

A nighttime photograph of a castle with a church tower on the left and a pub in the foreground. The castle walls are illuminated with warm orange lights. The pub, named 'Fethard Ballroom', has its entrance lit up. The sky is dark blue.

Fethard & Killusty Newsletter 2005

€10



Members of the Fitzgerald family from St. Patrick's Place, Fethard, who came together to celebrate their brother, Paddy's, 70th birthday held on Saturday 21st May. L to R: Michael, Dick, Bidy, Tony, Paddy, Ollie, Mary and Jimmy.



Dick Sheehan photographed with family members on the occasion of his 60th Birthday Surprise Party. L to R: Dan Sheehan, Ann (Sheehan) Baker, Dick Sheehan, Bridget (Sheehan) Mann, Johnnry Sheehan and Michael Sheehan.

FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2005

Dedicated to our friends and relations
living away from home

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Published by the Fethard & Killusty Emigrants' Newsletter
ISSN 1393-2721

WWW.FETHARD.COM

Layout and design by Joe Kenny, Rocklow Road, Fethard
Printed by Modern Printers Kilkenny

Cover: Fethard Ballroom & Town Wall — St. Stephen's Day 2004

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Bigger and hopefully better!

by Joe Kenny (editor)

Last year our publication got a little too heavy for its stamp and as many of you may have noticed, we exceeded our allowed weight, which resulted in us getting a hefty bill for excess postage from An Post. This was the result of the new 'zero-tolerance' electronic weighing machines used in the sorting office at Portlaoise. This year we're responding in a positive manner by making this issue bigger and better. We hope you like it.

The past year has seen a lot of changes, and as my generation of friends gracefully slide past the big 'five-o', we're very aware of the adults of our youth slowly slipping away as well. The Augustinian Abbey remembered many of our past friends during the month of November with a display of photographs in the abbey church. A lovely touch for the month of the Holy Souls.

In these days of information technology, it is very encouraging to see the large number of emigrants, and their relatives, using the internet to research their Fethard relatives. The numbers visiting Fethard website (www.fethard.com) average over 600 per day. One of the positive results of gathering news for the website is that we now also have a weekly page of news published in the Nationalist newspaper. With this constant demand for making / finding news, we're spoilt for choice for material to include in this publication. This year

we've included a lot of current photographs mixed with a selection of old ones from our files. A variety, we hope, to suit all our readers, young and old.

As usual, we depend on your annual donations to continue sending copies, free of charge, to over 1,000 emigrants throughout the world. With the increased cost of postage and printing, we are now looking for sponsors to cover postage costs for each of the four postal areas as defined by An Post: Ireland, Britain, Europe and Rest of the World. Please contact us for details if you are interested.

I would like to thank Sarah Murphy for typing, up to days before the birth of her first baby, Kate, in September. Congratulations Sarah and Vinny, I'm sure you're getting some sleep at this stage! Thanks to Carmel Rice who keeps track of correspondence and donations every year; Brendan Kenny for distribution; Gemma Burke for proofreading, and Michael Hall, Kyle, Drangan, for keeping me supplied with archived newspaper articles relating to Fethard, more of which will be published in future issues.

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, from home and away, which help make the publishing of this newsletter possible. *

Parish greetings

Another year has gone by. In looking back at 2005 – Pope John Paul II – was there ever a death so public, so powerfully inspiring? Our new spiritual leader's election – Pope Benedict XVI – and the awesome liturgical ceremony by which he began his pastoral ministry. These unique occasions brought the Gospel of Jesus to centre stage in a way that invites a response from us.

Sadly too in 2005, Catholics throughout Ireland have been shocked and hurt by the child sexual abuse scandals involving priests and religious. We express our sorrow and sadness that such incidents have occurred and we apologise to all who have suffered. We must also look to the future and, in doing so, we seek the guidance of the Spirit to bring peace, justice, forgiveness and

love to all our lives.

We congratulate the Augustinians on their 700 Year Celebrations; Fr. Gerry on his election to Provincial; Fr. Peter Haughey on his return as Prior; and we wish Fr. Malachy every success in Limerick.

To all the readers of the Newsletter, at home and abroad, we wish you every happiness and peace for this Christmas and that the New Year will fill you with a new hope and a joy that will truly help you to experience Christ in a special way for the year ahead.

We are truly grateful to the people of Fethard and Killusty for their faith and support over the past year. May the Lord bless and protect you always. ✱

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



Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Rev. George Knowd photographed in Fethard

Church of Ireland News

Restoration work is ongoing at Holy Trinity Church, Fethard. On Wednesday, 24th November 2004, a funeral service was held for Wyndam Matthew Hughes. To his mother, girlfriend and many friends we send our sincere sympathy.

Our annual Carol Service was held at Christmas. It was very well attended and the collection went to Meals on Wheels. A Flower Festival was held from 22nd to 24th July. The

flower arrangements were beautiful and the teas served delicious.

We are very grateful to the flower clubs who gave their time and work generously, also the ladies who gave cakes and worked hard to make the three days so successful. On Sunday the people who set up their stalls showed us what an amazing amount of talent there is in the area. Again we thank everyone for supporting the Flower Festival. ✱

Abbey Greetings

After sixteen years of "exile" from Fethard, it is good for me to be back here again and to send warm Christmas greeting from the priests in the Abbey to all our exiles.

You probably heard from home that 2005 has been a special year for us in the Abbey. The Augustinians first came to Fethard 700 years ago in 1305. I was impressed by the scale of the celebrations held to mark this event and by the enthusiasm with which the people took part. I'm sure

you will be pleased to know you were not forgotten at the special Masses said at various times during the past year.

Fathers John Meagher, Gerry Horan and Timmy Walsh join me in praying that the Holy Child will bless all of you this Christmas with good health, happiness and peace of mind, and grant you success in all your undertakings in 2006.

Peter Haughey O.S.A.

Abbey 700 Anniversary Celebrations!

Very special liturgical and social events have taken place in Fethard's Abbey and Abymill to coincide with church and Augustinian feasts over these past ten months.

Jubilee celebrations began last Lent with a triduum, held from 10th to 12th February. The chief celebrant

of the 'Mass of Thanksgiving' was Fr. Des Foley, then Prior Provincial of the Irish province. More than twenty visiting friars and a large congregation of worshippers joined Fr. Foley. On 11th February, being the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Canon J. Power was chief celebrant at a Mass and



Members of the Augustinian Abbey Jubilee 700 Celebration Committee. Back L to R: Liam Cloonan, Percy O'Flynn, Vincent Cummins, Austin O'Flynn, Dick Prendergast, Paddy Broderick, John Fitzgerald. 3rd Row L to R: Joan Anglim, John Barrett, Chrissie Cummins, Marion O'Connor, Mary Healy, Kitty Delany.

2nd Row L to R: Fr. John Meagher OSA, Rena Kelly, Joan Halpin, Majella Walsh, Nell Broderick, Berney Myles. Front Row L to R: Fr. Timmy Walsh OSA, Agnes Evans, Gus Fitzgerald and Fr. Malachy Lohran OSA. Also on the committee are Fr Gerry Horan OSA, Ann Cooney, Liam Flynn and Ciara Flynn.

'Blessing of the Sick'. Fr. A.B. Kennedy celebrated the Vigil Mass on 12th February for the youth of Fethard and their parents. Following the mass, Fr. A.B. presented prizes to primary and secondary student winners of the Abbey 700 Art Competition.

On April 15th a packed Augustinian Abbey enjoyed Fr. Liam Lawton in concert. Liam Lawton is Ireland's leading composer of contemporary church music and also composes

music in the Celtic idiom. His special guest on the night was soloist Roisín O'Reilly.

A five-day Festival of Prayer in honour of the 'Mother of Good Counsel' commenced on 22nd April, with Fr. Gerry Horan leading a Reconciliation Service. Joan Anglim organised and arranged the flowers for the five-day event and a commemorative booklet was compiled by Ann Cooney. Kitty Delany and Joan Halpin looked after the lighting and the candles. People

were overjoyed and remarked that they felt it was a spiritual and joyous occasion. Adoration to the Mother of Good Counsel is very much associated with the Augustinian Abbey and it was wonderful to see the large number of people attending. Subsequent themes covered were: 'The Family', by Canon Jim Power; 'The Conversion of St. Augustine', by Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA; 'God's Love', by Fr. Cooney OSA, and 'Mary, Mother of Good Counsel', by Fr. Tom Breen P.P. Resulting from

the success it was decided to make this an annual event.

The Abbey's Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel was dedicated to Our Lady under that title in the 1880s and is said to be the first in Ireland. The title originated in Genazzano, Italy. All who attended were struck by how beautifully the picture of Our Mother of Good Counsel and the side altar were decorated with floral arrangements and candlelight. Ann Kenrick Walsh made a temporary return from



Prize winners in the national school art competition who were presented with their prizes at the conclusion of the youth mass held on Saturday 12th February. Back L to R: Alice Murphy, Lisonagh (3rd third and fourth class), Ellen Murphy, Lisonagh (2nd fifth and sixth class), Laura Rice (1st under-14), Gráinne Horan (2nd under-14), Joseph Morgan, Killusty (3rd fifth and sixth class), Padraig O'Shea (highly commended fifth and sixth class), Shannon Hickey, Killusty (highly commended third and fourth class). Front L to R: Evie O'Sullivan (1st third and fourth class), Deirdre Dwyer (highly commended third and fourth class), Louis Rice (1st fifth and sixth class), Brian Delahunty (highly commended fifth and sixth class), Colin Grant (2nd third and fourth class) and Michelle Walsh, Killusty (highly commended third and fourth class). Other prize winners were, John Frewen (1st under-16), Sarah Conway (3rd under-14), and Nicole Looby (highly commended third and fourth class).

Dublin to be guest organist for these five prayer-filled days.

Fr. Michael Barry celebrated a Youth Mass in the Abbey on 14th May. It was wonderful to see such large numbers present to hear the uplifting words of Fr. Michael, and to request divine help for forthcoming examinations.

Devotion to St. Rita of Cascia commenced on 19th May. Fr. Michael Collender was the guest preacher at each ceremony. St. Rita's intercession is invoked especially for those who are sick, for those preparing for examinations and for those experiencing difficulty in their lives. The statue of St. Rita was given pride of place, constantly illuminated by candles and surrounded by a magnificent array of red roses. On the Feast of St. Rita, 22nd May, we had the

blessing and distribution of rose petals, shipped specially, for the occasion, from the garden of Cascia.

The Chapter of the Irish Province of the Augustinian Order was held in Limerick in late June 2005. It became a chapter of great significance to Fethard following their decision, made in spring 2004, to visit our medieval town to celebrate mass in our historic Abbey on June 29th 2005 to coincide with the 700 Years Celebrations.

In order to show our appreciation to the Augustinians, it was decided to host a dinner on their behalf. This was the ideal opportunity to give something back to the Augustinians who willingly give so much to the people of Fethard. Joan Anglim accepted the responsibility of the organisation of this event and sought



'Mother of Good Council' organising committee. L to R: Kitty Delany, Ann Cooney, Fr. Gerry Horan OSA, Joan Anglim and Joan Halpin.



Fethard organists L to R: Ann (Kenrick) Walsh, a former organist in the Augustinian Abbey before moving to live in Dublin; Kathleen Kenny, current organist in the Augustinian Abbey; and Goldie Newport, current organist at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Fethard.

sponsorship for the marquee and other ad hoc expenses. People were very generous in sponsoring this wondrous and joyous occasion. Who needs a hotel when caterers, co-ordinated by Joan Anglim and aided by her “team” are ready, willing and able to perform to such a high standard.

By spring 2005 there was further reason to celebrate, because Fr. Gerry Horan, Prior of the Fethard community, had been elected as Prior Provincial of the Irish Province. The people of Fethard filled the Abbey to accord Fr. Gerry a special “Comhgáirdeachas” and to extend “Ceád Míle Fáilte” to his fellow Augustinians.

Ann Cooney prepared a special booklet to mark the occasion, which was attended by over ninety Augustinians, sisters from the Presentation Convent and local clergy from the surrounding area. It was a wonderful evening. All present were so appreciative of the dinner and most complimentary for the hospitality bestowed on them during their visit to Fethard.

Spring has rolled into summer and it's time for a golf classic with a purpose. The Augustinians have a mission in Ecuador, where their hospital and clinic provide essential medical care. Over one hundred local children are given a meal each day, Monday to Friday, to prevent malnu-



Organising committee photographed at the display for the novena to St. Rita of Cascia. L to R: Margaret Prendergast, Nellie Ryan, Fr. Malachy Loghran OSA, Dick Prendergast, Ciere Flynn and Marion O'Connor.

trition. The Abbey 700 Committee adopted this project helping to finance its continuation.

Slievenamon Golf Club was a hive of activity and fun on 22nd July. Fifty-two teams participated in a three-ball scramble. The raffle for three beautiful hampers raised €4,500, while the proceeds of the golf brought our total close to €10,000. Your support was so wonderful you've also enabled us to sponsor a doctor at the mission's hospital for a year. Míle bhuíchas to everyone who helped to make that day so successful.

Cór Cois Abhann performed a concert in the Abymill on 20th August. The Cork-based choir were accompanied by Sinéad Ní Mhurchú, soprano, and classical guitarist, Antanas Keturakis, under director Ian Sexton.

Their repertoire extended from classical to modern, entertaining a capacity audience of visitors and locals. On Sunday, at 11.30am Mass, Cór Cois Abhann enriched our souls with their rendition of contemporary and Latin hymns.

The Feast of St. Augustine obligingly fell on a Sunday (28th August) this year and diverted the children's minds away from their impending return to school, after a lovely sunny summer, towards a Fancy Dress Parade. The 'retired' Fancy Dress participants of the '70s and '80s prepared their children and their banners admirably. Banna Cluain Meala led the children from the ballroom to the Abbey grounds, where the band gave a recital while majorettes performed highly synchronised move-

ments involving colourful flags. While the valley was alive with the sound of music the committee made refreshments available for the children who awaited the prize-giving. We were treated to a recital by 'Amadeus', a trio of exceptional female musicians, who entertained the crowd with a variety of classical and traditional music and song.

As November is traditionally a time to remember our deceased family and friends a triduum was arranged for 1st, 2nd and 3rd November. On All Saints evening all our Irish saints, Augustinian saint and saints of the church were celebrated. The homily focused on St. Nicholas of Tolentine, to whom there is great devotion in Fethard.

Prior to the feast of All Souls "The Tree of Light and Life" was placed in the sanctuary. The congregation were asked to write the names of their deceased loved ones on a miniature scroll and hang it on the deciduous tree. A montage of photographs of the deceased people of Fethard & Killusty and surrounding areas was assembled. Many, as invited to, brought memory cards of their loved ones to add to the montage. Both the tree and the montage remained on display in the Abbey Church throughout November.

On All Souls evening as the November Dead List was read aloud a relative brought forward a lighted candle. A representative of the Presentation Sisters and another representative of the Patrician Brothers

read the lists of their predecessors who taught or worked in Fethard in the past. Our Augustinian community remembered their departed Brother Friars who served the Fethard faithful during their ministry.

The Resurrection was the theme of the mass to conclude the triduum. The congregation renewed their baptismal promises, the Pascal candle was central while water was blessed. The Abbey choir was joined by guest soloist Denise Broderick of Limerick for our November triduum.

Forthcoming events in 2006

As part of the Church Unity Octave, many choirs will gather at Trinity Church of Ireland to honour the Lord in song on 20th January.

Fr. Joe Walsh will celebrate a Youth Mass on 25th February. On 5th March, the first Sunday of Lent will be dedicated to commemorating the life of Blessed William Tirry OSA, who was martyred in Clonmel in 1654 and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1992.

Our committee is planning to have an exhibition in conjunction with the closing ceremony and would appreciate any help available. Perhaps you've old photographs relating to the Abbey or its friars? If so, please forward a copy to: The Jubilee Committee, Augustinian Priory, Abbey St., Fethard, or e-mail to joe@fethard.com

Have you attended any of the above-mentioned Augustinian cere-

monies in Ireland or abroad – and feel “inspired” to write about that experience? Please do contact us. Do you write poetry or prose? Are you hoarding old newspaper articles sent to your ancestors by “the people back home”? Our Jubilee Committee would love to hear from you and welcome international submission for our exhibition in March.

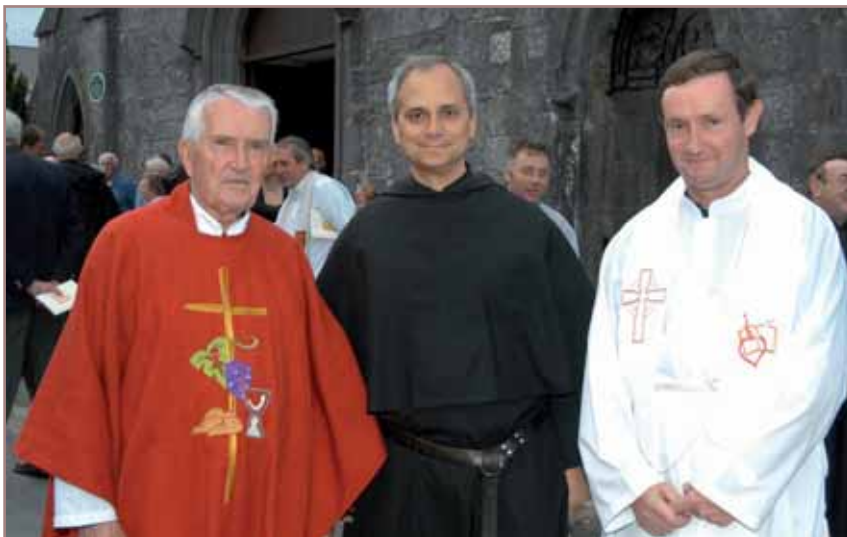
In conclusion, the Abbey 700 Jubilee committee wish Fr. Gerry God’s blessing on his four-year term as Prior Provincial. Fr. Gerry has opted to be

based in Fethard, not Dublin. We have decentralisation!



Fr. Peter Haughey OSA Prior

We welcome back in our midst Fr. Peter Haughey as Prior. Many thanks to Fr. Malachy Lohran who contributed greatly to St. Rita’s week-end of prayer and also to the ‘Holy Souls’ triduum. We wish him well in the Augustinian Community in Limerick. Both Fr. John Meagher and Fr. Timmy Walsh survived the changes and will remain in Fethard, thus granting spiritual sustenance and continuity. *



L to R: Fr. John Meagher OSA; General of the Augustinian Order, Fr Robert Prevost; and the new Provincial, Fr. Gerry Horan OSA, Fethard.



*Photographed watching the Augustinian Abbey 700 Fancy Dress Parade are
L to R: Teresa Cummins, Noreen Maher and Margaret Coffey.*

Fethard Legion of Mary

Members of Fethard Legion of Mary extend greetings to all readers. We wish all of you a peaceful, happy Christmas and New Year.

We welcome all newcomers to the area and we appeal to all of you to extend support to the Legion of Mary. We need your prayers and we need members. Why not seriously consider the prayers and the support of your presence at our weekly meetings?

We do not make visitations, as we do not have the people to go out. Our main work is the selling of Catholic papers. These are available at the doors of our Churches. We had to terminate door delivery, as it was no longer feasible to go from door to door each week of the year. Now, however, we notice we have to decrease our orders of The Irish Catholic and The Universe. We need people to purchase a Catholic paper

and we need people to pick up a free copy of 'Alive' each month. Many of you are aware you can now view EWTN each day, twenty-four hours a day. In Ireland it is available on Sky, channel 680. If you do not have Sky you can get the Hotbird box. We can direct you in the purchasing of this. We need to increase our knowledge and strengthen our faith. Now, we have the means. Let us use it.

Our younger people need us to be strong and to be informed. We need to counteract their convenient pleas of boredom and their ignorance of the moral teachings and the responsibilities of the Catholic Church. Each one of us must be out there helping others to be true to the Faith.

How many are aware that there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each First Friday in the Abbey? We are privileged in Fethard to have a



Legion of Mary Group in the 1970s. Back L to R: Catherine Sayers, Tommy Carey, Christy Williams, Gus Fitzgerald, Kathleen Keane, Paddy Kenrick, Percy O'Flynn, Noelle Maher. Front L to R: Kathleen Kenny, Margaret Cummins, Margaret McCarthy and Mary Gunne

choice of Masses not only on Sunday but also on each day of the week. We appreciate the fact that we have priests who are there for us when we need them. They are there for the Mass, for all the Sacraments; they are also very attentive in visiting the sick and in helping where they can do so.

The month of the Holy Souls is a time when we remember all our deceased. We extend sympathy to all

who mourn the loss of loved ones. We pray for all at each Mass and in November when we visit all our cemeteries to pray The Rosary. The Year of The Holy Eucharist has drawn to a close. What did each of us do to recognise this great year?

May God bless all our families in our parish and those now living in so many countries throughout the world. *

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A Railway Tale

by Lory Dineen

Growing up in Kerry Street in the 40s and 50s the railway line was our play ground. Here we built tents, played cowboys and Indians, made slides with cardboard boxes and generally fooled around. On Sunday evenings after the matinee in the Capital Cinema, we re-enacted the deeds of Johnny McBrown, Roy Rogers and Tarzan. The railway was also our shortcut to the Red Bridge for a swim or to Crean's fields picking mushrooms or to the wood picking hazelnuts. Does anyone pick mushrooms or hazelnuts now I wonder?

We never thought much of the history of the railway or who built it or even how long it was there. It was a safe place to play and close to our houses.

In 1865 the Southern Railway Company proposed constructing a line from Thurles to Clonmel to Youghal, eastwards to Dungarvan and westwards to Fermoy via Lismore. This line was to be 92 miles long and at the time was the longest projected railway of the period. The scheme was rejected by parliament, however, a shortened version, Thurles to Clonmel was approved.

Work commenced on constructing the line in 1866. Due to lack of money and difficulties in construction, it was a "stop - go" railway. The land between Laffansbridge and Horse and Jockey was very boggy and needed much drainage and in places heavy rock cuttings had to be made. On 3rd January 1877 the first passenger train arrived in Fethard from



Fethard Railway Station in the 1960s

Clonmel. The journey took 20 minutes and the train returned to Clonmel on 6th January.

The people of Fethard returned to their normal way of living and the sound of a train did not disturb their peace until the 23rd June 1879 when three trains a day operated between Clonmel and Fethard. From the end of July, goods trains operated to Laffansbridge and by the end of the year there was a full passenger and goods service operating from Clonmel to Thurles. So what had been proposed in 1865 came to fruition in

1879. The line was 23 miles long and served Clonmel, Fethard, Farranaleen, Laffansbridge, Horse and Jockey and Thurles

For years the railway paid its way. During the summer, special trains operated to all the major GAA fixtures and to Tramore. On Carnival Sunday a special train operated from Waterford and often this train had to return to Clonmel to pick up more passengers such was the demand. Special trains operated from Waterford to the Kilnockin Races.

On fair days up to four special trains conveyed cattle to Waterford and Dublin for export. During the winter months the line was excep-

tionally busy due to the beet trains operating from South Wexford to Thurles. Up to ten trains a day operated and with special anthracite trains from the Ballingarry Collieries to New Ross and Waterford, the future of the line was very rosy. However, in the 50's things began to change. The

fair days were replaced by the cattle mart. Cattle were transported by road and demand for anthracite declined. With more motorcars on the roads the numbers travelling began to drop. Passenger traffic reduced to such an extent that it was not feasible to run a train. A bus was fit-

ted to run on the rails and even this could not save the line.

On 26th March 1967 the Clonmel to Thurles branch line closed, as did many such branch lines in the 60s. It was in existence for just over 90 years and in its time provided an excellent service for the people of South Tipperary.

I remember the railway fondly. I especially remember the fair days, the GAA trains, the Fethard Carnival trains and loading beet at the station. I used call to the station very often to collect the films for the cinema and bring them back the following day. Pushing that cart up to the station was no easy task. You did, however,

Waterford Newspaper Ad 1894

*Waterford & Limerick Railway
excursion to Fethard Steeplechase
and 10th Hussars Regiment Races
on Wednesday & Thursday 4th &
5th April 1894.*

*Train departs Waterford at
10.30am and arrives in Fethard at
12.50pm. Fares: 1st class 7/7; 2nd
class 5/7; 3rd class 3/1. Children
under 12 half fare. Return train
from Fethard will leave at 6.20pm.*

Into Africa

by Mick Ryan (Killusty & Monasterevin)

It was an article in the Fethard Annual newsletter of 2003, I think, that stirred my thoughts about a trip to Africa. Bro Paul Brennan, a past teacher of mine from the Patrician School on the Rocklow Road, penned an article of his work and experience since moving to Kenya almost 30 years ago. Towards the end of the piece he reminisced about some of the students he had taught in Fethard and mentioned a few names, among them mine.

I wondered how he remembered me, as it was over 40 years since we last met. Certainly not from any great academic achievements or sporting

prowess! It must have been my red hair. The thought of visiting Africa was further fuelled by a chance meeting with Davie Fitzgerald at the 2004 Fleadh Cheoil in Clonmel. “You’ll never guess who is home,” he said. “Paulinus.” (He will always be Paulinus to us). “You should give him a ring,” Davie suggested, “he is staying in Newbridge”. I rang him the next day, we had a brief chat and exchanged contact details as he was heading to the airport to return to Kenya.

Several emails and 12 months later, Margaret and I were on a plane to Nairobi, accompanied by our peren-



Bro Paul, on the right track, with visitors Mick and Margaret Ryan

nial holiday companions, Richard and Catherine O'Rourke. As the plane made its decent, little thoughts started to invade my mind. Would this adventure be a success? Would I know Paul at the airport? Would he still be the same man who had made such an impact on my school days and on the parish in the early 60s.

I needn't have worried. There he stood larger than life, older admittedly, just like us all. White haired instead of black, but still the same Paul, with the exact same mannerism, smile and sense of humour. The memories came flooding back. The meeting was a very special moment. Paul was accompanied by his fellow Patrician Brothers, David and Andrew.

After a brief sojourn around Nairobi, where we planned to return, we headed for Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. Five people in a Suzuki Jeep, which miraculously managed to stay in one piece for the three-week duration. The 500km journey takes about 12 hours. The road was in very poor condition and littered with potholes but the trip was full of excitement for us. Hordes of people walking, walking everywhere. The Kenyan people walk miles to work for a daily wage of maybe €2, if they are lucky. School children head to school very early in the morning with happy smiling faces even though they survive on one bowl of maize per day.

After the madness of the Nairobi traffic it was nice to get out into the

more peaceful surroundings of the Kenyan countryside. Here people take life at a different pace – herds-men tend their cattle, goats and sheep, women carry huge pitchers of water balanced on their heads with the art of a circus performer. Shanty towns where every day is market day and every resident is a trader. Incessant charcoal burning has led to a major deforestation problem. The thought struck me that more damage could be done to the environment here in one day than we in Ireland could do in 10 years. The old trucks coming out of the ports of Mombasa and tackling the long steady climb to ten or twelve thousand feet, belch out huge palls of black fumes. However, to balance that they certainly make better use of the bicycle than we do. Some of the loads which they manage to get onto a bicycle are truly amazing.

Mombasa, a bustling town, was a perfect place to kick off our adventure. We swam in the Indian Ocean, sampled the local food and wine and took in all the tourist spots. Paul was in his element. Using what Swahili he knew to best effect, the locals were amused when he could identify what tribes they were from. He took great pride in telling them that he was a teacher from St. Patrick's School in Ilen, and judging by their reaction, it slowly dawned on me that this must be one of the best known schools in Kenya, given that we were now some 800kms from Ilen.

Back to Nairobi on Friday, with the

journey no less arduous, but the hardship was lessened by a BBQ and social evening hosted by the Holy Ghost Fathers in St. Mary's. Fr. John Mahon, who has worked in Kenya for 40 years, told us of his project work in Kibera, now the largest "slum" in the world with over 700,000 people living there. We asked if he could take us into Kibera the following morning and he agreed.

The journey through the township will live in my memory forever. Narrow dirt streets with mud shanty dwellings, thousands of people existing on morsels, children playing on open sewers with distant looks in their eyes, with Aids and malaria a daily companion. I thought, can this be 2005 we are living in! For Christ's sake, man has landed on the moon, Europe has food mountains and these people are living on our doorstep in conditions far worse than our animals have to endure at home.

But there is hope – John Mahon, along with many others, is doing tremendous work education people to help themselves. The task is monumental with abysmal support from the so-called developed world. But everyday is a day better.

Less than two miles away, we saw the other side of life in Kenya, the world of Karen Blixen and 'Out of Africa', where trophies of elephant, lion and rhino adorn the great halls and khaki-clad would-be game hunters come to get a taste of a way of life that is now, thankfully, from

another age.

On Sunday we headed for the high country, Eldoret, in western Kenya, where Paul has lived and worked for some 30 years. A long but pleasant journey with much better infrastructure. The further up the Rift Valley we went, and the higher we drove, the more fertile it became. Magnificent lush valleys and beautiful scenery rolled out in front of us with forestry now becoming the dominant vegetation. We crossed the Equator on route where at noon you can stand on your own shadow.

Eldoret was like home from home. Paul knows everyone and is as popular around town as he was in Fethard. We spent lovely evenings with the Patrician Community in Kabsoya (Paul's Home) and attended many social events at the Golf Club, where it seems to me, he runs the show.

Although Paul has retired from teaching for five years now, he is typical of the man, busier than ever. He has just opened a new primary school and dispensary in Kabongo a place that would make Boolagh North look like the centre of the universe. He is now working hard on building a secondary school so that the children will have a place to advance their studies. I had forgotten how driven he is. How else could a young man from Nobber, who knew nothing about hurling, come to Fethard where we knew even less, and inspire us to a Munster Colleges title in 1963. He hasn't changed.

He took us to see his project in



Margaret Ryan photographed with some local children

Kabongo, which for me, turned into the highlight of the trip. Margaret loved the place, she had lots of books, copies and pencils which she gave to the teachers to give to the children, who may not have been able to afford even a pencil. The joy on their smiling faces after getting such a small gift was wonderful to behold.

Richard and Catherine, pharmacists from Monasterevin, were very interested in the dispensary and had long chats with Sylvia, the local nurse, as she held her daily clinic. They presented very useful equipment to the clinic that was very much appreciated.

Paul introduced me to the school children as a former pupil of his over

42 years ago, and asked which of us looked the oldest. One little girl said, I did. I know he had her primed before we got there. Our trip to Kabonga was complete when John the caretaker invited us to his home to meet his wife and three lovely children. We were honoured to be guests in his house.

On our way to Lake Begeria we visited St. Patrick's in Iten, the school Paul's life work has gone into. Leading the way in academic and sporting achievements for years, it is, without doubt, one of the best-known schools in Kenya.

We have sat and watched the Kenyans massing towards the front, with two or three laps to go in an Olympic or World Championship

final. You can be sure that many of them have come through this school. Paul and Bro Colm O'Connell from Doneraile, have coached the cream of world distance runners. Members of the Kalenjin tribe such as Wilson Kipketer, Mike Boit, Wilson Boit, the Cheruyet twins and many more too numerous to mention have graced the athletic tracks of the world for decades. Add that to the several national basketball titles and you get some idea of the progress of a small school built forty years ago in the middle of nowhere. We spent a lovely evening with Paul, Colm and friends at the Keiyo View where we sat round the fire and had songs and stories from way back when.

Before taking our leave of Kenya we did a three-day safari in the Masai

Mara National Reserve. It was interesting if only to see how domesticated wild animals can become if they are born and live with safari jeeps and minibuses looking at them all the time. One wonders what the noble Masai People make of advancing civilisation which takes their grazing land in order to preserve wild life. And so it was finally time to take our leave of Kenya – the beautiful and complex country whose people are its strength.

Bro Paul is visiting Ireland in 2006. I hope that the Kinane Cup winning team can get together for a night to relive old memories – he would love that! Our team photograph still hangs proudly in his office. Thanks Paul for a memorable holiday, we will be back. *



Bro Paul introducing one of his gardening friends to Margaret Ryan and her friends, Richard and Margaret O'Rourke from Monasterevin.

Fethard & District Credit Union

Friday opening has proven very popular, with of course the usual Saturday night opening hours. This year our computer system is being upgraded which will increase speed and efficiency. Marian Gilpin, our chairperson, attended the AGM in Killarney in April.

At our annual general meeting in December, two new directors were elected to the board. Johnathon Gilpin was elected public relations officer for Chapter 10. The train tickets from Thurles to Dublin have now gone up to €15 which is still good value. Our dividend was a healthy 2%. Our next A.G.M will be held in early December 2005 and we are

hoping for a representative attendance.

Officers for 2004-2005 are: Marian Gilpin (Chairperson); Kate Healy (Treasurer); Eddie O'Brien (Secretary). Credit Committee: Sean O'Callaghan, Mary Morrissey, Jacinta O'Connell. Insurance & Investment: Johnathon Gilpin. Supervisory Committee: John Barrett, Philomena Morrissey, Eleanor Roche. Credit Control: Elizabeth McLaughlin, Johnathon Gilpin. P.R: Marian Gilpin.

The opening hours of Fethard & District Credit Union are: Friday from 10am to 12 (noon), and on Saturday from 7pm to 8.30pm. *

First Steps Playgroup

by Patricia Fitzgerald

It was another busy year for First Steps Playschool and great to welcome back old faces along with the new boys and girls who had not been before.

Our thanks to the Dental Department for visiting the Playschool again and involving us in their dental survey. The children were all presented with toothbrushes and given a small demonstration on how to clean their teeth.

Our Xmas party was a great success and thanks to Santa for coming to our party and giving the children their presents.

Our annual summer outing to Planet Playground was a huge suc-

cess and many thanks to the parents who gave so freely of their time to drive the children. Without their valuable help and involvement these outings would not be possible.

A really big thank you must also go to Joan O'Donohoe and the staff in the Tirry Centre and also the Community Council for their assistance and generosity throughout the year.

If you have any queries, please feel free to call in to the Tirry Centre, or you can contact me on Tel: (086) 1580897 or (052) 32164.

Wishing all readers and emigrants a very Merry Xmas and Peaceful New Year. *

The Shannon Scheme

by Tom Burke

We were fortunate when growing up in Redcity in the 50s, to have as our nearest neighbours, the Daltons. The family comprised of three girls and five boys, and only one, Paddy, the youngest, took the popular emigration trail from an Ireland which at that time had little to offer in the way of employment.

The Dalton clan were prudent and hardworking, and none, except Paddy in New York, ever married. Two of the seven who remained at home had permanent positions. The two remaining girls ran the house, whilst the three remaining boys worked locally, when required, with farmers, and also took “conacre” on which they grew sugar beet for nearby Thurles Sugar factory. Snaring and lamping of rabbits supplemented their income. The family thrived on the principles of honesty and integrity, and whilst they had only been exposed to basic Primary schooling, they were great admirers of education and never lost an opportunity of instilling that principle into us as we grew up. They were indeed brilliant role models for us as young kids.

Mikey was the oldest of the clan, and in the winter nights, he would come to our house “ar cuartaíocht”. Rural Electrification had not yet reached us, so there was no distraction from TV. Studying was accomplished by oil lamp, and this would be rushed to a conclusion when we would hear Mikey arrive in the

kitchen, and take his place near the open fire. From this position, he would entertain us for hours with stories and tales of the “olden times”.

In the mid 50s, the Rural Electrification scheme reached us and Mikey’s stock rose even higher. Why? Because he had first-hand knowledge of the source of this new phenomenon, namely the Shannon Scheme at Ardnacrusha. With the country in the grip of a severe economic depression, Mikey had left Fethard in September 1925, travelled by train to Thurles, connected with the Dublin-Cork main line, and changed at Limerick Junction for the short shuttle service into Limerick. It was but a short walk to the Strand Barracks near the docks, where the Siemens – Schuckert recruiting office for the Shannon Scheme was situated. There he signed on as a labourer for the next three years in a workforce that averaged 2,500, but reached a maximum of 4,300 at one stage.

With the average agricultural wage set at 26 shillings for a 50/60 hour week, Siemens were offering unskilled workers a weekly rate of 32 shillings for 50 hours, which included a guarantee of three years’ work, free accommodation, and subsidised canteen meals. A short strike at the beginning of the project over wage rates led to Limerick city workers being paid 50 shillings per week. The latter did not qualify for free accom-



*On the left is Parteen intake building which allowed water into Ardnacrusha Station.
On the right is Parteen Weir which allowed water down the Shannon river*

modation of course.

The general feeling was that Siemens would have been willing to pay more, but were forbidden to do so by the Government, lest it have a destabilising effect in other areas. Early in 1926, the union agitation fizzled out and no further labour problems arose for the duration of the scheme. As Mikey put it, *"The strike was by men who themselves had no complaint to make on behalf of men who made no complaint."*

Life in the camp at Ardnacrusha, like that on any building site, was at times primitive and tough. There was a great variety of people working there, perhaps the most colourful being the group from the West of Ireland, who spoke only Connemara Irish. Many of these had walked from home to get their jobs, as they did not have the bus fare. All the workers were men of incredible endurance, who thought nothing of working 70 hours per week. Keeping clean was a problem; some would wade fully clothed into the Shannon, even in the depths of winter, and wash the dirt and grime from their clothes.

Others would gather around the temporary power station on a Sunday, where hot water was pumped out from the generator cooling system, and wash their clothes in that.

The meals served in the canteen consisted of half a pint of tea, ten ounces of bread and two ounces of butter for breakfast. Same was served for tea with addition of jam. Lunch consisted of half a pound of lean meat, vegetables, and a pound and a half of potatoes, with two ounces of bread. Because of the heavy work, the men felt the need to supplement these rations, and several fish and chip shops sprang up around the camp.

Little did I know as I entered my teens, and hung on every word of my neighbour's stories, that I would live most of my adult life a mere stone's throw from the same Ardnacrusha.

Mikey's accounts of the Shannon Scheme, whilst they dealt primarily with the human side, contained an extraordinary amount of technical data that withstood my investigation in later years:

The large electric crane (25 ton)

which Siemens erected at Limerick docks to facilitate unloading of the materials arriving from Germany, with the power being supplied from the local Limerick City Electric Co. Any materials weighing over 50 tons had to be unloaded in Dublin. To move materials to Ardnacrusha, a railway was constructed from Longpavement (a short distance from the docks) to the site, the remains of which are still visible today.

The construction of a temporary diesel power station on site for local supply. Siemens also erected a repair shop, a stone crushing and washing plant, a saw mill, stores, and small laboratory, plus a plant for making oxygen which was used for welding.

The Shannon Scheme was the brainchild of Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, a lecturer in physics at UCG, supported by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Patrick McGilligan. McLaughlin obtained a degree in electrical engineering in his spare time, and had gone to Germany to work for Siemens for a

period from 1922 to 1923. Whilst in Germany, he pursued with Siemens the concept of harnessing the Shannon and obtained the support of McGilligan on his return.



In the background, derricks for drop-hammers, used for boring holes to receive the blasting charges. In the foreground, workers used compressed air hammers to break up rock already blasted.

The contract, signed between Siemens and the Irish government on 13th August 1925, was for 5.2 million Irish Pounds, with completion set for three and a half years. It is difficult for us now, 80 years on, to envisage what a gigantic engineering feat was involved in building this hydro electric scheme. A portion of the river would be diverted into a canal over 7 miles long and 37 feet deep. The fall of the river, about 100ft, would be used to turn the generators at Ardnacrusha, with the diverted water returned to the Shannon at Parteen.

Newspapers of the time, with a certain amount of journalistic hyperbole, described it as the eighth wonder of the world. There was no doubt that the difficulties would have daunted a less adventurous firm than Siemens. Yet the Germans got most things right, and the complex problems were solved efficiently and

expertly. Unfortunately, they suffered a financial loss on the project, rumoured at one million Irish Pounds. However, they recouped their losses by using the techniques in other parts of the world to good effect.

What surprised us most of all about the information Mikey trotted out was that it requires 15 tons of water at a head of 95 feet to keep a 1Kw electric fire heated for one hour.

But if he stuck closely to the facts in recounting the technical data, I can see now that Mikey took great liberties in the stories of the people involved. At that time, of course, we took everything as fact and marvelled at the following accounts.

Mikey's admiration for the expertise of the German engineers was unbounded, as the following story will emphasise. A new German engineer arrived in Mikey's division one Monday morning and addressed the workforce. He spoke in his native tongue, and the assembled workers shook their heads to indicate their lack of understanding. A colleague, who spoke both languages, communicated this to the engineer.

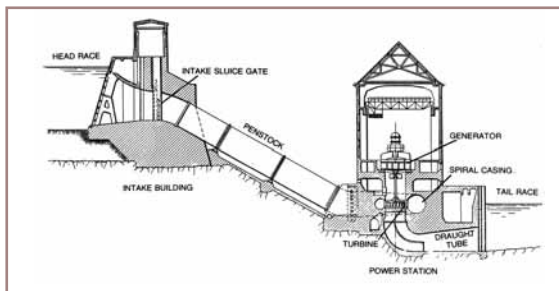
According to Mikey, the engineer drove immediately to Dublin, where he enrolled in Trinity College in an English language training course. *"He was back the following Monday morning,"* said Mikey, *"and he could speak better English than ourselves, except with a slight Dublin accent."*

Hurling and Gaelic football games were played at Ardnacrusha, sometimes with more enthusiasm than skill. The referee's report after one game, according to Mikey, where the going had got somewhat rough, stated that five different languages were used on the pitch: Connemara Irish, Munster Irish, English, and German. When asked what the fifth language was, he replied rather tersely, *"Bad"*.

The story I like best is one remembered by my brother, Denis. Mikey recounted that he was alone digging a trench one day, when a German engineer approached him.

"One of you vust come out of ze trench, Michael," said the German. *"But sure there is only one of us in the trench,"* said Mikey, slightly perplexed. *"It is zeither you or ze dirt, Michael,"* replied the engineer.

Relations between the Irish and German workers were very good. The Germans were always more than willing to share their skills with the Irish, as Mikey put it, *"If a German knew it, then we all knew it."* Some of the Germans brought their families with them and some forty



children were attending a special German school near Ardnacrusha.

In July of 1929, on a wet and windy day, President W.T. Cosgrave formally opened the intake gates at Parteen Weir, allowing the waters of the Shannon into the headrace for the first time. The canal was not actually flooded by the President, as this process extended over several weeks to enable the engineers to test the embankments. Both the Irish and German flags were flown at the Weir, and as the President operated the switch which opened the intake gates, sirens rang out and the No 2 Army Band played the national anthem. Later, a group of German workers sang the German national anthem. On 21st Sept 1929, electric current was first delivered into the National System, known at that time as the Leinster Loop, and Siemens made final handover of the project on 24th October 1929.

On January 25th, 1930, due to repairs and refurbishments at other plants, Ardnacrusha took its place as sole generating source for the National Network. The dream of power from the Shannon had become a reality. The contribution of people of the calibre of Mikey Dalton from Fethard will never be forgotten.

Was Mikey present for the final events listed above? No. He had returned to Fethard some months earlier, despite (according to himself) repeated offers of extension to his contract, and considerable increase in remuneration. Indeed,

with a twinkle in his eye, he went on to say that the Germans were more than anxious for him to take over as the first general manager of the famous Hydro Electric Plant, an offer which he believed was fully endorsed by the Irish Government. His protests at lack of the required education and expertise were answered by, "*Michael, we will zend you to Trinity for ze one week, ze one week will be enough*". After much soul-searching he was forced to decline due to his continuing commitments, "*to help the brothers out at home*". *

*Oh, were I a Homer,
that ancient roamer,
I'd write a poem on a noble theme.
To sing the story and praise the glory
Of that wondrous project,
the Shannon Scheme.*

*'Twill light our houses,
'twill stitch our blouses,
'twill milk our cows
and 'twill churn the cream.
'Twill plough and sow sir,
'twill reap and mow sir,
'twill raise our dough sir,
the Shannon Scheme."*

*Then fill your glasses,
my lads and lasses,
All creeds and classes
of the Irish name.
And toast the Statesmen
Those wise and great men,
Who boldly tackled
the Shannon Scheme.*

— (Syl Boland 1927)

The Fall of Cramp's Castle!

(The following article was supplied by Michael Hall, Kyle, Drangan. The article was printed in the Fethard Notes section of The Nationalist on 26th Aug 1893)



Just some eight hundred yards, on an eminence, to the east of Fethard, is all that now remains of this once imposing edifice. In Saturday's Nationalist was printed a sketch of the siege of Fethard by Cromwell, and its capitulation and article of surrender by Sir Pierce Butler, the governor. Tradition, if not history, has it that Cramp's fortified castle, being outside the boundary wall of Fethard, and not included in the treaty of surrender, Cromwell considered it a menace to the small garrison he left after him, and that on departing he tried six pieces of cannon on it, leaving some gaps and sev-

eral rents on the structure.

In this state it remained until the 15th inst, when the west wing fell with a thunderous thud, making the stone resound in the streets of Fethard. What wondrous mortar was used in the building of those old castles! The stones will smash before the mortar gives way. Pieces upwards of 30 tons were hurled a distance. It may be of interest to mention that Cramp's Castle belongs to Mr Edmond Leamy, ex MP, editor of United Ireland, but it is understood that there has been some tension between the owners and the tenants for some time. *

Killusty Open Sheep Dog Trials

This year's competition for the Paddy Morrissey Perpetual Cup was held in Killusty on Sunday 9th October. There was a large attendance and competitors came from all over the country to compete. It was a large, testing course and the windy weather made it difficult for some of the dogs to hear. However, the rain stayed away and all enjoyed a good competition. Denis Birchill (former National Champion) came back to defend his claim on the cup after winning it last year and much to his

delight he succeeded.

The results on the day were as follows:

- 1st: Denis Birchill, Wicklow;*
- 2nd: Johnnie O' Brien, Tipperary;*
- 3rd: Tim Flood, Wexford;*
- 4th: Johnnie O' Brien, Tipperary;*
- 5th: Paddy Byrne, Kildare;*
- 6th: Paddy Byrne, Kildare.*

The organiser of the event, Dan Morrissey, would like to sincerely thank all those who worked at the venue or helped in any way to make the day a success. *



Picture from Left to Right: John Dick (Judge), Noreen Frewen (nee Morrissey), Denis Birchill with Scot, Joan O'Connor (nee Morrissey) and Dan Morrissey.

On a recent visit to Fethard

by Alice Roberts (nee Flynn)



Presentation Convent school class group taken April 1956. Back: Stasia Whelan (Killenaule), Margaret Griffin, Patricia Ryan, Kitty Mai Barry, Eileen Hayes (Killenaule), Biddy Smith and Mary Cantwell. Middle: Alice Flynn, Mary O'Shea, Madeline Croke, Mary Tobin, Rita Kenny, Doreen Maher, Nan Sayers, Mary Sayers, Mary Murray and Alice Leahy. Front: Eileen Carey, Helen Fergus, Raphael Hanley, Geraldine Young, Ann Hurley and Maureen Moclair.

On a recent visit to Fethard, going down the old familiar tracks, my mind wandered back to life as it was in the 1950s. It was a simple, uncomplicated life. They say that what you never had you never miss. There must be some truth in that because, although we were one of the poorest families in the town, I didn't really become aware of this until much later. We were never bored and were content with the simple things.

One of the things that amazes me today when I speak to children in schools, is the amount of money that is spent on them. They must have all the

latest technological toys that cost an absolute fortune. They feel inferior in their group if they haven't got the complete set of Pokemon and Digimon cards, together with the album in which to house them. The Game Boy has been overtaken by the Nintendo D.S. Hold on, these have now been superseded by the Game Cube and X Box. But wait, we must have the latest – the P.S.P. which I have been told on good authority, means Play Station Portable. This wonderful device not only plays games but also movies. Of course, for the musically minded, there are the 'iPod' and MP3 Player for downloading the latest music. We thought

we were very sophisticated listening to Radio Luxemburg at the Fitzgerald's house.

Our games were much simpler. Of course, we had our cards too. Yes, the 'fag cards'. We collected discarded empty cigarette boxes – Woodbine, Players, Gold Flake and Craven A. Having taken out the gold foil and inner card, we flattened the outer case. There was a wide path outside Paddy Grant's house. We would kneel on the kerb and flick a card towards the wall. The card to go the furthest was the winner, thereby increasing the owner's collection. We were very proud of our cards, especially if you had a good collection of Gold Flake. For some reason, we believed these were better gliders.

This would be replaced, in time with the spinning top season. That must have been soon after Easter, as we would use the colourful foil from

the Easter Eggs to decorate the top. We would have races down The Green with our tops, stopping now and then to replace the bootlace as it slipped from the stick. To stop this from happening, we had to put a groove in the stick. We also had to keep the metal tip of the top nicely polished, to help its smooth travel.

Skipping was a very popular activity in the road. When I now think of the rhymes that went with the skipping, I feel that today, most of them would be politically incorrect. However, in those days, we didn't pay any great attention to the words, just watching to see how many verses we could recite before getting out.

Stamp collecting is also a rare hobby today. Each year here in South Australia, a representative from the Post Office visits schools, bringing posters of the latest stamps and giv-



The Green in the 1960s, includes Alice Flynn, Eileen Carey, May Fitzgerald, Alice Fitzgerald, Sean Gunne and Billy Fitzgerald.



Joe and Alice Fitzgerald photographed on the Green where we played 'Rounders'. On the left is the ruin of the Bainin Ryan's House.

ing free samples to encourage an interest in stamp collecting. Yet, children don't take it up. Is this just an Australian thing, or is it more widespread? I suppose with the coming of e-mails, less and less letters are sent.

Of course, we had the cinema, and the Sunday afternoon session was a must. Apart from the Batman trailer, there was also the main feature, where we would get glimpses of life in well-to-do American homes. We would live out these fantasies in the 'cubby houses' we made in the ruins of my grandmother's house (where Billy Kenny's workshop now stands). We became experts at making dry stonewalls. We created rooms in these houses — nurseries, drawing rooms and libraries, to act out our fantasies. Fr Hogan found us building one day and came to the convent the

next day to explain the dangers of building such high walls without support. We didn't stop. We just modified our designs. One day, Jo Barrett brought us a gift of crockery. She'd had a clear out and gave us plates, cups, jugs and all sorts of dishes for our play. We thought these were just wonderful.

As we grew older, our summer time activities changed. A daily visit to Newbridge was the highlight of the summer. I would bring back a bottle of water for my father from the Spring Well in the grounds of Grove House. Was it always sunny and warm, or am I remembering life with rose coloured spectacles? I don't remember any miserable summer days.

Summer evenings were filled with games of rounders outside the Fitzgeralds. Our bases would be the



Alice (Flynn) Roberts meeting some old friends from the Green on her visit to Fethard in June this year. L to R: Alice (Flynn) Roberts (home from Australia), Billy Kenny, Eileen (Carey) Connolly, and Rita (Kenny) Kane.

corner of Mrs Gunne's house, the Bainín's house, the corner of Lory Kenny's garden and the steps outside Carey's. These games became very competitive at times, with disagreements over boundaries, hits and misses. However, we liked the game too much to let our evening be spoiled, so we would agree to disagree and start again. I often wonder how a window was never broken and why no one ever complained. Far from it – the adults would sit on their windowsills to watch the game. Maybe they were protecting the windows! Who knows? I only remember them encouraging us and cheering a good run.

Are the children today missing out? I think so, but then this is a sign of the times. Parents can no longer

allow their children to go out of the house in the morning and not expect them home 'till they're hungry. They keep them safe by buying all these expensive games to keep them from getting bored. There are a lot more cars about, so games we played like skipping, spinning tops and rounders can no longer be played on the road. The modern house has a very small backyard, so it is necessary for parents to take children to sporting venues for organised events. So many times I've seen the sign 'Mum's Taxi' on the back window of a car. It's a fast moving world with lots of pressures. There are so many benefits we enjoy today that we could not have seen in our wildest dreams, but it is also good to reminisce on the times we think of as the 'Good Old Days'. *

Fethard Bridge Club

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 29th 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.

The club was saddened this year by the death of two of our members, Margaret Cummins, Main Street, and Margaret Hackett, Strylea. Both were long-standing members of the club. Although Margaret Cummins hadn't actively played bridge for a number of years, she still maintained a keen interest in the activities of the club

and continued to attend some of our annual parties. Margaret was a long-time member of both Fethard Bridge club and the Comeragh Bridge club in Clonmel. Although her illness prevented her from playing as much as she would have liked in recent years, she continued to support the club and played whenever her health permitted. As a partner and an opponent, she was always courteous and encouraging - especially to beginners, and her unfailing good humour and courage were an inspiration to all. Both will be sadly missed.

At our President's Prize dinner at Slievenamon Golf Club on Friday 20th May 2005 the following prizes were presented: President's Prize: Nora Lawrence and Madeleine O'Donnell; Committee Prize: Teresa Cummins and Alice Quinn; Player of the Year, for which the O'Flynn tro-



Fethard Bridge Club honorary life members, John and Anne Lucey, photographed with their daughter Breda (centre) outside their home.

phy is presented: Kay St. John; Club Champions, for which the Hayes trophy is presented: Betty Walsh and Brigid Gorey; Individual Champion, for which the Dick Gorey Trophy was presented for the first time: Betty Walsh; The Suzanne Opray Trophy, presented for the first time this year as well, was won by Nell Broderick, as the player who reduced her handicap by the most during the year.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on September 28th and 5th October and the winners of the gross free sub were Anna Cooke and Bernie O'Meara. The free nett sub was won by Brigid Gorey and Betty Walsh. On 9th November we held a charity night and donated the proceeds for the evening to the National Council for the Blind. Our Christmas

party was held in Sadel's Restaurant on 9th December at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 18th May 2005 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Marie Delaney, Vice President: Mike Burke, Secretary/PRO: Gemma Burke, Treasurer: Frances Burke, Assistant Treasurer: Anna Cooke. Tournament Directors: Alice Quinn, Betty Walsh, Frances Burke, and Gemma Burke. Partner Facilitator: Annie O'Brien. Committee: Kay St. John, Bernie O'Meara, Berney Myles, Nell Broderick.

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. *

Fethard Senior Citizen's Club

Another year has slipped away and we are already busy preparing for the next. Our club has gone from strength to strength over the years with an increase in members. In August 2004 we travelled to Emmanuel House of Providence in Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. We had an early start as we had to be in Clonfert by noon for a healing service. We stopped off at the Templemore Arms for tea and scones en route.

Clonfert was a very busy place with pilgrims from all over gathered there. Having brought packed lunches with us we took our break at 1pm,

followed by mass at 3pm. Dinner was very welcome that evening which we eat heartily. We all agreed that it was a very spiritual experience.

Our monthly meetings were held as usual in the Tirry Community Centre which is an excellent venue, where all our needs are catered for. Our Christmas Party was held once again in the Anner Hotel, Thurles. This was preceded by mass in the Abbey Church. The committee worked very hard to make the day a memorable and enjoyable for everyone.

April saw us take a bus trip to Melleray, via the scenic route. It was followed by a lovely meal in Cahir

House. All were dressed for the occasion in their Easter bonnets. We held mass in the centre in May, which was followed by a lovely tea.

June saw us take a trip to Adare, Co. Limerick. Adare is a charming and quaint place and we had a lovely meal in the Woodlands Hotel. In July we took a trip to Dublin where we visited Dublin Castle and Farmleigh

House. The weather was beautiful.

We've had a very busy year and, due to the increase in members, we had to draw up a rota to facilitate all our members making sure that each person had at least one outing. At present we are preparing for this year's Christmas Party. A Happy and Peaceful Christmas is extended to all from the Senior Club. ✱

Brain Freeze!

by Lydia (Newport) Kelly



Tony Newport photographed on the occasion of his marriage to Mary Kenny, The Green, c.1958. L to R: Bert Newport, Ciss Newport, Tony Newport, Mary Kenny and Maggie Kenny.

I recently had reason to have a small blemish removed from my forehead using 'liquid nitrogen'. A three minute visit to the local doctor and a couple of zaps to the left temple did the trick, and I had to suffer a dull throbbing headache for only twenty-four hours before feeling back to normal. However, I was amused a

day or two later when a friend of mine reported that her young daughter had asked, on hearing my friend recount my experience, was the pain like 'brain freeze'? And, when I heard the question, I had to admit that yes, that's exactly what it was like, brain freeze.

Now, for the uninitiated amongst you

readers, brain freeze is the feeling you get when you eat something that is so cold it first hits your tongue and a couple of seconds later, hits your brain and causes you a dull headache above and between your eyes.

You're probably wondering at this stage where this article is going and what it has to do with the Fethard Newsletter, but this above-mentioned episode jogged something in my memory, and gave me the subject for this article.

Going back more than thirty years, yes, I'm that old, I was one of very few children in Fethard who had the unique pleasure of tasting home-made ice-cream within a few seconds of it being made. My grandfather, and later my father, used to make ice-cream for our shop and delicious ice-cream it was too. There were no invitations issued to come for ice-cream, it was a case of if you just happened to visit at the right time, you were the lucky one!

I remember being given a saucer and a spoon by my aunt and being sent to where the ice-cream production took place. I also remember being told not to get in the way or to make any noise. I used to sit, quiet as a mouse, waiting on the steps of the stairs as work went on in the next room. I never actually saw what was involved in the manufacturing process, but I do remember the gloves my grandfather wore to protect his hands as he took the big steel containers of icecream out of the 'freezer', 'ice-cream maker', I'm not

sure, I just know it definitely wasn't an oven!

The icy steam used to rise out of the machine when the lids were lifted off, and also from the containers, they were so cold. And then, a few seconds later, I'd be given a big dollop of vanilla ice-cream on the saucer and back I'd go to the stairs to eat it.

The only thing is, the saucer used to get so cold that you couldn't hold it or keep in on your lap, and the spoon used to get too cold to hold or put into your mouth, and of course the ice-cream was sooooo cold you had to try and put it into your mouth and swallow it without any of it touching any of you (don't try this at home!).

Needless to say, I was told to wait a while and let it 'heat' (opposite of all other meals, where you'd be told to let it cool), but also needless to say - I never did wait 'cos that ice cream was just too delicious to wait another second for it. Inevitably, the brain freeze would follow on, but it was always worth it.

I'm sure many of you readers will remember the ice-cream this article is about, it was on sale in the shop on Main Street for many years, until the machine broke down and the parts could not be sourced to repair it.

I'm still partial to a nice ice-cream, actually, all my family are, must be a legacy from those days waiting on the stairs. We even have our own name for it 'gingine' . . . but that's another story! *

Badgers – soccer for the over 30s



Back L to R: Colm McGrath, Liam Meagher, Pat O'Donnell, Kari Laaksonen, Alan Connolly, Kevin Ryan, Garret Coleman. Front L to R: Liam Harrington, John Bermingham, John Neville, Mick Tillyer, Gabriel Needham, Tom Barry.

Coming into the early autumn months, as the evenings pull in and cooler temperatures return, oftentimes the discussion is, whether we had a good summer this year or not. No matter what you believe, human nature will always come up with opposing views. Remember those three weeks together that the sun shone, temperatures rose and water was becoming scarce. It is not so much with amazement but amusement that I recall a bloke passing the time of day, just a day or two after the weather had broken, saying, “sure tis always the bloody same in this country isn't it?”

I had instinctively agreed before thinking to disagree, but he was

gone. Is there a point to this discourse on the summer weather? Yes. Did anyone notice, that on every Wednesday night this summer rain was threatened or in fact it did rain, even though we may have had fine and bright days leading up to it, and indeed, on the following day.

Being a ‘Badger’ and ever looking forward to the one night in the week for a good kick up of the heels on the soccer field, it has become apparent that Wednesday nights are cursed! That said, this past year for the new club has been bright, seeing a steady increase in members and we are now 22 strong. A great boost this summer was acquiring new goal posts, thanks to the community field committee.

Also, many thanks to Coolmore for loaning us their goal posts while waiting delivery of the new posts.

There have been some very lively and very competitive games through the year and thankfully very few injuries apart from the odd bruised shin or ego. Some people outside the club remain confused as to the whole idea behind it, probably because of its simplicity. We are, more or less, a sports and social

club, playing soccer each Wednesday night from 8pm to 9.30pm approx. No, we don't rush off to the pub straight afterwards, normally the pub gathering has been restricted to our AGMs, although a Christmas Party is definitely on the cards for this year. At the AGM the elected committee members were: Chair, Philip Furne; Secretary, Colm McGrath; and Treasurer, Liam Harrington. *

All work and no play . . .

by Sean Henehan



Section of the crowd at Kilnockin Platform in the 1940s

I have always agreed with the saying, “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”, and took my holidays and leisure as a matter of course.

On one occasion, two friends and I, visited Courtown Harbour on a

Friday evening at the end of August, in a Ford van that I owned. After inspecting the village we went for a swim and had a few at the local hostelry. Afterwards we went for a stroll and found a Fun Fair, which we investigated. I noticed a shooting

gallery and went for a few shots. The attendant set up a target and gave me three pellets which I fired and was told I scored 29 out of 30 which qualified me for the 'shoot off' to take place at 12 o'clock.

I duly returned and was given the gun, three pellets, and a target was put in place. Having fired my three shots, the attendant said I had only two marks on my card scoring 20 and that was not good enough. One of my companions asked in an authoritative voice to see the card. After a lengthy study he declared that two pellets had gone through the one mark and that I had scored 30. The attendant accepted his decision and declared me the winner and presented me with the prize. The locals were amazed and looked at me in a curious manner thinking I had accomplished the impossible! I could not disagree. I did not feel that I had done the impossible but that was the decision.

On Saturday we went to the golf club with the owner of our guest-house. This was my introduction to golf, which I continued to play for years, winning numerous prizes, and finishing on a seven handicap.

After lunch on Saturday, as we were about to settle our account, we were told by the proprietor that it would be much cheaper to stay until Tuesday. August ended on Sunday, so we would be paying the September rate from then on. We stayed and on Sunday evening went out to welcome home the Wexford hurlers who had won the All-Ireland.

We saw the talented Rackard brothers amongst the team. Nicky died a few short years afterwards.

We left for home on Monday evening and were very lucky to make it, as we had a slow puncture and no spare, which was also punctured. The van eventually went 'on the run' by the time we reached Abbey Street. There was nothing left to do but share the prize, which was a set of two brown delph teapots with a blue band on the top. The big one should have been given to the man who really won the competition by declaring that I had achieved the impossible. But, if I gave him the big one he would realise that I did not agree with his verdict, so I kept the big one and we made our way home, delighted to be back in Fethard.

I liked to spend my leisure time in the open and engaged in shooting. On one occasion I shot a pheasant in Kilknockin. I hit it and it landed in the ditch about 200 yards away. My dog got on the trace and I heard her growling in the distance as she headed towards Rocklow. The bark got very low so I decided to move on. On crossing the racecourse field, I looked back and saw my dog approaching with a pheasant in her mouth. I gave Roxy a good pat on the head as she came up and dropped it at my feet. It was at least a half mile from where I first shot the bird. The dog tracked the bird down and then brought it back overcoming several obstacles on the way. When I looked at the beautiful bird dead on the

ground, I thought, it was not right to shoot such lovely birds with wonderful covering and beautiful tail feathers more than a foot long. I shot a lot of wild birds afterwards, but never again did I shoot at the king of all birds, a cock pheasant.

A companion and I tried some grouse shooting on the bog and started from Laffansbridge. We found the going very rough with plenty of drains to be jumped. After a time we noticed a green patch ahead of us. On coming up we saw a green island of about one hundred acres prime land. It was really an amazing sight. It had ruins of a house, which was built by the 'Gobbán Saor', the legendary Irish builder. When people lived in mud huts, he thought up a system for building stone houses and his system has been used down to the present day. The system was: one stone on two and two on one for every second layer. If you notice a modern block built wall you will see the system in operation.

As well as being a participant in sport, I was also a keen spectator, interested in Gaelic, rugby and soccer. I also patronised horse racing and dog racing.

In Gaelic, I always had a ticket for the finals in the Cusack stand. I saw all the great players and a few that stood out were Mick O'Connell, Jack O'Shea, all the great Tipperary hurlers, the Mackey brothers from Limerick, and Cork's famous Christy Ring. It was always a great day out which included having 'a few' in Dublin and the odd

stop down the road.

On one occasion, as we were about to leave for home, I met an army man and he invited us to the barracks for 'one for the road'. We stayed until three o'clock. There were five of us in the car. When we reached Kingsbridge one was snoring and the others followed him at intervals. By the time we reached the Curragh all were snoring so I decided that I might as well join them and pulled well in off the road and joined the chorus.

I was awakened by one who yawned and stretched himself when he realised the car was stopped, thinking he was back in Fethard. It was eight o'clock and another three hours before we were in Fethard. Of course, the whole town heard about our escapade.

I patronised Landsdown Road for All Irelands and home internationals and always sat on a reserved seat at the wall in the half way line. I saw all the great players from the period — Jackie Kyle, George Norton, Jim McCarthy and Tom Clifford. There were five rows of seats outside the wall on the half way and we stood at the back and just took a vacant seat when the match started. We were never challenged because only half the seats were occupied. That is how I saw every match sitting in a reserved seat.

Aintree was another place I patronised, as it was the place to be on Grand National Day. The first day a friend and I went and as we

approached the entrance I noticed the pass gate. We went over and I told the man there was a runner from near Clonmel and we were there to represent the two local newspapers. The official said he could not let us in but he directed us to the secretary's office about 50 yards away. I pitched the take again and the secretary gave us a welcome to Aintree with a race card, a pass to the press stand, a lunch ticket and a ticket to the jockey room after the race. We really enjoyed the day and I made my entrance the same way for about six grand nationals.

Soccer was not as well patronised in those days and I did not attend any matches. I've always kept a number of greyhounds for track and coursing and spent many hours walking the road exercising them. Many of our greyhounds made their way to tracks in England and Scotland. It was very exciting and meant a lot of travelling. We won a number of cups on track and a large number in Tipperary, as well as Cork, Connacht and North Kilkenny. I regularly attended the three-day national meeting in Clonmel every February, the Irish

cup at Clonamany, and also most of the local coursing meetings held every week from October to February.

We also kept a few racehorses and had a few very good wins. 'Rio Rita' won 18 races, along with 'Rita Óg' and many others. 'Jack Findlay', who was second to 'Lively Collage' in the Grand National, won a few races for us before we sold him.

Going to the dogs and following the horses were my favourite hobbies but I was not lucky. However, we did win a race in Limerick Junction with 'Yacht Club' at 8-1, which kept us



Rosie & Sean Henehan 1950s

on the right side for a time. I could see no future in gambling and never had a big bet, but looking back, I can say that I had a very good life, very varied, with as many downs as ups. I never made much money but always enjoyed myself. Of course, my life was shattered when my darling Rosie died suddenly and there has been a big void in my life ever since. However, I thank God for giving us almost 40 years of happiness. I intend to continue to enjoy what is life, however long it will last. *

Patrician Presentation Secondary School



Awards Ceremony 2005 Back L to R: Ida Carroll (Student of the Year 2nd Year); Helen Frewen (Leaving Cert Results 2005); Kate O'Brien (Writers Award Junior Poetry); Robert Maher (Best Attendance 2nd Year); Joe Fogarty (Paddy Broderick Award), Cian Grogan (Writers Award Junior Fiction); David Gorey (Young Entrepreneur's Award). Front L to R: John Frewen (Outstanding Achievement Award), Jillian O'Connell (Sports Award), Laura Rice (Student of the Year 1st Year); Mr Ernan Britton (Principal), Sgt. Pat Fallon (Past Pupil and Guest Speaker); Ciarán Leahy (Padraig Pearse Award); Liam Ryan (Best Attendance 4th Year) and Pádraig O'Shea (Writers Award Junior Fiction).

"Ah! Fill the cup that boots it to repeat, how time is slipping through our feet..."

And yes! How the academic year 2004-2005 has flown, as we now progress into the autumn term of 2005-2006.

The last year was packed with activity and achievements. The first milestone of the year was the excellent results achieved by our 6th years and Junior Certs in September – a success repeated once more by this year's Leaving Certs and Junior Certs.

An 'Open Evening' took place on 15th November 2004 and was a huge

success. There was a great variety of subject areas to visit and the PowerPoint demonstration on profiling past students was a very interesting feature. At this time our girls' senior volleyball team qualified for the All Ireland semifinals in University College Limerick. Mary Gorey was also chosen for the Munster Women's Under-21 rugby team which came to glory against Leinster.

Our 5th year science team featured in the top table (4th) at the science quiz sponsored by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme. For the first time a whole school show, "Joseph And

The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", was staged in December 2004 in the Abymill Theatre with many new 'budding starlets'.

The school Carol Service was held on Thursday 16th December. Fr. Gerry Horan, OSA celebrated the service. Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Canon Jim Power were also present. The musical director was Kevin Hickey and the soloists were Laura Rice (1st year), Joseph O'Connell and Donna Burke (3rd year), Anna Davis (2nd year) and Siobhán Prout and Sarah Kennedy (6th year) with Jonathon Fleming (2nd year). It was a very uplifting service with all the school present and treated afterwards to Slade's "Merry Christmas" by the school group 'Talisin' – Fintan Maher, Michael McCarthy, Michael Leahy and James Williams.

The après Christmas period was far from quiet – John Frewen (5th year)

was awarded the bronze medal in the final of the chemistry section at the Irish Junior Science Olympiad. The Minister for Education, Mary Hanafin, presented his award. Congratulations to John and Ms Walsh.

David Gorey got to the All-Ireland of the Young Entrepreneurs Competition with his chosen skill "Enchanted Wood" – beautiful candleholders and napkin rings for the dining table. Well done to David and Mrs O'Donnell.

Brian Kennedy (6th year) qualified for the quarter final of the UCC Philosophical Society second level debate held in Cork. Well done to Brian and Mr McGree.

On March 14th 2005, the school tour to Barcelona departed, where a wonderful time, wonderful weather and wonderful memories were had by all.

It was a very successful year for



Marian Gilpin, presenting the 2005 Business and Enterprise Award to David Gorey



Mr Paddy Broderick presenting Joe Fogarty with the Paddy Broderick Perpetual Trophy

sport in the school. In football the Under-14 boys won the county blitz, ably captained by Christopher Sheehan who has gone on to represent Tipperary at underage level this year. In hurling the Under-14s were very unlucky to lose the blitz to Thurles in Cahir. In senior football we were victorious over Tipperary V.S. in the first round but unlucky to lose the toss and had to travel to Ballingarry for the semifinal. Injury deprived us of the resources of Shane Walsh who has already represented Tipperary at minor football, and despite the great efforts of captain Mike Kelly we lost a very high scoring game to Ballingarry.



Mr Ernan Britton, Principal, presenting Ciarán Leahy with the 'Padraig Pearse Perpetual Memorial Cup' for his academic excellence in Irish and History in the Junior Cert.

The highlight of the year, however, had to be the magnificent victory of the junior boys when they captured the All-Ireland 'A' title in Loughrea ably led by J.P. McGrath and under the brilliant coaching of our P.E teacher, Bernie O'Connor. The boys played some of the best volleyball ever seen from a Fethard team to edge out Loughrea V.S. in a thrilling final played in Loughrea. Congratulations to each and every one of the panel and their coach. 'Man of the Match' was Adrian Lawrence from Woodvale Walk.

Huge support from the school travelled with the team and led by a convoy of cars, they arrived victorious back to the Square on Friday evening. This is the first flush of success for this young team and great credit is due to them and to their coach, Bernie O'Connor. Coolmore

Stud sponsored the team's new jerseys and shorts and they looked pretty 'classy' on a 'classic' day.

The Tanzanian fund, which raises money through sport for a school in Tanzania, was exceptionally successful raising €1200 from a volleyball tournament and a soccer game, and raising €275 for the tsunami

relief on the day of the volleyball final. Sarah Mai Ahearne's team won the Intel class volleyball and the 6th year boys beat the 5th year boys in a spirited game of soccer. Hail to the victors and the vanquished!

Lastly congratulations to Carrie Sweeney (capt.) and the volleyball girls who won five games as juniors, and in the Community Games won bronze medals at the National Finals in Mosney.

Mary Gorey (6th year) and Gillian O'Connell represented the youth of our parish as helpers on the

Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. A school quiz and non-uniform day helped to raise not only the girls' expenses but also the full fare for one of the invalids who travelled. Well done and thanks to Mr Dick Prendergast and all concerned.

In June Transition Year students published the 10th edition of the school's yearbook, 'Off The Wall'. 'Off The Wall' provides the opportunity to bring together our memories and record our successes. It is a major undertaking and we greatly appreciate the work of Mrs Mulhall, Miss Fogarty and Mr McGree in coordinating the efforts of the Transition Year and Fifth Year students who gave great commitment to producing this year's full colour edition. It would not be possible to produce 'Off The Wall' without the support of our sponsors and again this year we are grateful for their generous contributions.

The Intel school lunchtime volleyball has proven to be a "big take" and very competitive. Thanks to Jillian O'Connell, Stephanie Fitzgerald and their team who umpire and Denis Burke and Justin McGree who organised the games.

What a year of achievements, for both individual and team. The present academic year got off to great start — good results and a new jacket with the attractively designed new school crest. A big 'thank you' to Ms Looby and the second years. One interesting summer achievement was Jack Halley's (6th year) participation in the Tall Ships race. And, of course,

our new school sign.

The annual 'Awards Day' was held on Friday 28th October 2005 — an unusually warm late autumn day — a day to celebrate, to acknowledge success and achievement. To all assembled at the Awards Mass — Principal, staff, ancillary staff, Board of Management, Parents' Association, parents and students — it was a personal day of achievement, a "sense of worth" day which was self evident.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Canon Jim Power. Kevin Hickey accompanied the choir on organ, Fintan Maher on guitar, and the soloist was Laura Rice from 2nd Year.

Fr. Tom, in his homily, spoke very wisely of doing small things in a great way. Mrs Prendergast had prepared the altar and Mr Prendergast the liturgy. Both the head boy, John Frewen, and the head girl, Jillian O'Connell, addressed the assembled body.

Our guest speaker was Sgt. Pat Fallon. He and his wife Patricia are both past pupils of the school. Pat spoke of his delight at being back in the school of his youth, the town of his youth. He spoke to the student body of their value as people and how that value and life can be so easily lost at a young age through different forms of substance misuse and accidental death.

A highly experienced member of the Gardai himself, he related some of his memories of school, and life, and said that he wished that all the



Photographed at the Fethard Debs Ball held at Kilcoran Lodge Hotel on 2nd September 2005 are L to R: Brian Kennedy, David Sullivan, James Smyth, William O'Brien, Shane Walsh, Keith Phelan and Damien Donovan.

assembled students would have the opportunity to return, like he had done, after a number of years had elapsed. He spoke of the different ways one can achieve, and how there are so many opportunities and avenues open to young boys and girls in this present time.

The Principal, Mr Ernan Britton, thanked all for their involvement and work for the Awards Day, particularly Mr. Prendergast, Mr O'Gorman and Mr Burke.

Achievement awards were presented to Laura Rice 2nd Year and Ida Carroll 3rd Year. The Junior Cert Awards were presented to Ciarán Leahy T.Y., who received the Pádraig Pearse Perpetual Trophy, and Joe Fogarty T.Y., who received the Paddy Broderick Perpetual Trophy. Indeed, it was a pleasure to see both Mr Broderick and

Mr Doocey who has been very ill, present on the occasion.

John Frewen of 6th Year received a special achievement award but also an outstanding achievement award for winning the bronze medal at the National Science Olympiad.

For her excellent Leaving Cert results, Helen Frewen received an award, and a memento of the Pádraig Pearse and Paddy Broderick awards were presented to last year's recipients, Niall Hayes and Ronan Shee.

Denis Burke presented the Sports Achievement Award to Jillian O'Connell, and all fifteen of the panel of our All-Ireland winning boys' volleyball team were presented with certificates. Valerie Rice, representing the Parents' Association, presented the team captain, J.P. McGrath, with a special prize for their win.

Marian Gilpin, Deputy Principal and also chairperson of the local Credit Union, presented the Young Entrepreneur Award to David Gorey 3rd Year, and a memento to last year's recipient, Emma Walsh 6th Year.

Best attendance awards went to Aisling Dwyer and Gráinne Horan 2nd Year, Robert Maher and Colm Horan 3rd Year, Alan O'Connor T.Y. and Liam Ryan 6th Year. The school acknowledged Pádraig O'Shea's outstanding achievement in Judo at the Community Games. Mr McGree of the English Dept. presented the Fethard Writers Quill 2005 Awards in English to Pádraig O'Shea for junior fiction; Kate O'Brien for junior poet-

ry; Cian Grogan for junior fiction; and the senior poetry award to Cormac Grogan.

The Principal, Mr Britton, has every reason to feel proud of the school on such an outstanding occasion of success and achievement. The ceremony finished with a presentation to Sgt. Pat Fallon and his wife. To conclude, the words of Head Girl, Jillian O'Connell, will resound once more: "Tá suil againn go mbainfidh gach duine agaibh taitneamh as sos na Samhna."

Till we meet again, Seasons Greetings to readers far and wide from the principal and staff as we head towards "Another Opening, Another Show"- Godspell 2005. *



Photographed at the Fethard Debs Ball held at Kilcoran Lodge Hotel on 2nd September 2005 are L to R: Evelyn Fogarty, Amy Quigley, Helen Frewen, Roseanne Meaney, Marice Sullivan, Sharon Duggan, Tara O'Flynn, Siobhán Prout, Sarah Kennedy and Ciara Hickey.

Greetings from Killusty N.S *by Frances Harrington (Principal)*

Another busy year has passed in Killusty National School. We had seven new entrants: Thomas Morgan, Luke Coen, Jack Pollard, Aoife Sheehan, Lorna Smyth, Rebecca Kenny and Chelsea Kenny. Our academic year was punctuated by: our First Holy Communion, received by David Morgan, Derek O'Brien, James Harrington, Kate O'Donnell and Niamh Crotty; our school trip to Trabolgan, enjoyed by children, parents and teachers alike; our Sports Day held in Kilvemnon with Cloneen National School and Kilvemnon National School; our fundraising activities for the Hospice movement, the Dyslexia Association of Ireland and Mrs Quinn's Charity Shops; our Day of Poetry, spent in the company of poet, Declan Lucey, giving enjoyment to all; our attendance at a performance of 'Diarmuid agus

Gráinne', presented by Clan Cluana Theatre Company; our participation in football and hurling matches, with the much-appreciated guidance of Noel Byrne, GAA representative; our enjoyment, in the summer term, of 'Kool School', an eight-week programme of co-operative games and physical health education.

Yes, a year full of variety, helping us to implement our vision for Killusty National School that each child would be developed intellectually, socially, spiritually, physically and morally.

Our sixth class, Aaron Conran, Daniel Hickey, Fiona Crotty, Katie Coen, Patrick Kearney and Stephen Coffey, moved on, in June, to commence their Secondary Education, bringing with them, we hope, an appreciation of our vision for them.

A Happy New Year to you all. ✱



Pupils presenting a cheque for €230, the proceeds of a coffee morning, to Jim Bond, South Tipperary Hospice, on behalf of the people of Killusty.

Civil Defence



L to R: Joe Strappe, Michael Mullins, Eddie Cooney, Ann Carroll, Rory Walsh.

Once again 2004/05 was quite active for Civil Defence in the Fethard/Killusty area. First Aid training was provided in the secondary school and a public First Aid course was held at the Tirry Centre.

First aid and ambulance cover was provided for the annual Killusty Show, GAA matches and for events in Grove during the year. The Killusty Show committee made a presentation to Eddie Cooney, who has retired as Civil Defence Officer, in appreciation for his support to the show for over 20 years.

Rory Walsh took charge of all the welfare arrangements for Annual Camp in Lahinch where over 80 members took part during the June holiday weekend - well done Rory!

Other events local members were involved in were the Tall Ships Race in Waterford, Red Bull Air Stunts event in Cashel and the Stonethrowers Rally held this year in

the Ballingarry area. Ambulance and first aid cover was also provided at the GAA field for two major games.

Training for 2005/06 resumed in October under the direction of Ms Dolores Fahey who has replaced Eddie Cooney as Civil Defence Officer for the county. We wish Dolores well in her new appointment and hope that many new members will join the Fethard Unit during the coming year.

Under the direction of the Civil Defence Board we hope to see some new areas of training - rope rescue, use of defibrillator and fire fighting in the months ahead. Any one interested in becoming involved should contact Civil Defence officer on (087) 2435001

We send out best wishes to all past members who served us so well down the years and we think of those who are no longer with us, may they rest in peace. *

Fethard Historical Society

Every year brings a new story, and 2005 is also delivering its load to posterity and the Fethard Historical Society continued with its mission of remembering the past, heralding the future, but above all, enjoying the present.

The year began with the announcement by the society of its "Tipperariana Book of the Year" which went to 'Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports – Cricket in County Tipperary' by Patrick Bracken. Patrick is a native of Littleton and now works as a librarian in Templemore.

A very special night was held on Saturday 29th January in the Abymill Theatre when two presentations were made. The first presentation, of a framed hunting scene, was to Tony Newport, as the Society wished to acknowledge his huge contribution over many years as the Fethard correspondent of the Nationalist newspaper. Future historians will be using his notes as the authentic record of the goings-on in the Fethard area for the past 45 years. Thanks indeed to Tony.

The second presentation was to the winning author Patrick Bracken



Joe Kenny making a presentation to Tony Newport, on behalf of the Fethard Historical Society, in recognition of Tony's 45 years service as local correspondent for the Nationalist Newspaper. L to R: Joe Kenny, who took over as local correspondent, Tony Newport and Mary Hanrahan, PRO.

and this time it was a framed copy of a photo from the Kenrick collection – ‘The Fethard Cricket Group’, which in fact was used by Patrick on the cover of his excellent book.

Then, on Sunday 13th February, the tenth Tipperarian Book Fair was held in the Fethard Ballroom and once again it was a great success. A sad note on the day was indicated by the oration and a minute’s silence for a great friend of the fair, Rudi Holzapfel. Rudi, who ran the Poor Sinner Bookshop in Tipperary Town, was also a significant poet and he had died only seven days previously on the 6th February.

On the Saturday of the bookfair weekend, i.e. Saturday 12th, we hosted a lecture by Dr. Maureen Concannon on the subject of “Sile na Gigs”, and on 28th February we hosted a lecture by Con Manning (immediate past President of the Royal Society of Antiquities of Ireland) on the subject of, “The Field Monuments of Ireland”.

On Sunday 6th March, an important Australian group came to follow the ‘John Kelly Trail’. Ian Jones (whose book ‘Ned Kelly-A Short Life’, is regarded as the definitive book on Ned Kelly) and Tony Lee, curator of ‘Old Melbourne Jail’ (where Ned Kelly was hanged in 1880) and others, came to see the site of the Kelly homestead in Clonbrogan (Moyglass) and the other ‘Kelly’ sites in Mogorban, Newpark and Ballysheehan.

The AGM of Tuesday 26th April,

saw the following officers elected: Chairperson, Dóirín Saurus; Vice-chairperson, Mary Hanrahan; Secretary, Margaret Newport; Assistant Secretary, Peter Delaney; Treasurer, Catherine O’Flynn; and PRO, Terry Cunningham. Committee members: Kitty Delany, Tim Robinson, Marie O’Donnell, Di Stokes, Ann Gleeson, Ann Lynch and Colm McGrath.

The AGM was also treated to a talk and demonstration by Marie Crean on the traditional crafts of Lumra and Rush Weaving. Marie’s work has now featured in national and international exhibitions.

On a beautiful July evening, Friday 1st July, Colm McGrath guided (and drove the bus as well) a group of us to the Priory of Kells and the Monastery of Kilree in nearby Co. Kilkenny.

Later in July, the Society joined the Flower Festival in old Holy Trinity Church by providing a guided walk from Mary Hanrahan on the 23rd and then organising a Craft Display and Fair on Sunday 24th.

The Society took part in Heritage Week in early September when, as part of the Irish Walled Towns Network (organised by the Heritage Council), we also hung the Network Flag from the Town Wall battlements overlooking the Valley.

In early September also, 18 members of the Society went for a weekend to Inis Oirr in the Aran Islands and, apart from a very “rocky” crossing on the way out, a splendid time

was had by all.

On Friday 23rd September, the Society hosted an unusual event in the Abymill Theatre, where modern dance was performed to music played on a 16th Century instrument (a 'viola da gamba'). The show was aptly titled, 'Movement and Music from the Wild Side'.

On Tuesday 18th October, an illustrated talk by Naturalist Liam Burke took place in the Abymill and, of course, the Christmas Social is being organised for Friday 2nd December.

Our records for the past year would not be complete without reference to the passing away of one of our greatest supporters, Neddy Delahunty of Market Hill. Neddy was

a great man to come to our lectures and especially to go on our bus 'Outins'. But I don't think we ever went to a place that he hadn't been to already! We'll miss him.

The Society can be contacted via The Secretary, Fethard Historical Society, Fethard, (the Post Office will find him/her) or via e-mail at history@fethard.com. Membership is €7 for an individual, €10 for a family and €5 for OAP/Unwaged/Student and our newsletters and notices will be forwarded to you anywhere in the civilised world.

On behalf of the Society we wish Fethard and Killusty people everywhere a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2006. *



Members of Fethard Historical Society leaving by Jaunting Cart on a trip around the Island of Inis Oirr. L to R: Ann Gleeson, Chris Nevin, Kitty Delany, Mary Hanrahan, Chris Lee, Mary O'Neill, Breda Lee and driver.

Footprints & Recollections

by Jimmy McInerney



Fethard Main Street – a hive of activity in the early 1900s

The market forces that heralded the age of steam and commerce had little or no effect on our way of life in rural Ireland up to and including the forties and fifties. The horse and trap or ass and cart and of course that old reliable, the push bike, were the accepted means of getting about.

In these booming times it's easy to forget the scale of emigration that blighted almost every home and family. Most went to England and she siphoned off our surplus labour for decades. This safety valve of emigration prevented social unrest at home, leaving behind the very young and, *"those unable to work, who were mostly held together by means of Elastoplast and Sellotape"*.

In those early years, the Green

Field, the Barrack Field, and the Market House were central to the lighter side of town life. Up on The Green, the travelling showman pitched his tent and had his merry-go-round dancing at the crossroads. We had music from Tom Hickey's Brass Band on festival days, and of course, *"The Four-penny Hop"* helped to lift the spirits and kept the lamp of hope alight.

Stemming from the bleak penury that many had to face, someone made the ridiculous claim that, *"If we could make a living from dancing, the curse of emigration would evaporate overnight"*.

Fethard town, at the time, had all the appearance of having had a bad fright. The selfless work of Rev. Canon Patten and Olivia Hughes,

helped to steady the ship.

*"True patriots we, for be it understood,
We left our country for our country's good."*

School days were the least happy occasions. The rod for correction was used often and for the least provocation. On school breaks we traversed the flowery fields, and spent endless happy hours amongst the ruins of the Military Barracks — for years a hideous gash on the landscape (we burned it). History makes it plain — we never really got over childish delight in arson — we were addicted to this national pastime.

I will always have a special place in my heart for all of 'nature's little children'. I can still recall the names of all the doggies in Fethard in my time. Being nature's offspring and finely tuned to her changing moods, she

blessed them with gifts and sciences alien to our understanding.

*"Courage without ferocity,
beauty without vanity,
strength without insolence,
and all the virtues of man,
without his vices".*

Religion was, to our young minds, something we could have well done without. There were endless devotions, where discipline and observance played an important part.

Later on, my seven years as an altar-boy changed all that and imparted an abiding interest in the Abbey monastery and the Augustinian Friars community.

A long avenue leading to a creeper-covered manor house against a background of mature trees, formed a picture which the eye loved to dwell upon.



Augustinians lived in this house from 1855 until it was demolished in 1952.



Fethard Brass Band and the Abbey Choir on the steps of the old Abbey house.

The old values of discipline and prayerful obedience were commonplace on church calendar days. Of course we had to have a balance, where pride and bigotry, with a helping of class distinction, kept the pot boiling.

The convent foundation, with its commodious residence hidden within an old boundary wall of at least 10 feet high, had within its scope the ruin of the old church, with extensive gardens, stabling and farm yard, encircled by iron railings with gateway entrance. Against the gable wall, burial-ground tablets huddled or at least rested together without any regard to rank or seniority. Among these relics of humanity there are, without doubt, persons of contrary interests and contradicting sentiments. Here, as in tombs everywhere, lie sworn enemies. They drop every embittered thought and dwell

together in unity, irrefutable witnesses to the brevity of life.

*"How loved, how valued once avail thee not,
To whom related or by whom begot.
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'tis all thou art and all the proud shall be"*
— (A. Pope)

How often as altar servers we watched with wondering eyes the adorning of the high altar and observed with childish glee, the activities of sacristan, Miss Nora Corcoran. When dressed in her Sunday regimentals, we caught the aroma of candied mothballs clinging around her finery, looks of stern disapproval usually followed.

Nora and her sister Molly spent the post-famine years in Philadelphia, USA, where the gates of folly were extremely wide and inviting, yet both

returned intact and remained seasoned spinsters without going sour.

Nora was accomplished in all work to do with millinery, embroidery and floral design. Her handiwork is to be seen in the liturgical vestments, altar linen, and coverings still in use. She always dressed the high altar with a plentiful yet chaste variety of ornaments. The sanctuary lamp of embossed silver looked splendid hanging by its chains and pulley, giving a display of ecclesiastical splendour over all.

Miss Brosnan, housekeeper, presided with precision and efficiency over the culinary duties. She was economic to a fault, and under her sage and experienced direction, many a roast went through a cycle of perpetual resurrection.

Her shame was complete when Hanna Shea, who kept the local shebeen, whispered to her in endearing terms, *"If you ever want a little 'Dropeen' Miss, come in by the back-door? You know I'll never see you dry"*.

Suffice to say Miss Brosnan never smiled again.

*"From each carved nook and sliding bend,
cornice and gallery, seem to send tones
that with seraph hymns might blend".*

The swelling peal of the organ, and the chanting of the choristers awoke in my young mind strange and bright imaginings of those things which, *"The eye of man has not seen, nor, his ear heard"*. I thought the gates of

paradise had swung open, and all of us were transported into the realms of bliss.

*"But let not my due feet never fail,
to walk the studious cloister's pale,
And love the high-embowered roof,
and storied windows richly bright,
Casting a dim religious light,
There let the pealing organ blow,
the full voiced quire below,
In service high and anthem clear,
as may with sweetness thro' mine ear
Dissolve me into ecstasies, and bring all
heaven before mine eyes".*

– (Milton)

Fr. O'Donohoe was prior in my time. along with Fr Michael Toomey and Fr Larry Doyle. Mission week attracted saints and sinners alike. The missionary dwelt in glowing terms on the communion between the saints above and the sinners below, making light the theories and philosophies of imperfect humanity. So ardent were they in their aspirations and eloquence, they made the congregation respond with reverence mingled with awe.

Stern judgment was administered in the confessional where egoism was mercifully forgiven. Divine direction is not always from the top down, sometimes it is from the bottom up. This is evident in the many changes that have affected the friars' picturesque seclusion.

The commodious manor house is no more; the park area reduced by at least one acre; gone are the majestic trees — home to a regiment of crows.



Augustinian Abbey Grounds and outhouses c.1900

The farmyard, livestock and garden of fruit trees produced most of the communities repasts. Gone too is the splendid sanctuary lamp; and the old boundary wall — once a worthy appendage to this ancient monastery. The 'High Altar' — the focal point for the celebration of the 'Holy Eucharist' — has been sadly reduced to present an image of cold severity.

Authors who have written with judgment make it known that, before the Anglo Normans came, we had no organised church, merely a number of tribal monastic foundations controlled by stewards appointed by the reigning families. We see the ruins of these ancient piles that are still with us today: Templemartin, Kilnockin, Everardsgrange, Kiltinan, etc,

Munster almost voted itself out of the rest of Ireland and went over church and state to the Normans on

their arrival. It was the only course which seemed to promise the bringing of the entire country within the Roman obedience, and to the great satisfaction of the reigning Pontiff.

St. Augustine founded an order of monks called, afterwards, the "Hermits of St. Augustine", who lived apart from cities or public places; and another branch called "Canons" who formed a kind of religious community in their own house.

Then there were military orders — 'The Knights of the Temple', or Templars were formed or founded under Augustinian at Jerusalem in 1118 between the first and second crusades. They undertook the task of escorting pilgrims from the coast up to Jerusalem to protect them from the infidel, and to wage war against the laity in defence of the Cross.

In addition to these duties the



*Augustinian
Abbey Interior c.1900*

Templars took the usual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They were introduced into England by Steven, 1135-1154. The Temple Church in London bears memory to them.

A monastery of 'Hermites' of St. Augustine was founded at Fethard in the county of Tipperary by Walter Mulcot early in the fourteen century. Maurice MacCarwill, Archbishop of Cashel, under whom the land was immediately held, having given his consent — years 1304-1316.

In W.J. Battersby's history of the Augustine Friars in Ireland, the names of two convents are mentioned in Fethard, the second one by the name of 'Tethard', could be Holy Trinity Church, Main Street.

The order had considerable possessions in landed property before the grasping hand of Henry VIII and the suppression of the monasteries

changed everything.

The Augustinian Friars of Fethard having been thus robbed of their convent and property and thereby deprived of the very means of supporting a community, were reduced to the necessity of living apart from each other.

The ancient church continued in a state of ruin. After centuries of persecution the friars that remained obtained possession of their home. Venerable members of the order in times past are, Rev. James Slattery, 1766-1790, assisted by Rev. Cornelius Funsey, Rev. Fathers John and Thomas Farrell and Patrick Tierney, who all lived and served the people of Fethard during dangerous times.

It is worthy of remark that the present church, which is called the Abbey, is identical to the original founded 700 years ago. In the time of



*Holy Trinity Parish
Church interior c.1900*

Cromwell, it was unroofed and a portion of it destroyed. The building having been thus reduced almost to a state of complete ruin remained in that condition for nearly 170 years. In 1820 the ruin came back into the hands of the rightful owners.

The Rev. Thomas Condon, then prior of the order, obtained possession of the Old Abbey from Mrs Lowe, a widow, whose husband had given her a life interest in the property, with a reversion to his nephew, a Mr William Lathans, who, having got possession after Mrs Lowe's death, sanctioned the demise to Fr. Condon. Nearly one-half of the Abbey was roofed soon after, and was again fitted for divine service. Thus after an interrogation of nearly 300 years the Augustinian Friars were back in business.

In the year 1860, a portion of the Abbey ground that was confiscated

in the time of Henry VIII, was purchased by Rev Henry Allen, by whose zeal pews were installed and extra land secured.

History states that, *"A large and most commodious house stands upon the ground, which also has been included in the purchase. This house is now the conventual residence of the community and is decidedly the most respectable house in the town."*

Long may the Augustinians remain with us as harbingers of a brighter day. ✱

NOTE: Historical facts taken from W.J. Battersby's Order of St. Augustine 1865. Fr. Thomas C. Butler was with us for a time in the nineteen seventies, his altogether charming and fascinating book, "The Friars of Fethard 1305-1975", is a whirlwind of anecdote and things worth reading about, in fact a valuable historical document by a very able historian.

Killusty Soccer Club



Killusty soccer team in the 1980s. Back L to R: Davy Williams, Donal Murphy, Paddy Kenrick, Pat Phelan, Noel Sharpe, Frank Fogarty, Louis Coen. Front L to R: Sean Aylward, Tom Halpin, Philip O'Connell, Eddie Sheehan, Kevin Ryan and Joe Keane.

Even though we have no silverware to show for last season, we would still consider it a fairly successful year for the club. In our 35th year in domestic soccer, we were once more back in the premier division of the Tipperary Southern and District League. Team manager, Chris Coen, assembled one of the youngest panel of players in the history of the club and a third place finish in the league, behind winners Clonmel Town and runners up St. Michael's, was no mean achievement.

The highlight of our season, however, was reaching the final of the Tipperary Cup, where we played St.

Michael's. The game itself put our many supporters through the full range of emotions; we went behind to an early goal but played some excellent soccer to equalise before half time through captain Karl Maher. The scores remained level after ninety minutes, and in extra time both sides had chances to finish the game. Unfortunately, it was with virtually the last kick of the game that St. Michael's scored the all-important winner. This was heartbreaking for our team, who had matched their more illustrious opponents in every sector of the game. We did receive some consolation, as Colm Coen was chosen 'Man of the Match'.

Last season also saw Chris Coen appointed as team manager for the TS&DL Oscar Traynor Cup inter-league team. Also on that panel were Killusty players, Philly Croke, Ronan Maher and Brian Coen.

We must take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us, both vocally and monetarily, especially the local businesses that sponsored advertisement signs for

our pitch.

At our AGM this season, the following officers were elected: President, Bob Maher; Chairman, Tony Shelly; Secretary, Sarah Shelly; Treasurer, Emma Fitzgerald; Team Manager, Chris Coen; PRO, Kevin Ryan. Committee members: Sean Aylward, Louis Coen, Sharon O'Meara, Ronan Maher, Colm Coen, Martin Coen and Shay Coen. *



Killusty Soccer Team 2005. Back L to R: Cathal Hurley, Colm Coen, Aaron Kelly, Aidan Fitzgerald, Ronan Maher, Philip Croke, Brian Coen, Michael Quinlan, Michael Dillon, Chris Coen. Front L to R: Shay Coen holding mascots Ben and Luke Coen, Philip Ryan, Tony Shelly, Jason Nevin, Shane Aylward and Martin Coen.

Easter Monday 1830

excerpt from Tipperary Free Press, 14th April 1930

We are happy to announce that our appeal to the Magistrates of Fethard, in regard to the hundreds of Penny and Two-Penny summonses for Church Rates, served on the poor of that town and neighbourhood, was not in vain; they absented themselves from the Court House on the threatened "day of wrath", and thus proved their

contempt and abhorrence of the inhuman proceeding.

On Monday that fearless patriot Councillor Ronayne passed through this town on his way home from Fethard where he was professionally engaged to defend the people, should the Magistrates enter into the complaints above alluded to. *

Do You Remember 1970?

by Michael O'Donnell

How well does passing time prove the fallibility of our memories? Step back a few years in our life and suddenly we realise that we have forgotten things that we should remember. How many of the Newsletter readers, I wonder, can recall the events of 1970? Hardly any, I suppose, unless that year held special and particular memories for them. Even those readers aged thirty-five to forty will have no clear memory of that year. Though for those of us who have well lost the bloom and vigour of youth, it seems to be no more than a step or two back in time.

Fethard Development Association

In 1970 the Fethard Development

Association was active in the town and at its general quarterly meeting held in the ICA Hall on 10 March it set in train a plan to hold a festival in Fethard that was intended would run from Sunday 28 June to Sunday 5 July. The festival would open with a fancy dress parade (the very old will recall the carnivals of the 1940s and 50's and the crowds that came into Fethard from the surrounding towns by train and bus on that great day). It was planned that the parade would march about the town and on to the GAA field where there would be amusements, sports and Irish dancing. For the duration of the week it was planned to hold all sorts of festive events, ballad sessions in pubs, tug-o-war, ladies football (still a nov-



Fethard Presentation Convent 1st Year Girls Class 1970. Back L to R: Vicki Hurley, Catherine Harrington, Caroline Lonergan, Claire Walsh, Deirdre Smith, Mary White, Joan Slattery, Madge McGrath, Lillian Gorey, Breda Tynan. Front L to R: Sheila O'Flynn, Catherine Keane, Mary Ryan, Vera O'Donovan, Carmel Kenny, Patricia Fogarty, Breda O'Shea, Rosemary Coffey and Helen Cummins.



Patrician Brothers 1st Year Boys Class in 1970. Back L to R: Roger Grant, Jimmy Harrison, John Godfrey, Michael Ryan, Tommy Meehan, Paddy Maher, Seamus Grant. Front L to R: Francis Murphy, Liam Cummins, Gerard 'Bunty' O'Connell, Michael Downes, Eddie McGrath, Pat Aylward and John Cooney.

elty if I remember alright), and a gymkhana. On the Friday evening of that week it was intended that the old and famous Races of Kilnockin would be held. Who remembers the article on the Races which appeared in the Irish Independent in the early 1950s and which was written by Andrew Finn from Dualla, Cashel?

Today no vestige of that course remains and even the stone-built grandstand has been demolished. It was intended that the Sunday of the festival be dedicated to children and to events in which they could actively participate.

But the Association was more than a summer festival. Its members worked actively at making the town attractive to visitors and at Christmas time. It caused an illuminated tree to

be erected on The Square in the Christmas of 1969 and had a Santa Claus to switch on the lights.

Local Committees

The Association was but one of the organisations in the town. Fethard has always been well served by well-run committees and bodies that work strenuously for the good of the town. A friend of mine, a stranger to Fethard, once commented on the number of well-conducted committees that are to be found in the town. My answer to him was that Fethard has had local government organisation since the middle of the sixteenth century and so committee work is bred in the blood of the locals. And in 1970 Fethard had many such com-

mittees, but these were, and are, ongoing and so, for better or worse, I have cast my eye away from them. In no way, by doing so, do I mean to decry their value or the good that they do, rather it is because most of them are still with us and known to all readers of this newsletter.

The Catholic Churches

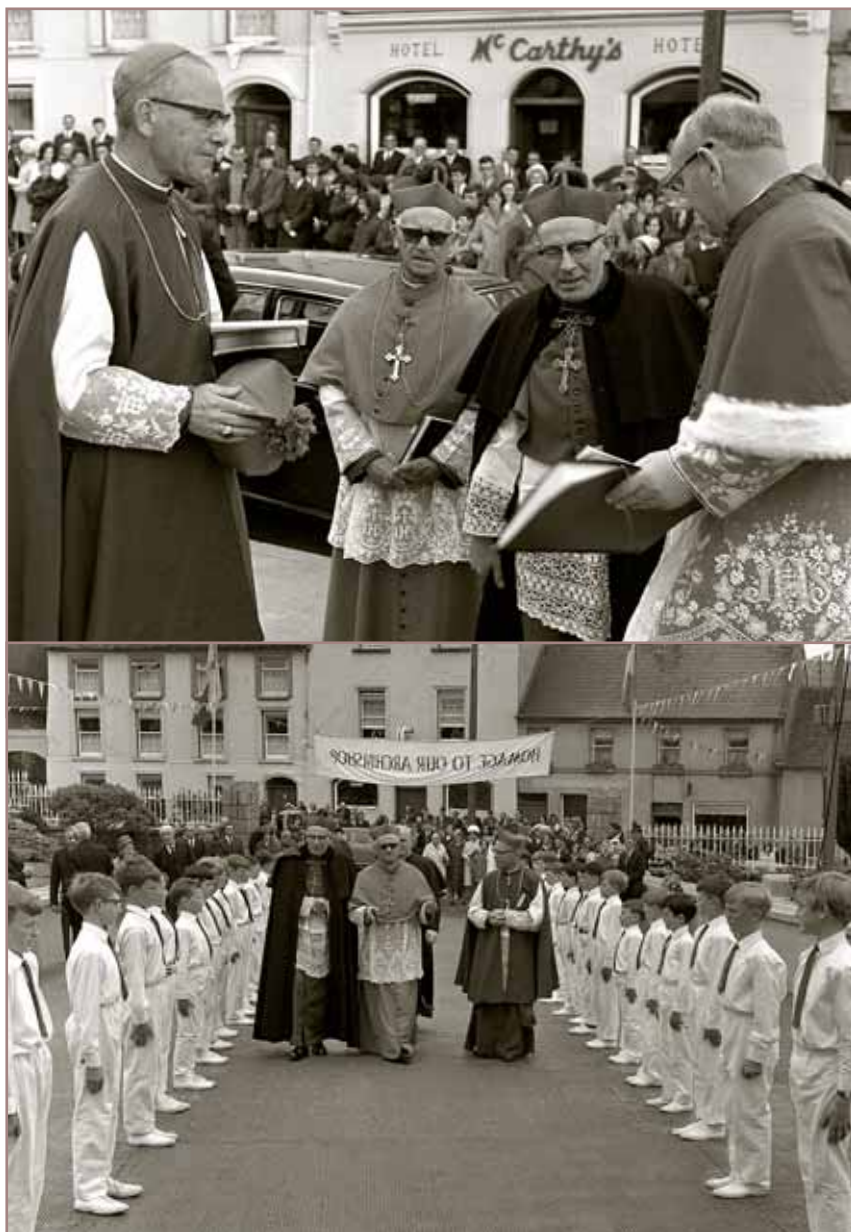
In 1970 an organisation was still very important in the lives of the people which today, sadly, has lost so much of its value that us old people stand back almost in shock. Here I write of the Catholic Church which thirty-five years ago still held first place in the lives of the people and had not yet been buffeted and shaken by materialism and scandals.

At Christmas midnight masses were still being offered and in the report on 1969 the attendance was so large that it was noted in the local news report. The Christmas crib in the Abbey church, always a great attraction locally, was featured on the 8pm and 10pm news bulletins on RTE on Christmas night.

The Catholic Church in Ireland was still a fundamental, active and vibrant body in the nation, a body that was still renewing itself in the early post-Vatican II years. The terrible years of decline and debasement still lay ahead. In *The Nationalist* of 25 July 1970 a lovely photo of the renovated altar in the Augustinian friary was published. The altar, which had been a gift of the Mockler family of Fethard

in 1889, had been re-positioned to comply with the terms of the Vatican II directives. While doing so the friars had arranged to have mirrors placed in Our Lady's side-chapel so that the congregation there could easily follow the celebration at the main altar. The new sanctuary was designed by Messrs. J.C. Thompson and Partners, architects, of Limerick, and the work was carried to completion by Jerry Ryan, monumental sculptor, of Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipp. The mosaic in the sanctuary was purchased from Irish Mosaics Ltd., Roscommon, and the carpeting from John Ryan, The Carpet House, Clonmel. Various other altar furnishings were obtained from William Egan and Sons, Patrick St., Cork. The electrical work and new heating were installed by Frank O'Connell and Son, Burke St., Fethard. At this time the many trees that darkened the church and the surrounds were removed. On the completion of the work of renewal the late Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel, celebrated mass in the Abbey Church on Sunday 30 August assisted by the late Canon Christopher Lee, then parish priest in Fethard, and Fr. Anthony Leddin, Father Prior in the Abbey.

The parish church in Fethard had had its fabric renewed in 1969 and the altar positioned to face the congregation to comply with the recent liturgical decrees. This work, which displayed taste of a high order, was undertaken by the late Canon Lee who also wrote and published a first-



Canon Lee welcoming three Archbishops: Dr Thomas Morris of Cashel, Dr Patrick O'Donnell of Brisbane and Dr. Patrick Dalton of Lagos, Nigeria, for the consecration of the renewed parish church on Friday 31 May 1969



rate booklet (and still a model for others who would follow him) on the church. A booklet that is still a must-have for Fethard people. The consecration of the renewed parish church was held on Friday 31 May 1969 and the Mass of Dedication was attended by three Archbishops: Dr Thomas Morris of Cashel, Dr Patrick O'Donnell of Brisbane and Dr. Patrick Dalton of Lagos, Nigeria.

The parish church bell, which had been silenced for repairs for some months, was again tolling its messages from the end of August 1970. The bell had been cast in Dublin in 1879 by J. Murphy, Iron Founders.

The Slievenamon Cross

In 1970 great numbers of people were making the annual climb to the Holy Year (1950) cross on the slopes of Slievenamon, which was held on 15 August. All participants were expected to assemble at Boolagh Bridge at 2.30pm on the day. Unfortunately, the climb in 1970 was anything but pleasant as heavy rain fell all day. Despite such conditions a large crowd turned out and were led by Father Kennedy, then a curate in Fethard.

The Legion of Mary

As well as producing the annual newsletter, which has proved to be such a treasure to so many Fethard people in so many places about the world, the local Legion of Mary group joined with their brothers and

sisters in Killenaule to hold an emigrant reunion. And thirty-five years later such reunions are still taking place. In 1970 the united group went to London to meet with Fethard and Killenaule people living and working in England. It is worth recalling that even in 1970 it was not so convenient to get home to Ireland and certainly not like today when people can commute by plane on a daily basis. The reunion was held in the Knights of St. Columbus Club, in Holland Park, London, on 22 May and photos of the happy groups appeared in *The Nationalist* of 30 May. Canon Christopher Lee of Fethard and Canon William Hogan of Killenaule (a priest who served as a long-time curate in Fethard) travelled out with the Legion.

Past Pupils Reunion

Fethard has had a long association with the Patrician Brothers as educators. From the late nineteenth century they had provided junior level education to the children from town and country and from the 1940s onwards had educated second level students. The good work of the Brothers has been suitably recorded in a fine booklet written by Mr Jimmy McInerney of Fethard as has the debt owed to the Brothers by the men of Fethard who passed through their hands.

The booklet, published by Fethard Historical Society in 1997, was one of the consequences of a provisional committee meeting, which was held



*First elected committee of Fethard Patrician Brothers' Past Pupils' Union.
Back L to R: Michael O'Sullivan, Hugh Walsh, Michael McCarthy, Tony Hanrahan,
Jack Kenrick, Percy O'Flynn, Joe Hayes, Tommy Carey, Dick Fitzgerald. Front L to R:
Paddy McCormack, Bro Stephen Delaney, Denis Hayes (President), John Whyte
(Treasurer), Timmy O'Connor (Secretary) and Bro Luke Moroney.*

on Friday 20 February 1970 to form a Patrician Brothers' Past Pupils' Union. Those who gathered for that first meeting had in mind that the centenary of the coming of the Brothers to Fethard would fall due in 1973. To further the aims of this early gathering a general meeting was held on 10 April. A committee and officers were nominated at this latter meeting and their photo appeared in *The Nationalist* of 18 April. The first social event of the new union was an inaugural dinner held in Hearn's Hotel, Clonmel, on the night of Friday 29 May. On that occasion, a lovely meal was provided to a large attendance, which was followed by a dance.

The Credit Union

On a Wednesday night in March of 1970 a number of men met together (possibly notified by word-of-mouth) to form in Fethard a branch of the Credit Union of Ireland. A most worthy undertaking and an organisation which has in the past, both in Fethard and nation-wide, benefited people with its cheap loans and easy repayment terms. In 1970, it should be remembered, it was next to impossible for a working man or woman to obtain a loan from a bank and if they were successful the interest rate stood at about 18 per cent. If you had a job the Credit Union gave you a far more sympathetic hearing

and charged you 12 per cent. Today, in an age of cheap and easily obtained money, it is difficult to find the words to describe the great benefits provided by a branch of the Credit Union thirty and more years ago. For those with an interest in history the Credit Union was not the first provider of cheap money in Fethard. In the first three decades of the 1800s a Loan Society had been organised in the town, which gave out money (to those who were in a position to repay) at a rate of 6d. in the £1 a year. In its day it conferred great benefits on the people of Fethard.

By May 1970, then, a branch of the Credit Union had been formed in

Fethard and business commenced in the Town Hall on Saturday 9 May. The opening hours were from 7.30 to 9.00 in the evening, and in the beginning was open only on Saturday nights. By the end of May the branch had 100 members.

Fethard Railway Station

While new institutions were opening into life an old one that had done great good to the town was closing. With the benefit of hindsight we can see what a great loss to both Fethard and Clonmel was the scrapping of the railway line that ran from Clonmel to Thurles through Fethard



Founder members of Fethard Credit Union in 1970 Back L. to R. : Dr. G. Maher, Dick Gorey, Jim Ryan, Front: Bill Mulligan, Fr. Kennedy, Jimmy Connolly and Sean Henahan. The photograph was taken, coincidentally, in the premises now owned by the Credit Union.



Fethard Railway Station House in 1970

and Laffan's Bridge in the early 1960s. Those of us who availed of its services will recall it with affection. In the issue of *The Nationalist* of 1 August the paper's photographer, Donal Wylde, published a witty and excellent series of photos on the railway station that had then become a private house. So sad to see two lines of washing hanging to dry across what were once actively used railway lines; rail lines that were taken up in 1970. What, I wonder, was the fate of the name-boards ("Fethard" in large letters) that stood on each side of the railway station?

By the beginning of September 1970 the iron rails had been taken up from Thurles to as far south as Knockinglass. And the real end of the Fethard Railway

came when an advertisement appeared in *The Nationalist* of 17 October noting that 1,100 used wooden railway sleepers would be sold at Fethard railway goods yard on Tuesday 27 October. All that now remains are some well-constructed houses and sheds and a well-built embankment heading north.

A Flying Club

Old age transport was disappearing, but new age transport did touch Fethard. In September/October 1970 a grass airstrip to handle light aircraft was being developed at Coolbawn Cross on the lands of Mr Michael Smyth. By the end of the latter month the strip was safely handling light air-

craft and some helicopters were using the facility. At the same time flying instructions in a Beagle-Terrier 3-seater light aircraft were being offered over the months ahead on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The Street Singer

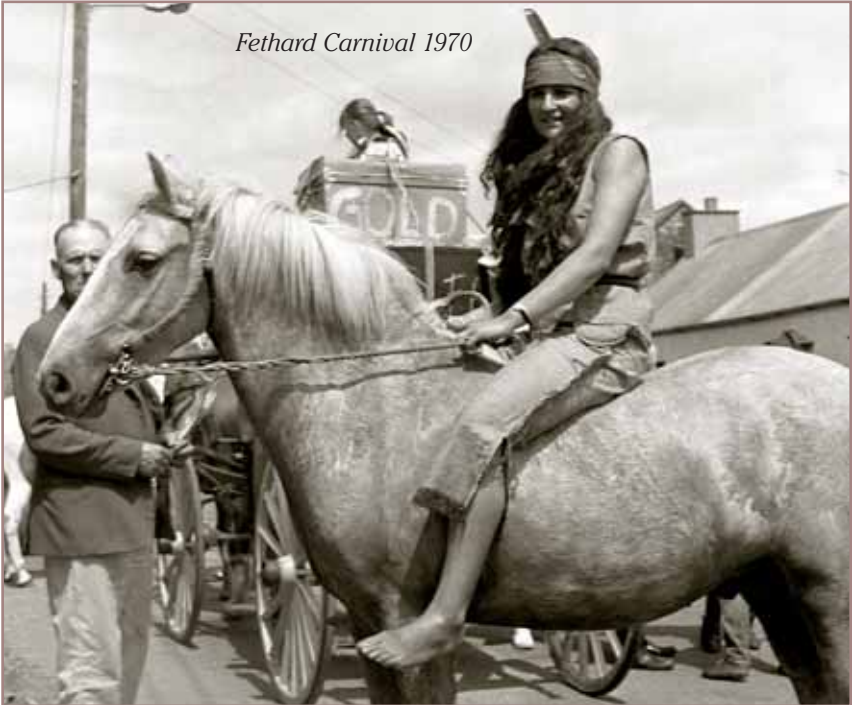
The rambling singer who sang his songs about the streets of a town and then sold his ballad sheets was a commonplace in the Ireland of long ago. But when one appeared in Fethard on a Sunday in September his efforts caused many to gaze in wonder and others to walk by him indifferently. Michael McGrath had walked over from Cashel where he had sung about the streets; and when he was finished in Fethard he wandered on to God knows where. Nowadays a street singer can hardly be heard above the roar of motor traffic on any street in the country; sadly, our town centres have been invaded by motor-cars and there is no longer any place for older and gentler things. A Frank Harte cannot compete with the noise and fumes of a diesel engine. Nearby Kilkenny is the only place, and then only in its medieval alleyways, where a singer or 'busker' can perform or be heard.

Fethard Youth Club

But the people of Fethard did provide entertainment in other ways and especially for the young people of the town. A club to provide activities

for the young was very active in Fethard in 1970. Despite the Asian 'flu then raging in the town and a bout of severe frost, the club got down to business from the opening days of January. The club-house was reopened and the officers were busy mapping a cross-country running course at Redcity by clearing dykes and ditches of weeds and briars. A cross-country event was planned for Sunday 11 January. Before that the club had fielded a team which participated in athletics at Solohead in west Tipperary. And in February the club was planning a dance, which would help to raise funds and also provide entertainment. I'm not certain if they held this dance, but they certainly had a very successful one, which was held, in the Capitol Ballroom in May.

So, as the year began, the club was already on its feet and running. On Sunday 15 February the local team travelled to Kilgarvin in Co. Kerry to compete in a Munster under-sixteen championship game, but were, unfortunately, beaten into third place. And on 1 March Fethard itself was the venue for the athletic county championships. The local team for that day consisted of Michael Kenrick, Thomas McCarthy, Eddie Nevin, Tony Hanrahan, Davy Morrissey and Noel Sharpe. On that day a young Killusty man, Mick Prout, ended the event by winning fourteen of the forty prizes on offer, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Bill Prout, who was in his day a noted athlete



and cross-country runner. The club 'lined out' at Dundrum on 2 March, which was the final venue of the winter season.

And, as it had done over so many decades, the local GAA club supported and actively encouraged young players and potential players and provided a venue where even casual players of football and hurling could exercise.

Other Sports

Today when we think on horses in Fethard the two names that instantly spring to mind are John Magnier and Coolmore and the vast landholding here and abroad that both can lay claim to. But in 1970 Coolmore was a very different place. A stud farm and training centre for horses did exist there. The house and lands had been purchased in the 1950s by Major Ashmead Vigers. When he retired, the Major, who died in November 1969 aged 86 years, passed the concern to his son Tim who continued the horse business and enjoyed a modicum of success. But Tim Vigers never had the high profile of the present owner.

Another horse business that had long associations with Fethard was the Tipperary Foxhounds which, in 1970, was still active and virile under its then master, Captain Evan Williams. In the winter season of 1969/70 it hunted in such places as Kedrah near Cahir, Ballinahinch near Cashel, Ardfinnan, Ballingarry,

Ballynonty, Tullamaine, Lismolin, Fethard, and Drombane – a broad sweep of south and central Tipperary. And keeping with an old tradition its opening meet was held in Fethard, the event commemorated in a fine photo showing Micky Flanagan and Captain Williams and a collection of dogs moving under the arch at Sparagoleith.

The more widely-based sport of hunting on foot with dogs was also popular in Fethard in 1970. On about two Sundays in each month the Barretstown Harriers held a chase at such places as Redcity, Coolmoynes, Kilnockin, Silverfort, and Killerk. Hunting on foot (only for the young and fit) is part of our heritage and still has a place in the lives of many.

Health and Social Services

But healthy activity and outdoor pursuits could not always keep sickness at bay. Throughout the winter of 1969/70 the people of Fethard suffered greatly from an outbreak of Asian 'flu. It was so prevalent, we are told, that the local medical officers could hardly cope with the demands of sick people, and the opening of the local schools after the Christmas holiday was put back to 19 January. Something, no doubt, that was greatly appreciated by any kids who were free of the virus.

Fethard in that year of 1970 had a number of voluntary social services. Two of them were the St. Brigid's clothing society and the Meals-on-

Wheels service (a service that delivers a hot midday meal to men or women living alone). Early in the year the latter held a sale and collection, which brought in \$250 (a good sum in those days), which allowed this excellent service to continue its work for a further period. The Clonmel Lions Club also weighed in with help. Local man, Mr Louis Ronan, who was a vice-president of the Lions, presented part of the money that had been collected at a Lions Club race night held in the Hotel Minella, Clonmel. And the same Lions Club planned a big charity walk on 3 May to further help the Meals-on-Wheels. What was planned, and it did take place, was a walk that would begin at The Square at 2pm and from there the walkers would travel by Grove, Killusty and Cloneen, to finish back at The Square.

Deaths

The one constant in the lives of people, be they living in Fethard or in any place about the world, is death. As in every other year, 1970 had its share of people whose time had come. A full list of all those who died in that year can be read in the Fethard Newsletter of 1970, which was published by the local branch of the Legion of Mary. Those whose names I have recorded below are but a small part of that list and I have chosen them above others only because in a small way my path crossed with theirs or I knew them in a distant way.

Shortly before the New Year

opened two men died who deserved not to be forgotten in their native Killusty and Fethard. Bill Prout of Killusty died on Saturday 11 October 1969 at the residence of his daughter in Dublin. Bill in his younger days was an outstanding cross-country runner at distances of one mile to ten miles. He was truly described as an 'iron man'. Very often Bill cycled to a sporting event (even one thirty or more miles distant), participated, won several events, and then cycled home that evening. This would have been on a Sunday. And on Monday morning he would turn out for work to deliver his postal route on a bicycle. In his time the working week for postmen was six days. Even up to the mid 1950s Bill regularly cycled to Dublin on a Sunday to visit his daughter and cycled home on the same day. He is buried in Killusty cemetery at the foot of beautiful Slievenamon.

Another who died as 1969 came to a close was Tommy Hogan of Main St., Fethard. He passed away on Tuesday 7 October 1969. Tommy was a prominent and talented member of the GAA both in Fethard and at county level. It should not be forgotten that he was one of the players on the re-constituted 1921 Bloody Sunday Tipperary football team that replayed its game against Dublin. Later in life Fethard football became Tommy's full life. His working life was spent as an assistant in John Scully's store on the Main St., and his sister was married to Mr Scully. He was buried in



Jack O'Shea's bar and electrical shop in the late 1960s



Staff at Jack O'Shea's L to R: Paddy Tynan, Joe Fenton, Jack O'Shea and Willie Stapleton.

Calvary cemetery on the Kilnockin Road; and he was honoured at the following meeting of the GAA County Board.

In that year of 1970 a Fethard woman had the rare honour of having her funeral Mass celebrated in the Augustinian Abbey church. This was Mary Halley from the Kilnockin Road who had been housekeeper to the Augustinian priests for so long that she was considered to be one of their own. She collapsed suddenly on Easter Sunday morning while working in the Abbey kitchen and died that same night. She was a quiet, unassuming and gentle woman who devoted herself selflessly to the welfare of the friars; in her dying they felt as if they had lost a mother.

Another with long associations with the Abbey was Margaret Kenrick of Burke St., who died on 11 May in her 94th year. She was accorded the honour of being buried in the Abbey cemetery because she had served as organist to the Abbey Church for nigh on half a century. Among her children was Jack who will be remembered by most of the older readers of this newsletter since it is most likely that he cut their hair. At one time he was the only barber in Fethard. Another of her sons was Father Ted Kenrick, OSA, who was parish priest at Gordondale (about 15 miles south of Cairns) in north-east Queensland, Australia. Father Ted died at the young age of twenty-nine. Incidentally, Mrs Kenrick's grandson is the present editor of this

newsletter.

Gus McCarthy of Main St. died on Saturday 2 May. He played football for Fethard and for his county and was counted one of the great players of his day. He was, it is worthy of note, one of the Tipperary team that 'togged' out to play on that well remembered Bloody Sunday 1921 in Croke Park. He was also an amateur jockey and rode a number of winners in his day, as did his brother Dick of Burke St.

Another well-known figure that died in 1970 was Jim Stapleton of Burke St. Jim, a man of many parts and all of them for the benefit of Fethard, died unexpectedly on 11 August. In his younger days Jim had been elected to represent the town on the long-gone Fethard Town Commissioners, and he also fought in the Irish War of Independence. He was an active member of the Fethard Dramatic Society. From at least the early 1940s onwards he served as secretary to the local Old Age Pensions committee (an organisation that is also long gone). Jim lies buried in Calvary cemetery.

In the long ago every farmer who took milk to the creamery in Fethard knew him. He was Tim Tierney who died on Saturday 3 October. Tim was described as one of Fethard's leading personalities and indeed he was. In his forty-year working life he served as manager of the Coolmoynes and Fethard Co-operative Creamery in its branches at Cloran, Killerk, Coolmoynes and finally Fethard. But



Jane Ponsonby on 'Butterbox' at the Killusty Pony Show 1970.

Tim was more than that. In his day he was one of the leading civic and social workers in the town and served as an officer on such organisations as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Fethard GAA Club, Fethard Pioneer Association, the Fethard Carnival Committee, and he was what today would be called a Friend of the Abbey. Indeed, he was always available, in season and out of season, to help any club or society that would benefit the people of Fethard. He even found time to be a rent and water-rate collector for South Tipperary County Council. A man of boundless energy and yet always courteous and with a wonderful

sense of humour. In his young days Tim had served as a lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion of the Cashel Company of the 3rd Tipperary Brigade in the War of Independence. And he served terms as a prisoner for his republican views in Limerick, The Curragh, and Spike Island in Cork harbour. It was but fitting that his coffin was draped with the Irish tricolour and that a firing-party from the military barracks in Clonmel attended at his graveside.

As the year 1970 drew to its close a long-time resident of Fethard died. Doctor Patrick J. Stokes, the medical officer for Fethard and coroner for south Tipperary, passed away at his

residence at Main St. on Thursday 26 October. Dr. Stokes had given his working life in Fethard where he was seen as a native, though he was born near Clonmel. He was educated at Rockwell and Blackrock Colleges and later at the National University in Dublin. His early medical training was spent in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin. He qualified in medicine in 1917 and practiced for some years in various Dublin hospitals. In the early 1920s he came to Fethard where he set up a practice and where he was to dedicate the remainder of his life to the well-being of the people of Fethard. For two or three generations he was the doctor: year after year he healed our wounds, he cured our diseases, and put us once again on our feet. His peers, writing at the time of his death, recalled his extensive practice, the trust his patients placed in him, his technical skills, and the excellence of his judgement. The same peers recalled the coolness of his courage and the lack of panic in critical medical situations.

But Dr. Stokes had another life outside of medicine. In his younger days he was a noted athlete especially in rugby in which game he was capped for Ireland on twelve occasions between 1913 and 1922. He was also a successful farmer and served as vice-president of the Clonmel Horse Show.

But throughout his life his primary and abiding interest was his profession. And it was here that his abilities shone out. Abilities that he offered in equal measure to rich and poor alike.

He was buried in the cemetery that lies about the parish church; and his wife died a few months after him.

A Fethard-born man was buried on St. Stephen's Day in the Augustinian cemetery in Cork city. This was Father John Bernard O'Flynn, OSA, a member of the Augustinian community in Washington St., Cork. He was son of Paddy O'Flynn, Burke St., where the latter had a tailoring business. Father John received his early education from the Patrician Brothers in Fethard and the Augustinian College in Dungarvan. He joined the Augustinian Order in 1928 aged 16 years. He then went on to further education at University College, Dublin, and the Gregorian University in Rome.

He was ordained a priest in 1935, following which he returned to Ireland where he served with the communities at Dublin, Limerick and Cork for some years. He then moved back to Rome where, for five years, he was Rector of the Augustinian College in that city. And he remained on in Rome until 1960. The author of these notes recalls having him pointed out as he passed in a small Fiat car along the streets of Rome. Rome seems to have been his city and it often called him back, but death came to him in Cork after a short illness and at the age of fifty-nine years.

The above, then, were some of the people who died in 1970. Like all of us they are worthy of being remembered; and were people, as I noted above, that I would have known in one small way or another. *

Fethard ICA Guild

Fethard ICA guild is still going well. We have 32 members this year and meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8 pm in our own ICA hall on Rocklow Road.

We have speakers at all meetings and these speakers make the night interesting and informative. We rent our hall to local groups such as IFA, Glanbia, Speech and Drama class and yoga class. This generates a little income to help us with the running costs of the hall.

This year again we held our Christmas Party on 10th December in our hall. We had a hot four-course meal. Catering was by Sophie O'Connor and her staff.

On 13th April we took part in an Arts, Crafts and Produce day run by South

Tipperary Federation. Many of our members participated and we had great results as we won two perpetual cups. We got the overall guild award so there is much talent in this guild.

Our summer outing was on 16th June. We left Fethard at 9.30 am and headed on to the National Stud where we first had morning coffee and then a guided tour of the beautiful farm, the Japanese gardens and St. Fiachrai garden. We headed on to the Butterfly Farm in Straffan, Co. Kildare and we also got a trip through the famous K Club in Straffan. We had our evening meal in The Montague Hotel, Portlaoise. Once again we had another enjoyable day out.

We then had our summer recess and



This group was photographed in the 1950's in Holohan's Pub in Burke Street. L to R: Paddy Ryan, Kerry Street; Dan & Mae Mullins, Knockbrack; Denis and Nora O'Meara, Knockbrack.

started back again in September with a talk by Bridie Withero from Tipperary, on the "Power of Flowers in your Home". The officers who were elected last year are still in place and they are: President: Nuala Delaney, Vice President: Sheila O'Donnell, Secretary:

Anne Gleeson, and Treasurer: Anne Horan.

New members are always very welcome to join our Guild.

We wish all who read this article a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead. *

Houselessness or homelessness

by Alice Leahy

Alice Leahy, Annsgift, Fethard, is Director of TRUST, which she co-founded in 1975, and which is a non-judgmental, befriending, social and health service for people who are homeless. Alice was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from UCD and was also named Tipperary Person of the Year for 2004. She also lectures widely to specialist groups and has directly contributed to public policy as a member of various policy bodies. Alice gives us a glimpse of her wonderful work in the following article.

We are reminded daily in our work in Trust how much we all take for granted, not least the sense of home and place. Trust will be 30 years in existence this year and I still meet people I met over 30 years ago, then, as now, labelled homeless.

The philosophy of Trust is based on two central principles. The recognition of every individual's right to be treated as an autonomous and unique human being, and the need to restore the dignity of individuals whom society has labelled deviant and undesirable.

Up to 60 men and women call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (aged 18 to 85). We

have met people from all over Ireland and beyond. We see new people daily and often have people calling who were housed – settled – and become homeless again. Re-settle-

ment is now seen as the solution to homelessness. A word much used but rarely defined.

We meet people whose bodies are ravaged by disease and violence, who may have pressure sores from sleeping out in all weathers, because they may have been sleeping in urine soaked clothes for weeks. They can

have infected and untreated minor skin conditions and major skin problems, e.g. leg ulcers. They may suffer from medical conditions common to the general public



Alice Leahy

but exacerbated by their living conditions such as lice infected heads, scabies and malnutrition.

We regularly come into contact with men and women who have been abused mentally and physically, some may even be working in prostitution. We see people who have been institutionalised in psychiatric hospitals and prisons many for years, who are now relocated from one institution to another (hostels) in the name of progress with insufficient support services to meet their needs. Some of these people have even found themselves to be inappropriately labelled “mentally ill”.

These people, our friends, often struggle with guilt because they have left loved ones behind. Partners who have suffered for so long, children who are in care, parents who have

died with whom they were unable to say goodbye. Drugs often dull the pain of living. Alcohol, gambling, illegal drugs, and prescribed drugs all play a part. Many people we meet have attempted suicide and some, sadly, succeeded. Some people we meet, in spite of unthinkable pain and misery, never complain, never ask for anything, accept their lot and leave us feeling challenged and inspired.

We live in a market-driven society that sees only the loud and impressive actions. The little things done are usually seen as being irrelevant. Services are also driven by market forces. In Trust every morning we meet men and women, who come simply for a wash or change of clothes to make them feel that they are part of society and have a sense



Photographed at the presentation of prizes at the Trust Classic on 17th September 2005 at Slievenamon Golf Club, L to R: Anne Moloney, Frank Purcell, Dr. Carmel Condon, Alice Leahy, Tony McGarry and Mattie Tynan.



Over 30's Killusty soccer team who beat an under-30 selection 5-4 in a charity game played on 30th January 2005 in aid of TRUST. Back L to R: Kevin Ryan, Michael Quinlan, Brendan Brett, Gerry Murphy, Johnny McEvoy, Willie O'Meara, Chris Coen, Shay Coen, David Lawton. Front L to R: Martin Coen, Jimmy O'Meara, Tony Shelly, Tom Halpin, Willie Morrissey and Eugene Walsh.

of worth. The inter-action can have a far more impressive outcome than many realise and proves that success cannot be measured in the language of consumerism.

Washing facilities are available and each month we give clothes to approximately 500 people who are homeless (members of the public including Rotary, church groups, members of the business community and others, donate the clothes and shoes). We refer people to the relevant health services and help them to avail of them and encourage services to look beyond the label of homelessness.

We attempt as best we can to meet people as they are, listen and do what we can as fellow human beings

– it's not easy. Sometimes the people we meet are listened to only when they are being researched - that is why we have grave reservations about the quality and quantity of research currently taking place. At times it appears to us in Trust that people must trade personal information to get a service.

Since Trust was founded our country has changed dramatically, our currency changed twice, our way of life has changed, our expectations have changed, but the human condition remains the same – we all need to be wanted, loved and belong to something.

People wonder why there is still a problem with homelessness when vast sums of money have been spent on

research, accommodation, consultants and expert groups, many based on models of “best practice” from abroad – this being one of the buzz words in the litany of jargon that helps to distance us from human beings not only in the field of homelessness.

We fail to accept the difference between houselessness and homelessness – accepting this difference would go a long way towards creating some understanding of the complexities of the human condition and how easy it is to become an outsider.

John, in his late 70s, from the West of Ireland, lived in hostels and slept rough when I first met him years ago. He worked hard in England for years, his social life evolved around his church, his local pub and the people he met at work and in his digs. He never married; he returned to Ireland, a changed place from his youth. He had returned from time to time for family funerals if he could be contacted.

This summer he called in one morning having slept rough again. I hadn’t seen him for years; he was delighted to see a familiar face. He told me he was living in the west looking after a few horses on “commonage” – “You’d understand”, he said, “you’re from the country.” “What in God’s name are you doing up here?” I said. “The city has changed, it’s noisy, it’s violent, it’s not as it was when you slept rough before.” His eyes filled up – “But why am I not happy there?” He told me he had backed a horse, won a lot of

money, got drunk, got the train, could not get a bed in a hostel, slept under a bush in Phoenix Park and a night in a doorway. A garda student who had been on placement with us met him – they talked about football and hurling. Next morning he called to Trust. A bath, change of clothes, a phone call to a relative and he left for the west.

To try and create a greater understanding of how easy it is to become an outsider we have undertaken a number of projects all aimed at effecting change through awareness and all based on our experience. These include:

- * *A one day Training Day on “The Homeless Experience”:*
- * *A video documentary “A Fragile City” made by Esperanza Productions on Trust which was shown on RTE and distributed to all schools as part of our educational projects.*
- * *National Essay Competition for Transition Year Students 2001.*
- * *National Art Competition for all second level students on theme of “The Outsider” 2002.*

“With Trust in Place”, published at the end of 2003 by Townhouse, now available from Trust (€10 including postage), had 40 contributors including Judge Michael Moriarty, Christy Moore and Tony Gill, a man who was homeless, who died last year, and who is buried in the Trust plot in

Glasnevin. Mervyn Colville, a neighbour in Annsgift, was instrumental in Trust getting a plot from the committee in Glasnevin Cemetery.

We have a further project on stream for November this year.

Please check our website www.trust-ireland.ie which is updated regularly.

We greatly acknowledge the special support from so many from my home place in Fethard, especially

from all involved in the Golf Classic, now in its third year and organised by Frank Purcell and Vincent Murphy in Slievenamon Golf Club. We greatly appreciate the coverage we get from our local papers – The Nationalist, South Tipp Today and even those in the north riding – Tipperary Star and Nenagh Guardian and local radio, Tipp FM. Even though based in Dublin, Trust is firmly rooted in Tipperary. *

Fethard & Killusty Community Games

Community Games, now in its 33rd year in the Fethard and Killusty area, enjoyed a successful 2005. Even though we strongly emphasise the importance of participation, the goal of every young person is to make the magical trip to the National Finals in Mosney, and since I became involved in 1985, the area has been represented at the National Finals every year. This is a great achievement for a small area.

This year was no exception. Twenty competitors, representing their county and province, along with three managers, left for Mosney on 19th August and returned with three gold, two silver individual medals, and bronze medals for the girls' under-16 volleyball team.

Judo competitors, Natalie Cahill, Woodvale Walk, Padraig O'Shea, The Valley and Cathal Gorey, Moanbeg, won gold medals. Emma Walsh, Main Street, and Samantha Feery, Claremore, Killusty, won silver

medals.

Alice Feery was the judo team manager. The competitors in this sport are a model of consistency and have never returned empty handed.

A very young girls' volleyball team consisting of: Carrie Sweeney (captain), Lisa Anglim, Sinead Coffey, Ida Carroll, Mary Anne Keane, Debbie Lawrence, Gráinne Horan, Chloe Gough, Sarah Conway, Niamh Fanning, Lesley Looby and Sarah Hayes, won bronze medals against Monaghan and were defeated by the volleyball specialists from Graiguecullen, Co Carlow. However, most of the team are young enough to have another go next year. Team managers were Denis Burke, Redcity, and Fintan Rice, Brookhill. Other competitors at Mosney were: Áine Proudfoot, Strylea, Louis and Laura Rice, Brookhill, all in the highly competitive art event. Bernard Feery and Helena O'Shea acted as National Officials.



Photographed at the County Art & Model Making Finals held in Fethard Ballroom on 2nd April 2005 are L to R: Katie O'Shea (Fethard), Faye Manton (Fethard), Jane Holohan (Fethard) and Áine Proudfoot (Fethard).

Some nostalgic memories come to mind: Carrie Sweeney's mother, Pamela, her aunt Marguerite Lawlor, and Sarah Conway's sisters, Mandy and Jackie, all competed on the volleyball team in 1986. Áine Proudfoot's granny, Concepta Hurley, was area treasurer at that time. Paul Fitzgerald, Sladagh, now goalkeeper with the Tipperary senior football team and recipient of 'Man of the Match Award' in Tipperary's recent victory over Wexford in the final of the Tommy Murphy Cup, also won a gold medal in the 'Long Puck' in 1989.

The Community Games County Board are currently compiling thirty-five years of history of the games in Tipperary and the names of Pat and Richard Fallon and Pat McDonnell, all from Main Street, came up in results from the early seventies. Tommy Butler, Coolanure, was heavily involved at that time. Fethard has been well and truly on the map from day one.

Back to the present – the boys' under-15 volleyball team consisting of James Kelly, Joseph Sheehan, Kevin Hayes, Eoin O'Connell, Thomas O'Connell, Ciaran Ryan, Jonathan Fleming, Michael Costello and Adrian Lawrence were County Champions and were narrowly defeated in the regional Munster finals.

Competitors who qualified for the County Athletics finals held in Thurles Greyhound Stadium were: Jack Gleeson, Coolmore; Alex O'Donovan, Moanbeg; Aine Proudfoot, Dean Dorney, Slievenamon Close; Conor Mackey, Barrack Street; Kyle Walsh, Monroe; James Harrington, Tinakelly; Kate Quigley, Redcity; Hannah Tobin, St. Patricks Place; David Heffernan, Ballyvaden; Rachel Prout, Derryluskin; Gerard Gorey, Moanbeg; Áine Phelan, Coolmore; Radika Jannacikova, Coolmore;



Fethard under-16 girls' volleyball team who represented Tipperary at the Community Games Munster Finals in Cork on July 9th. Back L to R: Sarah Hayes, Debbie Lawrence, Sineád Coffey, Maryanne Keane, Lisa Anglim, Niamh Fanning. Front L to R: Ida Carroll, Leslie Looby, Carrie Sweeney, Sarah Conway, Chloé Gough and Gráinne Horan.

Louis Rice, Brookhill; Jenny Pyke, Woodvale Walk; Nicole Looby, St. Patrick's Place; Evie O'Sullivan, Main Street; Mary Jane Kearney, The Green; Louise O'Donnell, Slanestown; Owen Healy, The Green; Laura Rice, Brookhill; Laura Mullins Farranshea; Michael and Bernadette Costello, Woodvale Walk.

Well done to Bernadette who won a silver medal in the under/16, 1500m event.

In the local art competition the following children all qualified for the county final which was held in Fethard Ballroom:

Under/8: Áine Proudfoot, Alex O'Donovan, Moanbeg; Cassandra Needham, Woodvale Walk; Eoin O'Donovan, The Valley.

Under/10: Jennifer Rice, Brookhill; Donal Walsh, Killenaule Road; Aobh O'Shea, The Valley; Charlie Manton, Main Street.

Under/12: Faye Manton, Main Street; Louis Rice, Jane Holohan, Rocklow; Michael Smyth, Burke Street.

Under/14: Laura Rice, Joseph Thompson, Mockler's Terrace; Katie O'Shea, Woodvale Walk.

Model Making Under/10 Girls: Amy Sweeney, The Valley. Under/14 Boys: Gerry Horan, Tullamaine; Mark Fogarty, Garrinch; with Áine, Louis and Laura all qualifying for the National Finals. Katie O'Shea won a silver medal and Gerry Horan a bronze medal both at the County Finals.

We had only two competitors in the County Swimming Championships held in Nenagh: Kevin Hayes, Redcity, who won a bronze medal and Aobh O'Shea, The Valley, who finished 4th.

In the team events, the under/11 rugby boys were defeated by Nenagh in the County Final held in Fethard Community Sportsfield, Killenaule Road. Silver medallists were: Colin Grant, Gavin Delaney, Kyle Walsh, Donal Walsh, Dylan Fitzgerald, Philip Maher, William Morgan, Jack Devaney, Matthew Holohan, Russell Casey, Kieran Walsh. Team manager was Sean Devaney and referee was Pat Walsh, Clerihan.

Other teams entered this year were: Under/10 Mixed Football, Under/12 Girls' Football, Under/13 and Under/15 Boys' Indoor Soccer and Tag Rugby. Current committee members are: Joe Keane, Bernard Feery, Peggy Colville, Helena O'Shea, Sean Devaney, Fintan Rice, Denis Burke, Michael O'Dwyer. "Well Done" to all who participated, congratulations to all our medal winners, and thanks to everybody who helped in any way. Indeed there are many who continually support us,

We wish everybody a Holy and Happy Christmas and look forward to an exciting 2006. *



Fethard Under-11 mixed rugby team who were runners-up in the Community Games County Final at Fethard Sportsfield. Back L to R: Kieran Walsh, William Morgan, Russell Casey, Charlie Manton, Matthew Holohan, Donal Walsh. Front L to R: Jack Devaney, Philip Maher, Dylan Fitzgerald, Colin Grant, Gavin Delaney and Kyle Walsh.

Fethard Community Sportsfield



Helping on the ticket stall at the Benefit Dog Night on 5th March 2005 are committee members L to R: Sean Devaney and Fintan Rice.

Fethard Community Sportsfield — a six-acre field leased from Mr and Mrs Magnier Coolmore Stud — situated on the Killenaule road is now in great demand and used by the following: Fethard Athletic Club, Fethard and District Rugby Club, Fethard Juvenile GAA, Ladies Football Club, Badgers Soccer Club — a club geared at non-competitive soccer for the 30 plus age group — founded by Colm McGrath, Philip Furnell and Liam Harrington. Membership is steadily growing and matches are played every Wednesday night. Fethard & Killusty Community Games and various other individuals use the field for

personal training.

Development during the year included floodlighting of pitch, purchasing toilet units and extending the car park. Two 40x8 foot containers are still being used as dressing rooms but hopefully proper facilities will be erected in the future.

Fethard and District Rugby Club host several matches at weekends in addition to training on Tuesday and Friday nights. There was an exciting evening in the field last spring when the Munster Rugby Team paid a visit and signed autographs for their many fans. Finance for facilities and maintenance of such a project is always a problem. We secured a cap-

ital grant of €30,000 from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, and a €15,000 amenities grant from South Tipperary County Council. We also held a 'Benefit Dog Race Night' at Thurles Greyhound Stadium in March, which generated a further €30,000.

We really appreciated the local community support for this venture and also from the many other outside businesses and individuals. Richard O'Connor, Cashel, donated a greyhound bitch for auction at the benefit night, which was purchased by a local syndicate and is now in training with David Flanagan in Coolmoyne. Thanks to Eugene Cooney for publicity in Greyhound Press. Other items auctioned were framed pictures of a signed Irish

Rugby Jersey, purchased by McCarthy's Hotel, a Munster Rugby Jersey purchased by Clem Murphy, Kilnockin, and a Rowing Jersey signed by Steve Redgrave, purchased by Paul Nugent, Clonmel. An additional feature of the benefit night was the Buster Draw for €600 which was won by the Morgan brothers, Joseph, William, David, and Thomas, sons of Tommy and Mary, Grangebeg, Fethard.

The present committee are: Rev Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Susanna Manton, Gus Fitzgerald, Valerie Colville, Fintan Rice, Sean Devaney, Jerome Casey, Clem Murphy and Peggy Colville. A finance committee was also elected during the year and comprises of: Bernard Feery, Michael O'Dwyer, Audrey Conway, Colm



Photographed at the 'Race Night' held at Thurles Greyhound Track are L to R: Thomas Neville, Colin O'Riordan, Michael O'Riordan and Johnny Neville.



Photographed at the 'Race Night' held at Thurles Greyhound Track are Back L to R: Christy Grassick, Yvonne Blackmore, Jerome Casey. Front L to R: Andrea Grassick, Heather Casey, Christian Casey and Russell Casey.



Photographed at the 'Race Night' held at Thurles Greyhound Track are L to R: Greta O'Dwyer, Matt O'Dwyer and Marie Smyth.



Photographed at the Fethard Community Sportsfield 'Race Night' held at Thurles Greyhound Track are L to R: Noelle O'Dwyer, Liam Harrington, Theresa Harrington, Colm McGrath and Bridget Hayes.

McGrath, Philip Furnell, Aidan Maher, Mary Trehy and Cora Stapleton. This committee did great work, and special thanks to Philip Furnell who compiled the race card. Thanks also to Primus Advertising, to Marie McGrath, Rocklow Road, to Fr. Tom Breen and Susanna Manton for

supplying a 'home' for meetings.

The committee wish to express sincere sympathy to Michael O'Dwyer, Clonacody, on the recent death of his wife, Noelle, and to all who suffered bereavements during the year. Wishing everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2006. *

Arts award for Austy in the Abymill

A number of people associated with the Abymill Theatre and the Fethard Players attended a surprise presentation to Austin O'Flynn in the above-mentioned theatre on Thursday 6th January.

The award presented was the Tipp FM local radio monthly award in recognition of an individual's contribution to Arts and Entertainment in

County Tipperary.

Denis O'Sullivan, presenter of the Arts programme on Tipp FM Radio, made the presentation, in ambush style, at the weekly bingo night in the Abymill. The award marked Austy's thirty-five years of service to the arts in Fethard, with the Fethard Players and the huge variety of events staged in the Abymill Theatre. *

School Matters!

by Denis Burke

I received all my education (Primary/Secondary) from the Presentation Sisters and the Patrician Brothers in Fethard (13 years in all) and for the past 25 years I have been involved in education in Fethard as a teacher in the Patrician/Presentation Secondary School. In this short article I hope to revive some memories which some might be able to share.

I started in Junior Infants' class in the Presentation Convent in September 1950. My first teacher was Sr. Salian who, from my memory, was a young and gentle nun. I heard later that the order transferred her to Australia where she taught for many years. My 'minder' I think was Patricia O'Halloran and I remember she was very proud of me when I won a race in the school field.

My one bad memory was when Miceál McCormack and I were released at the gates at 2pm and we proceeded to somehow climb the wall of the bridge over the Clashawley. As if this wasn't enough, when we saw the horrified nuns looking down from the convent and offering prayers that we wouldn't fall into the river, we proceeded to dangle our legs over the edge and pretended to jump. Next day our beloved Sr. Salian sent us to Sr. Theresia who reddened our hands with light leather. I have never been up on the parapet of that bridge since then.

After two pleasant enough years

we were all escorted up the back lane to the Boys' Primary School. Travelling up with me were Tom O'Connell, Hugh O'Neill, Jimmy O'Connor and Johnny Mullins amongst others.

Our new teacher was the ageing Brother Damian Early from Tyrone. I remember him as being reasonably pleasant and in the winter months he used to have the job of making tea for all the boys. We would get a mug of tea in the green enamel mugs provided and it was very welcome in the cold weather. We stayed with Brother Damien for two years and went on to 3rd and 4th class in a different room with Brother Bonaventure who was a much younger man. I recall he was very keen on Irish, often to the exclusion of other subjects.

However, older boys had assured us that we were having it easy compared to what awaited us in the senior class (5th, & 6th) where Brother Kieran Lawlor had been established for many years with a reputation for being extremely tough. Bro. Kieran was a Kilkenny man and had collected most of the money which built the Brothers' residence on the Rocklow Road — now Northgate Medical Centre. Those who attended Bro. Kieran will have their own stories to tell and I hope not to exaggerate or indeed minimise. Bro. Kieran did use the leather and cane — but not as often as I remember. I did get one bad beating in 5th Class for forgetting

my catechism book. However, I remember all of the class being gathered around the open fire - no central heating then – and learning history and religion without punishment.

During the winter we would while away some time counting the number of beet trains which passed along the nearby railway line on their way to the factory in Thurles.

Two years went by and secondary school loomed on the horizon. We mostly looked forward to it because of the shorter year and because we heard that there was less of the cane/leather and a change of teacher every 40 minutes or so.

I made the short trip across to secondary school in 1958. There were

four teachers in the school: Brother Albert Small, Brother Athanasius Phelan and two lay teachers, Joe Glynn from Galway and Timmy O'Connor from Kerry. Joe Glynn stayed only one year and was replaced by John Meade and later by Paddy Maher who stayed for many years.

Secondary school definitely was far more interesting than primary. I found that the lay teachers were younger and more up-to-date than the Brothers. They had also mostly abandoned corporal punishment and used a variety of more modern methods. In particular they tended to explain things better and were far more patient.



Fethard Graduation Class June 1963 Back L to R: Philip Byrne, Willie Harrington, Rick Flynn, Tom O'Connell, Michael Maher, Morgan Fergus, Jimmy O'Neill. Front: Dick Lucey, Jim O'Mahoney (Killenaule), Liam Whyte, Paul Raleigh (Glengoose), Patrick Purcell (Glengoose) and Hugh O'Neill. (Denis Burke was also in this class)



*Fethard Senior Football team, winners of the Tipperary Mans Cup 1968.
Back L to R: Liam O'Flaherty, Michael Sheehan, Denis Burke, Liam Connolly,
John Fitzgerald, Pat Byrne, Gus Danagher. Front L to R: Waltie Moloney, Gerry
Leahy, Pat Barrett, Cly Mullins, Davy Fitzgerald, Michael Holohan, Eamonn
Butler and Sean Moloney.*

Timmy O'Connor taught me geography, commerce and Irish and he left a lasting impression. His strong point was his humane approach and his complete clarity in teaching. Because of this I can still understand why the Mercator Net in geography maps makes countries furthest from the equator appear bigger than they are. I still have a reasonable understanding of double entry book-keeping and I still remember the people who died in a boat accident in the Irish poem, 'Anach Cuan' — because a pig put its foot through the bottom of the boat. Thank you Timmy!

Later Paddy Maher, a Tipperary man, arrived teaching Latin and English. Both subjects now began to

make much more sense through being explained so clearly. He was also able to talk to us on a friendly, personal level treating us as young adults. I believe this to have been a terrific help in our education.

The legendary Brother Albert was now in his declining years. Stories about him were numerous and many likely to inspire fear. However, I mostly found him to be quite okay, with the odd exception — when you messed up Latin sentences or the translation of Caesar's Gallic Wars. He also had a terrific love of Gaelic games particularly hurling. This was not surprising since he was from Borrisoleigh and had actively promoted the GAA for many years in

Fethard. Many a clever student had got out of a tight spot by raising the topic of Tipperary hurling or any GAA matter when the Latin sentences became too difficult.

The principal of the school was Brother Athanasius Phelan. He was a Galway man and had served several stints in Fethard. In each one he became more unpopular than the last. It wasn't so much that he was keen on corporal punishment but the fact that he was sarcastic and insulting. He taught Irish and maths through Irish — I remember none of the theorems that he taught. Of all the teachers who taught me, he was the one I least liked and respected.

In my Leaving Cert year 1962/63 a young Brother from County Meath, Paulinus Brennan, joined the staff. A strong GAA man he immediately entered teams and for the first time we got the chance to play for the school. In football we lost our only game to the High School from Clonmel but our hurling team was to last much longer - in fact, with a string of victories over Mitchelstown, Bandon and Adare, we reached a Munster Final the following May. The Dr. Kinnane Cup was fought out between ourselves and Doon CBS over two matches in Semple Stadium. The drawn match was a real thriller but luckily we won the replay fairly easily.

The Kinnane Cup champions were Pat Barrett, John Joe Morrissey, Austie Woodlock, Pierce Coady, Ger Casey, Paul Raleigh, Denis Burke, Pa Joe Purcell, Philip Byrne, Ger Leahy,

Willie Harrington, Davy Fitzgerald, Pat Butler, Pierce Ryan, Jimmy O'Connor, Willie Frewen and Tony Fitzgerald.

The games had taken up nearly all of the school year and I will never forget that year of hurling and the friendships that it cemented.

I left Fethard School in 1963 and after working for three years I went to UCD. I started teaching in Dublin in 1969 in Drimnagh Castle, a large boys secondary school, where I taught until 1980. By then I had acquired a wife and three young children. The prospect of bringing up a family in the city seemed less attractive than in the freedom of the countryside, so when the opportunity to return to Fethard presented itself, I accepted Sr. Cannel Daly's offer of a job and in September 1980 I returned to my old school teaching economics, history and career guidance.

In seventeen years many changes had occurred. The school was now co-educational, there were many female teachers (in my Dublin school there were none), and in addition the school was in two separate locations with much travelling between monastery and convent. In addition, corporal punishment, virtually gone in reality, was legally ended in the early eighties.

Getting used to all these changes took a long time but I became very involved in the school football teams and luckily it was a golden period. In five years we won three Munster Championships and players like



Fethard Patrician / Presentation under-14 camogie team 1992 which won the Tipperary Schools under-14 A Championship. Fethard become the first holders of the Kitty O'Flaherty trophy, generously presented by the O'Flaherty family of Cahir in memory of their mother Kitty who was a leading camogie player and organiser in the county for many years. Back L to R: Olivia Phelan, Shonagh Coen, Ann Marie Kenny, Leanne Burke, Carmel O'Dwyer. Middle L to R: Denis Burke (trainer), Ailish Sheehan, Gwen Cooke, Bernie Horan, Annette McCarthy, Colm O'Flaherty (donor). Front L to R: Verona Holohan, Deirdre O'Meara, Caroline Fitzgerald (capt.), Lisa McCormack, Leona Holohan.

Tommy Sheehan, Brian Burke, Willie O'Meara, Chris Coen, John Hackett, Liam Cronin, Davy Hogan, Tom Anglim and others all went on to represent Tipperary in many grades.

The girls played a lot of volleyball and regularly won All-Ireland honours. In the early nineties camogie made an appearance and I was delighted to find that training girls (a first for me) was even preferable to training boys' football teams. Why should this be so?

Camogie players tended to devote more passion to their game whereas the boys often seemed to take things for granted. Fortunately, many other teachers concentrated on the academic side and the exam results down through the years have been comparable to any school.

"Are young people more difficult now to deal with than they were in years gone by?" is the most common question I am often asked. I often hear it said that young people have

'gone to the dogs' nowadays. I believe both of these to be totally false. Without corporal punishment classes are now conducted in a much more humane and effective manner, corporal punishment often merely hid the inability of the person using it.

Most young people are far more confident and outgoing than when I was growing up. Youngsters of 13/14 are now capable of conducting full conversations with any adult whereas in my time we would have been intimidated by having to do so. In the many charity events which we organise in the school I see the huge voluntary effort put in by young people.

For all these reasons I feel very confident that the future will pass to vibrant, confident and well-educated young men and women with drive and initiative.

Epilogue:

*It has been my great luck to have been taught by some brilliant and many very good teachers and my good fortune to have taught a generation of pupils from the Fethard area. Like all teachers I hope I have contributed in some small way to the many successes of the young people that I have taught or at the very least that I have not hindered any of them in any way. **



*Staff members of Presentation Patrician Secondary School in 2005.
Back L to R: Michael O'Gorman, Michael Leonard, Deirdre Mullhall, Vincent Doocey, Catriona McKeogh, Joan Walsh, Majella Whelan, Noel Maher, Ann O'Donnell, Justin McGree. Mary Anne Fogarty, Denis Burke, Mary Lysaght, Dick Prendergast, Gwen Cronan, Connie Sullivan. Front L to R: Marie Maher, Pat Looby, Mary O'Sullivan, Ernan Britton (Principal), Marian Gilpin (Vice-Principal), Margaret Prendergast and Bernie O'Connor.*

South Tipperary Irish Farmers Association

South Tipperary IFA Executive celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of NFA/IFA this year at a special function at Rockwell College. During the past year a committee was working on compiling a complete history of these farm organisations in south Tipperary. It was decided to have a book written to mark the occasion. Willie Hayes who is a native of Fethard was employed to write the book. Willie was born

in Rathcoole and was educated by the Patrician Brothers, primary and secondary schools. The minister for agriculture, Mary Coughlan, launched the book which was called, "From Knocknagow To Brussels". This event took place in

Rockwell College on Friday 6th May. All IFA members got a special invitation to the event and over one thousand people turned up. The book has been very well received by the

people who have already purchased copies. The following is an excerpt from the section of the book which deals with Fethard branch:

Fethard branch was formed in May 1955. The meeting was held in the

town hall. The area covered by the branch membership was much bigger than Fethard parish. There were 207 members in the area at the time. The first chairman of the branch was John H. Delany, Parsonshill. He was present at the meeting held on the previous 6th of January in the Four Seasons Hotel in Dublin, which launched the organisation. The secretary of the branch was Paddy Morrissey, Cloran. The treasurer was Michael Smith, Coolbawn. In 1962, Michael



*Chatting about IFA matters c.1960s
were L to R: Tom O'Dea, Neddy Trehy,
Philly O'Meara, J. H. Delany, Bat
O'Dea and Henry Quinn*

Smith was elected vice chairman and Edmund Trehy, Kilnockin was elected as treasurer.

At the AGM held on March 10th 1962 Mr Con Murphy, PRO Irish Sugar

Company, gave a talk on the emerging common market to the members. At the same meeting it was decided to invite Mr W. Holohan of Dovea to the next meeting to give a talk on calf rearing and to ask Mr O'Grady to talk on pigs.

At the annual general meeting held on 20 January 1964 the following officers were elected: chairman, Philip Maher, Ballybough; vice chairman, John Skehan, Clonbrogan; secretary Paddy Morrissey, Cloran; treasurer Paddy Coffey, Rathsalagh. At this meeting it was proposed that NFA and ICMSA should be called on to unite. These officers were in place until 1966 when John Holohan was elected chairman. Philip Maher was vice chairman and Denis McGrath was elected secretary with Paddy Coffey re-elected as treasurer. At this meeting members felt that the rates campaign should not have been called off. The CAO was also asked to appoint a permanent agricultural

instructor for the Fethard area.

At the branch meeting held on 26th May 1967, it was decided to approach the parish priest to change the times of masses. It would seem that he responded favourably as in the minutes of a branch meeting held on the following 8th August a vote of thanks was passed to the PP for his cooperation. The amalgamation of the local creamery also came up at this meeting

There was no change of officers until the annual general meeting held on the 25th March 1971. The following officers were then elected: chairman John Slattery; vice chairman, L. Trehy; secretary, Denis McGrath; and treasurer, Edmund Trehy. During 1971, £100 was contributed from branch members and branch funds to The Irish Farm Centre.

There was a further change of officers in 1975 when TP Meagher was elected chairman, vice chairman, L. Trehy, secretary, Denis McGrath,



Killerk Land Dispute meeting in the 1950s

treasurer, Joseph D O'Connor. At the AGM in 1979 farm credit and the banks were the main issues.

The AGM held on 28th September 1982 resulted in the following being elected: chairman, Philip Maher, vice chairman, Bobby Guiry, secretary, Denis McGrath and treasurer, Joseph D O'Connor. The following year Tom Butler was elected chairman with Philip Maher and H. Ponsonby as vice chairmen. There was no change in the other officers. Mrs Kitty Delany was a founder member of the south Tipperary farm family group, which was founded around this time. At the AGM in October 1985 Malachy Brett was elected chairman, Frank McGivern vice chairman and Denis McGrath and Joseph D O'Connor secretary and treasurer respectively.

In 1988 David O'Meara was elected chairman with Frank McGivern and Denis O'Halloran as vice chairmen. At the 1989 AGM Bob Frewen was added to the vice chairmen. In 1990

Denis O'Halloran was elected chairman with Francis McGivern and Bob Frewen as vice chairmen. At the 1995 AGM Francis McGivern and John O'Flynn were elected as vice chairmen. At the 1997 AGM the officers elected were: chairman, John O'Flynn, secretary, Denis McGrath, vice chairmen, Francis McGivern and Sean O'Dea and treasurer, David Tierney. At a branch meeting held on 20 February 1999 the members decided to organise some cattle fodder to help out farmers in the west of Ireland who were in a desperate situation. Feed was urgently needed to keep their cattle alive. Loading points were designated at Coolmoyne, Fethard and Cloran creameries. Three artic loads of feed were organised in the area and sent up to them. The present officers of the branch are chairman, Francis McGivern, secretary, Denis McGrath, vice chairman, Tom Delahunty and treasurer, David Tierney. *



Jim Trehy (right) selling organic produce at Cahir Farmers Market Nov. 2005

Slieve na mBan Holy Year Cross 2005 *by Kevin Ryan*



Once more we were blessed with a beautiful day for our annual pilgrimage to the Holy Year Cross. This year also marked the 55th anniversary of the erecting of the first cross, and I'm sure that the people who established the tradition of the August 15th pilgrimage would be proud to know that it's still going strong all these years later. In fact, judging by our visitors' book that we opened for the first time this year, we had in excess of 200 people in attendance. As well as the hardy annuals, it is also nice to see that a growing number of people from outside the parish are coming to join our celebration. This is a trend that we hope will continue in the coming years. Ceremonies began at the hill wall,

where Fr. Malachy Loughran OSA, led the procession to the Holy Year Cross, while down at the mass rock in O'Donnell's field, Canon Jim Power and Fr. Timmy Walsh O.S.A. led the rosary for those who were unable to make the climb. On the return of the walkers, mass was celebrated by Canon Power and Fr. Loughran.

Once again, when the ceremonies were concluded, the locals provided much appreciated tea and refreshments. Judging by the amount of food that was prepared, they could have fed as many more again. One thing is certain, no one went home hungry.

Of course a lot of preparation was needed to make this day the success that it was. Special thanks must go to our dedicated clergymen who give



At the cross L to R: Laurence Kenny, Tom Purcell, Bill Meaney and Pat Cleary

so freely of their time, to Jimmy and Eileen O'Donnell for the use of their field, and we must also take this opportunity to wish Jimmy a speedy recovery after his recent accident, and to all the locals who helped in any way, be it erecting the crosses, food preparation or altar preparation. Take a bow one and all. To our Dutch friends, Bert and Janneke, for providing much needed refreshments on our way to the mountain. To Tommy Butler and Premier Music, Clonmel,

for providing the amplification. To Merry's of Clonmel for their generous sponsorship. To Joan Dunphy, Clonmel, and Willie O'Meara for their work on the visitors' book and stand. To the man who single-handedly keeps Fethard and Killusty accessible to our friends and relatives far away, Joe Kenny. And finally, to all of you who took the time to be there, your attendance made our efforts worthwhile. We hope to see you all again next year. *



Made it to the top! L to R: Patricia Cronan, Michael Cronan, Dan Sheehan, Toby Purcell and Philly Cahill.



Nano Nagle National School



Junior Infants' Class at Nano Nagle National School. Back L to R: Noelle O'Meara (Woodvale Walk), Conor Harrington (Kerry Street), Ciara Connolly (The Green), Katie O'Flynn (Killerk North), Megan Earl (Slievenamon Close), Mrs Margaret Gleeson (Teacher). Middle Row L to R: Rebecca Jones (Monroe House, Cashel Road), Shannon Thompson (Kilnockin View), Sally Nagle (Rathkenny, Drangan), Gavin Mullally (Woodvale Walk), Leah Lawrence (Woodvale Walk), Sally Butler (Kilnockin). Front L to R: Amy Brophy (Kilnockin View), Sarah Carroll (Ballyrichard, Mullinahone), Sophie Neary (Burke Street), Amy Roche (Kilnockin View), Katie Ryan (Tullamaine), and Rebecca McCarthy (Derryluskin). Missing from photograph are: Shane Lawless (Woodvale Walk), Malachy Brett (Tullamaine), Sarah Slattery (Jossestown), Laura Hards (Kilnockin View), and Sinead Regan (Woodvale Walk).

Nano Nagle National School staff for this year: Sr. Maureen Power (Principal) 5th Class; Mrs. Maureen Maher (Vice-Principal) 1st & 2nd Classes; Mrs. Rita Kenny, 6th Class; Ms. Elaine Brady, 3rd & 4th Classes; Sr. Winnie Kirwan, Senior Infants; Mrs. Margaret Gleeson, Junior Infants; Mrs Mary Hanrahan, Learning Support Teacher; Ms.

Lorraine de Lacy, High Support Unit; Mrs Anne D'Arcy, Secretary; and Mr Willie Ryan, Caretaker.

This year we say a fond farewell to Sr. Mary McNamara who has retired after thirty-seven years teaching in Fethard. Many of our readers will remember Sr. Mary by her former name, Sr. Gemma, and all of us will remember her dedication to teaching

and to her pupils. Presentations to Sr. Mary by the school staff, pupils and the Parents' Association affirmed the high esteem in which she was held by all and, we hope, conveyed our deep appreciation of her long and valued contribution to Nano Nagle National School.

Ann-Marie Harty, our Special Needs Assistant, also finished her tenure in June, but has returned to us on a part-time basis, to the delight of both staff and pupils. Sr. Juliana, who is home from New Zealand, is also helping out on a voluntary basis with learning support pupils and we are very grateful for her assistance.

Ms Michelle Skehan, who taught 6th Class last year, is now working in Thurles and we wish her every success in her new position. Michelle spearheaded a major M.S. Readathon Project with her pupils which realised a substantial €2,300. She also arranged for the school to feature on Tipp FM Radio later in the year. Our older pupils got a chance to showcase their talents and a most enjoyable session ensued.

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs. Rita Kenny, our 6th class teacher who rejoins us after a one-year career break.

One of our most successful ventures last year was our Christmas concert in the Abymill Theatre. All classes were involved and, once again, our parents were a great support sourcing and making costumes, helping out 'front of house' and, of course, being a wonderful audience

for each performance. Our thanks also to Austy O'Flynn and his staff in the Abymill.

Our programme comprised: 'The Christmas Angel', Junior Infants (with a little help from their friends in 3rd Class) – This little angel knows, "there's something special going on", but isn't quite sure what it's all about. We journey with her on her quest, enjoying the many delights of the Christmas season along the way. And then, finally, the real meaning of Christmas is revealed.

'Our Magic Christmas Tree', Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd Classes – Christmas is coming and expectations are high, and although the outlook is none too bright for a certain "tiny, little tatty little tree" or indeed for the children in the nearby orphanage, yet with a sprinkle of Christmas magic everything comes right on the night.

'Manger Mania' 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Classes – This modern upbeat version of the Nativity is a fun-filled lively show that nonetheless reflects the deeper meaning of Christmas. It was a musical medley showcasing the many talents of our 53-pupil cast. Teachers, Ms. Michelle Skehan and Ms. Elaine Brady, provided the musical accompaniment on guitar and keyboard.

Our pupils are going swimming this year for the first time and athletics has also figured prominently during the first term with our pupils competing in Thurles and Clonmel. Céilí dancing will resume next term



Fethard Nano Nagle Primary School 6th Class. Back L to R: Rachel Prout, Orla Lawrence, Stephanie Allen, Claire Morrissey, Rebecca O'Donnell, Jenny Pyke, Maryanne Fogarty, Edel O'Sullivan. Front L to R: Mary Jane Kearney, Louise O'Donnell, Amy Lyons, Jane Holohan, Faye Manton and Amanda Ryan.

and we hope to focus on basketball and football skills in the third term.

Promoting environmental awareness continues apace with ongoing recycling of cans and computer ink cartridges, the promotion of a litter-free environment and the 'planting-up' of the courtyard. The grove of trees planted just below the playground is now developing nicely, and during the summer a pathway was put in to facilitate nature walks for our pupils. This should prove a great resource for the school as it contains a wide variety of trees, with a special emphasis on the native species.

Our efforts to date have born fruit as the school has once again won first prize (Fethard Electoral area) in the County Council's 'Tidy Schools Competition.'

Last year, the presentation of

prizes took place in Cahir House Hotel. On behalf of our school Katie Butler, Jennifer Rice and Lucy Butler accompanied by Mrs Maureen Maher, accepted a Waterford Crystal figurine and a cheque for €300. Great excitement was engendered by the presence of Duncan Stewart (of 'About the House' TV fame) who duly signed autographs and posed for photographs.

The Book Fair in February was, as always a great success with sales totalling €3,422 which means that we were entitled to claim books to the value of €2,053 in commission for our class libraries. During Book Fair week, we focus on reading in a very special way, allocating specific times for class visits to the fair and arranging story-telling sessions. The childrens' enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, books is

the real measure of the Book Fair's success as far as we are concerned.

Our Parents' Association is involved in various events throughout the year: the annual cake sale in October, the sponsored walk and our ever popular Fun Sports Day in June. The parents' ongoing commitment and support is a major factor in the

successful realisation of our goals for our school and we very much appreciate all their efforts on our behalf.

As we prepare for Christmas 2005, we send seasonal greetings to all who read this newsletter, especially those who may find themselves far from home; Beannacht Dé Oraibh agus Nollaig Shona Dhíbh go léir. *

St. Patrick's Boys' National School



St. Patrick's Boys School 6th Class. Back L to R: Dean Sharpe, Ger Maher, Tony Myler, David Burke, Gavin Carroll, Gareth Lawrence, Jamie Walsh, Andrew Maher. Front L to R: Noel O'Brien, Ted Barrett, Brian Delahunty, Louis Rice, Michael Smyth and Gavin Lonergan. Missing from photograph is Tommy Veale.

We have had a very busy year this year. Some of our activities included swimming, hurling, football, soccer, athletics and céili dancing. We had an excellent show from Clan Cluana Drama Group and had an exciting day with poet Declan Lucey. We also visited the South Tipperary County Museum in Clonmel. Everybody who travelled

on our school outing to U.C.L. Sports Complex in Limerick also had a memorable and tiring day.

We would like to thank the staff and pupils of the Patrician Presentation Secondary School who took our senior pupils for cookery classes and volleyball coaching during the year. We were successful in the junior section of the Credit Union

Quiz. We had a good year in the sporting field too. The Under-13 and Under-11 football teams reached the finals in their respective divisions. The Under-11 hurling team won the county final for the first time ever.

On the athletics scene in the Cidona Primary Schools Cross Country Competition our boys came 1st in Divisions 2 and 3 and 2nd in Division 1. Brian Delahunty took 2nd overall.

We entered a project on The Augustinian Abbey-700 years in Fethard in the Independent Newspapers Competition for which

we received a Highly Commended Certificate. We would like to thank everybody who helped us with our research and especially Mrs. Mary Hanrahan for her great contribution and time.

We have had major work carried out to the school building itself and also on the heating system with work still to be done to the yard. It looks as if we'll be equally busy next year! Our current staff are: Mrs Patricia Treacy (Principal), Mrs Eileen Fitzgerald, Ms Carmel Loneragan, Ms Aisling Ryan and Ms Helena Delany. Best wishes to all. *



St Patrick's Boys School Fethard, County Champions, Cumann na mBunscoil Under 11 Roinn C, following their win over Upperchurch. The final score was Fethard 6-4, Upperchurch 3-4. Back L to R: Willie Ryan (coach), Eoin Walsh, Ger Maher, Garreth Lawrence, Ronan Fitzgerald, Gerard Gorey, Andrew Maher, Eileen Fitzgerald (teacher). Front L to R: Brian Delahunty, David Gartland, Ciarán O'Meara, Dylan Fitzgerald, John Gartland (captain), Brian Healy, Cathal Hurley and Vincent Lawrence.

29 Seconds

by Vincent Murphy



Fethard on the 14th August 2003

I didn't know anything about the man who was sitting at the bar. I found out later that he had starred in many films, including classics like Alfred Hitchcock's film, 'The Birds' and 'Giant' with James Dean, among many others. All I knew when I served him a pint in the bar was that he had arrived from Dublin by helicopter and that his wife was urging him to drink up as they had to get back to the capital in a hurry. He was hoping to have a second pint. I saw an opening to get a spin in a helicopter so I volunteered to go out to Mouse Morris' yard where they had landed and guide the pilot to the field behind the bar. I told them that I had never been in a helicopter and that he could have the second pint while he waited for his transport to arrive. He shook my hand and said,

"It's a deal . . . enjoy the flight."

I shot out the door and into the car before anybody could change their mind. A few minutes later I was hovering over Fethard and it was fantastic. It was a dream come true. It only lasted a few short minutes but it felt like forever. And to top it all, we landed behind my own house.

I asked the pilot what the man's name was. He answered me, shouting over the noise of the swirling rotors overhead. "Roy something or other . . . will you give him this package . . . his photos are in it."

I ran straight up to the bar to tell the gentleman that his helicopter was out the back. "Thanks for the spin, Roy," I said, handing over the package, and went back to work behind the bar.

Mick Dineen was sitting at the



The Valley of Slievenamon – 14th August 2003

counter. “You got his name wrong. It’s Rod, not Roy, Rod Taylor the actor,” he informed me. I looked at Mr Taylor who didn’t seem too upset by my mistake. He was busy pulling pictures from an envelope that the pilot had given me at the helicopter. They were photographs of the film star as a much younger man. He signed a few for the older people who knew his name, posed for a picture for the local paper and then took off into the sky and disappeared.

I had been fascinated by flying before that, but now I was hooked. A few years later I got a pilot’s license to fly aeroplanes. After that I did a few hours training on helicopters. Not enough to get a full helicopter license, but enough to understand how they worked. Little did I realise how useful that few hours’ training would be a few years down the line.

Now, shoot forward about fifteen years to 2005. I’d been flying for over ten years in everything from micro-lights, ultralights, gliders, paragliders, helicopters and planes. Short of gluing feathers to my arms and flapping

them like mad, I’d try any type of flying activity whenever I got the chance.

On 28th June this year, a friend, Hugh, phoned offering a flight in his helicopter. As usual, I jumped at the chance. We arranged to meet at Pat White’s airstrip in Derryluskin, where he would pick me up and take me for the promised trip. I decided to take the video camera along, as I couldn’t usually use it when I was doing the flying myself. The helicopter was just back from its ‘Certificate of Airworthiness’ examination and the doors hadn’t been put back on, so it was the ideal time to shoot a bit of footage of Fethard, without the perspex door in the way. The quality of the shots would be much clearer.

I strapped myself in and we took off. I turned the camera on and let it roll. We shot along the cornfields and out over the hedge, gaining height all the time. It was a beautiful summer’s day with a gentle breeze and a few clouds in the sky, an ideal flying day with good visibility and no turbulence. We climbed to a thousand

feet on the north side of Fethard and then decided to circle the town a few times before hovering on the south side to get a few good shots of the medieval town wall before landing back at the airstrip.

Everything was going well on our first circuit of the town. We had just flown over my house and I knew that my wife, Sarah, would be at the back door giving a wave, though I couldn't see her as I was concentrating on filming. I'd planned to give her a big wave on the second circuit, or when we stopped to hover. But then we heard a bang.

"What was that?", we both said in unison. Then the nose of the helicopter dipped and the tail started to go into a spin. For about three seconds I thought that we were going to die. Those were three very

long seconds. The only thing I remember was a glimpse of the sun illuminating the town wall and the thought that we were going to spin into it. If a full spin developed, we would not recover. But somehow Hugh retained control. He put the helicopter into autorotation. Having done a few hours' training in helicopters, I knew what was going on. Contrary to what many people think,

a helicopter can glide a certain distance if the engine blows. It won't glide very far, but you'll hopefully have enough of a glide to get down safely. Hugh's years of experience kicked in. The machine was going down fast. Directly beneath us were houses. They had to be avoided. Behind them was a field full of cattle. They had to be avoided. The next field had a set of power lines going through it. They had to be avoided. Our options were limited if we wanted to avoid an accident on the ground. The next field was empty so

Hugh aimed for that. Thankfully, after hours of training in various flying machines, with many simulated engine failures, we both remained totally calm.

You never know how you will react in a

real situation until you are actually in it. I have no idea if Hugh heard a word that I said as I pointed out obstacles on our way down. With about fifty feet to go, we still had to avoid one more obstacle. There was a tree in our way. Hugh gave the machine a shot of power to get over that final hurdle. We cleared it and then ran out of steam. With just a few feet to go, the helicopter fell to the



Helicopter pilot Hugh Clarke from Kilsheelan photographed seconds after he was forced to crash land in a field outside Fethard.

ground. It thrashed around for a few seconds, but stayed upright. We checked that we were both uninjured, and I then jumped from the aircraft in case the fuel tank exploded.

As I jumped something grazed my head, so I dived onto the ground and started to roll until I was sure that I had cleared the area where the blades were still spinning. I stood up and looked back. I thought then that the spinning blades had hit my hair. I found out later that I had forgotten to remove my headset before I jumped out and that was what had grazed my head. The rotor would have removed it.

I could then see that the tail end of the helicopter was missing. The rotors had sliced it off when we hit

the ground. Bits of the machine were scattered all over the field. Hugh and I stood by the wrecked machine without a scratch on either of us in the full knowledge that we were very lucky to be alive. Without realising it, I had kept the camera rolling all the time. It was still in my hands, even after jumping and rolling from the helicopter.

That night, Sarah and I sat down and watched the footage that I had shot that day. She had seen the accident from the ground and had received a bigger shock than either Hugh or myself. We counted the time that elapsed between the bang in the air to the impact with the ground. It was all over in just twenty nine seconds. *



Tom McCormack, Monroe, Fethard, photographed on the occasion of his 70th birthday this year with his wife Kathleen, daughters Claire (left) and Rita.

Abymill Theatre

The Annual General Meeting of the Abymill Theatre took place on Thursday 23rd June 2005 in the Abymill Theatre and the following Board of Directors was elected: Austin O'Flynn (Administrator), Joe Kenny (Chairman), Marian Gilpin (Secretary), Agnes Evans (Treasurer), Michael McCarthy, Noelle O'Dwyer, Eileen Maher, Jimmy O'Shea, Vincent Murphy, Mary McCormack, Bernard Walsh and Carmel Rice.

The Abymill is a beautiful building



Gerry Fogarty calling the numbers at the weekly game of Bingo.

which attracts a great variety of people and shows every year. On the home front, the Fethard Players staged the highly acclaimed, 'Blithe Spirit' in November 2004. The Patrician Presentation Secondary School had 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in December 2004 and the pupils and staff of the Nano Nagle National School delighted all with a return Christmas visit to the Abymill.

The Premier Swing Band made a return visit in February with Irene Malone, Liam Butler and the Thurles Gospel Singers. Majella Forte's dance school staged a packed-to-capacity show in the early summer. The Abymill has also been the venue for some of the Augustinian Abbey Jubilee 700 celebrations.

One of the local popular events in the Abymill is the weekly Thursday night game of Bingo, which is still alive and well in Fethard. It is great to see so many younger players taking part in this family game, hosted by Gerry Fogarty.

The Abymill is also used as a venue for large public meetings and seminars, as well as lectures and meetings organised by the local Historical Society.

On a more sombre note one of our directors Noelle O'Dwyer sadly passed away in September, our sympathy is extended to her husband, Michael and her brothers of the Maher family. *

Fethard Players



Cast of 'Tons of Money'. Back L to R (standing with hats): Eoin Powel and Eoin Whyte. Front L to R: Niamh Hayes, Joe Hanley, Mia Treacy, Jimmy O'Sullivan, Gerry Fogarty, Marian Gilpin, Liam Ryan and Mary O'Connell.

This year's Fethard Players production was 'Tons of Money', a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn adapted from the original by Will Evans and Valentine.

The play was produced by Austin O'Flynn was staged in the Abymill Theatre from 13th to 19th November, with an extra night on 20th

November, due to public demand.

Fethard Players officers for this year: Chairperson, Carmel Rice; Secretary, Geraldine McCarthy; and Treasurer, Lisa Laaksonen.

The Fethard Players wish to thank all who helped stage this production, and wish all our emigrants and readers a very Happy Christmas. *

Fethard Boys Scouts

In comparison with years gone by, 2005 was certainly a quiet year for Fethard Scouts. With the exception of putting up marquees to aid the running of pony shows in 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.

Local leader Robert Phelan provided assistance in organising and running the regional orienteering, but so as not to break tradition, the highlight of our calendar was joining the

Clonmel, Ballymac and Kilsheelan units on their annual camp. Camp this year was held in Carne Beach, Wexford where the sun seemed to be hiding for a lot of the two weeks! Still, despite the poor weather, spirits were not dampened, with one of the highlights being a hike up Mount Leinster with an added bonus of a tour of the RTE booster station at the summit. 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 for two weeks every summer for the last six summers, have already said they hope to journey again next year for another fortnight of fun, games and maybe even some romance, eh lads! Leaders, Bobby Phelan, John

McCarthy and Philip O'Donnell also attended camp.

Congratulations to Leader John Cloonan who gave us a big day out on 23rd July, when he got married to 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.

At the time of going of press plans are afoot to restart the unit for mid to late October so hopefully the Fethard Scout notes for the newsletter in 2006 will be a much fuller report! If you have any queries about Scouts in Fethard, please feel free to contact Bobby Phelan Tel: 086 2446085, Philip O'Donnell Tel: 087 8124548 or John Cloonan Tel: 086 8190569. Thanks for your support. *



Mary and Louis Coen from Killusty pictured with their family at a surprise 25th wedding anniversary party which was organised at their home in Killusty by their many friends and neighbours in May 1992

The Augustinian Abbey

*Remembering a youthful code
 of devotion to spiritual mode.
 The chapel that is between the Clashawley,
 and the houses on the Cloneen road.
 There is a long history of devotion and prayers,
 Benediction in the evening with incense,
 High Mass during Easter ceremonies,
 at Christmas, a midnight mass.
 Corpus Christi and May processions,
 the Rosary, confessions, windows of stained glass,
 music from the organ in the balcony,
 played by Anne Kenrick,
 flowers brought by Joe Barrett O'Connor,
 Girlie Healy and Mary O'Connell,
 farm manager Joey Fogarty
 putting Easter and holy water into the barrel fonts and bottles.
 Reading and praying before the headstones
 in the cemetery that adjoins,
 serving as an altar boy, reciting the Latin lines.
 The walking saints, Fathers Stokes,
 Bell, Clifford, Killian of the young,
 Lighting candles for intentions,
 admiring the marble and stained glass,
 kissing of the Cross,
 blessing the throats and half seven Mass.
 Lovely fashion by Angeline,
 gardens of a sundial, statues, Sheela na gig,
 trees, flowers, paths, the paper house,
 orchard and the farm scenery of charm,
 echoes of Father Tirry, Oliver Cromwell, Bishop O'Donnell.
 The Butlers so still, beside the mysteries of Coffey's Mill.
 The wonder of the missions.
 Go raibh maith agat, Dhia guit.*

— John Joe Keane

Red Haired Angel!

by Eddie O'Brien

We were going to a wedding and we didn't even know it yet! 'We' being me, Eddie O'Brien, who currently resides on the corner of Burke Street and Main Street, and my other two travel companions, aunts Agnes Evans and Maura Trehy. It was Wednesday 14th September 2005 and we were travelling back to County Cork. Kanturk to be exact – well not exactly!

It does say on the Legion of Mary leaflet that Edel Quinn was born in Kanturk, Co Cork. The truth is she was born a couple of miles outside Kanturk in a townland called Greenane and the house is still there. It is known locally as the "maggie house", so I guess there must have been three of those birds hanging around that house on 14th September, 1907, when this little baby girl was born (three for a girl).

Her father was a Galway man, Charles Quinn, and her mother's maiden name was Louise Burke Browne, a Clare woman. She had met and married Charles in Roscommon where he worked in the National Bank and now in a new home and county there were three.

Back to the present – we three pilgrims left Fethard about 11.30am. Being a Wednesday morning I had to deliver newspapers, 'South Tipp Today', before I left. Even with a couple of road diversions on the way, we made good time and got to Kanturk

in time to catch the last order for lunch at the village bar. While waiting, what did I see on the wall facing me but the one and only sublime 'Desiderata', a wonderful verse of wisdom, knowledge and common sense that was found many many years ago in Old Pauls Church, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. It begins, "Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what virtue there is in silence as far as possible without surrender..."

It's worth checking out. Nobody appears to know who wrote it and I believe it is available in book format or as a poster. It was printed on the wall in the vintage bar on a large piece of wood. I can tell you that it lifted my spirit to see that there . . . and I was only drinking coffee!

After lunch we three pilgrims drove back out the road towards Greenane and Edel Quinn's birthplace. Last year we met the elderly couple living there so when we arrived I rang the doorbell but there appeared to be nobody at home.

Our next stop was the church of St Mary in Castlemagner, not too far down the road. It was here that my red-haired angel was baptised Edel Mary Quinn on 18th September, 1907, by resident priest Fr. Green. Her mother had chosen the name of Adèle, after one of her sisters, yet the priest mistook it for Edel, which was the short version for Edelweiss – the



Visiting Edel Quinn's grave in the Missionaries' Cemetery, Nairobi, Kenya, earlier this year were L to R: Richard O'Rourke, Margaret Ryan, Bro Paul Brennan and Catherine O'Rourke.

flower that grows on the mountain, most notably in Alpine regions and made famous by Christopher Plummer in the film 'The Sound of Music (1965)'. It is a flower that blooms in the heights, despite the gales and heavy snow, so from then on, the little girl would be known as Edel.

Last year, our visit to the church in Castlemagner had been delayed because we came across the funeral of a local man, Dan Joe Corbett.

Now, a year later, as we neared the church of St Mary we spotted a lady in white stepping out of a big black car. It was a young bride about to go into the church to get married. Her father held her by the hand as they

made their way into the church. I asked one of the wedding party what the bride's name was and they told me, Máiréad Carroll and she was marrying Mrs O'Brien's son.

Well, I paused for a moment and thought for a moment (or was it the other way around), then I said, "Well thank heaven I just got here on time!"

Well truthfully, I didn't say anything, in fact Máiréad was marrying a Mr Mark O'Brien from New Zealand and as the ceremony got underway my two aunties and I watched from a pew at the back of the church. It was a lovely ceremony with a group of musicians playing violins, guitars and cello. When the wedding was over and the new Mr and Mrs O'Brien

walked down the aisle (don't worry my day will come too).

I later got a chance to pay my dear respects to my 'Red Haired Angel', Edel Quinn, who has a shrine dedicated to her on the left of the church. On the right of the chapel is the very same baptismal font where she was baptised.

Edel's father's work with the National Irish Bank saw the family make frequent changes of address and, only after a few months living in Greenane, the family left Co. Cork and went to live in Clonmel. I am told they lived on the Colville Road, there is a house on the right hand side before you get to the Minella Hotel. Edel and her family lived in Clonmel for six and a half years and during this time she attended her first school in the Loreto Convent.

In 1913 her father Charles became manager of the National Bank in Cahir and while still in County Tipperary, Edel made her First Holy Communion in Cahir on the first day of June 1916.

Further promotion for her father took the family to Enniscorthy, and then Tralee, where they lived until Christmas 1924 before moving permanently to Dublin. By this time Edel had three sisters, Leslie, Mona and Doratheia, and one brother Raphael.

Edel spent a couple of years at a boarding school in England at Upton in Cheshire, where she excelled at studies and sports, before returning to the family home at, Trafalgar Terrace, Monkstown. When she finished

her schooling, she left home to live in the city of Dublin. Edel wanted to, and planned to, become a nun, though this was prevented because of a serious illness. She joined the Legion of Mary and became a remarkable worker for that cause. Her long stay in hospital had left her physically impaired.

In 1936, she was appointed Legion of Mary envoy and established the organisation in East and Central Africa. This she did with remarkable faith and courage despite her poor health. After eight years of dedicated work Edel Quinn died in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12th May, 1944, where she is buried in the Missionaries' Cemetery. By the way, 12th May is also the anniversary of our own Blessed William Tirry, who died in Market Square, Clonmel, on 12th May 1654.

Before we left the church in Castlemagner on 14th September, the 98th anniversary of Edel's birth, I met and spoke to a local woman, Shelia Healy, and she told me that she has a great faith in the little 'Red Haired Angel'. She is now Venerable Edel Quinn and as we left the church in Castlemagner and began our journey back to Fethard, I thought to myself that this has been another special day. I had visited my 'Red Haired Angel' again and Mrs O'Brien's son had just tied the knot (not too tight I hope). The best of luck to Máiréad and Mark, wherever you are.

It had been a faithful member of the Fethard Legion of Mary, Agnes



Photo taken on 15th August 1954 at the blessing of the Mary Immaculate Shrine by Archbishop O'Donnell in Killusty on the site of the old school. L to R: Lar Donovan (Byrneskill), Dick Donovan (Walshbog), Michael Byrne (Killusty), Pat Cantwell (Loughcoppie), Pat Lonergan (Shanbally, Lisonagh), Jim Corr (Killusty South), Tom Sheehan (Clarebeg), Tommy O'Connell (Main Street, Fethard), Dick Allen (Killusty), Master Neddy Holohan (Killusty), Archbishop O'Donnell, Paddy O'Meara, Cloran (partially hidden), Phil Quinn (Walshbog), Master Larry Hickey (Cloran), Canon Ryan P.P. (Fethard), Mick Halpin (Killusty), and Fr Lambe C.C. (Fethard).

Allen (rest her soul) who had first given me a leaflet and made me aware of the life of Edel Quinn, and so it was another Agnes, my aunt, who had driven us both times to that quiet crossroads in Castlemagner, which as it happens, is enjoying a housing development.

I'm sure Edel would not have mind-

ed because she was all for progress and nothing would ever stand in her way. There's not many who would get in the way of a red headed Cork women. I'll bet, and please God, one day we'll give up our sins and our 'Red Headed Angel' will become a 'Shocking Holy Saint. *

Someone thinks of you tonight

*Far away a light is burning,
In a window clear and bright,
Far away you're not forgotten,
Someone thinks of you tonight.*

*Far away a spray of ivy,
Clings beside a cabin door,
Far away a Robin Redbreast,
Sings in song of days of yore,*

*Write a letter home to mother,
Send your love to dear old dad,
Tell them that you're feeling happy,
Though some days you may be sad.*

*Never tell the world your sorrows,
Smiles are better by far than tears.
Tell them that you will be home soon,
Though you may not come home for years.*

*But far away a light is burning,
In a window clear at night,
Far away you're not forgotten,
Someone thinks of you tonight.*

— Frankie Napper

John Joe's Corner

by John Joe Keane

McCarthy's Worldwide Hotel

by John Joe Keane

*A quaint place of renown
In dear old Fethard town
Good drinks, food and craic
An undertaking business out back
Associated with the horse trade
Regally, for many, many years
A hub of industry careers
Visited regularly by the famous
Frequented by the spirited and sublime
A capsule that transcends time.*



Torrent

On a winter's day while crossing over by Coffey's Mill weir, I stopped for a look, the sheer force of the water was disorientating. The sluice gate was open and its current mixed with the main river and mill pool. Our coming of age was to hang upside down on the bar over the weir in flood. From that angle, the eyes, brain and inner ear were out of sync with normality, but you were chicken if you didn't do it. The currents were strong enough to carry anything not fastened away.

The Legion

To the Tirry Club or the Nissan Hut we duly came and prayed, a weekly gathering of all ages, the Presidium was democratic and officers were elected, format was on the

old Roman Legion system. Alas, quite a few of the members are deceased — Don Byard, Tommy O'Connell, Tommy Carey — and more are scattered wide.

The means were the secret bag collections, a bag that was passed around at each meeting. Along with money you could find washers, mints and sometimes nothing. Times were tough.

The Christmas party was eagerly awaited, sweets, buns, lemonade and Tommy O'Connell's rendition of the 'Hokey Pokey'. I got my first spot on stage in New Inn, backed by Marie Shortall and friends, John Shortall on mandolin, singing 'Lovely Leitrim' and 'I'll tell my Ma'. Ned King, God have mercy on him, gave me a loan of new shoes. God bless Josie King. The Legion formed a valuable part of Fethard life then.

Roots

To the babies in the convent I was brought to school, and then there was no Harry Potter, only the pencil and jotter. The nuns were strict and dedicated and not allowed out. Mrs Treacy gave us a grinder with jam and cocoa from the spout. “An bhfuil cead agam dul amach?” was the password to go to the toilet. The gardens were lovely.

I can still remember the smacks. The Powers lived in the lodge and a haven was the hedge. Sisters Teresita and Thomas kept us going but our burgeoning interest was growing. A penny for the black babies, or a half-penny’s worth of tough slab toffee

The Dush

Joe Keane had a good left foot, a regular free taker who scored, and many a defender succumbed. In seventy-eight, his prowess was seen, a penalty was given, he hit it clean. The net danced, Fethard were on their way. Once while hemmed in Clonmel, he judged a gale, from the corner flag, a point, the crowd did hail. Played for his county and soccer too, the memories do accrue.

The Bulbs

Assembling in the morning to Acycle to Annsgift. Hulsebosch was the owner and Mister Naundorf got his drift. Out to the fields, bend the backs, fill the boxes, the ditch was the jacks. Mick Prout was large. Willy Crean kept going, Jack Leahy and family and Mister Brown were

doing the biz. A break for lunch of bread and milk, then back to work. That evening we cycled home. Our backs were stiff, but we were growing. Come Friday a decent wage, the race home was all the rage.

The Forge

Situated on the Green, there, smoke and horses were to be seen, to be shod and newly turned out. Jack Gunne was the blacksmith, an awkward animal he could quieten with a shout. The bellows reddened the coals, which in turn heated the irons. The old shoes were removed and the makings of new ones shaped the groove. Paring, rasping, hammering on the anvil, into the water trough, onto the hoof, nailed and tidily finished. The customer paid and the sound of clip clop could be heard on the road as it diminished.

Teenage Kicks

The Tirry Club for hops, the latest fashion from the shops, a kiss after a dance or a serious romance. Playing soccer near the dressing rooms, applying after-shave for scented fumes, hanging out with the lads being macho, listening for the latest catcho. Dreaming of blondes, sports cars, money, playing air guitar and making faces that are funny. The top twenty, image being all, answering a recognisable call. Gathering after Mass, drinking bottles of Bass, entertained by life and making do with little time. *

Ypres Revisited

by Tommy Healy

This summer I revisited the Belgian town of Ypres. I had last been there in 1994 with my younger daughter, Ruth and this time I went with my elder daughter, Kathleen. Both girls had studied the First World War as part of their 'A' Level courses in history and were anxious to see at first hand some of the sights of that now most distant conflict. Ypres is a good starting point for anyone interested in that war for it is preserved like some scientific specimen, almost in aspic. It suffered destruction of biblical proportions between Autumn 1914 and the end of the conflict. Afterwards it was reconstructed to the original plan and and now it seems like a place utterly frozen in time, that time being the period immediately before 1914.

It has a museum dedicated to that war housed in the restored Cloth Hall. This building was erected originally during the Middle Ages when Flanders was the centre of the European cloth trade and it was the meeting place of the wealthy mer-

chants who grew rich on that trade and, as a result, endowed their town with many fine buildings. The other which survives from that time, albeit restored, is St Martin's Cathedral, a huge ecclesiastical edifice where we attended Mass on the Sunday evening of our visit. Across the road

from it is the more modest St George's Anglican Church, constructed as part of the English War Memorial to the fallen and which is furnished entirely with material donated in memory of individuals and regiments of the British Army. A visit to it is a sobering experience, it brings home in striking fashion the human cost of war and puts or should put to shame those politicians who are

keen to sacrifice the lives of others to advance their own glory.

During most of the time we were subjected to Flanders weather, like Fethard on a rainy day when the mist rolls over Sliabh Na Mban, only far worse if such can be imagined. Having been caught out on previous visits we arrived well prepared and negotiated the sights through a per-



Tommy Healy

sistent downpour.

A visit to Artillery Wood Cemetery began in rain, which relented after a few minutes and we were able to view the resting place of Francis Ledwidge. I discovered that a memorial to him has been erected on the edge of the cemetery and it is good to know that such a fine poet and sterling character has been so honoured at last. A few yards from his grave lies Ellis Humphrey Evans, the Welsh poet, better known as Hedw Wynn, who strangely was killed on the same day as Ledwidge, July 31st 1917. That August a poem of his won the Bardic Chair Title at the Llangollen Festival. As the judges arrived at their decision it was pointed out that the author had been reported as having been killed in action the previous week and, as a result, the chair was swathed in black in his memory.

The Great War has spawned a huge number of museums across Belgium and France. The latest is the Passchendaele Museum in the sleepy village of nearby Zonnebeke. It is devoted to keeping alive the memory of this destructive battle where men fought and died in conditions of almost unimaginable squalor. The area is low lying, much of it is below sea level, in fact the word Flanders means "the flooded land". It rains on two days out of three and on the morning the battle began, the heavens opened and it rained for the next fortnight almost without respite. The museum tries to

recreate the conditions of the battle and almost succeeds. I was intrigued to notice that among the recordings of songs of the time was one of "Keep the Home Fires Burning", sung by John McCormack.

What particularly caught my attention was an attempt to chronicle the part played in the conflict by Irish Regiments of the British Army. It describes the part played by such as the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Munster and Leinster Fusiliers and the Connaught Rangers, regiments which were raised originally during the 18th century but disbanded in 1922 when independence was achieved. It tries to redress an imbalance in Irish history, the neglect of that aspect of the story. In the recent past the events of 1916 to 1922 and the struggle of the then Free State to acquire a place in the world tended to obscure that facet of the country's experience. Fethard contributed a huge number of troops to Kitchener's Armies, as did every other town in the country, a fact that Kitchener chose not to appreciate, considering the shabby treatment accorded the Irish Volunteers who joined up. This was in stark contrast to the deferential treatment given the Ulster Volunteers who a few weeks before were threatening mayhem if the actions of a democratically elected government were carried into force. I refer to the Third Home Rule Bill which proposed to create for the whole of the island what the same unionists were to accept for the Six



Kathleen Healy at Artillery Wood Cemetery

Counties seven years later.

As Ireland has achieved a creditable economic status and has shaken off the feeling of always comparing itself to Great Britain, often with an unjustified inferiority complex, that aspect can be explored and its place recognised.

Ireland contributed hugely to the economic, the military and naval development of Britain. In the TV series 'Sharpe' is the character Patrick Harper, a sergeant in the Rifle Brigade during the Peninsular War (1808-1814). He is merely the prototype of the many thousands of Irishmen who served in the regiments of the British Army at that time. In fact it has been calculated that thirty five percent of the British

Army during the early part of the 19th century were Irish. When the Connaught Rangers returned from a seven-year-long period of service in India in the 1880s, many had no family homes to go to for eviction and emigration had destroyed that aspect of their lives.

A visit to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth in May led to the discovery that many of the sailors in Nelson's Fleet were Irish, for some were literate enough to leave graphic accounts of their experiences. The 'hedge schools' must have been very efficient establishments.

The point I am making is that Ireland has a creditable history. We should accept our flaws and limitations like every other country but

also remember our wider contribution to the world, not least to Britain. It is a contribution which is not known very well in Ireland nor appreciated in Britain which is now saddled with a history curriculum for

its schools which is bizarre in many of its features. It is peculiar that it has fallen to the lot of a small museum in an area of Belgium a little off the beaten track to try to set the record straight. *

Uncle Peter

by Bridget Napier

Melview Nursing Home is Peter Napier's new home these days. In this fine house he lives out his days. Still the life and soul of every party and get together, Peter likes nothing better than to climb aboard the bus for Fethard and spend a day in his beloved town.

I went to visit Peter on a 'pet day' in October — one of those golden days — a gift from mother nature, and quite unexpected in its beauty before the onset of winter.

Peter was seated outside the rear of the house — a picture of relaxation — cigarette smoke rising to the heavens. His face shows the entire story of his years and his head still covered in that familiar white thatch.

"Many's the Saturday I spent like this in the mart," he tells me. I remark, "What a nice day it would be

to visit Clonea beach." "Twas often I walked to Dungarvan," he said.

"How far is it?" I ask, incredulous. "Twenty-six miles to the Square in

Dungarvan," he answers. "It used to take a day and a half. The farmer, after buying 6 or 8 cattle in the sale would give you £3 to walk them back to Clonmel along the back roads, and when darkness fell, I'd hunt them into a field for the night, then I'd pile 'sops' of hay around in a circle and sleep there for meself, safe from the cattle hooves."

"God you'd wake up stiff and sore. The woman of the house would give you a mug of tea if she was feeling generous. If not, a

sup of milk. On along then and shorten the road, collect me £3 from the farmer, buy a few messages in Kenny's shop, then off to the pub for a few pints of porter and a song or



Peter Napier at Melview

two.”

“That was a long time ago,” he offers. “People living in little hovels at the side of the road, all in big mansions now.”

As we parted company I promise

to visit again tomorrow and maybe take a spin to Clonea if I’m not too tired. Driving 26 miles there and back seems a mighty task but the road will be shortened by some more of Peter’s stories. *

Juvenile GAA Club



Juvenile players and club members about to leave by bus to the All Ireland Hurling Quarter Finals in Croke Park on 31st July, where thirty-five children and six adults set off to see Tipperary v Galway, and Kilkenny v Limerick.

The past year proved to be a great one for us – the highlight – playing in the Under-12 ‘B’ county hurling final. This year we were delighted to have 70 to 80 players play for us in grades under-6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16, in both codes.

Although we did not win all of these competitions, we reached the finals of the under-11 floodlight cup, under-12 south finals in both hurling and football. We were not successful in the football but won the hurling final in great style beating Kilsheelan in a thrilling game. We then qualified for the county final in Semple Stadium and this ended in a draw.

We were beaten by 4 points in the replay. Our under-6, 8 and 10s played numerous games throughout the year, as they developed their basic skills in some great games.

Our under-14s got to both semi-finals but were unfortunately beaten. No disgrace for this young team as they put up very brave performances. The under-16 teams also reached the semis in both codes and were most disappointed not to do better, in the hurling particularly, after winning all their league matches convincingly.

When we look back on last year it is quite evident to see that our future



Intermediate Girls Group at Fethard Summer Camp

looks bright in the club. We have some outstanding talent coming through the ranks and this is testament to the coaches who gave their time, and make a tremendous effort in developing the necessary skills

required to play hurling and football. We would like to thank all the parents for the time and effort they have made in travelling to and from training and matches. One knows it is never easy particularly in this day and age when



Kevin Hayes and his wife Jackie with their children Devin and Liam at Fethard GAA Summer Camp. Kevin and family were home on holiday from USA



Senior Boys' Group at Fethard Summer Camp

children are nearly all involved in other activities. I'm sure it's worth it when we celebrate the wins.

Finally, with next year just around the corner, the juvenile club would like to invite anyone who can to

come and get involved. Every little helps and our door is always open. To all the players, parents, anyone who has helped over the year, and all abroad, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ✱



Senior Girls Group at Fethard Summer Camp



Intermediate Boys Group at Fethard GAA Summer Camp



Junior Boys Group at Fethard Summer Camp

Fethard GAA Club



South Tipp Champions 1924 - Back Row: John O'Donnell (trainer), John O'Shea, Ned Connolly, Tommy Hogan, Tommy Mackey, Jer. Phelan, Mick Gunne, Jack Cummins, Gilla Allen, Middle Row: Dick Mackey, Tom Tubridy, Jack Delaney, Jim Gorman, Front Row: Gus McCarthy, Ned Cummins, Thomas Conway, Jack Brett and Ned O'Shea.

On Sunday 9th January 2005, over fifty people attended our AGM held in the Abymill Theatre. A detailed and excellent report of last year's club happenings was put together by Noel Byrne, Miceál McCormack and Nicky O'Shea, showing a healthy balance for the year ahead. Outgoing chairman (2004) Dick Fitzgerald and president Fr Tom Breen handled proceedings in a very constructive manner and both were re-elected for 2005.

Officers elected for the coming year were: President, Fr Tom Breen; Life Presidents, Dick Cummins and Canon James Power; Vice Presidents, Joe Aherne and Timmy

O'Riordan; Chairman, Dick Fitzgerald; Vice Chairmen, Michael O'Dwyer and Austy Godfrey; Secretary, Gus Fitzgerald; Assistant Secretary (and Juvenile Secretary), Caroline Sheehan; Treasurer, Nicky O'Shea; Assistant Treasurer, Mary Godfrey; PRO, Noel Byrne; Insurance Officer, Noel Byrne; Field Development Officer, Denis O'Meara; Coaching, Damien Byrne; Youth / Oifig Na Gaeilge, Miceál McCormack; Scór, Mary Godfrey; County Board Representative, Gus Fitzgerald; South Board Representatives, Noel Byrne and Michael O'Dwyer; Football Board Representative, Austy Godfrey.

The club entered nine teams in

championships for 2005 at a cost of €650 per team (minimum) at senior level with juveniles extra, so you can see the rising cost of entering GAA teams in competition and the commitment needed for raising finances. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support to the 'Give All Association'.

The Senior Football South Final played on Sunday 11th September resulted in Fethard winning their 28th title, the last in 2002, on a score-line, Fethard 1-20 (1-10), Carrick Swans 1-4 (0-2). The team on Sunday was: Paul Fitzgerald (captain), Alan Phelan, Michael Aherne, Ian Kenrick, Willie Morrissey, John P. Looby, Stephen O'Donnell, Aidan Fitzgerald 0-3, Tomás Keane, Karl Maher 1-1, Michael Dillon 0-4, Miceál Spillane 0-2, Conor McCarthy 0-8 (3f), Brian Coen 0-1, and Kenneth O'Donnell 0-1. Subs Introduced during the second half were: Glen Burke for Ian Kenrick, Damien Byrne for Stephen O'Donnell, and Owen Doyle for Willie Morrissey. Congratulations to Conor McCarthy for his 'Man of the Match Award'.

Congratulations to Tipperary senior football team on achieving a great victory over Wexford in the final of the Tommy Murphy Cup (Tipp 3-10, Wexford 0-15) played in Croke Park on Sunday 4th September; to Paul Fitzgerald for his 'Man Of The Match' performance; to Damien Byrne on his performance for holding the All Star Matty Forde to a single point from play; and to Aidan Fitzgerald for

a wonderful fisted goal to put us on the road to victory. The Fethard players acquitted themselves very well at headquarters in helping to bring home the silverware to the premier county against all the odds.

The Intermediate Hurling South Final was played on Sunday 25th September in Kilsheelan and went to extra time. We were unfortunate to lose this game by a point. Most observers were definite that a replay would have been the call at the end of normal time, especially in a South Final with extra time applying to a replay only. But, as a result of pressure from GAC and with Munster Club Championships in every grade, the show must move on regardless and hence we moved on to quarter-final of the County Championship with a game on Saturday 1st October against Moycarkey Borris in Cashel. The Fethard team who did us proud were: Paul Fitzgerald, Shane Walsh, Stephen O'Donnell, Michael Carroll, Tomás Keane 0-1, Michael Ahearn, Jamie McCormack, Aidan Fitzgerald 0-4, Michael Dillon 0-2, Kenneth O'Donnell 0-3, John P. Looby, Brian Coen 0-1, Kieran Treacy 0-8F, Michael Ryan, Karl Maher 0-1. Subs were: Cian Maher 0-1, Willie Morrissey, Alan Burke, and Alan Phelan..

To all those who passed to their eternal reward in 2005, Dick Wall, Margaret Hackett (nee Hogan), Brian O'Donnell, Ned Delahunty, Noelle O'Dwyer (nee Maher), Dick Cummins. Go ndeana Dia trocaire orthu. ✱

Fethard And Killusty Anglers



George McGrath bringing a nice trout to the net on the Anner

Our AGM was held on Friday 5th March in the Tirry Centre and the officers elected were: Tom Fogarty chairman, David Grant treasurer, Matty Fleming secretary. Jim Sayers, Jim Fogarty, Tony Quigley, Norman O'Regan and Liam Boland were elected committee members. Membership fees for seniors was set at €20 and juveniles €10.

All competition trophies, i.e. the John Sayers, Eddie O'Neill, Jack O'Donnell and Tom Shea Cup would be fished for on the same day. The reason for this is that all fishing clubs affiliated to the M.R.T.A.C. set their competition dates at the start of the season and with a lot of our members being members of other clubs,

they would like to fish these competitions also, Sunday 24th April was the only available Sunday. Our competition was held on that day and proved to be our best attended competition for years.

Twenty four anglers fished, a total of seventy trout were caught, and the results were:

The John Sayers trophy: 1st Eddie Casey, 2nd Willie McGrath, 3rd John Burke.

The John O'Donnell Cup was won by Paul Burke, for the heaviest trout.

The Tom Shea Cup was won by Jim Sayers.

The Eddie O'Neill cup was won by Willie McGrath.

A presentation was made to Matty

Fleming for Club Person of the Year.

Fethard and Killusty Angling Club has been in existence for fifty years or more. Older Fethard people especially, will no doubt recall times when fishermen could be seen fishing the Clashawley right through the town stretch of water — John Sayers, Jim Ryan, Ned Shea, Tommy Coffey, Paddy Dahill and Dickie Butler to name but a few. Times have changed now and the Clashawley river has suffered the effects of land drainage and pollution.

Land drainage, as you are probably aware, allows water to run into the river quickly, bank high floods come and go in a few hours. This can be seen every year in Fethard during

times of heavy rain, bank high floods in winter and a dry riverbed in the summer — absolutely useless for fishing. Couple this with pollution from the sewage treatment plant below the town and what we are left with is a river with no fish life and, of course, no fishermen.

But it is not all doom and gloom. Meetings with the Fisheries Board have taken place and they have informed us that the new water treatment plant should eliminate the pollution and that within one to two years, trout should return to the stretches of water below the treatment plant. The drainage on the other hand is just a big mistake we are going to have to live with. *

Jimmy does it again!

Jimmy O'Donnell, Sandyford, Dublin, and formerly Crampscastle, Fethard, has done it again this year, winning 1st prize of €210 in the Writers' Week Originals Short Poem, sponsored by Cork/Kerry Tourism & The Kerryman, with his entry entitled "Still Life".

The prize was presented at the 'Writers Week' Official Opening Ceremony on Wednesday 1st June at the Listowel Arms Hotel. The entry was published in the 'Writers Week Winners' Book 2005.

Once again congratulations on your success Jimmy ('Still Life' Jimmy's winning poem, is published on page 143), *



Last wish to return home made possible



*The immediate family of the late Joe Walsh, at the ruins of his family home.
L to R: Rachael Brinsden, Nick Walsh, Di Harris, Danny Walsh, Margaret Walsh (Joe's wife), Timmy Walsh, Teresa Phillips and Bernie Walsh.*

Joseph Walsh, formerly from Crampscastle, passed away on 16th June 2005. One of Joe's last wishes was to return home to his much loved Fethard. Early in September 2005, Joe's immediate family ensured that his last wish was carried out and they brought him home.

Joe was born in a small cottage, a mere stone's throw from Crampscastle. Only a small section of that cottage remains now and it marks the corner of a field.

Joe enjoyed his childhood growing up in and around Fethard. He used to walk across the fields with his brother Mick, to attend school in Fethard. His school doesn't exist now, but a

plaque taken from those school buildings is mounted in the wall of the present school in Fethard. He never wanted to leave Fethard, but in the late 1930s his family moved to the South East of England where they settled in West End, Surrey, and where he later settled with his own family in Berkshire.

Joe remained an Irishman who was very proud of his roots in Tipperary and he returned to visit Fethard later in his life with his children, looking for all the places he remembered from his childhood.

Joe's ashes were interred in Everardsgrange cemetery on Friday 2nd September 2005, only yards

away from the cottage where he was born, where Fr. Tom Breen P.P. said a small blessing.

Following their recent trip to Fethard, the Walsh family would like to thank Joe Kenny, Dermot Rice, Edwina Newport, Paddy McEvoy and

Fr. Tom Breen for their generous help in ensuring that Joe's last wish to return home came true. They would also like to thank the people of Fethard for being so friendly and welcoming. They look forward to visiting again. *

Community education flying in Fethard



The beautiful Abymill is the meeting place for two women's groups now up and running in the Fethard area. The morning group has been established over two years and has completed many programmes to date such as: Horticulture and Thi-Chi, Health and Fitness, First Aid, Flower-Arranging and Personal Development.

The morning group has ten women participating and the evening group has twenty.

To date, the evening group has also completed some of the above programmes, plus alternative therapies and computers. Both mornings and

evenings are filled with fun and laughter that can be heard outside the Abymill.

Many new friends have been made and much support received throughout the two years. This was made possible with on-going facilitation from Veronica Crowe, Community Education Facilitator, South Tipperary VEC, who based all the programmes on the needs of the groups. Thanks also to Treacy and Hilda in Health Promotions Union, Clonmel, who delivered the Health Programmes in Conjunction with VEC. For more information contact Veronica at Tel: 052-26269. *

Four generations



Four generations: Nellie Ryan (nee Pollard), Rathbritt, Fethard; Peggy Colville (nee Ryan), Spitalfield; Avril Morrissey (nee Colville), Tullow, Killusty; and baby Amy Morrissey (3 months), Tullow.

Ladies Football Club

The Annual General Meeting of Fethard Ladies Football Club took place on Friday, 1st April in the Tirry Community Centre. There was a very good attendance and good discussion took place on all aspects of the club. The following officers were elected for 2005: President, Rev. Fr. Tom Breen P.P; Chairman, Joe Keane; Vice Chairperson, Edel

Fitzgerald; Hon. Secretary, Ollie Noonan; Asst. Secretary, Jennifer Keane; Treasurer, Norah O'Meara; Asst. Treasurer, Sandra Maher; and PRO, Ollie Noonan.

Delegates to County Board are Edel Fitzgerald and Sandra Maher. Juvenile Trainers, Norah O'Meara, Jennifer Keane, Barbara Ryan, Amy Hopkins and Audrey Conway.

Junior training commenced on Monday, 11th April in the Community Sportsfield, Killenaule Road. Under-age training commenced on 9th April in the GAA Park. Fees for the coming year are: €37 euro for over 18 players and €27 euro for under-age players. Thanks to Audrey Conway who rep-

resented the club at the Community Sportsfield meetings. We look forward to welcoming new players for the coming year. Congratulations to trainer, Aidan Fitzgerald, who was picked for the County Tipperary senior hurling panel. *

St. Rita's Camogie Club

The AGM of St. Rita's Camogie Club was held on Tuesday 29th March and the following officers were elected: Jean Morrissey (chairperson), Eimear Gahan (secretary), Edel Fitzgerald (treasurer), Stephen Fitzgerald (county board delegate). Davy Morrissey was elected as trainer for the coming year with two selectors, Stephen Fitzgerald and Denis O'Meara.

We hope that full commitment will be given to training and matches this year. A special word of thanks to Martha, Sharon and Emma for their hard work with the club over the last number of years. Thanks also to Pat Sheehan for all his help and support.

Membership fees for the coming year are: €25 for adults and €10 for under 18s. New players are always welcome. *

Still Life

"Art by the gateway to Kitty Field's back door"

*A Rhode Island red
Preening
Tossing feathers
A matter of taste
Groomed for motherhood
Clucking an unspoken bond
Parades her clutch
Day olds,
A baker's dozen
From a privileged brake
Of sheltered briars
Chirping out
In wondrous delight*

*Of life
Full and new.
A silver birch
"Lady of the woods"
Ruled by Venus
Holding a mystical place
Scribbled with streaks
In saffron
With a rosewood tint
Plays host
Keeping vigil
With shimmering boughs
"By the hazel wattled gate".*

— by James O'Donnell (Winner: Writers' Week Originals-Short Poem)

“Beneath the spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands”

by Tommy Healy



Jack Gunne at his forge on The Green in the 1970s

Over fifty years ago I discovered an Ordnance Survey map of South Tipperary at my grandmother's house opposite the Abbey Church. It dated from the mid 19th century and showed features which would not appear today on a similar chart. In particular it highlighted the locations of blacksmiths' forges under the title, 'smithy' and these appeared at intervals of two miles or less along most roads. In an age of horse-drawn transport the smithy was every bit as important to the smooth passage of people and goods along the highway as the garage and filling station are today. The blacksmith did not only keep the horses well shod but forged

the great steel bands which protected the wooden wheels of carts and carriages from excessive wear.

In Fethard all throughout my childhood the blacksmith was Jack Gunne. His forge was on The Green and his trade fascinated me as a child. I found watching him shoe a horse to be a most interesting and absorbing experience. Seeing him take a rough shoe, match it roughly to the hoof of a horse and then by heating it in the fire 'til it was white hot and hammer it until its shape fitted the hoof, was a most intricate operation, I thought. Heat came from a coal fire on a raised iron bed, the temperature being created by a huge

leather bellows which was operated by a large wooden lever which Jack pumped vigorously until the fire roared loudly and threateningly. Horse shoes were cooled by dropping them in a bath of cold water so dark that I believed it was mixed with coal dust. Certainly the shoes taken from this bath were almost black, hence my assumption about the coal.

What intrigued me the most was seeing him press the red hot shoe to the hoof of the animal and burn its impression into the hoof to secure an accurate fit. The smell of burning hoof is one which has remained clear in my memory and I was at first worried that it might be painful for the horse. My fears were dispelled when my father explained that a horse's hoof was rather like a finger nail, it had no sense of feeling and, just as you could cut and file a nail without feeling pain, you could burn a hoof likewise.

Nailing the shoe was an equally skilled operation. The specially shaped nails were driven through the slots forged in the base of the shoe but emerged through the outer side of the hoof. A mistake here could maim a horse for the space between the hoof and the inner foot was not

great and to drive a nail into that would probably result in the smith being kicked or the horse collapsing upon him. As the nail emerged through the side of the hoof, the excess was twisted off and the ends were clinched to prevent it from pulling away. I was utterly fascinated

by the whole operation and had a vast respect for its practitioner.

Seeing him tackle a huge cart horse, some of whom weighed nearly a ton, made me feel that Jack possessed *s u p e r h u m a n* strength. What was more likely was that this was a mixture of strength, understanding of the animal and that technique you acquire with long practice, the mark of

a true professional.

On the path outside the forge was a limestone slab. It had embedded in it a square steel hoop just a few inches tall. I discovered it when I tripped over it on my way to Burke Street. A few days later I discovered why it was there. Returning from school I spotted Jack and another man struggling with a long piece of iron. This piece was about two inches wide and five or six feet long. They were attempting to bend it into a circle. It had been heated in the fire and it being soft





they were beating and twisting it into shape. It was a warm day and both were sweating profusely. The strip was inserted under the hoop and several minutes later it emerged in a roughly circular form. A wooden wheel was rolled forward and Jack and assistant proceeded to fit the band to its rim. Rather like the process of shoeing the horse Jack burned the band onto the wheel and then shrunk it tight by pouring water onto it causing it to contract sharply. My admiration was complete. Here was a most intricate trade and here was a consummate tradesman.

Proper cartwheels disappeared from the scene decades ago. Motorcar wheels with their pneumatic tyres replaced the cart wheel and if you see a horse-drawn cart today, these are the wheels which are likely to support it. What happened to the stone slab with its steel hoop I do not

know, was it dug up and discarded long ago perhaps?

Jack Gunne's forge closed when Jack retired. The demand for his services declined as the automobile replaced the cart. Horses were now for riding, mainly off the road, and, therefore, they needed to be shod less often. Certainly Jack's sons did not feel the urge to follow in their father's footsteps for the prospects of making a decent living from the trade had diminished. However, I am told the trade is being revived. The increase in the popularity of riding has revived the trade of farrier, the demand for ornamental ironwork has increased demand for the services of the blacksmith. Both trades now operate separately, the versatility of the likes of Jack Gunne, of being able to operate over several skills is sadly no more. Nor is Jack who now practices his trade in celestial realms. *

Wokachika – rock’n’roll

Peggy Delguidice, a daughter of Anastasia Bedford (nee Ryan) who formerly lived in the Rocklow Road, sent us this review of her son’s band ‘Wokachika’ who are currently doing very well in London. Peggy spent a lot of time in Fethard as a child with her uncle the late Paddy Ryan in Barrack Street.

“Wokachika are a four-piece rock ‘n’ roll band based in Islington, London. The band was formed around four years ago, and has played countless venues such as The Water Rats, Hammersmith Palais, The Marquee, Islington Academy and Sound Republic, to name but a few. They have a broad spectrum of influ-

ences from classic rock of the sixties and seventies to the new school of today’s bands. Wokachika have a very unique sound, it’s hard to put them in a category and compare them to anyone else because they don’t sound like anyone else, the mix of music is a mix of happy-go lucky, uncomplicated balladry to epic rock n’ roll and leaves the crowd with a grin on their faces and a ringing in their ears –just how a band should be! All in all – a band to look out for – band members, Mark Delguidice, Danny Delguidice, Olly Allgrove and Steve Martin.” *

www.wokachika.co.uk



Dick Allen, Killusty, having a bit of fun with newly weds, Nellie and Pat Ryan, Killusty. Also included are John Tobin and Joe Allen.

Jim Murray – musician extraordinaire



Jim Murray playing a pub session with Sharon Shannon

Jim Murray, a son of Jim Murray from Killusty, is a young musician making a big name for himself playing and touring with the cream of Irish musicians, Sharon Shannon and Séamus Begley. Jim started playing guitar at 11 years of age, met Steve Cooney of the ‘Cooney & Begley’ duo, who was so impressed he asked Jim to go to Japan in his place with Séamus Begley, which he did at the young age of 18 years.

One of Ireland’s most talented musicians, Sharon Shannon, then heard him play and asked him to join her band, which he did at 19 years of

age. Jim is a full-time member of her band and has travelled around the world several times since, playing venues in Europe, Asia, America, Australia and New Zealand. He has just returned from America after playing on the ‘Woman’s Heart’ tour with Sharon Shannon, Mary Black, Maura O’Connell and Carra Dillon.

Jim is featured on Sharon’s CDs and has also recorded with Séamus Begley. It would be great to hear Jim play in our own Abymill Theatre.

Jim is the son of Jim and Nora Murray, who now live in Clondrohid, Macroom, Co. Cork. *

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Holy Trinity Conference of this Society has a very long tradition and history going back almost 80 years in Fethard. The present members are Vincent Doocey, President, Denis Burke, Secretary/Treasurer, Josie Fitzgerald, Eileen Burke, and Fr. Tom Breen as Spiritual Director.

The work of the Conference is to help any people from the area (sometimes nearby parishes as well) who need a helping hand or a listening ear. The assistance ranges from holidays for senior citizens to Christmas help, emergency help to families when some unforeseen setback occurs, etc.

We are extremely blessed in Fethard in that the people we deal with treat the Society with respect and help us in every way to help them. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all who request our help.

In conclusion we must say that without the generous donations of the people of Fethard Parish we would not be able to carry out any charitable work. Our annual collection each year is really awesome and other private donations are such that we are humbled by the generosity of the people.

A very sincere and genuine thank you to everybody who helps us. *

A black feathered problem

A common sight across the countryside of modern farming methods is the stacks of round bale silage, neatly wrapped and stacked by the side of ditch or hedgerow. The bales are often painted with an X, though some farmers take the opportunity to express their artistic side, as can be seen on the Fethard road leading into Clonmel, where a series of funny faces greet the passer by.

Last year, on the Clonmel road leading into Cashel, a farmer seemed to be making a political statement. The one that sticks out in my mind from a few years back still conjures up images of a very irate farmer, as the message read; "crows are

b*st*rds." This image has lifted my spirits on many occasions, until I became victim of the feathered villain myself. It must have been around 4 or 5am, dawn was just breaking and the birds were beginning to stir, and stir they did.

First it was persistence cawing across the street that came ever closer. Then it was the sound of clawing feet on the slate roof right above my head. If that were not bad enough they then began to peck at the slates. After a time they flew away, but came back again and continued in the same vain. When this persisted I could take it no longer. I stuck my head out the third story window to see what I could. On the street in

front of the XL shop the crows were hopping into the rubbish bin, pulling out what they could (quite a lot), then anything edible was taken skyward. For some reason this morning the preferred option was my particular roof and the pecking feast began. Interestingly, I noticed that a white cross painted on the black rubbish bin seemed to have little effect on

these crows. In frustration I resorted to waving a big Waterford county flag out the window to frighten the crows away. It actually worked.

Though I'm sure if anyone happened to see me, the laugh would be on me. If anyone has a solution for this particular crow problem XL shop and I would be glad to hear it. *

Irish Girl Guides



At enrolment day, April 2005, were L to R: Kate O'Donnell, Áine Proudfoot, Annie Prout, Sarah Burke and Jade Pattison.

Fethard District Girl guides had another busy and active year in 2005. In February we celebrated Thinking Day in Cashel with guides from Thurles and Cashel. Several young leaders from both these companies were presented with silver and gold guiding awards, and silver and gold An Gaisce presidential awards. These young girls, aged 15 upwards, were examples of what can be achieved in guiding. Hopefully,

Fethard guides can achieve similar awards in future.

On a lovely bright sunny April day we had outdoor activities in Dundrum Scout Centre which included orienteering, an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt and Fun Olympics. The sight of the leaders participating in the Fun Olympics, is best left to the imagination, although photographic evidence does exist!

In July brownie leaders Catherine



Leaders taking a break at camp in Dundrum 2005. L to R: Catherine O'Connell, Irene Reale (Thurles), Judy Doyle and Catherine O'Donnell.

O'Donnell and Catherine O'Connell took our brownies on a weekend away to the Guide Cottage in Broadfort in Co. Clare. They were accompanied by Cashel brownies and leaders. This was a very successful venture, which we hope to repeat as lasting friendships were made. Another outdoor activity was to visit Catherine O'Donnell's farm for nature walk, games and goodies!

Ladybirds (5-7 years) and Brownies (7-10 years) meet every Tuesday night in Fethard Ballroom from 7-8pm. At present we have no

Guides (10-14 years) but, hopefully, in the spring some of the senior Brownies will advance to Guides. Our weekly meetings consist of guide laws and promise, crafts, badge work, games, songs, in a fun and caring atmosphere.

Each year the girls are involved in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. So a varied programme is provided by our leaders Catherine O'Donnell, Catherine O'Connell, Teresa Hurley, Judy Doyle and our new recruit, Melissa Stokes. So here's to another successful Guiding year. *

Woodvale Walk Residents' Association

Woodvale Walk Resident's Association held their AGM on 5th July 2005. This meeting was well attended and officers elected were as follows: Chairperson, Patsy Lawrence; Vice Chairperson, Gerard Brown; Secretary, Theresa Roche; Assistant Secretary, Mary Thompson;

Treasurer, Dolores O'Donnell; Assistant Treasurer, Joan Brown.

On 16th August we hired two mini buses to take children and some adults to the beach in Clonea. We had a lovely sunny day and a great time was had by all. We extend our sympathy to the McGarry family and



Halloween L to R: Cillian Slattery, Cathal Slattery, Sarah Slattery, Sally Nagle.

to Stephanie McCormack on their recent sad loss.

We held our door-to-door collection again this year and a word of thanks to everybody who donated and to our collectors. We continue to keep our estate as litter free as possible and a great addition is the council's road-sweeper on Friday morn-

ings. We are also looking forward to road repairs commencing this year. Well done lads and thanks to everyone who helped us in any way this year including our grass cutters and litter pickers.

We wish all the residents of Woodvale Walk a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year. *



Rachael O'Meara and Chloe Doyle at the Halloween bonfire 2005



Fethard & Killusty Community Council

Fethard and Killusty Community Council are fast approaching the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the organisation. To commemorate this event and to celebrate the community spirit alive in Fethard today the present committee are hosting a Community Dinner Dance in the Ballroom on Friday 13th January 2006. This is the actual date of the first meeting of the Community Council held in 1976.

Prior to formation of the Community Council the people were represented by the Fethard Development Association. This was formed in 1967 and the late Rev.

Canon Lee P.P. was the president. The association was elected to concentrate on efforts to promote industrial activity in the town and the tourist potential of the area with special reference to hotel and guest-house accommodation. Officers elected were Mr. P. Meagher BA, Secretary; Mr. E O'Neill and Mrs Maher, Treasurer. The association formed three groups, Industrial Development, Tourism & Tidy Towns and Social, Recreational & Educational Development. In 1974 in an effort to re-organise the group a new council was elected under the auspices of Muintir na Tire. In 1975 a



Fethard Community Council Committee photographed at the official opening of the renovated Tirry Community Centre which took place on 29th September 1980. Front L to R: Tommy Butler, Fr. Clifford OSA, Jerry Skehan, Tomás Roseingrave, Fr. Noonan, Fr. Stapleton, Austin O'Flynn, Carol Kenny, Peter Colville. Back L to R: Dermot Rice, John Whyte, Sean Spillane, Jimmy Connolly, Gerry Horan, Mick Ahearne, Percy O'Donnell, Tim Slattery (Bank Manager), Michael O'Dwyer. Fethard & Killusty Community Council will celebrated their 30th Anniversary with a special 'Anniversary Dinner Dance' in Fethard Ballroom on Friday 13th January 2006.

public meeting was convened to ascertain the views of the people of Fethard & Killusty Parish on the advisability of forming a Community Council. There was a unanimous vote in favour of forming a Council and a temporary steering committee was elected. This committee distributed nomination papers to each household in the parish, each person over eighteen years of age voted for the candidate of their choice. The vote was a ballot. In 1996 the organisation was incorporated as a limited company and became Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Ltd.

At the first meeting of Fethard & Killusty Community Council, in 1976, the following officers were elected. Rev. Fr. John Stapleton CC, Chairperson; Mr Jerry Skehan, Vice-chairman; Mrs Mary Healy, Secretary; Messrs. Paddy Broderick and Paddy Heffernan, Treasurers; and Mr Austin O'Flynn, PRO. The guiding principles of the Council at that meeting stated that: "A community council is a representative body whose aim is to involve all members of the community in identifying local needs and problems and taking the initiative to solve them. A community council ensures that the identification of local problems and their solution is an ongoing concern and that concern is integrated into the everyday life of the community. We have at the moment, projects in operation, which we are confident will benefit the whole community." Thirty years on these same principles hold true.

The current officers of the Fethard & Killusty Community Council are as follows: Joe Kenny, Chairman; Edwina Newport, Secretary; Jimmy Connolly, Treasurer; Maria Murphy PRO and Peter Grant, FAS Scheme Liaison Officer. The Board of Directors comprises of Rev. Fr. Tom Breen PP, Ger Manton, Thelma Griffith, Diana Stokes, John Barrett, Brian Sheehy, Paddy McEvoy, Nellie Donovan and Liam Hayes.

The primary function of the Community Council is the operation of the Fr. Tirry Community Centre incorporating the community office. These facilities are managed on a day-to-day basis under the excellent direction of Joan O'Donohoe, FÁS CE Scheme Supervisor. Activities in the community office, the Day Care Centre, and other locations in Fethard are carried out by participants on the scheme.

The members and committee of the Community Council would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Joan and her staff for their involvement and co-operation. Their actions, and the FÁS Scheme, make a considerable contribution to life in Fethard today. The services available in the Community Office will be expanded in the new year as we have just received notification of the granting of almost €8,000 for the provision of IT Equipment for the office under the government scheme of grants for community & voluntary groups.

In keeping with the principles as

already outlined much of the activities of the past few months have seen the Community Council act as a representative body on behalf of the people of Fethard. This action has primarily been directed towards South Tipperary County Council in relation to their proposal to provide, at Strylea, twenty houses and ten serviced sites. This development constitutes phase one of a much more substantial development which on completion will comprise of approximately ninety units. In October we, in conjunction with South Tipperary County Council, hosted a successful public meeting to inform the community of the issues from both sides, in relation to

this proposal.

In an effort to ascertain the best use for the convent hall to establish a youth centre the Community Council engaged the services of Tipperary Institute to conduct a study on the opinions of young people in Fethard. This report 'Youth Needs and Service Provision in Fethard' was undertaken between June and August 2005 and the findings were presented at a public meeting in November. This is a very impressive document; it gives a very accurate account of the opinions of young people today. It is worth noting that almost half, 116, of the young people (ten to eighteen year olds) living in Fethard participated in the study. In addition to these



Class Reunion of 1955 photographed in Sadels Restaurant, in May 2005. Back L to R: Rita (O'Donnell) Cutler, Rose (Walsh) Cudden, Marie (Dineen) Whyte, Lucy Hanly, Frances (Evans) Linehan, Patsy (Byard) Burke, Eileen (Woodlock) O'Keeffe. Front L to R: Kathleen (O'Donnell) Hally, Marie (Rice) O'Donnell, Ann (O'Donnell) Lynch, Mary (Skehan) Hennessy and Joan (Fergus) Dooley.



Photographed in Holohan's Pub, Burke Street, in the 1980s are L to R: Austin O'Flynn, Michael O'Brien, John Bourke and Tom Purcell.

contributors a substantial number of adults who are involved with young people as care providers, service deliverers or in a club or sporting context were interviewed. It is envisaged that this Youth Needs Report will provide a framework around which youth actions can be initiated. The availability of the convent hall, the existence of the Multi-Agency Network, the collaboration between Foróige and Tipperary Regional Youth Services in the Slieveardagh area and the proposed co-ordination of activities at local level will contribute greatly towards the success of such actions. A meeting will take place in the new year to begin the process of co-ordinating activities and to advance the situation further.

The Community Council operates the Community Lotto. This draw accumulates considerable funds, which are available for various com-

munity projects. The lotto draw takes place weekly on Wednesday mornings at 11am in the Day Care Centre and is open to all members of the community to attend. The committee would like to thank all those who support this draw, your contribution is supporting the whole community.

The Christmas lights were turned on in Fethard on Thursday 8th December. These adorn both Main Street, Burke Street and the Fr. Tirry Community Centre. The provision of these lights, at considerable cost, invokes a festive spirit to the Christmas season in Fethard.

Other activities currently being undertaken by the group include the re-establishment of the Badminton Club and the development of a dedicated walking route, Sli na Slainte, in association with the Irish Heart Foundation. Fethard applied and received funding, in conjunction

with Eircom, to provide broadband access in the town. This was installed in August. In the near future, a wireless system will be installed to service the outlying areas and villages. Funding was also received to redevelop the river walk area and discussions are taking place to decide on what projects will be undertaken under the Urban & Village Renewal Programme for which Fethard is one of the designated towns for 2006.

As we draw towards the end of another year and approach a significant milestone for the organisation we can take pride in the activities of the Community Council. The contin-

uance of the organisation since its formation thirty years ago bears testament to the commitment and dedication of the many members and officers who were involved down through the years.

We would like to invite you to come along to the Anniversary Dinner Dance on Friday January 13th 2006 (don't let the date put you off!), where we will remember the past with pride and salute the tradition of community action in Fethard. Tickets are available locally.

Wishing all our readers a peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year. *



Some of the exhibits from Fethard Folk Museum at the 1984 opening of The Granary in Limerick. L to R: Jimmy Mullins, Kitty Strang, Donal Mullins, Marina Mullins, Mary Keyes, Patrick Keyes (baby), Margaret and Christy Mullins.

Fethard & District Day Care Centre



*Photographed at the Christmas Bazaar on 24th November 2005 are L to R:
Thelma Griffith, Mary Danagher and Annie Ryan.*

Fethard & District Day Care Centre, as usual, has had a very busy fun filled year. It is always great to see the place fill up again after the Christmas break. The centre is a hive of activity five days a week. Passing by, one can hear the melodious according playing of John Pollard and Pauline Morrissey and indeed, songs such as "Slievenamon" and many other old favourites ring out loud and clear. We have many great singers attending every day, always willing to sing a few verses. John and Pauline are two stalwarts and have been with us from the start, many thanks for the great entertainment they provide for all.

The clients get very involved in the many everyday activities — painting, exercise, safe touch, bingo, and the raffle. Work goes on all throughout

the year for the Easter raffle and the Christmas Bazaar. The group knit and crochet beautiful pieces for both events and thanks to the expert organisational skills of Thelma Griffith, they are both great fundraising events for the Day Care Centre. One could sometimes wonder how they even get time to eat the lovely meals ably provided by the catering staff.

The staff are a great bunch of people who put their heart and soul into everything they do for the clients. This creates a great rapport between the staff and clients and so leads to a very happy atmosphere.

We enjoyed some lovely trips during the year including a trip to the Anner Hotel for tea and pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. In July we headed to Lismore for the day and stopped for a beautiful meal in Dungarvan. There



L to R: Mary Grant, Kathy Aylward, Patricia Brett and Mary Fitzgerald.

were also several trips to Slievenamon Golf Club for afternoon tea and entertainment in conjunction with the Lions Club.

This year the Day Care Centre got a wonderful boost from the 'People in Need' trust. We received a grant of €28,000 towards our new bus, which transports our clients to and fro every day. This means we were able to clear our debt incurred when buying the bus earlier this year. We are extremely grateful to 'People in Need'. It is nice to know that the work carried out in the Centre is being recognised.

'Meals on Wheels' are delivered three days a week by our wonderful volunteers – the unsung heroes who give so selflessly of their time – and the same has to be said of the many volunteers who come to the Centre every day.

We say a big thank you, to all and to the transition year students from Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School, who help with

the Meals on Wheels deliveries and spend time in the Centre with clients.

Thanks also to our supervisor Geraldine McCarthy and Jim Keane, our bus driver. On a sad note, one of our dearest and longest serving volunteers and vice-chairman, Brian O'Donnell, passed away this year. Brian was a very warm and jolly man and endeared himself to everyone. We miss him, especially his very hearty laugh, which was always heard before you saw him. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis.

Our committee this year is: Thelma Griffith, our hard working chairperson (and another of our unsung heroes), Joan O'Donohoe, Liam Hayes, Carmel Rice, Jimmy Connolly, Nellie O'Donovan, Phil Wyatt, Nora Lawrence, Megan Sceats, Joe Kenny and Marie Murphy. Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone and if you're ever passing by Barrack Street, drop in for a chat and a cup of tea and you might even sing a song for us. We'd love to meet you! *

Fethard Community Employment Scheme

We had a very shaky start to the Community Employment Scheme in 2005. Numbers were down and it looked like things were not going to improve. All in all it was a very unsettled time for all concerned, both our sponsors and participants.

However, our Sponsors Fethard & Killusty Community Council, got behind us and lobbied our councillors and TDs. This proved fruitful and thankfully by July things had settled down. We were able to bring our numbers back up to our full complement for the first time in six months.

This year also saw community employment schemes being amalgamated and as a result we took over the supervision of three participants working in St. Bernard's Group Homes. This is working out very

well. Quite a few of this year's participants received certificates from training and development. All of them completed the 'Safe Pass' and several studied computers. This is a great achievement as certified training is very important in today's world. Other training included, stonework, 'Colour Me Beautiful' (nothing like a bit of personal development) and driving lessons. One of our participants passed her driving test, congratulations Patsy! Indeed, congratulations to each and every one on their achievements.

Our team this year is Janet Byrne, Marie Hannigan, Esther Breen, Brud Roach and Robert O'Riordan based in the Tirry Centre; John Hennessy in the GAA Sports Complex; Tom Shine and Michael Morrissey with Fethard Tidy Towns; and Anne Marie



Jimmy Connolly and John Whyte photographed with Tanya Comber-Rait from Irish Heart Foundation, who visited Fethard this year to look at the proposed Ballybough Slí na Sláinte walk in Fethard.

Buck, Patsy Webster and Patsy Nagle with St. Bernard's Group Homes. They all do great work, which may be sometimes taken for granted. As supervisor, I would like to say how much their commitment and hard work is appreciated.

One of our mighty team is so dedicated I can't even get him to take his holidays. I won't mention his name

but you know who I'm talking about, "don't you Brud?" A huge "thank you" to Fethard & Killusty Community Council and to Joe Nixon, our FÁS officer, who make it all possible.

Upwards and onwards we go and hopefully, everything will be well within the FÁS world for the foreseeable future. A very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to everyone. *

Fethard Open Coursing Club

Officers elected for the coming year: President, Tim O'Riordan; Vice President, Michael Flanagan; Chairman, Arthur Daly; Treasurer, Paddy Hickey; and Secretary, Peter O'Sullivan.

Last year's coursing season was probably the best we've had in years. We started the season with the main event of our year, The Pat Dalton Cup, kindly sponsored by Pat Dalton, Golden. Without his support we could not run this

event. The cup was for sixteen all age dogs and bitches, and with hares being very plentiful, we were down to the final in two hours. In the deciders we had Pat Cunningham's 'Going Rate' against P. Curtin's 'South Court', with €1,500 to the winner.

We hoped for a good buckle and

we got one with a strong hare after a long slip. 'Going Rate' was fast away and led by three lengths at one stage, but 'South Court' had cut him back to one length at the turn. After two

more turns, which were shared, the flag was pulled in 'Going Rates' favour.

We also ran the Consolation Stake, sponsored by Clonmel Cabins and C.C Engineering, for the dogs beaten in the first round of the cup. After some very hard

coursing we were down to the final and in the decider we had W.H Roche's 'Marshall Dream' and Ms A. O'Gorman's 'Aoife Tearaway'. After a short course, 'Marshall Dream' was declared the winner.

During the year we also ran the Cormack Cup, which was won by



Winner of the Consolation Stakes at the Fethard Open Coursing Meeting L to R: Pat Cormack, Marie Roche and Willie Roche.



Presentation of the Pat Dalton Cup to winner 'South Court' owned by Pat Cunningham (Middleton). L to R: Peter O'Sullivan, Pat Cunningham, Pat Cormack, Tom Clifford, Michael Grimes (slipper), Arthur Daly and Paddy Hickey.

Tom Cormack. The Burke Cup was won by M. Flanagan and the Donovan Cup was won by John Clifford, Fermoy. Fethard Coursing Club would like to thank all the beaters who turned up for our big day. We would like to thank our head beaters, Tommy Shine, Dinny Shine and Michael Shine. Special thanks to D. Flanagan and to our sponsors Pat Dalton, Woodlock Developments, Willy Roach, Pat McCormack, Frank Barrett, Matty Tynan, Bridge Bar Fethard, XL Stop and Shop, Coolmore, Fethard Oil, Daly Fuels, and the Oriental Gardens Restaurant, Fethard.

Sincere thanks to Coolmore Stud for the use of their land for our main event, and to all landowners who let us course their land. We hope to see you all in the 2005/2006 season,

bring a friend for fresh air and exercise. You can't beat a day in the countryside! *



Danny Kane holding the 'Waterloo Cup' last January in Fethard

Fethard Tidy Towns



Photographed at the Fethard Tidy Towns monthly meeting with Council Officials and Engineers on 14th September 2005 are Back L to R: Cllr Michael O'Brien, Cllr John Fahey, Jonathon Cooney (Fethard Area Engineer, South Tipperary County Council), James Horan (incoming Foreman Fethard Area), Peter Grant (Chairman Fethard Tidy Towns), Thomas Fitzgerald (outgoing Foreman Fethard Area). Front L to R: Joan O'Donohoe (Supervisor Fethard & Killusty Community Council FÁS Scheme), Cllr Susan Meagher, Tess Collins (Tenant Liaison Officer South Tipperary County Council) and Anna Cooke (Secretary Fethard Tidy Towns).

Fethard Tidy Towns have had a good year. We hold our meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Tirry Centre. In conjunction with these meetings we have bi-monthly meetings with South Tipperary County Council Area Engineer, Jonathan Cooney, and Town Foreman, Tom Fitzgerald. We would like to express our gratitude for all their hard work during the year.

We would also like to thank the representatives from the County

Council and local councillors who also attend these meetings. We find the meetings very productive.

This year saw the long awaited car-parking come to fruition and in the pipeline is the €40,000 grant for the river walk project. We also hope to see, if not this year then in 2006, our one-way system in place. Imagine, who would ever have thought Fethard would ever need one! Our FÁS participants are Tommy Shine and Michael Morrissey and they look after flower beds, grass cutting, plant-

ing of bulbs, shrubs etc. We would like to say a big thank you to both.

The annual church gate collection was a great success and many thanks to all who supported us. We would also like to the sponsors of our very popular Garden Competition and to Joan for judging the competition. This year we were also delighted with the good turn out for the annual river clean up. The group included: Bill Kennedy, Colm McGrath, Diana Stokes, Anne Marie O'Sullivan, Catherine Kearney, Peter Grant, Thelma Griffith, Mary Jane Kearney, Amy Grant, Colin Grant, Luke Grant,

Tommy O'Dwyer and Jason Lawrence.

Our committee this year is: Chairperson, Peter Grant; Vice Chairperson, Nellie O'Donovan; Secretary, Thelma Griffith; Treasurer, Anna Cooke; PRO, Diana Stokes and Pat Fitzgerald. We welcomed on board Ann Marie O'Sullivan. As always, we are looking for, and would welcome, new members with new ideas and lots of energy (don't worry we won't work you too hard).

A Very Happy Christmas and New Year to all and please, take your rubbish home with you! *

Garden Competition Results

Best Business Premises, Paddy McEvoy; Best Baskets, Vera & Michael Sheehan; Best Window Boxes, Maura & David Gorey; Best Large Garden, Clodagh & Brendan Brett; Best Overall Area, Fr Tirry Park. Highly Commended: Annie Ryan, Claire Landy, David Hennessy, and Fr Tirry Community Centre.

Area Results for Best Garden:

- (1) *Knockbrack / Spittlefield / Mockler's Terrace – Pierce Littleton.*
- (2) *The Valley / Watergate – Nora Lawrence.*
- (3) *Kerry St. / Congress Tce. / Red City – Una & Frank Fogarty.*
- (4) *Cashel Road – Noel & Irene Sharpe.*
- (5) *Main St. / Rocklow Road / Cois Falla – Ruth Farrell.*
- (6) *Burke St. / Abbey Road – Percy Flynn.*
- (7) *The Green / Barrack St. – Alma Pollard.*
- (8) *Fr. Tirry Park / Canon Hayes Court – 1st: John Tobin, 2nd: Ann Foley.*
- (9) *St. Patrick's Place – 1st: Chrissie Moloney, 2nd: Philly Hannigan.*
- (10) *Slievenamon Close – Maura & Tony Morgan.*
- (11) *Strylea / Cedar Grove – Christy & Audrey Devitt.*
- (12) *Woodvale Walk – 1st: Rita & Con Doyle, 2nd: Patricia O'Meara.*
- (13) *Kilnockin View – Chris & Mary Mackey.*

Richard 'Grawn' Power

by Valerie Patricia Watson (Power)

I have been receiving, via my son Simon Watson, copies of your excellent newsletter. I have read these with great interest, as my late father was born in Fethard and lived there with his family until his early twenties, when he left for England.

My great-grandfather, Con Power, was a baker and came from Ballyporeen. He worked in a bakery called 'Stapletons' in Fethard. He had several children: Will, one of his sons, helped him in the bakery and was married to Annie O'Brien, a local girl, and, by all accounts, very devout; Patrick, who was lame after an argument with a horse during the first world war; a son who lost his life in France during that war (no name for him unfortunately); a daughter Bridget; and a son Richard (Grawn) Power, who was my grandfather. His wife, my grandmother, Alice, passed away, probably in the early 1930s. I would dearly love to know more about her. Why she died at such a relatively early age, for example?

I have never seen a photograph of either my Irish grandparents and wonder if any exist? Richard and Alice had five children: Bridget (Bridie) who went to live in America

(Massachusetts); Mary, married name Dwyer, who lived in Belsize Park area of London; the youngest child was Alice, who like my father moved to north west London.

My father was Michael Power (Mick), born in Kerry St. Fethard on 22nd, February 1915. He came to live



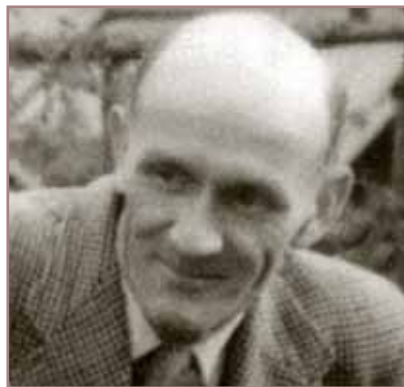
Valerie Patricia Watson (Power)

in London in 1931, worked with my mother, Rose Harwin, at Gilbey's Distillery, and married her in April 1939. They lived all their married life in Kingsbury, North-West London. They had two children: Anthony, born January 1945, and I am their elder child, Valerie Patricia, born December 1940. My

brother lives in Sussex with his family and is a very successful civil engineer, and I have lived in New Zealand for the past 30 years, during which time I have not learned to type properly!

I have three sons, one of whom lives in Dublin, almost back to the ancestral seat. Simon, the youngest, like his brother, the Jackeen, has also visited Fethard. He spent some time talking to a gentleman who had lots of local information on computer files. This may have been your good self.

I am wondering about any relatives that I may have living in the district,



Michael Power, left in 1930 and on the right in 1958

or if there is anyone who may have any memories of my late grandparents, or knows where they are buried, or has anything to tell me about my family? If so, I would love to hear from them.

Also, can anyone enlighten me as to the significance of the title 'Grawn'. I understand all the Richards in the family were called this and you have used it in the caption to the hurling photograph. My dad didn't know what it meant, and my partner who is an Irish speaker, is also puzzled by it.

My partner, Christopher Hayden (Christy), is also a Tipperary man, born in Tipperary Town. He is the son of Joseph Hayden, coach-builder from Nenagh. His uncle, also Christopher, was the editor of the Nenagh Guardian. We will be researching his family through the Nenagh Historical Society, but I mention this in case any local folk may have heard of them.

My son tells me one of our relatives, Richard Power, was a nail-

maker and his handmade nails are still in the church. Simon says he was my great-grandfather, which confuses me greatly, as my father told me that his grandfather was 'Con the Baker'. Perhaps it is myself who's been conned. Can anyone throw any light on this for me please?

Simon brought me back some lovely photographs of Fethard, including one of Will and Anne Power's grave. I hope to be able to come and see for myself one day. Also, Christy Hayde, is a musician (trumpet) and in his youth played in dance bands around the district. He feels people may prefer to forget this, but someone may remember nevertheless. Anyway, thank you for reading my ramblings. All the very best to you and God Bless.

Valerie Patricia Watson (Power), 66 Hillcrest Avenue, Hillcrest, North Shore City, Auckland, New Zealand. All correspondence will be answered and I would love to hear from anyone who may wish to put pen to paper! *

War Service Medals

by Leonora McCormack

When the 2004 Issue of the Fethard & Killusty Newsletter arrived I read the contents with interest. One article, of special significance to the McCormack family in New Zealand, was the list of recipients of a certificate of honour reproduced from the Clonmel Chronicle of Wednesday June 27th 1917.

Among the names listed was Daniel McCormack, Kerry Street, Fethard. Daniel was the tenth child of Daniel & Johanna (Delahunty) McCormack who lived at 4 Kerry Street, he was born in 1880 and was my husband's uncle.

We believe he, with his brother Michael and sister Catherine (Kate) emigrated to USA when the 1914-1918 war broke out. Keen to do his bit for his country of origin, Daniel, at some stage crossed into Canada where he

enlisted with the Canadian Forces. We know very little of his army record, but sadly in due course he paid the supreme sacrifice in France.

It is interesting to note that two of his commemorative medals were sent to his brother Patrick who had emigrated to New Zealand. These medals are held by family members today. Daniel's fine example of joining the armed forces was continued into the next generation, five of his nephews and one niece enlisted during World War II. They served in N.Z. Pacific, Middle East, Syria, Italy and England. One nephew was killed while serving as a gunner in RNZAF.

For various reasons, some family members were not able to serve in the armed forces, but stayed at home and trained to defend their country if the need arose. *

Tin Helmet

by John Fogarty

We never knew who he was or where he came from. But once, or maybe twice every summer he'd come striding up The Valley and briefly into our lives. A tall man, or so he seemed to us as we crowded inside the kitchen window watching him pass. 'Tin Helmet' we called him, because of the strange-looking hat, not unlike a soldier's helmet, which sat on his head. His coat was khaki coloured, shabby and stained. The boots he wore were muddy and broken from endlessly trudging the

roads. A nondescript bundle and some blackened, billycans dangled from his shoulder. A knight of the road, my father called him. But he wasn't at all like those other strange, ragged men who would wander aimlessly through the town from time to time. Harmless, slightly comical figures, and somehow pathetic as well, we would gather round in curiosity if one of them knocked at our door looking for something to eat.

'What county am I in?', one of those knights asked my brother, Jim,



'Fethard Gone West' Fethard Carnival includes Hugh O'Donnell, P.J. Holohan, Sean Henehan (on fiddle), Billy Kenrick, Tom Barrett, Thomas Henehan, Aggie Barrett, Derek Wall, Betty Holohan, Mary Goldsborough and Rena Staunton.

once.

'Tipperary.' 'Holy God, I knew I could smell the burnt witch!' he replied, and hurried away down the Valley as if he would be tainted by delaying any longer. He'd held on to his slice of bread, though.

But it wasn't like that with Tin Helmet. We were frightened of him — without really knowing why — and always ran indoors when word went round that he was on his way.

'Quick, quick, Tin Helmet is coming!'

That name, 'Tin Helmet', touched on something. It made you want to run, run, quickly, as you would on a dark night, anxious for the light and comfort of home. And yet Tin Helmet had never spoken to or threatened anybody as he passed along. No, it wasn't anything that he had ever said or done. It was the look, that terrible look on his gaunt, unshaven face. It

was those staring eyes that seemed to look into and beyond everything, that seemed to be fixed on horrors that could not be described.

Over many summers we had come to know some things about him. We knew that he was an old soldier who had been in the trenches during the Great War. Nobody knew what battlefields he had survived. Everybody said that he had been shell-shocked, that he wasn't right, 'poor divil'.

But we had seen many old soldiers who were veterans of the trenches and there was nothing frightening about them. There was Pad Shea from St. Patrick's Place who had potatoes and vegetables growing in the council plots behind our house on The Valley. As soon as the first green potato stalks poked from the clay he would begin to spend time in his plot. Almost every morning of the summer he would come slowly

up The Valley wheeling his old bike with fork and shovel tied to the bar. Every day he would slowly work his way up and down between the drills flicking weeds, tap tapping with the back of his shovel, pausing occasionally for long moments. Sometimes, standing there in the silence of a summer's day, he seemed almost to become part of the blossoming potato stalks that he contemplated. There in the quiet of the garden he was a long way from the mud the murder and the madness that must have surrounded him all those years ago when he had stood in the trenches gazing out on the hellish sight that was no man's land. Possibly waiting to go over the top and thinking that he would not come back alive. But there in the tranquillity of his little potato plot on The Valley Pad Shea didn't seem to be haunted by memories of the horrors he must have

endured on those distant battlefields where millions of men were crushed out of existence.

Neither did Mickey Kearney who lived a few doors from us on The Valley.

Mickey lived with his brother Paddy who had come back to live in Fethard after spending some years in America. Mickey broke horses but didn't seem to work for anyone in particular. Every morning he would cycle away from the house and come slowly back late in the evening-sometimes very late, and from the direction of Pearl Dowling's. Sometimes, if some of us were sitting on the wall watching his halting progress towards home, he would stop to talk. Propping his bike against the wall he'd begin the ritual of filling his pipe. Cutting slivers of tobacco from a plug with a penknife, rubbing it in the palm of his hand, packing it



'Hospital Sweep' Fethard Carnival c.1938. Nancy McInerney (in white uniform), Nurse Walsh (pipe and cap), Mrs Paddy O'Donnell (scarf), Dick Allen (Garda uniform) and Willie Slattery (white band cap).

into the pipe, striking a match, letting it go out, striking another, puffing billows of sweet-smelling smoke. And spitting constantly. And sitting beside us on the wall he'd ramble on about places he'd been to, horses he'd broken, people he'd worked for, saying so-and-so was a "dacent 'aul skin" and someone else was a "mane 'aul hoor." Sometimes he would close his eyes and let his pipe go out as he screeched out garbled bits of a ballad about Sean Treacy, always putting extra vigour into the refrain:

'Ahhhh, he will never more roam,
To his own native home,
Tipperary so far away.'

Sometimes, if prompted, he would talk about the war. He had not served in the trenches. He had worked behind the line looking after the horses that were used to pull supplies and weaponry to and from the front line. He would become quiet and distant and there was a sadness in his voice when he spoke about the horses he'd looked after and told of how so many had been killed in the endless shelling. Of course, as young boys, we didn't want to hear about horses, we wanted heroics, the kind that we'd seen from John Wayne in war films in the Capitol cinema

Eventually Mickey would wander off towards home and soon after he could be heard calling out to Mamie Croke:

'Ah how ya Mamie me aul' segotia!'

And you could imagine Mamie scowling at him over the half-door.

In early November you'd always

see them together, those old soldiers, Mickey and Pad – and Pad's brother Mick – walking through the crowd at the opening meet of the Tipperary Foxhounds carrying their little boxes of bright red poppies: offering them up to those mounted on well-groomed hunters with plaited manes; the riders leaning stiffly down from their gleaming saddles to drop a condescending coin into the box; the old soldiers moving off with a deferential lift of their caps.

Those old soldiers were part of our lives on The Valley, coming and going, caught up in the quiet, everyday rhythms of life. When they were young men barely out of boyhood they had travelled many thousands of miles from their home town and found themselves on the bloodiest battlefields the world had ever seen. They had seen terrible things, had seen human life degraded into mud. All around them thousands of men were slaughtered every day. By the time it was all over, by the time the work of the generals and the guns was finished, millions would have been killed pointlessly. But somehow they had managed to stay alive and get back home. They had looked into the darkest pit of Hell and lived – but they were not anxious to tell the tale. They rarely spoke of the war, never boasted of any Hollywood heroics on the battlefield. Perhaps they wanted to forget the horror of it all, erase it from their memories by immersing themselves in the ordinary things that might have been lost to them in

the mud of Flanders or the Somme.

And maybe that was what made Tin Helmet different. Maybe, unlike Pad Shea and Mickey Kearney, he could not forget the horror of what he had been through, was forced to relive it again and again and again. Maybe that was why he strode so purposefully along through towns and villages and winding country roads like a man in flight, fleeing a nightmare that he could never escape, a nightmare that was embedded forever in his memory. A nightmare filled with bombs, bullets, broken bodies and barbed wire. Perhaps as children we took fearful flight from him because we could sense what those staring eyes of his could never stop seeing: death, destruction, Armageddon, the absolute extinction of life.

So we would wait for him to pass on, and, like a cloud passing over the sun

on a summer's day, he was soon gone. Sometimes he would take the road to Cashel, sometimes disappear to the left at the cross for Clonmel. And when he was gone it was as if some kind of tension had been broken, as when a funeral has passed, and we would run out to resume our play.

Summers passed, we watched Tin Helmet come and go. Always in the same way. And then one summer he didn't appear at all. We didn't give his absence much thought being too busy with the details of our own young lives. Occasionally, Mamie Mackey or Josie Barrett would idly say, "no sign of aul' Tin Helmet." And that was all. We never knew where he went or what became of him. Perhaps his war had finally ended and his relentless trudging was over. But we never saw him again and gradually he faded into the dim world of half-remembered things. *



Fethard Garden Club Outing 1983 L to R: Phil Wyatt, Aggie Barrett, Eileen Dillon, Mary Hennessy, Pauline Coffey, Sharon Grimson, Phyllis McDonnell, Mary O'Donnell, Nora Ahearne, Breda Smyth, Sheila O'Donnell, Joan Anglim and the hostess from Cork who was taking the group on a tour of her garden.

Lonergans' Pub – the end of an era *by Davy Morrissey*



A headline from Pub Spy's column in the Sunday World newspaper reads, "Cosy with all the home comforts," a eulogy written about Lonergans Bar, Fethard. Pub Spy was right, but his was a fleeting visit, ours was of a much longer duration and there was much more to tell. Paddy, Anne and family were rightly proud and deserving of the publicity and copies get pride of place on the premises.

In September this year, Paddy and Anne retired from business, a decision taken after much agonising and soul searching. For their final night as hosts, they were joined by family, friends and customers for a highly enjoyable, if emotional send-off. Past customers, visitors, and staff were recalled and stories told, photo-

graphs taken, a fitting end to the family's great social and business contribution to the life of the town.

Paddy left home at a young age for London with Tommy Whyte in June 1960. They spent three months there where Paddy worked in Woolworths of Victoria. Paddy returned to London on his own and worked in Oxford Street, and in a wine shop on Edgware Road where he remembers many singers, Gene Vincent, Frankie Vaughan, comedian Dick Emery, and the Bowes Ryan family, whom he later discovered were relatives of the Queen Mother's. A pub in Cananbury, North London, was his next port of call where he spent eighteen months working for a Limerick man. Michael O'Duffy, the Irish tenor, was a customer of his there. He also remem-

bers a family, Michael Fagin, his wife and son Michael junior, as customers. Junior later became infamous as an intruder in the Queen's bedroom at Buckingham Palace.

London, then as now, was a great centre of entertainment and Paddy got to see and meet many of the stars of the day. He met and has a precious autograph of Louis Armstrong, whom he describes as being an absolute gentleman and a star in every way. Billy Fury, Adam Faith, and Marianne Faithful were others. A Bing Crosby autograph is also a part of Paddy's vast array of memorabilia.

In 1963 Paddy returned home and re-opened the family business, which had been closed since the death of his grandfather in 1952. Poverty and bleakness were endemic in Ireland at that time and customers were scarce. A week's wages of that era, would hardly buy a drink today. Paddy remembers with great compassion the poverty and suffering of many natives in that period. The range of drinks was quite small, and the range of customers equally small. Things slowly improved and in 1966 Lonergans became the entertain-

ment capital of south Tipperary when ballad and music sessions began in the "Forge Tavern" part of the courtyard. These were hugely popular and many of the leading

artistes and groups of the day played here. Bobby Clancy, Anne Byrne and Paddy Roche, Maeve Mulvaney, Pecker Dunne, Emerald Folk, Wexford, Ormonde Folk, Clonmel, Billy Kenrick and the Remo from Clonmel are some among the many that come to mind. Not forgetting 'local star' Jim Carroll, who always did a turn with these bands to popular acclaim. Jim

has entertained many over the years with his vast repertoire and individual style and can still be relied upon today (with a little urging) to do a turn. Thanks Jim!

The 'Dubliners', en route to a date at the Grand Hotel Tramore (1966), broke their journey at Lonergans, having read about the "Forge Tavern" through a music column in the Evening Herald. They partook of refreshments and got talking to the only customer at the time, Dave Morrissey, St. Patricks Place, who carried his tin whistle in his coat pocket and enthralled them with his



Paddy Lonergan in the 1960s



Loneragan's Bar, established 1833, changed hands on Friday 2nd September. Photographed on the final night are family members Paddy and Anne Loneragan with children Gary and Kim

knowledge and mastery of music they had not come across before. They left rather late for their engagement in Tramore, and left a cache of small bottles for Dave to consume at his leisure. Paddy met Ronnie Drew on a few occasions since and he remembers the day vividly.

The showband scene was really taking off at that time and Paddy got to know many of them through his involvement with the ballroom. All the leading bands played in Fethard, Joe Dolan, Dickie Rock, Brendan Boyer, Joe Mac and Brendan O'Brien, and many more. Most would have partaken of refreshments in this imposing bar at the top of Main Street. Many became friends and some were house guests of Paddy and Anne. Paddy was to come across

Billy Fury again when he played in the "Ballroom". He and his wife were house guests and he was fascinated by the peat briquettes in the open fire. He brought some back to England in the boot of his blue Mercedes. By the way, the record crowd for the Ballroom was 1,987 for a Joe Dolan dance.

In their many years in the trade, Paddy (42 years), and Anne (37 years), played host to the great and the good, the rich and famous, the poor and the thirsty. Luminaries from many walks of life, entertainment sport, politics, etc, including Pavarotti and Trevor Howard, politicians John Bruton, Bertie Ahearne, Ruari Quinn and David Andrew; from racing Vincent O'Brien, Mick O'Toole, Brian Meehan, the Sangster



Jim Carroll, who celebrated his 65th birthday this year, is still good for a song.

family, and of course the Irish rugby team of 1985 who played Fethard senior footballers, among many.

Paddy's pleasant manner and common touch made him an ideal ambassador meeting all nationalities, returned emigrants, and those tracing their lineage, with aplomb.

Anne and Paddy would like to express their gratitude to their customers over many years, not just for their trade, but also for their friendship and company. Quality on both sides of the counter and a mutual enrichment. Anne fondly remembers the early days and her older customers with great fondness, and the contribution the Green, St. Patrick's Place and Barrack St. residents played in their business. They remember fondly many that have left us including Paddy O'Shea, Mick O'Shea, Paddy McCarthy, Frank Kearney, Michael Fox, Jimmy

Higgins, John Clancy, Paddy Ryan, Tom Barrett, Gus Kenrick, Donal O'Sullivan, Timmy O'Connor, Jimmy Ryan, Mick Shelly, Paddy (Fifty) Ryan, Mick Ryan, Jack Forsyth and many others, R.I.P.

Being adjacent to the GAA field and cattle mart added another strand to the great spectrum of clientele. Mullinahone, St. Patricks and Balingarry were great supporters over the years and all added to the great diversity of customers.

Bar staff were many, some long term, some temporary, and some fleeting. Francis Kearney, Jimmy Higgins and Mick Ryan, who are no longer with us; Danny Morrissey and Michael McCarthy, were some of the earlier staff.

Everybody will have their own special memories of this quality premises. New Year's Eve was always a great night as was Christmas Party

Night, and who can forget the Fethard Festival (2am bar extensions) for a whole week.

Lonerigans food had a great reputation and they acquired a large lunchtime clientele adding further brownie points to their portfolio. The Lonerigan family put together premises of rare quality and beauty, adorned by antiques, memorabilia, prints, paintings, photographs and bric a brac, which we were privileged to share. Paddy's love of racing can be seen all about the premises, including spectacular shots of 'Call Me Later' in action. 'Call Me Later', a great mare and winner of ten races

was owned by Paddy and a syndicate of friends. She died tragically in a racing accident at Cheltenham — the cruel side of racing.

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we are sorry to see you go, but you leave us with every best wish from your friends and customers. To your children Mark, Kim and Gary, good luck in the future and thanks for everything. To Anne and Paddy, we wish you many years of a happy and healthy retirement, and thanks for the memories.

To the current owners John and Roseanne, good luck and prosperity for many years to come. *



New owners, John and Roseanne Carroll, getting into the Halloween spirit!

Fethard Ballroom celebrate 12 years



Fethard Ballroom men's committee members photographed at the 12th anniversary dance on St. Patrick's night. L to R: Seamus Barry, Gay Horan, Robert Phelan (secretary), Mick Ahearne (chairman), Paddy Hickey, Thomas O'Connell and Sean Spillane.

St. Patrick's Night is a special night for patrons of Fethard Ballroom, and this year was no exception for the large number of dancers who turned up to celebrate 12 years of success with the organising committee and their many helpers. Fethard Ballroom is now one of the most popular venues for popular dancing in the south with patrons driving from as far as Wexford, Cork and Waterford every week. The committee would now like to see more locals coming to enjoy the wonderful facility and warm friendly atmosphere generated among the many loyal followers every Sunday night. Dancing is from 9pm to midnight and admission includes light refreshments supplied by a very capable ladies' committee.

Twelve years ago, on St. Patrick's

night, 17 March 1993, the former Country Club Ballroom, which was originally the Capital Cinema, reopened its doors in splendour to all and sundry. The ballroom was purchased about twelve months previously, at a cost of £30,000, by the Community Council but was in very bad repair following at least five years of closure and neglect. However, community spirit came to the fore when various members of the community spent endless nights working to reinstate this building to its former glory. A Christmas draw took place to generate funds for materials and as much voluntary labour as possible was used to make the dream become a reality on St. Patrick's Night. Most of the population of the town and surrounding areas danced the night away to the

sound of the Pat Burke Band from Cahir, and enjoyed themselves immensely.

In 1994 the committee formed Fethard Ballroom Company Ltd to take over the running and financing of the ballroom. On top of the purchase price, a further £17,000 was spent on essential repairs to enable the hall to open. By 1995 the committee had the original debt of £47,341 reduced to £20,379.

1997 was a very difficult year for the Ballroom with the possibility of closure due to a large increase in insurance premium for the facility and also some insurance claims against the Ballroom. With outstanding dedication and determination, the committee tackled these problems and successfully turned around this tough situation and have never looked back since.

In the following years the committee, using mainly voluntary labour, upgraded the hall to the tremendous facility it is today, fitting out a new fully equipped kitchen, new doors and windows, new carpeting and non-slip floor covering, and vast improvements to the heating system to eliminate draughts, reduce heat loss and add to the comfort of patrons.

Today, the Ballroom is completely paid for and self-sustaining and great credit is due to the present committee who stuck with the project, and the many others who also worked with the committee over the past twelve years. Well done!

We can show our appreciation by coming along with our friends and enjoying a dance on Sunday nights! The committee assure us a very warm welcome. *



Fethard Ballroom ladies committee who look after the refreshments every Sunday. L to R: Sheila O'Donnell, Margaret Phelan, Catherine O'Connell, Monica Ahearn (treasurer), Pat Horan and Breda Spillane.

Fethard & Killusty London Reunion



Photographed at this year's Fethard-London Reunion L to R: Majella Looby, Keith Barnes, Ray Looby, Pat Looby and Frances Barnes.

The Fethard & Killusty London Reunion was again held in St. Anthony's Parish Club in Edgware. In excess of 50 people attended the event, with attendees from as far away as Bradford in Yorkshire and John Maher, a resident of the USA for the past 43 years, taking time out from his holiday to attend.

Early arrivals were entertained by Mary Morrissey and her band who got the evening off to a fine start. The reunion organiser Paul Looby thanked Mary for starting off the evening and asked her to cut the reunion cake prior to her departure for another gig.

Later in the evening, our band from last year, 'Billy and the North Wind', entertained all present 'til late, ably assisted by Pat Shine for a few numbers. The Cummins family, formerly from the Cashel Road, was well represented on the night and we would like to wish one of our regulars who

couldn't attend, Gus Cummins, a speedy return to full health.

The reunion would not be possible without a lot of support. Paul Looby has asked us to thank the following: Mary Hennessy for once again allowing us the use of St. Anthony's Social Club, Mary Morrissey and her band, Billy and the North Wind, the Looby family for their assistance with food preparation and transport and Fethard and Killusty Community Council for their continued support.

The reunion most importantly, needs the support of people – residents and emigrants alike. Paul has asked for feedback from those who attended and also from those who didn't, with a view to providing an even better event for next year.

If you have any comments, good, bad or indifferent, please email Paul at Loobs@londonirish.org or call on +44 7967 648244. *

Killusty Pony Show



At the Killusty Pony Show were L to R: Tom Ronan (Senior), Romy Ronan (on pony), Slaney Ronan and Thomas Ronan.

The 2005 Killusty Pony Show was held at Claremore, Killusty, Fethard on Saturday 2nd July. The Weather Steward will be retained, for after a truly appalling weather forecast, he managed to keep the rain away so that the show could go on in unexpected and welcome comfort.

The Fancy Dress Competition and the Dog Show were spectacular. It

was very difficult for the judge to decide among the many colourful costumes. This year was no exception and with no rain to mar the proceedings, the colour lasted to the end. Mrs Annette Murphy was the judge.

The Dog Show increases in popularity every year. Mr and Mrs Chapman from England kindly judged the classes. *



At the show were L to R: Michael Coffey, Pat Culligan and Barry Walsh.

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.

Bradshaw, Kathleen, The Green (Calvary)
 Burke, Michael. Clonacody (Lisronagh)
 Carpendale, Theodora (Fergus), Dublin (Calvary)
 Croke, Kitty (Tobin) Farranaleen. (England)
 Cummins, Dick, Main Street (Fethard Parish Church)
 Cummins, Kathleen (O'Dwyer) Clonmel (Calvary)
 Cummins, Margaret. Main St. (Fethard Parish Church)
 Delahunty, Neddy, Market Hill (Calvary)
 Delaney, Peggy, formerly Coleman (Bray)
 Dorney, Mary 'Mai', Milestown (Cloneen)
 Fagan, Mai (Strappe), formerly Drumdeel (Naas)
 Fields, Madge (Looby), formerly Barrettsdown (England)
 Fogarty, Bridget, Curraghscarteen (Calvary)
 Foster, Margaret (Heffernan), Congress Tec (England)
 Frewen, Frances, Tullamaine (Calvary)
 Gleeson, Frances (Walsh), St. Patrick's Place (Thurles)
 Godfrey, Joe, Derryluskin (Calvary)
 Goode, Margaret, Coolmoynne (Glen of Aherlow)
 Grant, Jerome, formerly Tullamaine (England)
 Hackett, Margaret, Strylea, (Calvary)
 Halpin, Teresa. Quartercross, Killusty (Killusty)
 Healy, Kitty, formerly Burke Street (Dublin)
 Hennessy, Pat, Derryluskin & London (Lisronagh)
 Holohan, Maureen, Burke Street (Calvary)
 Keane, Alice, Fr. Tirry Park (Peppardstown)

Kennedy, Sean, Burke Street (Calvary)
 Leahy, Tess (Curran), Annesgift (Calvary)
 Leonard, Patrick, formerly Rocklow (Passage West)
 Martley, Denis, Moyglass (Calvary)
 Matthews, Georgie, formerly Kerry Street (Manchester)
 McCarthy, Michael, Main Street (Fethard Parish Church)
 McGarry, Margaret, Woodvale Walk (Calvary)
 Millet, Matt, formerly The Valley (Calvary)
 Morris, Kathleen (Mulcahy), Kerry Street (London)
 Murphy, Eileen, formerly Sparagoleith (England)
 O'Donnell, Anna (Danagher), Kilnockin (England)
 O'Dwyer, Noelle (Maher), Jossestown (Calvary)
 O'Meara, James 'Jim', formerly Coolmoynne (England)
 O'Connell, Mary (McInerney), Strylea (Abbey)
 O'Connor, Biddy (Henehan), Middlesex (Calvary)
 O'Donnell, Brian, Garrinch, Fethard, (Killusty)
 O'Gorman, Richard, born in Fethard (New York)
 Prout, Ned, formerly Killusty (Templemore)
 Ryan, Paddy 'Little Paddy', Tirry Park (Calvary)
 Shine, Michael (Jnr), Congress Terrace (Calvary)
 Sr. Pius, Presentation Convent, Thurles.
 Stapleton, Mary, formerly Cashel Road (Calvary)
 Wall, Dick, Tullamaine (Calvary)
 Walsh, Joseph, formerly Crampscastle (England)
 Whelan, James, formerly Bennetthill (England)



Photographed after this year's Corpus Christi Procession are L to R: Canon James Power, Pauline Sheehan, Tom Butler, Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Fr Malachy Loghran OSA and Kathleen Kenny.

Our dear departed 2005

from available photographs

			
<i>Kathleen Bradshaw</i>	<i>Dick Cummins</i>	<i>Margaret Cummins</i>	<i>Neddy Delahunty</i>
			
<i>Paddy Ryan</i>	<i>Noelle O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Brian O'Donnell</i>	<i>Matt Millett</i>
			
<i>Tess Leahy</i>	<i>Sean Kennedy</i>	<i>Denis Martley</i>	<i>Paddy Hennessy</i>
			
<i>Frances Frewen</i>	<i>Dick Wall</i>	<i>Alice Keane</i>	<i>Maureen Holohan</i>
			
<i>Margaret Hackett</i>	<i>Mai Dorney</i>	<i>Margaret McGarry</i>	<i>James Whelan</i>

Marriages

Weddings in the Parish

Áine Henehan, The Square Fethard, to Scott Kelly, Dublin (Abbey)
Eoin Prendergast, Cashel Road, Fethard, to Ms Gillian Ryan, Clonmel (Abbey)
Lorraine Treacy, Congress Terrace, Fethard, to Mr Ed Collum, Kilsheelan (Parish)
William O'Meara, The Green, Fethard, to Jennifer Vanderford, USA (Fethard)
Eoin Coffey, Enfield, Co. Meath, to Jennifer Casey, Mallow (Killusty)
Martha Williams, Carrick-on-Suir to Raymond Connolly, Killusty (Killusty)
Aidan Fitzgerald, Kiltinan, to Jennifer Keane, St. Patrick's Place (Parish)
John J. Mullally, Woodvale Walk, to Eileen O'Brien, Woodvale Walk (Parish)
Bernard Cawley, Grove Road, to Margaret Sweeney, Clonmel (Parish)
Nigel Cleere, Ballingarry, to Anne (Marie) Noonan, Cloneen (Killusty)
Colm O'Donoghue, Cashel, to Emily Heyligen, Cashel (Abbey)
Martin Ryan, Clerihan, to Terese Murphy, Clerihan (Parish)

Weddings outside the Parish

John Kelly, Rathvin, Fethard, to Claire Love, Newry (Newry)
Shane Kenny, St. Patrick's Place, to Niamh Connolly, Kilsheelan (Gambonsfield)
Liam Kenny, Cois Falla, to Rebecca Maher, Clonmel (Lisronagh)
Damien Byrne, Killusty, to Una Kiernan, Borris (Borris)
John McEvoy, Killusty, to Deirdre Cuddihy (Drangan)
Anna 'Nadja' Humphries, Coolmore to Eoin Barnible, Wexford (Rome)
Anne Looney, Fethard, to T.J. O'Connell, Dualla (Boherlahan)
David Lawton, Fethard, to Michelle Hickey, Lisronagh (Lisronagh)



Marriage of John Kelly, Rathvin, Fethard, and Claire Love, Newry, Co. Down.
The wedding took place in the Sacred Heart Church, Cloughue, Newry.
Wedding party L to R: Michelle Fox, Geraldine Love, Gemma Love, John Kelly
and Claire Love, Gabriel Horan, David Kelly and Mike Kelly.



Liam Kenny and Rebecca Maher who were married in Lisronagh



Eoin Prendergast and Gillian Ryan who were married in Fethard



Shane Kenny and Niamh Connolly who were married in Gambonsfield



Lorraine Treacy and Ed Collum who were married in Fethard

Donations Received 2005

Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th November 2005. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.

Adams, Joann, New South Wales, Australia
 Ahearn, Bridie, Youghal
 Aherne, Joan (Murphy), Clondalkin, Dublin
 Allen, Vincent, Edenderry
 Angel, Noreen (McDonnell), Sandiago, USA
 Arkell, Joan (O'Donnell), Warwick
 Armstrong, Monica (Dwyer), Northampton
 Augustinian Abbey, Fethard
 Aylward, Christie, Clonmel
 Aylward, Mary, Bray
 Aylward, Tony & Paula, Naas
 Badgers Soccer Club, Fethard
 Bagley, Margaret (Cooney), New York
 Barnard, Brian, Castine, Maine
 Barnes, Frances, Kent
 Barrett, Angela (McCarthy), Ardfinnan
 Barry, Fr. Michael, Borrisoleigh
 Barry, Michael, Kilkenny
 Barry, Rose (Ryan), Lismore
 Beavis, Pat (Finn), Herts., England
 Boness, Cathy (O'Donnell), Biggleswade, UK
 Broderick, Pat & Rowena, Melbourne, Australia
 Browne, Nora (Ryan), Rathdowney
 Burke, Eamonn & Nora, Tralee, Co. Kerry
 Burke, James, San Francisco, USA
 Burke, Joanne, Dublin
 Burke, Kevin, Illinois, USA
 Burke, Mary, Thurles
 Burke, Patsy (Byard), Killenaule
 Butler, Mike, Limerick City
 Butler, Richard, Middlesex, UK
 Butler, Sean, Lisronagh
 Byard, Dr. Donal, Cincinnati, USA
 Byrne Healy, Peg., New Jersey
 Byrne, John, Ballincollig, Cork
 Byrne, R. A., Daingean Road, Tullamore
 Byrnes, George, Texas, USA
 Cahill, Michael, New York
 Cantrill, Alan and Hazel (Mackey), Burton-on-Trent
 Cantwell, Bill, Florida
 Cauty, Mary (Casey), Tramore
 Carey, Peter, New Jersey USA
 Carroll, Mary (Morrissey), Warwickshire, UK
 Carroll, Mary (Shine), South Australia
 Caruana, J.P., George J., Kensington, Australia
 Casey, Fionnuala (Murray), Cork
 Casey, Michael & Katherine, (Delaney), Newmarket
 Cathie, Alice (Mulcahy), Hants.
 Clark, Rita, San Mateo USA
 Coady, Johnnie & Mary, Dorset, England.
 Coady, Michael & Elizabeth, Manchester
 Collins, Olivia (Schofield), Templemore
 Colville, Anthony, Essex, England
 Colville, Peggy, Spittlefield, Fethard
 Colville, Tony & Maevie (O'Shea), Tullamore
 Comerford, Esther (Nevin), Kilkenny
 Connolly, Joan (O'Meara), Ballybunion
 Connolly, Sean, Kilsheelan
 Cord, J., Sussex, England

Corr, Patrick Michael, Australia
 Costigan, Sr. Nora, Callan
 Crane, Tom, Illinois USA
 Croke, Kevin J., Cheshire, UK
 Cuddihy, Martin, Mass USA
 Culligan, James, Malaga, Spain
 Cummins, Catherine (O'Dwyer) RIP, Clonmel
 Cummins, Gus, Peterborough
 Cummins, Joan (Sayers), Cashel
 Cummins, John, Dublin 5
 Cummins, Liam, Clonmel
 Cummins, Michael, Sunningdale, UK
 Cummins, Michael, Yorkshire
 Cummins, Mrs R., Hemel Hempstead, UK
 Curran, Timmy, Welwyn Garden City, UK
 Curtin, Jacqueline (Moloney), Stillorgan
 Dalton, Aine (Tierney), Oakland, California
 Dalton, Michael, Howard Beach, N.Y.
 Darcy, Mr & Mrs Phil, Kent, England
 Davin Haran, Mrs Lois, New York
 Dawson, Sheila (Cummins), Solihull, West Midlands
 Delahunty, Steve & Kathy, Novato, USA
 Delaney, Catherine (Bergin), Nottingham, UK
 Delany, Kitty, Parsonshall, Fethard
 Delguidice, Mick & Peggy (Bedford), London
 Devlin, Rainy (Healy), West Virginia, USA
 Devlin, Rt. Rev. Msgr. B. P., Gibraltar
 Dineen, James, California
 Dixon, Patrick, Enniscorthy
 Donohue, Anne (Morrissey), Limerick
 Downes, Mary, Cahir
 Duggan, Eugene, Christchurch, New Zealand
 Dunphy, Deborah (Guiry), Dunhill, Co. Waterford
 Dwyer, Geraldine (Fitzgerald), Newmarket-on-Fergus
 Eustace, Teresa, Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon
 Everard, Richard, Holland
 Fahey, Betty (Bradshaw), Clonmel
 Farrell, Christina (O'Donovan), Clonmel
 Fethard Ballroom Ltd
 Fethard Bridge Club
 Fethard Community Employment Scheme
 Fethard Community Games
 Fethard Community Playgroup
 Fethard Country Markets
 Fethard Coursing Club
 Fethard Folk Museum
 Fethard GAA Club
 Fethard Girl Guides
 Fethard Historical Society
 Fethard Judo Club
 Fethard Legion of Mary
 Fethard & Killusty Parish
 Fethard Red Cross
 Fethard Tidy Towns
 Fethard Womens' Group
 Fitzgerald, Con, Bradford
 Fitzgerald, Paddy, Wrexham UK
 Fitzgerald, Patrick, Leicester UK
 Fitzgerald, Sheena, Surrey, UK

Fitzpatrick, Jo Beatty, Long Island, NY
 Fitzpatrick, Thomas, Woodlawn, New York
 Flanagan, Frank & Rita (Fitzgerald), Bristol
 Flanagan, John, Nr. Wantage, Oxon
 Flanagan, Tony, London W5
 Flanagan, Walter, Grove Wantage, Englang
 Flannery, James, Perrysburg, USA
 Flynn, Denis, Redhill, Surrey
 Fogarty, Anne (Ahearne), Youghal
 Fogarty, John & Veronica, Garrinch, Fethard
 Fox, Andy, Thurles
 Frewen, Willie, Tramore
 Frost, Mary (Whelan), Surrey
 Gallagher, Kathleen (Mackey), Croydon, Surrey
 Gibbs, Maria (Scanlan), Calgary, Canada
 Gibson, Mrs M., Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny
 Glover, Bruce & Jane (Napier), Sawtell, Australia
 Gluck, Kathleen (Morrissey), Isle of Wight
 Gough-Risk, Mrs. Patricia, California
 Green, Laura (Cummins), Clonmel
 Grimson, Douglas, Queensland, Australia
 Gunne, Patrick, Islington, London
 Gunne, Sean, Clonmel
 Haide, Theresa (Quinlan), Bucks. UK
 Halley, John, Dublin 16
 Hanlon, Margaret, New Jersey USA
 Hannigan, Dorothea (Schofield), Cashel
 Hanrahan, Alice (Phelan), London W4
 Harkin, Jennifer (Cummins), Leighlinbridge
 Harrington, William, Cavan
 Harris, Neil & Di, Reading
 Hayes, Canon Matthew, Bath, UK
 Hayes, Joe & Mossie, Rathcoole, Fethard
 Hayes, Michael, Dublin 24
 Hayes, Pat & Mary (Anglim), Queensland, Australia
 Heffernan, Larry & Inger, Oslo, Norway
 Henehan, Sean, Dublin 6
 Hetterley, David & Frances (Kenrick), Hereford, UK
 Hocken, Mary, Redditch, UK
 Irish Countrywomen's Association, Fethard
 Johnson, Dr. Brian & Joan (Carey), CT, USA
 Jones, Mrs Barbara, East Sussex
 Jordan, Ronan, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
 Kavanagh, Elizabeth, Urlingford
 Kavanagh, Rena (Keyes), Waterford
 Keane, John, Tullamore
 Kelly, Vera (Stokes), Cork
 Kennedy, Bill and Liz, The Valley, Fethard
 Kennedy, Fr. A. B., Portumna
 Kennedy, John B., Maine, USA
 Kenny, Maura (Stokes), Dublin 6
 Kenrick, John, Cashel
 Kenrick, Paddy, Clonmel
 Kerr, Colleen, Ontario, Canada
 Kevin, Sr. Monica OSU, The Bronx, New York
 Killusty National School
 Knight, Mai, Wantage, UK
 Lanigan, Helen, Faughheen
 Lavin, Michael James, New Jersey, USA
 Leahy, Gerry, Kilkenny
 Leahy, John, Grantham, Lincs.
 Leahy, Thomas, Oakwood, UK
 Lines, Ellen, (Flynn), Milton Keynes
 Lonergan, Thomas, Preston, UK
 Looby, John & Patricia (Halloran), Surrey, UK
 Lord, Caroline (Connolly), Milton Keynes, UK
 Lovatt-Dolan, Elizabeth (Quirke), Dublin 14
 Lyons, Alice, (McDonnell), Birkenhead
 MacDermid, Walt, Silver Spring, MD, USA
 Mackay, Ann (Murphy), Devon, England
 Mallon, Nuala (Kenny), Sandymount, Dublin 4
 Malone, Mary (Maher), New York
 Mannion, Cathryn (Byrne), Athlone
 Marshall, Frank, Kilkenny
 Marshall, Tom & Patricia, Portlaoise
 Martin, Lucy (Wyatt), Lawrenceville, Georgia
 Martley, Sr. Margaret, Cork
 McCarthy, Don, Leixlip
 McCarthy, Kitty, Main Street, Fethard
 McCarthy, Tony, Cross Street, Clonmel
 McCole, Nora (O'Shea), Perth
 McCormack Sheridan, Eileen, Naas, Co. Kildare
 McCormack, John Joe, Limerick
 McCormack, Leonora, New Zealand
 McCormack, Thomas, Gwynedd, Wales
 McLaren, Mary (Ryan), Kent, UK
 McLaughlin, Claire (Fahy), Leeds, UK
 McNulty, Mary (Maher), Bedford, UK
 McQuinn, Cynthia & Timothy, Indiana, USA
 Meagher, Bridie (Phelan) RIP, Birmingham
 Meaney, James J., London SW19
 Meehan, Mrs Ellen, Oklahoma, USA
 Moloney, Patrick F., Bucks. UK
 Moloney, Tom, Northampton UK
 Mooney, Anna (Skehan), Belfast
 Mooney, Noel, Roquefort-les-Pins, France
 Moore, Mary, (Gorey), Drogheda
 Moran, Bro. James, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
 Morrissey, Billy, Herts. UK
 Morrissey, J. J., Tralee, Co. Kerry
 Morrissey, Mamie (Murphy), St. Patrick's Place
 Morrissey, Mary, London N19
 Morrissey, Patsy, Swords, Co Dublin
 Morrissey, Pauline (Sheehan), Fethard
 Morrissey, Sean, Newcastle Upon Tyne
 Morrissey, Teresa (McCarthy), Ballymacarby
 Mullins, Denis, New Jersey
 Mullins, Vincent, North Yorks UK
 Murphy, David, Dublin 16
 Murphy, Muriel (Mullins), New Ross
 Murray, Jim, Macroom, Cork
 Nagle, Anastasia (Kelly), Bansha
 Neville, Michael, Cork
 Neville, Roger, Tullamore
 Neville, Seamus, Tramore
 Newport, Tony and Mary, Congress Tce, Fethard
 Nichols, Betty (Dineen), Warwick UK
 O'Brien, Margaret (Butler), Limerick
 O'Brien, Mary (Kenrick), Limerick
 O'Brien, OSU, Sr. Margaret, New York
 O'Brien, OSU, Sr. Philomena, Blue Point, N.Y.
 O'Carroll, Lila, California
 O'Connell, Katie, West Yorkshire, UK
 O'Connell, Peg (Darcy), Basildon, Essex
 O'Connor, Jimmy, Castletown Berehaven, Co. Cork
 O'Connor, Mary, Westport, Co. Mayo
 O'Connor, OSA, Fr. John, Dungarvan
 O'Connor, Stephen, Devon, England
 O'Donnell, Anna (Danagher), Surrey, England
 O'Donnell, Anna (Mackey), Niles, Illinois

O'Donnell, Brian, Fethard, (in Memory of)
 O'Donnell, Jim & Betty, (O'Sullivan), Minnesota
 O'Donnell, Jimmy, Dublin 16
 O'Donnell, Mary (O'Meara), Ontario, Canada
 O'Donnell, Tony, Dublin 9
 O'Donovan, Gabrielle (Mackey), Naas Road, Dublin
 O'Donovan, Greta, Burke Street, Fethard
 O'Donovan, Michael, Clonmel
 O'Dwyer, Chris and John, Strylea, Fethard
 O'Dwyer, Elsie (Ahearne), Derryluskin, Fethard
 O'Dwyer, Ita, Derryluskin, Fethard
 O'Flynn, Patrick, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
 O'Flynn, Peggy, Ballincollig
 O'Gara (RIP), Nora, Boyle, Co. Roscommon
 O'Gorman, Paddy, Woking, Surrey.
 O'Hanrahan, Patrick, London W9
 O'Hara, Catherine, Oxford, England.
 O'Hare, Patricia (Murphy), Limerick
 O'Keefe, Larry & Helen (Cummins), Clonmel
 O'Keefe, Michael & Hazel, Birmingham
 O'Mahoney, Laura (Ward), Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
 O'Mara, Jimmy, New York
 O'Meara, Molly, Caoimhe & Dara, Killusty
 O'Neill, Hal, Cork
 O'Neill, Ken, Dublin 6
 O'Neill, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William, Georgia, USA
 O'Reilly, Rita (Walsh), Dunadry, Co. Antrim
 O'Riain, Padraig, Báile Atha Cliath 13
 O'Riordan, Kay, Ballynoe, Co. Cork
 O'Rourke, Andy, Dublin 15
 O'Rourke, Paddy, Dublin 6W
 O'Shea, Gerry & Alysa, Brooklyn, New York
 O'Sullivan, Brian & Edith, Ayr, Scotland
 O'Sullivan, John & Claire, Clonmel
 O'Sullivan, Marie (McCarthy), Main Street, Fethard
 O'Sullivan, Michael, Rathvin, Fethard.
 O'Neill, PP, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William, Savannah, USA
 Oriental Gardens & Lonergans Bar
 Paine, Vera (O'Donovan), Cambs. England
 Patrician Presentation Secondary School, Fethard
 Perkins, Biddy, (Power), Cheltenham
 Phelan, Gus, Crampscastle, Fethard
 Phelan, Kathleen (Elsie), New York
 Phelan, Robert, Strylea, Fethard
 Power, Canon James, Fethard
 Power, Ellen, Rosslare Road, Co. Wexford.
 Power, Ned, Wolverhampton UK
 Purcell, Tom, Burke Street, Fethard
 Purcell, Yvonne, London
 Quinn, Elaine (Maher), Ennis, Co. Clare
 Reeves, Maureen (Fogarty), Shrewley, UK
 Robinson, Bridget (Smith), Dundalk
 Roche, Peggy (Kenny), Thurles
 Ryan (Jnr), Mattie, Buffana, Killenaule
 Ryan, Ann (Neville), Thurles
 Ryan, Breda (Grant), Golden
 Ryan, Brendan, London
 Ryan, Donal, Kentucky, USA
 Ryan, John (Boxer), Kilsheelan
 Ryan, Mary (Murphy), Cashel
 Ryan, Michael J., St. Albans, Herts.
 Ryan, Michael, Monasterevin
 Ryan, Noel, Surrey UK
 Ryan, Thomas, London NW3
 Sayers, Tony, Peterborough
 Sgarlata, Patricia (Sheehan), Loudonville, N.Y.
 Shannon, Tony, Leeds, UK
 Sharkey, Neil, Galway
 Shattock, Jack & Pam (Myles), Essex UK
 Sheehan, Don, Cincinnati, USA
 Sheehan, Patrick, London N17
 Shine, Benny, Essex, England
 Shine, Nessa (O'Donovan), London E7
 Shine, Pat, Herts. UK
 Shine, Tom, Cahir
 Shortman, Mary (Quirke), Herts, England.
 Skehan, CSsR, Rev. William, Philippines.
 Skehan, Nicholas, Dublin
 Slattery, William, Mitchelstown
 Smith, Robert, Waltham Abbey, Essex
 Squires, May (O'Dwyer), Essex
 Stapleton, Martin & Rita (O'Grady), Dublin 7
 Stapleton, Peggy, Thurles
 Staunton, Rena (Stokes), London NW1
 Szwarc, Agnes (Culligan), Kent UK
 Taylor Family, Saucedtown, Fethard
 The Curator, County Museum, Clonmel
 Tingley, Ellen (Culligan), Seven Oaks, Kent, UK
 Tobin, Patrick & Ellen (Walsh), Clonmel
 Torpey, Kitty (Strappe), Cambridge,
 Totonchi, Louise (Kenrick), Illinois
 Trehy - Halliday, Max, Sydney
 Vinten, Joan (O'Shea), Maidstone, Kent
 Voss, Eleanor (Morrissey), Surrey UK
 Wade-Palmer, Eileen (Doherty), Hampshire
 Walker, Eleanor (O'Donnell), Australia
 Walsh, Gerard, Ontario, Canada
 Walsh, Mary (Fahy), Portlaw
 Walsh, Pat, Leeds UK
 Walsh, Pat, N.S.W. Australia
 Watson, Simon & Amanda, North Shore City, NZ
 Whelan, Kathleen (Quirke), Clonmel
 Whelan, Miriam (O'Brien), Drakesland, Kilkenny
 Whelan, Paddy, London SE13
 White, Marie (Dineen), Leamington Spa UK
 Woodlock, Austin, Birmingham
 Woodvale Walk Residents Association
 Woodward, Sheila Aline, Warkickshire UK
 Wright, Ann (Flanagan), Wantage, Oxon
 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.*

A letter from Ring Irish College 1946 *by Tony Newport*

The following letter, written by Tony Newport on 18th July 1946, was sent by to his parents from Ring College, Co. Waterford, where students go to learn the Irish language in natural surroundings. Ring College is still going strong today and not much has changed since 1946 – or at least from what parents are told!

Dear Mam and Dad,

I hope you are well as I am here. We arrived here at about 6 o'clock on Monday night. We did not go to sleep for a long time after we went to bed that night because we were singing all night. I am sleeping in the same bed that I was sleeping in last year and I am sharing the room with Paddy Sullivan and Michael Henehan.

There are three boys from Clonmel staying in the room next to us and one of them is Tony Millet. Tony and another boy from Limerick were singing solos for us last night. We

could hear them quite plain because there is only a wooden partition between the two rooms. Condon is the Limerick boy's name and I was shouting, "Style Condon!", and Fr. Lee wanted to know this morning who was shouting it.

We have only to go to the college for one hour a day now. All the chocolate is gone now because I shared it with the other two. Henehans brought a pot of jam and every night we get about a dozen cuts of bread and have a right feed of bread and jam before we go to bed.

The weather has not been so good up to this but I went swimming three times since I came. I went in today and the water was cold as ice. We go to the céilí every night and have great fun there.

That is all the news I have for the present. Give my love to all at home. Please send some more chocolate.

*Love from,
Tony.*

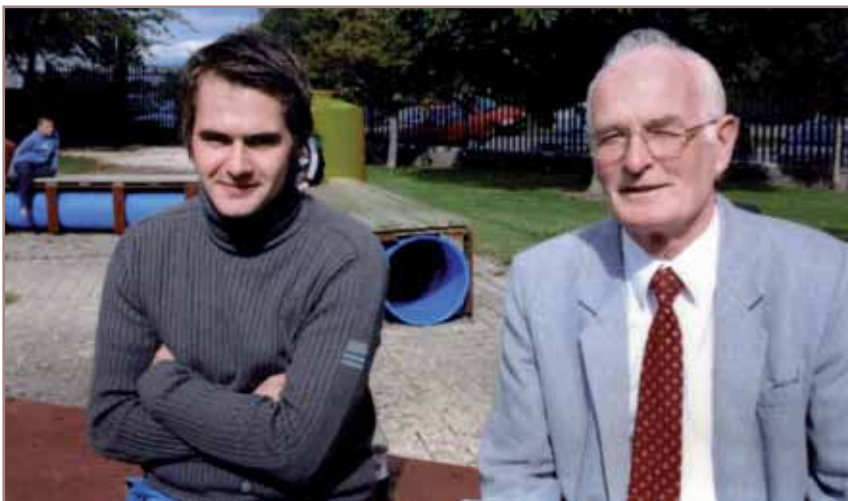




Photographed at a surprise 40th birthday party held for Helen Carrigan at Slievenamon Golf Club are L to R: Kylie Magner, Frances Boyle, Helen Carrigan, Ann Moloney, Áine Wright, Michael Knightly and Melissa Stokes.



Tipperary footballers, Declan Browne and Paul Fitzgerald, performing the official opening of Butler's Sports Bar new off-license on Main Street, Fethard.



Chris Punch, a nephew of Mary Danagher, enjoying his tour of Fethard Folk Museum. Photographed above with Jimmy Mullins (right).



Children from Fethard Community Playgroup. Back L to R: Sean Walsh, Caoimhe O'Meara, Ben Coen, Matilda Magnier, Cathal O'Mahoney. Middle Row L to R: Keylin O'Donnell, Chloe Nolan, Alison Connolly, Lucy Cummins, Lucy Spillane. Front L to R: Hanna Dolan, Maggie Fitzgerald and Leah Coen.



Members of the Sayers family from St. Patrick's Place photographed at a family reunion L to R: Tom Sayers, Monica Moriarty, Joan Cummins, Jim Sayers, Rita Kelly, Chrissie Cummins, Patsy Kirwin, Peg Barrett, and Buddy Sayers. (Missing Catherine, Nan and Liam.)



Boys and girls from Fethard who received their First Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Parish Church Fethard. Back L to R: Canon James Power, Maureen Maher (teacher), Kate Quigley, Hannah Tobin, Molly Proudfoot, Eoghan Hurley, Niall Doocey, Tommy Anglim, Fr. Tom Breen P.P. Middle Row L to R: Kayleigh Higgins, Gráinne Fanning, Amy Sweeney, Niamh Shanahan, Niamh O'Meara, Adam Fitzgerald, Darragh Bradshaw, Charlie Manton, Ms Carmel Lonergan (teacher). Front L to R: Jane Morrissey, Jennifer Rice, Larissa Clancy, Katie Butler, Clodagh Bradshaw, Shauna Mackey, Cormac Horan, Joedy Sheehan and John Bernard O'Reilly. Missing from photograph is Jack Connolly.



Group photographed with Rt. Revd. Peter Barrett M.A. Bishop of Cashel and Ossory at the 'Flower Festival – Fethard Through the Ages' held in aid of the Restoration Work on the Holy Trinity Church of Ireland.



Photographed at the Augustinian Abbey 700 Celebrations are Back L to R: Kathleen Connolly, and sisters Joan O'Meara, Teresa Fogarty and Breda Walsh. Front L to R: Ciara Connolly and Ryan Walsh.



Residents of Fr. Tirry Park action group who are awaiting South Tipperary County Council to undertake repairs to their houses for many years. L to R: John Fahey MCC, Pat Fitzgerald, Seamus Moloney, Paddy and Margaret Grant, Noel Coffey, Maureen Keane and David Hennessy.



Photographed at the official opening of St. Bernard's Group Homes 30th Anniversary exhibition of photographs by Rev Patrick Mooney, "The Mystery of the Ordinary". L to R: Rev. Patrick Mooney, Sr Éilís Bergin and Ms Pat Looby, who officially opened the exhibition.



Davy Lawless, 36 years a postman, retired this year. Davy is photographed above in Fethard Post Office where Joe O'Sullivan, An Post Area Office, Limerick, made a presentation. L to R: Denis Toomey, John Fogarty, Davy Lawless, Pat Brett, Joe O'Sullivan, Barry Connolly and Jane Hayes.



Needham Family from Friarsgrange, Fethard, photographed with their newly found cousins Bill and Roz Gleason from Long Island, New York, who made contact with their relatives through the Fethard Website. Bill and Roz travelled to Fethard with their three children and were thrilled with the warm friendly reception received from the Needham family. Back L to R: Willie Needham, Bill Gleason, Roz Gleason, Majella Lonergan, Helen Needham, Francis Lonergan, Geraldine Lonergan. Front L to R: Kathleen Tuohy and Val Needham.



Augustinian Abbey – celebrating 700 years in Fethard



The late Michael McCarthy looking after his stock on Market Hill