ernan Britton (School Principal).

The Patrician Presentation Secondary School Parents' Association was very active this year. We have been involved in the formation of an Anti Bullying policy and also the Substance Abuse policy. Through various fundraising over the past years we helped provide new PE Equipment and also valuable resources for the learning support teacher and the library.

We are represented on the Board of Management by two parents, Ann Fleming and John Whyte. The yearly quiz in aid of the Lourdes trip was held successfully on 23rd March and once again two students travelled as helpers.

We helped with refreshments on Entrance Exam day and also at the Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Masses. Awards day, a Study Skills evening and mock interviews for the Leaving Certificate were also sponsored. A Substance Misuse Information evening was held on Wednesday 19th May with guest speaker John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Casey SEHB,

and the Garda Drugs Task Force Juvenile Liaison Officer, Des Bell.

The event was very well attended and was a most enjoyable and informative evening. More recently the Parents Association was involved with the school's 'Open Evening' and we congratulate the school on the success of same. It was nice for prospective students and their parents to view the school in an informal setting.

We wish Ms Gilpin every success with the production of 'Joseph' rehearsals for which are taking place at the moment. Our Christmas Draw will take place shortly and we would like to thank all of you who support us every year. Committee: Ann Darcy (chairperson), Rita Kenny (treasurer), Finola Anglim (secretary), Ann Fleming, Valerie Rice, Jane Hayes, Mary Prout, John Whyte, Marie McGrath, Judy Doyle, Veronica Fogarty, Maura Gorey, Ann Sheehan, Catherine McGrath and Maureen Maher.

Wishing all readers, at home and abroad, a very Happy Christmas. ♦

Fethard Secondary School

Down the days of September . . . October . . . November . . . we have quietly slipped into the back end of the year. Amazing how time passes when you are a student, management, a teacher, a secretary, and a caretaker. But yes, we have almost reached Christmas and the sometimes daunting prospect of another Leaving Cert - their special one - has fallen like the scholar gypsy's spark from heaven on the heads of the class of 2005.

Thursday February 12th was 'Mock Exam' time for our Leaving Certs and Junior Certs. This is a very valuable experience as interview and aptitude tests now play a big part in certain 3rd level courses. The spring term was a busy one for exam classes, with the

practical and orals taking place before Easter. The transition year students also had a full programme with work experience, history and art outings and outdoor pursuits.

On the sporting front, our boys' cadet volleyball team won through to the All Ireland Junior final. Mary Gorey, 5th year, was chosen to play rugby for Munster on the ladies under/19 team, and also with the Clonmel Ladies winning team of the Tipperary Cup. Our young hurlers, footballers, volleyball-teams and track and field enthusiasts are competing in a variety of venues around the country, the keen edge of competition encouraging them to train longer and harder. In the annual charity volleyball challenge match between the



Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School pupils who helped with the sale of daffodils outside Fethard Post Office on Friday 19th March — National Daffodil Day - in aid of Cancer Research. The pupils raised almost €1,000 from their sales alone. L to R: Jillian O'Connell, Richard Gorey, Fintan Maher, Stephanie Fitzgerald and Suzanne Gorey.

seniors and the staff, the staff won 2-1.

The 5th year English Students travelled to Cork on February 11th to see the stage production of William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. The annual Lourdes quiz, which is very popular with both adults and students, took place in the school on March 9th 2004 and we held our first year Entrance Assessment on Saturday morning March 27th.

Sharon Duggan, Sarah Kennedy and James Smyth from 5th year successfully completed the 2FM Trocaire fast. This is a very worthwhile cause and good sponsorship was raised.

The Lourdes quiz night raised €900 and was again a great success with large student participation. The student table winners were John Freeman and Niall Hayes of 3rd year. The students selected to go to Lourdes were Mary Gorey and Sarah Kennedy. A great effort by Mr & Mrs Prendergast, all our scrutineers, collectors and sponsors, Connie Sullivan of our ancillary staff and all who helped are to be congratulated.

In the Young Entrepreneur competition Sara Conway, Carrie Sweeney and Chloe Gough, all of 1st year, received a prize for their personalised calendars, which looked very attractive indeed.

Transition Year Daffodil Day team Suzanne Gorey, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Gillian O'Connell, Richard Gorey and

Fintan Maher raised approximately €1000 outside the Post Office on Daffodil Day, 19th March. This is an annual venture for TY students who were hugely supported by Anne Connolly, the local organiser.

There is study and recreation, energy and vitality, as the weeks slip one to the other. Our principal, Mr Britton, spoke of positive attitude and will to succeed and this was never so clearly displayed as on our Annual Awards ceremony, on Friday October 22nd 2004, and our substance misuse evening, on May 19th 2004.

Substance Misuse Evening

Wonderful; well worth while; positive and re-assuring; - these were some of

the responses to the evening from the well over one hundred people who attended an information evening on Substance Misuse held in the school hall on 19th May 2004.

Guest speakers John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison, Garda Des Bell, Junior Liaison Officer, and Johnny Casey, South Eastern Health Board, were greeted

by senior prefects Paul Kenny and Miriam Carroll on a beautiful May evening. All present were welcomed by the Principal Ernan Britton in his opening address.

The evening was organised by the



Jonathan Gilpin, representing Fethard Credit Union, presenting the Business and Enterprise Award to Emma Walsh at School Awards Ceremony 2004.

Substance Misuse Committee of the school, made up of teachers, parents and senior students who had spent many months formulating the school's Substance Misuse Policy.

At the conclusion of the evening there was an open forum where questions were answered by the panel. The opening address given by Johnny Casey, who chaired the proceedings, gave an interesting and informative idea of the problem of substance misuse in South Tipperary and the help available.

The Garda Junior Liaison Officer spoke of the importance of knowing where children and young people are, what they are doing and in whose company they are. John Lonergan spoke on the subject of parenting and building of a good relationship with young people based on trust and mutual respect.

It was a very successful evening and gratitude is expressed to all involved: the Principal and staff, caretaker Con Sullivan, Ms Maher and Mrs O'Donnell for the display of posters and projects, the secretary Gwen Cronin, the ladies of the Parents Association who helped with teas for the guests, Seamus Whyte and the Abymill Theatre for sound equipment, the Substance Misuse Committee and most importantly, the guests who made

it such an invaluable experience.

Students Awards Day

At 11am on Friday, October 22nd, the Patrician Presentation Students Awards ceremony commenced with the opening Mass, celebrated by Fr Tom



Mr Ernan Britton, principal, presenting student Niall Hayes, Brodeen, Fethard, with the 'Padraig Pearse Perpetual Memorial Cup' for his academic excellence in Irish and History in the Junior Cert.

Breen P.P., assisted by Fr Gerry Horan OSA and Canon Jim Power. The choir, accompanied by Kevin Hickey, sang specially prepared pieces like "No Greater Love" and songs from other well-known composers like Liam Lawton, which complimented the readings and Gospel of the day. In his homily Fr Breen spoke of "being one's own person" and stand-

ing as an individual, a commitment to oneself which begins at school and is carried throughout one's life.

At the conclusion to the Mass the principal, Mr Ernan Britton addressed the assembled students, teachers, parents, Parents' Association, Board of Management, ancillary and secretarial staff, guests and special guest for the awards day, Denise Maher-Sheehan, lecturer in Archaeology, University College Cork, and a past pupil of the school.

Denise addressed the assembly and spoke of her school days in Fethard and her pleasure at returning to her 'Alma Mater'. Denise, formerly from Abbey



Photographed at the presentation of the Annual Student Awards for 2003-2004 are Back L to R: Helen Frewen, Claire Tierney, Cormac Grogan, Sarah Mae Ahearn, Liam Ryan, David Sullivan, Mary Gorey, Mike Kelly, Shane Walsh, Sarah Kennedy, Peter Garreth, Siobhán Prout, David Ryan, Dave Gorey, Darragh Dwyer; Eoin Prout, Alan O'Connor, Alex Channon, Colm Horan. Front L to R: Suzanne Gorey, Sharon Duggan, Michael Griffin, Niall Hayes, Marion Gilpin (vice principal), Ernán Britton (principal), Denise Maher Sheehan (guest speaker), Ronan Shee and Emma Walsh

Road, Fethard, is a daughter of Paddy and Anne Maher, who were both deputy principals of the school and had spent many years on the teaching staff.

Denise spoke of the sense of energy and vibrancy she felt upon entering the school gates and urged the students to enjoy their school days and fulfil their potential in life, not just as “point seekers”, but fully rounded both socially and intellectually. She said that when she left school in the late 1980's there were pressures such as unemployment and a depressed economy, but nothing like the pressures that the “Celtic Tiger” brought with it. She urged them to develop their self-confidence and stability as well as developing themselves intellectually, and wished a happy and good future to all. Denise was very well acclaimed by the student body and all assembled who could identify with her and the world she lived in.

Denise and Mr Ernán Britton then

presented the following awards: Student of the Year in second year went to Darragh Dwyer, and to Peter Garrett in third year, and Sarah Kennedy in fifth year. The Padraig Pearse Trophy was presented to Niall Hayes for his Junior Cert results and the Paddy Broderick Perpetual Trophy for Geography at Junior level went to Ronan Shee.

For the best Leaving Cert results the prize went to Miriam Carroll, who gained a scholarship to study Psychology at NUI Maynooth; and to the sound of sustained and resounding applause, Jack Kenny also received an award for his Leaving Cert results.

On the sporting field special awards went to Mary Gorey and Michael Griffin. Deputy Principal Marian Gilpin then called upon the recipients of Attendance and Punctuality Awards; David Gorey 2nd Year, Alan O'Connor 3rd Year, Cormac Grogan 5th Year and Helen

Frewen and Mary Gorey, 6th Year.

For outstanding achievements in Judo, Cathal Gorey and Stephanie Lawrence received awards for winning gold medals at the National Community Games finals in Mosney.

The Young Business and Enterprise Perpetual Trophy, sponsored by Fethard and District Credit Union, was presented to Emma Walsh, 5th Year, by Jonathan Gilpin PRO for the Chapter Ten Region and Director of Fethard and District Credit Union.

Marian Gilpin and Majella Whelan of the English Department then presented the new but extremely popular Fethard Writers Quill Awards to Siobhan Prout, Senior Poetry; Colm Horan, Junior Prose; and Michael Costello, Junior Poetry. The newly appointed Head Girl, Mary Gorey and Head Boy, Shane Walsh were called upon to address the assembly and were joined by the prefects Claire Tierney, Sarah Kennedy, Mike Kelly and David Sullivan.

Prefect badges for the academic year 2003-2004 at Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School were awarded to L to R: Mike Kelly (3rd Year), Claire Tierney (2nd Year), Shane Walsh (Head Boy), Sarah

Kennedy (5th Year), Mary Gorey (Head Girl), David Sullivan (4th Year) and Sharon Duggan (1st Year).

Finally the Students' Council were called upon to receive their certificates: 1st Year representative Owen Prout; 2nd Year - Alex Channon; 3rd Year - David Ryan; 4th Year - Bobby Ryan; 5th Year - Emma Walsh and Liam Ryan; 6th Year - Helen Frewen and Tracey Coady.

The ceremony concluded on a positive note with the principal complimenting all who had put such effort

into the event. He also complimented the attitude and behaviour of the students, the organising committee - Dennis Burke, Dick Prendergast and Michael O'Gorman and Denise Maher - Sheehan for taking time out of a busy work and family schedule to return

to us once more and deliver her very valuable words to our students.



Sr. Mary Taylor being presented with a cheque for €1,189, raised by 5th and 6th year students, proceeds of a sponsored volleyball and soccer match. The money will provide a secondary school education for two girls in Tanzania. The project was co-ordinated by teacher Mr Denis Burke. L to R: Ernan Britton (Principal), Denis Burke, and Sr. Mary Taylor.

Cross Country Competition

Nine pupils travelled from the school on Tuesday, 30th November to compete in the post-primary schools cross-country competition which was held in the Clonmel Og grounds. First to race

were the first year girls with Laura Rice running strongly to finish in 7th place followed by Aisling Dwyer in 12th position. Unfortunately Adam O'Donnell's trip was in vain as he missed the start of the 1st year boys' race. Next to toe the line was Bernadette Costello who ran impressively in the 2nd year girls' event to take a well-earned bronze medal. The 2nd year boys' race followed as Michael Costello, Robert Ahearn and Darragh Dwyer combined well to win team bronze medals. In the senior boys' race David Sullivan ran a perfectly paced race, winning the gold medal with considerable ease. David was followed home by Michael Kelly who gave a great performance to finish in 4th place.

It has been a good year; we have sailed on the river of serenity, having

its occasional moments of turbulence. Leaving Certificate results were excellent and they have flown the nest to new destinations - university, PLC courses, colleges and trades. Our equally excellent junior certs are now our seniors enjoying their first taste of life at the top.

Our thespians, a varied crew of first, second, fourth and fifth years, are in 'Joseph 2004' mode as they prepare for "Joseph and the amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", which takes place in the Abymill Theatre on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December 2004.

From our principal Mr Ernan Britton, our deputy principal Marian Gilpin, staff, Gwen Cronin in the office and our caretaker, Con Sullivan, we extend seasons greetings and wish you the best for 2005. ♦



Transition year students, with the permission of Nano Nagle Primary School Principal, Sr. Maureen, have completed a beautiful mural on the theme of 'Flora and Fauna', which will be installed in the playground at Nano Nagle Primary School. The students' work, completed under the guidance of art teacher, Ms Patricia Looby, was complimented by the principal Mr Ernan Britton and Mr Vincent Doocey, transition year co-ordinator. The group are photographed above in Nano Nagle Primary School at the final stage of the project.

Nano Nagle National School



Junior Infant Class 2004. Back L to R: Liam Quigley (Garrinch), Carly Tobin (St. Patrick's Place), Roisin McDonnell (The Square), Courtney Walsh (Baptistgrange), Mark Hayde (Saucestown), Sally Butler (Kilnockin), Mrs Margaret Gleeson (teacher). 3rd Row L to R: Jack Spillane (Tullamaine), Amy Cowlard (St. Patricks Place), Gavin Mullally (Woodvale Walk), Tara Regan (Woodvale Walk), Jordan Coen (Barrack Street), Amye O'Donovan (The Valley). 2nd Row L to R: Jack Ward (Garrinch), Amy Needham (Woodvale Walk), Conor Clancy (Barrack Street), Harry Butler (Kilnockin), Rebecca McGarry (Barrack Street), Dylan Lyons (Coolmoyne), Aisling Gorey (Jesuits Walk). Front L to R: Megan McCarthy (Derryluskin), Eboni Burke (Woodvale Walk), Shane Curran (Kilnockin View), Jesse McCormack (Woodvale Walk), Eric Fogarty (Barrack Street) and Laura Butler

The present staff members at Nano Nagle National School are: Principal, Sr. Maureen Power; Vice-Principal, Mrs Maureen Maher (1st/2nd Classes); Ms Michelle Skehan (5th/6th Classes); Ms Elaine Brady, (3rd/4th Classes); Sr. Winnie (Senior Infants), Mrs. Margaret Gleeson (Junior Infants), Sr. Mary McNamara (Resource Teacher); Mrs. Mary Hanrahan (Learning Support Teacher); Ms Anne-Marie Harty (Special Needs Assistant); Mrs. Anne D'Arcy (Secretary) and Mr Willie Ryan (Caretaker).

School life has a rhythm all of its

own, with one year often flowing seamlessly into the next. The school calendar is punctuated by the reappearance of such annual staples as the Cake sale in October, the Presentation Day School Mass, the Christmas Concert, the Sports Fun Day etc. The Celtic Tiger may have roared and a new Millennium dawned but here in Nano Nagle N.S. things usually remain unchanged.

However, the past twelve months heralded some profound changes for us. In September 2003, Dermot Rice retired from our Board of

Management. Dermot was the longest-serving board member, having participated since the Board of Management's inception in 1975. During those twenty-eight years, Dermot gave unstintingly of his time and expertise. He was always "ready, willing and able" to assist in whatever way he could and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude. So to Dermot we say a heartfelt "go raibh míle, míle maith agat" and we look forward to welcoming him back to future school occasions in his role of proud grandfather to one of our pupils.

September 2004 heralded the departure of Mrs Patricia Treacy, vice principal, who had taught here for thirty years. Thankfully, Patricia didn't go too far, merely next-door where she has taken up the position of principal of St. Patrick's Boys N.S. We wish her every success in her new role and we can truly say that our loss is definitely their gain. Mrs Maureen Maher now takes up the post of vice-principal here and

we wish her well in her new position.

Mrs Rita Kenny, who taught 5th and 6th Classes for the last few years, has opted for a career break this year and we look forward to welcoming her back next September totally refreshed by her year as a "lady of leisure."

Sr. Angela who came to us from Clonmel courtesy of the Presentation Sisters will not rejoin us this year. We would like to thank her for all the help she gave us and to wish her joy of a well-earned retirement.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Sr. Winnie to our school. Sr. Winnie has many years of experience with senior infants so her new class will pose no problems. Hopefully, our Irish climate will not prove too daunting after the sunshine of Zimbabwe.

We are also delighted to welcome to our staff two recently qualified teachers: Ms Michelle Skehan and Ms Elaine Brady. They bring with them a wealth of musical talent plus the enthu-



Nano Nagle Sixth Class 2004. Back L to R: Ann Marie Harty (classroom assistant), Niamh McGrath, Kelly Fox, Emma Fleming, Katie O'Shea, Orlaith Delany, Danielle Breen, Bridget O'Reilly, Rebecca Fogarty, Ms Michelle Skehan (teacher). Front L to R: Kelly Fogarty, Audrey Tynan, Amy Grant, Laura Mullins, Jean Anglim, Aisha Tobin and Jane Kenny.

siasm and energy of youth so we anticipate lots of interesting activities throughout the coming school year. Congratulations to Ms Skehan and 5th and 6th Classes who have just raised €2,300 for the M.S. Readathon and thanks to everyone who supported them so generously.

The theme of this year's Irish Independent Sunday Independent initiative project for primary schools was 'My Favourite Building.' Sixth Class girls chose the Abymill Theatre as their favourite building and were busily occupied over a number of weeks researching the material for their entry. They were highly commended for their efforts and won a TV / DVD for the school.

Congratulations also to the many other prizewinners of the various competitions we entered during the past year: handwriting, essays, drawing, painting, etc. Unfortunately, they are too numerous to list individually in this article, but well done to one and all.

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental awareness we continue to recycle cans and printer cartridges. Mrs Maher has also spearheaded the development of a "container garden" in the courtyard. The Infant

Classes and 2nd Class were involved in the planting up of the containers while 1st class took responsibility for planting the hanging baskets that now adorn the front of the school. We hope also to develop a nature trail through the trees that were planted adjacent to the playground in recent years.

We are currently in the throes of preparing for our Christmas concert which will take place in the Abymill

Theatre on 12th, 13th and 14th December 2004. All our pupils from junior Infants to 6th Class will take part and everyone is looking forward to taking to the stage once more. Junior Infants, with a little help from 3rd Class, present "The Little Angel", Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd will perform "The Little Christmas Tree" while 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes bring us "A Christmas Special" devised by Ms Skehan and Ms Brady. Dare we say



Junior Infants at rehearsal for the Christmas Concert. Back L to R: Liam Quigley, Eboni Burke, Aisling Gorey. Front L to R: Carly Tobin, Laura Butler and Amye O'Donovan.

"break a leg" to everyone?

In conclusion, we would like to thank all those who support us in our work, especially the Board of Management, the Parents Association and the community at large. To the readers of this Newsletter, at home and abroad we would like to say "Nollaig Shona Agus Bliain Faoi Mhaise Dhibh

St. Patrick's Boys School

The year 2004 saw the retirement of Mr Eamon Dwyer as Principal. At a very well attended function in 'The Well', a presentation was made to Eamon to mark his 20 years teaching in Fethard. Eamon will be remembered by many former pupils for the huge contribution he made to sport in the school down the years. We take this opportunity to wish Eamon every happiness and success in his retirement. The present staff are: Patricia Treacy (principal), Eileen Fitzgerald (deputy principal and resource teacher), Carmel Lonergan, Aisling Ryan, Mary Hanrahan (shared learning support teacher), Anne D'Arcy (secretary) and Willie Ryan (caretaker).

Our teams have done extremely well in the Cumann na mBunscoil football competitions. The U-13 and U-11 teams reached the finals against

Loughmore and Grange and, although beaten, did themselves proud with great displays of football and sportsmanship.

The school also competed in the Schools' Athletics competitions with good success with Matthew Fitzgerald winning individual gold and the teams winning gold and bronze.

We send best wishes to all our past pupils

Eoin Healy, 6th class, wrote this story following a class discussion about the importance of co-operation and teamwork.

The Unsuccessful Fiasco

Once upon a time I played for Blazers United. We were good at soccer. We were going well in the league and were into the quarter final. Our team had been improving with every



Sixth Class boys at St. Patrick's Boys' National School. Back L to R: Damien Morrissey, Colm Shanahan, Eoin Healy, Joseph Thompson, Darren Thompson, Kieran O'Connell, Ms Patricia Treacy (Principal). Front L to R: Padraig O'Shea, Stephen Maguire, Tommy Sheehan, Matthew Fitzgerald, Frankie O'Donovan and Tommy O'Dwyer.



Under-11 team Back L to R: Eileen Fitzgerald (teacher), Gerard Gorey, Eoin Walsh, Ronan Fitzgerald, Ger Maher, Cíarán O'Meara, John Gartland, Vincent Lawrence, Kieran Walsh, Willie Ryan (trainer). Front L to R: David Gartland, Brian Healy, Louis Rice, Dylan Fitzgerald, Cathal Hurley, Brian Delahunty (captain), Andrew Maher, Michael Smyth and Dion Butler.

game. We were now up against the champions of 2003, the Mangled Badgers.

I could not wait and was biting my nails with excitement. The day came. I got up and started to get nervous. At 2pm I was there for a 3pm kickoff. It was a freezing dressing room and cobwebs were hanging out of the ceiling.

I ran on to the pitch with my teammates. I was buzzing with excitement. They're off! The ball was in play. Johnny, our star midfielder, ran down the pitch. He wouldn't pass and lost valuable possession. The Mangled Badgers from Cork got an early lead, 1-0.

We started picking at Johnny, calling him horrible names. The gaffer told us to stop it and to play some soccer. The players weren't getting on. Everyone was at each other and every one of our players started glorying. Then we were

2-0 down. This was a total catastrophe. We started messing and Peter and Bean got sent off. The Mangled Badgers got a spot kick. Their star player, James, scored with ease because our keeper didn't try.

Half time, spilling rain, 3-0 down, with a low spirited team! We annoyed the gaffer about the team and the referee about his decisions. The team was in bits, with everyone angry. The gaffer was annoyed. So annoyed that he changed the team totally.

Nine subs! A new team! We were laughing and annoying the coach about his decisions. He was right, however. The new team played like a team and controlled themselves well. They played like a team and we were lucky. We got a draw at 3-3.

The team apologised to the gaffer and we learned that everyone has to play together, because every one per-

Fethard Ladies Football



Fethard under-12-13 ladies football team who won Section 'B' in the Blitz Tournament played in Mullinahone. Front L to R: Kelly Fox, Katie O'Shea, Faye Manton, Orla Lawrence, Debbie Lawrence, Aisha Tobin, Mary Jane Kearney, Jean Anglim, Jane Kenny. Back L to R: Ida Carroll, Lisa Anglim, Claire O'Brien, Sarah Lawless, Mary Anne Keane, Samantha Morrissey, Carrie Sweeney, Sarah Hayes, Chloe Gough, Sarah Conway, Kelly Cody and Tracey Needham.

The annual general meeting of Fethard Ladies Football Club took place on Friday night, 20th February 2004 in Grant's Lounge before a large attendance. The following committee was elected: President, Rev. Fr. Tom Breen P.P.; Vice President, Bob Grant; Chairman, Joe Keane; Vice Chairperson, Geraldine McCarthy; Secretary, Jennifer Keane; Asst. Secretary, Edel Fitzgerald; Treasurer, Bob Grant; Asst Treasurer, Lisa McCormack; PROs, Geraldine McCarthy and Barbara Ryan. Committee members: Meala Noonan, Sandra Maher, Marie Holohan, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Lisa Ryan, Gillian O'Connell and Valerie Colville. Trainers: Tom Anglim and Aiden Fitzgerald. Trainer Underage: Willie Quigley.

The curtain came down on the 2004 season with our junior ladies reaching the semi-final of the County

Junior 'B' Championship where they were defeated by a very strong team from Upperchurch. However, earlier in the year our junior team won the final of Junior 'C' Championship. These ladies will be presented with their medals at a special County Board function in the near future. Our under-13 team won Division B of the Mullinahone Blitz.

The Fethard club intends to organise a function for both underage and over-age players before Christmas. The club now has 40 underage players and a full junior panel. We wish to thank all those who helped in any way during the year especially coaches / selectors, Aidan Fitzgerald and Tom Anglim, for their hard work and training. Thanks also to Bob Grant, formerly proprietor Grant's Bar, Main Street, who sponsored a set of jerseys. ♦

Fethard & Killusty Community Games

Fethard & Killusty Community Games continued their success story in 2004 and for the nineteenth time, since their revival in 1985, returned with medals from the National Finals in Mosney. This must surely be a record for an area to win national titles every year for 19 years. A complete list of medallists will be produced next year when hopefully we will have a roll of honour for 20 years.

This year we entered competitors in Athletics, Art, Cross-Country, Judo, Juvenile Quiz, Model-Making, Swimming, U/10 mixed GAA, U/13 Hurling, U/12 boys Soccer, U/13 Boys Indoor Soccer, U/11 Mixed Rugby, Boys and Girls Volleyball, a total of 14 events.

Laura and Louis Rice, Everardsgrange, represented Co. Tipperary at the Crown Paints Art Challenge at the National Sports Induction in Mosney in May. One of the first events to take place was the cross country and Fintan Rice and Mary Trehy, Fethard Athletic Club,

took a number of their athletes to Thurles where John Lalor, Rathcanty and Ciara O'Connor, Ballyvaden, qualified for the national finals in boys u/13 relay and girls u/14 relay events. Their colleagues, Lolo and Hannah Trehy, also qualified but had to represent Killenaule Parish.

The County Finals of Art & Model Making took place in Fethard Ballroom where 218 children competed. Gold medals were won here by Evie O'Sullivan, Main Street and Jane Kenny, Rocklow Road. A silver medal went to Louis Rice, Everardsgrange. Other competitors in the art competition were: Charlie Manton, Laura Rice, Gerard Gorey, Adam Lyons, Christopher Thompson, Joseph Thompson, Brian Delahunty, Jody Sheehan, Nicole Looby, Jessica Conran, Jane Holohan, Sadbh and Gráinne Horan, and Nicola Gleeson (u/14 model making).

In the juvenile quiz, Sam Manton and Adam Lyons travelled to Thurles to contest the county final where they



Children from Fethard who qualified for the Community Games Art and Model Making County Finals held in Fethard Ballroom



Boys Volleyball Team after their victory at Munster Finals. Front L to R: Aaron O'Donovan, Alan O'Connor, Darren Prout. Back L to R: Joe Keane, Cathal Gorey, Declan Doyle, Christopher Sheehan, J.P. McGrath and David Gorey.

finished a very respectable 4th. The area athletics took place in Fethard Community Sportsfield and the following children travelled to the county finals held in Thurles Dog Track: Laura Rice, Brian and Eoin Healy, Hannah Tobin, Kate Quigley, Radicka Janacikana, Vincent Lawrence, Aine Phelan, David Heffernan, Jack Gleeson, and Hannah Tobin, daughter of Tom and Kathy, St. Patrick's Place, who won a silver medal in the girls u/8 60m, just beaten for 1st place by Rebecca Hearne, Cloneen, a granddaughter of the former Mary (Kennedy) Noonan, Burke Street, Fethard. A bronze medal was won by Kate Quigley daughter of Willie and Mandy, Redcity.

Philip Maher, Ballybough, son of Aiden and Eileen, won the county final of the boys' u/10 freestyle swimming competition and represented Tipperary

at the National ESB Community Games finals held in Dundalk Pool.

Judo, always one of the main highlights of our programme, saw the following children winning the county finals: Aobh and Padraig O'Shea, The Valley; Lorraine and Samantha Feery, Killusty; Cathal Gorey, Moanbeg; Natalie Cahill, Woodvale Walk. Lorraine, Samantha, Natalie, Padraig and Cathal were all victorious at the Munster Finals and brought honour to Fethard winning four gold medals at the ESB National Finals where a bronze medal was won by Padraig O'Shea. Great credit must go to coach Eric O'Donnell, Monroe, a former gold medallist, now a member of the Garda Síochána, who always has his players in tip top form. Alice Feery was Judo Manager and Helena O'Shea was a National Judo Official.

Both Volleyball teams and boys' u/13

indoor soccer team represented Tipperary at the Munster finals in University of Limerick on 10th July. The indoor soccer team had a great game but were beaten by Kilmallock.

The girls volleyball team were beaten in the semi-final by Lismore and the boys' u/15 volleyball team had a super victory over Sixmilebridge, Co Clare, and headed on to Mosney where they won 4th place certificates of merit at the National Finals. These teams were a credit to their coach and manager,

Denis Burke, Redcitty. Our secretary Bernard Feery was manager and coordinator of the soccer finals at both county and provincial level. Indoor soccer team members were: Adam Lyons, Ben Walsh, Jake Maher, Damien Morrissey, Daniel Hickey,

Ciaran Ryan and Darren Connolly. Boys volleyball team members were: Alan O'Connor, David Gorey, Robert Ahearne, J.P. McGrath, Darren Prout, Jonathan Fleming and Cathal Gorey.



Boys Indoor Soccer Team Front L to R: Damien Morrissey, Ben Walsh, Jake Maher, Daniel Hickey. Back L to R: Ciarán Ryan, Darren

The team were seen in action on highlights from Mosney on TV recently. Our chairman Joe Keane and secretary Bernard Feery were also spotted carrying out their duties.

Well done to Josephine O'Donnell, Husseystown, Cahir, who has a long association with Fethard Judo Club and Community

Games, on her super achievement winning a silver medal at the World Masters Judo Championships in Vienna last summer.

We wish a Happy Christmas to all those at home and abroad. Have a great 2005. ♦

Fethard Community Sportsfield

It is now two years since Fethard Community Sportsfield - a six-acre field on the Killenaule Road - was very kindly leased to the community by Mr and Mrs John Magnier, Coolmore Stud. The field has now been developed to cater for athletics, rugby, tag rugby, GAA, soccer, community games, fun days etc. and is being used for exercise purposes by

some individuals.

The present project underway involves floodlighting the underage playing pitch. Poles have been erected, cable put in place and we are awaiting ESB connection. A long jump is in place and the athletic track is marked out around the field. Athletic and rugby club members have described this field as "a dream come true".

Use of the field is open to all members of the community whose requirements are suitable. The car park has been extended to cope with the large numbers who congregate there for training and matches. Two 40 x 8 containers were purchased to act as temporary changing and storage facilities. A ladies and gent's toilet unit was installed recently.

There is a very high financial aspect to all this development. The committee were lucky enough to be awarded €15,000 from the County Council Amenities Grant and €30,000 from Capital Grant.

However, local fundraising is top of the agenda at present and personnel from the NCTC in Limerick delivered two seminars on 'Fluid and Fuel for

Sport' in the Abymill Theatre, and a 'Dog Race Night' at Thurles Greyhound Track is planned in 2005.

In order to broaden club and individual involvement, a special finance committee was recently formed: Bernard Feery (chairman), Valerie Colville (secretary), Aidan Maher, Mary Trehy, Cora Stapleton, Audrey Conway, Michael O'Dwyer, Colm McGrath and Philip Furnell.

The original committee members are Rev. Fr. Tom Breen, Susanna Manton, Jerome Casey, Clem Murphy, Sean Devaney, Fintan Rice, Valerie Colville, Gus Fitzgerald, Jacqui Freyne and Peggy Colville. All those using the facilities are expected to assist with fundraising for what promises to be a spectacular facility. ♦



Fashion Show in Fethard Ballroom in the mid 1960s. L to R: Peggy Ryan (Colville), Spitalfield, Rita Bulfin (Duncan), The Valley, Dorothea Schofield (Hannigan), Main Street, Mary Bulfin (Duncan), The Valley, and Anne Ryan (Gleeson), Coolmoyne.

St. Rita's Camogie Club

Ailis Ni Shiochain.



St. Rita's Camogie Fethard 1964. Back L to R: Mary Moloney, Tossie Carroll, Peggy Russell, Ann Sheehan, Margaret Fitzgerald, Nancy Purcell, Pauline Ryan. Front L to R: Vera Purcell, Peggy Carroll, Joan Russell, Nancy Lawrence, Louise O'Meara, Breda Delahunty, and Patricia O'Halloran.

Beannachtaí na Nollag go dtí ar gcairde go leir i gCumann Luthchleas Gael agus i gCumann Camogaíocht na hÉireann.

2004 has proved another successful year in the re-development of the club. The top table of Martha Sheehan (chairperson), Emma Fitzgerald (secretary) and Sharon O'Meara (treasurer) were re-elected and the camogie club owes them a debt of gratitude as we would be unable to continue without their constant efforts.

Stephen McCormack took over as trainer of the team with Denis O'Meara and Stephen Fitzgerald as selectors. Edel Fitzgerald was elected captain and she played a pivotal role in leading and inspiring the team.

Stephen Fitzgerald represented St. Rita's at county level as chairperson of

the county board and a selector on the county junior team, who, along with their colleagues at senior level, were victorious at All-Ireland level this year. Comhghairdeas daoibh go leir.

We participated in a number of challenge matches in preparation for this year's championship and league, playing Knockavilla home and away, Urlingford at home and Anacarthy away.

After a narrow defeat by a strong Cashel side and a great victory over Drum-in-Inch, we qualified for the county semifinal of the league, where we suffered defeat at the hands of Toomevara. The league performance however, was something to be proud of and was a great motivator for the championship which followed.

We had a decisive victory over St.

Cronan's in Killenaule and another victory over Knockavilla ensured St. Rita's a coveted county semifinal position in this year's championship. This match was played in The Ragg against Drum / Inch, who had their revenge for the earlier defeat in the league. Despite a heroic display in the second half, we were defeated. This brought the year's fixtures to a close.

Reflecting on the year gone past, it has been a year of mixed fortunes for

the club. We are always searching for new interest to maintain the fine and long-standing tradition of camogie in Fethard and we are eternally grateful to those who continue to pledge their support to St. Rita's. The club has undergone many changes over the past few years and yet it continues to survive. There is a county championship in this team, so watch this space! Le gach deaghui don Nollag agus Ath-Bhlian faoi mhaise daoibh go leir. ♦

Class of 1984 Reunion

by Lydia (Newport) Kelly



'Class of 1984 Reunion'. Back L to R (pre-marriage names): Paul Looby, Jane Noonan, Kay O'Riordan, Lydia Newport, Carmel Coffey, Ann Cummins, Annette Walsh, Brian Burke, Frank Guiry. Front L to R: Anne Marie Quinn, Niall O'Connell, Helen Hogan, Teresa Lawlor, Helen Murray, Tomás Anglim and Bernadette Flanagan.

The discovery of a set of photographs; a chance encounter one summer's night; a casual conversation in the pub; two phone calls . . . and the Class of 1984 Reunion was organised.

It doesn't seem that long since we were facing our Leaving Cert exams and making our way out into the world. But twenty years have indeed passed since then and we wonder where the time has gone.

We had the opportunity to find out how the years had treated everyone in Butlers' Bar, Fethard on 27th November 2004. Details of the Reunion were posted on the Fethard Website and the trusty Nationalist and a welcome was extended to one and all from the Class of '84.

It was great to hear from members of our class who contacted us to say that, for one reason or another, they

would not be able to make the Reunion, but who wished us all the best for the event. It was wonderful to meet and chat with old school friends on the night.

Despite attendance being lower than anticipated, this did not detract in any way from what turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. Memories and recollections flew thick and fast, everyone had something to contribute as they remembered our schooldays. Old school nicknames resurfaced (Minnie!), as did the carefree banter and jokes of years ago.

The nuns, brothers and teachers who taught us got honourable mention, as did the blue prefabs, the Brothers' field and all the aspects that went towards making our school days so unforget-

table.

Some photographs, circulated on the night, helped to jog the memories and mention was given to nearly all those who had been in our class at one stage or another. We also remembered with sadness those of our classmates who are gone on to their eternal reward. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

A huge thank-you to all those who attended on the night, who travelled (some flying home especially) to join us for the Reunion. Also, to Joe Kenny for his help; to Philip, Ann and the staff of Butler's Bar; and a special word of thanks to the committee for their time, efforts and food!

See you all in five years time for the "Silver" Reunion, D.V. - don't say we didn't give you enough notice! ♦

Fethard Community Playgroup

Our community playgroup goes from strength to strength. We have 35 children attending our sessions which are held Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12.45pm and on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 4.30pm.

The playgroup offers a safe and stimulating environment for children from Fethard and surrounding areas. We have three highly qualified and dedicated staff without whom this facility could not operate so efficiently. Playgroup leader is Helena O'Shea and her childcare assistants are Eileen Kennedy and Ruth Higgins. Activities for the children include music, dancing, sand and water play, arts and crafts, rhymes, counting, building, jigsaws, nature and free-play.

During the year we had our annual summer outing to 'Jumpin' Jacks' which is always a very popular venue

to visit. At the moment we are looking forward to our Christmas party.

We are currently in the process of expanding our facility in conjunction with Fethard and Killusty Community Council.

The Community Council were awarded a grant of €700,000 to extend childcare facilities as part of their Convent Hall Development Project. They are currently undertaking a feasibility study with Tipperary Institute to assess the needs of the community in this area.

The Playgroup is very lucky to have a good hard-working committee, Joe Kenny (chairperson), Alice Butler (secretary) and Pamela O'Donnell (treasurer). We would also like to thank all parents, past and present, for their support and help with playgroup outings and parties. ♦

The Trollopean Connection

by Tommy Healy

Several years ago, having watched the television versions of Anthony Trollope's two great series, "The Barchester Chronicles" and "The Pallisers," I began to read his books. Trollope wrote forty seven novels in all, a far greater output than his more famous contemporary, Dickens. He tended to chronicle the lives of the landed and professional classes rather than focus upon the many social abuses of 19th century Britain as Dickens did. However, like Dickens he has enjoyed lasting fame and all of his works remain in print well over a century after his death.

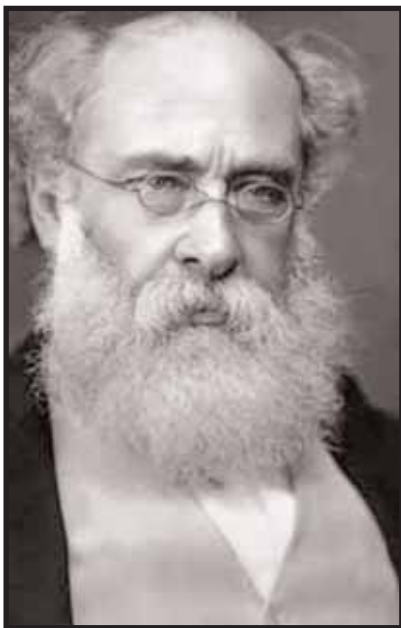
Unlike many professional writers Trollope held down a very demanding day job. He had entered the British Civil Service as a clerk in the General Post Office. From these humble beginnings he progressed steadily up the list until he became a high official of the Post Office charged with negotiating postal agreements with other countries; he negotiated a treaty with the USA in the 1860s. He is also credited with inventing the pillar box, the first models being hexagonal in shape; I

was intrigued to find one still in use on the sea front at Llandudno last Easter and bearing the emblem of Queen Victoria on its front.

Trollope's involvement with Ireland began in 1841 when he was appointed a Postal Surveyor at Banagher in County Offaly. In 1844 he was moved to Clonmel and he and his wife of a few months moved into lodgings in a house just off O'Connell Street. He was to remain in Clonmel for five years and both his children were to be born there.

In 1846 his first son, Frederick, was born. His most recent biographer, Victoria Glendinning, says that he was busy throughout the period of his wife's confinement and the birth. He was preoccupied with business in Fethard for several days and this necessitated him staying in Fethard

for that time. Clearly the road from Clonmel must have been a most difficult one on which to travel or, maybe, the notion of being around the house at time of childbirth did not appeal to him. Definitely not a new man, no hands-on involvement with the arrival



Anthony Trollope (1815-1882) was born in London. He published more than forty novels and many short stories that are regarded by some as among the greatest of nineteenth-century fiction. During his five-year stay in Clonmel, Anthony Trollope hunted in Fethard with the Tipperary Foxhounds

of his children, as is the norm today.

Trollope was introduced to fox hunting while at Banagher. He became a rabid enthusiast for the sport and when he came to Clonmel he transferred his allegiance to the Tipperary Foxhounds based, in those days, in Clonmel. He rode out regularly with the 'Tipps' and when he was later transferred to Mallow and subsequently to Belfast and then to Dublin, he moved his horses with him. Clearly, the pay of a Postal Surveyor must have been generous for riding to hounds was not a poor man's pastime.

Trollope began writing when he arrived in Ireland. He was working in Banagher when he commenced the "MacDermots of Ballycloran". This novel and "The Kellys and the O'Kellys" were to be published while he was in Clonmel. In the Autumn of 1848 Trollope was transferred to Mallow and his Tipperary connection ended.

While in Clonmel he had made the acquaintance of Charles Bianconi, famous for having established a coach network covering the country. Bianconi helped Trollope to understand the nature of the Irish social and political scene. Trollope was unusual as an Englishman in that having encountered a system he found mystifying and puzzling, he did not give up in despair but persisted until he felt he had acquired a reasonably clear understanding of the many issues involved. While in Clonmel he witnessed at first hand the ravages of the Great Famine and noticed the factors which made, what was a serious problem over large areas of Europe, a total disaster in Ireland. He condemned the lack of proper provision by government to

tackle the tragedy's worst features but also noted the fact that among much of the landed gentry there was no sign of any change of lifestyle while tenants were starving. As he remarked, "no carriages were abandoned, no hounds destroyed, no retinues reduced". He witnessed appalling scenes of suffering as destitute people besieged Clonmel Workhouse and much of the countryside came to resemble the situation we have more recently come to associate with countries like Ethiopia. A lasting feature of his acquaintance with Bianconi was, it is believed, to have given him the idea for the foreign tycoon Augustus Melmotte in his later novel, "The Way We Live Now". It would only have been the haziest of ideas for Bianconi in no way resembled Melmotte in his daily business practices.

Trollope finally left Ireland in 1859, having spent eighteen years there. His experiences gave him ideas for several of his novels and he was working on one with an Irish theme, "The Landleaguers" when he died in 1882. Ireland was to be a formative experience for him. He arrived a somewhat nervous civil servant. He left a significant writer with a growing literary reputation and a rising income from book and magazine sales. Maeve Binchy contends that Ireland brought him out of himself, introduced him to a freer social scene and encouraged him to express himself. Tipperary developed his passion for foxhunting and, by introducing him to Bianconi, gave him a knowledge of Ireland possessed by few Englishmen of his time. He was remarkable character, a fact I have come to appreciate through reading some of his many novels. ♦

Woodvale Walk Residents' Association



Fethard Woodvale Walk Residents Association held their AGM in the Tirry Community Centre on Tuesday 1st June and the following officers were elected L to R: Dolores O'Donnell (treasurer), Patsy Lawrence (chairperson), Teresa Roche (secretary).

The annual general meeting of Woodvale Walk Residents Association was held on Tuesday June 1st in the Terry Community Centre Fethard and was well attended.

The officers and committee appointed at the meeting were as follows: Patsy Lawrence (chairperson), Gerard Brown (vice-chairperson), Teresa Roche (secretary), Stephanie McCormack (assistant secretary), Dolores O'Donnell (treasurer), Geraldine Lonergan (assistant treasurer). Committee members: Kay Nagle, Joan Brown, Marian Murphy, Rita Burke, Michael O'Flynn. Also attended the meeting was Councillor John Fahey.

We got the good news earlier in the year that a substantial amount of money had been allocated for the

upgrade of the estate. South Tipperary County Council received funding of €283,000, from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to undertake remedial works are as follows:

1. *Resurfacing of rear access lanes.*
2. *Resurfacing of the main roads within the estate.*
3. *Provision of rear boundary wall to the estate for security purposes.*
4. *Additional public lighting columns.*
5. *Provision of storm sewer network. At present, the gullies are piped to soakpits which are not functional.*

The committee were also glad to hear that the 'famous field' was sold and 18 houses are to be built on the

Tracey Needham and Debbie Lawrence, students at Nano Nagle, working on the school's class project 'My Favourite Building'. The 6th class girls chose the Abymill Theatre as their favourite building and the project won a TV/DVD for the school in the Irish Independent Newspaper competition.



site. We are hoping that the work on the estate and the field will be carried out sooner rather than later.

Woodvale Walk received the overall prize in the Fethard Tidy Towns Competition this year and we would like to thank the few people who made such a tremendous effort with the flower beds and the cutting of the grass

and general tidying up. We would like to thank the two boys on the sweeper, they have been very helpful and do a great job. It has made a big difference.

We wish all our residents and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and here's hoping more people will get involved in our residents' association next year. ♦



*Kids having a swinging time while playing at Woodvale Walk
L to R:
Dean Dorney,
Dion Butler
and Dean Kenny.*

Summer days at Newbridge

by John Fogarty



Gerry Fogarty relaxing at Newbridge in the 1970's

Looking at it now it's easy to see how a stranger could not be aware of its hidden, if humble, history, of how images of this place are woven into the consciousness of so many generations of men and women who spent long summer days here. A stranger could not know of the mystic network of memories that reach around the globe connecting this bridge and this swimming hole to so many who grew here and who are now scattered to far-away cities and countries. No, a stranger would merely see a fairly average looking stone bridge covered in leaves of dried cow-dung and humped over a fairly nondescript river. A river that widens into a pool of deepish water on the bridge's lower side, a pool where trout can occasionally be seen darting across sunlit patches of water. Rushes shift gently in the breeze. The fields sweeping back from the river are criss-crossed by numerous

tracks cut into the sod by the constant passage of cattle hooves. The surviving, ivy-covered remnant of an old building stands on the high ground, haughtily overlooking the river. And across the fields the great house of Grove, cream coloured, mysterious, inaccessible. Here and there ancient trees giving shade to some tail-swishing horses. Every sound seeming muted and far away: a tractor working somewhere; a water-hen squawking upriver towards Whelans' Bog; cawing crows rising from the green roof of Grove wood. Except for the occasional roar of a truck tackling Springmount Hill, or the urgent rushing sound of cars, the bustle and hurry of the new Ireland seems not to exist here. And there, rising gently above all, unchanging, through centuries of change, is the fabled bulk of Sliabhnamon the same now as forty years ago when we sat upon this bridge and gazed with

younger eyes and plunged into this river with supple limbs.

Years ago, on sunny Sundays in the distant summer of 1963 we swam here a lot. It seems like another lifetime now, another world. That was the summer when Kennedy came and we were beginning to be conscious of other worlds, of seemingly more glamorous places somewhere out there beyond those hills that enclosed our little town, our little world. On Sunday afternoons, carrying a real swimming-togs and towel if you were lucky, pedalling your own bike if you were luckier (being carried on the bar if you were unlucky) we would leave the Valley and head for this place, the bridge old even then but still called the 'new bridge'. Sometimes, from a house on the Valley or at Spitalfield, we'd hear the sound of a hurling match

being broadcast on the radio. Micheál O'Hehir's voice frantically rising, falling, rising again, sketching vivid word-pictures of tussles in dusty squares, sending the names of hurling legends crackling into the air around the Abbey rocks: John and Jimmy Doyle, Tony Wall, Sean McLaughlin, all locked in a titanic struggle for the glory of the Blue and Gold. Men we had never seen, whose names were as familiar to us as our own and evoked images of heroic and mythic deeds. But even then, in that quiet place, in those early years of the nineteen-sixties, changes were coming, and new heroes were beginning to emerge to displace the old, familiar ones. We cycled on, the sound of Micheál O'Hehir fading behind us, our minds racing on to what lay ahead not behind.

One of the older lads who made the



Newbridge in the 1970s L to R: Joe Kenny, Angela Bradshaw and Liam Leahy



Newbridge in the 1970s L to R: Trudy Hanrahan, Teresa McCarthy and Helen Maher

Sunday trip to Newbridge had acquired a transistor, a 'tranny.' And more and more we were drawn to the new, exuberant music that poured from this black, vibrating piece of technology. And on those summer Sundays we would lie in the sun on the grassy banks at Newbridge listening to the frantic sounds of the Mersey-beat that mingled with the cries and the splashes of bathers in the swimming-hole. So we were always anxious to get there before the voice of Alan Freeman burst dramatically from the tranny, introducing the Top Twenty programme over the familiar signature tune. 'Hi there popsters,' he would intone, 'stay with us won't you while we go swinging through the latest hits from the current pop scene.' And for the next two hours that voice would send strange sounding names echoing away towards Grove house and Sliabhnamon: Billy J.

Kramer and the Dakotas, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Freddie and the Dreamers, and, of course, The Beatles. The music, the style and dress of the longhaired young men in these groups from a far off city was what we were beginning to model ourselves on now, was enticing us, making us look away from our former heroes of the hurling field.

When we reached Newbridge the bikes were thrown in the shade of the trees outside Bradshaws and there would be a race to be the first one to have a drink at the well. Just off the path that led from the road down to the bridge there was a well fringed with fresh green watercress, where pure, ice-cold spring water bubbled eternally through a pebbly bottom. After the long trek in the summer heat it was heaven to stretch full length and thrust your face into the spring and drink,

drink, slowly, deeply, greedily, letting the delicious, ice-cold water cool parched mouth and throat.

Deepening of the pool to make diving from the bank safe was always the first task of the summer there. This involved reconstructing the dam of stones displaced by the winter torrents. It was an annual labour that had been carried out by successive generations of boys who had made their way out from the town to swim and laze about in the sun. In the summer of sixty-three Billy Treacy was the chief architect, organising, lifting big stones and building the dam as high as possible, allowing only a slight film of water run over the edge - just to keep the pool from stagnating. Even so, a hole had to be occasionally made to clear accumulated detritus and renew the water in the pool.

By mid-afternoon of most sunny Sundays whole families would have gathered on the bank lugging message bags full of towels and togs, some carrying inflated car tubes to use as floats. Soon the air would be filled with the sounds of happy, laughing children, screeching, splashing about in shallow part, building rafts of rushes. And there was always a wet dog or two barking madly, being thrown into the pool for amusement, emerging to shake the water onto the hot

bodies of sunbathers.

The most desirable place to be if you weren't swimming or diving from the bank was perched on the coping of the bridge with feet dangling watching the antics of those in the water. The swimming-hole, too, was fed by springs that bubbled cold and constant from somewhere deep and mysterious beneath the riverbed. So, no matter how scorching hot the summer sun became the water remained ice cold.

The first contact between a hot, sweating body and cold spring water was simultaneously shocking and refreshing. The first entry into the water was achieved in a variety of ways: some toggled out quickly ran to the bank and entered with a dramatic leap or dive accompanied by a loud roar - this method was mostly favoured by boys and men. Diving would go on all day, always developing into a male contest to see who would make the best and most dramatic dive.

There were many fractious, and pointless arguments over the merits of dives and whose turn it was to go next.

Then there was the tortuous ritual of the more timid who would spend an age sitting on the edge of the bank trailing a foot in the water before tentatively stepping onto the concrete apron at the base of the bridge, delicately dipping their arses, lowering themselves



Michael Allen at Newbridge in 1970s



Johnny and Rita Carey photographed at Newbridge with John Morrissey, Frances Morrissey, Sarah and Ann Carey in the 1970s.

onto the edge of the apron, then launching into the water in a blinding flurry of white arms and legs that they hoped would carry them over the deepest point to the shallow end. Here they would stand and screech, 'Ah Jaysus, 'tis freezin.'

And so those Sunday afternoons passed by with nothing hugely dramatic or exciting happening, apart from a bit of posturing and horseplay from teenage boys trying to impress the girls who always lay sunning themselves seductively on the opposite side of the river. If there happened to be a strange girl present the diving competition would take on an extra intensity and the arguments would be more heated.

Not everybody spent the afternoon there. Some arrived, had a quick swim then left immediately. Once a particular individual appeared, sat down in

the shallow water upriver of the bridge, and happily set about having a wash and shampoo which resulted in a sudsy slick oozing across the pool that quickly cleared it of swimmers. The bather departed shortly afterwards washed and spruced, oblivious to the consternation he had caused, leaving a memento in the form of a thick white froth that brimmed over the dam.

One Sunday afternoon, many years later, in the early 1970s, a certain well known 'character' arrived looking very much the worse for drink and announced loudly that he was going to 'dive in off the effin' bridge.' Everyone watched as he stood poised on the coping of the bridge preparing to make his dive. Diving from the bridge was a tricky business because of the need to clear the concrete apron that extended for about ten feet out from the base of

the bridge. A powerful spring was needed to carry the diver out into the deepest part of the pool. So, he stood there for a long time bending and unbending his knees, gauging the distance, the bravado not quite masking his nervousness. But he couldn't back out now without losing face. 'Arra jump will ya,' someone shouted. 'Arra **** off will ya,' he growled back, and suddenly dived. There was a collective gasp: 'Jesus'; he hit the water with a resounding splash and disappeared. A few seconds later Jimmy 'The Bucky' Ryan popped to the surface and stood up, undamaged - except for a very red belly.

At about six o'clock our stomachs would tell us it was time to go and we would walk slowly through the rushes talking about the latest number one in Alan Freeman's Top Twenty, or about the highest new entry and whether that would be number one next week. The journey back was always slow and unhurried with frequent stops for no particular reason to talk about nothing

in particular. By the time we got home the sunburn would be starting to sting and the Calamine lotion would be applied or maybe the rub of a greasy butter wrapper to soothe flaming flesh.

And so, one by one, almost unnoticed, those summers ghosted inevitably on towards their end and were gone, and the events and experiences of those days became memories and were blurred by the passage of time.

Over the years, from the late 1970s on, the numbers going to Newbridge dwindled. Now, on Sunday afternoons, people were able to take off on day-trips to Tramore, Clonea and such places. And today children are brought to Spain or the Canaries or even more exotic places. Perhaps we only came here because we had nowhere else to go. Perhaps. But standing on the bridge in the late autumn stillness, suffering the painful blending of present and past, watching a breeze shiver on the surface of the pool, it seems sad to think that never again will boys come

pelting down the Wood Hill on the first sunny Sunday of the summer eager to get to the cool water here below, to revel in something so simple and elemental as swimming in a river. Just another bridge, just another river? To some, maybe. To a great many, no. ♦

*A sign of the times!
Newbridge 2004*



Fethard Living History

by Colm McGrath



Fethard Living History Group being briefed before training on the use of medieval weapons by Colm McGrath. L to R: Tom McGrath, Michael O'Connell, Joan Denneade, Miceál McCormack, Martin Phelan and Colm McGrath. New members contact Colm, 086 3502360.

If you happen to be taking your constitutional walk down along the river near to the town wall some Sunday afternoon and you happen upon a very small group of people who seem to be trying to do harm to one another with swords and spears, have no fear. Most likely you have just stumbled upon the Fethard Living History group going through their paces.

Living history or re-enactment is for everyone or anyone as there are so many sides to it. For that reason alone it is a great family activity if one is trying to portray any one particular period of history then to be true one needs big, young, small and old, men and women, etc.

That is what we have already in this fledgling club. It was decided at a recent meeting of the club that it would

concentrate on the late 12th, early 13th century Norman Gaelic period. Research is underway as to the costume of men and women of that time.

The group meets once a month on the third Sunday of the month. Meetings are not just meetings *per se*, but activities which include the making and use of clothing, weapons, armour, jewellery etc.

On Sunday 21st November a small group visited Richard Linstead at his forge out at Saucestown. Richard gave us a very interesting demonstration on how the different types of arrowheads were made, explaining how they were used for warfare and hunting.

The group has started off very small but hopefully it will grow with time as people see and learn more. Watch this space. ♦

Killusty Soccer Club

The 2004/05 season saw us once more in the Premier Division of the TS&DL. Last season under the guidance of manager Chris Coen we finished runners up in the Division 1 league. This season we are progressing quite nicely lying third in the league at mid season. At any other time we would consider this a fine achievement, but especially this season as we have one of the youngest panels of players in the club's history. Six of the panel have come from last year's youths with a few others playing premiership football for the first time.

In October, team manager Chris Coen was appointed manager of the TS&DL Oscar Traynor side, and as we go to press he has a hundred percent success rate. Also on the panel are Philly Croke, Brian Coen and Ronan Maher.

At our AGM last July we had the appointment of three young ladies to the top table for the first time: Sarah Shelly, Emma Fitzgerald and Sharon O'Meara. Their work rate and enthusiasm have to be commended, and have given a new impetus to the club. The officers for this season are: Bob Maher (president), Tony Shelly (chairman), Sarah Shelly (secretary), Sharon O'Meara (assistant secretary), Emma Fitzgerald (treasurer), Louis Coen (assistant treasurer), Kevin Ryan (public relations officer). Committee: Sean Aylward, Ronan Maher, Jason Nevin, Chris Coen (team manager), and Tom Kearney (groundsman).

Finally, we would like to thank all the businesses that have sponsored advertisement hoardings, which are in place around our pitch. ♦



Killusty soccer team who were beaten by Rearsross in the FAI Junior Cup 3rd Round, Killusty 2, Rearsross 2 (Rearsross won 4 - 3 on penalties). Back L to R: Chris Coen (manager), Aaron Kelly, Shane Aylward, Philip Croke, Ronan Maher, Cian Maher, Noel Walsh, Brian Coen, Shay Coen. Front L to R: John Noonan, Karl Maher, Jason Nevin, Philip Ryan, Colm Coen, Martin Coen and Tony Shelly. (Also on the team was Declan Fanning).

Fethard Athletic Club



Fethard Athletic Club c.1979. Pat Ryan presenting a cheque Pat Flynn (Treasure of the Juvenile Board from Clogheen) in the Nissan Hut, Fethard, also included are Kathleen McCormack, Stephen McCormack, Mary McCormack and Jimmy McCarthy.

The 2004 season turned out to be both eventful and enjoyable despite a falloff in numbers. The first competitive event was the National Masters, which took place in Nenagh. Fethard's top performer was Jacqui Stokes who won gold in the V1 60m, 200m, Long Jump and High Jump, Kay O'Riordan took bronze in the V1 High Jump while Miceál McCormack was 3rd in the M55 60m.

In March the Community Games Cross Country was held in Thurles and Fethard provided five qualifiers for the coveted trip to Mosney: Lolo Trehy, Ryan Laslett, Ciara O'Connor, John Lalor and Hannah Trehy.

Fethard's gold medal winners at the county Track and Field were: Elaine Kennedy (U-15 800m & 1500m), Hannah Trehy (U13 Hurdles) and

Ciara O'Connor (U-14 1500m). John Lalor (U-12 Hurdles), Aoife O'Connor (U-15 1500m) and Hannah Trehy (U-13 High Jump) all won silver medals while the bronze medallists were : Michelle Ryall in the U-13 High Jump & 80m, Laura Rice (U-15 1500m), Wayne Laslett (U-16 High Jump) and Elaine Kennedy in the U-15 200m.

Meanwhile, at the Munster Championships Hannah Trehy won silver (U-13 High Jump) and Michelle Ryall took bronze in the U-13 Long Jump.

June saw the staging of the Community Games Track Finals in Thurles where Elaine Kennedy (U-16 1500m) and Hannah Trehy (U-14 80m Hurdles) were both crowned County Champions. The 4x100m team of Aoife O'Gorman, Jennifer O'Donnell, Rebecca

Ryan and Elaine Kennedy were also gold medal winners while Hannah Tobin won silver (U-8 80m) and Kate Quigley was 3rd in the U-8 80m.

The 2004 Cross-Country season was also quite successful with Mary Gleeson being the club's top athlete. Mary won gold in the County U-15 Championships and silver U-16, was then placed 4th in Munster and she finished her season on a high by taking a well deserved 10th place in the National Finals.

Gregory Henry continued his domination of cross-country running by winning his third successive County title at the Tipperary Championships in October. This achievement was all the more remarkable as Gregory had broken his leg playing rugby earlier in the season.

Team silver medal winners were the boys U-11 team of Brendan Gleeson, Patrick Gorey, Ciaran O'Connor and Gregory Henry, and the girls U-14 team of Hannah Trehy, Aisling

O'Connor, Sarah McManus and Laura Rice. At the B Championships in Templetuohy, Roisín Trehy won silver in the girls U-12 followed by Radka Janacikova in 3rd and Louis Rice also won bronze in the boys' U-12 event.

Other events organised during the year were our annual sports evening which was held in the Community Sports Field and our usual Christmas party, which incorporated a table quiz and the presentation of the athlete of the year awards. The recipients of these awards for 2004 were Laura Rice and John Lalor.

Club officers: Dick Cummins (president), Miceál McCormack (chairman), Carmel Condon (vice-chairperson), Mary Trehy (secretary), Laura Lyons (treasurer) and Fintan Rice (public relations officer). Many thanks to coaches and helpers: Cora Stapleton, Rosemary Heffernan, Tom Tobin, Willie Quigley, Jimmy Gleeson, Fionnuala O'Sullivan and Jacqui Stokes. ♦



Fethard walkers taking part in the Ballygowan 10K Road Race in Clonmel last May were L to R: Marie O'Meara, Eleanor Roche, Judy Doyle and Margaret Phelan.

Fethard Community Council

Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Limited held their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19th October in the Tirry Community Centre. This event marked the culmination of another very successful year for the organisation.

The Board of Directors elected at this meeting are as follows: Joe Kenny (chairman), Jimmy Connolly (treasurer), Edwina Newport (secretary), Peter Grant (vice-chairman), Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Ger Manton, Thelma Griffith, Diana Stokes, John Barrett, Brian Sheehy, Nellie Donovan, Paddy McEvoy, Liam Hayes and Maria Murphy.

Fethard & Killusty Community Council was formed on the 13th January 1976 at a public meeting, representative of the entire community, to promote the social, cultural and educational welfare of the whole community

regardless of class, creed or political persuasion. On 1st August 1996 'Fethard and Killusty Muintir Council Ltd' was incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1990 and that company is limited without share capital. Our Charitable Status registration number is CHY 11376.

Today, the Fethard and Killusty Community Council meet at least once a month and run their affairs from The Tirry Community Centre, Barrack Street, Fethard. The building houses a Community Information Office, Fethard District Day Care Centre, Fethard First Steps Play School, three community meeting rooms and is also home to our FÁS Community Employment Scheme employing eleven people.

The Fethard and Killusty Community Council is run by a Board of Directors and also has the following



Photographed outside the Sheltered Housing Project at Upperchurch are L to R: Catherine Corcoran (Tipperary Institute Facilitator working with Fethard and Killusty Community Council), Thelma Griffith (Chairperson Fethard & District Day Care Centre), Ann Quirke, Mary Green, Peggy Ward, Con Ryan and Nora Quirke.

independent sub-committees - Fethard Community Lotto, Fethard and District Day Care Centre, Fethard Tidy Towns, Fethard Christmas Lighting Committee, Woodvale Walk and Barrack Street Residents' Associations, and Slí na Sláinte Committee.

The highlight of the past year was the announcement of funding of €700,000 to expand childcare provision in the town. This facility will be incorporated into the Convent Hall Development, which is currently in the planning stage by the committee in co-operation with Tipperary Institute and Tipperary Leader Group.

As part of our feasibility study on the Convent Hall Project, Catherine Corcoran (Tipperary Institute) accompanied by representatives of the Community Council and the Day Care Centre, visited facilities in Cahir, Clonmel, Tipperary, Holycross, Upperchurch and Kilcommon to speak with other groups who are involved in community care. This was an invaluable experience that helped us learn a lot from other working voluntary committees. The next stage will incorporate processing feedback information from interviewing members of the community in the Fethard and surrounding areas.

Other projects during the year included:

- 1 *The purchase of a new bus for the Fethard & District Day Care Centre*
- 2 *Following preliminary meetings between Fethard and Killusty Community Council and Stephen Fallon, Conservation Officer with South Tipperary County Council, a report on Fethard Town Hall, which includes an architectural inventory and photographic assessment, has*

now been completed by Dublin Civic Trust. The report does show, however, that the building is very badly in need of some urgent restoration work.

- 3 *In April we helped fund and promote the Fethard London Reunion.*
- 4 *We promoted the Eleanor Shanley concert in aid of Christmas Lighting Fund*
- 5 *The development of designated walking routes in Fethard in co-operation with the Irish Heart Foundation as part of their Slí na Sláinte campaign. This will involve the erection of 'Walking' signs on the roadside to help calm speeding traffic.*
- 6 *A comprehensive submission was forwarded to South Tipperary County Council for inclusion in the Fethard Development Plan which is due for publication this year*
- 7 *An application has been made to Eircom, which included the collection of over 100 "expression of interest forms" to enable Broadband Internet Access be available in the immediate Fethard area. We are hopeful to have the service in Fethard by mid 2005.*
- 8 *Discussions with Foróige to establish a Youth Project in Fethard to help counteract anti-social behaviour*

Having started out a few years ago with the objective of tackling the work of the organisation in a manageable way, both the workload of the committee and projects have grown considerably. The sharing of the workload among all members in a piecemeal fashion has enabled the group to make substantial progress. The individual contribution of each member of the

group has enhanced the quality of the work of the organisation and projects have grown accordingly. The recent sanction of €700,000 for the Convent Hall Development has instilled a new sense of enthusiasm as we embark on one of our biggest projects to date. Fethard Community Council have now reached an ideal situation whereby we are functioning effectively and have South Tipperary County Council, the South Eastern Health Board and other state bodies co-operating and working with us.

We would like to thank Jimmy O'Shea and Johnny Burke who both annually maintain the Monroe Walk and keep it accessible for pedestrians. The Monroe Walk is a very beautiful walk that takes you past Breen's Bridge and out at Rocklow. It is not suitable for buggies or prams. We would also like to thank Jimmy for his work and help in maintaining the Town Wall lights and the adjacent grassed area by the river walk.

The committee of Fethard & Killusty Community Council would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work of Joan O'Donohoe, supervisor of the Community Employment Scheme, and her participants, who work tirelessly on a daily basis to maintain services in the Tirry Centre and in the community; the members of the various sub-committees and voluntary workers who help on an ongoing basis in the Day Care Centre, Meals on Wheels, Community Lotto, Residents' Associations and Tidy Towns. We would also like to thank all who supported us during the year and a special 'thank-you' to Jonathan Cooney, Tom Fitzgerald and the staff of Tipperary County Council for their help and ongoing cooperation over the past twelve months.

We wish all Newsletter readers a very Happy Christmas, especially to all Fethard and Killusty people living away from home. ♦



*Community Council Committee in the Town Hall after a Charity Walk in the 1970s.
L to R: Mick Ryan, Percy O'Donnell, John Whyte, Tommy Butler, Peter Colville, Malachy Brett, Austin O'Flynn, Nellie Colville and Michael O'Dwyer.*

Fethard Day Care Centre



A presentation was made to Nurse Nora Lawrence on behalf of Fethard & District Day Care Centre to mark her recent retirement as public health nurse in the Fethard Area. Photographed at the presentation in Fethard are L to R: Maisie O'Meara, Chrissie Healy, Sr. Christine O'Byrne, Nurse Nora Lawrence, Mamie Morrissey, Thelma Griffith (Chairperson Fethard & District Day Care Centre) and Geraldine McCarthy (Day Care Supervisor).

One could give numbers and statistics about the Day Care Centre, but the important thing to relate is the feeling of warmth and welcome and contentment that one feels when one visits there.

It is a haven for our senior citizens to come and relax, be with other people, have a chat, read the daily papers, listen to live music (ably provided each day by Pauline Morrissey and John Pollard) and in the afternoon play a few games of bingo. Into the bargain, breakfast, dinner and afternoon tea are also provided. We have our own bus with a wheelchair lift, to bring people to and fro every day. One day per week our friends from Killenaule come in to visit.

Other activities include: an exercise programme conducted by our supervisor, Geraldine McCarthy, arts and crafts including weaving with Megan

Sceats, painting, knitting and crochet. Also the chiropodist attends to look after our members' feet.

It is very important to tell you about our 'Friendship Club'. As well as contributing €5 per day to the Centre for the facilities offered, the clients contribute a further €1 per day to the club which goes towards the annual outing and any extras which may occur in the centre. We also hold a raffle each day and the prizes are provided by themselves! They also crochet and knit like mad all year round to make beautiful throws, cushions and other articles for sale at the annual Christmas Bazaar. This tremendous ongoing effort shows the pride the clients have in their centre.

The Meals on Wheels also go forth from the centre catering for 20 -25 people three days per week, with dinners prepared by the very helpful, kind and



At the Christmas Bazaar on 25th November 2004 were L to R: Margaret Keane, Maura Trehy, Nellie Ryan and Mary Trehy (who died suddenly four days later)

efficient catering staff. The dinners are delivered by volunteers who are helped during the school year by the transition year pupils from the Patrician Presentation Secondary School. This is a very important service as there are people in our community who welcome and need a meal, and who, for one reason or another, cannot attend the centre. They also enjoy having someone to call a few times a week, and I can tell you the volunteers also benefit greatly from these visits, often learning about wild life and tales of "long ago". It is also a good way to detect if someone is not feeling up to par. The young people specially enjoy these calls and have a great rapport with their senior community members. Maybe it is a reminder to us all, even at 16, that we are all vulnerable and growing old.

A huge "thank you" to all the volunteers concerned who give of their most valuable asset - their time - which on a voluntary basis is a very scarce commodity nowadays. Without their help, the Day Care Centre and Meals on Wheels simply could not function.

Thanks also to the very popular supervisor Geraldine McCarthy, and to the catering staff, the bus driver Jim Keane, our chairperson Thelma Griffith, who works tirelessly for the centre day in and day out. Other committee members are, Liam Hayes, Jimmy Connolly, Joe Kenny, Nellie O'Donovan, Phil Wyatt, Nora Lawrence, Megan Skeats, Marie Murphy and Carmel Rice. ♦



*At the Christmas Bazaar were:
Richie Nolan and Maura Tynan*

Fethard Tidy Towns

With only a small group involved in our tidy town committee, we come to the end of another year. Our spring bulbs are all planted on the Main Street and Tirry Park, which are both looking as splendid as ever. So hopefully, the springtime will bring an array of colour to these areas. The sweeping of the roads by the new road-sweeper is now in operation and has made a great improvement to the appearance of the streets. Also the grass cutting has improved immensely with Michael Dunphy and our new machine.

On 26th July we held a 'river clean up' from the Ballroom to the Weir. Over 19 volunteers turned up to help out on the evening, which was greatly appreciated. Following the clean up, the river area was a pleasure to walk along. There are big plans ahead to get the river and walkways greatly improved.

Our chairman, Peter Grant, made a presentation on 4th October to Tom Purcell and Martin Bolger, to say 'thank you' for their four years of work well done for the Tidy Towns under the Community Employment Scheme.

Both were presented with table lamps, handcrafted by local woodcarver Johnny Sheehan.

Our officers for the coming year are: Peter Grant (chairman), Nellie O'Donovan (vice chairman), Thelma

Griffith (secretary), Anna Cooke (treasurer), Di Stokes (public relations officer). Our committee members remain the same as last year. We are looking forward to new members joining us for the coming year.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous contributions for the garden competition and also to our judge, Mrs Rosemary Ponsonby.

The results of the Tidy Towns Garden Competition were as follows: (1)

Knockbrack / Spittlefield / Mockler's Terrace: Murt & Margaret Lawlor. (2) The Valley / Watergate: Pamela & Liam Sweeney. (3) Kerry St. / Congress Tce. / Red City: Mary & Tony Newport. (4) Cashel Road: Mary & John Barrett. (5) Main St. / Rocklow Road / Cois Falla: Eamon & Catherine Kennedy. (6) Burke St. / Abbey Road: Margaret & Vincent Doocey. (7) The Green / Barrack Street: Mary & Austy Slattery. (8) Fr. Tirry



Peter Grant making a presentation to Tom Purcell (above) and Martin Bolger (below) on completion of their four-year term working on Fethard Tidy Towns.



Park / Canon Hayes Court: 1st: Paddy & Mrs Grant. 2nd: Nellie O'Donovan. (9) St. Patrick's Place: 1st: Marion & Martin O'Connor; 2nd: Mr. & Mrs John Looney. (10) Slievenamon Close: Linda & Brendan Phelan. (11) Strylea / Cedar Grove: Judy & Sean Doyle. (12) Woodvale Walk: 1st: Mr & Mrs Murphy; 2nd: Brud & Teresa Roche.

Best Business Premises: Folk

Museum. Best Baskets: Tommy & Paula Gahan. Best Window Boxes: Clodagh & Brendan Brett. Best Large Garden: Pat O'Brien. Best Overall Area: Woodvale Walk.

We wish our readers a very Happy Christmas and ask all to make a special effort to keep Fethard tidy in the New Year. ♦

Community Employment Scheme



Participants in the Community Employment Scheme photographed in the newly fitted out kitchen at the Tirry Centre L to R: Esther Breen, Joan O'Donohoe (Community Employment Scheme Supervisor), Brud Roche and Janet Byrne.

It seem like such a short time since I did this. It's hard to believe another year has come and nearly gone. Our scheme is rolling along nicely at the moment. We have a new Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, so here's hoping he will have a whole new perspective on Community Employment. Already he has made provision for the over 55s. Of course this is still at the early stages and we can only hope he will keep his word and actually implement it, albeit a bit

late for two of our staunch C.E. participants, Tom Purcell and Martin Bolger. They both had to leave us this year. Tom, God love him, had to be dragged off kicking and screaming. I would like to wish Tom a very happy retirement as he has now reached the dreaded OAP stage. Happy days from all of us Tom, the roses are missing you. I would like to thank both of them for all their hard work during their time with us. It has proved very difficult to get replacements (they're a hard act to follow).

At the moment we have nine participants: Janet Byrne, Marie Hannigan, Esther Breen, Brud Roche, Robert O'Riordan work in the Centre, Tom Shine with Tidy Towns, Caroline Hall and Monica Aherne as clerks, and John Hennessy in the GAA sportsfield.

During the year Caroline completed a Certificate Course in e-Literacy, e-Skills and Information Technology. Esther, Robert and Marie were presented with their Hygiene Certificates.

Congratulations to all of them. Various other courses were completed during the year.

I would like to thank all the lads on the Scheme for the trojan work they do, the Community Council for their support, Peter Grant (Participant Development Officer) and Joe Nixon (FÁS Area Supervisor).

On behalf of all at the Center, we wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. ♦

Fethard and District Credit Union

It has been a busy year as usual in the financial world of Fethard and District Credit Union. Our Annual General Meeting was held in December 2003 in the Credit Union Offices, which we hope more members would attend.

In January, over 100 children attended the primary schools credit union quiz held in Fethard Ballroom. Our own local St. Patrick's N.S. were the winners and went on to compete at chapter level.

Jonathan Gilpin, our insurance and investment director, was elected P.R.O. of Chapter X, which gives him the opportunity of liaising with all the credit unions in the chapter. Our new electronic display notice board should give members up-to-date information. It is on display in the window of our offices on Main Street.

We extend sympathy to all the families of our members who passed away this year. Our involvement with the Patrician Presentation Secondary School saw us presenting the credit union award for business and enterprise

to Emma Walsh, Knockbrack, Fethard, A 5th year student.

Loan have changed from Tuesday nights to Friday morning or Saturday nights.

We wish all readers the season's greetings and blessings. Board of Directors: Marian Gilpin

(chairperson), Eddie O'Brien (secretary) and Kate Healy (treasurer). Credit Committee: Sean O'Callaghan, Mary Morrissey and Jonathan Gilpin. Insurance and Investment supervisor: John Barrett. Tellers: Betty McLaughlin, Phyllis Healy, Kay Spillane and Anne Nevin. ♦



1990 School Quiz Winners L to R: Geraldine Daly, Conor Kane, David Woodlock and Niamh Ward. Plaques were then presented by Mrs Mary Morrissey (chairperson Fethard Credit Union).

Fethard Historical Society

At the Annual General Meeting of Fethard Historical Society held on Tuesday 30 March, the following were elected to the committee: Terry Cunningham (chairperson); Catherine O'Flynn (vice chairperson); Mary Hanrahan (public relations); Dóirín Saurus (secretary); Margaret Newport (assistant secretary); Peter Delaney (treasurer); Chris Nevin (planning officer). Committee members: Kitty Delany, Ann Gleeson, Tim Robinson, Mary McCormack, Karen Evans and Marie O'Donnell.

The Society met in the Tirry Centre in January and presented Michael Coady with the 'Tipperarian Book of the Year' award for his poetry collection, 'One Another' published by the Gallery Press. Michael was delighted with the

award - a ceramic candle holder inscribed with a line from one of his own poems and a line from a poem by the late Newcastlewest poet Michael Hartnett. Michael then read several poems from 'One Another'. The reading was followed by a wine reception.

The Fethard Town Atlas was launched in the Abymill Theatre by Dr. Willie Nolan on February 7th. The Atlas is the 13th in the Irish Historic Town series and its author and compiler, Dr Tadhg O'Keeffe, also spoke.

The 9th Tipperarian Bookfair took place on Sunday 10th February. There was an even greater attendance than on previous years, topping 750 people. The book traders were pleased and the in-house café, combined with the piano music played by Lisa O'Sullivan,



The Tipperarian Book of the Year 2003 award was won by Carrick-on-Suir poet and writer, Michael Coady, for his publication 'One Another', launched in December 2003. The presentation was made in the Tirry Community Centre, Fethard. L to R: Mary Hanrahan, Tipperarian Book Fair; Michael Coady and local potter Dóirín Saurus. The commissioned pottery piece was made by Dóirín Saurus and inscribed with excerpts from 'One Another'.

added to the ambience of the day..

Following the Annual General Meeting in March, Liam O Duibhir gave a very interesting talk on 'Celtic Goddesses and Gods'.

In May, the society took a trip to the coalmines in Ballingarry with Pat Grant and Bill Martin as our guides. It was a great trip and included a visit to the remnants of the purpose built coalmining village in Mardyeke.

Sean Watts from Killenaule brought the society to Derrynaflan on a fine evening in June. Sean shared his great knowledge of the history and folklore of the Island and also gave a photographic presentation.

Later on in June, 20 people went on a weekend trip to Dublin. On the Friday evening they visited the Royal Irish Academy. All the Fethard maps were on display and the Du Noyer prints were of particular interest. Most of the group moved on to the Boxty House in Temple Bar for dinner. On Saturday morning they visited the National Library and saw the James Joyce centenary exhibition. Ciara McDonnell showed the group the layout of the Library including the reading rooms and the genealogical facilities. They also viewed the letter written by Cromwell to Piers Butler of Fethard regarding his stay in the town. From there, they went on to view the Fethard Medieval Wooden Statues which are now stored in the National Gallery in Kildare St.

In October, Terry Cunningham and Tim Robinson had the pleasure of accompanying Rex Hackett to Ballytarsna Castle - the ancestral home of his forebears, built in 1220. Rex Hackett lives abroad and this was his first visit to Fethard. John Carignan,

the present owner of the castle is restoring the castle using traditional materials and craftsmen.

There was a large attendance of 130 people at the talk given by Nollaig O Gadhra on 'George Plant and his family' in the Abymill on 17th September. During the talk, Nollaig played a recording of an interview he had with George's sister, Elizabeth, which he had recorded in 1992 - a year before she died. Elizabeth spoke with great honesty and poignancy and told of how the family had first heard of George's execution by the State, on the radio. Nollaig O Gadhra has sent the tape to the Fethard Historical Society and we are delighted to add it to the archival collection.

In October, we organised a bus trip to the Glen of Aherlow. Jimmy Barry brought the group to visit St. Berehert's Kyle and to Pechauns Well.

The December talk is to be given by Siobhan Lincoln who has written a book on 'St. Declan's Way- Ardmore to Cashel'.

During the year Mary Hanrahan brought the Callan Historical Society, The Thomond Historical and Archeological Society and the Kilkenny Archeological Society, on guided tours of Fethard.

All that remains to complete the year is our Christmas dinner. Thanks to everyone who helped out during the year, catering, bus driving, moving pianos, reading out notices, taking posters and all the myriad activities that support the Society. We wish all our members a Happy Christmas.

Our meetings are held in the Abymill on the last Tuesday of every month. Visitors and new members are always welcome. ♦

A Sustainable Future for Fethard



Fethard Holy Trinity Church grounds with a unique view of the countryside. The Town Walls still form the present-day town boundary and you can still look out across unbuilt countryside to Grove Wood and Slievenamon, just as they did eight hundred years ago.

The word 'sustainable' is constantly used nowadays whenever the future of an area, a country or even the world is being discussed.

Sustainable Development means that the needs of the present generation are being met without damaging the prospects of the next generation. They, in turn, must do likewise and so it will go on for countless generations to come, or so we hope anyway. Any other vision of the future is unthinkable,

People have all types of needs. Food, shelter and security come to mind first of course, but music, art, culture, identity, sport are also needed by all societies in every part of the world. All these things help people to belong, and above all people do need to be part of a community, to be known and respected as fellow human beings and fellow cit-

izens of their own place.

Our history binds us

One thing that we all have in common is the history and folklore and landscape of our own area. Fethard is very lucky indeed, in that it still possesses a landscape wherein you can still see the actual things, buildings and places just as they were hundreds and thousands of years ago.

Grove Wood for instance is a remnant of the great oak woods that began covering Ireland after the Ice Cap began receding back towards the North Pole at the end of the Ice Age, 10,000 years ago. There is Grove Wood, still there for you and me to marvel at.

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland is the actual church that the Normans built when they first came to Fethard eight hundred years ago, around 1200 A.D. The Augustinian Abbey is the actual

Abbey built by the Augustinians when they first came to Fethard exactly 700 years ago next year, in 1305. And both churches are still there, and still being used by the present generation. This is very, very rare indeed.

The Town Walls, begun in 1292, but re-built and re-modelled for a few hundred years after that, are still encircling the town to day. Of special importance is the fact that, in the Valley area, the walls still form the present-day town boundary and you can still look out across unbuilt countryside to Grove Wood and Slievenamon, just as they did eight hundred years ago. I know of no other place like it.

A special place needs special treatment

Any way you look at it, Fethard is not just another small town. It is of national importance and that fact should be seen as a positive aspect and not as a limiting factor as some people seem to see it. It is possible to respect the past while we enjoy the present and build for the future. The 'past', if 'developed' properly, should mean that Fethard would have an advantage over every other small town in Tipperary and over most small towns in the country.

The government agencies, especially the Local Authority, South Tipperary County Council, have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that Fethard's unique heritage is safeguarded, both for the people of Fethard and for all the people of Ireland.

Not alone should the past be safeguarded, but it should be conserved, cherished, opened up and maintained in a way that would attract people and business to Fethard because of the special place that it is.

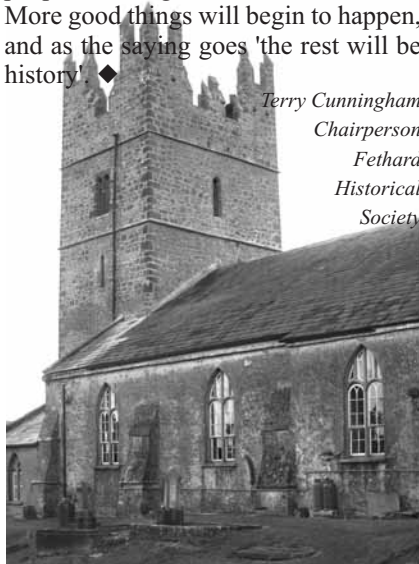
Fethard cannot compete in the 'Superstore' league, but it could become a mecca for small specialised businesses, workshops, antique shops, craft-shops, restaurants and other service industries.

It is a known fact that interesting places attract interested people and interested people, native and non-native alike, see different and new ways of doing all types of things.

Fethard's past can be made to work for Fethard. Fethard's past can give Fethard that special edge. In marketing terms, Fethard has what it takes, but the product must be packaged properly, and that means good positive sustainable planning.

Fethard, if it continues to be developed in the 'usual way', will just become another typical small town. That shouldn't be allowed to happen. Fethard is special, Fethard is unusual, and Fethard is unique. It really is. If it is treated accordingly, people - all the people will begin to take more notice. More good things will begin to happen, and as the saying goes 'the rest will be history'. ♦

*Terry Cunningham
Chairperson
Fethard
Historical
Society*



Teenage Kicks

by Vinny Murphy

While travelling overseas, I received news of the demise of well-known author Pete McCarthy, and to pass the time I began to jot down a few notes about his visit to Fethard in 2002.

His Fethard concert, on 29th November 2002 in front of a capacity crowd, had been an overwhelming success. The following morning while driving Pete back to the airport we discussed everything from the lack of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, to his adventures travelling around the world, to music. We agreed on most topics, except one. How we got around to this subject I can't remember. The topic was a band called the Undertones, and the song was 'Teenage Kicks'.

I agreed that Feargal Sharkey's decision to leave the Undertones, as he felt that he couldn't sing that song as he got

closer to forty, was a good one. Pete thought that Sharkey should have continued into old age if he wished. Finally we agreed to disagree.

Just as I had jotted this memory down, the bar band, where I was waiting for my friend, did their sound check and played 'Teenage Kicks'. I nearly fell off of my stool. The singer was Chinese and the bar was in a suburb of Hong Kong. Very strange!

I've thought about this experience a lot since and it jogged a memory of another trip I'd taken from Fethard in the early eighties to see the farewell concert of the band in question, the Undertones.

Seven of us assembled at the bottom of Burke Street to go to the concert which was taking place the following day at Punchestown Racecourse. The assembled crew were Diarmuid Hackett, Feargus McCormack, Paul



Photographed out socialising in the 1970s are L to R: John Fogarty, Eamon Keane, John O'Donovan and Frankie Walsh.

Hayes, Chris Coen, Charlie Maher, Adrian Moloney and myself. The average age was about sixteen and most of us had lied about where we were going and where we were staying. As far as most of our parents knew, we were staying with cousins of one of the other lads. In reality, we didn't know where we were staying and cared even less. It was our first open air festival so nothing mattered once we had the tickets to get in. We had no tent or even a sleeping bag between the seven of us. Resting for the night was something to worry about later on.

Five of us piled into somebody's car which dropped us in Thurles. Adrian and Charlie were driving up and would join us later. A train brought us to Dublin where we wandered aimlessly about until we eventually found Busaras and a bus to Naas. We managed to purchase a six-pack of Smithwicks between us. Thankfully, two of the group had no interest in beer, so we were guaranteed a bottle of ale and a slug of the remaining one each. We lost the slug when one of the teetotallers decided to convert. It was going to be a long night.

A local man pointed us in the direction of the venue. It was dark by the time we got there, so we headed across the fields in the direction of the bright

lights in the distance, thinking it to be the campsite. We were halted in our tracks by a man with a torch in one hand and a large dog on a leash in the other. The lights that we were heading



Feargus McCormack and Vincent Murphy, 1979

towards were the lights of the venue, so we were ushered out the main gate and directed to the campsite, which turned out to be an empty field with no facilities. With no tents to pitch we stood around and drank our six-pack. Then we just stood around. It was getting cold.

A few more people began to arrive and pretty soon there was a large crowd, some of whom were pitching tents. Then the Northern Irish contingent rolled in. I could tell by their tattoos that they weren't going to launch into "God save the Queen". They unloaded bottles of booze from their cars and headed for the party. One of their number observed that it was getting a bit chilly, so he decided to go and find something to burn, which sounded a bit ominous to us southerners who were used to seeing things burning in news reports from the North. Usually cars.

The fire starter returned a few minutes later, beckoning to his friends to come and give him a hand. They soon returned, rolling a round bale of straw in front of them. This was pushed to

the middle of the field, where it began its new life as a bonfire. This became the party zone for the night. One of the more intrepid of our group joined the Northern Irish party and was seen a few hours later with a bottle of Pernod in one hand and a bottle of Malibou in the other, singing the praises of republicanism and vowing to go to early morning mass with his new mates. The rest of the night went without incident and we all fell asleep around the fire.

We woke early and saw the God

sleeping bags and no tents, we also had no coats. The problem of shelter was solved when somebody found two large pieces of cardboard behind the catering trucks. We sat on one and put the other over our heads. We could have walked over to the stands like everybody else, but we were afraid that we would miss something. Thankfully, the weather soon cleared up and we sat back to enjoy the bands. 'Hotfoot' opened, followed by 'The Chieftains', who lost the crowd to the spectacle of



*Fethard Festival 1979
John O'Riordan and Dermot Kane*

fearing republican member of our party preparing to go to mass by drinking a can of Guinness. He soon passed out beside his new friends. Six very long hours later, the gates were opened. Adrian and Charlie had had enough of hanging around at this stage, so they headed off to get the train home. They decided to go to a Ceili in Cloneen that night as they were both eighteen and couldn't be refused at the bar. The rest of us stayed on.

We were first up to the stage and then it began to rain. As well as no



*Fethard Festival 1979
Mark Moloney and Don Morrissey*

two gatecrashers being chased by security men and their dogs, across the field that we had crossed the night before. Lucky for us we had our tickets with us that night.

Paul Brady played next, followed by Nick Lowe. Eventually, the band that I was waiting for arrived. It was a bit of a sorry end of a band's career to have to play their final gig as the support act to another band, 'Dire Straits', but those are the highs and lows of the music business. I was just glad to get a chance to see them at all, even if they let down all

the fans that had travelled to see them.

They never played the song that brought them to fame, their homage to a neighbourhood girl that they fancied,

'Teenage Kicks'. Maybe Sharkey was already feeling too old to sing it.

Dire Straits closed the show with a clinically clean set. Most of the crowd didn't realise that

the music nearly stopped when the thugs guarding the stage broke up a scuffle at the front with unnecessary violence. The crowd were getting nasty

towards the most violent bouncer and the band were looking on edgily when someone pulled the thug away into the wings with his hosepipe baton. An hour later the show was over and the crowds piled off into the night.

We headed for the campsite, buying some spare ribs from a roadside vendor, as we hadn't eaten all day. You'd find more meat on a mouse's arse, but

the vendor was getting away with it as most of his customers were in cars, which were unlikely to return. With rumbling stomachs we walked on.



Fethard Festival 1979 — Hillary Hayes and Elaine Purcell



Fethard Festival 1979

L to R William Cuddihy, William Byrne and Linda Byrne

The campsite gate was blocked when we returned. A man stood there with a nasty looking dog. He asked us if we had stayed there the previous night, to which we replied that we hadn't. The irate landowner told us what he'd do to the gentlemen who ran the concert for bringing such a shower of yobs around the place.

We agreed with him and walked on. A bit farther up the road we jumped a ditch, made a bed of bales and slept the night under a tree. The following day we got home, to save up for the next adventure, which we saw advertised on the billboards on the banks of the Liffey. U2 were coming to the Phoenix Park and we were going to be there.

Long live the 'teenage kicks'. ♦

Fethard Civil Defence

As we come to the end of another year, we wish all our friends and supporters a Happy Christmas and the very best for 2005. During 2004 we provided First Aid training for the Transition Year Students in the secondary schools and for members of the Parish Community Employment Scheme.

As in previous years ambulance cover was provided for events at Grove & Killusty Pony Show and the Stonethrowers Car Rally, which were both held in the Fethard area this year.

Once again Rory Walsh played a

major part in our successful Weekend Camp held in Lahinch the June bank holiday weekend. Rory took care of all our welfare needs.

At the moment a Life Saving First Aid Course is in progress in the Tirry Centre every Tuesday night, instructor Bernadette Dempsey. It's great to see people coming forward to attend these courses, which are so important for the community.

We look forward to 2005 and hope we will see many more members of the community coming forward to help us in our work. ♦

Fethard/Killusty Awareness Group

Several meetings have been held with our local representatives, and TDs, in an attempt to have extra Gardai assigned to our area. We have also had a meeting with the local superintendent.

It would appear that this request has fallen on deaf ears, and our social behaviour has not improved. With the most recent announcement regarding the recruitment of extra Gardai, it is hoped that in the near future it might be possible to look more favourably on our request.

We acknowledge and appreciate the work carried out by our existing

Gardai, and it is in an effort to make their task easier that our request for extra manpower is made. During the year Garda Mairead O'Toole retired from the force and, at a function to mark her retirement, a presentation in appreciation of her service was made.

On behalf of the entire community, those in attendance conveyed the gratitude and good wishes of all, and best wishes for the future to Mairead. We would like to thank all who have given us their time and assistance, since the formation of the group.

We wish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to one and all. ♦

New golf society formed

The Bridge Bar, Main Street, has formed a new golf society and has affiliated with the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI). The Bridge Bar Golf Society had their first outing on Saturday 9th October to the Goldcoast Golf Club in Dungarvan which was a

great success.

For more information contact any of the following committee members: Martin Burke (President), Vincent Woodlock (Captain), John Lonergan (Secretary), John Ward (Treasurer) or Brendan Kenny (PRO). ♦

Society of St Vincent De Paul

The Holy Trinity Conference's work continued in the Parish in 2004 through the generosity and assistance of the people of the community without whose donations we could do nothing. As well as the normal St. Vincent de Paul activities, i.e. helping people at Christmas, with Confirmation and Communion time and times of illness, we are also becoming more involved in education projects on the basis that a good educa-

tion will help a person to gain good employment and be self-sufficient.

We would like to thank all the people who come to us. It is never easy to ask for anything but please try to understand that our organisation is to help and not to judge anybody. We try to ensure that nobody is turned away if we can do anything.

Our best wishes to Fethard people both at home and away in this Holy Season of Christmas. ♦

Fethard Country Markets 1947

*Extract from The Farmer's Gazette June 5th 1948.
(First annual Fethard Country Market Report from their commencement on
January 17th 1947 to December 31st 1947)*

Our market started in most adverse circumstances. Vegetables had never been scarcer owing to the bad weather of 1946, and bread rationing, which had recently been introduced, was stringent, and no one had surplus flour. All the other towns in South Tipperary had been discussed as possible sites for the venture, but the local committees, for some reason or other another thought that nothing could be done.

Fethard Guild, spurred on by its members, and against the advice of the Chairman, who writes this report, decided to open a weekly market, on the model of the markets run by

Women's Institutes in England, charging one penny in a shilling for all produce disposed of.

We rented the bottom of the Town Hall, which is in a central position, and



Mrs Olivia Hughes working at the Fethard Country Markets in the 1950s

we insured it against fire. This Hall has wide doors which open straight off the street. It was being used as a store for empty packing cases, and for a fire engine, and part of it is being used as an office for the town weighing scales.

The ancient fourteenth century walls are pierced with deep apertures, which make the hall very cold and draughty, and we had before us two months of snow and flood. We put in plugs for an



Fethard Country Markets 1950s in the Nissan Hut. L to R: Olivia Hughes, Liz Brett, Dolly O'Keefe, Pauline Coffey and two keen photographers.

electric fire and kettle. Before many months had passed the authorities decided to block off a portion of our abode for the fire engine, and this was a blessing as it made the room of more manageable proportions and got rid of some of the draughts.

Some broken down furniture was roosting in the hall, so we arranged it to act as counters, when we had camouflaged it into respectability with some hessian from the country shop. Luckily, we had inherited from a previous adventure, a shallow and very long chicken run, which had been used to protect eatables at shows. This kept the bread and cakes safe from too eager customers. Our third possessions were, a weighing scales lent by Miss Drury, and some excellent steel-framed chairs and tables, which were hired to the market. We bought an electric kettle and were lent an electric stove. We converted a handsome Victorian work-

box into the most efficient of money boxes by getting a carpenter to divide it into sloping compartments. We bought a lock-up case for our books and we had the loan of some egg packing cases. We had a few pounds which had been subscribed by sympathisers, and we had two jolly posters which showed glorious cakes and vegetables, and were headed, *'The Shape of Things to Come.'*

Some local opposition was to be expected, and to meet this, we had circularised every household explaining our plans saying, *"A Market should not conflict with shopkeepers or traders, as the prices charged will be current market prices, and if the country women bring their produce into the towns they will spend their money in the town, and do their shopping there. Where these markets have been held, they have proved a stimulus to business, and created a steady demand for*

high-class produce. We hope we shall have your sympathy and support."

The report goes on to tell of the increase to trade in the town, also of the opening of a brand new Market garden during the first year of trading.

The pricing proved to be a problem, and the controller (May Quinlan) had the ultimate authority of the task. It was soon found out to be increasingly difficult to look at everything brought in during the crowded half-hour in which they were getting their stalls ready, to combat this problem the pricing was done by the stall-holders, who became expert with added experience.

A Friday morning was chosen for the day of the market, which proved to be a wise choice as it was a day for collecting the pensions, also for people from the country to go to the Bank to get money for wages. The streets were full of potential customers. Being a 'Fast Day', there were more customers for eggs, vegetables and savoury dishes.

The Market as reported went from strength to strength, more than one third of the total sales was in eggs and poul-

try, and a dealers license had to be taken out to comply with regulations, also a girl had to be employed as egg packer.

There was twelve to sixteen workers and every one needed, as they had to ride in miles on cycles and in all weathers, and be punctual, there was to be a cup of tea and something to eat available. The sellers were all but one, members of the ICA and loved the job,

From that first day when they opened and everything had been sold, and the takings were ten pounds, as quoted (we knew we would succeed if we persevered).

The final sales for the first fifty weeks: Vegetables - £97, Eggs - £312, Poultry - £67 pounds, Confectionery - £181, Fruit - £31, Flowers - £41, Miscellaneous - £236 (second-hand clothes and handicrafts), Donations (magazines and patterns) - £28. Making a total of £993, of this sum £836 went to producers.

Today, Fethard Country Markets are still in operation. They currently have fifteen suppliers of which seven attend the Town Hall each Friday between 8am and 11am. ♦

Senior Citizens Club

The Senior Citizens Club is going from strength to strength with the addition of new members every year. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Tirry Community Centre, where we enjoy a lovely cup of tea with sandwiches and cakes. This is followed by music, bingo and a chat. We also try to have a guest speaker each month. These talks include health, hygiene and safety.

In August 2003 we travelled to Tramore for an afternoon outing. We had a lovely tea in the Ivory Hotel. Our

Christmas party was held in the Anner hotel. The room in which we dined was decorated by the committee which made the atmosphere one of joy and goodwill.

At Easter we travelled to Kilcoran Lodge with our ladies looking delightful in their Easter bonnets. Our summer outing took us to Killarney where we enjoyed a trip down memory lane. As I am writing this article we are preparing once more for our Christmas Party. May I wish all our emigrants a happy and peaceful Christmas. ♦

Irish Girl Guides

Our Ladybirds, Brownies and Leaders have had another busy year of indoor and outdoor activities. Every Tuesday night from 7-8 pm we hold our meetings in the ballroom. These include games, crafts, songs and other activities, which incorporate the Guide laws and promises in an unpressurised environment of fun and learning.

Regional events this year included a most enjoyable day in Dundrum Scout Centre last November. The day was cold, but with the guide motto 'be prepared' in mind all were well wrapped for the trek in the woods collecting nature items, which were later transformed into beautiful craft displays at the campfire. We also had a singsong and, of course, sausages cooked over the fire, which tasted very good.

For 'Thinking Day' in February we joined the other units at our regional Outdoor Centre in Broadford Co. Clare for a day of outdoor activities. In June, Parson's Green was the venue for a fantastic sunny day, where we enjoyed boating, the pony and trap, interacting

with the birds and animals and loads of fun and games. Our girls are also involved each year in filling shoeboxes for Christmas Samaritan Child Appeal.

In May we had an enrolment ceremony in the ballroom. Ladybirds enrolled were Aine Proudfoot, Laura Ryan, Kayleigh Higgins and Larissa Clancy. Link badges from Ladybirds to Brownies: Kate Quigley, Jade Pattison, Aobh O'Shea, Molly Proudfoot and Anastasia Blake. Also enrolled in Brownies were Amy Burke, Kate O'Donnell and Molly Dwyer.

The Ladybirds looked lovely in their red jumpers and navy neckerchiefs and the Brownies in Yellow jumpers and navy neckerchiefs.

Unfortunately this year we have no Guides (10 to 14 years), but we would welcome older girls as they have opportunities for camping and travelling. Our leaders attended some training during the year to keep up to date with all guiding matters. Present leaders are Judy Doyle, Teresa Hurley, Catherine O'Connell and Ann Marie Butler. ♦



Brownies in Parson's Green July 2004. Left to Right: Molly Proudfoot, Aobh O'Shea, Kate O'Donnell, Jade Pattison and Kate Quigley.



Ladybirds at Parsons Green July 2004. Left to Right: Laura Ryan, Amy Thompson, Nicola Thompson, Larissa Clancy, Aine Proudfoot and Kayleigh Higgins.

Fethard Boy Scouts

In comparison with years gone by, 2004 was certainly a quiet year for Fethard Scouts.

With the exception of putting up marquees to aid the running of pony shows in Killusty and Grove, our activities, at local level, were sadly, very limited. At regional level, some of our leaders and senior members assisted at regional scouting events where the opportunity presented.

Two hikes to the Galtees were attended (with another planned before Christmas), assistance in organising and running of the regional orienteering was provided by local leader Robert Phelan, but so as not to break tradition, the highlight of our calendar was joining the Clonmel and Ballymac units on their annual camp (and new to annual camp this year, Kilsheelan).

Camp this year was held in Fethard-on-Sea where the sun shone for nearly two full weeks, not bad going considering Irish summers of late! Camp was attended by Dermot Culligan and Mike McCarthy who joined up with the Clonmel venturers for the two weeks. The two boys, now 'veterans' of annual camp, having camped every summer

for the last five summers, have already said they hope to journey again next summer for another fortnight of fun and games! Leaders Bobby Phelan and Philip O'Donnell also attended Camp.

Congratulations go to leader John Cloonan who set the date for his wedding next year to his girlfriend Susan Moore. John has given long, loyal and devoted service to the Fethard scout troop over the years as both a scout and leader, and we wish both Sue and himself every happiness and good health for the future.

Plans to restart the unit fully in early 2005 are already taking shape - more details to follow.

As always, new members and new leaders, in particular female leaders, without whom the unit cannot be restarted, are welcome.

Please feel free to contact Bobby Phelan (Unit Leader) - 086 2446085, Philip O'Donnell (Scouts Section Leader) - 087 8124548 or John Cloonan (Cubs Section Leader) - 086 8190569, for more information on becoming a leader, or having your child join scouts or cubs. Thanks for your support. ♦

Fethard Bridge Club

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 28th year and still going strong. We play every Wednesday evening in the Tirry Centre, which has long been the home of the bridge club. It is a warm and comfortable venue, convenient for everyone and we break for a cup of tea and a chat halfway through the evening. Our numbers have dropped a little in the last few years, so we would welcome new members and encourage as many as possible to take up the game.

This year sees the inauguration of a new prize — the Individual Championship, which will be determined by a player's game over the whole year. The Gorey family have presented a trophy to the club - the Dick Gorey Perpetual Trophy (carved from bog oak by David Gorey) and this trophy will be presented to the individual champion.

Our president's prize lunch was held at the Fairways Restaurant, Slievenamon Golf Club, on Sunday 16th May 2004 and the President's Prize winners were Kathleen O'Connell and Mary Quirke. The Committee Prize was won by Margaret Hackett and Berney Myles. Player of the Year, for which the O'Flynn trophy is presented, was Betty Walsh and the Club Championship, for which the

Hayes trophy is presented, went to Anna Cooke and Bernie O'Meara.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on 6th and 13th October and the winners of the gross free sub were Nell Broderick and David O'Meara, and the free net sub was won by Carmel Condon and Brendan

Kenny. On 17th November we held a charity night and donated the proceeds for the evening to South Tipperary Hospice. Our Christmas party was held in the Fairways Restaurant on Sunday 19th December at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 18th May 2004 the following officers and committee were

elected: Kay St. John (president), Marie Delaney (vice president), Gemma Burke (secretary / public relations), Frances Burke (treasurer), Anna Cooke (assistant treasurer). Tournament Directors: Alice Quinn, Betty Walsh, Frances Burke, Gemma Burke. Committee: Berney Myles, Teresa Cummins, Breda Walsh and Mike Burke.

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. ♦



*President's Prize Winners 2004
Front L to R: Mary Quirke and Kathleen
O'Connell. Back: Breda Walsh (president).*

RTE Radio 1 on Long Wave

RTÉ launched RTÉ Radio 1 on Long Wave 252 on St. Patrick's Day this year. The service will carry throughout Ireland and into large parts of the UK. Programming will include RTÉ Radio 1's sport and religious choices, currently available on Medium Wave.

The primary band for all RTÉ Radio services is FM. This network covers 97% of the country and delivers high quality stereo reception. However, FM carries shorter distances than Medium Wave or Long Wave, and involves many transmitters broadcasting on slightly different frequencies throughout the country.

This is the reason why, for example, RTÉ Radio 1 is found at slightly differ-

ent places on the dial in different parts of the country.

The launch of RTÉ Radio 1 on Long Wave 252 (khz) is an exciting opportunity for radio listeners in Ireland, who will now be able to hear Radio 1 on one single, strong frequency.

This opportunity also extends to providing a better service to those listening in the UK and parts of Europe where the same output on LW252 will also be heard. When someone listens to RTÉ Radio 1 on LW, irrespective of their location, they will tune into the same frequency. This service is of particular benefit to car listeners to maintain the quality of station reception as they move through different transmission areas. ♦

Killusty Pony Show 2004

Killusty Pony Show enjoyed another record year for its forty-first show held at Claremore on 3rd July 2004. More ponies than ever entered to take up the challenge - 236 was the final count at the end of the day and some of them had entered in as many as five classes. With six rings in operation there was never a dull moment and barring one really nasty shower the weather obliged.

A presentation was made to Sarah Miller for her ongoing involvement in the show. She had been at the very first

committee meeting and judged on a regular basis in the years since. It is sincerely hoped that she will continue



Christopher Horsman and Jessica Wilkinson looking after the paperwork at this year's show.

to give the Show the benefit of her expertise in the future. One face missing from the showground this year that we hope will be back next year was that of Johnny Sheehan. The substitute gatekeeper, while very efficient, did not have quite the persuasive powers honed from years of experience by Johnny.

The Championships were, as usual, spread far and wide for the best of all



Photographed at this year's Killusty Show are L to R: Rose Corbett, Ann Lyons, Siobhán Pollard, Grace Nagle with Sally Nagle in front, Gerrane O'Donnell and Anne Nevin.

regions still come to Killusty to find the 'best'. Laura McWeeney came from Co. Leitrim with two young ponies out of multiple Killusty winner 'Dark Sprite' and took the AIB Slievenamon In-hand Championship back to Leitrim as well as the cup for the best filly in the same Championship.

Tim Hurley from Tralee Co. Kerry had the Reserve in that Championship and Ronnie Fox took home the Cup for the Best Local. Longtime supporter of Killusty, Deirdre Smithwick of Kilkenny, took the Dawn Fresh Foods Broodmare Championship with Kilcreene Athena and Carmel Melody from Ballymacarbry was Reserve with her Connemara broodmare. Michelle McMahon's Muskerry Charisma from Cork was the Welsh Champion with another of Deirdre Smithwick's progeny Kilcreene Onyx who had beaten his

mother in the Class in reserve. Carmel Melody also won the Butler Connemara Championship with Clare View with Jonah Wragg's Dunqmore in Reserve.

In the Ridden Show Pony Ring The Coolmore Stud Killusty Championship went to Regina Daly from Cork with Hayneville Pierre with Mrs A. Davies of Armagh's Strinesdale Music Maker in Reserve. Michelle Dempsey's Celtic Legend from Limerick was Side-Saddle Champion with Patrick Geoghegan's Dangan Patricka in Reserve. The Best Rider in the Side-saddle Classes was Mhairi Rawluk. The Tate Croome-Carroll Memorial Equitation Championship went home to Cork with Rhian Fitzgerald with Peter O'Donnell from New Inn in Reserve. Regina Daly added the Mini Championship to her horde with



Brothers, Bernard and Frank Feery from Killusty.

Barkweay Queen Bee taking the honours from another Northern entrant Stuart Whittle's Cosford Mini Mouse.

The Tara Bricknell Open Show Hunter Championship went to Meath and Basil Brindley's Gransha's Jerry Mouse with Tara Rocca's Thorndale Mischief in Reserve, Dangan Patricka went one better in the Novice Show Hunter Championship for the Geoghegans with Michelle Dennehy's Araglen Marengo in Reserve

Two Working Hunter rings were in operation from early until late, Catherine McLoughlin of Ballinure, Thurles, must have been delighted to take home the GAIN Novice Working Hunter Championship with Lord Hazelhuff from another local Mrs R. Henry's Clonross Talisman.

Melanie Young's Ardfry Ahab was the Clonmel Oil Open Working Hunter Champion from Pascal Crawford's Ardfry Cedar. Intermediate Champion was Aideen Davis' Captain Scarlet and Reserve was Karyn Kennedy's Kaduna.

The Performance Working Hunter Champion went to the Geoghegans of Wicklow again but this time with Westmir Queen, with the Brindleys Teddy's Rocket in Reserve.

In perhaps the most important classes of the day for the locals, the Local Handy Pony was won by Emma Meagher from Cloneen and the Special Lead-rein Class went to Ann Marie O'Brien's Carriganog Lad from Rosegreen.

Killusty, as so many Shows, could not continue without the generosity of sponsors and the voluntary effort of many willing helpers. It is sincerely hoped that competitors who go home glowing from a day's outing with prizes in their pockets appreciate all that is done for them in the interest of keeping the sport alive. Thanks from the Killusty Committee to all who helped make the day of our 41st Show so special. ♦

Chairman, Noel Byrne

Secretary, Betsy O'Connor.



Hanna Phillips on 'Perry' and Lucy Townsley, Ballyvaden.

Fethard Players



Fethard Players 'Blithe Spirit' L to R: Gerry Fogarty, Helen Carrigan, Niamh Hayes, Anne Connolly, Lisa Laaksonen, Jimmy O'Sullivan and Mia Treacy. Produced by Austin O'Flynn.

Blithe Spirit, a comedy written by Noel Coward, was the play chosen by the Fethard Players for their 2004 production staged in the Abymill Theatre from Sunday 14th November to Saturday 20th November.

The play takes place in the living room of the Condomines' house in Kent in the 1940s. Charles lives in the house with his second wife Ruth. He writes for a living and, as he wanted to include a clairvoyant in one of his stories, Madame Arcati, a woman who can speak to those beyond the grave, is invited to have a séance in his house.

It is only when the clairvoyant has gone home that Charles realises that they have summoned up the ghost of his dead wife, the sultry and mischievous Elvira, whom it appears still has feelings for her former husband. She proceeds to antagonise Ruth whenever possible, but the plot takes a more sinister twist when we realise that she intends helping Charles to join her in

the afterlife, without his knowledge of course. Her plans go wrong and she ends up killing off the second wife instead. Charles then has to escape two spirits, and with the help of Madame Arcati, ends up doing just that.

The production was directed by Austin O'Flynn and the cast included: Lisa Laaksonen (Ruth), Niamh Hayes (Edith), Jimmy O'Sullivan (Charles), Gerry Fogarty (Dr. Bradman), Helen Carrigan (Mrs. Bradman), Anne Connolly (Madame Arcati) and Mia Treacy (Elvira), along with over twenty others playing their part backstage.

The play was an overwhelming success. Such was the demand for tickets, an extra night had to be added, the proceeds of which were donated to charity. Well done, once again, to the Fethard Players.

Officers elected for 2004-2005 are: Carmel Rice (chairperson), Geraldine McCarthy (secretary), Lisa Laaksonen (treasurer). ♦

Abymill Theatre (Fethard) Ltd

The theatre is once again buzzing with activity as the Fethard players take to the boards with Noel Coward's hilarious farce 'Blithe Spirit'. This will be closely followed by Patrician Presentation secondary school with their school production of 'Joseph and the amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in early December. During the year there have been some excellent shows apart from those mentioned. Carrick-on-Suir's Brewery Lane visited the theatre in February with 'The Beauty Queen of Lenane' and another extremely enjoyable night was Clonmel's Millennium Orchestra with Irene Malone. The Drawing Room Opera company's 'Café of Romance' visited the theatre on September 10th, with a wonderful show. Majella Hewitt Forte held her annual dancing show in the early summer and of course Thursday night bingo is the event of the week in the Abymill.

The Eleanor Shanley concert on April 2nd was a great night and enjoyed by all. Our local Nano Nagle

Primary School and St. Patrick's National school are also involved with the theatre and Nano Nagle will stage a Christmas show in December. The upper environs of the theatre are used for meetings and much of the planning for the abbey celebrations are taking place there.

Each year the theatre is opening out to a wider number of people from not only Fethard and Tipperary but also surrounding counties.

Much gratitude is due to Gerry Fogarty and Cinta O'Flynn, to Mary Morrissey and Christy Mullins who take care of the building and to all who work year in year out, at showtime and for other events. Of course the most gratitude is due to Austin O'Flynn for his care and attention to the theatre - he truly is the heart of Abymill

Board of Directors: Michael McCarthy (chairperson), Marian Gilpin (secretary), Agnes T. Evans (treasurer), Joe Kenny, Carmel Rice, Vincent Murphy, Jimmy O'Shea, Eileen Maher and Austin O'Flynn (administrator). ♦

First Steps Playschool

First Steps Playschool, situated in the Tirry Community Centre, enjoyed a great year under new management and staff

The school year got off to a great start with a visit from Tipp FM's Roadshow early in the year. Thanks to Ian O'Connor & Co for the visit. December was a busy time and our Christmas party was held in the ballroom. We had a visit from our resident Santa which was a huge hit with the children. A huge thanks to the parents

for all their help on the day and, of course, to Santa.

The children and parents were given a demonstration on healthy eating and the correct way to brush their teeth when 'First Steps' took part in 'Healthy teeth and gums' week. The children were all presented with toothbrushes and toothpaste and 'First Steps' with a set of books. Our thanks to the Dental Department for involving us in this very important project.

Congratulations to our assistant

Susan O'Meara for doing so well in her First Aid examination - 100% score!

The school year ended with a hugely successful trip to Parson's Green - a big thanks must go to all the parents who made the outing possible by offering their services, driving and supervising the children on the day. Without their support it wouldn't have been possible. It was a wonderful, memorable day and even the weather managed to behave itself.

It was with heavy hearts that we bade farewell to the children going on to 'big school' and a 'warm welcome' back to all those who did not, and to the chil-

dren joining us for the first time.

It was wonderful welcoming back the children from last year as the playschool had a complete face lift over the summer holidays and their response and reactions made all the hard work well worth it. Thanks to Susan for climbing up all those ladders to reach the highest parts of the walls.

If you have any queries or would like to drop in at anytime, please do not hesitate to contact me at Tel: 086 1580897 or 052 32164, Patricia Fitzgerald (manager).

A Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all. ♦

'Badgers' — soccer for over 30s

This spring, after many years away from my hometown, I returned to live in Fethard. To help myself adapt once again to a change of lifestyle I engaged in activities that

were familiar to me such as going for a jog. The quiet country roads were a nice change from busy Dublin streets, though at times a busy country road could not be avoided. Going to the pub just across the street, ten metres from kitchen table to bar stool, is a wondrous luxury - though not to be over indulged in. A friendly game of football would be nice, soccer or

Gaelic. But where to go? Enquiries were made. GAA? - Maybe a bit too serious and competitive. The nearest soccer being played that I knew of was Killusty, but that is almost semi-professional.

Nostalgia broke in as I considered the Patricia Brothers field - memories of a town league, which was organised by ourselves, children of primary school age. The league was comprised of strong teams such as St. Patrick's Place, which had

many players to choose from, to Burke Street which was small but had talent. The Rocklow Road had its own team



Badgers sports and social club. Back row: Ian Cooke, Kari Laaksonen, Liam Meagher, Mick Fitzpatrick, Colm McGrath. Front Row: Mick Tillger, Liam Harrington, Philip Farrell, and Mick O'Connell. Missing: Gabriel Needham, Pat O'Donnell, Owen Roach, Kevin Ryan, John Hayes.

because of the group homes as they were known, and of course Main Street United – united because it seemed to stretch as far as Congress Terrace and beyond.

So what of the Brothers field? Well things have changed a great deal since the 1970s. Friends and colleagues warned me of being left open to the modern scourge of personal claims and insurance. Now, not being a student of the school, using it could prove costly. A voice from the wilderness then spoke of the new rugby field, which I was to learn was not solely a rugby field at all, but was open to all community endeavours.

On the 25th March a meeting was held in Bob Grants (now Butlers' Sports Bar). There was a very promising attendance of nine people. Interestingly, of that nine people, two paid membership but never actually turned up on the pitch; another turned up just for one game and claims he's

been getting a kit together since. A fourth came back to us the day after the meeting to look for his money back, claiming he gave it under false pretences in that he was drunk on the night having won money on the horses. The other five stayed and have been strong members of a club that has grown steadily. On that fateful first night's meeting, just three votes were taken and carried. The first to elect Liam Harrington as treasurer, second to elect Colm McGrath as chairman (it was jointly decided that no other offices or officers were needed for fear we got too serious). Lastly it was Philip Farrell who came up with the name of the club and another unanimous vote saw 'Badgers' come to be.

Badgers is not just a soccer club, but a sports and social club that is open to everyone over 30 years who feel the need for a bit of fun in sport and an excuse to get out of the house.

Contact Colm on 086-3502360. ♦

Vietnam - an unforgettable journey

Christina Noble Children's Foundation — an emotional fundraising trip to Vietnam by Willie Connolly, The Green, Fethard.

Once when I was asked what my dream job would be, I replied that I would like to be a travel writer. The prospect of jetting off to far flung destinations and writing about my experiences seemed like the easiest and most amazing job in the world. (That was before I Joined the Defence Forces). However, even the best writers are faced with times when no words seem to suffice in describing a particular event or experience. That is the situ-

ation in which I now find myself.

I recently returned from a twelve-day excursion to Northern Vietnam. This trip was not a holiday. I was one of fifty strangers who took up a challenge to trek through the mountains of this little understood country in aid of an Irish based charity that works with the poorest children there. Each person involved went with different expectations of what the Vietnam Challenge 2004 would



Willie Connolly, in Sapa, N. Vietnam

involve. Returning, fifty firm friends united in the hope that we would never forget what we had learned there.

Before we took up the Challenge each had to raise €4,500. I managed to raise €5,165. We walked an average of 20kms a day, with ninety percent humidity and 2,000ft above sea-level, but thinking of the children having gone through prostitution, drug trafficking and exploitation made each step a little easier.

I have conceded already that no words will ever be able to sum up this experience. For a brief period, we had the opportunity to witness and share in life in

its purest form, when a smile or a song is more welcome in a school than a computer and when a child's eyes will light up at the sight of a chocolate bar which he/she will immediately break into as many small pieces as he/she can and share with friends.

Vietnam is a country that is emerging from its troubled past with a pride that any newly liberated state will identify with. However, it is a peaceful pride where freedom is celebrated with both eyes firmly on the future. When people speak of their great liberator Ho Chi Minh it is with both respect and reverence. But the Vietnam he founded is not one that wallows in the injustices and hardships of the past. Rather it is a nation embracing a new era of hope and opportunity. And although the fingers of globalisation are slowly creeping in, Vietnam seems destined to retain the

innocent appreciation of life at its simplest level that has been lost to most of us here for a long time. From the bustling chaos of Hanoi City to the indigenous tribes of the Tonkinese Alps, there is a warmth in the people and a spirit of generosity that Ireland might once have recognised. In this developing nation, there is an integral consciousness that every person's

greatest resource is other people. Whether it is to work the land, to trade or to learn more about themselves and the rest of the world, the Vietnamese appreciate the value of the hand of friendship and



A typical house in North Vietnam

co-operation.

"This has been life-changing", "I have never felt so humbled" and "I've learned what's really important in life". These were some of the many comments that were shared by members of our group as we tried to sum up our experiences the night before we left.

In the past few days our journey has taken us from the mayhem of Hanoi with its hustling markets and Chinese and French colonial architecture, via the overnight sleeper train, into the mountains of North Vietnam and the town of Sapa. From there, we travelled by jeep and by foot through the wide expanses of 'paddy fields' where women worked all day in the blistering sunshine with babies tied to their backs. All along the roads we met many of the villagers making the daily six-hour return journey to town weighed down

with their heavy baskets carrying the handmade crafts to trade with both townspeople and tourists.

Through breathtaking scenery, our local guide, Tuan, led us onwards through the river valley to a local school where children from the four local tribes welcomed us with a song. They listened intently as we returned the gesture and applauded news that we had come from Ireland to learn about education in their country and help raise money for poor children who didn't have schools. Even though their school survived on state support, contributions from aid agencies and gifts from groups like us, it never occurred to them that

they might be poor children. With their dirty faces and shabby clothes they jumped and reached for the sweets we had brought them and laughed with delight as they saw themselves on the digital camera display. I had never seen such contentment and joy among a group of children. When the time came to leave Sapa and return on the overnight train to Hanoi, there was a palpable sadness among the group. The people from the villages knew we were leaving and had come to our hotel in the hope of a last minute goodbye. At the front of the hotel stood almost every member of staff in a final mark of the hospitality they had shown us, they too waited to bid us a last farewell.

The previous four days had taken us on an emotional roller coaster with little time to absorb and reflect on all we had seen and heard. Most of us longed

for the chance for quiet contemplation and in a final, amazing leg of this spectacular journey, we were provided with this in the magical surroundings of Halong Bay. As we cruised on board a traditional junk boat among the 2,000



Vietnamese Children

islands dotting this magnificent area of the South China Sea, there was a chance to discuss all that we had witnessed. It was here that we began to appreciate that this trip had not only been about Vietnam and its people, it had also been about each other. Taking on the challenge, we had been advised that the success of the trip would depend on how individuals could come together to work as a group. With this in mind, I

surveyed the people around me and considered it was truly possible that fifty strangers could share each other's lives for just a few days and have such an impact on each other's lives. I knew the answer already; the evidence was in front of me. Every day that had passed there were items shared, hugs given, the real spirit of the Vietnam Challenge and the Christina Noble Children's Foundation which had brought us all to Vietnam in the first place.

Through the efforts of all involved over €300,000 has been raised for the foundation which was founded by Dublin woman, Christina Noble, and works with the poorest of children and their families in Vietnam and Mongolia. Those of us who were familiar with Christina's journey and the effect her first visit to Vietnam had on her now understood her story a little

better. On our final night in Vietnam we received a message from Christina. It read, "It only takes one to make a difference, there are many ones and we have all made a difference". However, the "ones" that she referred to extend not only to those of us who had the privilege of understanding this amazing journey, but to everyone who helped in anyway in getting us there. Not one of us undertook our fundraising drives alone and to friends, family and all who helped and contributed we will be eternally grateful. The Vietnam Challenge promised memories to last a



Willie with tribal children in Sapa.

lifetime. Of this there can be no doubt but my lasting hope from this experience is that I continue to appreciate that happiness can never be bought and that true joy is never found in the acquisition of things but in the company of others.

Sincere thanks to my wife Dorothy, to my children Darren, Jack and Ciara and to all my family and friends who made this possible. I would also like to thank Capt Sean O'Fartha for all his help. The Christina Noble Children's Foundation and I will never forget it. ♦

Fethard Ballroom

Dancing continues to be a great success every Sunday night, from 9pm to midnight, and on other special occasions quicksteps, waltzes, foxtrots, Paul Jones, slow waltzes, Siege of Ennis, Stack of Barley, Military Two-Step, Gaye Gordon's, Shoe-the-Donkey and many more. If you have a special request it will be played for you, so why not come along, have some fun, make friends and keep fit at the same time. There are also a number of competitions during the year, and a couple of party nights.

Tom Anglim and Maurice Moloney are doing a charity walk in Ethiopia, in aid of Ethiopia Self Help; we donated the proceeds of one of our party nights to this worthy cause. We had a special

card night and donated the proceeds to Fr Tom Breen PP for the specialist cleaning of the sanctuary lamp in the Parish Church.

There are also numerous other events during each week. All these require the attendance of one or more of the directors, which can be quiet demanding; to this end we are deeply indebted to our FAS worker Shem Butler.

This year we had a mural painted on the stage by local artist Pat Looby, a beautiful piece depicting a harvest theme with the Fethard Coat of Arms in the centre. We extended the car park at the rear of the hall and mounted a floodlight to illuminate the area. This will improve safety for all at the front of the hall, especially on Tuesdays and

Thursdays and will also alleviate the traffic that was causing congestion at the bridge and crossroads. We made some improvements to the area at the west side of the hall making access and egress safe and secure for all ages. A new central heating unit and a number of radiators were purchased; the installation of this was carried out by local plumber Billy Prout.

Our insurers conducted a risk management survey of the premises and grounds. We came through with flying colours, with a recommendation from them, that, as a result of implementing our Health and Safety Statement, we should be awarded a lower insurance premium.

The directors have put in many hours of hard and tedious work throughout the year. While each to their own, they have gelled extremely well and consequently work very effi-

ciently as a team, and individually.

We are committed to generating a safe, friendly, comfortable and pleasant atmosphere for all patrons to enjoy; we aim to continue with this programme.

To our dancers, clubs and individuals who use the ballroom, many thanks for your support. We hope you enjoyed the facilities and we look forward to catering for your needs in the future. To all who helped in any way, we say many thanks. We wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Board of Directors for 2004: Mick Aherne (chairman), Gay Horan, Margaret Phelan, Sean Spillane, Catherine O'Connell, Breda Spillane, Seamus Barry, Paddy Hickey, Pat Horan, Sheila O'Donnell, Monica Aherne (treasurer) and Robert Phelan (secretary). ♦



At the 'Babe Maher and Danny Murphy Memorial Ballroom Dancing Competition' at Fethard Ballroom on 5th December 2004 are L to R: Joseph Farrell (Castledermot), Sarah Corcoran (Killenaule), Bill Maher (Fethard), Bertie and William Corcoran (Killenaule).

A Black Stetson and a bunch of keys!

A voluminous black Stetson ambled into Lonergans, propped itself up at the bar and waited. Nothing was said. You could hear the music "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" playing menacingly, or so I thought. Eventually the smoke cleared and I could see there was a figure underneath the Stetson. "Alright pet? A Guinness, pet" it said, addressing itself softly to the barmaid. She already knew, and had starting pouring it.

The face underneath the hat was hidden, only the figure could be seen through the swirls of cigarette smoke. It was sporting an enormous bunch of keyrings the weight of which was in contention with a pair of tired black braces struggling to hold up the beer-stained trousers whilst the keyrings, jockeying for position, were hoping to denude their owner of his masculine mode of attire. Relief came in the form

of Mafeking when, from time to time, the key rings were placed on the bar and the braces breathed a sigh of relief. A pint of Guinness slid down the back of the throat and a much-worn shirt cuff swiped the mouth from left to right. It was only when this ritual was finished that the figure looked round.

"Hello there" said the Stetson, addressing itself to me. "How ar yer?"

This was my introduction to Jimmy 'Buckie' Ryan and to one of Fethard's many pubs of which it seemed he shared himself around!

I had come to Fethard to research my family history. Three generations of Coadys had been born in Fethard and one in Cashel, and my father, who had been brought up in Cashel, had moved to Dublin in order to find work after he had left school and in later years had then made his way to Liverpool. Some of my early schooling had been in



Jimmy Ryan and Philippa Coady discussing world affairs in a local manner.



One of Jimmy's proudest moments when he won the 'Mayor of Fethard' competition as part of Fethard Festival 1986. At the announcement of the winner are L to R: Jimmy Mullins, 'Rose of Tralee' Brenda Hyland from Cahir, Jimmy Ryan and compere Billy McLellan.

Dublin but it was Fethard and the family roots there that drew me back to Ireland.

Conversing politely, exchanging the usual pleasantries, the evening progressed as did the quantity of Guinness consumed by my newly-found friend.

Discovering that I earned my living in Brussels working for the European Parliament, proved a source of great delight to him and provided him with much ammunition, revelling in torpedoing me with all the accuracy of a scud missile, taunting me about the first-class gravy train that I was apparently on. "Gravy train?" I said, "the only gravy transport I know of comes with Sunday lunch in a boat" and anyway I said, "I'm a vegetarian!"

But having captured his audience, he didn't let go.

"You", he thundered, "a fecking eurocrat from Brussels! You're after

straightening feckin bananas now! They're tryin to take the feckin bend out of them - wanting to cut it out and straighten the fockers! I'm tellin yer," he roared, "it's true - they're wantin straight bananas!" (And he was right in a sense. The European Commission wanted to draft legislation to standardise the size of bananas!) Gulping down the remains of his pint he glowered at me expectantly.

I gathered he was waiting for the counter-attack but so well-armed and prepared was he that you couldn't get one up on Jimmy Ryan, I later learnt, whether it was for getting the drinks in or in the, "I've been there, done that and bought the t-shirt department." He had indeed been there, done that and had bought numerous t-shirts!

And thus, emanating from that serendipitous meeting, a firm friendship developed during my meagre two-

week holiday that first year.

His encyclopaedic knowledge of the area, the people and Irish history, bowled me over. Google would have a hard job competing with him I thought. He lent me Irish history books on the fight for Irish freedom, talked at length about de Valera, Bianconi, Brendan Behan, and about famous local Tipp people, Jim Breen, Bridget Cleary and the story surrounding the hanging of Harry Gleeson. "They think I'm the local lunatic," he once told me. Well how wrong "they" were I thought.

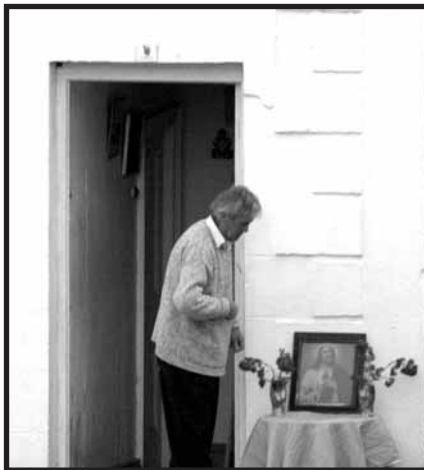
There were numerous occasions when I cried with laughter. His tuppence-ha'penny disposal camera that he bought specially to take pictures of me and my sister and which only worked when you thumped the table with it at which point the flash came to life erupting in rapid succession and exhausting the batteries in one foul swoop. This hilarious moment was only surpassed by his look of utter amazement followed by the usual expletives "the focker doesn't feckin well work!" A truly disposal camera because he threw it away after that!

And in the true spirit of openness and transparency, he made no secret of his drinking prowess either.

"I fell down the feckin stairs", he explained to the doctor at the hospital in Cashel after I'd driven him there.

"You did? And how did you manage that?" said our medical friend, his strong accent revealing his Indian origins.

"Well drink might have had something to do with it" Jimmy admitted.



Jimmy Ryan setting up display for Corpus Christi Procession on 17th June 2001.

"On the other hand, it might not, I can't remember".

"Haven't I x-rayed you before?" pursued the Doctor, now on a collision course of engaging Jimmy in conversation, a highly dangerous manoeuvre depending on the mood of the moment.

"I can't feckin remember," said Jimmy donning his Stetson. "I've had so many fecking x-

rays. Anyway, if you have, you must feckin well know me inside out now!"

Jimmy's laugh was followed by a stunned silence from the doctor, who, not quite comprehending our friend's vernacular, hastily beat a retreat, leaving me collapsed on the hospital floor amidst peels of laughter.

His horse-racing knowledge was second to none but what I knew about horses you could write on a grain of rice, though there can't be many people who know so little about horses as I do that have actually seen 'Rock of Gibraltar' and 'Sadler's Wells' in the flesh! He regularly berated me for not following the betting as he wearily tried to make me understand yet again. "Well why would you bet 'each way' on a horse?" I asked. "It doesn't make

sense to run all the way there and all the way back again, and anyway," said I, my sense of pragmatism coming to the fore, "they'd bump into each other on the way back!"

He glared at me with one of those menacing looks of his and quickly riposted, "I thought you'd have to be feckin stupid to work for them there fuckers in Brussels, but now I know you are!"

Like I said, you didn't get one up on Jimmy Ryan, but how I enjoyed sharpening my wits against his!

I left Fethard after that all too-short summer, armed with much local knowledge and an enlarged "Irish" vocabulary.

"Will you come back next summer?" asked Jimmy in a mournful voice.

"Try and feckin well stop me," I said, flexing my newly-increased vocabulary, "and I'll feckin well write to you too!"



Jimmy Ryan having a snooze while his geese keep charge at Watergate 12th August 2003.

And I did. He enjoyed reading my letters he said and I enjoyed writing them!

His eventual death on 18th October 2004 greatly saddened me but his memory will live on as I have decided to write his biography. He would have liked that and I hope that if I'm successful, he will become part of the local history.

So if anyone can recall any memo-

ries of Jimmy, please contact, Philippa Coady, 53 Avenue Edouard de Thibault, Brussels B-1040, Belgium. (email: philippa.coady@skynet.be) ♦

Celebrated charity worker dies

Selfless charity worker William Mullins of Clayhill, in Booker, has died unexpectedly following an operation. The 69-year-old, who spent more than 20 years living and working as a decorator in Princes Risborough, was particularly well known for his key fundraising roles within the church.

William 'Bill' Mullins, who died on 25th February 2004 at Ealing Hospital, was invited to meet Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1994 in recognition of his Catholic charity work.

Mr Mullins spent more than 15 years

actively involved trying to raise awareness of the problems confronting children in Sri Lanka and last autumn he flew out to meet the Bishop of Jaffna. His son, Ken Mullins of Oakfield Close, in Amersham, added: "He did a fantastic amount of work for other people, particularly Catholic charities."

Mr Mullins, originally from Fethard and a regular contributor to this Newsletter in the past, leaves behind four sons and three daughters.

He will be sorely missed by a great number of people. ♦

More memories from my life

by Sean Henehan

Looking back I conclude I had a very interesting and varied life. We had plenty of live entertainment before television. We were not aware that somebody was going to invent television and travelling shows were the thing in entertainment. As there was no place in Ireland like Fethard Town

Hall, all the big shows liked to appear on stage here. To name just a few, we had Anew McMaster and his Shakespeare cast with period costumes and scenery. Anew was probably the best Shakespearian actor in the world. Caesar was murdered in the Town Hall as was Macbeth. The Merchant of Venice nearly lost his pound of flesh and that would have been a

gruesome sight. The Bailey Bros., Harry and Jack, put on a great show. Harry, who used his violin to great effect was very popular on television years afterwards. On one occasion Harry left via the Killenaule Road and Jack and the rest of the show left by some other route.

That was the end of the visits by the Baileys. Only two years ago Harry appeared again on telly looking fit and well.

We also had Louis D'Alton and cast. Louis was an actor, producer, playwright and he also wrote books. He was so busy writing that he did not

have much time for his wife, Annie, who then gave her free time helping stage manager John Cowley. I got to know John well as he called to me for stage props. I sold second hand furniture and held regular auctions in my early days as auctioneer. On one visit, which happened to be the last appear-



Donal O'Sullivan and Sean Henehan on the way home from mass in the 1960s

ance of the Louis D'Alton Players, John and Annie left via the Killenaule Road and the rest by a different route. Some years afterwards John and Annie appeared as Tom Riordan and Minnie Brennan on television in the very popular 'Riordans' programme, which was watched by probably the entire population on Sunday nights. John, who died on 13th

February 1998, was on the radio a few years ago and said he was so badly paid by RTE that he could not afford to put anything away for his retirement and lived in very poor circumstances. He was pre-deceased by Annie (Minnie Brennan), who died on 10th March 1983.

We also had a visit from Clopet York Productions, an English party and they were a tremendous show. George Daniels also was a regular and in the end had a big tent, which he pitched on the old alley in the Barrack Field. He



Tullamaine Hunt group c.1940s L to R: Rory La Terrier, Bill Holohan, Terence La Terrier, Paddy Stokes, Hugh O'Donnell, P.J. Holohan, Mick Walsh (Carrigan), Sean Henehan, Andy Holohan, Paddy Anglim.

had two lovely teenage daughters who gave us a preview in miniature of Riverdance. Some of the lads said they went to see the dancing. They were a great attraction and George always stayed over two weeks.

I was involved in a lot of sport and lucky to be a player in the badminton and tennis teams. We had great times travelling and were also the team to beat at that time. We won a big number of tournaments and two of our team, Jimmy McCarthy and Cly Mullins, were both Munster singles champions. They had to travel a lot so they only played a few times as some of the journeys very long.

I played golf and won prizes in many different clubs, but the ones that got away are those that come to mind mostly. In Thurles I came in with a 67 which was the best score, but was told a member came in at lunch time with a 60, he said he could not wait and took the prize. They discovered afterwards

that the card was a fake and the bird had flown so I got no prize. Something similar happened in Waterford when another player got the world cup but I had the best score. Sometime later I met Charlie, the tournament steward, and he agreed and said, to make matters worse, he played off 17 handicap and when they looked it up they found he played off 7 the year before in Waterford.

I lost the captain's prize one year in Tramore and another in Clonmel in a 'Rub of the Green'. I cannot finish until I tell about the occasion I played a member of the Irish international table tennis team. We had a good club in Fethard and one of our members had a good contact with a member of the Irish team. Following a few exchanges they agreed to give an exhibition in the town. The Irish team was Harry Carlisle, Fred Tillier, Michael Morris and Cyril Kemp. We gave them a knock up the week before they started.



Fethard Carnival group, possibly a Tennis Club entry, includes Bill Holohan, Donal O'Sullivan, Sean Henahan, Jackie White, Dick Cummins, 'Sa' Anglim (Moyglass), Mickey Croke, Jackie White, Paddy Ryan, Hugh O'Donnell, Brother Coleman, Davy Murphy, Tom Barrett and Eddie O'Neill

I have seen many games including many hurling and football All-Ireland finals, tennis, badminton etc. but none could compare with this for speed, accuracy and skill. I can say it was the most exciting game I ever saw.

Fred afterwards was the first person to present a sponsored radio programme. He presented Jacobs programme, 'Come fly with me' every morning on the Dublin to London flight.

Just when the German business was coming to a halt I had a near miss that would have changed the course of history. A very nice property, not 100 miles from Fethard, was visited by a client who decided immediately to buy it, fixed a price and went back to Germany to arrange transfer of the money. I called to the owner only to be told it was sold to a man from a neighbouring county, they also gave his name which did not ring a bell. I would now love to know, and I often still

wonder, what would have happened the purchaser if my client got there first.

Moving on, I got a job as a manager and secretary of Clonmel Greyhound Racing Company. My father and brothers were directors. It was a very interesting job but very stressful. We ran two big events in the season - the Produce Stakes and the Munster Cup - and I was always under pressure during that busy season but luckily to make up for it, the track was closed for three months in winter and two weeks in July.

My father died in 1968 and because of my run in with the bank I did not get my inheritance. I won my case with the bank when it was eventually settled years later in 1981.

My father had held 750 shares in the track which were given to family after he died. I had to buy £10 worth to become a director. I was in a very uncomfortable position. Losing ones

inheritance leaves a big void in ones life.

A few years later the track was closed because the surface was too hard. The five directors inspected it and the managing director said they would hold a meeting. The two Clonmel directors said no meeting was necessary and went home. I was called in to explain and I said that we had no watering system and I could do nothing about the condition of the track. I said that, if after an investigation I was found responsible, I would resign. I left the meeting as the groundsman was waiting to be heard. Next morning (Friday) when I arrived in, I was told by the managing director that the three directors had accepted my resignation. I said I did not resign. The managing director said I did and that it was written in the minutes and could not be changed. I was out of a job but was told that if I admitted I resigned I

would get my job back. I did not and was out of a job.

I was not long out of the greyhound business when in 1972 I was appointed a member of Bord na gCon (Irish Greyhound Board) for five years. The board consisted of six members and chairman appointed by the government to make rules for and supervise greyhound racing and coursing. At the first meeting the chairman said he would appoint two members as inspectors to each board-owned track. When he finished I told him, "I did not hear my name mentioned", so he asked me what track I would like to be a director of, and I said, "All". This reply took him by surprise but he appointed me director of Shelbourne Park, Harold's Cross (both Dublin), Waterford, Youghal, Cork, Tralee, Limerick and Galway - eight tracks in all.

I had a great time for the five years attending board meetings in Henry



Paddy Henahan, Timmy O'Riordan, Sean Henahan Michael Keane, Bernie Myles and friends in pub after greyhound race.

Street, Limerick, where I had my German office. It was also great to be back in Henry Street again and be able to attend the track on nights of big events.

I always spent a few days at Tralee during the racing festival. I had a hip operation in 1988 and was out just in time for the Derby Final to bring my career to an end.

The event that gave me the most satisfaction came after I retired and it is very long story so I can only give a brief account of it. A person I know who owned a pub called in great distress. They had received a High Court summons for a large sum and a threat of eviction if in default. I told her to bring me any papers she had and when I examined them I discovered that they would win the case. I sent them to the

central office, the Four Courts to enter an appearance etc. We lost in the High Court as I expected but I got them to appeal and I had plenty of time to coach them and prepare the case for the Supreme Court. The night before the hearing the Bank offered settlement, writing off the debt and giving adequate compensation. Then I prepared a case against their solicitor and won again in the Supreme Court.

I had a very successful career as lay litigant, doing all the preparation and presentation of all my cases. I got a judgement in two High Courts and Supreme Court. I had a successful life but losing my inheritance left a void in my life that cannot be filled.

I am now in hospital having a well earned if disturbed rest but I am assured that I will eventually rest in peace. ♦



The laneway at Coolnamuck opposite the Tirry Centre in Barrack Street. The old buildings in the photograph were demolished in 1993 to make way for the new housing scheme that exists today. The right of way through the lane was preserved which was traditionally used by residents of Barrack Street to go to Mass in the Abbey

Fethard Open Coursing Club

by Arthur Daly



Fethard Coursing Club presentation of prizes in McCarthy's Hotel c.1979. L to R: Timmy O'Riordan, Jimmy Ryan (Killenaule), Michael Keane, Danny Kane, John O'Donovan and in front young Dermot Kane.

Fethard Open Coursing Club had a great coursing during the 2003-2004 season. All stakes were finished on the day. We started the season with the Dick Burke trophy, which was won by Mrs M. Flanagan. Our next outing, the big one, was for the Pat Dalton Cup. This was for 16 all-aged dogs and bitches with a winners prize of €1,500. After some fantastic coursing in the early rounds we had a winner in the P.J. Bohane owned dog, Templemore, trained by K. Barry. Runner up was Mohican Girl. The consolation stake for dogs beaten in the first round of the cup was won by Liam Burke's own bitch Be My Princess.

Our next outing was for the O'Donovan Cup sponsored by the O'Donovan family, The Valley, in honour of their father and late chairman of the club. This stake was won by Marie Roche.

Our last meeting of the year was for the McCormack cup in honour of the

father and life long supporters of our club. This trophy was kept in the family as it was won by Tom McCormack, Lowesgreen.

This year we lost two of our great members, Jim Sullivan, our president and Don Murphy, two great coursing stalwarts. They will be sadly missed by all who knew them. May they Rest in peace.

Fethard Open Coursing Club would like to thank all our sponsors, especially Pat Dalton of Golden for his generosity. We would like to thank all landowners for letting us course over their lands. Sincere thanks to Coolmore Stud for their cooperation on our big day. The Pat Dalton Cup will be run on the 2nd January 2005.

If next season is as good as our last we will be very pleased. Special thanks to our hard working committee and see you all in the coursing field. ♦

Then and Now!

The sun peeps over Slievenamon and bathes the valley in light as the town yawns and slowly comes awake. The angelus bells ring out clearly in the churches and in the convent. A door slams. The curate's footsteps can be heard in the morning silence as he hurries down the street for early Mass. Post office bicycles are wheeled out by the postmen, ready for the day's work. "Lovely mornin', thanks be to God," rings out as Tommy Carey cycles past on his two mile journey to work. Dan's crutches go tap-tap in even rhythm on the pavement as if he were still marching. He's tall and erect in spite of losing a leg in World War I. Even winters' mornings don't deter him from his early ritual and his lonely sentinel as he waits for the newspaper delivery. "Straight from the Kremlin door," he says when the east

wind is at its worst. The train hoots as it emerges from Grove Wood, followed by the gentle clip-clop of Ned Bulfin's pony as they deliver milk from door-to-door. A service to be repeated every morning except on Christmas Day when there is only one delivery of milk, but two of Christmas cards!

People queue. Well perhaps queue is not the right word. They gather in little groups waiting for the morning bus, which disgorges about half a dozen big boys from outlying parishes en route to the Patrician Secondary School. Young girls chatter interminably as they wind their way to the Presentation Convent. Segregation is the normal order of the day. "What answer did you get for number four in the algebra last night?", "I couldn't do it, but the geometry was easy." "Sr. Agatha will kill me, I never did my Irish composition." "Hurry up,



Fethard Senior Citizens Party 1987. Back L to R: Peter Napier, Mamie Morrissey, Tom Keane, Neddie Wall, Mrs Leahy. Front L to R: Mrs Quinlan, Nonie McCarthy, Josie McCarthy and Mary Keane.

the bell is gone," (I still don't know where the bell was supposed to be gone to). But on and on it goes, the endless chatter, problems being halved as problems are shared. Now there is the unmistakable aroma of freshly baked bread in the street as the bakery van makes its deliveries from shop to shop; beautiful fresh bread baked during the night while everyone else in the town slept.

A herd of cows ambles up the town on the way to their field, having being milked. They spread across the whole street, and some clever ones walk on the cement footpaths to avoid the rough road! John Halpin taps them ever so gently from time to time with a long thin stick - a twig really - much like a conductor with his baton, marshalling his orchestra.

Country folk begin to arrive for their day's shopping. Horses and traps and donkeys and carts, are tied to poles where they wait patiently for however long it takes.

The day drags on. Eventually the sun sinks behind the station house and the moon rises over the Abbey. The convent bells rings at 9pm and the green door and entrance gates are all locked for the night and the three massive gates to the Parish Church are locked until 9am. If there is a social in the Town Hall people leave their bedroom windows open to hear the beautiful music. On their way home from the dance girls remove their high-heeled shoes, in case their noise on the cement disturbs those already asleep.

A lone whistler can be heard all the way from the Square to the cross. Tom whistles haunting melodies, which fade away as he turns up the Cashel road. He is better than Ronnie Ronald who

whistles on the radio.

It is so beautiful in the stillness of the night-Fethard's version of a nightingale in Berkley Square, and like Wordsworth with his Solitary Reaper we hear the music in our hearts long after it is heard no more.

Now . . .

Now car doors bang. Music blares from their radios forcing reluctant sleepers to wake up and listen to the aggressive and violent noise of rap and hip-hop. No Angelus bell; no door slam, no curate. His house stands idle all week just to be used for a few hours office work on Fridays and Saturdays. No trains, no horses and traps, no post office bicycles. Their vans growl, waiting to be off.

The motorised bin-collecting and street cleaning machines shake the windows and doors. Ye gods, the very houses seem unsafe. No Jim with the gentle swish of his brush and his faithful dog keeping him company. Trucks, vans, helicopters even, ferry their occupants to work. Nothing is thought of working as far away as Waterford, Limerick or even further, travelling to and from there every day. Tommy's two-mile cycle seems very insignificant now.

Cars, cars, cars, all day collecting and delivering; delivering the modern pupils to school, swimming, soccer, hurling, drama, dancing. The list is endless and so are the cars and the noise. Deliveries of oil, beer, meat, newspapers, bread, vegetables and eggs even, all made with endless noisy pumping of car engines.

Night doesn't end it. A different set of noises takes on. Modern music emits from halls and pubs. People close their

windows in an attempt to keep it out. Even on the odd occasion when the tunes are recognisable they are amplified to such a pitch as to torture the ears, especially the ears of those who remember them as they used to sound. Late at night men laugh and talk loudly on the streets and women shriek as if they are being murdered. Maybe they are!

No 9pm bell rings in the Convent. Church bells are too noisy for our modern world. (Besides they call us to

prayer, and we can't have that now can we?) Their gates can no longer be locked (for insurance purposes). The massive parish gates which protected our church, when it didn't need protecting, have long since gone and the church is closed every day at 4pm to avoid vandalism.

As we go to bed to the sound of house alarms and car sirens, the noise in our hearts we bear long after we can really care. ♦

Fethard and Killusty Anglers

by Tom Fogarty



Fethard & Killusty Angling Club Committee c.1978. Back L to R: Frank Kearney, Jim Ryan, Bill lawlor, John Roche, Jim Healy, Dickie Butler. Front L to R: Cly Mullins, Tom Walsh (Clonmel), Jimmy O'Neill, John Sayers, Jack O'Donnell and Tom Sayers.

Fethard and Killusty Angling Club held our Annual General Meeting on Friday 20th February in the Tirry Centre, Fethard. Officers elected were Tom Fogarty (chairman), David Grant (secretary), Matty Fleming (treasurer). Committee members: Tom Sayers, Tony Quigley, Norman O'Regan, Jim Fogarty and Liam Boland.

We held only one competition this year and the results were: 1st Matty

Fleming, 2nd Eddie Carey, 3rd Liam Boland. Matty Fleming also won 1st prize for the heaviest trout.

Every year when holding competitions we buy senior and juvenile prizes and it is sad to say that for the last couple of years no juvenile prize has been awarded. The reason for this is we have no juveniles turning up to competitions, in fact this year we had only three juvenile members.

Okay, fishing may not be as popular as soccer or hurling, but once mastered, it will be with you for the rest of your life - long after the old legs are not able for the rigours of football or hurling.

So I will take this opportunity to ask all parents of kids who express any interest in fishing to contact any committee member or ring: 052 54675 or 052 52369 and hopefully, if the

response is good, next season we will arrange some tuition for them. Who knows maybe some day we might have a Fethard youth representing us at the Youth World Fly Fishing Championship. Now wouldn't that be something to talk about.

With that I would like to wish Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody and tight lines for the coming season. ♦

Time Out — Womens Group



Members of Fethard Ladies Evening Group 2004 Back L to R: Kaye Murphy, Anna Cooke, Rose Gorey, Veronica Fogarty, Rosemary Donovan, Mary Lynch, Maura Gorey, Alice Moloney. Front L to R: Betty Coughlan (workshop trainer), Patricia Brett, Jewel Burke, Samantha Butler and Maria Gorey.

Fethard ladies who meet on a Monday morning at the Abymill are a small group, and have nearly finished their first year together.

Over the past months we have covered self awareness and assertiveness, alternative medicines, Colour Me Beautiful, women's health, relaxation, heart and cancer issues and dealing with teenagers. These courses have been very enjoyable and informative.

Sometimes we just meet and have a chat and talk about where we are going, and we choose the course. We have a very friendly atmosphere and relax over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits, the morning ends at 12 to 12.30 pm.

We were established and supported by Veronica Crowe, Community Education Facilitator, and South Tipperary VEC. The Health Promotions were given by Treacy and

Hilda from Women's Health. The Marie Keating Foundation Mobile van visited Fethard to give free cancer information. A professional nurse was on hand.

This visit was organised through Tipperary Women's Network, Knockanrawley, Tipperary Town.

Womans Evening Group

For those not able to attend in the daytime, an evening meeting time was suggested and both groups have been facilitated by Veronica Crowe, South Tipperary VEC.

The first evening session was held in September in the Abymill and the group has attracted about 20 members of varying ages who meet on Monday evenings. The aim of the group is to enable women have a little time for themselves away from the demands of

home and work and to enjoy the company of other women in an educational but light-hearted environment.

During the few weeks that the group has been in existence, the members have undertaken courses in personal development and assertiveness. There will be a demonstration on flower arrangements for the festive season on the last meeting before Christmas and the group will finish off the year by enjoying a Christmas night out together.

In the New Year, it is hoped to arrange a beginner's computer course, discuss health topics and learn some new arts and crafts. A cup of tea, a chat and pleasant company; what a nice way to spend Monday evenings! Please feel free to contact us if you would like to join its great fun. Contact phone number: 052-26269. ♦

The Town I Love so Well

Sr. Monica Kevin OSU

Seven years ago I made a flying visit to Fethard with my sister Mai, my niece Patricia, and my grand-nephew Oliver. There weren't many people there that remembered the family but we were very happy to see Mon Kenny, a classmate of Mai's, Mary Byard, with whom I had stayed on my rare visits, Jimmy and Moira McNerney, Goldie and Tony Newport. When I left the next day I hoped I might get back some day but realistically I thought it was the last time I'd see the place that has so many memories of my childhood and early teens. As subsequent years went by with the toll of passing friends I almost abandoned the hope of "going home" ever again. But, hope springs eternal, and miracles do happen.

During the past spring, Sister

Philomena O'Brien, aka Nuala, told me that her cousin Laurence Kenny had asked her several times, "When is Monica Kevin coming home?" I had never met Larry but I assume he knew of me from his mother, Mon, or his aunt Mary Byard, and from his cousin Sr. Philomena. As a guest of Laurence Kenny I had the most delightful and enjoyable experience and indeed the privilege of visiting once more the town I love so well, the town I left in August 1935

The Kevin family is gone from Fethard since the early 1940s. My home visits have been to them in England. While I enjoy seeing my relatives, their neighbourhoods have no memories for me. In contrast, Fethard is full of memories and for someone who left it at age fifteen it is amazing



Sr. Monica Kevin OSU photographed in Fethard with her niece, Patricia Meldrum, a daughter of Mai Kevin. Monica left Fethard in 1935, at the age of 15, to join the Ursuline Order in New York with three other friends in Fethard, Nuala O'Brien, Nellie Carey and Kitty McCarthy. She qualified as a biologist and now works as Retired Faculty Counsellor at Fordham, New York City's Jesuit University. L to R: Patricia Meldrum, Laurence Kenny and Monica Kevin OSU.

how much and how many people I remember.

It was a pleasure to see the changes and improvements in the town, the Main Street, the Square, and so many new houses. Starting from the corner of Barrack Street I walked slowly down to the Parish Church and along the way talked non-stop to my niece recalling this and that as went. My first stop was at Tony Newport's. Tony reminded me that I brought him to school the first day he went at age four. He is a source of Fethard history and folklore, I loved it.

As we neared the church we met and chatted with Goldie Newport. Patricia, my niece, was amazed that after all these years I could talk to people as though I'd never been away. At the churchyard I visited Aunt Annie's and

Uncle Pierce's grave (Annie and Pierce Power). On the way to the Abbey we had a lovely visit with Moira and Jimmy McInerney. The McInerneys were our closest neighbours so we had lots to recall. He knew our grand-uncle, Danny Considine, a 'vet' of sorts, who lived with us and was like a grandfather to us. Then on to the Abbey, so full of childhood memories. People from Barrack Street and the Green frequented the Abbey more than the Parish Church. It was heart-warming to find it open and not empty. It was a golden opportunity to pause and recall my life's pilgrimage.

I attribute my love and knowledge of Fethard and its people to Aunt Annie with whom I lived for almost five years after the death of Pierce. During most of that period she was still teach-

ing in Cloneen National School. Paddy Morrissey drove her out each morning and picked her up in the afternoon. Through her I learned a lot about her involvement in the Sinn Fein movement during the days of the Black & Tans at which time she lived in Cloneen down the road from Ballinard Castle. She risked her job and her life many a time for the men 'on the run'.

Another member of the Kenny family, Joe, I want to acknowledge and

thank him for all that he does for the Irish emigrants. He keeps us connected with places and people we knew and loved. I devour that publication that arrives near Christmas each year. I have saved them and have loaned them to people who are two or three generations removed from Fethard but recall stories told them by their grandparents. I could go on and on but better stop in the interest of space. Thank you Rosena and Laurence. ♦

Dan Considine of Barrack Street



Hardly anyone in Fethard will have heard of Dan Considine or even remember him.

Dan Considine of Barrack Street was a vet in the days when the horse was all powerful and played a very important part in the economic, sporting and transporting lives of the people of Ireland.

Dan was a vet without academic qualifications and his knowledge of horses, their ailments and injuries, was unsurpassed. His services were sought, not alone in Fethard, but over a wide area of Tipperary where he was very well known as a knowledgeable and competent horse doctor.

Following his death on the 28th October 1933, at the age of 74, the veterinary practice in Fethard was taken over by Mr James Schofield M.R.C.V.S. ♦

The River Gate at Fethard 1878

*The following is a letter to the editor of The Clonmel Chronicle
published Saturday 9th March 1878*

Sir, When visiting Fethard lately, I was astonished to hear that it was proposed to improve the road leading from the railway station into the town, by pulling down the extremely picturesque and interesting old tower standing, I may say, on the bridge. Permit me to say, from a tourist's point of view, the destruction of this ancient gateway which with the curious old bridge it commands, and the time-worn mill, and other buildings which surround it, is, in Fethard, I believe, unique, would be a very great mistake.

When the railway, already completed, from Clonmel to Fethard, is carried on, as sooner or later it certainly will be, into the G.S.&W. Line, many tourists will be glad to take the Fethard route, and to stop in that town for a day or two, if the remains of antiquity, which a couple of years ago so much astonished, and which even still astonish the tourist, the stray traveller, stumbling upon them, after a long and wearisome journey on an outside car, be not by that time wholly obliterated.

There is nothing which would sooner catch the tourist's eye (ever searching for the picturesque) than this venerable

tower, which the good people of Fethard, forgetful of the fable of the bird with the golden eggs, now propose to "improve off the face of the earth." It is said that a good passage into the town cannot be made without committing

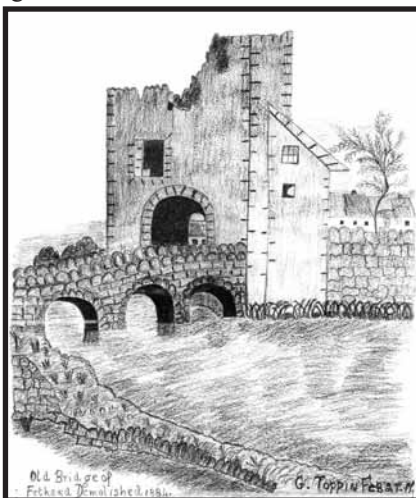
this piece of destruction, but with that assertion, I cannot agree.

The experience of other places proves that the sort of patchwork contemplated in the idea of sticking on an increased breadth to the old bridge, will lead to a very unsatisfactory structure. I do believe that in the long run it would be less expensive to build a new bridge, and to make a new

road, a little further on, where the conformation of the ground is much more adapted for an approach to the Main Street.

If, however, the idea of widening be persisted in, why not let the old bridge and gateway remain as a footway? and build, at the left side on entering Fethard which I believe is the railway station side a good broad addition, as a carriage-way into a town which should be proud, rather than ashamed, of its unusually extensive, and interesting, architectural remnants of antiquity.

— I am, sir, A Tourist. ♦



*Gate at Madam's Bridge (Convent Bridge)
Demolished 1884*

Certificates of Honour 1917

The following excerpt from The Clonmel Chronicle of Wednesday June 27th 1917, was supplied by Michael Hall, Kyle, Drangan, and gives a list of the 140 soldiers from the Fethard district who fought in the First World War.

Certificates of Honour for War Service

Supplementary Distribution at Clonmel

A supplementary distribution of certificates of honour to further relatives of soldiers and sailors who have served or are still serving their King and country in the present campaign was made in Clonmel Military barracks on Thursday. These added to the certificates distributed three weeks ago give a total distribution in Clonmel of 774. The following are names of the local soldiers in respect of whom the certificates have been issued:

FETHARD DISTRICT

Ahern, James, Cashel Road, Fethard
 Allen, Robert, The Green, Fethard
 Anglim, Patrick, Jos., Farranaleen, Fethard
 Butler, Edmond, The Valley, Fethard
 Butler, Francis, The Green, Fethard
 Butler, James, The Green, Fethard
 Butler, Patrick, The Green, Fethard
 Butler, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Campbell, William, The Green, Fethard
 Clarke, Richard, School House, Fethard
 Cleary, Patrick, Woodhouse, Moyglass
 Coffey, Edmond, The Valley, Fethard
 Coffey, Robert F., Abbeyville, Fethard
 Colville, John, The Green, Fethard
 Commons, John, Watergate, Fethard
 Conroy, Michael J., The Green, Fethard
 Costello, William, Grove Road, Fethard
 Crean Richard F. Brookhill, Fethard
 Cummins, James, Watergate, Fethard
 Cummins, John, Folkstown, Fethard

Cummins, John, Watergate, Fethard
 Cummins, Michael, The Green, Fethard
 Cummins, Thos., Kilnockin Road, Fethard
 Curran, James, The Valley, Fethard
 Curran, John Patrick, Beechmount, Ballinure
 Curran, John, Grove House, Fethard
 Curran, Michael, The Valley, Fethard
 Curran, William, The Valley, Fethard
 Dagg, John, The Green, Fethard
 Dagg, Michael, The Green, Fethard
 Dagg, Patrick, The Green, Fethard
 Dalton, John, The Valley, Fethard
 Daniel, Christopher, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Daniel, Patrick, The Green, Fethard
 Delahunty, Edward, The Green, Fethard
 Dodgson, Henry, The Green, Fethard
 Dooley M., Barrack Street, Fethard
 Doyle, Leonard, The Green, Fethard
 Dunphy, Patrick, Monroe, Fethard
 Dwyer, Edward, Red Brick Cottage
 Dwyer, Patk. Jos., Jesuits' Walk, Fethard
 Dwyer, Stephen, Jesuits' Walk, Fethard
 Dwyer, William, Jesuits' Walk, Fethard
 Fitzpatrick, Edward, The Green, Fethard
 Fitzpatrick, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Fitzpatrick, William, The Green, Fethard
 Flynn, Thomas, Glenagady, Fethard
 Foran, Patrick, Barretstown, Fethard
 Foster, Percival, The Green, Fethard
 Gibbs, William J., The Valley, Fethard
 Gilbert, Henry Nicholas, Moyglass, Fethard
 Gorman, James, The Green, Fethard
 Grace, Patrick, Ballyherbery, Silverfort
 Grace, Robert, Ballyherbery, Silverfort
 Grant, Edmund, Knockinglass, Fethard

Grant, Patrick, Knockinglass, Fethard
 Green, James, Burke Street, Fethard
 Green, Joseph, Burke Street, Fethard
 Guicon, William, Kilconnell, Fethard
 Guiton, Patrick, Rectory Lodge, Fethard
 Hamilton, Daniel, Watergate, Fethard
 Hamilton, Patrick, Watergate, Fethard
 Hannigan, John, Ballyvaden, Fethard
 Heaney, Daniel, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Heaney, David, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Heaphy, Patrick, Knockinglass, Fethard
 Heaphy, Thomas, Knockinglass, Fethard
 Hennessy, Michael, Main Street, Fethard
 Hennessy, Patrick, The Green, Fethard
 Higgins, James, The Green, Fethard
 Higgins, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Higgins, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Hoare, James C., The Valley, Fethard
 Hughes, John, The Valley, Fethard
 Hunt, John, Grangebarry, Fethard
 Hunt, Thomas, Grangebarry, Fethard
 Hurley, James, Barrettsdown, Fethard
 Hurley, Michael, Kilballyherbery, Silverfort
 Hurley, William, Mobarnane, Fethard
 Keating, James, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Keating, Michael, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Keating, Patrick, Abbey Street, Fethard
 Kelly, Chris, Curraghscarteen, Fethard
 Kelly, Michael, Monroe, Fethard
 Kelly, Michael, The Green, Fethard
 Kelly, William, Monroe, Fethard
 Keogh, Chris, Burke Street, Fethard
 Lee, Edward, The Rock, Fethard
 Lee, Frank, The Rock, Fethard
 Lewis, Stephen T., Main Street, Fethard
 Lonergan, Richard, Market Hill, Fethard
 Mackey, William, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Maher, William, Cashel Road, Fethard
 Mahoney, James, The Valley, Fethard
 Malone, William, Lower Valley, Fethard
 Matthews, Geo. Wm., Kerry Street, Fethard
 McCarthy, Daniel, Kerry Street, Fethard
 McCarthy, Martin, The Valley, Fethard
 McCarthy, Patrick, The Valley, Fethard
 McCarthy, Thomas, Chapel Lane, Fethard

McCormack, Daniel, Kerry Street, Fethard
 McCormick, James, Derryluskin, Fethard
 McCormick, John, Derryluskin, Fethard
 McCormick, Michael, Derryluskin, Fethard
 McQuillan, John, Knockelly, Fethard
 Mullins, Daniel, The Green, Fethard
 Mullins, James, The Green, Fethard
 Murphy, David, Rocklow Road, Fethard
 Murphy, John, Watergate, Fethard
 Murray, John Robt., Derryluskin, Fethard
 Murray, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Nelson, Daniel, Cashel Road, Fethard
 O'Brien, James, Market Hill, Fethard
 O'Brien, Patrick, Ballyherbery, Silverfort
 O'Brien, Thomas, Main Street, Fethard
 O'Brien, Thomas, The Valley, Fethard
 O'Connell, John, Brookhill, Fethard
 O'Connell, William, Brookhill, Fethard
 O'Gorman, John, St. Johnstown, Fethard
 O'Neill, Joseph, Mobarnane, Fethard
 O'Neill, Michael, Mobarnane, Fethard
 O'Shea, Michael, Curraghscarteen, Fethard
 O'Shea, Patrick, Curraghscarteen, Fethard
 O'Shea, Thomas, Curraghscarteen, Fethard
 O'Sullivan, Denis, The Valley, Fethard
 Phelan, Patrick, Watergate, Fethard
 Power, Richard, Cashel Road, Fethard
 Rouse, Arthur A., Chapel Lane, Fethard
 Ryan, John, Knockinglass, Fethard
 Ryan, Patrick, The Rock, Fethard
 Sheedy, James, Cashel Road, Fethard
 Shine, Denis, Crampscastle, Fethard
 Shine, Thomas, The Green, Fethard
 Slattery, J., The Cottage, The Green
 St. John, Denis, Crampscastle, Fethard
 Turnbull, Fredrick, A.C., Fethard
 Wall, Nicholas, The Green, Fethard
 Wall, Thomas, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Walsh, John, Knockbrack Cottages
 Walsh, John, The Green, Fethard

A supplemental list of recipients will be published in due time.

(To the best of our knowledge this never happened). ♦

Fethard GAA Club



Fethard County Senior Football League Division 1 Champions 2004

The county senior football league and south under 14B hurling were the only successes of a disappointing year on the playing field for the Fethard club. Having started the year so well with six clear wins in the senior league and winning the final on the 24th April in Ballyporeen, Fethard 0-15, Aherlow 0-7, much was expected from our young team. But, after seven more games and a few challenge games, we came a cropper in the south final played on 8th August on a fierce bad evening on a scoreline, Fethard 1-5, Clonmel Commercials 2-3.

In the county semifinal on 3rd October, again we lost, Fethard 0-10, Moyle Rovers 1-9. With no excuses, we made our exit.

In intermediate hurling we played thirteen matches during the year and were unfortunate to go out at the semi-final stage in a replay to St Marys with a score, Fethard 2-9, St Marys 4-6.

Again, for the second year, our junior A footballers got to a south final when, on this occasion, we lost by one point to Commercials, 1-9 to Fethard's 1-8.

At under-21 level, in hurling and football, we failed to reach the semifi-

nal stage and in minor B football and hurling, we also failed to reach the semis. Having won a total of 13 titles between all grades in a very successful winning period from 2000 to 2004, with a small bit of luck in 2004 we could have swelled our trophy total, having made our exit in four competitions by just a small margin.

2005 is just round the corner and we look forward to a better year. Our county representatives this year were, at senior level, Damien Byrne, Paul Fitzgerald, Aidan Fitzgerald, John P Looby, Cian Maher and Glen Burke (Munster panel); at under 21 football level, Eoin Doyle; and minor football level, Shane Walsh.

Off the field we lost the 'Prince of Gaelic Football', Dick Allen. The stylish Gus Danagher, Tony Woodlock (Coleman), and Johnny Farrell who all went to their eternal reward.

Johnny Farrell (1925-2004)

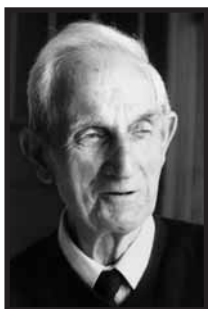
The death occurred recently of John Farrell in Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Aged 89, John was born in Sparagoulea, Fethard in 1915. On the death of his parents he moved with his then family to Carrick-on-Suir, where

he took up employment at Drohan's garage. In 1946 he married Eileen Burke a native of Brosna, Co. Kerry; in 1948 they moved to England where he lived and worked in and around the Birmingham area.

He never lost touch with his roots; the 'Nationalist' and the Fethard and Killusty Newsletter kept him well informed.

His love of Gaelic games was intense. He himself excelled at hurling, winning an all Ireland minor championship with Tipperary in 1932, the first all-Ireland medal to come to the Fethard area.

In Carrick-on-Suir he enjoyed many successes with Carrick Swans, winning a county junior football championship, five south hurling championships, and capped an excellent hurling career by winning the county senior hurling championship in 1947.



Sadly, he did not live to receive his Cumann na Sean Ghael Award for which he has nominated this year.

He was predeceased by his wife Eileen, his sisters Madge Duffelt (England), Kathleen O'Shea (St. Patrick's Place), Bridget Danagher, Carrick on Suir; Sister M. Bernard (U.S.A); his brothers Monsignor Thomas Farrell, Rev. Michael Farrell (California), and Bro. Aloysius Farrell O.CAM, Killucan.

To his daughter Bernadette, son-in-law Seán, grandchildren Paul, John and Ciarán, to his sister Ann Cashin and his many nieces and nephews, especially his one remaining niece in Fethard -

Ellen Colville, St. Patrick's Place, we offer our deepest sympathies.

Dick Allen (1912-2004)

The Prince of Fethard Gaelic Football passed on to his eternal reward on 23rd June after a short illness, having



worn the jersey for club, county and province with distinction from 1930 to 1943. Dick was the sole player outside of Kerry on the Munster teams during six years from 1934 to 1940 and was unfortunate

not to win a medal in that time. He played on the county Tipperary senior football team from 1934 to 1942, winning a Munster senior medal in 1935.

With his home club 'The Blues', his favourite team, he played from 1931 to 1943 and during that period won two county senior medals as captain in 1938 and 1942, and three south titles 1938, 1942 and 1943.

He also won a number of Tipperary Man Cup Medals and seven-a-sides to add to his collection before unemployment forced him to leave for England to support his family. He represented London in the All-Ireland junior football final of 1947.

On returning to Ireland he settled in Killusty at the foot of Slieve-Na-mBan, a place dear to his heart, and there he remained until his timely passing away.

To his family, sons Vincent, John, and Joe, his daughter Mary, and their extended families we offer our deepest sympathies. Go ndeanai Dhia Trocaire ar an ainmeachta.

Gus Danagher

The death occurred on Wednesday 20th October at the Mater Hospital Dublin of Mr Gus Danagher, formerly of Kilnockin Road, Fethard. The death



of Gus Danagher came as a great shock to his many friends in Fethard and Tipperary GAA circles. One of Tipperary's most stylish players of the period

he was a member of the Tipperary Minor Football team beaten by Dublin in the 1955 All Ireland minor football final.

He played on the Tipperary junior football team the following year and was a regular member of Tipperary senior football teams of the following decade. Gus was honoured twice by the Munster football selectors in the sixties and he was also an accomplished hurler and figured prominently on Coolmoynes and group selection junior and senior teams of the period. He was a leading playing member of the Fethard county senior football champi-

onship team of 1957.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Celine, son Paul, daughter Lucy, and relatives. Interment took place in Lucan, Dublin.

Tony Woodlock

The unexpected death of Tony Woodlock, Rathdrum, Fethard, on Saturday 2nd October came as a great



shock to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the area. The late Tony Woodlock was, in his schooldays and teen years, an outstanding

young hurler and footballer with local school and under-age teams. His outstanding displays at center-back in both codes is still well remembered.

Of a shy and retiring disposition, his premature retirement from the playing fields of South Tipperary was truly the game's great loss. ♦

GAA Sports Centre

The Centre incorporating three tennis courts (tarmac surface) and flood lighting two covered handball alleys with viewing balconies and catering for racket ball and volleyball – good modern facilities that any community would be proud of. Unfortunately we believe that the centre is under used. A small group are presently playing racquetball.

A Tennis Camp for age 7 to 15 took place at Fethard Sports Centre from 12th to 16th July. The coach was Tony

McCarthy and the camp was organised by Jimmy and Fionnuala O'Sullivan, Main Street.

We sincerely appeal to young and old alike to come forward and help develop handball / racquetball, tennis and volleyball at the centre for the benefit of the community at large. We look forward to supervising a very busy centre in 2005.

Committee: Gus Fitzgerald (chairman), Mary Godfrey (secretary), Ann Darcy (treasurer). ♦

Juvenile GAA Club

This year will go down as a great year for our juveniles. We had some fine achievements on the playing field with pride of place going to the u/14 hurling team, who won the south B final in thrilling style for the first time since 1985. They were very unfortunate to lose to Holycross in the county semi-final after a replay. Holycross were eventual winners of the county final.

Great credit must go to these young players who have put in a fabulous effort this year. There were some outstanding performances but everyone played their part. The same players found themselves contesting the south u-14 A football final but were misfortunate to lose out to Moyle Rovers. Later on in the year they made up for this by winning the county seven-a-side in thrilling style against Moyle Rovers.

The under-12 football and hurling teams found themselves unlucky to fall short of the mark in both south finals.

Many of these boys are still under age for next year, the under/10s were also a very young team but still managed to get to the south semifinals in both hurling and football. The future looks bright for these boys and hopefully they will strive to greater things and better days.

Our under/16s played well during the league stages and showed great commitment and determination but failed to achieve any honours. However, winning is not everything; these lads proved this as their appetite was strong and many played in the minor south final.

Finally, our club would like to thank everyone involved for their time and commitment and to all who have supported and funded our club this year, many hours of work have gone into these boys and we will see ye all next year when 2005 will hopefully be a great year for all who support this great club. ♦



Members of the Fethard Under-14 hurling team and management photographed with inter-county stars, Declan Browne and Eoin Kelly, at the Juvenile GAA Club's Christmas Party.

Town & Country



Susan Archdeacon in her new shop, 'Town & County Interiors', at Lwr Main Street

A new shop specialising in interior furniture opened on the Main Street in Fethard in October this year. The premises called 'Town and County' stocks a large range of products to enhance the interior of any home.

The proprietor is Susan Archdeacon who is available to help you with all of your furnishing needs between 10am and 6pm from Monday to Friday.

Susan's new shop stocks Danish down quilts and pillows, Foxford bed-linen, rugs and blankets, lamps or candles for the more romantic souls. A fine selection of art adorns the walls, alongside Moulin Roty teddies and dolls. Susan also supplies Stevenson Rocking Horses, which might prove an invaluable early starting point for any aspiring jockeys.

Susan can be contacted by telephone 052 32805 (phone and fax), 086

8553318 (mobile), or via email at susanarchdeacon@eircom.net.

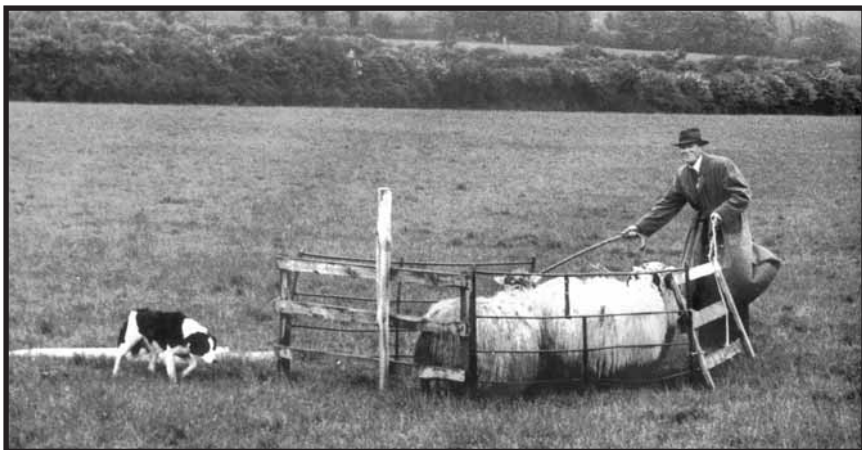
For those of you old enough to remember, the exact location of the shop is on the site of Berna Morrissey's former grocery and butcher shop.

Best of luck to Susan in her new venture. It's great for the town to see new life emerging at the quiet end of the Main Street, where once there was a large number of businesses. ♦

Carroll's Pub

Carroll's Pub, Burke St, originally Kennedy's, was demolished on Tuesday 2nd March 2004, to make way for a new development. Many of our readers will have fond memories of the many card games, dart competitions and bagatelle games played when the late Sadie Carroll owned the pub.

Killusty Sheepdog Trials



*Paddy Morrissey winning the Slievenamon Cup outright in 1961
having won it for the previous 2 years.*

After an absence of almost 40 years open sheepdog trials returned to Killusty in October of this year when competitors from all over Ireland travelled to compete for the Paddy Morrissey Memorial Cup. Over 50 dogs competed on the day and the judge was Mr John Dick. Competition was very keen with only a few points separating the first six.

- 1st: Denis Birchell (Co. Wicklow)*
- 2nd: Paddy Byrne (Co. Kildare)*
- 3rd: John Brennan (Co. Tipperary)*
- 4th: Donie Anderson (Co. Dublin)*
- 5th: Jim Mc Connall (Co. Waterford)*
- 6th: Dan Morrissey (Co. Tipperary)*

Trialling began in Killusty in 1955. It continued until the late 60's and it became a very important day in the social calender of Fethard and Killusty for all those years. It was known as the Slievenamon Sheepdog Trials and Sheep Shearing Competition and was run by a very dedicated committee at the time. ♦



*Dan Morrissey competing for Ireland in the
World Trials, Wales (2002) with his dog
Jem*

London Reunion a great success



At this year's London Reunion held at St. Anthony's Parish Centre, Edgware, London, are L to R: Kevin Noonan, Paul Looby (organiser), Ray Looby, Patricia and John Looby.

This year's Fethard & Killusty London Reunion was held in St. Anthony's Parish Centre, Garratt Road, Edgware, London, on 26th June 2004, and was attended by approximately 80 emigrants from the parish now living in England. St. Anthony's Parish Centre was an ideal venue for the reunion, and with the proprietors, Paddy and Mary (Smith) Hennessy, also having Fethard connections, everyone was made feel at home. Actually, it was even better than

home, as one could watch the Tipperary v Limerick hurling qualifier live on the 'big screen' on Satanta TV Channel from the comfort of the Lounge Bar downstairs.

Paul Looby did a fine job organising this year's event again and it was great to get to talk to emigrants from the Fethard area, such as Sean Noonan, who recalled many funny incidents with Brother Albert while he was working in the Patrician Brother's House in



Photographed at this year's London Reunion are L to R: Sean Noonan, Bridie Synnott (formerly Bridie Roche, Rathkenny, Fethard) and her son Chris Synnott.



*At this year's London Reunion are
L to R: Pat Shine and Michael Cummins.*



*Ann and Tony Flanagan (formerly from
Tullamaine, Fethard).*

Burke Street, now owned by the Hayes family. Bridie Synnott, a sister of Jimmy Roche, Ballinard, also spoke very fondly of her visits to Fethard over the years.

Pat Shine and Paddy Ryan, two stalwart supporters of the reunion since they started in the 1960s, were still in great form on the night, both on the dance floor and on the band stand, where Pat received many encores for his beautiful rendition of old favourites.

Killusty families were also well represented at the reunion with gatherings of the Sheehans, Byrnes and Ryans very prominent around the hall. The Fitzgerald family were out in force and we believe Mary and Mickey from Crampscastle haven't returned to Fethard yet!

Great credit to Michael Cummins, a son of the late 'Cautious' Cummins, Kerry Street, who travelled all the way down from Yorkshire to attend the



*L to R: Josie (Sheehan) Whitney, Colin Mann, Debbie Mann, Bridget (Sheehan) Mann and
Pat Sheehan.*



Members of the Fitzgerald family at the reunion. Back L to R: Sheena Fitzgerald-Ryan, Denis Ryan, Marion (Fitzgerald) and Noel Doheny. Clare Fitzgerald and Róisín Doheny. Front L to R: Mary (Carroll) Fitzgerald, Micky Fitzgerald and Ollie Fitzgerald.

reunion. Ena (Curran) Griffin, Helen and Timmy Curran sent greetings home to family members as did Tony Flanagan, formerly from Tullamaine, and a now a partner with the Wilton Group in Mayfair, London. This was Tony's first time attending a reunion.

Special thanks to the Looby family and the Hennessy family for all their effort and help in organising the event,

to their guest, local Parish Priest, Fr. Pat Salmon, and to all who made the effort to travel to attend the event. Well done! We look forward to next year's Reunion which is provisionally planned for early June. Further details from Paul Looby, 65 Longlands Way, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1RH, England. Tel: 01276 459080. ♦ Email: loobs@londonirish.org



Back L to R: Micky Hennessy, Tracy Smith, Dermot Kelly, June Hennessy, Noel Murphy, Robert Burke. Front L to R: Mary Hennessy, Mary (Smith) Hennessy and Paddy Hennessy.

Place Names

by Tony Newport

There is a little known boreen leading off the Kiltinan road almost opposite Kiltinan castle gates. Very few even know of its existence, fewer still know its name, Bóithrin an Crochadh (the boreen of the hanging) and fewer still the folklore story of how it got the name.

The story goes as follows. A widow in the locality had a wayward son, who she could not control. Nowadays he would probably be called a juvenile delinquent. Tired of complaints of his waywardness, she went to the resident

of Kiltinan castle, Mr Cooke, a magistrate and stated her case. "Send him up to me," was the reply, "and I will sort him out." She did as requested. Apparently, under or more likely out of, Mr Magistrate Cooke's control his conduct became even worse. So Mr Cooke got an Irish Soldier for a priest's problem and took the unfortunate chap up the boreen and hanged him. There you have it. That is how the story goes on the naming of Bóithrin an Crochadh.

The man that told it to me swore it was pure truth. ♦

Phone a friend!

by Tony Newport

A few teasers for you to think about over the holiday period . . . if you're stuck, 'phone a friend' for the answers.

- 1 *What is the difference between a bird and a fowl?*
- 2 *A four letter name for a male deer usually applied to one over 5 years old ? (Stag is not the correct answer).*

Where is it?

An elderly man called recently to enquire, "Where is Killaallagh?" Most people I've asked have never heard of it. Killaallagh, while it has a Fethard postal address, is not in the Parish; in fact it is about 7 miles from Fethard, near Mocklershill.

This set me thinking. There are quite a few places that were once familiar landmarks when people were travelling by Shank's mare. Many of these are named after people who lived on the spot, now long gone and long forgotten. The names however do crop up occasionally and I suppose in a way are

a monument to those they are named after.

Do you know where Sheehan's Hill is? Downey's Cross, Ferris' Cross (pronounced Ferrisses), Ger the Jocks, Carrick Cross? How about, Horses Turn, Higgenstown, Grangeduff, Crossard and Barrettsgrange?

You do? Well done, you are fully entitled to Fethard citizenship papers.



Michael Whelan & Catherine Mc Kenna
who were married on 22nd July 2004

Fethard ICA Guild



Photographed at the Fethard ICA 'Interior Design' evening on 12th October are L to R: RTE 'Beyond the Hall Door' presenter Lisa McNulty, Sheila O'Donnell (vice-chairperson), Lesley Swarbrigg (TV3), Nuala Delaney (chairperson) and Ann Gleeson (secretary). Both speakers courtesy of Woodies DIY Stores

Our AGM was held in the ICA Hall on Rocklow Road on May 11th 2004. Officers elected were: Nuala Delaney (president), Sheila O'Donnell (vice president), Anne Gleeson (secretary), and Anne Horan (treasurer). We have a membership of 30 and our meetings are held at 8.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. We take a break during July and August. New members are very welcome to our meetings and we have a guest speaker at all meetings.

We have had another very enjoyable year in our guild. On December 9th 2003 we held our Christmas party in our hall, which had a festive atmosphere thanks to the efforts of many members. Mulled wine went down a treat on arrival. Then we tucked into some Christmas goodies. Many ladies arrived in fancy dress and lively accordion

music was supplied by Joan O'Brien.

In April we participated in a project called 'Rubbish' run by South Tipperary Federation of the ICA. This was to make us aware of how we can reduce, re-use and re-cycle things around the house and cut down on waste. Many guilds took part and the federation made a profit of €1,000 on the night and this money was presented to the South Tipperary Hospice.

We sent congratulations to Alice Leahy, Dublin and formerly of Annsgift who was selected Tipperary Person of the Year. Alice is daughter of our long-standing member Hannie.

Our summer outing on June 10th was a most enjoyable day out. We left Fethard at 10am and headed on to Dungarvan for a short while, then on to Tourin House and garden in Cappoquin. We could have stayed all

day in this beautiful garden. But onward we travelled to Lismore where some ladies took part in the town trail while others just relaxed until it was time for dinner in Richmond House, Cappoquin. The day ended with a trip home through the picturesque Vee which was breathtaking with the rho-

dodendrons in full bloom.

Well, the festive season is almost with us once again, and it is a time when we think of our overseas friends and neighbours who cannot be with us. We in the ICA would like to wish all who read this newsletter a very Happy Christmas and good luck in 2005. ♦



*Photographed at the Fethard ICA 'Interior Design' evening are
L to R: Phyllis McDonnell, Aggie Barrett and Kitty Delany.*

Rumble in the Jungle

by Vinny Murphy

President Mabutú Sese Seke Kuha Ngbendu Wa Za Banga put up the purse of ten million dollars for the event to take place in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire. The promoter was a man called Don King and the two fighters involved were George Foreman and Muhammad Ali. The president put up the prize money to showcase his country to the world. Ali was the young contender and Foreman was the Olympic gold medallist and heavyweight champion of the world. The events in the build-up to the fight are well documented in the films "When We Were Kings" and "The Rumble in the Jungle". Foreman was the favourite to win, but Ali became the people's favourite by training among the locals and by taking an interest in

their lives and their country.

A month later than originally planned, due to a cut Foreman procured whilst sparring, the fight went ahead. Ali took a pounding for the first seven rounds, lying into the ropes and absorbing all that Foreman threw at him, which was quite a lot. In doing so, Foreman played into Ali's hands. He wore himself out hammering the young contender. By round eight Ali saw that his opponent was tiring, so he attacked. His plan paid off. Foreman ended the fight lying on the floor and Ali became the world champion. That event was thirty years ago this year.

A few years ago George Foreman visited Fethard with his friend, Irish Olympian Eamon Coughlan. It was apparent why this man was once the

most feared fighter in the world. His hands were as big as two shovels. Seemingly, Ali never looked at his opponent's punchbag, which he had to pass every day on his way to train in Zaire. Foreman had punched a hole through the middle of it.

On the day in question in Fethard, a young boxing fan was delighted when

Big George threw him a mock punch, before sitting down beside him. He had a question for the big man.

"How's Muhammad Ali?"

Everybody paused, waiting for the reaction.

"He's not so good young man, I just spoke to him on my way here in the car."

Thirty years ago the only things these men exchanged were punches and insults. Now they're the best of friends,

even if Foreman still claims that Ali robbed him of his title with his "Rope a

dope" trick. Both men have come a long way since their rumble in the jungle. Ali, suffering from Parkinson's disease, is an ambassador for sport. Foreman is a preacher and probably better known these days, among the younger generation, for his low



*George Foreman in McCarthys with Jack Kenny
April 1999*

fat fryer endorsement.

Don King is still a boxing promoter and is usually surrounded in controversy. He has spent some time in prison for murder. President Mabusu's rule of his country has been described as rule by kleptocracy, which means rule by thieves. He was kicked out of the country following a revolution and died in exile. Who ever said that history isn't interesting? ♦

The 'Fethard Notes'

by Billy McLellan

For as long as I can remember, my grandfather, Bill Tierney, draper and former White Star Line ticket agent, was the local correspondent for the Clonmel Nationalist newspaper. I recall being sent over to McCarthy's yard where the pig market was held to get the latest sale prices from Paddy Purtill. The Fethard Notes consisted of this kind of report as well as Fair Day prices, who got married, who died, Sodalitys, Holy Hours, important visitors to the town, et cetera. The number

of items depended on the time of year and often the news was scarce enough.

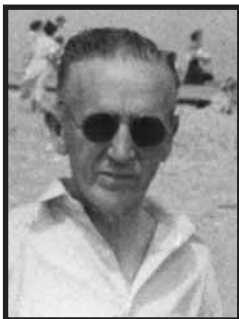
When Bill was getting on in years, my father, Paddy, took on the job. This was around 1950. He had a Chambers illustrated dictionary, a Remington typewriter and a Gestetner printing machine. Rupert Murdoch eat your heart out. The deadline was the 6pm post on a Tuesday. Getting near that time, one heard the frantic clackity clack, ding, carriage return, line feed, as my father, at the last minute as

usual, was rushing to catch the post. I distinctly remember seeing the P&T van arriving as he pulled the paper from the typewriter. To be fair to him, he also had to handle advertisements for the paper, word them and get them in the mail as well. This was the nearest I ever got to Fleet Street.

Tony Newport took over the job in 1960 when my parents moved to London. Tony was younger, a keen sportsman and strategically positioned in a busy newsagent's shop. With an ear for human interest stories and a lover of nature he set about the task with vigour and for the next forty years he faithfully supplied the Nationalist with reports of the goings on in Fethard and its surrounds. His sense of humour and storytelling talents warmed up many a conversation and no doubt elicited more than a few anecdotes in return.

In the mid 1980's, Tony's cousin, Joe Kenny bought one of the very first Macintosh computers. I can clearly remember the day he demonstrated the wonders of this device when he dragged a hand-held scanner across a sheet of paper while at the same time the resultant image appeared on the screen and captured it in digital format. I gaped in astonishment as it dawned on me that the days of the typewriter were truly over. Joe quickly

mastered the intricacies of desktop publishing and before you could say Remington, he was given responsibility for publishing the annual Fethard Newsletter.



*Paddy McLellan,
Fethard correspondent
in the 1950s*

So here we have the creation of the first dynamic. Tony gathering news for the Nationalist and Joe gathering items for the Newsletter. They worked together and pooled their sources and resources. This collaboration was further enhanced when Joe got his next Mac computer and realised the potential of the internet long before many of us were even aware of its existence. He

registered the name FETHARD.COM and set up a website dedicated to Fethard and Killusty emigrants throughout the world. It was an instant success, is immensely popular and "hits" are now heading for a million.



*Tony and Mary Newport photographed
above. Tony was Fethard's Nationalist
correspondent for 45 years and retired
on 16th September 2004.*

This was the second dynamic, because those abroad who didn't get the Nationalist and who perhaps did not get the annual Fethard Newsletter became aware of the website and began sending emails back to Fethard. They themselves became news items and, in turn, looked for information about

family and friends. A new network came into being. Pictures of Fethard and its people were appearing on screens all over the world. What a boon to those hungry for stories from home.

And all at the click of a mouse.

Tony and Joe and their respective contributors were now catering for a readership far wider than was ever imagined. This was great encouragement. The Fethard Notes in the Nationalist quickly expanded to fill a complete page. Meanwhile, Tony was reaching that stage in life where he felt that he should hand the reins to someone younger. However, when one is no longer faced with the burden of a weekly deadline, the imagination is free to soar. Consequently, we are assured of many future contributions from Tony's fertile quill.

I almost forgot to mention that from an early age Joe was a talented photographer and set up a studio in the Main Street in the eighties. He was also extremely popular as a wedding photographer for many years until pressure of work forced him to

concentrate on his duties as official photographer for the Nationalist and his growing attachment to developing fethard.com and, indeed, assisting surrounding communities to set up their respective websites.

It came as no surprise when Tony's work as Fethard correspondent was offered to Joe. As you would expect, it was a seamless transition from pen to keyboard, from generation to generation, and from century to century. We wish him well for countless years to come as he chronicles the events and people of the parish, past, present and future.

Italian playwright Ugo Betti in Act II of *The Burnt Flower-bed* wrote:

"Everyone has, inside himself ... what shall I call it? A piece of good news!

Everyone is ... a very great, very important character." ♦

Self Help Ethiopia 2004

by Vinny Murphy

Two Fethard men, Tom Anglim and Maurice Moloney, travelled with the Self Help group to Ethiopia this year. Neither had any prior involvement with the organisation. They got involved when they were chatting to Seamus Hayes in McCarthy's after an Eleanor Shanley concert in the Abymill Theatre. Both Seamus and Eleanor are very involved with Self Help and have been for a number of years. Seamus jokingly suggested that they get involved and they jokingly replied that they would. Before they knew it, they had signed up as volunteers. Each of the men had to raise €4750 apiece to join the trip. Between them they raised over €30,000.

In October they joined a group of

almost 50 people, which included a number of well-known Irish faces from the world of media and entertainment, who use their names to help the Self Help appeals. Among them were broadcasters Tracey Piggott and Mary Kennedy, singer Eleanor Shanley, and Elaine Power, the winner of Cabin Fever, who incidentally, lived in Fethard for many years. The only information that they received prior to their departure was an itinerary outlining where they were going in Ethiopia. No brief was given on the country or the conditions that they would encounter.

The first five days were taken up with visits to the projects to see where the money was spent. A typical day began at 4am before travelling eight or nine hours to their destination over

very rough roads. Both Tom and Maurice said that the transport infrastructure was very poor. The country has one decent main road. The rest are mainly dirt tracks. Some of the Self Help project areas can only be reached on foot. Despite this, they were amazed to see crowds of over a thousand regularly turning up to greet them at the projects.

Tom described the school built at Sodo, which is a typical example of the work undertaken by Self Help. The choice of projects is left to the Ethiopian administrators. There are no Irish members working in the country. It cost €25,000 to build this particular school. It has got six classrooms and is located in the bush. It was situated on the top of a hill, overlooking the neighbouring countryside. Three thousand children attend the school, working on a rotational basis. They attend every two or three days and get a basic education. Without the school, they would get none.

Both men agree that the country had a deep effect on them. They travelled from a land of wealth, "Little America" was what many in the group called Ireland due to our materialistic nature, to a country where people had nothing. Death and disease are not big news items. They are part and parcel of everyday life. AIDS is ravaging the country. The people cannot afford the

drugs to counteract the disease, but they can get tested to see if they've got it. Many of the group had to leave a clinic one day when a fourteen-year-old boy entered for the test. Within ten minutes, that boy would know if he was going to live or die. Incidents like that were a shock to the system. It made the members of the group very aware of how luxurious our lives really are. It also highlighted the importance of Self



Maurice Moloney, Prospect, photographed with children while on his recent Self Help trip to Ethiopia,

Help's educational projects, making people aware of the dangers of such diseases and showing how contact with this and other diseases can be prevented. Education is necessary to help the people to move forward.

What surprised both men was the potential of the country. The soil is fertile and rich in many parts of the country, but is often destroyed due to lack of suitable irrigation or shelter, depending on the time of year. Maurice described a well provided by Self Help which cost €90,000 to build. It provides water for 60,000 people. Projects such as these save people walking up to 30 miles a day to the nearest well, which leaves time for other things. Things that we take for granted, like going to school. Or learning how to counteract soil erosion. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life. Self Help is all about teaching. ♦

Gone but definitely not forgotten by Tony Newport

Recently I was asked, “Who was the first chairman of the Fethard IFA (Irish Farmers Association) branch?” I suppose there might be some excuse for the fact that the agricultural scene would not be my highest priority but do you know, I just could not remember. Would it have been the late Tom O’Dea?

This set me thinking. Any town, Fethard included, is never any better than the people who are in it, especially those who work in their own sphere to make their town and surrounding area a better place to live, and perhaps a better place to live in. Indeed, the doyen of coursing greyhound trainers, Dick Ryan of Clonoulty was asked, “What would you like to be best remembered

for?” he replied, “That I made the little village of Clonoulty a bit better known”. This was his top priority, above all the cups, trophies, stakes and coursing classics he had won.

Fethard down the years has been most fortunate in having men and women to serve the community to make Fethard a better place to live in, and maybe just a little bit better known. I will try to recall a few of them who, fifty or more years ago, were very prominent in local affairs. Space and memory does not allow mention of all and indeed the latter is my excuse for leaving so many out

First of all in Fethard GAA you had John Keating, Tommy Hogan, Richie Fitzgerald, Tim Tierney, Bro. Albert,



Tipperarymans Cup c.1957 Killusty Team that won the county championship. Back L to R: Toby McCormack, Mick Flanagan Jim Williams, Sean Clarke, Ned Sheehan, Tony Newport, Nicholas O’Shea, Johnny Ferris, Mick Byrne, Gus Danagher, Bob Maher, Liam Connolly, Gerard MacKay, Dick Fitzgerald, Brian O’Donnell, Dick Cullen, Alfie Brett. Front L to R: Tom McCormack, Johnny O’Shea, Sean Moloney, Sean Connolly, Jack Prout, Gus Neville, Seamus Hackett, Austie McDonnell, Mascot, and Mick O’Riordan.

Paddy Fitzgerald and Tom O'Callaghan. They seemed in my young days to have been there forever, but now alas all departed.

The old Fethard players, and pantomime societies provided hours of endless entertainment for local and further afield audiences — Canon Hayes, Louis O'Donnell, Paddy McLellan, Eddie O'Neill, Tom Barrett, Helen and Phyllis O'Connell, Liz Brett and Agnes White. I am surely leaving out more than I've mentioned, but these certainly made Fethard a better place and maybe a bit better known.

Mr and Mrs P.J. Henehan, Mr Henehan with his lorry and couple of men to prepare the field for the famous Fethard Carnivals. Mrs Henehan, of Fethard Altar Society, with her aide-de-camp, Beatie McGrath, who prepared the magnificent altar for benediction on the Square, when hundreds walked in the May and Corpus Christie processions.

Paddy Croke, who canvassed so hard on behalf of the Patrician Brothers when fund-raising for the building of Fethard Monastery on Rocklow Road.

The members of the St. Vincent De Paul and St. Bridget's Clothing Society, who, unheralded and unsung, did Trojan work to help the less well off when poverty was rife in our society. The members of the Fethard Tennis and Badminton clubs, who in the fifties could play and often beat some of the best club teams in Munster. Andy Holohan, Cly Mullins, Sean Hogan, Mary Goldsborough, Pat Walsh and Betty Holohan, thanks for the memories.

We cannot recall all the people of the past who worked diligently for Fethard. Personally I would give my number one vote to Mrs Olivia Hughes. When working class mothers of Ireland were

rearing large families on small wages, Mrs Hughes was one of the first to realise their plight. She was instrumental in bringing the first Jubilee Nurse, Nurse Jennings, to Fethard in the 1930s. She was responsible for setting up the Milk Depots where fresh milk could be purchased at a reasonable price. She also started up a Youth Club at Annesgift where she encouraged her protégés to stand up and speak up when the occasion demanded.

Alice Leahy, currently known nationwide for her great work for TRUST, has on several occasions paid tribute to Mrs Hughes. Alice was one of her first Youth Club members at Annesgift. Mrs Hughes, a life long ICA member and a founder member of Fethard Country Markets, is clearly fully deserving of the monument erected to her at Main Street.

While Fethard has had and still has these wonderful people to work on behalf of others, and while the vast majority of Fethard people truly love and are proud of their native town, we also have the begrudgers. "There's nothing in Fethard!", "No cinema!" - and they probably have at least ten TV channels and a DVD player at home.

They and Fethard are Irish just by an accident of birth. "What good is the Irish language?" is another oft-heard cry. A country without a language is a country without a soul. My advice to them is, "Get stuck in - it's better to light a small candle than curse the darkness."

"Fethard Forever, Forever Fethard!" As I have already said, I have probably forgotten more than I have mentioned. Fethard was lucky and is still lucky to have such civic-minded citizens - Come on the two streets and pump! ♦

Mission Successful

by Tony Newport

A recent visitor to Fethard, because of his work with RTE, was architect and TV personality Duncan Stewart. While in Fethard Duncan wanted to investigate his Fethard roots, of which surprisingly he had not a great knowledge. This task, fortunately for Duncan, proved a very simple task as he has quite a number of close relatives, members of the Kenny family of the Green, still residing in Fethard.

Duncan's grandmother Catherine Kenny, sister of the late Laurence Kenny, building contractor, was born on The Green. Catherine Kenny was a post office clerk and worked in the old Fethard Post office on Burke Street with post mistress Mrs Carter.

This post office was situated in what is now Peg O'Flynn's residence. On the death of Mrs Carter and the closure of Fethard P.O. on Burke Street, Catherine Kenny was transferred to

Dungarvan P.O. There she met and married Diarmuid Fawsitt, who was then a teacher of Irish in Ring College.



Catherine (Kenny) Fawsitt, Fethard, grandmother of Duncan Stewart. Catherine Died 3rd December 1959, aged 75.

Mr Fawsitt studied law, qualified, was called to the bar and later appointed judge. Catherine and Diarmuid Fawsitt were parents of 12 children. One of their daughters, Sheila, married an army officer Captain John Stewart and was Duncan's mother.

Duncan, aged about four or five, resided in Lisronagh with his parents and two brothers and three sisters, when Captain Stewart was for a period attached to Clonmel Military Barracks. Several people in the Lisronagh area still remember the Stewart family residing in the bungalow at the junction at the back road and main Fethard - Clonmel road, just below Lisronagh. So Duncan discovered that his Fethard roots and local connections are still very much alive and kicking. ♦



L to R: Gemma Burke, Duncan Stewart, Joe Kenny and Winie Ryan, whose house at Drumdeel was featured on Duncan's "About The House" programme broadcast on RTE 1

John Joe Keane's Poetry

all poems by John Joe Keane

The Rocklow Road

*In Sparagoleith the brothers drank tay
Larry trained racehorses,
in Schofield's barn ran the mouse
through the convent fields the river courses,
camp and candle lit the houses.
Large looms the Canon's place
when the view is from the arch,
many is the prank was played
with the rain and wind in March.
In the Kennell's boreen of shade
is the location of the first electricity,
under Breen's Bridge many a youth
made the local swimming grade.
Further on lies Rocklow and its
unique eccentricity.*

Fethard's Theatre of Dreams

*For a long time it was closed,
then Paddy returned home
and reopened what was reposed.
At the rear stands part of the old Town Wall,
inside pictures tell of another era to recall.
Out back is a pleasant beer garden,
throughout, the theme is Fargo Tavern.
In our teens, Paddy was affectionately
known as Muscles,
a far cry from the smoking ban and Brussels.
When Man U won the treble,
Champagne was cracked open, on the double.
Many a baste was soult, on Mart day.
One can voyage to the toilets,
down the laneway,
Now-a-days people can dine at ease,
on the oriental food of the Chinese.*

The Galway Shawl

*Twass the year of fifty-nine
of fair days, horse manure and twine.
Arrived in Fiodh Ard a Galway man,
Dick Burke was no flash in the pan.
Acquired the Bridge Bar sure enough,
bottled stout, sold spirits, tobacco and stuff.
The mines were in full swing,
emigrants used it as a port of call,
patrons discussed hurling,
horses and football.
Darts, cards and the odd row,
tradition take a bow.
Son Martin, has tastefully restored,
up to date now.
Introduced golf, coursing,
there many a good pint is poured.*

Jimmy Ryan

*A man of many aspects
Indomitable spirit and guide
Legendary in his exploits
and with an inimitable style
a teller of tales and truths
who loved his mother deeply royal.
No more shall we hear that booming
voice, or see the canopied hat, atop
a smoking Woodbine. Whenever or
wherever patriots gather, at mass
for a game of cards, or just an old
fashioned jar, Buckey's exploits
will be related in places like
Fethard, Cheltenham, Listowel
and Kerry, even further afar, Jimmy
you lived a life both bold and bizarre.*

*Newspaper corre-
spondent Tony
Newport (left)
presents poet John
Joe Keane with a
racquetball trophy,
in Jack O'Shea's
pub, 1984.*



*When the great
scorer comes to
write against your
name, he marks not
that you won or lost,
but how you played
the game.
(Grantland Rice)*

Snippets of News from 2004

The following are some snippets of local news from the past year taken from the Fethard Website (www.fethard.com) which, as we go to print, is approaching 1,000,000 hits, receiving an average 600 visits per day.

Worst flooding since 1947

The local flooding in Fethard on Friday last on the Clashawley was reckoned to have been the biggest since 1947. However, this time the flood receded within 12 hours. Just two houses were affected, Mr Bill Maher's of Abbeyville, and Mr John O'Donovan's of Grove Road.

Cycle trip to Lourdes

On 3rd April, local Presentation Sister Sr Betty Cagney, St. Bernard's Group Homes, set off for France to take part in a 600 mile Cycle trip from Dinard to Lourdes, to raise funds for the Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (IHCPPT).

Grand Marshall 2004

Sr Philomena O'Brien, formerly from The Green, Fethard, was chosen as this year's Grand Marshal, of the St. Patrick's Day Parade held on 14 March at Bayport, New York. In 1935, seventeen-year-old Philomena O'Brien left her native Fethard and boarded a ship to join the Ursuline Order at Blue Point, New York.

Coursing Success

Local father and son coursing enthusiasts, Billy and John Morrissey, Tullamaine, had a second Trial Stake winner at the recent Wexford Coursing Club meeting held at New Ross. 'Call Me Major' won the dog trial stake and thus joined his litter brother 'Fíodh Árd'

in the final sixty-four qualifiers for the 2003/04 Coursing Derby at Powerstown Park in February 2004.

Car Chase in Fethard

Nothing short of a miracle was how some, who had a close call, described an incident on Main Street on Saturday 29th March. Just as the very large congregation were leaving the Parish Church after the Novena ceremonies, a stolen car being pursued by the police drove up Main Street at what some observers reckon to be at least 70 mph. Following, what was fortunately, a minor collision with a car driven by a local lady on the Square, the stolen car came to a halt.

Landmark Gone

Previous generations of Fethard boys will no doubt recall nostalgic memories when they learn that the row of Chestnut trees inside Grove Estate wall at Knockbordan have been cut down. Many innocent hours of childhood were spent there trying to dislodge chestnuts to make conkers. These trees produced a superior type of conker, far harder and tougher than any others found locally.

Daylight Robbery as AIB robbed

Fethard AIB Bank was raided at approximately 4pm on Monday 20th September when two raiders wearing balaclavas and armed with a knife and baseball bat entered the bank. The raiders were spotted entering the bank by a local businessman who immediately contacted the Gardai. Within minutes the raiders left with an undisclosed sum of money and sped out of town via the Cloneen Road. No one was injured in the raid. In the follow-

ing weeks AIB erected new security glass doors at the entrance of the bank.

Battle of the Bands

Eight young and upcoming Tipperary bands took part in a 'Battle of the Bands' held in Fethard Ballroom on Saturday, August 14th 2004. A wide variety of musical styles were on exhibition over the course of four hours, ranging from blues, to rock, to metal. The bands competing were the 'Wok' and 'Taliesin', both from Fethard; 'The Loaded Kings' from Mitchelstown, 'Against the Grain' from Cahir; 'Fudge' and 'Spank', both from Cashel; 'Within' from Clonmel, and 'My Corduroy' from Nenagh.

The End of the Line

The familiar sight of the dole queue forming outside the Garda Barracks on Tuesday mornings will be no more. Residents of the queue now have to go to Clonmel to sign on once a month. Under the Department's Sustaining Progress Agreement it was decided therefore, that from 29 November 2004 to cease Garda involvement in the certification (signing) of unemployed customers.

'Murphy' Rides into Town

Steven O'Connor, formerly from Kiltinan, Fethard, rode into Fethard on his steed 'Murphy' on Friday 18th June. This was one of Steven's stops as part of his 'Four Corners' Pilgrimage' trek around Ireland on horseback raising awareness of mental health. Steven was greeted by many of his friends and relatives and was coxed to spend the weekend in the Killusty area before setting off on the remainder of his journey. Website: www.pilgrimhorse.info

Kay Retires

Best wishes for a long and happy

retirement to Kay McGrath who retired from business on 14th June 2004 and closed her ladies drapery shop on Main Street. Kay came to Fethard from her native Co. Carlow over fifty years ago, having first worked with her aunt, Miss Doyle at Annie Lonergans Drapery, The Square, then at Landers, Main Street, and then Jack O'Shea's Shoe Shop also on Main Street.

Butler's Sports Bar Opened

Best wishes to Philip and Ann Butler who opened Bob Grant's Bar, Main Street, Fethard, formerly Pat O'Sheas Bar, on Thursday, 30th September.

Memorial to 1970s Bomb Victims

A memorial to the three CIE workers killed in the bomb attacks in Dublin in the early 1970s was unveiled in Dublin on Friday 23rd July. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Michael Conaghan, unveiled the memorial, which is located on the footpath in Sackville Place, Dublin, and is in tribute to bus driver George Bradshaw, Drumdeel, Fethard, and conductors Thomas Duffy and Thomas Douglas.

George Bradshaw (Drumdeel), aged 30, was killed in the second of two car bombings, which took place on Friday 1st December, 1972.

'Feathard Lady' Wins Again

Locally owned racehorse 'Feathard Lady' continued her winning ways in Punchestown in October, for the "Lords of the Ring" syndicate, to follow up on her first win in Limerick last May.

The Lords of the Ring syndicate was formed early last year in Bob Grants Bar, Main Street. The syndicate engaged the expert eye of Peter Nolan to pick the horse and Colm Murphy from Wexford as trainer. ♦

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.

Ahearne, Patrick, Cashel Road (Dublin)
 Allen, Dick, Killusty South (Killusty)
 Barry, Agnes (White), Derrylusklin (Ennis)
 Blake, Stanley, Barrack Street (USA)
 Broomfield, Kathleen, Tullamaine (Portsmouth)
 Cunningham, Vincent, Rathkenny (Drangan)
 Danagher, Gus, Fethard (Dublin.)
 Doyle, Nora (Godfrey), Barrettsgrange (Calvary)
 Farrell, Johnny, Sparagoleith (Camp, Co. Kerry)
 Guinan, Kathy, Coolbawn (Ballingarry)
 Gunne, Gusty 'Hegney', The Green (England)
 Hackett, Mark, Strylea, Dublin (Calvary)
 Hannigan, Bridget, Clonbrogan (Calvary)
 Holohan, Br Declan OFM, Burke Street (Dublin)
 Kennedy, Saline (Colville), Carrick-on-Suir
 Kenny, Jimmy, Drumdeel, Grove (Calvary)
 Kiely, Ida, Garraun House (Ballyneale)
 Killian, Fr. Patrick OSA, Fethard (England)
 Lalor, Patrick, Clonacody (Lisronagh)
 Lee, Ann, (Cummins) Fethard, (England)
 Lee, Monsignor Christopher, Fethard (Cashel).
 Lonergan, Ellen (Ryan), Barrack Street (Calvary)
 Mackey, Mary, Farranaleen, (Moyglass)
 Maher, Jack, Killenaule Road (Calvary)

Maher, Josie, Friarsgrange (Calvary)
 McCarthy, Teresa, Burke Street (New York)
 McCormack, Paddy, Fethard & Ballinure (Dualla)
 Morgan, Ann, Killusty (London)
 Mullins, William, Knockbrack (Buckinghamshire)
 Murphy, Daniel (Dan), Woodvale Walk (Calvary)
 Murphy, Peter, Cashel Road (Cavalry)
 O'Donovan, Tess (O'Flynn), Main Street (England)
 O'Reilly, Johnny, Barretstown (England)
 Phelan, Bridie (Hartigan), Grawn (Calvary)
 Richardson, Doris Par, Cornwall (England)
 Ryan, Jimmy 'Buckie', Watergate (Parish Church)
 Ryan, Johnny 'Taxer', St. Patrick's Place (London)
 Shee, Margaret 'Peg', Bannixtown (Killusty)
 Shelly, Margaret 'Peg', Silverfort (Moyglass)
 Taylor, Louis, Saucestown (Calvary)
 Thomas, Bridget (O'Grady) Rathasallagh, Fethard.
 Trehy, Mary The Green. (Calvary)
 Tynan, Margaret 'Maggie', Coolenure (Moyglass)
 Wall, Nora 'Noddy', Main Street (Calvary)
 Walsh, Jim, Monroe (England)
 Williams, Josie, Canon Hayes Court (Killusty)
 Woodlock, Tony, Rathdrum (Clerihan)

Marriages

Weddings in the Parish













Nicholas, Stokes, Fethard to Anna Kempton, Lambourne, Berkshire, England. (Fethard)
 Claire, Healy, The Green, to Eugene O'Donnell, Clonmel. (Fethard)
 Siobhán Ryan, Cashel Road, to Richard Hayes, Rathcoole House, Fethard. (Fethard)
 Mary Walsh, Kilnockin, to Mr Robert Costelloe, Ballincollig, Cork. (Fethard)
 Gráinne McManus, Burke Street, to Mr Michael Morrissey, Newtownshandrum, Co. Cork. (Fethard)
 Margaret Fitzgerald to Niall Carty, Wexford. (Fethard)
 Eithne Carrigan, Clonacody House to Mr. Andrew Chen, California. (Killusty)
 Bernie Horan, Tinakelly, Fethard to Mr Michael O'Rahilly, Bawnbrack, Killenaule. (Killusty)
 Corina Cleary, Market Hill, Fethard, to Mr John Barry, Clonoulty. (Fethard)
 Yvonne Murphy and Mr Thomas Halpin. (Killusty)

Weddings outside the Parish

Edel Lonergan, Barrack Street, to Mr Karl Dore, Ballyshonick, Co. Limerick (Limerick)
 P.J. Colville, Spitalfield, to Gráinne Feighery, Kilcormac, Co Offaly. (Kilkenny)
 Gerry Ahearne, Prospect, to Ms Deirdre McSweeney, Clonmel. (Powerstown.)
 Senan Murray, to Ms Michelle O'Brien, Camp. Co. Kerry (Kerry)
 Michael Whelan, Bennett's Hill, to Catherine McKenna, Port Laoise (Clonmel)
 Kevin Barrett, Market Hill, to Ashley Johnston from Baltimore, Washington, USA.
 Colette, Fitzgerald St. Patrick's Place, to Mr Michael Clancy, Limerick (Limerick).

Our dear departed 2004

from available photographs

				
<i>Vincent Cunningham</i>	<i>Bridie Phelan</i>	<i>Monsignor C. Lee</i>	<i>Cathy Guinan</i>	<i>Daniel Murphy</i>
				
<i>Josie Maher</i>	<i>Johnny Farrell</i>	<i>Dick Allen</i>	<i>Jim Kenny</i>	<i>William Mullins</i>
				
<i>Tony Woodlock</i>	<i>Peter Murphy</i>	<i>Johnny Ryan</i>	<i>Louis Taylor</i>	<i>Margaret 'Peg' Shee</i>
				
<i>Mary Trehay</i>	<i>Paddy McCormack</i>	<i>Nora 'Noddy' Wall</i>	<i>Maggie Tynan</i>	<i>Jack Maher</i>
				
<i>Gus Danagher</i>	<i>Jimmy Ryan</i>	<i>Fr. Pat Killian OSA</i>	<i>Mark Hackett</i>	<i>Josie Williams</i>

Donations Received 2004

Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th November 2004. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.

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 Aylward, Tony & Paula, Naas
 Barnard, Brian, Castine, Maine
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 Barry, Rose (Ryan), Lismore
 Bate, Susan (Keane), Mullingar
 Beavis, Pat (Finn), Herts., England
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 Fethard First Steps Playschool
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 Fethard GAA Club
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 Woodward, Sheila Aline, Warkickshire UK
 Wyatt, Frank, North Carolina, USA
 Wyatt, Kathryn, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 Wyatt, Kevin, Phoenix, Arizona
 Wyatt, Paul, San Francisco
 Wynne, Monica (Dwyer), Clonmel

*If, for any reason, we have omitted your name, please let us know
 and we will acknowledge your donation next year.*



Leaving Cert Class 1969 (Presentation Convent - Patrician Bros.) Back L to R: Michael Cody, Margaret O'Brien, Matthew Tynan, Anne Shelly, Jimmy Hayes, Evelyn Delaney, Patsy Morrissey, Gemma Kenny, Michael Smyth, Marie Shortall, Seamus Maher, Frances O'Flynn, Vincent Woodlock, Mary Meagher, Michael O'Sullivan, Eva Hackett, Patricia Sayers. Front L to R: Carl Crosse, Nora Harrington, Nora O'Meara, Patricia O'Connor, Hal O'Neill, Peggy Delahunty, Sr. Agnes, Timmy O'Connor, Majella Healy, Jerry O'Riordan, Kathleen Keane, Paddy O'Mahoney, Anne Kenrick, Anne Tierney and A. B. Kennedy.

Acknowledgments

Joe Kenny (editor)

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I would also like to thank all who submit articles and photographs; those who subscribed to our Church Gate Collection, and a special thanks to all those who make annual donations which help make the whole publishing of this newsletter possible. ♦



Fethard Folk Museum curator Christy Mullins (centre) photographed with his nephew Paul and his wife Tracey, enjoying a drink at the Museum, Cashel Road, Fethard.



Kathleen Mullins sent us this photograph of Denis Mullins and family celebrating Christmas 2003 in New Jersey. Back Row: Michael Mullins, John Mullins, Denis Mullins (formerly from St. Patrick's Place, Fethard, and brother to Cly Mullins and Pat Mullins), Michael Mullins, Denise Mullins, Steven Lyman, Sean Mullins. Middle Row: Tanny Mullins, Maureen Mullins, Kathleen Mullins. Front row: Christopher Mullins, Danny Mullins, Kaitlin Mullins and Evan Mullins.



Maher & Sons Builders, Moyglass & Fethard 1941

Back L to R: Willie Slattery (Rocklow Road), Michael Maher Jnr. (Rathduff). Front L to R: Paddy McCarthy (Redcity), Michael Maher (Maher & Sons Builders, Moyglass, Fethard) and Thomas Gleeson (Coolamure). Photograph was taken in 1941 at Killeens, Killenaule, during the building of Council cottages. Houses at that time cost approx £260 to build and took roughly three months to build. The average wage was £1.10 per week for a six day week.