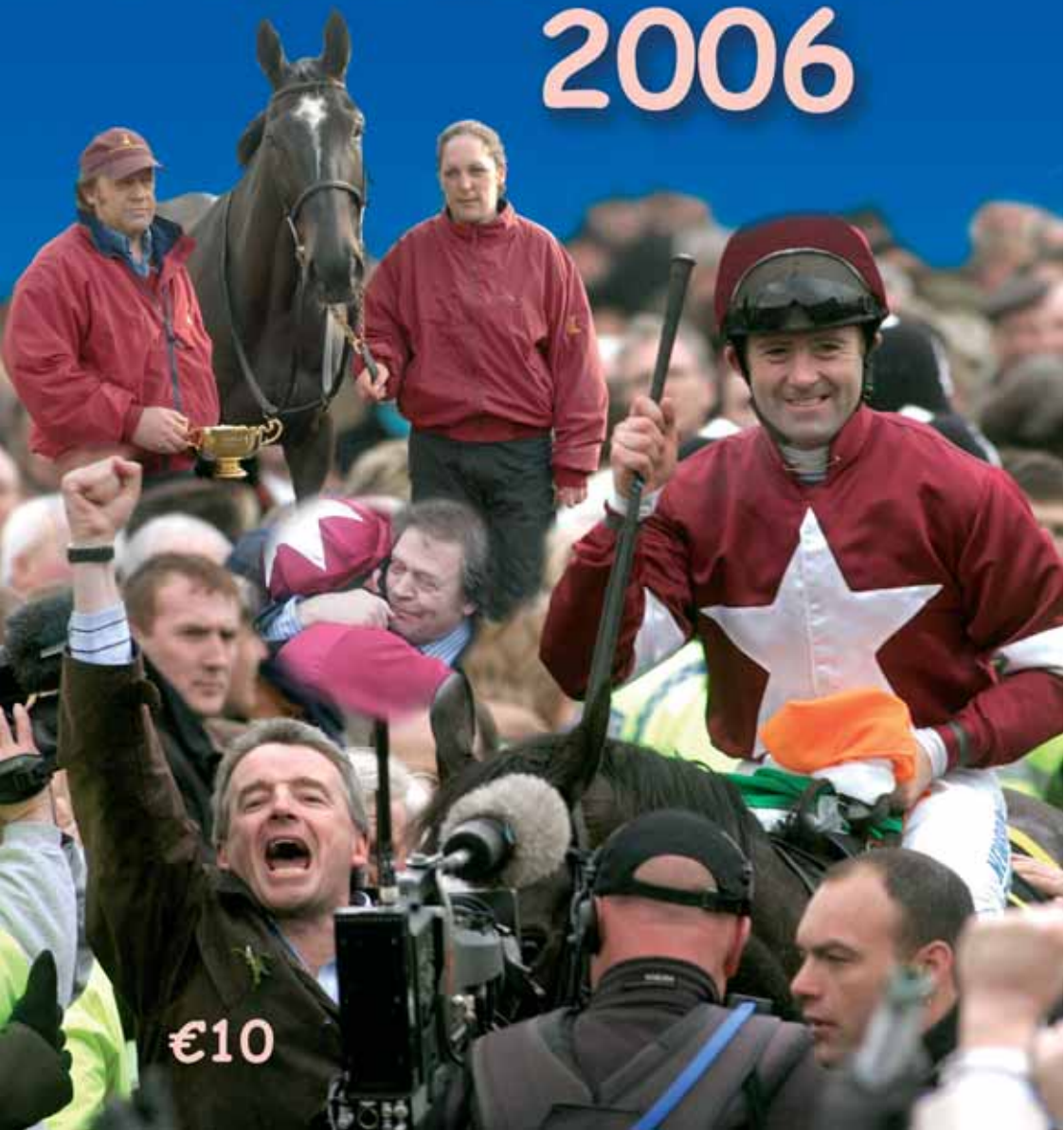


Fethard & Killusty

NEWSLETTER

2006



€10



Phil Keating, formerly from Rathsallagh and a former employee at Coolmoyne Creamery, paid a surprise visit to Fethard in August this year from USA with his son, also called Phil. Phil left Ireland in 1952 and moved to work in the USA. On his visit to Fethard he met up with old friends from his 'Let Fly Coolmoyne' days and had a great evening recalling old times in the Fethard Arms. L to R: Jim Barry, Phil Keating (Junior), Phil Keating (Senior), Nora Ahearn and Joe Ahearne.



Participants who took part in this year's Tennis Camp, conducted by Tony McCarthy, at Fethard Sports Center in July.

FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2006

Dedicated to our friends and relations
living away from home

Copyright © 2006

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: Cheltenham Gold Cup winner 'War of Attrition'

All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

Table of contents

A Man of Many Parts	60	Fethard-man South Tipp Chairman	58
Abbey 700 Jubilee Celebrations	155	Final Farewell as Pat leaves Kennels	171
Abymill Theatre	43	Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic	138
Art Exhibition	99	Glamour's World Record	175
Badgers Soccer Club	18	Green is the Valley, Blue are the Hills	15
Beneath a Maternity Ward	151	Greetings from Malawi	3
Bianconi v Stoke	98	Henry Kellett — explorer	33
Bill Cantwell Remembers	132	Holohan's Pub, Burke Street	16
Bishop Matthew Ndagoso	55	If you go down to the woods today	25
Christmas Greetings from the Abbey	5	IFA Honour Denis McGrath!	56
Church of Ireland News	4	It's a Long Way to Tipperary	44
Class of '76 School Reunion	154	Jimmy's literary works	153
Community Employment Scheme	57	John Joe's poetry	110
Contact Details	176	Killusty National School	36
Deaths in the parish	164	Killusty Pony Show	50
Do you remember 1975?	62	Killusty Sheep Dog Trials	176
Donations Received 2006	172	Killusty Soccer Club	90
Fethard & District Credit Union	54	Kinane Cup 1963 Reunion	59
Fethard & District Rugby Club	166	Knitting for pleasure	168
Fethard & Killusty Anglers	163	Ladies Rugby	17
Fethard & Killusty Community Council	117	Legion of Mary	7
Fethard & Killusty Community Games	28	'Little Tommy Bray' – a native son	8
Fethard / Killusty London Reunion	169	Living on The Green	134
Fethard Bridge Club	84	Marriages	160
Fethard Cycling	113	Nano Nagle National School	140
Fethard GAA Club	87	Ned Bulfin's milk accounts	38
Fethard Historical Society	31	Our dear departed 2006	165
Fethard ICA Guild	100	Parish Greetings	4
Fethard Ladies Football	54	Parishes in Fethard & Killusty	81
Fethard links with Saratoga	80	Patrician Presentation School	102
Fethard Players	42	Preserving Fethard's Market Rights	126
Fethard Scout Notes - 27th Tipperary	20	Shocked by councillors' decision!	129
Fethard Senior Citizens Club	131	Snow	93
Fethard Womens' Group 2006	19	St. Patrick's Boys National School	144
Fethard: Shopping Destination	148	St. Rita's Camogie Club	14
Fethard's Cheltenham Gold Cup	162	Work for the Blind Remembered	146

Greetings from Malawi

by Joe Kenny (editor)

It's a strange feeling to be writing this year's few words from a hotel room in Malawi after travelling over 7,000 miles with 67 other participants who are also taking part in a 'Playing for Life' partnership development programme with Self Help International. One of the main organisers of this trip was Seamus Hayes from Kilconnell, Fethard, who, along with well-known TV presenter Tracy Piggott, has been involved with similar projects in Africa for several years. Another Fethard man, Eddie Sheehan from St. Patrick's Place, was also a participant on this year's trip.

One of the main observations I made was how friendly and happy these Malawians appear to be, with so little material goods. They also have a community spirit that we may have lost in Ireland over the past fifty years.

Most emigrants reading this will remember an Ireland where people gathered, chatted and talked in the streets, roads and houses. There was time to talk and stories to tell. We worked hard for little money and yet, when in need, there was always a dependable neighbour or friend. The people of Malawi today are very like the Irish of the 1950s, except for one major difference, almost one in five of the Malawi population is living with HIV Aids.

To experience the delight and smiles of the Malawian children as

they greet everybody with a display of happiness no money can buy, would melt the hardest of hearts.

Progress, they say, is learning from one's mistakes. If so, maybe we should look at what we had, what we've lost, and catch sight of where that magic state of 'happiness' we all seek exists. Take a look at www.malawi2006.com to see some photographs from the trip!

Back to reality — I hope this year's newsletter lives up to your expectations and helps to strengthen your connection with Fethard and Killusty.

We have tried to cover parish events and happenings over the past twelve months to give emigrants a flavour of life at home.

I would also like to thank all who submitted articles and photographs for this year's issue and those who made donations at home and abroad. Thanks to Carmel Rice for keeping track of correspondence and donations, Brendan Kenny and his team for distribution, Gemma Burke for proof reading, and Michael Hall for always keeping an eye out for interesting Fethard articles while doing his newspaper research at the Local Studies Section at Tipperary County Library in Thurles.

Finally, the publication of this Newsletter is made possible by your ongoing support . . . please don't stop ...and we won't! *

Parish Greetings

Greetings to all our readers at home and away. It seems a short time since we enjoyed the lovely mildness and the long evenings of summer. Now as the evenings are darkening ever so quickly we look forward to the coming on earth of Jesus, the light of our darkness. This is a time of expectation and joy for all of us as we await the coming of our Divine Saviour

and as we look forward we contemplate in hope. Let us remember that this is a time to rest and refresh ourselves about the good news of Jesus Christ and to be renewed in faith.

May you have happiness, peace and forgiveness in your lives and in your homes this Christmas, and may you always have a place in your hearts for the little child Jesus.

Fr. T.F. Breen PP. and Canon J. Power



Fethard Parish Church — Christmas 2005

Church of Ireland News

On Sunday 18th December 2005 a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was held at Holy Trinity Church Fethard. It was well attended and the collection went to

the victims of the recent earthquakes in Pakistan.

In January we had a wonderful concert and prayers in celebration of 700 years of the Augustinian pres-

ence in Fethard. The singing and music were both lovely and it was a super night to remember.

On the 21st January 2006, a daughter of Kylie and William Magnier was christened, Imogen Ruth. There were also visiting family and friends from Australia, which made the day a very happy occasion.

On Friday 6th October 2006, the 'Service of Thanksgiving' or the

'Harvest Festival' was held at Holy Trinity, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The sermon was preached by Rev C.G. Cliffe and the service was taken by Jenny Crowley and Rev. Arthur Carter. The lessons were read by Canon James Power and Fr. Peter Haughey OSA.

We wish Canon George Knowd and his wife Gwen, a very happy retirement here in Fethard. *



'Songs of Praise' in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland on 20th January 2006 are L to R: Fr. John Meagher OSA, Rev. George Knowd, Fr. Peter Haughey OSA and Fr. Tony Lambe.

Christmas Greetings from the Abbey

Warm Christmas greetings to all our exiles from the Abbey priests.

The special Jubilee celebrations held in 2005 to mark the 700th Anniversary of the coming of the Augustinians to Fethard spilled over into the start of 2006. A special Mass for youth was celebrated in the Abbey on 25th February by Fr Joe Walsh of Thurles. It was fitting that the final act of our Augustinian Jubilee should focus on the Prior of Fethard martyred in 1654, Blessed

William Tirry O.S.A., a statue of whom, made by local sculptor David Gorey, was unveiled and blessed on Sunday 5th March.

Another Augustinian commemoration was held on 24th May in Tipperary town in the grounds of the Abbey school there. The school takes its name from the Augustinian Abbey, founded there around 1300, on whose land the school was built. To commemorate the contribution over the years made by the Augustinians to that area, a replica



At "Songs of Praise" were L to R: Ted Cummins, Jonathan Gilpin and Ann Cooney.

of an arch, part of the original Abbey and standing until it was demolished in 1958, was erected. Archdeacon Matthew McGrath, PP, Tipperary, was principal celebrant at the open-air concelebrated Mass during which the homily was preached by the Vicar General, Dean Christie O'Dwyer. The Principal of the school, John Heffernan, and the Board of Management, deserve special congratulations on this unusual celebration.

In Fethard there was a celebration on a more modest scale to mark the

90th birthday on 20th September of Fr John Meagher. The scores of cards and good wishes, which inundated the Abbey, are a testimony to the affection in which our sprightly nonagenarian is held. We wish him many more fruitful years in the ministry.

Frs Gerry Horan, John Meagher and Timmy Walsh join me in praying that God will pour out his grace abundantly on all of you and your families this Christmas, and grant you health, happiness and peace of mind in 2007. ✱

Peter Haughey O.S.A.



At 'Songs of Praise' were L to R: Ann Tillyer, Chrissy Cummins, Mary Cummins, Monica Moriarty, Fiona Cummins, Bryan Steadman. In front is Ciara Tillyer.

Legion of Mary

Dear readers, friends and relatives, the Legion of Mary is still in Fethard depending on your cooperation and your support. We wish to thank you for your attendance at the daily Rosary in the Parish Church; and for your attendance at the Rosaries in the Abbey during May and October and in our many cemeteries during November. We acknowledge those who continue to purchase a Catholic paper each week, and also those who take the Alive paper and who give out copies to those who do not come to our churches. It was encouraging to many in our area to see so many attend the May procession in honour of Our Blessed Mother, and the Corpus Christi procession to demonstrate belief in the true pres-

ence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

All of us reap the benefit from the prayers of all who attend daily Mass, who pray the Rosary, visit the Blessed Sacrament, attend the first Friday and the first Saturday. May God bless all of you for your efforts, your example, and your prayers. We invite all who are new to the area to come and join those who do their best to impart their love and their loyalty to the faith. This faith was demonstrated to all of us down through the years by our forefathers. It is now our responsibility to pass it on to those coming after us. We invite all of you who are Sky Digital subscribers to turn to EPG 769. There is so much on offer on EWTN to help us in our knowledge of our Catholic faith. Those who do not



Carrying the statue of 'Our Lady' through the streets of Fethard for the annual May Procession are L to R: Mick Holohan, Liam McCarthy, Paddy Butler and Jimmy O'Shea.

have access to Sky could contact us and we will help you to get EWTN through another source.

Many of our good friends, neighbours, and relatives went to meet Jesus and His Blessed Mother during the past year. We miss them. We offer our sympathy to all their loved ones. May God grant them peace. Let us pray for one another, for all our newly wedded friends, for all our new babies and for their families.

The Legionnaires of Mary extend greetings for a blessed, peaceful Christmas and New Year to all our priests, to those who are ill, and to you our readers. We are coming to a New Year, to a new effort. May God give us the strength and the help to develop and to enrich our Faith, and the strength and the help to assist others on the road to our eternal home. *

Your Fethard Legionnaires of Mary

'Little Tommy Bray' – a native son

Little Tommy Bray of Fethard was described as a 'genteel, sprightly, promising lad' by his uncle Canon James Power who was a canon in Flanders in southern Belgium. The same uncle recommended that young Tommy should be 'put early to some trade' rather than be sent to Europe to be educated as a priest, where his eldest brother, Francis, was at that time.

'Little Tom Bray' was the son of John Bray of Fethard and Margaret Power (a sister to the Canon above) of Glashy near Newcastle, Clonmel. We don't know with certainty when the parents married, it may have been in the early 1740s, but the late historian of Clonmel, Canon W.P. Burke, was of the opinion that it was in 1733. Canon Burke also held that John and Margaret Bray had nineteen children, most of whom died in infancy. But from other sources we know with certainty that they had six boys and three girls.

John Bray was born in Fethard about 1710 and was the son of Francis Bray who served as a constable to the Fethard corporation in the early 1700s. There is no reference to the name of Bray in the surviving seventeenth-century records (the earliest is to Francis) and so it's likely that they came to Fethard from elsewhere, most likely Clonmel. The father, John, was a wine merchant in the town, but he seems not to have been very successful at it and even as late as 1762 he was writing that if matters did not improve in Fethard he intended quitting the country and making a life for himself in France. He probably had the example of his wife's brother before him. The latter had sold the property at Glashy and had emigrated to France where he became a very wealthy wine-grower with his own chateau near Avignon. However, the Power brothers-in-law complained among themselves that John Bray lived far

too extravagantly a life-style and way beyond his means; and that with a modicum of prudence he could have lived comfortably in Fethard.

Knowledge of where exactly the Bray home was in Fethard seems to have disappeared. The late Fr. Walter Skehan was of the opinion that it was at the back of what was in his time the garage owned by Morrisseys / Whytes on the Main Street. I am personally of the opinion that the home was in Watergate

Street on the south side of the present castle. In later life when Tom Bray was long gone from Fethard he continued to lease 'a house, castle and bridge garden' in that street from the Barton estate; and it is known that two of his unmarried sisters were still living in Fethard in 1786 (the year when the lease was renewed) – by

then the parents were dead and the other boys had scattered abroad. Sometime in the 1790s those two sisters left Fethard and went to live with their brother Tom in Thurles; and with their going the name Bray disappeared from Fethard. At this point it is only fair to note that 'Little Tommy Bray' was now Dr. Thomas Bray, Archbishop of Cashel, with a home at Thurles.

John and Margaret Bray may well not have had a happy life in

Fethard. Their children brought them much heartache. The eldest boy, Francis, had been sent to Rome to be educated as a priest where he entered the Collegio Urbano (Propaganda) on 8 March 1760 aged fifteen years. While in Rome he suffered bad health (in those times Rome was notorious for malaria and fevers) and after some years he suffered from scruples and felt that he could not become a priest. He was sent home to Ireland on 1 January 1763. While in



'Little Tom Bray'

Avignon on his way home to Fethard he forged banknotes and ran up heavy debts, and may even have stolen money. His angry uncle, Canon James Power, described him as 'a great villain' and had him sent out of that city. Frank was in Fethard in the summer of 1764. He later went to London where he married and had one son, John. Another son of John and Margaret, Patrick, settled in Spain where he enlisted in the army as a cadet and was in great poverty and want in his early days. Philip, another son, was involved in the linen trade in Northern Ireland and died there unmarried. John settled in Portugal and carried on a wine business. Michael was engaged in the wine trade in Spain where he married and had children. James, who was born on 11 May 1745, became

a doctor at Falmouth in the south of England where he married and had children. He died on 11 July 1783. And Pierce, about whom little is known; may have remained living in Fethard. This may have been the son about whom Canon James wrote on 1 April 1772 that his sister's son had recently died: 'He was her best support'. Perhaps the father was already dead and Pierce ran the business in Fethard. The three girls were Margaret who was drowned while returning to Ireland from France where she was being educated in preparation to joining an order of nuns (this loss may have happened in the summer of 1763 as Mrs. Bray's nephew, Rev. Francis Power, wrote about Uncle Bray's misfortune and that 'the shock my uncle received has impaired his health', and 'Poor Peggy [Bray] bleeds my heart'); and Ellen and Mary who never married and remained on in Fethard until they eventually joined their brother, the Archbishop, at Thurles.

There seems to be no record of John Bray (the father's) death, or that of his wife Margaret. There may well be a tombstone somewhere about Fethard. The son, 'Little Tommy Bray', who is the centre-piece of this short notice, was baptised in Fethard on 15 March 1749 so we could reckon that he was born two days previously. Tom Bray may well have received his early education from the parish priest of Fethard who ran a school for

Catholic children. In early 1763 John Bray was writing from Fethard to his brother-in-law Canon James Power seeking a place in one of the European colleges for his son, Tom. The Canon promised to do something. It was at this time that the Canon thought young Bray should be put to a trade, where he may be sure to pass his days with more comfort than to follow his books in misery'. The Canon had a horror of the poverty suffered by poor students in Europe: 'none can judge better of the distressed condition of a poor scholar in a foreign country than ourselves', he wrote to his brother Dr. Thomas in Clonmel, 'which still strikes so great a horror in me that I ever shall have an aversion to involve any of my kind in it'.

However, as the eldest brother, Francis, had returned from Europe the decision was made to send out young Tom even though at the time he was no more than fifteen years. Tom's first cousin, Fr. Francis Power, wrote to the Rector of the Irish College at Paris on 7 April 1764 seeking a place for Tom, but to enter the college Tom would have to have passed his sixteenth birthday and to make a commitment to receive Holy Orders. Incidentally, the yearly cost of his education in that college was £79, a considerable sum in those days. However, Tom's maternal uncle, Canon James Power, was willing to pay the fee even though, as he complained in a letter, he was still struggling to pay the debts run

up by Francis Bray. Nevertheless, Tom Bray arrived in Paris in July 1764 and gave some time there in the Irish College, but he later moved on to Rome.

Tom Bray spent about four years at Rome. On 11 November 1769 he was writing to Propaganda College in Rome from Avignon in southern France where he had lately arrived. At that date Avignon was still a part of the Papal States and was not to be incorporated into metropolitan France until 1791. Tom Bray wrote that his health had broken down in Rome and he hoped that the Roman authorities would allow him to finish his studies at Avignon.

To enter the college of St. Guard in that city he needed a letter of release from his college in Rome from the Cardinal Secretary of Propaganda. Tom also pointed out that his father was too poor to pay for his education at Avignon and so he hoped that Propaganda would meet the costs. The Cardinal agreed that Tom should finish his studies in Avignon where he entered the college on 10 November 1769. By December of that year Bray's health was much improved and his chest troubles had cleared up.

But Tom Bray seems not to have been happy with the education system at Avignon. Fr. Francis Power, writing to his father Dr. Thomas Power at Clonmel on 9 April 1770, tells us: "The accounts I received of Cousin Bray are most agreeable; he is a sweet youth and by great odds

the cock of his Seminary. The poor child would gladly get into our Community at Paris, as by late accounts he cannot return to Rome, and does not find his studies at Avignon calculated for his purpose. I expect to prevail on Dr. Kelly [then Rector of the Irish College at Paris.] . . . 'Tis really a pity such a subject should be buried in obscurity. As his pension is paid until June I shall take no decisive step as yet but have previously desired a friend in Rome to sound the Congregation's disposition towards this plan which if it succeeds, will be less expensive than to maintain him where he is.

As the passage from Leghorn [in northern Italy] proved so favourable to his disposition, would I not do well to ship him at Marseilles for some port in Normandy? But as the sea is so long and dangerous, I won't do so without your approbation and his parents' consent."

Despite what his cousin was writing to Clonmel the college authorities at St. Guard were well pleased with young Bray's application to his studies and they praised also his general conduct at the college. In his first year there he defended his thesis before his professors and the Archbishop of Avignon. Following which the Archbishop described Bray as a brilliant young man. He was conferred with a doctorate in Divinity on 26 June 1773.

After spending three and a half years at Avignon young Bray wrote again to the Congregation in Rome

asking that he be allowed to complete his studies at the Irish College at Paris and especially to improve his use of English and Irish there before returning to Ireland. This was on 24 April 1773 and it seems that soon after June of that year Bray left for Paris. It was in Paris that Thomas Bray was ordained a priest on 22 May 1774.

Following his ordination Thomas Bray returned to Ireland after ten years spent in Europe. On 30 November 1774, Bray's cousin Fr. Edmond Power was writing: 'I am glad young Bray has met so good a friend [the then Archbishop of Cashel: Dr. James Butler of Ballyragget]. The Primate of Cashel will never abandon him as long as his behaviour deserves protection, and from the character that Bray bears in everybody's mouth, he must gain upon him every day. I have the honour of being personally known to the young Archbishop who is a very intimate friend of my uncle [Canon James Power who was also uncle to Thomas Bray;] and I make no doubt but he would serve me to the best of his power.

From about 1775 to 1779 Fr. Thomas Bray served as curate in Thurles being engaged in parish work. In the latter year he was appointed as parish priest of Cashel where he had the lease of a piece of land called Gortcaum on which he had a house. On 17 January 1782 the Archbishop promoted him as one of the two Vicars General in the diocese.

On the death of Archbishop James Butler on 29 July 1791 at the comparatively young age of fifty, the bishops of the province of Munster recommended that the Bishop of Kerry be promoted to Cashel.

Some other priests in the diocese had their names put forward by friends and included among them was Thomas Bray. The Bishop of Kerry was appointed to the Archbishopric on 15 December 1791, but he refused point-blank to take up the office and returned his letters of promotion to Rome. Following this Rome picked on Dr. Thomas Bray and in his letters of promotion Rome told him emphatically that he did not have the option of refusing the office; and so most reluctantly he accepted his appointment as Archbishop of Cashel on 20 July 1792. He was consecrated in Thurles on Sunday 14 October 1792 by Dr. William Egan, Bishop of Waterford, who was assisted by Dr. Gerard Teahen, Bishop of Kerry (the same one who had turned down the promotion), and Dr. William Coppinger. To support his office Dr. Bray was granted the revenues from the parishes of Thurles and Cashel. Dr. Bray was the first of the eighteenth-century Archbishops of Cashel who did not have wealthy families to support him. His immediate predecessor, for example, Dr. James Butler had an annual income of £1,000 from the Butler estate at Ballyraggett. Most bishops in those times depended on an annual

income of £300 to £500 from the parishes which were granted to them.

As Dr. Bray entered on his episcopate the Catholic Church in Ireland was emerging from its underground existence, which it had endured in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. As a consequence, the Church was still suffering from a laxity of discipline among its priests. In addition to other abuses, there was said to be inadequate attention to preaching, catechising, and the performance of religious services. Another problem that lay before the incoming Archbishop was the erection of churches suitable for worship. The mud-walled and thatched barn, such as Fethard had, was no longer appropriate for divine service in a church that was changing and rising from its knees. With quiet strength Dr. Bray faced those problems in the twenty-eight years of his episcopacy. Through sermons, pastorals and directives, oral and written, the Archbishop exhibited a deep understanding of the problems and shortcomings of his people and in his quiet and unassuming manner pushed change. He worked anxiously to keep Catholicism in his archdiocese on and even keel as it moved through the dangerous waters of his times.

In politics he kept what is now known as 'a low profile', but he was favourable to the Act of Union of 1801 and used his office 'discreetly' among prominent Catholics in

Tipperary and Waterford to promote its cause. He may well have been influenced by his friend the Earl of Llandaff who was also a supporter of Union.

In 1813 Dr. Bray's health began to fail and so he asked Rome to appoint a coadjutor. Dr. Patrick Everard, another Fethard man, was appointed to the position. Dr. Bray gave a good portion of the summer of 1815 at Tramore in the hope of improving his health; at that period sea bathing was considered to be beneficial. He composed his will on 8 February 1817 in which he left £5 to the poor of Fethard among other towns and money to the children of his brothers James and Francis. All of his brothers and sisters appear to have been dead by then. He also saw that his servants were looked after. Dr. Bray lived on for a few more years in middling health and died on 9 December 1820 aged seventy-four years. He is buried in Thurles. *

Michael O'Donnell



Sr Aine and Stan Murphy photographed in the Parish Church yard by John Kenrick

St. Rita's Camogie Club

St. Rita's camogie club AGM was held on the 17th February in the Tirry Community Centre at 8pm. The officers elected on the night are as follows: Chairwoman, Jean Morrissey; Secretary, Eimear Gahan; Treasurer, Emma Fitzgerald; Juvenile Officers, Sandra Maher and Norah O'Meara. A committee was also formed.

We would like to thank Edel Fitzgerald who stepped down from treasurer this year. I would also like

to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped out and supported the club throughout last year, we are looking forward to your continued support.

Training has been underway since the 22nd February under the new management of Liam Treacy and his fellow selectors Stephen Fitzgerald and Davy Morrissey. Training takes place on Wednesday and Friday nights at 7pm in the GAA field. New players are always welcome. *



Photograph taken at Talbot's Inch, Co. Kilkenny, at an inter-club handball tournament 1978. The Fethard team was short one player and Mick O'Flynn stood in and helped the team to go on and win the competition. L to R: Jack Wall, Mick O'Flynn and Derry O'Dwyer. Other team members were Billy Treacy and Michael Nevin.

Green is the Valley, Blue are the Hills



Author Thomas Crane photographed with Jan and Sandra after a recorded talk about his book at Lansing Library, Illinois, USA, on Monday, 10th April, 2006.

Tom Crane, Calumet City, USA, author of 'Green is the Valley, Blue are the Hills', began to research his family tree in the late 1970s, after his mother and father passed away over a span of less than a six months. "We had no idea really of where we came from, and that creates a sort of emptiness," he said. "Consequently, if you don't know where you're coming from, you don't know where you're going more or less in life."

After many years of research Fethard turned out to be the ancestral home of Tom's branch of the Crane family. It was here that his great-grandfather, Patrick Crean, was born and baptised in Holy Trinity Church on January 9, 1844. Patrick's parents names were Michael Crean and Mary Shea. The witnesses to the

event were Thomas Coady and Catherine Shea. "It was almost like a revelation," he said. "As I dug deeper, I found more meaning behind the individuals I was seeking out. It wasn't like as if were an established family or notable family. My family was really working class. I really felt like I was travelling back in time."

Tom Crane knocked off "Green is the Valley" over the course of a six-week period during the summer of 1986, with an addendum to the book included a year later.

Hard copies of the book have made their way to numerous libraries and institutions, including the Villanova Library at Villanova University, the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Ill., the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and the National Library of Ireland. *

Holohan's Pub, Burke Street

Maureen Holohan died this year at the age of ninety-six. She was fit, vigorous and in good health to the end. Her establishment, Holohan's Pub, is no more. The doors are closed, the license gone, but the memories linger of joy, song and good cheer. Burke Street and Fethard will miss it.

Maureen worked in the pub all her long life and put her own stamp on the place, a sort of matriarchal one. Dormant for most of the day, it came to life around nine o'clock in the evening, except for select customers who called for a little nourishment during daytime. Sunday night was the high point of the week. Everybody crowded into the back room which was dominated by a large mahogany table around which sat nine of the most determined and best "25" card players in

the locality. This was serious stuff. Their weather-beaten faces betrayed little emotion and never wavered from the business in hand. Every trick analysed and raked over, arguments aplenty and woe betide the tyro who ventured in and made a bloomer — *"To the fire young man!"*

At the fire sat another bunch discussing topics of the day and who occasionally tried to start a sing-song, meeting stern resistance from the card players. However, whenever they succeeded it was a night to remember. Everybody in the room sang their piece and were applauded to ceiling as if they were all John McCormacks.

Maureen ruled the roost dispensing large bottles and spirits round the room with ease. No pints here, no television, no radio — just good old-fashioned fun. You savoured the



Holohan's Pub, June 1983. L to R: Tess O'Brien, Eileen Purcell and Maureen Holohan.



Holohan's Pub, 1983. L to R: Johnny O'Connor, Maureen Holohan and Murt O'Shea.

drink and relished the company — Pa Joe, Billy Holohan, Joe and Jim Ryan, their two sidekicks Tommy Smyth and Jackie White, Bill and Mrs. Carroll, the Booper Smith, Johnny Lawlor, the Murphy brothers, Jim Holohan, Ned Bulfin, Tom Browne, next door neighbours Tom and Eileen Purcell, Hugh Lynch and Eddie Dillon, Jack Kenrick and Jerome Guiry, Gus Breen, Tom Conway, Bert Pratt, John Burke, Tom Clancy, Mick Keane, and many oth-

ers. Often there were visitors from afar who were always royally treated. A favourite son was Jimmy 'The Buckie' Ryan who betimes fell foul of the mistress of the house. Other times young whippersnappers like John O'Connor and Murt O'Shea could be seen skulking in a corner!

It was a place of another time, another era, much loved by those that frequented it. It was a public meeting place that enriched the town of Fethard for many years. *

Ladies Rugby

Five ladies from Fethard were members of a very successful Clonmel Ladies Rugby Team who started this year's season with an unbeaten run in the league campaign to finish top of the south All Ireland League (AIL) 2nd Division. They beat Clanwilliam on their home soil to regain the Keane Cup for the second time in three years

and then overcame Navan in a tough home game to reach the league final. In the final, Ballincollig just piped them at the post in a nail biting finish, scoring a try in injury time to win 10-8.

The local team members were Jennifer Fogarty, Valerie Colville, Mary Gorey, and sisters Catherine and Aisling Kenny. *

Badgers Soccer Club

What started out in March 2004 as a small group of enthusiastic over-30 soccer players has grown steadily. In the beginning we had only nine members and games were often as small as two or three aside. Now every Wednesday at 8.00, or more likely 8.20 (well Roy Keane took over an hour to warm up before a game!), you are guaranteed a good competitive game of at least six or seven aside.

At the end of last year the committee were worried as number grew to such a degree that we were having full eleven aside games. What if there were more? Apart from just two weeks of a break when the field was being treated, we have played the year through. We did lose some members who volunteered to do

the sponsored Fethard to Fethard cycle in the summer. Sadly for us some decided to stay cycling and we wish them well. It could have been worse — they could have left to take up golf, heaven forbid!

This year witnessed an unforeseen expansion of our small soccer club, and it seemed to happen almost over night. We were approached by the Community Council, who had done an extensive survey with the youth to find there was a demand for a youth soccer club. A handful of members took up the challenge and all agreed that these “junior” badgers could fall under the umbrella of the seniors with regard to insurance and equipment. The junior badgers kicked off on Saturday 6th May. It went well for



Badgers Soccer Team Back L to R: Andy O'Donovan, Kevin Ryan, Kevin Dwyer, Alan Connolly, Kari Laaksonen, Eamon Hall, Pat O'Donnell, Mossy Mullins, Philip Furnell. Front L to R: Mick Tillyer, Brian Steedman, John Hayes, Colm McGrath, John McClain, Mick O'Connell, Liam Meagher and John Bermingham.

a while but numbers declined in the summer months and at the end of July it was decided to postpone it until the autumn when schools reopened to kick off once more.

At our AGM last April only one change was made on the committee with Mick Tillyer accepting the office of assistant treasurer.

A new logo was chosen to go with the new crest that will appear on shirts yet to appear! The logo comes from an ancient quote of Petronius Arbiter AD 66 which simply translates, "Beware of the dog" (*old dog that is, but not so old he can't enjoy the game*). *

Fethard Womens' Group 2006



Pictured at the presentation of First Aid Certificates were Back L to R: Pat Maher, Mary Coen, Majella Hayde, Maura Gorey, Rose Gorey, Chrissie O'Meara, Mairead Fitzpatrick, Maura Fitzpatrick, Veronica Fogarty and Capt P.J. Fitzpatrick. Front L to R: Mandy Quigley, Patricia Ryan, Noreen Sheehy, Veronica Crowe VEC, Alice Moloney and Rosemary Donovan. Missing from picture Patricia Brett.

The Fethard Women's group facilitated by Veronica Crowe of the VEC continued to meet every Monday evening in the Abymill for educational courses, a chat and a cup of tea. Several interesting courses were undertaken including basic computer skills, 'Colour-me-Beautiful', women's health and alternative therapies. We learnt a lot about allergies, food sensitivity and flower remedies over the course of

a number of evenings. On another occasion we were introduced to the science of iridology — the analysing of the iris of the eye to discover things you never knew about yourself!

Megan Sceats, Crampscastle, helped us to find our artistic side by showing us how to weave and do water colour painting.

In December, as usual, Mandy Quigley helped us make our own

floral arrangements for Christmas. Mandy is a talented florist and makes it all look so easy!

Possibly the most important of all the sessions was the First Aid course. We were all grateful to Dick Hennessy, Rose Costigan and Niamh Wardick from the Order of Malta,

Cashel, for their time and patience. It paid off as we all passed and received our certificates at a presentation ceremony in Cashel in August 2006.

We rounded off the year with a party night out at Slievenamon Golf Club. *

Fethard Scout Notes - 27th Tipperary



Fethard Scout Leaders photographed at the investiture and presentation of service awards in Fethard Ballroom on Sunday 26th February 2006. Back L to R: Mike McCarthy, Philip O'Donnell (10 years), John Cloonan (10 years), John Noonan (5 Years), Dermot Culligan. Front L to R: Sheila Power (County Commissioner), Robert Phelan (15 Years) and Paul Collins (County Commissioner for Camping).

Regular weekly Scout Meetings resumed in Fethard on Friday, 21st October 2005, for the first time in two years, following presentations to the local primary school and a registration evening.

The first activity for the newly reformed troop was National Orienteering Day, Saturday 19th November 2005, which was held in Bishops Wood, Dundrum, home also of Dundrum International Scout

centre. The purpose of the day was to introduce the sport of orienteering to the scouts and cubs who also attended. All members received a badge for their uniforms.

Mountain Pursuit Challenge (MPC) in Cahir on Sunday 4th December 2005, hosted by the Venturers section was the first county event for the troop. Scouts hiked a route of approximately four miles on the lower hills of the Galtees, just

overlooking Cahir, the purpose of which was to give scouts a flavour of hiking and the great outdoors in general. A great day was had by all, helped by excellent weather conditions.

Scouts resumed after the Christmas break on Friday, 6th January. 15th January saw the 27th Tipperary, Fethard scout troop host the county challenge day. From ten in the morning to nearly five in the afternoon teams from Kilsheelan, Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir, Ardfinnan and Ballymacarbry battled it out over eleven rounds of quiz questions, to eleven bases testing the scouts physically, mentally, on their scouting skills and their sense of fun, humour and ability to stay dry in the frequent showers of rain on Sunday afternoon.

The winners of the competition were team 21, representing the 22nd scout troop, Clonmel. The lads, along with 2nd place team 4, representing the 9th scout troop, Ardfinnan, went on to represent the county at the national challenge day in Kildare. Many thanks to all the scouts who enthusiastically participated in the competition and their leaders, of course.

Next activity for the scouts was a hike to Grove wood on 29th January. Near perfect conditions ensured everyone had a good day. Basic fire lighting and some backwoods cooking were taught. Just enough time for a few games before we returned to the ballroom at 16:00.

An action-packed weekend was enjoyed by both the cub and scout sections of the 27th Tipperary Troop, when they went to Mount Melleray Scout centre for the weekend. It was the first weekend away for the troop since reforming last October. While a hectic two hours plus of games was enjoyed by all shortly after arrival Friday night, the programme proper started on Saturday morning. While the cubs stayed around the centre for the day enjoying games, skills training and a short hike, the scouts were putting their stamina and map-reading skills to the test on an all-day hike which brought them into the hills and forests of the Knockmealdowns to the back of the centre. An unexpected surprise was snow on top of one of the peaks – needless to say the inevitable snowball fight proved to be one of the highlights of the walk! The day was finished off nicely with the lads singing until they were nearly hoarse at a campfire, into the late hours of Saturday night.

Sunday morning saw more fun and games for the cubs, while the scouts went on a training exercise for the up-coming county orienteering competition at the end of March. Mass at noon, followed by lunch and it was nearly time for home.

Our return to Fethard saw the entire troop of cubs and scouts, as well as leaders get invested into the scouts at the ballroom. The ceremony was conducted by Paul Collins,

County Commissioner for camping and Sheila Power, County Commissioner. Service Awards were also presented to leaders Robert Phelan, John Cloonan, Philip O'Donnell and John Noonan for 15, 10 and 5 years respectively. Congratulations to all. Light refreshments served afterwards marked the end of what was a great weekend for everybody.

Thanks to the parents who drove to and from Melleray, to Sheila and Paul for representing the county, to all those who helped with the catering, a special thanks to the leaders (especially parent Dennis Gahan who stayed for most of the weekend – what can I say, a natural born leader!), and finally to the lads themselves – well done on officially becoming cubs and scouts this weekend, hopefully it's the start of a long and interesting road for you!

On a number of occasions during the year, the Civil Defence's Matt Peters called to teach basic first aid, which was enjoyed by all scouts. Our thanks go to him, please come back anytime!

An old tradition of Fethard scouts was renewed on St. Patrick's Day when the scouts, together with the cubs, joined the guides and paraded to 11:00 mass, sporting their new uniforms. Their marching skills need to be worked on, but the troop looked well and all enjoyed the experience.

The county Orienteering was held on 26th March and was hosted this

year by the Carrick troop and held in Lyrnalea wood outside Clonmel. Preparation in the form of training with maps at the weekly meetings and the running of a course the week before proved a great help to the lads who, despite horrible weather, stormed to a surprise victory in the under-14 class, taking the team event and 1st (Brian Delahunty and Gerry Horan) and 3rd (Eugene Walshe and Dean Sharpe) places. Very well done to all concerned!

The next County event was the County Shield, and it was held in Melleray on the weekend of the 5th May. A team of 8 scouts was picked - Gareth Lawrence (PL), Eugene Walshe (APL), Ted Barrett, Gerry Horan, Noel O'Brien, Brian Delahunty, Louis Rice and Andrew Maher. Meeting times moved to 18:30 on Friday nights to accommodate the extra training, with more dates added in the run up to the Shield itself. With the lads being tested on every aspect of their scouting knowledge over the weekend – tent pitching, first aid, cooking, pioneering, campfire entertainment, map and compass to name but a few, — it was important to cover a lot of ground in the training.

There was additional training by the Civil Defence in first aid and a cooking hike to Grove wood also.

The event itself proved to be a baptism of fire for our very young team, the youngest on the field. What the lads lacked in knowledge,



Fethard Scouts invested in 2006. Back L to R: Ted Barrett, Brian Delahunty, Noel O'Brien, Eugene Walsh, Dean Sharpe, Tony Myler, Andrew Maher, Louis Rice. Front L to R: Gerry Horan, Gavin Loneragan, Jamie Walsh, Garreth Lawrence and Dylan Maher.

they more than made up for in good behaviour, character and spirits, something that was noted by all leaders on the weekend. While no trophies were won at the event (although we came a very close 2nd in the hiking competition on Saturday afternoon), all the lads had a great time, learned a little, and certainly they all want to go camping again, which is always a good sign. The event was won by the Kilsheelan troop, our congratulations go to them.

A planned hike up to Galtymore had to be shortened to a hike up to Lough Muskery, the largest of the Galtee's lakes, due to poor weather conditions at the top. However, a great day was had by all, the hike being the first activity for some of our new scouts, who had just moved

up from cubs – Andrew McGuire, Colin Grant, Brian Healy and Vincent Lawrence. We were also joined by parent Eamon Delahunty. Many thanks to Eamon for that, we promise better weather for the next one!

From poor weather to fantastic weather — a near uninterrupted two weeks of sunshine was enjoyed by the scouts who attended Clonmel's Annual camp in Ballycotton, East Cork, from July 22nd to August 5th. Camp was also attended by the Kilsheelan and Ardfinnan troops. Camp was enjoyed by our full troop of scouts, some opting to stay for one week, some opting to stay for the full two weeks. However long they stayed, I think it's fair to say that all had a fantastic time, aided in no small part by

the aforementioned good weather, good food, new friends made, and an action-packed programme which included treasure trails, regular trips to the beach (which was at the end of the campsite), obstacle courses, day trips to the RNLI facility in Ballycotton and Cork city, “buy your own food days”, campfire, nightly entertainment programme in the marquee to name but a few. True to their word, camp veterans Dermot Culligan and Mikey McCarthy returned for their 7th camp, this time a whole new experience for them as leaders. I think the lads enjoyed themselves, there’s talks of camp number eight already!

Special thanks has to go to camp chiefs Joe Keane, Damien Moroney

and their merry bunch of leaders, who yet again did a great job in running ‘Camp ’06’. Many thanks lads for having us again, hope to see you in a field somewhere in Ireland next summer for a fortnight!

At the time of going to print, our weekly meetings have just resumed after the summer break with the troop looking forward to another action-packed year with hikes, camping, orienteering, and county events to look forward to.

Many thanks, as always, to the ever faithful bunch of leaders – the McCarthy brothers John and Mikey, Dermot Culligan, Robert Phelan and Philip O’Donnell – keep up the good work lads. More from the 27th Tipp in Newsletter 2007! *



Casey family group when they lived in The Valley. Back L to R: Johnny Casey (father), John Casey, Kit (Catherine) Mackey (mother) and Johnny Mackey (uncle), Mary Cassidy (sister). In front Molly Mackey (grandmother) and child is Eileen Cassidy (niece).

If you go down to the woods today

I suppose that what passes for amusement in Fethard today is playing a computer game, seeing a film at the multiplex in Clonmel, going to a disco or maybe hanging about somewhere in town. I am referring only to the legal options, having taught teenagers for almost forty years, I have a fair idea of what the extra-legal possibilities for amusement are.

In the Fethard of the 1950s, the era when I was growing up, opportunities for entertainment were somewhat limited by comparison with now. The Capitol Cinema offered a variety of fare, the programme being changed every two or three days. We wondered at the antics of the Durango Kid, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and his horse Trigger and Gene Autrey and his steed Champ. Horror films revealed the ghoulish behaviour of Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff. Entry cost four old pence (4d) for the 'Pit', a location which was accurately named. Nine-pence got you into the 'Parterre'. This was on Sunday afternoons. During evenings and weekdays prices rose and it cost the exorbitant sum of 1/8 to ascend the dizzy heights of the 'Balcony'.

Money was the big obstacle to all of us when the matter of entertainment arose. There was very little of it about and most of us passed what would today be classed as a miserable existence. However, we very

inventive and I cannot remember any prolonged periods of what kids today refer to peevishly as boredom. One source of amusement was Grove Wood, that area of plantation on the far side of the railway line. It was accessed by crossing over the track at a number of locations. You could cut across the fields at the end of Jesuits' Walk and cross the "Boardy Bridge". This footbridge had steps either side and was maintained in good condition by CIE. What state it is in now I have no idea for it is well over forty years since I passed that way. You could also get to the woods by crossing the line near Mikey Connors' house or by going to the entrance by the lodge house across the road from Keyes house. That house, I note, has long since disappeared. Walking the railway line itself was an enjoyable diversion. It was certainly not very dangerous, there were four passenger trains a day plus the occasional goods train, and as lines go, it was almost ghost-like. The exception was the "beet campaign". Transporting sugar beet from farms to the sugar factory at Thurles provided almost round the clock business for the railway from October to around Christmas. The deep-throated notes of the diesel engines, which by then had superseded steam as propulsion for trains, resounded across the country side for almost twenty four hours of the day as convoys of beet-



Old railway line photographed from Moanbeg Bridge looking towards Kerry Street

laden wagons headed for the sidings at the sugar factory. Even when passenger services ended in 1963 the beet trains continued for a few more years, finally ending at the end of the '60s when lorries clogged up the already inadequate roads and plastered the surface with mud inches thick.

However, I have digressed, nostalgia tends to make you do so. Grove Wood was to many of us a place of high adventure. There were trees to climb and most of us became very agile at this skill. It probably annoyed our mothers because a regular consequence of doing so was to arrive home with the seat of your trousers somewhat adrift. Clothes were expensive and their premature demise put a severe strain on the family budget when

money was tight as it invariably was in the 1950s. The wood had plenty of hazel trees. These yielded a very soft pliable wood which we used to make bows and arrows and enact some of the scenes we had beheld in westerns at the cinema. Cutting them down had its dangers in the person of Paddy Sullivan, the game-keeper at Grove. If he caught you he would threaten to bring in the Gardai, something which in those days, when the police were held in awe, put the fear of God into most of us. Getting involved with the Gardai also brought your family into disrepute and reflected badly on your parents. However, Paddy's bark was worse than his bite and we came to realise that, provided we confined our forays into the wood to getting a bit of material for bows and arrows,

we were safe. In the autumn, hazel trees came into their own and produced those nuts for which you can now pay handsomely in the shops. To us they came free, we enjoyed eating them but did not realise how lucky we were at the time to have them in such abundance.

Summer in the wood was a most

enjoyable time. You spotted numerous varieties of wildlife. I remember seeing red squirrels, shy, frightened creatures, which fled as soon as they spotted you. I last saw one in Grove Wood over forty years ago and had to wait until I visited the Red Squirrel Sanctuary near Formby on the Lancashire coast a few years ago to see another. Here, safe from predators, they are more conspicu-

ous, cheeky almost. You saw foxes and realised how wary these were. They had good reason for late summer brought the cub-hunting season, which the hunt used to train novice hounds and to break up families to facilitate hunting in the main season. The odd stoat flitting past with a kill was a sight, town-dweller that I am now, I have not observed for nearly half a century.

Autumn brought horse chestnuts in abundance. The main source of these for playing conkers was the small wood at Knockborden. It had numerous trees which yielded a superior type of conker and, I recall, spending evenings and weekends in October gathering them. Many had already fallen to the ground, others

we would dislodge by throwing branches into the trees. By that time of year the evenings were short and the temperature fell sharply as soon as the sun set. We often went home with numb hands but with plenty of material for conker fights at school the next day. I notice that these trees have now been felled and feel sad that a source of one of the pleas-

ures of childhood has gone.

As I sit here in November with the nights drawing in and the temperature falling though not as low as it fell when I was young – the South Devon Coast and global warming having something to do with this — I realise how rich in the things which really matter, childhood was, and feel grateful and nostalgic. *

Tommy Healy



Bro Kieran walking by Grove Wood 1956

Fethard & Killusty Community Games

Fethard & Killusty area enjoyed one of the best years ever with a total of twenty-eight competitors qualifying for HSE National Finals in Mosney. The following seven competitors all won gold at various County Finals. First boy to strike gold was 6-year-old Jack Ward, son of John and Liza Ward, Garrinch, who won the u/8 art competition. Laura Rice, Everardsgrange, won the girls u/16 art competition and represented Fethard in art for the second time.

Andrew Maguire, Jack Ward, Garrinch, Annesgift, won the boys u/10 model-making event; Philip Maher, Ballybough, won the boys u/12 freestyle swimming event for the second time. Aobh O'Shea, The Valley, Natalie Cahill, Woodvale

Walk, Lorraine Feery, Claremore, Killusty, Pdraig O'Shea, The Valley, and Gary Bradshaw, The Green, all won gold in the judo events. Charlotte Hatton, Ardsallagh, won

silver in girls' u/10 model-making; Michael Kelly, Abbey Court, won bronze in boys u/10 model-making and Jack Connolly, The Green, won bronze in boys u/14 model-making. Model-making is an event comparatively new to the area.

Louis Rice, brother of Laura, won a silver medal in the boys' u/14 art competition. Emma Walsh, Main Street, Kate Delahunty, Market Hill, and Dean Kenny, Woodvale Walk, all won silver medals in the judo county final. Kate Delahunty, daughter of Tom and Antoinette, Market Hill,



Fethard artists who took part in the Community Games Art & Modelling County Final held in Fethard Ballroom. L to R: Nicole Looby, Jane Holohan, Deirdre Dwyer, Laura Rice, Faye Manton and Evie O'Sullivan.



*Community Games judo winners who represented Tipperary at the Munster Finals.
Back L to R: coach Eric O'Donnell, Natalie Cahill, Lorraine Feery, Alan Sutcliffe and
Padraig O'Shea. Front L to R: Patrick Doyle, Aobh O'Shea, Eimear White, Gary Bradshaw.*

won the Samantha Feery Memorial Shield for the best player of the day, which was presented by Angela Woodlock, President of Fethard Judo Club. This Shield is in memory of the late Samantha Feery, Killusty, who was one of community games star competitors especially in the sport of judo, and who tragically lost her life last year.

Faye Manton and Evie O'Sullivan, both of Main Street, Jane Holohan, Grangeduff, and Amy Lyons, Woodvale Walk, travelled to Thurles where they competed in the county final of the u/14 Table Quiz

The u/11 rugby team were beaten in the County Final by Nenagh but both the u/11 and u/14 tag rugby teams and boys u/15 and girls u/16 volleyball teams qualified for the Munster finals in University of Limerick in July, which took place

in dreadful weather conditions.

No joy here for the rugby teams but both volleyball teams were successful and Gary Bradshaw, Padraig O'Shea and Lorraine Feery all won their respective Judo categories. Teams were:

Under-11 Tag Rugby: Adam Fitzgerald, David Morgan, Donal Walsh, Russell Casey, Kyle Walsh, Emma Walsh, Charlie Manton, Tommy Anglim, Eoin Hurley, Zoë Maher, Derek O'Brien and James Harrington.

Under-14 Tag Rugby: Joe Morgan, Will Morgan, Anita Pollard, Shannon O'Brien, Michael Smith, Philip Maher, Kieran

Walsh, Nicola Harrington, Jessica Kenny, Dylan Fitzgerald, Jack Devaney and Cathal Hurley.

Volleyball Under-15 Boys: Ciaran Ryan, Matthew Fitzgerald, Jerome Ahearne, Kevin Hayes, Glen Maher,



Philip Maher, Ballybough

Michael Fitzgerald, Damien Morrissey, Padraig O'Shea, Darren Thompson, Joseph Sheehan and Tommy Sheehan.

Volleyball Under-16 Girls: Carrie Sweeney, Chloe Gough, Lisa Anglim, Sarah Conway, Debbie Lawrence, Mary Anne Keane, Leslie Looby, Niamh Fanning, Aisha Tobin, Laura Rice, Kelley Coady and Sarah Hayes.

We had great results again in Mosney where Gary Bradshaw and Padraig O'Shea both won gold medals in Judo, much to the delight of manager Alice Feery. The girls' volleyball team won silver and the boys volleyball team won bronze, while the remainder of the competitors all gave a good account of themselves in very high class competitions. Dedicated and hardworking volleyball manager, Denis Burke, stated he was more than pleased with the performances given by

both his teams where the atmosphere was electric in finals which went to three games, in nip and tuck matches, with Fethard losing by only the narrowest of margins. However, everybody had a good time, which is what sport is all about. Managers: Denis Burke, Alice Feery, Helena O'Shea, Patricia Breen and Joe Keane.

Unfortunately no one qualified at county level for the national finals.

The committee would like to say well done to everybody who participated, congratulations to all medalists, and a special thank you to those who contributed financially, stood on church gate collections, assisted with running the events and helped in any way. We are looking forward to 2007 and send very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all those at home and abroad. *



Fethard Main Street c.1900

Fethard Historical Society



Photographed at the launch of Fethard Medieval Trail brochure are L to R: Dóirín Saurus (Chairperson Fethard Historical Society), John Bradley, Senior Lecturer Department of Modern History, NUI Maynooth, who officially launched the brochure, Tim Robinson, who recently restored and now lives in the early post-medieval town house at Watergate, John Devane (Tipperary Leader Group) and Eamon McEneaney (Chair of The Heritage Council Irish Walled Towns Network).

Fethard Historical Society continues to promote Fethard, its history and heritage, and feel that finally the 'Old Walled Town' is getting the recognition it deserves. The good news is that, in the coming months a major conservation plan financed by the Heritage Council, will be produced for the Town Wall area of Fethard.

The society is very happy with this news as the new conservation plan will set guidelines for all future development near the walls. This, hopefully, will avoid possible conflicts that arise in the planning process, as the society has no interest in getting involved in individual situations if at all possible. What we have been looking for is a proper conservation and development

plan for the old town area and then both developers and citizens know where they stand and real progress can occur.

Fethard's membership of the recently formed Irish Walled Towns Network is one of the main reasons why our star is rising, as it is clear to all that, apart from Derry, Fethard has the most complete and impressive town walls in the country. Members of the society went to Derry, Kilmallock and Drogheda and the IWTN committee had their summer meeting in Tim Robinson and Catherine Corcoran's wonderfully restored medieval home at Watergate.

The other good development during the year was the publication by the society of a beautiful new

'Walking Trail' of the old town. The colourful brochure, printed on hard laminated paper, is available free from shops and bars in the town and a digital version can be downloaded from the fethard.com website.

The whole Tipperariana phenomenon has been a great success and is the society's main fund-raising event of the year. The 'Tipperariana Book of the Year' is also quietly establishing itself as a significant event and the presentation night, in late January, is always one of the most enjoyable nights of the year. The 2005 and fourth winner, Dr. David Butler of Cahir, was very pleased with his presentation for his excellent historical study on the religious and land rivalries in Tipperary.

Apart from the usual lectures and outings (one to Cape Clear Island in September) an unusual event took place in the Abymill on 11th August. Members of the society, aided by seasoned actors from Fethard and Cloneen and by other 'unseasoned' actors from the general area put on a stage reading of a play 'Quilting

the Armour'. The play followed the lives of the Kelly women, especially Ned's mother, Ellen, and sisters Maggie and Kate. This all happened very fast when one of the play's authors, Brenda Addie, arrived from Australia and said, "how's about it mate?" The society would very much like to thank all who helped to put the show on the road at such short notice.

Officers elected for 2006 at our AGM held on Tuesday 28th March, were: 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, Mary Cummins, Peter Grant and Pat Looby (Events Planner).

The Historical Society would like to wish a happy Christmas and New Year to Fethard people everywhere and to welcome all the new people who are making the Fethard area their home. Slán. *



Photographed at lecture on 'Fethard Men who Fought in the Great War', by Tony Newport, are L to R: Rena Lawrence, Nellie Shortall, Tony Newport and Laura Greene.

Henry Kellett — explorer from Fethard

Vice Admiral Sir Henry Kellett was born in Fethard in 1806. The family home was Clonacody House, purchased by Conor Carrigan from the Kelleths in the mid 1930s. At the age of 16 years, Henry travelled to Cork and joined the British Navy. He spent the rest of his working life serving at sea, before he retired in 1871 to his native Fethard. In the interim years he served all over the world and rose to the rank of Vice Admiral in charge of the China fleet based in Hong Kong. He left his mark in various places — Kellett Point in Canada and Kellett Island in Hong Kong being named after him. The Kellett Storehouse in Canada — a shelter for explorers in the desolate northern regions — was built by him and survives to this day as one of that nation's national treasures. It was noted in one journal that this refuge was used over a hundred years after it was built.

His early years were spent in the Caribbean, working as a hydrographic surveyor, mapping the coast of Panama and Columbia. After a number of years, he returned and was stationed on the coast of West Africa helping to stamp out the

trade in slaves which, due to public pressure, had been outlawed by the British government. He returned once again to South America after his tour of duty in Africa, before being commissioned to the East Indies. On both those tours he served with a Canadian-born officer called Edward Belcher, a man who became important in Kellett's life in later years. This was the time of the

Opium Wars, when the British fought the Chinese and gained control of Hong Kong. He was serving as captain on the HMS Herald at the time and was one of the first officers to set foot on Hong Kong island which duly became the property of the British Crown. Henry Kellett was awarded medals for his bravery in battle and began to rise through the ranks of the navy.

Upon his return from the East, Kellett served in the first of his four Arctic expeditions. His final Arctic trip was as captain of a ship called the 'Resolute'. Four ships, under the overall command of Sir Edward Belcher, went in search of the lost members of a previous expedition, the Franklin expedition, that had gone looking for the North West passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific.



They never found that missing party, but did rescue the crew of another ship, 'The Investigator', that had run into trouble in the Arctic.

After a long tour of duty, the Resolute became trapped in the ice. Kellett was willing to spend the winter on board the ship as it was specially modified to withstand the Arctic conditions (such as a triple thick hull to prevent the ice breaking through), and had ample supplies to see out the harsh winter.

Belcher, however, had had enough of the severe conditions and ordered Kellett to abandon his ship. Kellett protested, but in the end had to obey orders. He and his men left their ship in the ice and made their way overland to the other ships from the expedition. They returned to England, where both Belcher and Kellett were court marshalled.

Kellett was found not guilty of any crime, as he was duty bound to obey his commanding officer. He soon received a promotion to the rank of Commodore and took command of the fleet in the Caribbean. Belcher also got off without punishment, as he was the commanding officer of the expedition and thus it was his right to abandon a ship if he saw fit. His real punishment was the loss of any further command,

though it didn't prevent the Crown from making him a KCB and the Navy promoting him to Admiral.

The Resolute, having been abandoned in the ice, worked its way out once the thaw set in. It took off on a voyage of its own and was found by an American whaler, Captain Buddington, 1200 miles from where it had been abandoned. He and his crew claimed it as sea salvage and sailed it to Connecticut. The American Government heard about



President John F. Kennedy sitting at the ornate desk carved from Admiral Kellett's boat 'Resolute'

the ship and decided to buy it from Buddington and have it restored. They agreed a price, took possession of the ship and then stalled on the payment. He ended up with nothing, though he did negotiate a reward for his men. The ship was then restored and given as a present to Queen Victoria as a gesture of goodwill from the

United States. It re-entered service but was never given a commission. In 1879, when the ship was eventually officially decommissioned, Queen Victoria ordered that the finest timbers were to be saved and fashioned into a desk. Once built, it was presented to President Rutherford Hayes who placed it in the Oval Office in the White House where it has remained, apart from a brief spell in a museum, ever since.

Little did the man from Fethard know where parts of his ship would eventually end up after he was forced to give her up to the snow and the ice.

Kellett moved from his command in the Caribbean to Malta where he was superintendent of the Malta dockyard, before being promoted to Vice Admiral and given overall command of the fleet in China, based on the island of Hong Kong which he had helped to secure as a younger man. He remained there until his retirement in 1871. He then returned to Clonacody where he died in 1875. He is buried in the grounds of the Holy Trinity Church in Fethard. Not a man given to ostentation, he asked that his grave be marked with his ward

room table. It remained on the grave for many years, but was removed at some point due to deterioration by the weather. Its present whereabouts is unknown.

Earlier this year, members of the Kellett family returned to Fethard to view the former family home at Clonacody. Diana Holderness, great grandniece of the Admiral, travelled with her son Edward and daughter Emma. They were shown the family graves in the grounds of the Holy Trinity Church and the monument to Richard Henry Kellett, Diana's

uncle, who died in the First World War. They brought pictures of many of the Admiral's personal artefacts, such as the sledge flag from his snow trek in the Arctic (with an inverted Union Jack, which is very unusual), his medals from his campaigns, drawings of the *Resolute*, his flute and a fine miniature portrait.

Henry Kellett led a most remarkable life. His story is virtually unknown, unlike the other Irish explorers, Shackleton and Tom Crean

but he did leave his mark on the world in a quieter way. He was, according to research carried out in the 1920s, the only naval surveyor ever to rise to the rank of Commander-in-Chief in the history of the British Navy. His life was a true adventure, living in an era when the sun never set on the British Empire, taking him from surveying the Pacific to fighting the slave

traders in the Atlantic. He captained a botanical survey that circumnavigated the world and fought in the Opium War, as well as making four expeditions to the icy northern territories. Having risen to the top in his chosen field, sailing on and commanding over the high seas of the world, he returned to the more tranquil environment of his native Fethard to spend the rest of his life. *

Vincent Murphy



L to R: Conor Carrigan, Lady Diana Holderness, Lady Emma Brooksbank and at the rear, the Hon. Edward Wood.

Killusty National School



Killusty National School pupils photographed with teachers Ms Catriona Morrissey and Ms Frances Harrington (Principal) on 17th May 2006

The school year 2005/2006 was another year filled to the brim with 'all kinds of everything'. The staff for this year: Frances Harrington, Principal, who teaches junior infants to second class; Caitriona Morrissey, who teaches third class to sixth class, and Helena Delany, who is our special education teacher. Tracy Wallace and Una Hughes are our special needs assistants. Karen McGree is our music teacher. Noel Byrne is our GAA coach and Joan Allen is our school caretaker.

All the pupils returned to school in September refreshed, renewed and ready for spiritual, intellectual, social and physical development in the new school year. In the first term, the children enjoyed their out-

ing to the Clan Cluana production of Fionn McCumhaill. In December, the parents and families joined us in Sacred Heart Church, Killusty, where the pupils gave us a beautiful, seasonal rendition of Christmas carols and poetry. The carol service, in the Christmas spirit, was simplicity at its best.

In the New Year, our second term, the children embarked on a new experience for the pupils of Killusty NS when swimming was undertaken for the first time. For ten weeks, our trips to Clonmel Swimming Pool were loved by all.

One of the highlights of the year occurred on 25th February — a 'Youth Mass' was celebrated, as part of the Augustinian 700 celebrations, by Rev. Fr. Joe Walsh in the Abbey

Church. It was a special occasion for all our pupils and especially for Nick Cleverly, Shannon Hickey, Michelle Walsh and Joseph Morgan who were all prizewinners in the art competition held in conjunction with the celebrations. Nick was outright winner in the competition. A great honour for the school!

In the third term, Ronan Coffey, Orla Walsh and Thomas Sheehan, made their First Penance on 9th May and received their First Holy Communion on 4th June.

On 12th May, our fifth and sixth classes, Nicholas Cleverly, Joseph Morgan, Seamus Holohan, Shane Power, Anita Pollard, Nathalie Cahill, Leanne Sheehan, William Morgan, Mathew Holohan, Jessica Conran, Nicola Harrington, Aisling Harrington and Shannon O'Brien were confirmed with the pupils of Nano Nagle and Saint Patrick's Boys'

national schools.

It was a busy year throughout. Our sponsored walk and Christmas Draw helped to fund our swimming lessons, recorder lessons and many more activities, thanks to the support of our parents and the continuous support of our Board of Management, especially Rev. Fr. Tom Breen. During the year, our pupils supported many charities, including the Shoebox Toy Appeal at Christmas time, the National Council for the Blind and the Hospice Movement. Our school year came to a close in June, when our five new entrants, Leah Coen, Ben Coen, Carrie Davey, Caoimhe O'Meara and Jessica Gainford, joined us for three days in preparation for their big day in September. Our sixth class had their big day in September when they moved onto pastures new. Time marched on. *



Killusty Junior Infants class 2006 L to R: Leah Coen (Fethard), Caoimhe O'Meara (Killusty), Ben Coen (Killusty), Jessica Gainford (Killusty) and Carrie Davey (Tinakelly).

Ned Bulfin's milk accounts

As I wrote in a previous article for the Fethard Newsletter some years back, Ned Bulfin was my uncle - his sister Bridie Bulfin being my mother. Although I grew up in Clonmel there was always a close connection between Tommy Bulfin's family in The Valley and also with Ned, Michael and Jim who lived opposite the creamery on the Grove Road.

When Ned died in 1978 he left the contents of the Grove Road house to my sister Helen and me, although we did not take any of the items until after Jim's death some years later. Eventually, however, I brought some items of furniture to Galway

and found in the drawers of a side-board some papers dealing with his milk business. These I put in a filing cabinet and more or less forgot about until the recent arrival of another excellent (2005) Fethard Newsletter started me thinking about them. The surviving items consisted of a ledger, a set of accounts and some other miscellaneous invoices and letters.

From the 1930s to 1970s, Ned and his brothers were the milk delivering supremos of Fethard. It was long before the bottle and tetra pack era. Milk was dispensed from churns and large cans into customers' jugs and small milk cans on the



Joan Fergus photographed with Ned Bulfin delivering milk in his cart. 1955

doorstep. A low horse drawn milk dray and in later years a van (driven by Michael) was the means of transport. Initial recording of what was sold was on to school copy books and then by summary in a hand written ledger.

The ledger for the 1950s lists approximately fifty customers of whom about one third seem to have been long term credit customers. It is not clear to me if this was the entirety of his customers or just those who were credit customers. The names are too numerous to mention – Slattery, Dorney, Coffey, McCarthy, Tracey, Toppin, Patrician Brothers, Ryan, Allen, Kenny, Hurley, Miller, Hennessy and Napier being just a totally random sample. Milk was four old pence (pre-decimalisation and euro) a pint – under 2 cents (1.66 exactly) a pint in our euro money. There appeared to be some type of milk voucher system in operation for needy cases.

Most of the credit customers seemed to pay weekly or monthly but the ledger reveals that in a few cases some very long credit periods were taken. One customer paid annually but never cleared the account – each year the amount due would rise by £70 or £80 then £50 or £60 would be paid on account and the process would start all over again with the unpaid balance increasing inexorably. Another account ran and remained unpaid from November 1953 to October 1959 at which point the

outstanding total was £235.4.8d. Milk is about thirty four times dearer now than in the 1950s (1.66 cent a pint then versus approximately 57 cent a pint now) so in today's prices this would be the equivalent of having an unpaid milk bill of €10,000! This and indeed all accounts were eventually honoured in full. Older readers can speculate as to who ran up a six year milk bill before paying but it might be as well to wait another 50 years before revealing all. I hasten to say it is not any of those mentioned on the random sample of customers listed above.

The set of accounts that has survived are for the year 1956. The auditors were the grandly named Pelham Plunkett & Co., Incorporated Accountants of Dublin, Waterford and 52 Gladstone St Clonmel. It shows milk sales of £3,160.13.4d and stock sales of £789. Costs came to £3,481 and profit for the year was given as £472. Under costs Ned bought in about ten percent of the milk he sold and paid £750 for hay, straw and roots. He also shows a figure of \$557 for wages and £64 for van expenses. An accompanying letter from Pelham Plunkett states that the estimate for income tax liability for 1956 would be between £5 and £6. I'm sure this small figure pleased Ned – he had a great dislike and dread of the 'tax man' as several other letters in the file make all too clear.

Looking at the milk sales of £3,160,— with milk at 4d (pence) a

pint and with 240d to the pound Ned — assisted by Michael and Jim and not forgetting the redoubtable Veronica (Ned's wife of a late marriage) and Mrs Duncan — produced and distributed just short of 200,000 pints of milk in Fethard for the year of 1956 and this they had done and continued to do year in year out for about 40 years.

Looking at his \$472 profit for the year it is interesting to note that in the same year - 1956 - I started on my first job in Dublin Airport. It was with Aer Lingus as a Traffic Clerk Grade IV at a commencing salary of \$283 a year! Aer Lingus would be considered a very good job – in the mid 1950s a lot of people in Fethard and elsewhere in Ireland were working for \$150 a year or less if they could get a job at all. This - the mid 1950s - was the peak period for emigration to England with about 40,000 Irish people a year leaving the country in search of employment. A glance at the articles and addresses of any annual Fethard Newsletter will show that Fethard was well represented among that 40,000.

Also on the file is an invoice dated 11th August 1956 from Michael D. Stokes Fethard (Phone Fethard 5) for hay cutting and drawing. The hay cutting was done

(undated) on Killenaule Road, Elwarts Bog, Schofields and Coffeys and the charge was \$9.10.0d. Between 6th and 9th of August 1956 Michael was engaged in drawing a total of 82 trams of hay at a total cost of \$10.12.6d for 17 hours work. This works out at 12s.6d an hour or about 62 cents in present day money if my complicated conversions are right. The invoice total was \$21.2.6d but Michael Stokes very fairly rounded the amount due down to \$20. The receipt had a 2d stamp affixed as was the legal requirement in those days.



Jim Bulfin

This was the pattern for many years until Ned retired from the milk delivery business in the early 1970s. His nephew Tommy carried it on for some more years but the winds of change were coming to Fethard and the rest of Ireland. Very strict health, hygiene and other legislation made the selling of loose milk a thing of the past. It became impossible, indeed for practical purposes not even lawful, for a small sole operator to sell retail milk. The day of the large co-op milk producer, the plastic container and tetra pack had arrived. So ended an era but in their time Ned, Michael, Jim and Tommy Bulfin served the Fethard community long and well and their years of service should not be forgotten. *

Neil Sharkey, Headford, Co. Galway



Fine Gael presentation to Cllr John Holohan and his wife, Marie, at Lonergan's Pub in the late 1970s. L to R: Sean Kelly, John O'Donovan, Sean Henehan, Michael Trehy, Tommy Bulfin, Mrs Marie Holohan, Laura Henehan (girl), John Clancy, John Holohan MCC, Paddy Broderick, Martin Healy, Michael O'Dwyer and Mick Trehy.



L to R: Margaret Purcell, Ann O'Neill, Honor Mulligan and Marian Mulligan (front) c.1955

Fethard Players



Fethard Players Cast of '12 Angry Men' photographed on stage in the Abymill after performance. L to R: Marian Gilpin, Anne McGrath, Eoin Whyte, Mary O'Connell, Tommy O'Brien, John Fogarty, Angela Dillon-Whyte, Gerry Fogarty, Liam O'Connor, Joe Hanley, Colm McGrath, Jimmy O'Sullivan and Anne Connolly.

Fethard Players took to the boards in November this year with a play called "12 Angry Men" excellently produced and directed by Austin O'Flynn, who also designed and produced the most effective set.

The play was about a 16-year-old youth accused of the murder of his father, who, if found guilty, would be sentenced to death. The 12 angry men were the jury who had to retire to consider their verdict and consequently this young man's future. The action then revolves around one man's conviction that there was reasonable doubt regarding the evidence, which was pointing to his guilt. He managed, in his quiet reasoned way to get them to tease out this evidence minutely and got them to think objectively about

what had happened. One by one he swayed them to his way of thinking, but not without friction between them and outbursts of bad temper and at times the tension was palpable. Each one of them showed shades of their personality and background, and some their prejudices, which coloured their way of thinking.

The set, in its austerity, lent itself to this play, and the acting was splendid, each one of the cast giving a credible and rounded performance. There were three newcomers who acquitted themselves well and were a definite asset to the play, Liam O'Connor from Ballyvaden, Colm McGrath from Rathkenny and Anne McGrath from Clonmel. Long may they stay with the Fethard Players. The other 'older' members of the

cast were, Anne Connolly, Marian Gilpin, Mary O'Connell, Angela Dillon-Whyte, Jimmy O'Sullivan, John Fogarty, Gerry Fogarty, Joe

Hanley, Tommy O'Brien and Eoin Whyte. Congratulations to all concerned, it was a great night's entertainment. *

Abymill Theatre, The Mill (Fethard) Ltd

Austin O'Flynn, our administrator, is continuing to do a wonderful job on the running of the building. It is looking extremely well and is truly one of the pride and joys of the area.

After the success of last year's play, the Fethard Players staged the very famous '12 Angry Men' in November. In December the school staged the ever-popular 'Grease'.

Aidan Ward, a former native of Kerry Street, held a very successful concert in Abymill in late September. The support was our own local school-based group, Lory Kenny, Kevin Maher, Paul McCarthy and Declan Doyle.

Gerry Fogarty is still keeping all at

bingo happy, with more than a little help from Jacinta O'Flynn. Christy Mullins and Mary Morrissey do a wonderful job looking after the building.

At our last AGM, held on Thursday 6th July 2006, the following board members were recorded: Joe Kenny (Chairperson), Marian Gilpin (Secretary), Agnes Evans (Treasurer), Austin O'Flynn (Administrator), Michael McCarthy, Vincent Murphy, Eileen Maher, Carmel Rice, Bernard Walsh and Mary McCormack.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Michael O'Dwyer on the death of his wife Noelle, a director of Abymill. *



Local Fethard band, The Autocats, on stage in the Abymill. The young band features L to R: Lory Kenny on guitar; Kevin Maher on vocals; Declan Doyle on bass; Paul McCarthy on drums; and Fintan Maher on guitar.

It's a Long Way to Tipperary

I was fortunate, during my time with Marconi Marine and the Irish Aviation Authority, to travel to many different parts of the world. Except for a brief trip to the Gulf of Maracaibo (Venezuela) in the sixties, I had not visited South America.

The opportunity arose in 1999. In June of that year our administration had the honour of hosting an International Civil Aviation (ICAO) conference, which was held in Limerick. We viewed it as a singular honour to have so many nationalities present in our country (USA, Canada, France, UK, Australia, Spain, Holland, Denmark, Iceland, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Portugal, and of course Brazil), accordingly, with enthusiastic assistance from the tourist board, we pulled out all the stops for the visitors and their guests. Most delegates were accompanied by their wives/husbands, plus, in some cases, children, and we saw the opportunity to showcase our country in a positive manner. The weather gods smiled benevolently on our endeavours and we hardly saw a shower of rain during their 3-week sojourn.

Whilst the delegates attended our plenary sessions each weekday, the guests were taken shopping and sight seeing, with IAA wives along to help ferret out the bargains. At weekends, when the total party, which numbered 30, was available, we planned trips further afield to the

Lakes of Killarney, Cliffs of Moher, Alwee Caves, Glen of Aherlow, Rock of Cashel, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, not to mention a few hurling matches. Evening entertainment, including an open air barbecue at our own home, was organised. None were more impressed by the Irish *Ceád Míle Fáilte* than the Brazilians, who had sent three representatives from the military: General Ricardo, Colonel Alvez and Colonel Alberto, accompanied by their three lovely wives.

As the conference concluded after three weeks, the Brazilians formally paid a most generous tribute to their "Irish hosts" and wished to be considered for hosting the next conference, which was scheduled for early 2000. Lest the opportunity be lost by an offer from another state, I immediately moved to second the Brazilians' proposal, which was then accepted. South America would be my destination at long last.

The Brazilians spent the day before leaving for home meeting with my wife and me to be appraised of all the preparations we had made. Obviously they did not wish to be found wanting when their turn arrived. One little matter remained before their departure via London for Rio. They had picked up a parking fine in Limerick and they wished to know where to pay the fine. I was able to assure them that, for parking fines on their self-drive

vehicle, I would have no difficulty with the local council in “arranging” cancellation of same. With the military background, I suspected that they were most anxious to ensure that they did not attempt to leave a foreign state with a fine, be it minor, hanging over them.

Early February of 2000 was the three-week period set aside for the conference in Rio de Janeiro. On a cold February morning Mary and I departed Shannon with Aer Lingus on a flight to London. The company always booked personnel above a certain grade as first class, but not spouses. The difference between first class and economy from Shannon to Brazil return amounted to almost IR\$2,000. Mary would prefer to use that money (or part of it anyway) for a “shopping spree” so she travelled economy. We had a six-hour stopover in Heathrow for a connection with the Varig flight to Rio. When

time approached for embarking our names were called to proceed to the Varig ticket desk, where Mary’s ticket was examined and replaced with a First Class ticket for the 13-hour flight to Rio via Sao Paulo. (The arm of the Brazilian military had a long reach).

On the flight we were again singled out, treated like VIPs, and invited on to the flight deck by Capt Gomez, who insisted that we remain there for the landing at Sao Paulo. The Captain explained that he was a collector of old coins. I was able to present him with some old Irish coins — I had a supply for our Brazilian hosts. He was so appreciative that he jumped to his feet, saluted in a military fashion, and presented Mary with his “wings”. Fortunately the co-pilot continued to attend to the landing of the aircraft.

On arrival at Rio, which is the cultural capital of Brazil, we were met by General Ricardo, resplendent in



Collage of Burke Family from Redcity Fethard. L to R: L to R: Johnny Burke, Margaret Tobin, Mike Burke, Elsie Malone, Tom Burke and Denis Burke.

his full uniform, and swiftly ushered through emigration and customs. Outside was the General's chauffeur driven car, complete with motorcycle escort, and we were whisked through the streets to our hotel. The General explained that he would allow us some time to freshen up but that "the Ambassador" would be hosting a reception that evening in the Portuguese Embassy for all delegates to the meeting. Safely ensconced in our air-conditioned room, I wondered aloud if they were mistaking us for government ministers and that the axe would fall in a big way if this came to the attention of the Irish government. Mary felt that this was the way the Brazilian military treated their guests and that it was their way of saying thanks for our hospitality the previous year.

The Portuguese Embassy was chosen, we learned later that evening at the reception, due to the fact that the General Ricardo's mother-in-law was the Brazilian Ambassador to Portugal, and she was back home for the carnival, which is held every February. Madame Ambassador hosted a most beautiful dinner in honour of all delegates that evening. As we were introduced to her by her daughter, she spoke in her lovely accented English, "You are a long way from Tipperary". Obviously she had done her homework.

I had done some homework myself and I could see that she was mildly surprised at some of the questions I asked. On her part, she asked

about Tipperary (her daughter had obviously briefed her from her visit) and she was surprised when I pointed out that the song, "It's A Long way to Tipperary", was a British Army song. Madame Ambassador had particular interest in how the Catholic Church and state mixed in Ireland. I explained the waning position of the church in state affairs, and went on to relate how back in the 40s the church was so strong that its pronouncements on any subject were taken as gospel.

Meanwhile, her husband, a lawyer, spoke to Mary about Irish law and its application. She very deftly steered him towards marital law. A friend of ours had just gone through a long-winded divorce, and she was well versed with all of the turns and twists.

If we thought we had done well in the hospitality stakes the previous year in Limerick, it was nothing compared to the hospitality the Brazilians laid on for the next three weeks. Almost every night we were all taken to dine at either one of their private houses or public restaurants. When dining in the latter, we were at first surprised that our group constituted the only occupants. Later we learned that our military hosts, when reserving a restaurant, always arranged to have it closed to other patrons for that evening.

We were taken one evening, to a local club game in the famous football Stadium in Rio, Estadio Municipal Do Maracana, venue for

the 1950 World Cup Final, and with a capacity for seating 155,000 patrons. When I asked what the attendance would be on this particular evening, they answered that it would be small, as it was only a club game, 120,000. A moat surrounded the pitch to prevent unauthorised encroachment. The game between Sao Paulo and Rio featured the return to competitive action in Brazil of the famous international, Romario, just back from several years in Europe. The game finished 4/2 to Rio, with the diminutive Romario netting the fourth goal close to the final whistle. It was pure magic in the warmth of the South American evening. The Ambassador attended with us and asked me at one stage of high excitement if we had occasions like this in Tipperary. I pointed out that the local hurling derbies of my youth in Fethard, between Coolmoynes and Killenaule, played before a packed attendance in the famous Barrack Field, generated so much excitement that it didn't die down for a week. The General was impressed that the local GAA venue should have a connection with the military.

At weekends we were taken on trips to places of note in Rio and indeed further afield. No trip to Brazil would have been complete without visiting the Amazon Basin, and our hosts dedicated a full weekend to that.

Whilst on that trip, Mary sprained her ankle on some rocks, and on our

return to the hotel, we asked for medical assistance. We were advised to visit the local hospital which was just across the street. We were there no more than 15 minutes, during which the offending ankle was X-rayed, no breaks established, and bandaged. Cost amounted to the equivalent of IR\$280, fortunately recoverable from our travel insurance. On learning about our experience the General arrived the following evening with a "refund" from the hospital, as he termed it. Apparently any guest of the military was to be considered exempt from hospital charges.

The country presented an amazing contrast to the visitor. There appeared to be no middle class. One was either rich and privileged, or poor and marginalized. It was considered dangerous to walk alone at night, and even by day one would be besieged by young boys and girls for alms. These were known as the sewer children as they apparently inhabited the local sewers for shelter. Our hotel was situated on the famous Copacabana Beach. Between the beach and the seafront, ran a 10ft wide concrete path, for miles and miles, which was used by pedestrians, runners and cyclists only. Early each morning, as I took my daily jog, this path was filled with some of the most beautiful women I have ever seen. I was told that, whilst Brazil is predominantly Catholic, men have no scruples about putting their wives aside in favour of a

shapelier model. Therefore the ladies were intent on keeping themselves in good shape.

The sharp divide between the haves and have nots was starkly demonstrated to us when we visited the home of General Ricardo and his wife. An armed guard stood beside a large sign attached to the front gate, *"Trespassers will be shot"*.

The Rio carnival occurred right in the middle of our three-week visit. The Brazilians had planned it thus. For four days and nights the streets are packed with revellers, and the Samba drums can be heard everywhere. One would be swept off one's feet many times in the same street by the tide of revellers, and danced around in circles until almost overcome by dizziness. The Brazilians know how to enjoy themselves. Our hosts always had the same advice before venturing onto the streets during carnival time, "No wallets, no money, no jewellery, no resistance".

Finally the time came for our departure from Rio. Again, for Mary and me, the General's car arrived, complete with escort, easing our passage to the airport.

General Ricardo, who was really a most decent individual, and his wife accompanied us and did not make their final farewells until we had been checked in and passed through to the departure lounge. The Brazilians are very emotional and both shed tears at our departure, signifying that we were real friends, not just acquaintances. At passport con-

trol, with our hosts now departed, it was explained to us that there was an "exit charge" for all international non-Brazilian passengers leaving Brazil, which amounted to US\$70 per person. Whilst I was exempt, due to carrying a diplomatic passport, Mary was liable, and credit card payment would be fine (lest anyone claim that their currency was exhausted).

This exit charge was not to my liking and I bemoaned the fact that our protectors had departed the scene. Then I remembered that I carried the General's card, which he had given to me in Ireland the previous year. Producing it was like waving a magic wand, exit charge cancelled, please proceed to departure lounge. The power of the military was never more welcome.

Again our hosts had made the necessary arrangements, and we were both first class for the 13-hour flight to London.

The General is still serving in the Brazilian Military, with special responsibility for aviation matters. We are in contact several times a year and he is planning a return trip to Ireland next summer. His wife, who is a practicing medical doctor, will accompany him. The Ambassador has completed her tour of duty in Lisbon since 2003, and last we heard she was serving in that capacity in neighbouring Argentina. Even from Argentina, it's a long way to Tipperary. *

Tom Burke (Limerick)



Photographed at Fethard Juvenile GAA Club Summer Camp on 24th August 2006 are L to R: Megan Hackett, Laura Harde, Amy Cowlard, Roisín McDonnell, Sinead Sheehan, Amye O'Donovan, Ciara Sheehan and Emily Holohan.



L to R: Leona McCormack-Herkommer, Rebecca Kenny, Isobel Kennedy & Ruby Kennedy.



L to R: Emma Hayes, Jade Pattison, Laura Ryan, Karen Hayes, Nicole Looby, Emma Morrissey and Aisling Harrington.

Killusty Pony Show



Long time service awards being presented at this year's show: L to R: Betsy O'Connor (secretary), Tony Ennis, Pat O'Brien and Noel Byrne (Chairman).

After a full week of less than encouraging weather reports and frenzied activity due to the late arrival of the IPS bulletin in many households, the first Saturday in July dawned cool and clear. Killusty at the foot of Slievenamon never looked better. The air was champagne clear and the birdsong was deafening. As the day unfolded the record entry of 218 ponies (some in as many as 5 classes) arrived for the show. They came from as far away as Kerry, Mayo, Down and Wexford to contest the 70 classes. By the end of the day, as they wended their way home, some had trophies to take with them. Others had rosettes and, hopefully, the vast majority had happy memories to treasure of perfect weather in a heavenly setting.

Peter Byrne, a great supporter of Killusty, took home to Wicklow the

Smithwick Perpetual Cup for the best in-hand pony, Wyndham High Society. Reserve to this handsome bay gelding was Orla Whelton's 2-year-old bay filly, Goldengrove Skylark, who came from Cork. Mary Hayden of Drangan won the cup for the Best Local in the Championship with Tullocussane Maybelle. The broodmare classes contained some fine specimens and the judges finally agreed that the Connemara broodmare winner, Sean Cooney's Corrib Misty should take the championship and the Gus Keane Cup home to Tullamore with Joan Dolan's Kilpatrick Maple in reserve. M.T. McMahon's foal out of Muskerry Charisma upheld the honour of the Show Pony when winning the Bank of Ireland Cup with Ann Grimes' Lambay for Fun backing him up. The Welsh Championship for the

Cullen Cup went to local exhibitor Lucy Townsley with Talponcau Century Celebration with Golden Grove Skylark again in reserve. The Butler Connemara Championship went to Philippa Mansergh-Wallace's ridden Connemara Derrymore Paddy Finn with Carmel Melody's Furbo Rose in reserve.

The Junior Ridden side-saddle class for the E.J.O'Grady salver continues to grow in strength. Derrymore Paddy Finn came to the top in this class too with Suzanne Garrigan's Penni Farthing in reserve. With a dozen beautifully turned out combinations in the ring, this class was a spectacular sight with the bulk of Slievenamon in all its glory

as a backdrop. While numbers in the Show Pony classes continue to decline to the disappointment of all in Killusty, the home of the Show Pony for generations, Adele Davies brought a worthy winner of the Coolmore Stud Killusty Championship all the way from County Armagh in Roseview Elite. Nikki Taylor's Novice winner Kingsvean Russian Doll from Kerry wasn't far behind in reserve.

Local girl Emma Meagher rode her mother's Clonmore CC to take the local riding pony class in style. The Local Handy Pony Class was the best supported Class of the whole day and it was won in style by Charles Croome-Carroll on his



L to R: Hazel Sheehan, John Sheehan, Bernadette O'Meara, Marie Holohan. Children in front L to R: Thomas Sheehan, Molly O'Meara and Caoimhe O'Meara.

grandmother's Kilgreaney Holly. Mary Jane Kearney came second and took home the special prize for the best entrant from the Parish of Fethard/Killusty. The Special Lead Rein Class also attracted an entry in the twenties with Donal Slattery's Brook Hill Ricky topping the line after everyone had been given a thorough going over by the judge. The Mini Champion came from Limerick and the Open Show Pony Lead Rein Class was Karon Tarry's Mark Oak Solitaire. Lucy Townsley's Bastord Periwinkle came from the Show Pony First Ridden Class to take reserve. The younger riders must be congratulated for putting a great deal of time and effort into making the Fancy Dress a truly colourful spectacle. They all deserved their red rosettes.

The Starter Stakes Championship was also claimed locally when Roisin Henry's Pilheath Strongbow, with Gregory Henry in the saddle, just edged Lorli Higgin's Ballyboy Perry Merry and daughter Emily into reserve. Lorli didn't have long to wait for a championship however, as the Open Show Hunter Drew Gilpin Cup came her way for Delight of Rathnaleen. Mary Blennerhassett's Thorndale Mischief came reserve in this category. The Novice Show Hunter Champion came from the 153 cms. Class when Basil Brindley's Lovely Ludlow lived up to his description to keep Sharon Lowey's Comberton Charisma, the 143cm class winner in reserve. Lovely

Ludlow earned further oats when taking the Novice Working Hunter Championship from Mary Neville's After Dark. The Open Working Hunter Championship for the Captain Curtin Cup will have Linda Young's Ardfry Ahab's name on it for the second year in succession as he pipped Ann Stanley's great stager Bob Marley for the honour.

Mrs Bill Holohan gave a beautiful new Perpetual Cup in memory of her husband Bill, who had been a founder member of Killusty Show in 1962, to the winner of the Performance Working Hunter. Mrs. Suzanne Garrigan's Nickel and Dime will be the first name inscribed on this lovely trophy with Sarah Collen's Ardfry Serabi in reserve. The Green Working Hunter Class attracted so many entries that it was divided into three height classes won by Thorndale Mischief, Orla O'Dea's Brinloid and Jeannie Ronan's Galberstown Boy taking the honours in their respective categories. This is a class which should be staged at many more venues as it gives children experience and encourages them to raise their expectations, while at the same time getting them to learn the ropes. The final championship of the day took place with the awarding of the Tate Croome Carroll Memorial Equitation Championship to Karine Ronan with Rachel Blackmore in reserve. The judge was not to know it but both these girls are products of the Tipperary Hunt Pony Club

and the Tipperary hunting field. It must be heartening to their instructors to see them rise to the top at Killusty.

Presentations were made to Pat O'Brien, retiring Huntsman of the Tipperary Hunt (after 40 year's service) and long-term supporter of Killusty where he won the best local cup on many occasions, and to Tony Ennis, long term course designer and builder at Killusty (hopefully not retiring).

While the serious business of ponies was taking place at the top of the field, the Dog Show was providing light relief further down toward the river. There was a great deal more applause for the best-dressed handler than for almost any of the classes. All owners went

home with a cherished rosette and a tin of dog food for the prizewinner. With several members of some families almost coming to blows as to which sibling was due to show the dog next, a person could do a good business in rent a dog!

Killusty Pony Show, which has an entirely voluntary committee, could not continue without their vital support and that of its generous sponsors. Thanks are due to all who gave either of their services or of their resources. Judges, stewards, announcers, Civil Defence, Dr. Condon, and caterers all contribute to what was again a wonderful Show. New committee members have lowered the average age considerably and their input was much appreciated. *



At this year's show L to R: Hillary O'Connor, Johnny Wragg and Mary Doyle.

Fethard Ladies Football



Under-14s Back L to R: Emma Hayes, Jean Anglim, Hannah Daly, Emma Fleming, Stephanie Allen, Sandra O'Sullivan, Clionadh McCarthy, Lisa Anglim, Debbie Lawrence, Claire O'Brien, Carrie Sweeney, Sarah Conway, Sinead Delahunty, Laura Rice. Front L to R: Emma Morrissey, Jade Pattison, Rebecca Fogarty, Jane Kenny, Faye Manton, Natalie Walsh, Sarah Hayes, Chloe Gough, Aisha Tobin, Orla Lawrence, Mary Jane Kearney and Rachel Prout.

Fethard ladies' football team enjoyed great success during the year with under-12, under-14 and under-16 teams. It was the first time we had teams entered in under-12 and under-16 competitions. These young people are the stars of the future and I hope they will keep on playing. The junior teams did not have many games but put in a great performance against Templemore in the junior league and were beaten by a goal by Moyne Templetuohy in the county semifinal of the junior championship.

This year our main source of

income came from our annual church gate collection and a 'Duck Race' held on the river Clashawley, which was very successful and enjoyable. We intend to run another one next Easter.

Special thanks to all who helped with both events. Getting people to coach the teams is a problem but hopefully it will be sorted before next March. The girls are all looking forward to the next season and any offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. ✱

Fethard & District Credit Union

The annual general meeting was held in December 2005. In January 2006 our computer system was upgraded – the new system allowing for more efficiency and

accountability.

In April the consultative general meeting was held in City West, Dublin. July saw the World Conference take place in Dublin.

Mary Morrissey and Sean O'Callaghan retired from the board of directors and we pay tribute to both for their years of voluntary service to the local credit union. This year saw the passing of one of our founder members and a director of our first board, Sean Henahan of the Square. Sean remained a director for many years until he retired. To his son, Paddy, and his family we offer our condolences.

Tuesday night 7.30 – 8pm is now scheduled for loan applications and

we would encourage members to avail of this opportunity to meet with the credit committee.

Board of Directors: Marian Gilpin (President); Eddie O'Brien (Secretary); Kate Healy (Treasurer). Credit Committee: Jonathan Gilpin, Jacinta O'Connell and Kay Spillane.

Board Members: Betty MacLaughlin and Catherine O'Connell. Supervisors: John Barrett, Marian O'Connor and Richard Nevin. Tellers: Phyllis Healy and Ann Nevin. *

Bishop Matthew Ndagoso



Photographed with Bishop Matthew M. Ndagoso at the Augustinian Abbey Fethard are local priests L to R: Fr. Timmy Walsh OSA, Fr. Gerry Horan OSA, Bishop Matthew M. Ndagoso, Fr. Peter Haughey OSA and Fr. John Meagher OSA

Dr. Matthew Ndagoso, Bishop of Maiduguri in north-eastern Nigeria, paid a visit to the Augustinian Abbey in Fethard on 1st August last to thank the Abbey for their help towards rebuilding the church property destroyed in his parish.

Dr. Matthew is the first bishop of

Maiduguri who is not an Augustinian, an area committed to the Irish Augustinians in the early nineteen fifties. In the demonstrations by Muslims last February against the infamous Danish cartoons of the prophet Mohammed, four Catholic parish churches in the state capital were burnt down, along

with the bishop's house, classrooms, parish offices and social centres. Most of these had originally been built with money collected by mission helpers in Ireland. Worst of all, a priest in one parish was assaulted and burnt.

The Irish Augustinians because of their long association with Maiduguri, organised appeals last

June in all their churches to help Bishop Matthew in his efforts to rebuild the burnt-down churches and schools. There was a heart-warming response from the public, which exceeded all expectations. The bishop visited the Augustinian churches in Ireland to thank the people personally for the generous help. *

IFA Honour Denis McGrath!

Denis and Kay McGrath were the guests of honour at a special meeting of Fethard Branch of the IFA on Tuesday 31st January. A presentation was made to Denis in appreciation of his 40 years as branch secretary of Fethard NFA / IFA. A period of officership of that

length is unique in IFA. He first became secretary in January 1966. Previously he was secretary of Fethard Macra Na Feirme. Denis and Kay were joined by family, present and former officers and many members of the branch to celebrate the occasion in the ICA Hall. *



Presentation to Denis McGrath. L to R: Tom Delahunty (vice-chairman), Francis McGivern (chairman), Denis McGrath (secretary), Kay McGrath and John Joe Morrissey.

Community Employment Scheme



Mr John Walsh, Fleming Medical Healthcare Sales Manager, is photographed above giving a demonstration of 'heart-safe' equipment at the Tirry Community Centre. L to R: Joan O'Donohoe, Supervisor Fethard Community Employment Scheme; John Walsh, Fleming Medical; Geraldine McCarthy, Supervisor Fethard & District Day Care Centre; Liam Hayes, Fethard & Killusty Community Council; and Patricia Fitzgerald, First Steps Playgroup.

We had a very sad beginning to 2006 when we lost a very dear friend and colleague Joe Nixon RIP. Joe was a Community Development Officer with FÁS, whose first association with Fethard began 29 years ago while working with AnCO on the building of Fethard Community Centre. He was also involved with the restoration of the Abymill Theatre, Friends of Fethard Town Wall Restoration, Tirry Community Centre, Fethard & Killusty Community Employment Scheme, and the Community Games Scheme. Joe was always very interested in Fethard and to illustrate

this, when undertaking a B.A. in Training & Education at NUI Galway, he chose Fethard as the subject for his thesis. Whenever we had a problem here at the Centre, it was a bit like the RTE 1 programme, 'Talk to Joe', and we did. Joe always seemed to steer us in the right direction and was an inspiration to all of us, indeed, to all who were fortunate to have known him.

This year things are going well for the scheme. We have thirteen participants on board as we write and have fifteen places, which is good going. Capping is still in place but talks are afoot to try and remove

this, which would make a big difference with recruitment.

The present crew is, in the kitchen Brud ('What about me holidays?') Roche, Robert O'Riordan, Marie Hannigan, Linda Phelan and Melanie Ryan (boils a mean egg does our Mel). In the Community Office are Maura Ryan and Monica Aherne; Tidy Towns is maintained by Martin Bolger and Michael Morrissey; Eddie McCarthy looks after the GAA Sports Field and Annemarie Buck and Sarah Blake work in St Bernard Group Homes. Emma Wallace helps out in the Day Centre.

Quite a bit of training has gone on during the year. Some of the participants completed the Heartsafe Programme. Computers were also a popular choice and we have two going on to do their ECDL. The Centre is as busy as ever and the crew here are a great bunch of people always willing to give it that

little bit extra. I suppose they don't get enough praise so this gives me the opportunity to thank each and every one for all their hard work during the year. Also this year a new Community Development Officer with FÁS was appointed, so congratulations to Catherine Corbett and we wish her well in her new position.

Now I must thank the Community Council without whom we wouldn't have a Community Employment Scheme at all. They are always very supportive and, like Joe Nixon, always there if needed for advice or support. I am now coming up to the end of my 5th year as supervisor on the Scheme and it feels like it was only last week that I took up the position, so that says it all really.

On behalf of all the people on the Scheme and myself I would like to wish everyone at home and away a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. *

Fethard-man South Tipp Chairman

Congratulations to Miceál McCormack who was installed Chairman of Tipperary South Board GAA. Miceál is more than capable of handling the duties of his new role. Going way back to his juvenile days, Miceál has served the GAA from the grass-roots up, being a player, referee, selector, trainer, coach, committee member, secretary and chairman with Fethard GAA club. He has also had

a long experience promoting athletics at all levels. He served as chairman with the old NACA up to national level.

Miceál is the first Fethard man to hold the position of chairman of the South Board since the late John Keating 1954/55. All true Fethard gael's will join in congratulating Miceál and wishing him the very best during his term at the head of South Tipperary GAA. *

Kinane Cup 1963 Reunion



Members of the 1963 Kinane Cup winning team from the Patrician Brothers Secondary School Fethard, photographed at a reunion with Bro (Paulinus) Paul who was visiting Fethard from Kenya, where he is now based. Back L to R: Pierce Coady, Ger Casey, Tony Fitzgerald, Ger Leahy, Willie Harrington, Mick Ryan, Willie Frewen. Front L to R: Danny Ryan, Bro Paulinus, Dinny Burke (captain), Joe McNamara and Pat 'Pop' Barrett. Also present on the night was Davy Fitzgerald.

In 1963 Patrician Brothers Secondary School won the Dr. Kinane Cup Munster Colleges championship for the first and only time. This was unique for a school from a predominantly football area. For a school of only 75 pupils it was literally unbelievable.

On Saturday 14 October, the bulk of the team plus the team manager and trainer gathered again to visit the school and enjoy that most pleasant of all pastimes, reliving great days and renewing old friendships forged on the field of play.

The former players travelled from Cavan, Wexford, Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford and London (Pat Butler) to meet Bro. Paulinus and Joe

MacNamara. Bro. Paulinus is now building schools and health clinics in Kenya. Joe MacNamara travelled from his home in Templemore where he is living in retirement. Everybody enjoyed themselves on their journey back to their youth.

My thanks to all who attended, to Joe Ahearne, Fethard Arms, for hosting the reunion and Fethard GAA Club for their thoughtful presentation to Bro Paulinus.

A special word of thanks to Charleville CBS for the loan of the Kinane Cup as they are the current holders. I was lucky to have been Captain of the team and it was the proudest achievement of my life. *

Denis Burke

A Man of Many Parts

Usually around teatime on Saturdays the local insurance man arrived at our house. It was Bill's last call of the day and he was never in a hurry to leave. His breezy good humour was infectious and it enlivened the household, particularly my grandfather as he reposed in the kitchen armchair.

Almost unfailingly in the midst of the recounting of the local news — and Bill would have visited innumerable houses — the story of 'the car' would emerge. "God, Paddy it would be a good night to have your big shiny car instead of my old crock of a bike."

Over fifty years later I can remem-

ber the softening smile as my grandfather listened quietly to the dramatic tale of the Gladiator as its huge silver coloured steel frame trundled down the Fethard road into Clonmel. Unquestionably, there would have been great interest in this invention but Bill suggested that nearly half the population of Clonmel were on the Railway Bridge in a frenzy of excitement. 'It must have been a great feeling at the wheel of that huge big yoke? Where did ya learn to drive anyway? Sure ya were one of the most famous men around then and to think it was the first registered car in Tipperary. HI 1, a part of history'.



First car registered car in South Tipperary. The car, HI-1, was registered in November 1903 and was owned by William P and Dickie Burke, Grove, Fethard. The regular chauffeur of the car, a Gladiator 20-30 HP rear entrance Tonneau body, was Patrick Kenrick, Main Street, Fethard, who was also the first person to hold a driving license. HI-1 is seen here with Messrs. William P and Dicky Burke at the controls. They were reputed to have competed in the Gordon Bennett Race.

Grandfather rarely added anything except to clarify that he was the driver and not the owner. It was very clear that he enjoyed the fuss and the attention. It was the highlight of his week. I was entranced by this weekly performance in the kitchen but there was a note of poignancy when my mother told me many years later that the parting handshake between the two men covered the surreptitious passing of a half crown to my grandfather.

Patrick Kenrick, the eldest of fourteen children, was born and grew up in Fethard. He had an extraordinarily varied life, working as a tailor, house steward, soldier, school attendance officer and small shopkeeper. Another of his talents came to light many years after his death when a large number of photographic glass plated negatives were unearthed in a disused room in the old family home. They were found by Tony Newport and he gave them to his cousin Joe Kenny who is a professional photographer. It was fortunate that Joe had the interest and expertise to take on the processing.

Later the processing and developing revealed a very interesting collection of photographs which

experts have acknowledged as a remarkable reflection of the social spectrum of the early nineteenth century. Their varied natures include the local gentry, the Royal Irish Constabulary and the plain people of South Tipperary. The National Museum and South Tipperary County Museum in Clonmel now hold copies under the title of the Kenrick Collection.



*Patrick Kenrick's shop at 2 Queen St. Clonmel.
Photo includes Mon Kenrick and Joe Kenrick*

Confined to a wheelchair towards the end of his days, in good weather occasionally he sat outside the house in Clonmel and chatted with locals. Apparently he rarely if ever referred to his former exploits. I was too young then to have engaged him in any kind of meaningful dialogue. As a young adult I had a recurring nightmare for a period in which I am told the complete story of his life but forget it all because of my lack of attention.

Patrick Kenrick died in 1950 aged 78. One week later I was given his bedroom and I still remember that first night as I lay fearfully in the bed in which he had spent his last night. It was eerie even though I had asked that the light be left on. I slept peacefully no doubt, watched over by his benign spirit. *

Frank Marshall

Do you remember 1975?

by Michael O'Donnell

Readers of this excellent Newsletter who have lived their lives away from Fethard know how delightful it is to 'go home again' in memory. So as you read through the items I have put together many of you will silently recall, 'Lord, I remember him or her well', or, 'I was with them that day'; and for a few minutes happy memories will flow back. As a poet wrote long ago, 'My first home sits in the hollow of my heart'. How very true, despite all the riches and success we may gain in later life.

And even those readers who have spent their lives in Fethard will, I hope, find something in this piece which will recall a happy occasion, or an event that has slipped from memory.

The 1970s were watershed years

when the old, almost medieval, ways were fading into the past (where, God knows, they rightly belong) and a new more vibrant, more attractive Ireland had begun to raise its head. The Ireland of rickets and malnourishment that old folk can still recall was becoming a thing of the past and the new dawn of success at home and an end to forced exile was slowly brightening.

One of the old ways that came to an end as the year 1975 opened was the retirement of Johnny Cummins of The Valley. Johnny had spent forty years of his life as a carter to the County Council. For those who may not know, a carter was a man who leased himself, his timber cart with its iron shod wheels, and his horse to an employer. In Johnny's case it



*L to R: Dick Cummins, Margaret (Cummins) Keating and Johnny Cummins
photographed at their home in Mockler's Terrace.*



This photograph shows the Rank Cup being presented to Mr Lawrence O'Donovan, Killusty, owner of 'Sailor Boy II', winner of the trophy at the Killarney Summer Meeting of June 1959. The winner was ridden by the owner's son, Larry O'Donovan, photographed in the extreme right of the picture in the front row. Included in the photograph also are trainer, Larry Keating, his wife Mai being presented with the trophy by Messer Rank's representative, Paddy Anglim, Eddie Delahunty, Sean and Bridie Hanrahan.

was to the Council for whom in earlier times he carried chippings and barrels of tar to fill potholes in the roads. With his going, and he was the last of the Council carters in south Tipperary, a way of working which had probably been around since the mid eighteenth century came to an end. Very appropriately the local Development Association made him a presentation on behalf of the people of Fethard.

Another event with memories into the past was the retirement of Miss Mary Flood from her teaching post at Killusty National School after forty years of service. In that time she taught several generations of local people. At a special function held in Killusty School on Monday 7 July, a large attendance honoured her work in that lovely valley under Slievenamon. On that evening the local people presented her with a

sketch of Killusty executed by William Albertini of Tullamaine Castle, a Papal blessing together with a Holy Year medal, and a trip to Rome in the coming autumn. And so in Killusty old certainties were changing.

In Fethard, also, other certainties were changing. Older readers of this will recall a string of racehorses being led through the Main Street by Dick Nevin. These were from the stable of Larry Keating, one of Fethard's quiet institutions. For over fifty years Larry had trained racehorses at his stables on the Rocklow Road and lived with his wife Mai on the Main Street. In his time Larry trained about 300 winners of Irish races, but in the summer of 1975 he decided, being then 80 years old, to retire from it all.

And so, at the Earl of Glengall restaurant, Cahir, on Thursday night



Killusty National School 1963. Pupils pictured with Canon Lee, Mr Lory Noonan (principal) and Miss Flood (teacher). Pupils in front include: Tom Halpin, Michael Dunne, Pat Aylward, Ann Duggan and Yvonne Holohan. In the back are: John Pollard, Tony Sheehan, Tommy Nicholas, Michael Prout, Pat Holohan, Sean Aylward, Eileen and Marian Duggan, Ann O'Donnell, Terri Sheehan, Marie Dunne, John Lee, John Holohan, Paddy Halpin, Joe Allen, Noreen Tobin, Olwyn O'Flaherty, Rose Murray, Alice Dempsey and Bridget Prout.

17 July, his many friends came together for a dinner function to mark his retirement and to present him with a colour TV (colour TV was still something of a novelty in Ireland). Among the many who celebrated on that night were Dick McCarthy who rode many of Larry's winners and Dick Nevin who was for years Larry's head stable 'lad'.

Larry had come from a 'horsey' family, his father James had kept hunters and show horses on the family farm at Carrigbawn. Larry's stables were put up for auction at the end of December and thus another old institution passed away.

But in Fethard change was already in place and especially in sport. New games were on the

ascendant and young boys and girls were winning honours in them at the highest levels. One such was the local volleyball team which richly deserves a mention when the annals of Fethard come to be written.

Through serious training and excellent play the girls volleyball team had won a place in the All Ireland final. On Sunday 23 February they travelled to Blanchardstown to play Midleton. Some three bus loads of supporters went with them to cheer them on. On that day they beat Midleton and so qualified to represent Ireland in the European championships which were being held at Louvain in Belgium. All our girls were then under sixteen.

At Easter time they travelled out to Louvain where the girls beat teams from France, England, and Italy to qualify in a final against the host country Belgium. What a wonderful and exciting game the final was, but sadly Belgium won by a narrow margin. Though not winners, what those young girls had done made Fethard people very proud of them.

The Fethard team in Louvain on that day were: Suzanna Maher, Main Street, Catherine Newport, Congress Tce., Paula Pollard, St. Patrick's Place, Ann O'Riordan, Barrack Street, Ann Hayes, Main Street, Josephine Keane, Cloneen, Mary Morrissey, St. Patrick's Place, Anna Costigan, Tullamaine, Pat. Harrison, Congress Tce., and Mary Ahearne, Main Street. On their

return to Fethard the girls received a tumultuous welcome, and well deserved it was.

But the young boys of the town were not far behind when it came to sport. In this year the two Fallon brothers, Pat (aged 18) and Richard (aged 16), were making quite a reputation for themselves. They were the leading athletes in the local St. Patrick's Athletic Club which had been founded in the Boys Secondary School by Brother Luke Moloney and James Moran in 1969. By 1972 the Club had passed to the control of Brother Berchman Coffey, and the 1970s coach was Dermot Rice of Brookhill and Main Street, himself no mean athlete.

The two Fallons, sons of Garda Michael Fallon of Fethard, had what



Fethard Presentation Convent School volleyball team who came second in the 1975 European finals. Back L to R: Sr. Fidelis (coach); Mary Morrissey (St. Patrick's Place); Anna Costigan (Tullamaine); Patti Harrison (Congress Tce.); Mary Ahearne, Captain, (Main Street); Suzanna Maher (Main Street). Front: Catherine Newport (Congress Tce.); Paula Pollard (St. Patrick's Place); Ann O'Riordan (Barrack Street); Ann Hayes (Main Street); Josephine Keane (Cloneen).

is today called 'form'. They were the grandsons of Pat Fallon of Roscommon who had won numerous prizes in javelin and weight throwing in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. Pat senior had won an All-Ireland

medal in weight throwing in 1926, and in 1932 he had won a gold medal at the Tailteann Games. He also had the distinction of competing against such men as Dr. Pat O'Callaghan. In the 1970s his two grandsons blossomed as outstanding athletes. Pat junior concentrated on the 100 and 200 metres dash, he 'clocked' up a new record for the 100

metres in this year by winning in 10.9 seconds. His brother, Richard, won the All-Ireland Intermediate High Jump, the Pole Vault, and the Inter-provincial High Jump. Richard was selected for the Irish youths team which competed in Wales on 13 July.

But the brothers were not alone. The under twelve-year-old boys also did well, especially Noel Butler, Patrick Heffenan, Patrick Burke, Thomas O'Riordan, Michael Burke, Brian O'Sullivan, Pat McDonnell, Brian Burke, and Liam O'Meara. However, the young boys did not have all the honours to themselves. Gillian Maher won prizes in events at county, Munster, and All Ireland levels. For a girl of under ten years of

age she was clearing heights of four foot two and a half inches. Also showing promise in that year was Jacqueline Stokes.

Another young sportsman who was making quite a name for him-



Pat Fallon in his sporting days

self in 1975 was Tony Sheehan of 25, St. Patrick's Place. Tony's sport was clay pigeon shooting at which he was having considerable success. He had been winning recognition in every year since 1969, even at national level. In 1975 he won both Munster and national championships. Sadly, a lack of

sponsorship prevented him from attending a clay shooting event in Munich in the summer of 1975. As in so many walks of life luck as well as skill plays a role.

But at the local level there was plenty of support and enthusiasm for various sports. The Badminton Club had a membership of thirty-five people and was in a position to field three teams with eight players in each, and the A team was performing particularly well. The club also had a juvenile team of four promising boys. The very active committee was made up of Tony Newport, chairman, Andrew Fox, secretary, Betty Gorey, treasurer, Ann Connolly, Patsy Sayers, Eddie Fox, and Jimmy McCarthy.

Another sport that had an enthusi-

astic following in the town was the game of handball. Both young and old were playing handball at the Sports Complex. During the year much good work had been undertaken on the alley. The lighting system had been upgraded and a new heating system was installed; and the painting of the ball-alley was done voluntarily by some local men. The consequence of all this necessary work was that the committee had to undertake a number of functions to pay for the extra financial burden. In the meantime, the local team participated in such events as the All-Ireland Handball Championships which were held on Sunday 2 November before a large and appreciative crowd at Enniscorthy. On this occasion many of the then big names of Irish handball performed. One of the local team, Pat O'Keeffe of Main Street, won the junior All-Ireland title.

The long running Tennis Club continued having a strong membership and was playing in tournaments against other clubs in the county. Its senior team in this year was Jimmy McCarthy, Cly Mullins, Lory Dineen and Seamus Dineen in the men's section and Patricia Morrissey, Majella Morrissey, Catriona Fallon and Jacinta O'Flynn in the women's. The club engaged in events in Carrick-on-Suir, Lattin, Moyglass and Ballypatrick; and on Carnival Sunday the players ran off a Ladies and Men's Doubles.

And then there were the country-

side sports of hare coursing and fox-hunting. The local open coursing club, which was run by Danny Carey, Michael Keane and John O'Donovan, had had a very successful year with plenty of hares available. They and the Crohane club held a number of events. As was a part of their tradition, the Tipperary Foxhounds held their opening meet of the season in Fethard on Monday 3 November. The master, Michael Higgins, and the first whip, Michael Flanagan, were duly photographed with their dogs passing under Sparagoleith arch (our gratitude is due in a very large measure to the late Dean Christopher Lee that we still have the arch). About 100 riders followed the first meet which ran a course through Rocklow, Rathvin and on to Moyglass. The account of that first run of the season reads like something out of an Anthony Trollope novel.

But to end this sporting account of Fethard in 1975 on a more sedentary note, the beautiful card game of bridge came to Fethard when a Bridge Club was formed at the beginning of the winter months of 1975/76. It met on Wednesday nights at 8pm in the general purpose room of the Patrician Brothers School, and it probably can be safely said that the members found that particular night all too short.

Though I have not mentioned the GAA in this memorial it is not for any reason of antipathy to the games, but because annual

accounts and regular histories have been published by the county board and are readily available in local libraries. It is worthy of mention though, that a big effort was being made to revive hurling in the parish. In April the local GAA were holding a fund-raising walk as there was a great need for showers, for covered accommodation, and for extending the storeroom at the sportsfield. By then such amenities were considered essential for players. And so a sponsored walk started out from The Square at 1.30pm on Sunday 13 April — excellent exercise and a means of contributing to a very worthwhile need.

Our neighbours at Killusty were

continuing to hold their Pony Show. The thirteenth annual event was held on Saturday 5 July on a beautiful summer's day and in a beautiful setting. About 160 ponies were displayed.

Like the Killusty Pony Show the Fethard Apostolic Society (a Catholic organisation which had branches spread throughout various Irish dioceses) was already thirteen years in existence in 1975 and it was still making worthy contributions to poor missionary parishes in Africa. The ladies of the Society met each Tuesday evening for two hours to work at making vestments for priests, making altar linen, and in collecting funds for the purchase of



Fethard Apostolic Work Display in Convent Hall 1970s

altar vessels. The ladies also collected money to pay for two Catechists in one of the African parishes. To generate such monies the ladies held Sales of Work. All their work was voluntary and the ladies, whose names unfortunately have not been recorded, are richly deserving of our praise and remembrance. The garments and purchases of the Society were passed to the Kiltegan Missionary Fathers and the Augustinian Fathers, but before doing so they were put on display locally.

Another meeting, this time held in the Catholic Church, was the Sodality of Our Lady which met monthly. Readers with long memories will recall the packed church in Fethard for the monthly sodality — one for women and another the men. But even by 1975 the attendance was diminishing. However, in that year the members were still sufficiently active to attend regular meetings and to participate in voluntary social work. In June they took fifty-four people by bus on an outing to the seaside at Ballybunion and from there along the scenic road that runs through north county Limerick and on to Limerick city. They also provided a Christmas party for sixty old folk.

They also held a spiritual retreat (do young readers nowadays know the religious significance of such works as 'retreat'?) in the parish church which had a creditable attendance. The spiritual director

was Father James Holway, then a curate in Holycross; I think he was afterwards parish priest of Pallasgreen. Father Holway was born at Brodeen on the Fethard/Cashel road and had attended school in Fethard. Some older readers should remember him from those days.

Another spiritual group which was then active in Fethard was the Legion of Mary. At that date it had fifteen active members and 140 auxiliary members. Among the active members were Tommy Carey, Percy O'Flynn, Kathleen Keane, Gus Fitzgerald, Kathleen Kenny, Nicky O'Shea, Christy Williams, Noelle O'Dwyer, Mary Gunne, Nellie O'Donovan, Don O'Connell and Catherine Sayers; the spiritual leader was Father Cunningham, a curate in Fethard. Locally the Legion organised and undertook the working of the Meals on Wheels and other social and spiritual services. The Meals on Wheels served about fourteen to eighteen people who had a hot meal delivered to them on three days each week. The cooking and delivery of the food was undertaken by voluntary help. In the early 1960s the Legion began the publication of a small annual Newsletter. Many parishes were doing the same at the time so that the happenings of the past year could be made known to parish exiles. However, many such booklets faded away in time, but the Fethard Newsletter survived and grew and

today is a fine example for other places to copy. Another form of contact with the parish exiles which the Legion undertook was the Fethard/Killusty parish reunion which in 1975 was held in the Irish Centre, Camden Town, London, on Thursday 22 May. A full page of photographs of those who attended appeared in the Clonmel Nationalist of 21 June. Even in the 1970s travel was slow and expensive, and for that reason what the Legion did to make and keep contact between home and those living in Britain was of great social benefit.

Another group in the business of making contacts was the Patrician Brothers Past Pupils Union. By 1975 the union had an active and strong membership with many and varied activities being attempted. The committee in this year were Paddy McCormack, Tom Smyth, Tim O'Connor, Joe Hayes, Tommy Carey, Dick Fitzgerald, John Whyte, Percy O'Flynn, Michael O'Sullivan, Michael Kenrick, Joe Kenny, Miceál and Tom McCormack, Don Byard, Lory Dineen, Joe Dwyer, Martin Coady and Jimmy McInerney. Brother Stephen Delany was chairman of the committee, and in that year he had retired from teaching. To mark the even the past pupils had presented him with a set of smoking pipes. Old alumni will recall that Stephen chain-smoked cigarettes, so the union must have hoped to change his smoking habit. Other changes were taking place in

the Secondary School in that a new headmaster, Brother John Gallagher, was appointed, and Brother James O'Rourke also came new to the staff.

The annual dress-dance of the past pupils was held at Hearn's Hotel, Clonmel, on 22 March with an attendance of 250. The music for that special occasion was supplied by the Mick Delahunty band. And in the summer the union sponsored a hurling tournament to honour the memory of Brother Albert Small who, without doubt, is still remembered, fondly or otherwise, by all who sat in one of his classes. The game was very appropriately played between Fethard and Borrisoleigh and the latter parish was the winner — wouldn't Brother Albert have been pleased. A cheque for £160 (the entrance money to the game) was handed to the Brothers to pay for heating the Secondary School.

A twenty six-year-old former pupil of the Secondary School made history in the parish on Sunday night 18 May. He was Richard Burke the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Burke, Castle Hotel, Fethard. Though born at Kilmore near Clonmel (his mother was a Dowling of the Castle Hotel), Richard received his early education from the Patrician Brothers. On that night in May, Richard was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Kiltegan Fathers, and the ordaining bishop was the former Bishop of Calabar in Nigeria. Richard's ordination was



School team winners of the 1975 schools tournament. Back L to R: Br. Berchman, Pat Burke, Johnny O'Sullivan, Michael Hennessy, Brian O'Sullivan, Dave Maher and Br. Sylvester. Front: John Lonergan, Pat Campion, Anthony Hayes (capt), Seamus Dillon, S. Nagle, Martin Fogarty and Kevin Whyte.

the first ever held in Fethard parish church and the local people turned out en masse to witness this special event, Local schoolchildren filled the choir and Miss Goldie Newport played the organ. Following the ceremony the Apostolic Society and the Presentation Sisters laid out a buffet meal in the Convent. Following a short holiday Father Richard was being appointed to the teaching staff at the junior seminary in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Another departure from routine was that the children of Fethard had to travel on Monday 21 April to the parish church in Killenaule for their Confirmation. A big change from the

early nineteenth century when anything from four to five hundred children were confirmed in the parish church every four or five years.

Changes took place also in the Augustinian Abbey. Father Anthony Leddin, who had served as Father Prior for a number of years, left to join the Galway community. Father Leddin's going was an occasion of great regret and sadness for all those Fethard people who looked to the Abbey as their church and only place of worship. But two new friars came to the town — the availability of manpower was to be so very different thirty years later. The two new priests were Father John Meagher

who came in May from London, and Father Jack Crean, who had spent twenty years in Nigeria, came to the Abbey in October. In this year a committee had been loosely formed for the purpose of advising the Augustinians on how best the Abbey could continue to serve the people of Fethard.

But some icons were not broken. People still continued to make a pilgrimage to the 1950 Holy Year cross on the slopes of Slievenamon. As 1975 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the erection of the cross, a decision was made to place a large oak cross at a lower point on the mountain which would serve as a place of assembly and the point from which the recitation of the Stations of the Cross would begin; and near to the new cross a grove of trees was planted. In 1950 a cross to commemorate the Holy Year was

erected on the slope of the mountain, and had been blessed by Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, the then Archbishop of Brisbane (home on holiday in his native Fethard) on 12 November. The original had been replaced in 1974 and the new cross blessed by Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel, on 15 August. In this latter year the recitation of the Stations as the pilgrimage progressed up the mountain was introduced. The 1975 pilgrimage was held on a beautiful August day and was led by local curate, Father Cunningham.

In other ways ideas on what was Christian and moral were changing. Grim, fortress-like orphanages for keeping young children who were orphaned or deprived were no longer acceptable. Between 1970 and 1975 a new concept in housing such children had begun to appear



Having a chat at Watergate in the 1970s were L to R: Kathleen Conway, Johanna Stapleton and Nellie Maher

in Ireland. The old Residential Homes, run by a religious order in the absence of any effort by the State and housing large numbers of children, were no longer seen as the most desirable way of dealing with a social problem. The thinking now was that smaller family-sized homes were better suited to the emotional, and indeed physical, needs of the unfortunate children.

It is, therefore, no small tribute to Fethard that it was among the earliest places chosen as a centre for three Group Homes, as the new children's homes were to be called. These Homes were, and still are, situated on the Rocklow Road just beyond the school complex and opposite the parish priest's house. The Homes were built in record time by local builder John Harrington; the contract to build had been signed on 15 March 1975 and on the following 15 October twenty-eight children together with four nuns and four lay staff were able to take up residence. The children had been taken from the old Maude mansion in Dundrum which had been run by nuns as a Residential Home since 1908. The nuns had been unable to continue their work at that place and so the orphanage had been closed. In the early years of this new institution the people of Fethard rallied to the help of the eight staff offering assistance in all sorts of ways, especially with cars to take children to the sea-side or on various outings. No mat-

ter what our worries about the drift of society there will always be a core of good people.

At the same period a different form of housing construction and supply was beginning to appear in Fethard. The concept of a Co-Operative Housing Society (it had been gaining momentum throughout Ireland over the previous ten years) came to life in Fethard in 1975. The newly-formed Society (its Hon. Sec. was Mrs Sally O'Brien of Burke Street) had purchased a site at Strylea to the west of the Kilnockin Road and no more than a few minutes walking time from the town. The building of two storied, semi detached houses for the members of the Society had commenced in July and it was hoped that they would be ready for occupancy in April or May of 1976. The Society was a wonderful benefit to young people who were struggling to purchase a new home, especially in an era when money was scarce and loans or mortgages expensive.

Another organisation which was of great benefit to the town was the Development Association which in 1975 was under the presidency of the parish priest, Father Philip Noonan. The people who sat on the committee could well be considered as true patriots — they were prepared to devote their leisure to the betterment of their native place. And that committee was made up of Austin O'Flynn, chairman, Brendan Kenny, vice-chairman, Mrs

Mary Healy, secretary, Sean Henehan, treasurer, Catherine Allen, PRO, Jim Ryan, Tom Barrett, Jack O'Shea, Frank Coffey, Paddy Lonergan, Mrs. O'Brien, Tom McCormack, Austin Slattery, Tim O'Riordan, Mrs. Coffey, Paddy Broderick, Tommy Carey, Carol Kenny, and Larry Dargan.

In this year the Association sponsored a very successful one day Carnival, the profits from which it used to have the river on the south side of the town cleaned. Instead of a week long Festival as had been the norm, the Development Association decided that they would revive the one day Carnival which had been so very popular in the 1940s and '50s, even attracting people from throughout the county. The chairman of the organising committee for the event was Gus Fitzgerald and his secretary was Catherine Allen. It was held on Sunday 13 July and began with a fancy dress parade beginning at 1.45pm which walked through the town to the GAA field led by the Moycarkey pipe band. Various side shows were laid on in the field including a football tournament between Fethard and Mullinahone. The occasion ended with a concert in the Convent Hall at 8.15pm and a dance in the County Club Ballroom.

And very importantly the Association was sponsoring public meetings whose purpose was to inaugurate an elected Community Council. The principal function of

the new Council would be to further the best interests of Fethard. In August, then, a steering committee from the Development Association set themselves the task of developing the new Council whose aims would be to assess the needs and problems of Fethard and through action and advice to make the town a worthwhile place in which to live. The steering committee were well aware that vibrant communities don't just fall out of the sky, their creation has to be worked at by unselfish and dedicated individuals. And it was the hope of the steering committee that the many voluntary bodies about the town would elect representatives to the new Council and that it would affiliate with its parent body, Muintir na Tire. During the month of November elections were held in six areas, Tullamaine (four seats), Kilnockin (three), St. Patrick's Place (three), Killusty (three), Main Street (three), and Burke Street (four). The object of this exercise was to have a truly representative council. The newly-elected members held their inaugural meeting in mid January 1976 and the first committee was formed: Father John Stapleton, chairman, Jerry Skehan, vice chairman, Mrs. Mary Healy, secretary, P. Heffernan, joint treasurer, Paddy Broderick, joint treasurer, Austin O'Flynn, PRO, Catherine Allen, Joe Allen, Pierce O'Donnell, Malachy Brett, Tom Butler, Dick Cummins, Gus Fitzgerald, Michael Allen, T. Noonan,



Fethard Senior football team taken in the Barrack Field after playing Carrick Swans for the Bro. Albert Small Memorial Perpetual Trophy c. 1975. Back L to R: Gerry Fogarty, Noel Sharpe, Gerry Harrington, John Healy (worked in AIB Bank, stayed with Stasia Kenrick, Congress Tce.), Joe Allen (Killusty), Michael Kenrick, Paddy Kenrick, John Keane. Front L to R: Michael Healy, Sean Aylward, Michael O'Riordan, Sean Moloney, Liam Connolly, Philip O'Connell, Davy Morrissey and Joe Keane.

John Clancy, Dr. J.B. Maher, Jimmy McInerney, P. Ward, and Paddy Walsh. An account of the working of the Council would in all probability be worth publishing.

One benefit that did come to Fethard prior to the formation of the Community Council was the factory on the Kilnockin Road almost opposite the new Housing Co-Operative at Strylea. This was Elron Ltd. and it began production in February of 1975. The factory was 'headed' by a Cashel man, Mr. Frank Gannon and had Mr. Cyril Carter of Longford as its production manager. By July of that year it was employing twenty-five people and had expectations to double its workforce. To the best of my knowledge it was the first factory in the town. It produced quality canned meat for the gourmet market. The dishes were created by a

chef from Lyon in France who came occasionally to Fethard to check the end product. The dishes consisted of beef in various sauces which were pre cooked and frozen. The tins of meat were labelled, 'Inisfree Gourmet Foods' and sold outside Ireland. It was intended, also, that the factory would produce dishes based on oysters and lobsters.

Of benefit to the people of Fethard but in a different way was the local Credit Union which by 1975 was well-established. By the end of that year the share balance stood at \$22,500 and the loans amounted to \$60,000 — a considerable sum thirty years ago and one that must have been of enormous help to Fethard people. In that year its committee were Dr. J.B. Maher, president, Richard Gorey, secretary, Jimmy Connolly, treasurer, Mrs. M.

Morrissey, Mrs. E. Maher, Sean Henahan, Father John Stapleton, Eddie Lawless, Jim Ryan, Tommy Carey and Austin O'Flynn.

The name of Austin O'Flynn among the names of the Credit Union committee brings to mind the Fethard Players. Austin has been the mainstay and pivot for so long that his name is now synonymous with the Fethard Players. In late October 1974 he had begun work with a cast made up of Anne Connolly, Goldie Newport, Carmel Rice, Danny Kane, Danny Ryan, Joe Hanley, Eddie O'Sullivan, Gerry Skehan, Jimmy O'Shea, Willie Lonergan and Paddy Broderick. The play was *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier and it was presented at the Town Hall between 2 and 9 February and each performance was well attended. The production was the subject of a very favourable review by the late Brendan Long in the *Nationalist* who was impressed by both acting and direction.

The Players also performed a one act play for the July festival, and as the year ended Austin O'Flynn was again donning his producer's hat and choosing a new play.

But however good a producer and cast may be

they very much rely on the great efforts of the 'behind-the-scenes' people. And in 1975 the Fethard Players were relying on Dick and Michael Fitzgerald, Don O'Connell, Joe Kenny, Donal O'Sullivan, Marian Mulligan, Miss Phyllis O'Connell, and Liz Brett.

Another source of entertainment and enlightenment was the local Macra na Feirme club. Throughout the year it held numerous 'field evenings' and was involved in competitions. The evenings were held in the Cattle Mart and included such



Cast of Rebecca Jan 1975. Back L to R: Eddie O'Sullivan, Joe Hanley, Danny Ryan, Anne Connolly, Gerry Skehan, Carmel Rice, Jimmy O'Shea, Goldie Newport, Willie Lonergan, Marian Mulligan. Front L to R: Paddy Kenrick (Properties), Don O'Connell (Lighting), Austin O'Flynn (Producer), Danny Kane and Paddy Broderick.

competitions as stock judging, farm management, identification of machinery parts, and the identification of flowers and plants.

And for the older ladies there was the ICA Guild which in this year was celebrating 54 years of existence; and it was still a very active organisation holding monthly meetings and having talks on subjects such as small gardens, the Simon Community, and even the dread disease of cancer. And, of course, the Guild women were not behind when it came to rolling up their sleeves and 'mucking-in'. They actively supported the Chrysanthemum Show, the Fethard Carnival, Meals on Wheels, and many other local associations. The Guild also ran a very successful series of craft classes; and they had great hopes of raising sufficient money to pay for the building of a new hall for which they already had plans drawn up. Their then meeting hall was too small and in poor repair. The leading officers in the Guild in this year were Phyllis O'Connell, president, Alice Curtin, secretary, and Bitsy Carrigan, treasurer.

While local people had the welfare of the town close to their hearts and did enjoy its medieval aspect, people from outside of Ireland were beginning to come to enjoy the same. In 1975 the amount of visitors coming was small and not as it is today. One such group that came in that year was thirty-eight members of the Dutch Everards led by Dr. Richard

Everard who visited the town on Saturday 26 April. On that day the group toured various sites about Fethard associated with the Everard family as well as places in south Tipperary. Dr. Everard had published a detailed and well-researched account of the family and so was eminently suited to his task.

Preserving Fethard for visitors and natives alike was the task of the local voluntary Fire Brigade. This year was a good one for the Brigade with only six fires needing attention. The members are worthy of having their names recorded as they gave their services free to the community. John Whyte was the station officer and his crew were Percy O'Flynn, Michael Ryan, John Murphy, Frank Coffey, Austin O'Flynn, Sean Ward, Tony Hanrahan, Laurence Kenny and Alfie Brett.

Though we can be saved from fire there is no escape from death. Of the many that died in this year in Fethard and the surrounding areas I have chosen but a few to name and have been influenced by some small knowledge of each of them. In January Paddy Walsh of Fethard and later of Clonmel died. Paddy was for years head of the telephones section of the old Posts and Telegraphs office in Clonmel, and though he made his life in that place he never lost contact with the town where his youth was spent and no week passed without some reference to the place.

John Holohan of Ballinard died in

New York in February. He was uncle to Councillor John Holohan, and died full of years at the age of eighty-eight. In his lifetime he had two notable distinctions; he was a Tipperary man who played half-back on the Kerry football team which reached the All Ireland in 1911. He was working in Killarney at the time and so got co-opted to the team. In 1912 he decided to emigrate to America and had booked his passage on the ill-fated Titanic, but two weeks prior to sailing he changed his ticket with another emigrant and so survived to live a long life. A year before he died he paid a visit to his native Fethard. His remains were buried in the Gate of

Heaven cemetery in New York.

On 19 July, in a Dublin hospital, the death occurred of Laurence (Larry) Noonan of Cloneen who was a national teacher and at one time principal of Killusty National School. Readers of James Maher's 'Romantic Slievenamon' will recall Laurence's fine article on the 'Land War' at Kilburry.

Another who died in July was Miss May Schofield who lived in one of the big houses on the north side of The Square. With her passing another link with the old way of life was cut.

On Saturday 15 November an old and well-respected member of the community died. Following a short



Wedding photograph of Tommy O'Donnell and Ellen 'Ciss' O'Grady: Back L to R: Mick Trehu, Joan O'Grady, Johnny Murphy, married couple, Mrs (O'Grady) Looby, Paddy Daniel. Front: Mary Ann Daniel, Martin Stapleton, Rita O'Grady and her grandmother Mrs O'Grady, Rathallagh. Taken at Larkin's Hotel, Clonmel. Tommy was a tailor at O'Flynn's.

but harsh illness Larry O'Donnell died at his home at Kilnockin. His memory and his features are still fresh in the mind of the compiler of this; and anyone who knew him closely will recall his droll and gentle humour and his quiet ways. Sadly, Larry never married and so left no family. He lies buried in Calvary cemetery with his mother.

In the same month of November Pierce Butler of Coolenure died. Pierce was a farmer whose holding passed to his son Tom who was and is a well-known figure in the Fethard area, having been active in a number of organisations. Throughout his life Pierce was a hard-working, dedicated, and prosperous farmer who had come to live at Coolenure in the late 1940s.

People who die full of years are mourned by their families and friends, but the sorrow is tempered by the realisation that they have lived a full life. Not so when a young woman dies. She still has so much potential, so much to offer, so much still the pivot of home life, and yet she can be swept away ere her prime. One such was Mrs Rita Browne of Kerry Street who died on 18 November after a long illness which she bore with great fortitude and patience. She brightened the lives of those who knew her, and her friend from her hospital days at Jervis Street, Dublin, the Franciscan priest Father Rory O'Leary, said of her: "I gained immeasurably through knowing her in her patience and

spirit in long suffering". What a wonderful epitaph. Some people, even in a very short life-span, can map for us what are the fundamentals of living. Rita Browne left a husband to mourn her loss.

And so in sorrow for some and joy for others the year 1975 passed away, but I couldn't find a better note on which to end this view of Fethard than to quote the poem below with its words of hope for new life and a new year, which was composed by Denis P. Shine of Fethard in 1975. ✱

*Come! when the dawn is stealing
Through the woodland, along the hill.
Listen! and hear the song birds
Singing out a glad farewell.*

*To the snow that's on the hilltop,
To the snow that's in the glen,
The breeze has whispered: Spring is coming
And the flowers will bloom again.*

*First will come the daffodil
To ring its golden bell,
To waken up the primrose,
The daisy and bluebell.*

*Forget-me-nots and violets
Will bloom along the lane,
Where the autumn breeze lulled them to sleep;
And Spring says live again!*

*This is the resurrection and the life,
Along hillside and glen
And all along the mountain
And in every little dell.*

Fethard links with Saratoga

Mike Cahill, a native of New York, met with Jennifer Conte and Fiona Farrell, Saratoga Cornell Cooperative Extension Agency of Saratoga County Equine Program, to discuss the possibilities of a Fethard-Saratoga civic exchange. The meeting took place on 6 September, 2006, at the Saratoga CCE Offices at 50 W High Street, New York.

Mike, working in conjunction with Fethard & Killusty Community Council at the meeting, described Fethard as a small Irish town with a big reputation internationally for breeding top thoroughbred horses. Fethard is also well-known in Ireland for the nearly intact medieval town walls that surround it — walls that drew the attention of Cromwell's forces during the English Civil War era and yet survived. Similarities were noted between Fethard and Saratoga County, a place synonymous with horse racing in the US and the home of the Saratoga Race Course. Though it has no town walls, Saratoga is dotted with historic structures from the era of the American Revolution. The county was the site of a major British defeat during the war — the Battle of Saratoga.

Jennifer and Fiona discussed the importance of horses and tourism for Saratoga's growing economy, and they touched on the role of Saratoga CCE in promoting the



Mike Cahill and Jennifer Conte, Saratoga Cornell Cooperative Extension Agency of Saratoga County Equine Program, after their meeting to discuss a proposed Fethard-Saratoga civic exchange.

equine industry and agriculture, generally, within the region.

The prospect that Fethard and a Saratoga County town might have an interest in exploring an international civic exchange or sister city relationship for their mutual benefit was discussed. Some potential benefits of an exchange were identified. They included promoting equine and historic tourism between the two towns; sharing information and ideas on economic development; and arranging opportunities for civic, school, and cultural exchanges.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that another session would be scheduled in the near future so that Mike could make a presenta-

tion to Saratoga County town supervisors and other local leaders.

Mike holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and has worked on child welfare and aging issues for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. His connection with Fethard comes through his father's side of the family. His paternal great-grandfather emigrated from Fethard to Troy, New York in 1867 — as the story goes, because there weren't enough potatoes to go around. His last known relative in

Fethard, died at near ninety in 2000. Mike and several members of his family visited Fethard in 2003. On their arrival, they headed straight to McCarthy's Hotel and introduced themselves. The next day, McCarthy's proprietor took them on a tour of the town, including the old family homestead and the local cemetery, which contained Cahill family burials going back to the 1700s. Mike finds in Fethard a civic pride and an awareness of community that are inspiring. *

Parishes in Fethard & Killusty

The following article is taken from an 'Atlas' published in 1970 by Archbishop Thomas Morris, listing the Civil Parishes in the Dioceses of Cashel and Emly.

The delineation of our present day parishes, like several other institutions in Irish Catholic Life, had its origin in the renewal which availed of the opportunities of the 18th century. An effort is needed to recognise the medieval parish system under the alias of 'civil parishes' and to imagine the significance which the ruins in our sadly unkempt old cemeteries must have had for our forefathers in the faith.

The act of 1704, "for the registering of Popish clergy" and the desire of the government to "be truly informed of the number of such dangerous persons as still remain among us", supply some evidence of the emergence of modern group-

ings of ancient parishes. At the quarter sessions of the peace in July 1704, priests in counties Tipperary and Limerick were duly registered, each giving a list of the "parishes in which they pretend to be Popish Priests". In the tables compiled by Father Walter Skehan one can follow the recognition (and mutilation) given during 500 years to place names which are now obscure in many cases.

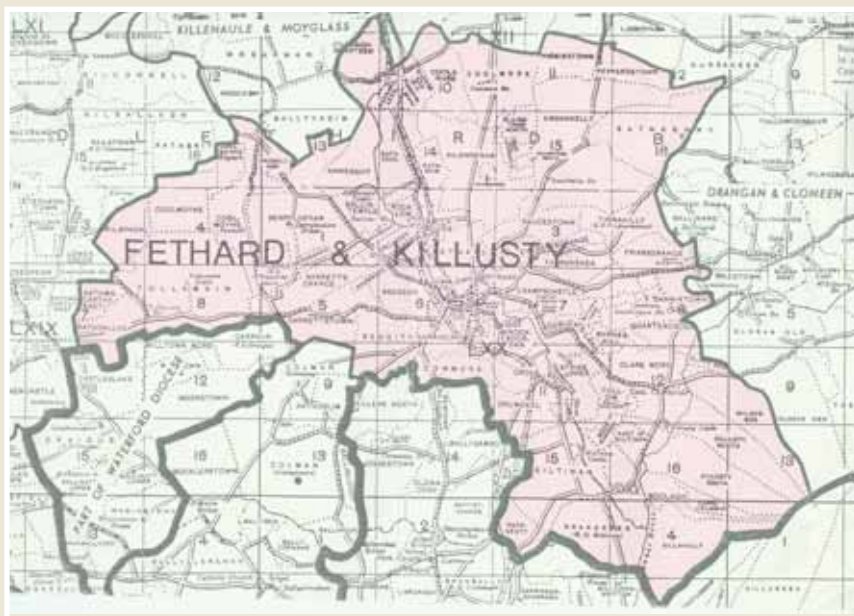
Peremptory questions about the future — of the parish, among other things — should at least wait on the social researcher, who in turn should be wise enough to consult the historian. This publication aims at stimulating thought about the future of our parishes by sketching some features of the present and the past. It is tentative and incomplete; thus the delineation of boundaries is often approximate and parochial

or diocesan boundaries.

The tabular lists show that sufficient material remains to demonstrate the antiquity of what are now styled Civil Parishes. The Civil Parishes are substantially identical with the parishes found in the 13th century. Allowing for the vagaries of spelling by various scribes, even the ancient names of most of the parishes did not change throughout the centuries. From the scanty evidence now extant, it would appear that many, if not all, of these parishes were fully developed before the Norman invasion. In several early grants and charters made by the early Norman Lords before or about the end of the 12th century, parishes, churches, or benefices are mentioned by name. It may be legiti-

mately assumed that the early Normans were not sufficiently organised to have established the parochial system in the territories that they had occupied. In fact they were fully occupied in maintaining their hold on the lands they had annexed and building fortifications and defences, and so had little opportunity to devote their attention to other matters. In the course of centuries several small parishes were absorbed by their larger neighbours.

Fethard & Killusty includes the following Civil Parishes (asterisk * denotes the parish is divided): Fethard, Redcity, Barrettsgrange, Kiltinan, *Tullamain, *Rathcool, *Peppardstown, *Coolmundry, *Kilbragh, *Killconnell, *Baptistgrange.



Fethard Civil Parish:

Commons, Fethard, Garrinch,
Gortagea, Grove, Knockboordan,
Knockbrack, Moneypark, Moanbeg,
Moanmore, Spitalfield, Fethard
Town.

Redcity Civil Parish:

Madamsland, Redcity, Brodeen.

Barrettsgrange Civil Parish:

Barrettsgrange, Barrettstown,
Crossard, Glengaddy, Monroe.

Kiltinan Civil Parish:

Ballyna clera, Boolagh,
Cappadrummin, Clarebeg,
Claremore, Grangebeg, Killavally,
Killusty North, Killusty South,
Kiltinan, Loughcapple, Moanbarron,
Rathkenty, Tullow, Walshbog.

Tullamain Civil Parish:

Coolmoynes, Rathallagh, Tullamain.

Rathcool Civil Parish:

Annesgift, Ardsallagh, Ballintemple,
Ballybough, Ballyvadin ($\frac{3}{5}$ remain-
der in Killenaule Catholic Parish),
Carrigeen, Coolanure, Coolmore,
Coolmoynes (Fennell), Coolmoynes
(Taylor) $\frac{3}{4}$ (remainder in Cashel
Catholic Parish), Curraghscarteen $\frac{3}{5}$
(remainder in Killenaule Catholic
Parish), Derryluskan, Farranaleen,
Fehoonree (Slainstown),
Gorteenhamrouge, Grangeduff,

Kilknockan, Prospect, Rathavin,
Rathcool, Rocklow, Saucestown,
Slainstown North, Slainstown South.

Peppardstown Civil Parish:

Crampscastle, Everardsgrange,
Farranshea, Higginstown,
Knockkelly $\frac{19}{20}$ (remainder in
Drangan Catholic Parish),
Peppardstown, Rathkenny $\frac{1}{2}$
(remainder in Drangan Catholic
Parish), Saucestown, Tinnakilly.

Coolmundry Civil Parish:

Bannixtown ($\frac{2}{3}$ remainder in
Drangan Catholic Parish),
Bawnkeal, Butler's-land, Byrneskill,
Castlehiggins, Friarsgrange,
Quatercross, Roebucksland, Strike
Lower, Strike Upper.

Kilbragh Civil Parish:

Kilbragh $\frac{9}{10}$ (remainder in Cashel
Catholic Parish), Rathmacarty East,
Tullamain.

Kilconnell Civil Parish:

Rathbrit $\frac{1}{10}$ (remainder in Cashel
Catholic Parish).

Baptistgrange Civil Parish:

Drumdeal, Ballygammon.

*Spellings of place names are used as
printed in the original document, which
may differ from today's spellings. **

Fethard Bridge Club

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 30th 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.

We note the deaths this year of three of our members. Teresa Cummins died in April this year. A long-standing member of Fethard

Bridge Club, Teresa is greatly missed at our weekly game. She was always in good humour and ready for a laugh. As a keen bridge player Teresa travelled to neighbouring counties supporting charity games and local bridge congresses. She was a great ambassador for the club at these many venues. She met many people through her card playing but she made many friends through her warm personality. In July Mary Lucey died. Mary joined the club when she moved to Fethard and she played with us for just one year. During that year she endeared herself to the members with her soft-spoken manner and



Club President Mike Burke, presenting 3rd Gross Christmas prize to Anna Cooke and Bernie O'Meara (left) at this year's Christmas Party.

gentle nature. Mary Meagher died in November. Mary was a popular member of the club for a number of years. She liked the weekly game and had a more relaxed approach to it which made it all the more enjoyable for her. They will each be fondly remembered by the club members.

At our President's Prize dinner at Slievenamon Golf Club on 17th May 2006 the fol-

lowing prizes were presented: President's Prize to Alice Quinn and Berney Myles; Committee Prize to Rita Kane and Kay St. John; Player of the Year, for which the O'Flynn trophy is presented, to Mike Burke; Club Champions, for which the Hayes trophy is presented, to Anna Cooke and Bernie O'Meara; Individual Champion, for which the Dick Gorey Trophy is presented, to Mike Burke; The Suzanne Opray Trophy was won by Mike Burke as the player who reduced his handicap by the most during the year.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on 27th September and 4th October and the winners of the gross free sub were Nell Broderick and David O'Meara, the free nett sub was won by Alice

Quinn and Berney Myles. On 8th November we held a charity night and donated the proceeds for the evening to the Annual Newsletter



Club President Mike Burke, presenting 5th Gross Christmas prize to Frances Burke at this year's Christmas Party.

and Fethard Christmas Lights fund. Our Christmas party was held in Sadel's on 8th December at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 24th May 2006 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Mike Burke, Vice President: Bernie O'Meara, Secretary/PRO: Gemma Burke, Treasurer: Rita Kane, Assistant Treasurer: Anna Cooke. Tournament Directors: Alice Quinn, Betty Walsh, Frances Burke, and Gemma Burke. Partner Facilitator: Berney Myles. Committee: Anne Connolly and Marie Delaney.

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. *



*Presentation Convent Junior Volleyball team who won the All-Ireland under-14 title 1972.
Back L to R: Mary Morrissey, Elizabeth Holohan, Lillian Gorey, Pattie Harrison, Bernie Gahan. Front L to R: Yvonne O'Donovan, Margaret Mary O'Connor, Maura O'Callaghan, Catherine Newport and Ann Hayes.*



Cadette Volleyball team 1971 who won the FISEC league in the East Muster region. Back L to R: Patricia Morrissey, Elaine O'Meara, Trudy Hanrahan, Josephine O'Brien, Lillian Gorey. Front L to R: Rita O'Connor, Bernie Gahan, Helen Roche and Angela Dillon.

Fethard GAA Club



Fethard Intermediate Hurling South Champions 2006. Back L to R: Willie Morrissey, Eoin Doyle, Chris Sheehan, P.J. Aherne, Kieran Treacy, Miceál Spillane, John P Looby, Paul Fitzgerald, Aidan Fitzgerald, Shane Walsh, Stephen O'Donnell, Cian Maher, Jamie McCormack, Philly Prout (selector). Front L to R: Michael Dillon, William O'Brien, Dean Tobin, Michael Aherne, Kenneth O'Donnell, Carl Gahan, Michael Ryan, Johnny Leahy, Michael Carroll and Brian Coen.

In Intermediate Hurling we won our fifth South title on 24th September 2006 in Monroe on a scoreline Fethard 0-10, Ballybacon Grange 0-9. Scorers for Fethard were: Aidan Fitzgerald 0-3, Kieran Treacy 0-2f, Paul Fitzgerald 0-1f, Ken O'Donnell 0-1f, Miceál Spillane 0-1, Christopher Sheehan 0-1 and Brian Coen 0-1f. Team: Paul Fitzgerald, Carl Gahan, Cian Maher, Michael Carroll, Dean Tobin, Shane Walsh, Johnny Leahy, Michael Ryan, John P Looby, Aidan Fitzgerald, Miceál Spillane, Kieran Treacy, Michael Aherne, Stephen O'Donnell, Kenneth O'Donnell. Subs were: Christopher Sheehan, Willie Morrissey, Brian Coen, PJ Aherne and Jamie McCormack. The O'Dwyer Cup was presented on the day by our own Miceál McCormack, Chairman South Board.

We eventually went out of the County Championship at the semi-final stage on a scoreline Moycarkey 2-15, Fethard 1-13. During 2006 Aidan Fitzgerald lined out for Tipperary Intermediate Hurlers, losing in the Munster final.

In senior football we had a disappointing year losing both South and County to Grangemockler and left fighting relegation. Our only honour this year was Paul Fitzgerald lining out in goal for Tipperary and Munster in the provincial competition, losing out almost on the last kick of the game. Cian Maher also donned the 'Blue and Gold'.

In Junior A Football we are still in the South Championship. In under-21 and minor competitions we are in B grades having reached the Minor B hurling final, losing to St Mary's on the 15th September on a

scoreline, Fethard 0-11, St Mary's 1-12.

In Minor B football we lost out to Mullinahone in the semifinal on a scoreline Fethard 0-14, Mullinahone 2-9. Mullinahone are South champions and are in the county final. Panel for both teams: Glen O'Meara, Pat Holohan, Liam Ryan, Adrian Lawrence, David Prout, Niall Hayes, Alan O'Connor, Thomas Gilpin, Richard Gorey, Stephen O'Meara, Declan Doyle, Peter Gough, David Conway, Christopher Sheehan, Ed Sheehan, Dean Tobin, Aaron Donovan, Cathal Gorey, Michael Fleming, J.P. McGrath, Tom O'Connell, Eoin O'Connell, Jack O'Sullivan, Keith Ryan and James Kelly.

Dick Wall



One of the great stalwarts of GAA and Coolmoynes for over 20 years (1940-1960s) passed on to his eternal reward on 10th March 2005. The esteem in which Dick Wall was held was shown at his removal with the large turn out for the guard of honour outside the Parish Church in Fethard. Dick was a hurler of the highest calibre who loved the game more than most, and also a notable footballer in his time. He was interred in Calvary Cemetery after a fine and eloquent oration at the graveside by Tony

Newport who said of Dick, "He was a gentleman on and off the field of play who gave no quarter and expected the same on the field of play. Dick lived for the GAA and dogs."

Margaret Hackett



The club was shocked on 15th April 2005 when the news filtered through that Margaret Hackett (nee Hogan), after a long illness, had passed to her eternal reward. Margaret's legacy as secretary and officer of the Juvenile Club, for over almost 20 years, was much appreciated in difficult years in the development of the club in the late 1970s. She will be fondly remembered by all for her trojan work and commitment to the Juveniles, particularly when her seven sons all played in those years with the Club.

Dick Cummins



On 10th December 2005 our Life President and South Board President passed to his eternal rewards peacefully at Main Street, Fethard. Dick was a man who gave most of his life to the pursuits of the GAA in Fethard as did his

father, Dick Cummins, who was one of the founders of the Fethard GAA Club and the first chairman of the Munster Council 1901. He was also the first South man to become County Board Chairman. Dick himself was Chairman of the Fethard Club from 1981 to 1984 (Centenary Year) as was his dad from 1884 to 1902.

It was a great honour for Dick to have the Fethard GAA Park opened in 1984 during his term as chairman. His contribution during that time to the 'Fethard, Coolmoyné and Killusty GAA History Book (1887/1987)' was also invaluable. He was the first Fethard man to be honoured with the Sean Na Gael Award in 2003. His love of the GAA was shown in the high esteem he was held by his peers and the fine

gathering at his removal to the Parish Church Fethard on 11th December.

Elsie O'Dwyer



On 21st February 2006 Elsie O'Dwyer (nee Ahearne) went to her eternal reward, aged in her nineties. She was active up to the end. Elsie donned

the 'Blue and Gold' in senior camogie back in the 1930s was the proud holder of two county camogie titles, in 1932 and 1933, with her native Coolmoyné. She was honoured as the first lady from Fethard to receive the Sean Na Gael Award in 2004, having showed a very keen interest in St Rita's right up to the end. *



Fethard members of Tipperary senior football team photographed with the Tommy Murphy Cup after beating Wexford in the final played in Croke Park on 4th September 2005. L to R: goalkeeper Paul Fitzgerald, who won 'Man of the Match', Aidan Fitzgerald, who scored Tipperary's first goal, and Damien Byrne. This was Tipperary's first national senior football title won in 75 years.

Killusty Soccer Club



Killusty team 2006 Back L to R: Paul Kenny, Brian Coen, Ronan Maher, Kenneth Byrne, Richard Thompson, Derek Moore, Eugene Walsh, Michael Carroll. Front L to R: Alan Phelan, Shane Aylward, Philip Ryan, James O'Meara, Anthony Shelly and John Gibbons.

They say that in sport you get out what you put in, and that proved to be the case with us last season. We put nothing in and we got nothing out of it. Expectations were reasonably high following our good form of the previous season but unfortunately many of our players thought ability alone would get them through and didn't feel the need to train. Boy were they wrong!

It turned out to be one of the worst seasons in the club's history. We didn't win one single league game, and only managed a few draws. We were knocked out of all club competitions at the early stages, and, of course, we were relegated.

This season started slightly better, although our dressing rooms were burnt to the ground in an arson attack one week before the start of the season. On the playing field, we managed to win our first two league

games, but defeat in the next three has seen the malaise of old return.

Many of our young men today simply do not want to train, they don't want to stay in on Saturday nights and they certainly don't want to get up early on Sunday morning for a game.

This problem is not unique to Killusty Soccer Club as discussions with mentors from other clubs has revealed that this apathy towards sport is widespread. My personal belief is that for soccer to continue in South Tipperary, we would need to revert to playing during the Summer. Hopefully there will still be a team in Killusty if and when that comes about.

The officers for the coming season are: Louis Coen (Chairman); Sarah Shelley (Secretary), Emma Fitzgerald (Treasurer) and Chris Coen (Team Manager). *



*Photograph taken in Burke Street by John Kenrick a few years back
L to R: Claire Coffey, ?, Mary Connolly, Marguerite Lawlor and Yvonne Purcell.*



L to R: Ollie Fitzgerald, Biddy (Fitzgerald) Kearney and Dick Fitzgerald



L to R: Joe Barrett, Pat O'Callaghan and Phil Tobin



Annie Sayers and Biddy Dwyer (Mackey). Stephen Dwyer was her father and Bríd Loughlin was her mother. Biddy was married to Jack Mackey who lived near Ballroom.



Maggie, Harry and Catherine Sayers and Annie (Sayers) Dalton, Maggie's sister.



Mrs McInerney, Barrack Street, and Mai Schofield.

Snow

The winter of 1962-63 was very severe and between 25th and 31st December snow fell over most of the country and was particularly heavy on 30th and 31st. A depth of 45cm was measured at Casement Aerodrome on the morning of the 31st. Appreciable snow fell again on 15th January. January was exceptionally cold and snow lay in places until after 5th February when snow fell for the last time in that cold spell. Then rain and a general rise in temperature cleared the snow. (Met Eireann excerpt from 'The Climate of Ireland'.)

The mornings were freezing cold, colder than we'd ever felt before, and the bedroom was made strangely bright by the reflected glare from the snow-covered countryside outside. The bedroom was unheated and cold as the refrigeration room in Paddy McDonnell's butcher shop. The frosty air bit viciously at nose and ears and any exposed flesh; breath billowed in condensed plumes; undressing at bedtime was a frantic, freezing melee of elbows, knees and discarded clothes and shoes as we raced to be first under the blankets. Being in the middle was best with body warmth on either side keeping the cold air at the edge of the bed away. Once in bed there was a bout of elbowing, wriggling, twisting and complaining, "Mammy, he's pushing me outa the bed!"

'He's pulling the blankets offa me!'

Occasional, muffled warnings came to us from the kitchen until sleep finally overcame us.

In the morning it was good to snuggle under the warm weight of coats and blankets knowing there was no hurry out of bed. The heavy snowfalls had changed our predictable, daily routine of rising reluctantly, getting dressed and making our way to school on the Rocklow road. Now the schools were closed. The sub-zero temperatures of those days coupled with the inadequacy of the school's heating system of pot-bellied stoves and open fires had brought us unexpected freedom. It was the answer to every schoolboy's dream. So we exulted in a world transformed. The



John and Frank Fogarty in the Convent Grounds c. 1960.



Snow on the Back Green in the 1970s

familiar, dreary landscape of mid-winter lay hidden beneath a covering of snow resting thick and blinding white on roads, rooftops, trees and fields. Even the familiar bulk of Sliabhnamon and the surrounding hills, isolated by the walled town, seemed to have merged into the vast whiteness that lay all around. The Clashawley alone was unaffected by the snow: brimming to its banks with dark winter water, it poured under the convent bridge, past the snow-topped town walls rushing on and on to be subsumed into the Anner.

A strange, muffled silence pervaded the countryside. People kept to their houses. Motor traffic, a rarity in normal weather conditions, had ceased altogether, except, of course, for the bread van from the Fethard

bakery. Driven by a cheerful Arthur Eustace it crawled cautiously around the snow-covered town bearing trays of freshly baked loaves and grinders. Every time Arthur opened the back door steam billowed around him. It was a kind of boom-time for the local bakery as it enjoyed a brief monopoly of the local bread trade since the Boulea bread van, hindered by snow drifts and icy roads, frequently failed to get through from Ballingarry. We developed a liking for the crusty Fethard pan loaf with its circular pattern on top and corrugations on either end.

And in spite of the snow and slippery surfaces Ned Bulfin's red milk cart appeared every morning and evening on its round. Gene Walsh, wearing wellingtons and a heavy

overcoat with a woollen cap pulled over his ears, and scarf around his face, looked like a traveller on the snow-covered Russian steppe as he came battling up The Valley at the pony's head. He sometimes resembled a walking snowman as he arrived outside our door in a wind-driven swirl of snow.

Martin Nagle, too, was to be seen coaxing Larry Shortall's pony and cart from door to door, drawing bags of coal, turf and blocks to stoke fires that burned around the clock in an effort to combat the bone-chilling cold in draughty old houses. Old overcoats and sacks were thrown at the base of front doors in an effort to reduce the icy air flow from outside. And still, sitting on the form by the fireside in our kitchen, icy draughts numbed feet, legs and back. The only real heat was to be found in beds weighed down by blankets and old coats, anything that would insulate sleeping bodies from the cold.

II

*'When men were all asleep the snow came flying,
In large white flakes falling on the city brown.'
(London Snow: Robert Bridges)*

Nobody had ever known snow to lie so long. It had come at night. We had gone reluctantly to bed on a St. Stephen's night with Elvis singing 'Return to Sender' on the radio and still at number one. All through the dark hours as we slept and dreamed

our world was being transformed by softly falling snow. Awaking to a dazzling whiteness we had run out wild and excited throwing snowballs and building snowmen, expecting that, as usual, the snow would disappear as quickly as it had come, hoping that it wouldn't. Johnny Mackey had looked peevishly over his half-door and predicted with great authority that it would certainly be gone before night. It wasn't. Or the next day. And we had the longest Christmas holidays of our lives as the snow lay in a thick white carpet for the remainder of December and all through January, defying Johnny's prediction.

During all of that time the half-doors remained closed along The Valley. Mamie Croke or Josie Barrett would occasionally poke their heads out over the half-door with mournful faces and survey the continuing whiteness that wouldn't be wished or prayed away. But it was too cold to linger as was their habit, gazing up and down The Valley. And anyway there was nothing much to see since the snow had come. So they went back to their glowing grates trying to catch the heat with outstretched hands. Sitting there they grumbled about the cold and listened to the radio for news of the wider, mysterious world beyond the confines of the snow-covered hills surrounding the town. And the radio told them that snow was general over all of Ireland and England, that Europe was in the grip of one

of the coldest winters since the 'Little Ice Age' of 1740.

III

(This year (1962/63) will be immortalised as one of the greatest of all weather years for the coldest winter this century (20th). This is the only time this century that there were two consecutive months with temperatures averaging beneath zero; the last time this happened was 1878-79, and before that, in the "Little Ice Age", with the even more severe winter of 1740)

We were not aware of the historic nature of what we were living through. We did not give much thought to the difficulties attendant upon the low temperatures for travel, or food supplies for humans and animals alike. We were unaware that snowdrifts up to six metres (18 feet) in depth were being encountered on roads throughout the country making travel almost impossible. It did not worry us that ice was forming in harbours along the English Channel or that ice to a thickness of six inches covered part of the Thames at Windsor. Or that the lowest temperatures since 1740 had been recorded. Nor did we marvel that the mighty Shannon was frozen over in places and could be crossed on foot near Limerick city. No, we didn't have a global view, we were immersed in the local, happily enclosed in our own little world. Its geographical boundaries were the hills that surrounded the old town. Nor did we give too much thought

to what lay beyond those hills. None of us had travelled very far along the roads that led out of Fethard. We kept to the riverbanks, or the railway line, the wood at Grove or the fields and the surrounding hills, ramshackle mills and old castles. We were exploring old ground, transformed by our imaginations – which knew no boundaries — into something new and mysterious. Never would the world be like this for us again.

IV

"Nick Harrington's quarry was full of water and it froze over. Frank (Fogarty) and myself found a pickaxe in the sandpit and we used it to test the thickness of the ice before we'd chance skating on it." (John Coffey, Moneypark)

Every day we were drawn to Nick Harrington's disused quarry at Jesuit's Walk. The water trapped in the quarry – hole following the early winter rains was of an unknown depth and we were always wary when playing around it. Sometimes we'd play ducks and drakes along its smooth surface or throw stones at the quarry face trying to start a mini avalanche of stones and gravel into the water below. Now, after a couple of weeks of persistent sub-zero temperatures the surface of the water was frozen rock solid. At first we did not venture more than a couple of feet from the edge. Gradually as we discovered how rigid the ice was we began to skate further and further



Kilkenny Majorettes photographed at Fethard Festival in the 1970s with L to R: John Donovan, Gerry Nevin, Larry O'Keeffe, Jeff Hanrahan and Garda Sean Callaghan.

out suspended over water of unknowable depths on a thick skin of ice that sometimes crackled and creaked ominously under our weight.

Mamie Mackey warned us about skating on ice. She'd heard on the Light programme about boys in England who had fallen through ice on frozen lakes and ponds and couldn't be got out from under it. "They were drowned", she said, "so mind yeerselves over there in that feekin' sandpit, the water there is thirty feet deep if 'tis a foot and ye'd never be got out of it". But no warnings could cancel the irresistible attraction of skating out over the depths. We were driven by a mixture of fear, fascination and boyish brava-do. Nobody wanted to be the one afraid to venture far out on the ice and suffer the scorn of those who had. So, even though the crackling

and creaking of the ice sent fear fluttering through our insides, we skated out.

V

Days went by, days of blissful freedom for us, unending misery for older people. The snow showed no sign of going away. We even began to take it for granted. We lazed in the heat of the kitchen after breakfast reading comics, confident that the snow would still be there. Every morning before going out we'd wrap ourselves up in as much clothing as we could find. All wore 'wellingtons' and after putting on socks we'd wrap layers of newspapers around our feet. Despite the socks and papers our feet would still be numbed by the cold. Very few had gloves so old socks were used. Making snowballs, of course, left

hands and fingers numb and the pain in fingers and toes on coming back into the heat of the kitchen was excruciating.

It all ended of course. Towards the end of January patches of flattened grass began to appear in the fields. Snow began to melt off the roofs of houses. Creamery traffic, mostly horses and carts, began to travel up and down past our front door again. Normal life was beginning to reassert itself. Finally the schools reopened. Our carefree days of wan-

dering around building snow-forts, sliding down hills on flattened cardboard boxes rescued from the dump and skating recklessly on Harrington's quarry were over. However, the snowmen and forts that we'd built remained stubbornly in place long after the snow had gone. Towards the end of February part of them still remained, slowly disappearing reminders of an almost forgotten time. *

by John Fogarty



'The Somali Village' Carnival Parade includes Fogartys, Keatings and Daltons in the 1950s

Bianconi v Stokes — a tale of two wheels!

The following article published in the Tipperary Free Press was supplied by Michael Hall, Kyle, Drangan, and gives us a good insight into the cut-throat business world of the 1830's, in particular, between the Bianconi's cars and Stokes cars of Fethard. The following 'REWARD'

advertisement was published in the newspaper of 18th July 1835:

Reward

Whereas on the night of Tuesday last, some person maliciously cut, with a saw, the shafts of my Day Car to Dungarvan (which had that day

commenced plying between Thurles, Killenaule, Fethard, Clonmel and that town) in the first mentioned place, and quite close to the stand occupied by Mr Bianconi's cars.

Now in order to bring to punishment the guilty person, I hereby offer a Reward of TEN POUNDS, on his being prosecuted to conviction, within the ensuing TWELVE MONTHS.

It may perhaps, be almost unnecessary to mention that I have used every exertion in my power, to

accommodate the public, and particularly the persons in the trade, residing in the towns thro' which my Cars travel that in very rare instances, do I charge for parcel, that in all cases, my fares are extremely moderate. These are facts that can be proved, and which I do respectfully conceive, entitle me to the support of the public.

PATRICK STOKES,

Hotel Fethard, (Tipperary) July 17, 1835

Art Exhibition at St. Bernard Group Homes



Photographed at the official opening of an art exhibition, 'Images and Destinations' by Niall Bracken at the Conference Room, St. Bernard Group Homes, Fethard, on Thursday 8th June. L to R: Seamus Moore (South Eastern Health Board), Niall Bracken (artist), Sr. Éilís Bergin (Director St. Bernard's Group Homes), Aisling Kilroy (The Narrow Space) and Carol Moore (South Eastern Health Board).

An art exhibition, 'Images and Destinations' by Niall Bracken took place in the Conference Room, St. Bernard Group Homes, on 10th June and 11th June. Niall Bracken grew up in Monkstown, County Dublin, and is a founder-member of the Waterford Life Art

Group. His work is in collections in the UK, USA and Ireland (including Waterford County Civic Offices permanent collection).

The exhibition was held in aid of St. Bernard's Group Homes.

St. Bernard's Group Homes continues a caring tradition established

in Dundrum, Co. Tipperary in 1908 by the Presentation Sisters. For over sixty years, the Centre cared for children from homes where the death, indisposition or personal distress of a parent made it impossible for normal family life to be maintained.

In 1975, the Sisters established purpose-built residential units on a three-acre site at Fethard, creating one of the first modern residential child care facilities of its type in Ireland.

Since then hundreds of children and young people have benefited from the professional care and supervision of St. Bernard's, which

offers places to children and young people in informal surrounds that provide a warm and caring environment and allow them to live as normal a life as possible.

Since 1997 one of our units specialises in caring for young people needing High Support. Innovative and creative work is ongoing as we build community and help young people live together, deal with their hurts and trust enough to form meaningful relationships with others. A new extension is currently being built which should be opened in early 2007. *

Fethard ICA Guild

In September 2005, Fethard ICA Guild hosted the South Tipperary Autumn ICA Federation meeting in the Fethard Ballroom. Federation President Nora Mai Kennedy congratulated our guild on the hard work we put into making the meeting such a great success, catering for 130 members.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month in our own hall on Rocklow Road. We take time out for the months of July and August. We have demonstrators or speakers at every meeting. In October, Mandy Quigley did some Christmas flower arrangements and she also showed us the 'in' way to do wedding bouquets, buttonholes and church pews. She made it all look so easy. On December 13th, 2005, we held our Christmas party in The

Fairways Restaurant at Slievenamon golf club. Joan O'Brien supplied the music for dancing after a wonderful meal. All members agreed that it was a most enjoyable night. In March we spent a very relaxing evening with Eileen Henehan who told us all about the Angels.

On the first Wednesday of each month patchwork classes are held in our hall and the participants turn out some lovely work. Beading has become a popular craft so we held a one-day workshop. All who took part made attractive necklace and bracelet sets.

We held our AGM in May and the officers elected for the coming year are: Anne Gleeson (President), Anne Horan (Vice President), Nuala Delaney (Hon. Secretary), and Phil Wyatt (Hon. Treasurer). We have thir-



Fethard ICA Guild who celebrate their 80th anniversary in 2006. Back L to R: Joan Anglim, Marie Crean, Rose Holohan, Breda Spillane, Margaret Flanagan, Nuala Delaney, Kathleen Barry, Joan Heffernan. Middle L to R: Ann Horan, Kitty O'Rourke, Kay St. John, Betty Lanigan, Margaret Lawlor, Mary Meagher, Nora Ahearne, Phil Wyatt, Breda O'Donnell, Breda Slattery, Maura Fitzgibbon. Front L to R: Celia Byrne, Sheila O'Donnell, Kitty Ahearne, Aggie Barrett, Kathy Aylward, Myna Gorey, Nellie Shortall, Mary Tierney and Ann Gleeson.

ty-three members.

We had our summer outing on 21st June, leaving Fethard at 10am for Kildalton College to visit the 2006 agricultural day. Large crowds attended this event. The flower festival in the college itself was a sight to behold. We spent two hours visiting all the stands and had our lunch at 'The Sweep' pub in Kilmeaden. Then we took a trip on a steam train that travelled along the river Suir for a few miles and back again to Kilmeaden. We then visited Waterford city where some members went shopping and others paid a visit to 'Easter Island' garden centre. We ended the day with a very appetising meal in 'Poppy's' Restaurant, Waterford.

In June, our summer Federation meeting was held in Aherlow House Hotel to celebrate 65 years in existence. Sixteen of our members

attended the party. It began with a punch reception which we enjoyed sitting out on the patio in wonderful summer weather. Then we had a short meeting followed by a lovely meal. Celia Larkin was speaker on the night and gave us great fashion tips. The night ended with very lively music and song by a local band.

In July one of our members, Mary Lucey, passed away. Mary came to live in Fethard some years ago and joined our ICA guild very soon after. She attended all our meetings until she was hospitalised. We will miss her very much. May she rest in peace.

We are always looking for new members to join us and non-members are welcome to come along to hear any of our guest speakers. Fethard ICA would like to wish all who read this wonderful newsletter a very happy Christmas and good luck and good health for 2007. *

Patrician Presentation Secondary School

As the words of a memorable melody, “Try to remember – the kind of September”, filter through my mind I don’t have to try, it’s easy to remember the commencement of the school year of 2005.

A year filled with joy and success. For a small secondary school compared to others we were up there with the best in terms of achievement. It can be difficult to define a persona but as a result of their own personal achievements, many of our students excelled in a diversity of fields, and this I observed with the greatest of joy.

In early December the school show, ‘Godspell’, took to the boards in Abymill Theatre and again the thespian (and maybe not so thespian) students of our school achieved yet another element of success. The open evening in early February was an evening to remember, and once again our students played a major part in the organisation.

Coming third in Ireland in the Maths Olympiad at Trinity College was a red-letter day for not only the sixth-years involved, but also the school, and it was a remarkable achievement that we were the only



All-Ireland Team Maths Final 2006, Trinity College Dublin. Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School — 3rd Place. Back L to R: Mr. Bernard Hanratty (Citicorp), John Frewen, Fintan Maher, The Provost, Dr. John Hegarty, Ms Mary Lysaght (Teacher). Front L to R: Ronan Shee and Niall Hayes.



Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School who won the All-Ireland Boys' Cadette B Volleyball final in University College Dublin on Thursday 9th February, beating Listowel, Co. Kerry, by 2-0 sets. Back L to R: Bernie O'Connor (coach), Alex Channon, Eoin O'Connell, Thomas O'Connell, Adrian Lawrence, Christopher Sheehan, Richard Walsh, Ciarán Ryan, Denis Burke (coach). Front L to R: James Kelly, Darragh Dwyer, Alan O'Connor, Declan Doyle, J.P. McGrath, Matthew Fitzgerald and Jonathan Fleming.

non-fee-paying school at the top table.

To play with the words of Wilde — Oscar, that is — to win one All-Ireland in volleyball is superb, but two in a short space of weeks is the ultimate. This we did and our boys and girls were rewarded for their sporting prowess and effort.

The late summer days of August saw the 'coup de grace' — the icing on the cake — of the school year, when an astounding twelve percent of our students achieved over 500 points in Leaving Cert 2005. One student reached the enviable 585 points. As autumn put its stamp upon the year, September saw our Junior Certs achieve their fair share of success when results day arrived.

Significantly, I have not personalised these memories, not chosen

one to stand out from the crowd, because all had a part to play. Everyone in some small way rejoiced in the success. It won't be "hard to remember", as the memory lingers on, and the promise of the future lies within the reach of all.

Friday 27th October, heralded the arrival of Awards Day for Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School — a day in which achievements both great and small, in the academic world, sporting, prowess, attendance, business, art, personal skills and social skills are acknowledged in a very special way.

In the early afternoon mass was celebrated by Fr. Tom Breen P.P., assisted by Canon Jim Power. For all assembled — principal, staff, ancillary staff, representatives of the



All-Ireland Junior 'B' Volleyball Champions after beating Presentation Kilkenny in the final on Friday 28th April. Back L to R: Denis Burke (coach), Sarah O'Meara, Katie Coen, Kelly Fogarty, Siobhán O'Brien, Gráinne Horan, Laura Rice. Front L to R: Aisha Tobin, Aisling Dwyer, Debbie Lawrence, Kelley Coady, Lesley Looby and Niamh Fanning.

Board of Management and Parents' Association, friends, parents and most important of all, our student body, — it was a memorable occasion.

The choir was accompanied by Kevin Hickey, with soloists Laura Rice and Aisling Dwyer, and a very welcome and appreciated instrumental on guitars was played by four young 1st Years, Noel O'Brien, Ted Barrett, Tony Myler and Garreth Lawrence.

Our guest for 2006 was Billy Slattery, formerly from Drumdeel, a past-pupil who has travelled much of the world in his career since leav-

ing us some twenty odd years ago. He spoke of the value of achievement, no matter how small, and encouraged the student body to source and enjoy a career in which they would find happiness. He spoke of how the new school had developed since his days spent with us, and how lucky the present generation were to have such excellent facilities, particularly the refurbished science block in its present 'state-of-the-art' structure.

The principal, Mr Ernan Britton, addressed the assembly. He thanked all who had helped in any way with Awards Day, particularly the team of

Mr Michael O'Gorman, Mr Richard Prendergast and Mr Denis Burke for organising the event, and Mrs Margaret Prendergast and Mrs Marian Gilpin for their respective contribution of the lovely altar and the rehearsals for the choir. He thanked Kevin Hickey for his musical contribution, Fr Breen and Canon Power for the Liturgy, the readers, Connie Sullivan for his hard work in preparing the hall, and the very valuable asset of a dedicated staff.

Mr Britton particularly thanked the parents, the Parents' Association, and all members of staff who had worked so hard to make the Golf

Classic of May 2006 such a huge success. Without their diligence and hard work, and without the support of the community, we would not have the beautiful science labs we have today. Mr Britton paid special tribute to the achievement of our maths students of last year's Leaving Cert who came third in the finals of Ireland's Team Maths competition held in Trinity College on 4th March — a huge success for both them and their teacher Ms Lysaght.

Our volleyball teams also did us proud by winning two All-Irelands under the coaching of Ms Bernie O'Connor and Mr Denis Burke. They



Photographed at the Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School Awards Ceremony are Back L to R: Louis Rice (1st Junior Credit Union Art Award), Kevin Ryan (Senior Fethard Quill Writers Award), Rebecca O'Donnell (1st Year English Writers Award), Colm Horan (Paddy Broderick Award and Junior Cert Student of the Year), David Gorey (Young Entrepreneur memento), Joe Fogarty (Paddy Broderick Award memento), Peter Garrett (6th Year Student of the Year), Owen Healy (2nd Year Student of the Year), Aisling Duyer (3rd Year Student of the Year), Michelle Garrett (3rd Senior Art Award). Front L to R: Ida Carroll (Padraig Pearse Award), Katie Coen (2nd Year Attendance Award), Ms Marian Gilpin (Deputy Principal), Mr Billy Slattery (Guest Speaker), Mr Ernan Britton (Principal), Padraig O'Shea (Credit Union Young Entrepreneur Award and Outstanding Achievement Award in Judo), and Stephanie Fitzgerald (Sports Award).

also achieved silver and bronze in Mosney.

The presentation of awards then took place. Special guest, Billy Slattery, presented the Student of the Year award for 2nd Year to Owen Healy; and 3rd Year to Aisling Dwyer. Junior Cert awards were presented to Colm Horan (Student of the Year), Ida Carroll (Padraig Pearse Award) and Colm Horan (Paddy Broderick Award).

Awards were presented to Peter Garrett (6th Year Student of the Year), Ronan Shee (Leaving Cert 2006), Ciaran Leahy (Padraig Pearse memento) and Joe Fogarty (Paddy Broderick memento). Mr Denis Burke presented the Sports Awards to Stephanie Fitzgerald and Liam Ryan.

Mr Jonathon Gilpin, Director Fethard Credit Union, presented the Credit Union Young Entrepreneur award to Padraig O'Shea and memento to David Gorey. The Outstanding Achievement Certificate was presented by Ms Bernie O'Connor to Padraig O'Shea for his success in Judo at Irish and international level. Certificates were also presented to members of the boys and girls volleyball teams.

Principal, Mr Ernan Britton, and Deputy Principal, Ms Marian Gilpin, presented the Attendance Awards to Katie Coen (2nd Year), Melissa Wallace (3rd Year), Ciaran Ryan (4th Year), Alan O'Connor (5th Year) and Christopher Thompson (6th Year).

Ms Marian Gilpin also presented

the English Writers Awards to Rebecca O'Donnell (1st Year), Owen Healy (Junior Fethard Quill) and Kevin Ryan (Senior Fethard Quill).

Principal, Mr Ernan Britton, then presented special guest, Billy Slattery, with a framed print of the Millennium Sunrise over Slievenamon by local photographer Joe Kenny.

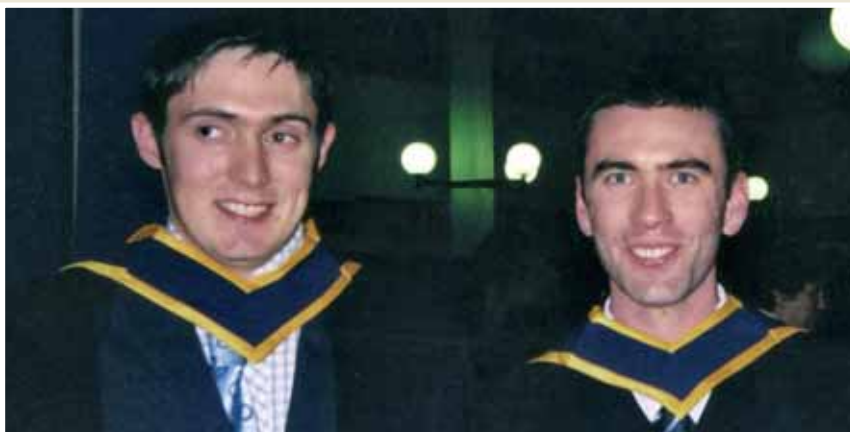
To complete the presentations, Credit Union Art Awards were presented to Louis Rice (1st Junior), Shannon Keating (2nd Junior), Xuan Wyatt (3rd Junior), Gráinne Horan (1st Senior), Laura Rice (2nd Senior) and Michelle Garrett (3rd Senior).

The Awards Day then closed with refreshments served for all in the school hall. *

Marian E. Gilpin, Deputy Principal



1st Year students, Noel O'Brien, Ted Barrett, Tony Myler and Garreth Lawrence, who played music at the Awards Ceremony.



School friends, John McCarthy and David Kennedy, both past-pupils of Patrician Presentation Secondary School Fethard, photographed here after both graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Applied Physics & Instrumentation with First Class Honours. Both John and David have now taken up employment in Cork.



Patrice Tobin, Fethard, who recently graduated with a Bsc in Psychiatric Nursing at the Waterford Institute of Technology.



Paul Barry, Tullamaine, Fethard, who recently graduated with a Bsc (Honours) in Applied Physics and Instrumentation at Cork Institute of Technology



Twins Michael and Paul Walsh, Barrack Street, past pupils of Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School, who both graduated with 1st Class Honours Degrees in Chemical Engineering, Michael in UCD and Paul in CIT.





Teaching staff in 1981 Back L to R: Timmy O'Connor, Michael O'Gorman, Vincent Doocey, Paddy Broderick, Frank Hughes, Denis Burke, Mary Ann Fogarty, Paddy Maher, Kathleen O'Connor, Bro John Gallagher, Marian Mulligan, Dick Prendergast, Bro. James Foley. Front L to R: Anna Judge, Teresa Browne (Art Teacher), Sr. Fidelis, John Whyte (President Past Pupils Union), Mary O'Sullivan, Mary Lysaght and Sr. Carmel.



L to R: O'Donnell twin (Lisronagh), Liam Cronin, Rory Keane, Willie Casey, Pat Leahy, Paddy Meehan, Sean Brett, Adrian Pollard, Roger Mehta, Pat O'Meara, Peter O'Dwyer, Johnny Connolly, Paul Mullins, Dessie O'Brien, Paul Hayes and Jim Needham.



Girls Leaving Cert Class of 1981. Back L to R: Br. John, Elaine Kenny, Mairead Fitzpatrick, Martha Maher, Ena O'Meara, Brigid Ryan, Eileen Heffernan, Liz Newport, Aileen Murphy, Anna Fogarty. Front L to R: Sr. Fidelis, Mandy Phelan, Margaret Bowes, Carol Quinn, Mary Kearney, Kay White, Ann Browne, Rosie Gahan, Mary Nugent, Geraldine Moloney, Martina Lonergan, Bro. James and Sr. Carmel.



Boys Leaving Cert Class of 1981. Back L to R: Tom Carroll, Ailbe Holohan, Jimmy Flynn, Kevin McGivern, John Fitzgerald, Thomas Butler, Jimmy Hovan, Liam Daly. Third Row L to R: Tomás O'Connell, John Croke, Billy Slattery, John Hickey, Liam Quigley. Second Row L to R: Peter Hogan, Liam Campion, Tom O'Donnell, Tony Aylward, Pat Heffernan, Anthony Hayes, Gerry Croke, Pat Burke, Noel Maher. Front Row L to R: Dan Hickey, John Healy, Liam Ryan, Rory O'Connor, Tom Hayes and Paul Anglim.

John Joe's poetry

Autumn's Orchard Booty

*Smoke from old straw wafted in the breeze to banish the bugs.
 A large sow was present, menacing eyes peered from behind the wall,
 A look-out was posted to warn.
 Stealthily, the bold headed for the trees
 Beauty-of-Bath, cookers and plums.
 Jumpers bulging, off they ran,
 A door opened, too late.
 The raiders had scampered, a mortal sin to be confessed.
 Hunger and devilment ruled.
 For penance, a decade of the Rosary.
 The pain in the belly was worse.
 Too much eaten at the one time.
 Apple tarts, stewed apple and apple and plum jam.
 Boys will be boys.*

— John Joe Keane

Belbo Lane

*Young minds, boldly exploring,
 Through undergrowth gone wild.
 Reaching the Clashawley river,
 Sinking in the mud and soiled.
 There grow rushes and weed
 In the water brickaleen and trout feed.
 To the left stands Coffey's weir,
 To the right, at Watergate, a career.
 In Joe Coffey's tennis did commence,
 Part of our childhood's suspense.
 In those times much was subject.
 Today, travel is no object.*

— John Joe Keane

A Burke Street Delight

*Occasionally, there to be had was a treat,
In a part of Fethard called Burke Street.
From Cork a van did come to Byard's
To deliver Thompson's buns.
For them the trade was great,
If you delayed it would be too late.
Soft sponge, flaked pastry, cream a plenty.
Then, a fortune was the twenty.
Alas the bakery is no more.
A son turned to stone sculpture
And has commissions by the score.*

— John Joe Keane

The Abbey Queen

*A proud lady who never wavered.
In hard times set a standard.
Could blossom as an example.
Reared a fine family of ambition.
Knew quite well, human failure.
Through it all prevailed admirably.
Owned a retail outlet to live.
Articulate in an impressive way.
Gave good, balanced advice to many.
Wanted the right material generally.
Attended daily Mass for her faith.
Was intelligent and had good carriage.
Sad to hear of her departure.
To family and acquaintances,
Many condolences, may she rest in peace.*

— John Joe Keane

A Farewell to Sir Paddy Maher

*Hailed from Dualla, came to Fethard town.
Built a fine bungalow and put his roots down.
One of the lay teachers in a time of the Brothers.
Loved debate and drama and shamed slackers for their good.
Lost a pure lady teacher when his good wife died.
They reared a fine family and Paddy tended the garden.
Before the vogue of career guidance, directed many a pupil.
His love of horses was known and he enjoyed a flutter.
May he rest in peace.*

— John Joe Keane

Fethard Stature

*In the stone school, a haon, a do, a hocht
Traditional is the ring of Ballybocht.
At the Day Care centre, seniors have a say,
Or attend the Abbey to pray.
For morale, one can hear the horn
Or buy in the Country Mart on Friday morn.
On GAA's hallowed Barrack Field,
Many an orange was peeled.
Experience Grove at evening or dawn,
Sit beside the springs of Mullenbawn.
The parish, a balm of the soul,
Coolmore, home of horse and foal.
In Kerry Street, works the smithy.
Pleasant is the townland of Redcity.
Reach the heights of Andy's gap,
Old Kilnockin and Bennett's Hill.
The sun shining on Barrack Street is a thrill,*

— John Joe Keane

Fethard Cycling



Organisers of the Fethard to Fethard Cycle in aid of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme are L to R: Bill Kennedy and Joe Burke, co-ordinators of the Sponsored Fethard to Fethard Senior Cycle; Jimmy O'Sullivan, coordinator of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme; Liam Hayes, Fethard & Killusty Community Council and Heart-Save Instructor.

When I was first asked to attend a meeting regarding a sponsored cycle, I, naively, thought that it was as a bicycle mechanic that my talents were needed. How wrong I was. Although I have always enjoyed cycling, a distance of fifty-three miles was surely beyond me, especially as I have now turned forty! However, I left the meeting thinking to myself that maybe I would have something to offer after all.

My interest in cycling began at a young age when Santa Claus never brought me a new bike – the excuse being that I didn't need one as we lived across the road from the school! Circumstances prevailed and we ended up making our own bikes from any old ones we could

find. From mending punctures with chewing gum to wearing out the toes of a new pair of runners in a week, it's a wonder I can still cycle.

Having been in the fortunate position of being offered a job in Bill Purcell's bike shop on The Mall in Clonmel, under the watchful eye of my uncle, Pat Kennedy, it wasn't long before my friends were calling round asking me to fix their bikes. Between Uncle Pat, Bill Purcell and 'the king of the three-speed' Davy Noonan, I soon learned all there was to know about bike . . . although building a wheel still eludes me! Little did I realise that when I went to Australia on a one-year visa, I would end up working in a chain of bike shops in places like Clovelly and

Parramatta, especially as I swore to myself that I wouldn't go near a bike in Australia even if I was starving.

The aim of our sponsored cycle from Fethard-on-Sea in Wexford to Fethard in Tipperary was to raise money for the purchase of some Automatic External Defibrillators, to be placed in areas of easy access to everyone – especially those who have been trained in the use of these machines. A series of four-hour training sessions, organised by Liam Hayes (Heartsafe Instructor I.H.F) was organised. To date, approximately fifty people in Fethard are now competent users of AEDs.

First things first — getting fit seemed to be the most important factor regarding the cycle. It was agreed between Joe Burke and me that we would meet on Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Cashel Road car-park. From the start, there was a regular group of cyclists who came every week. Some of the bicycles

hadn't seen the light of day in a long time, so my skills were put to good use! Each week there was a new bike appearing at the car-park – it proved to me how popular the cycling club had become. In my wildest dreams, I wouldn't or couldn't believe the amount of interest that was generated.

Everywhere I went, people were asking me about cycling. For me, planning the route we would take each week, kept my mind occupied when I could have been day-dreaming. With only about half the group being from Fethard, I tried to make sure everyone knew the by-ways of the town. The plan was to take a different route each week so that everyone was on a road they hadn't been on in a long time. When all the local roads were covered, we usually headed towards Clonmel so I could show the group around some roads they hadn't been on around Clonmel. Discussing among the



Group of twenty-three senior cyclists ready to leave Fethard-on-Sea

group what route we would take seemed to feel like a little adventure. I'm sure some new friendships were formed on the saddles of the bikes on the country roads of South Tipperary! A curious coincidence occurred to me on the day of the cycle – in the five months of training we never had a drop of rain.

The day of 29th July dawned a dark looking Saturday – I didn't like

the look of the sky at all. As the bikes were being unloaded from the truck in Fethard-on-Sea, the inevitable happened – it started to rain! After our fill of bananas and high energy bars our spirits couldn't be dampened. Off we went in the direction of

Ballyhack. A four minute break on the ferry, as we crossed the Suir, then we left Passage-East where it was almost a complete uphill cycle into Waterford. At this stage there was a steady fall of rain but the spirits were still high. After a massive breakfast, compliments of the Munster Bar, we left the Quays of Waterford in the direction of Carrick-on-Suir.

I was wrong about the rain – cycling over the bridge I realised that the rain was only starting. The skies

opened as we left Waterford for the longest stretch of the cycle. It was this stretch – if any – where we felt like throwing in the towel but I think that everyone was looking out for each other and on we pedalled until we reached Carrick and the garage on the Pill Road.

After more bananas and Lucozade Sport we were on the road for Kilsheelan. Turning right in

the village, we saw the first sign for Fethard and it warmed us up, literally. The group was still in good spirits as we headed for Kiltinan Barracks to rendezvous with the children of the cyclists who joined us for the Junior's Cycle. Over thirty cyclists pedalled

from Kiltinan to Killusty and in the back road to Fethard. A large crowd had gathered in The Square – larger than we realised – to welcome us home from our cycle. And what a great feeling it was too when we saw all the friendly faces cheering us on and welcoming us home. After we were introduced, individually, the official launch of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme and Slí na Sláinte took place. Tea and 'healthy' refreshments were being served from the Town Hall. Music and



It's all right! Bi.Ke. knows the way

entertainment were provided from the bandstand and blood-pressure and cholesterol testing were provided for those who were interested.

The cyclists disbanded at this stage to go home and freshen-up. We all regrouped in McCarthy's at five that evening to join together for a meal and some drinks. The meal was generously sponsored by the Fethard & Killusty Community Council and the drinks were sponsored by ourselves! It was a bit strange to see all the lads and lassies in their good clothes and not their cycling gear. Mind you, the conversations were still flowing among the group and we were in each other's company twelve hours at this stage. By now, we were already talking about next years

cycle and where we would go. More importantly, we were wondering what we could raise the money for. People were very generous and dug deep into their pockets. In excess of €15,000 was raised on the cycle which surpassed our wildest dreams. On this note I say thank you to all who supported us in every way. I would like to thank all the cyclists for their time, effort and commitment without whom none of this would have been possible. It's a far cry from the days when I would wake up on Christmas morning looking for a new bike and getting a cowboy outfit instead. My disappointment was short-lived though! *

— Bill Kennedy (Bi.Ke.)



The cyclists who participated in the event photographed on arrival to Fethard: (Seniors) Kathleen Anglim, Tom Anglim, Noel Blake, Paddy Boyle, Joe Burke, Sr. Betty Cagney, Kevin Coffey, Vincent Cummins, Jerry Dargan, Ruth Dargan, Seamie Hickey, Ger Holohan, John Hurley, Bill Kennedy, John McLean, John Neville, Michael Nevin, Michael O'Gorman, Erica Purcell, Tom Quinn, Fintan Rice, Paul Shanahan, Eugene Walsh and (Juniors) Lucy Butler, Jack Devaney, Kevin Hayes, Ruby Kennedy, Isobel Kennedy, William Morgan, Jack O'Connell, Richard O'Gorman and Matt O'Sullivan.

Fethard & Killusty Community Council



Fethard & Killusty Community Council committee 2005-2006 Back L to R: Paddy McEvoy, Brian Sheedy, Ger Manton, Thelma Griffith, Peter Grant, Diana Stokes, Liam Hayes, Joan O'Donohoe, John Barrett. Front L to R: Marie Murphy (PRO), Joe Kenny (Chairman), Edwina Newport (Secretary) and Jimmy Connolly (Treasurer).

The AGM of Fethard & Killusty Community Council took place on Tuesday 21st February 2006 at which the following Board of Directors was elected: Joe Kenny (Chairperson); Edwina Newport (Secretary); Jimmy Connolly (Treasurer); Peter Grant (Vice-Chair and C.E. Scheme Participant Development Officer). Board members include: Very Rev. Fr. T. Breen PP; Ger Manton; Liam Hayes; Paddy McEvoy; Thelma Griffith; Marie Murphy; Diana Stokes and Brian Sheehy.

2006 had a sombre start for all those involved with the Community Council as one of the longest associates of the organisation, Joe Nixon, FAS, had passed to his eternal reward on the previous St. Stephen's Day. Joe, a native of Charlestown, Co. Mayo, began his association with the

Community Council back in 1977 when, as an advisor with AnCo, he was introduced to the people and town of Fethard following a request by the Community Council to establish a Community Youth Training Programme to develop the Old Tirry Club into a Community Centre. Joe's connection with Fethard strengthened when on January 1st 1985 a similar CYTP commenced to convert Coffey's Mill into the Abymill Theatre, the wonderful, intimate, venue available in Fethard today. In the 1990s the Friends of Fethard renovated the Town Wall with the assistance of a Social Employment Scheme and, yet again, Joe was involved. Since 1995 Joe Nixon, as Community Development Officer with FAS, was an integral part



The late Joe Nixon photographed at the official opening of the extension to Fethard and District Day Care Centre on Thursday 5th December 2002, with Sr Christine O'Byrne and Joan O'Donohoe, Supervisor Fethard FÁS Community Scheme.

of the Community Council Community Employment Scheme based in the Tirry Community Centre.

This involvement cemented Joe's association with Fethard – a town and its people that he had grown to love. So much so, that when undertaking a B.A. in Training & Education at NUI Galway in 2003, Joe chose Fethard as the subject for his thesis. Joe gave his life to the promotion of personal and community development. His contribution has played no small part in the restoration of the built fabric of Fethard and we endeavour to keep his spirit alive in our actions. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

On Friday 13th January a Community Social was held in the Ballroom to celebrate the (actual, to the day) 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Community Council. A fantastic atmosphere

prevailed in the Ballroom that night as Fethard people, from home and away, recalled stories and memories of people and events that have helped weave the social fabric of our community. A photographic and video presentation, prepared by Joe Kenny and Peter Grant, entertained all present with many of the items prompting a cheer, a chuckle or a nostalgic 'Aah!'. Sumptuous food was provided on the night by Mark Ryan and his staff from the Fairways Restaurant and the party atmosphere was maintained when the dance band 'Opus I' took to the stage. The Community Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out and contributed towards making this a memorable event. They would especially like to acknowledge the committee of Fethard Ballroom for their involvement and



Revellers photographed at Fethard & Killusty Community Council's 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance on 13th January 2006 in Fethard Ballroom.



L to R: Maureen Whyte, Kate O'Flynn and Catherine Ryan.



Back L to R: Jennifer Whyte, John O'Flynn, John Cooney, Margaret Newport, Catherine O'Flynn, Terry Cunningham, Marie Murphy, Joe Kenny. Front L to R: Dóirín Saurus, Diana Stokes, Peter Grant, Rita Kenny and Bernie Grant.



Photographed at Fethard & Killusty Community Council's 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance in Fethard Ballroom are Back L to R: Seamus Barry, Gay Horan, Sean Spillane, Mick Ahearne, Robert Phelan. Front L to R: Pat Horan, Breda Spillane, Monica Ahearne, Margaret Phelan and Sheila O'Donnell.



Photographed at Fethard & Killusty Community Council's 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance in Fethard Ballroom are Back L to R: Pat Culligan, the late Cllr Michael O'Brien, Noel Coffey. Front L to R: Joan Culligan, Catherine Corcoran, Marian Gilpin and Noll O'Brien.

co-operation and for their giving of the premises for the night.

In the springtime Liam Hayes (Heartsafe Instructor, Irish Heart Foundation) commenced training of lay-responders for the Fethard Heartsafe Programme. This initiative was undertaken by the Community Council in conjunction with the Irish Foundation and is an attempt to provide immediate care to heart-attack victims. To date approximately fifty lay-responders have been trained to provide emergency first-aid and to operate Automatic External Defibrillators (A.E.Ds). A number of these devices are to be placed in strategic accessible locations around the town.

A major fundraising event – a sponsored cycle from Fethard-on-Sea to Fethard – was organised to raise money for the Fethard Heartsafe Programme. This cycle

was co-ordinated by Bill Kennedy, Joe Burke, Jimmy O'Sullivan and Liam Hayes and took place on Saturday 29th July following weeks and miles of training. Over thirty cyclists participated on the day and their efforts have raised in excess of €15,000 to date.

In addition to the training of lay-responders and the provision of A.E.D's, the Community Council also collaborated with the Irish Heart Foundation to establish a Slí na Sláinte in Fethard. This Slí na Sláinte ('Path to Health') is a designated, signposted, walking route, known locally as the Ballybough circuit, of 4.8km in length. (Information brochures on this Slí na Sláinte are available locally). To coincide with the arrival home of the cyclists on the afternoon of July 29th a community event was organised on The Square to launch the



Photographed at the presentation of certificates for those who completed the Fethard Heartsafe Training Programme organised by Fethard & Killusty Community Council. Back L to R: Eileen McGrath, Dolores O'Donnell, Teresa Roche, Joe Keane, Brud Roche, Miceál McCormack, Michael Tillyer, Sr. Betty, Roseanne Carroll, Geraldine McCarthy. Front L to R: Maura Ryan, Rita Bourke, Edwina Newport, Kate O'Flaherty (Resuscitation Unit, South Tipperary General Hospital), Jimmy O'Sullivan (Coordinator of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme), Marie Murphy, Peggy Colville and Fintan Rice.



Heart-Safe Instructor, Liam Hayes, is photographed above demonstrating the new defibrillator purchased for Fethard Day Care Centre to members involved in the Fethard Heartsave Programme L to R: Dr. Molly Owens (Medical Advisor), Dr. Carmel Condon (Medical Advisor), Jimmy O'Sullivan, Liam Hayes, Joe Burke and Bill Kennedy.

Fethard Heartsafe Programme. Following the rapturous welcoming home of the cyclists the official launch of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme and the Slí na Sláinte were carried out by Seamus Moore, Local Health Manager, South Tipperary HSE, and Tanya Comber-Rait, National Slí na Sláinte Co-ordinator, Irish Heart Foundation respectively.

On Sunday morning 4th June, people woke to hear the sad news that Cllr. Michael O'Brien had died suddenly the previous night. Michael had been elected a public representative for the Fethard Area at the local elections in 2004. As a councillor Michael had worked enthusiastically and tirelessly on behalf of the people of Fethard and surrounding areas. During this time Michael regularly attended the monthly meetings of the

Community Council and was consistent in his eagerness to get involved and contribute, whatever the issue. In his short time as councillor Michael became one of us - he attended most of our functions, was a frequent visitor to the Community Office and indeed his presence was regularly heard about the town as he interacted with everyone he met. Michael's exuberance, quick wit and wonderful sense of fun were remarkable and exuded wherever he went. May he Rest in Peace.

Subsequent to the Youth Needs Report, conducted by Tipperary Institute in 2005, and following representations, on our behalf, by Denis O'Brien, Foróige Area Manager, the Community Council were successful in acquiring once-off funding for Youth Actions from the Dept. of Education and Science. This funding was utilised to recruit a part-

time Youth Officer to work towards implementing the recommendations of the Youth Needs Report. While the current funding will only finance the post for one year it is envisaged that additional, more long-term, funding will be acquired to sustain the post for many years to come. On Wednesday 13th September, Suzie O'Shea, a native of Gorey, Co. Wexford, commenced employment with the Fethard Community Youth Project. The initial activities undertaken by Suzie are: the establishment of a Youth Group – the 'Walking Woodies' – in Woodvale Walk; the involvement of a group of Transition Year Students from Fethard Secondary School, some of whom will constitute a Junior Advisory Committee for the project; a group involving fifth and sixth-class pupils from the primary

schools and the establishment of a Foróige Youth Club. In addition a number of adult volunteers are being trained which will enable a greater number of young people to become involved in the project. While these activities will help towards recruiting members and leaders for the project, plans are advanced to develop a dedicated Youth Centre in the convent hall. Members of the Community Council travelled to Galway in November to visit a renowned Youth Centre, 'The GAF', to help decide on the most appropriate internal design for the Convent Hall. Additionally, the Community Council will continue to work in collaboration with Foróige and other agencies to access funding to secure the continuation of the Fethard Community Youth Project



Preparing for the launch of Fethard's first Slí na Sláinte on 29th July, are L to R: Joe Kenny (Chairman Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Jimmy Connolly (Treasurer Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Tanya Comber-Rait (National Coordinator, Slí na Sláinte, Irish Heart Foundation), James Horan (Co. Council Foreman Fethard Area), Jonathon Cooney (Fethard Area Engineer, South Tipperary County Council) and Edwina Newport (Secretary Fethard & Killusty Community Council).



Fethard Community Youth Project representatives at the Comhairle na nÓg Youth Meeting in Clonmel last weekend. L to R: Dave Gorey, J.P. McGrath and Suzie O'Shea, Foróige Youth Officer working with the Fethard Community Youth Project.

and to develop the Convent Hall.

The committee and members of the Community Council are indebted to Joan O'Donohoe, FAS C.E. Scheme Supervisor, for her dedication to the scheme and her unyielding contribution to the activities of the Community Council, particularly the management of the Tirry Community Centre and the operation of the Community Office. Thank you, Joan.

The services in the office have been expanded this year with the introduction of broadband, which facilitates faster, more reliable, internet access and the addition of three new computers and a digital colour photocopier. The FAS C.E. Scheme currently has thirteen participants who staff the Community Office, Day Care Centre kitchen, Tidy

Towns, GAA field and St. Bernard Group Homes. The Community Council would like to compliment the work that everyone on the scheme contributes to the operation and maintenance of community facilities in the town.

The Community Council enjoys a good working relationship with South Tipperary County Council. We have continuous support from all the councillors in the Fethard Electoral Area and we meet regularly with the local area engineer and the town foreman to discuss proposed works. Eoin Powell has recently commenced as the Fethard area engineer having succeeded Jonathon Cooney, and James Horan succeeded Tom Fitzgerald as town foreman earlier in the year – we wish them all the very best of luck

in their new positions. Cllr. John Fahey is a regular attendee at our monthly meetings and is always ready and willing to work on our behalf and to promote our cause. We welcome Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien who is new to the role, having been co-opted onto South Tipp. County Council in September, and we look forward to working with him.

The Fethard & Community Lotto continues to be our main source of income for undertaking major community projects such as the development of the convent hall as a Youth Centre, and has also enabled us to support many other local community groups and individual causes throughout the year. We thank those who buy tickets locally every

week and without the dedication of our ticket sellers — from our committee members and staff in local shops — none of this would be possible. Thank you!

We would love to have new members involved, especially new residents who have come to live in the parish, so if you feel that you have something to contribute to the community why not consider becoming involved with the Community Council by contacting any committee member for details or the Community Office in Barrack Street Tel: 052 31000.

We take this opportunity to wish our emigrants throughout the world and our residents at home, a very Peaceful and Happy Christmas. *



*Photographed at the launch of the Fethard Slí na Sláinte on Saturday 29th July
L to R: Leo D'Arcy, Education Officer, An Bord Altranais; John Whyte; Tanya Comber-Rait,
National Coordinator Slí na Sláinte; and Cllr John Fahey.*

Preserving Fethard's Market Rights

At the end of April 2006 all towns holding Irish Market Rights that were unused in the last ten years would have been extinguished if not used before the end of April. Fethard was one of the affected towns on the list. Local authorities and government want to get rid of Market Rights as they give too much power to the people. To ensure Fethard has the right to hold markets into the future, Fethard & Killusty Community Council invited traders to set up a stall of any kind offering something for sale at The Square, on Thursday morning 27th April (Thursday is the legal day for Fethard Market), which would ensure that the right is kept alive at least for the next ten years.

A variety of stallholders turned up on the Square and the market created a great buzz while it was in operation. The vendors were also extremely pleased with the results.

One lady who had a high-class home-made confectionery stall said her takings for the two hours trading in Fethard on Thursday morning far exceeded her sales at the estab-

lished weekly market in a neighbouring town. Local hurley maker, Liam Hayes, was both surprised and delighted with his sale of a dozen hurleys.

In its early days the market may have been held in and adjoining a Tholsel house in the centre of the



Marie O'Sullivan purchasing some organic produce from Fintan and Valerie Rice's stall at the market in Fethard.

Square. The market was subsequently transferred to the Town Hall where the weekly country market is now held every Friday morning. Some senior citizens still refer to the Town Hall as the 'Market House', the name by which it was commonly known up to forty years ago.

Following the success of the market some stallholders have continued to sell their goods on Thursday mornings and are very well supported by the local community. *



Rev. Canon George A. Knowd held his final service in Old St. Mary's Church, Clonmel, on 2nd July, before a packed congregation of appreciative friends. The Clonmel Union of Parishes — Clonmel, Cahir, Fethard, Tullaghmeelan and Inishlounaght — organised the Service of Farewell and Thanksgiving to mark his retirement. L to R: Rev Jenny Crowley, Rev Arthur Carter, Dean Philip Knowles; Mayor of Clonmel, Cllr Phil Prendergast; Rev. Canon George A. Knowd, Gwen Knowd, Canon Nicholas Power P.P. and Fr Colm O'Brien C.C. We wish George and Gwen a happy retirement in their new home in Fethard.



Members of Fethard Country Markets photographed at their Friday morning market held in the Town Hall Fethard. L to R: Dave Curran, Marie Moclair, Mai Kennedy, Hannie Leahy, Christy Williams and Maura Meaney.



Mary Morrissey, originally from St. Patrick's Place and now living in England, played with her band on Sunday 6th August in the Fethard Arms to a large appreciative crowd of friends and supporters. The band also played at this year's Fethard London Reunion. Mary is photographed above with her band. L to R: Mick O'Donnell (lead), Victor Allen (bass), Mary Morrissey (vocals), Phil Overhead (drums) and Brendan Kavanagh (keyboards).



Liam Hayes, Redcity, displaying some of his hurleys all hewn locally from Irish Ash. Liam and his nephew, Eamon, a skilled wood turner of many years, came together in 2005 to form 'Hayes Premier Hurleys' as a partnership with their wives Joan and Mary.

Shocked by councillors' decision!

On Monday 6th February 2006, South Tipperary councillors decided, by the chairman's casting vote, to go ahead with the controversial Rocklow Road/ Strylea Proposed Housing Development of 20 houses and 10 serviced sites — phase one of a development of approximately 92 houses in total. At a public meeting in Fethard on the same night, residents were amazed to hear that a party 'whip' had been enforced to pass the decision and that as a result Fethard community representatives were not given the opportunity to address the council members.

Fethard community stressed they had no objection to social housing in Fethard and indeed would welcome social and affordable housing if they were integrated into the new proposed housing developments on the Killenaule Road, Kerry Street and Cloneen Road.

Fethard & Killusty Community Council feel very strongly about the imbalance between public and private housing development to date in Fethard. Public housing schemes in Fethard (Woodvale Walk, Fr. Tirry Park, Canon Hayes Court, Slievenamon Close, Barrack Street and Kilnockin View) provide one hundred and eighty-one houses. In contrast, private housing schemes at that time consisted of approximately forty-six houses completed (Strylea, Cedar Grove, Cois Falla, Abbey Close). Since then, two more private

schemes have been completed adding approximately thirty-three more housing units. By including the (proposed) additional houses this increases the public housing stock to over 200 units – a ratio of almost 3:1. It was proposed by the Community Council that Fethard is being allocated a higher number of social housing units than many other towns in the county. Why?

South Tipperary County Council appear to have totally ignored the Feasibility Study undertaken in Fethard by Tipperary Institute that strongly recommends that:

"Proper housing and infrastructural development is crucial given the issues of poor quality of life and anti-social behaviour in some of the local authority estates. Any future housing development should not repeat the mistakes of clustering disadvantage and poor service provision reported in this research. Proper community participation in the planning and development of new housing and the development of adequate services pre-development is essential."

The community also expressed their concern that the location of the proposed 30 houses will compound Fethard's traffic problem that already exists on the Rocklow Road, The Green and Main Street.

The meeting was reported in the 'Tipperary Star' edition of the same



Some of the Fethard residents who attended a public meeting on Monday night following the Council's decision to go ahead with the proposed Strylea Housing Development..

week as follows:

"Councillors described the development of 20 houses and eight serviced sites, at Strylea, as a "thorny issue". Cllr Michael O'Brien said the lane where it is proposed to build these homes has a lot of antisocial behaviour. He said the Council was inundated with people looking for houses in Fethard and there are currently 67 applications for the town. He was in favour of the development but asked for the Council's decision to be postponed to give local people time to meet with the Council.

County Manager, Ned O'Connor, explained to the meeting that councillors could only change the plan in line with planning regulations. A decision had been deferred before and time was running out to make a decision.

Mr O'Connor said it would be inappropriate to bring a group of residents before the full Council meeting. He said there are currently more than 60 people on the housing list for Fethard.

By the time these houses are finished, in two years, there could be over 100 on that list. The Council have no other land in Fethard.

Mr O'Connor told councillors that it would be a serious dereliction of duty not to provide housing in Fethard. Councillors were divided on whether the plan should be approved or deferred for another month.

"We know these houses are going to be built anyway. I see no benefit in playing games with something that is a fait accompli," said Cllr Tom Ambrose. Cllr Pat English disagreed, saying the people of Fethard deserved a chance to come in before the Council before a decision is made. Cllr Michael Fitzgerald said he would not be voting against the houses but believed the people were entitled to a hearing. It is not a 'fait accompli', he said.

Cllr Joe Donovan asked if they did meet with residents would it just be "political gamesmanship", because no one was going to vote against the

houses.

Cllr Ambrose said it was “nauseating” and he never thought he would see the day when parties would put off building houses. “There have been five or six meetings with these people, we know that nothing is going to change. Let’s do the job we were elected to do,” he said.

Mr O’Connor agreed there had been “more than adequate” consultation. A vote of all councillors present was taken but when that resulted in 11 in favour of a deferral and 11 in favour of approving the development it was the casting vote of Chairman Derry Foley, who had already voted in favour of the development going ahead, that concluded the matter.”

Our conclusion is that “fait accompli” was, unfortunately, the most relevant explanation why the Fethard community representatives were not

allowed to express their concerns to the elected councillors at their monthly meeting, and that while their opinion was sought through the public consultation process, it was effectively ignored.

The councillors and deputies who attended meetings giving the Community Council a fair hearing were: Cllrs John Fahey, Denis Landy, the late Michael O’Brien, Susan Meagher, Pat English, Mattie McGrath, Deputy Seamus Healy and Deputy Tom Hayes, who all attended meetings in Fethard.

We often wonder why engineers, council officials, councillors, are totally exempt from responsibility for the long-term effects of bad decisions that may effect communities and the lives of those who live there! And, if they were held responsible for all their decisions — would they still make them without research? *

Fethard Senior Citizens Club

The Fethard Senior Citizens Club is alive and kicking with new members joining all the time. Presently we have sixty lively members and we meet monthly at the Tirry Centre, which is like home from home where all our creature comforts are catered for.

On Valentine’s Day we went for a leisurely browse at the new shopping centre in Clonmel. The shopping centre is located at the ‘Poppy Fields’ on the Cahir road. We followed this with a lovely tea at the

Slievenamon Golf Club.

A visit to Dungarvan at Easter time was enjoyed by all and in June we did a tour of Bunratty Castle. It was nice to see all the old crafts of butter-making, bread-baking, spinning and weaving being demonstrated. We enjoyed a lovely dinner at the Ramada Hotel on our way home.

In August we went to Tramore which seems to be an old favourite haunt. As the weather was so nice we packed our swimwear and towels and headed off. After a fun-filled

day we had a lovely tea at the golf club.

In October we enjoyed a trip down memory lane when Larry Kenny showed photographs of people who lived and worked in Fethard and surrounding areas, some of whom are still hale and hearty and others who have passed on to their eternal reward.

At present we are busy preparing for our Christmas party which will

be held in the Anner Hotel. During the other months we always enjoy lovely sandwiches and cakes and we play bingo, listen to music, and the talks and demonstrations from guest speakers are always top class.

All in all we enjoy each other's company and look forward eagerly to our monthly meetings. On behalf of the committee and members I extend a happy and peaceful Christmas to one and all. *

Bill Cantwell Remembers

These are a few of Bill Cantwell, memories of Fethard some seventy years ago. Bill now lives in Florida, USA.

☛ *There used to be an old man from The Valley walking around the street and the only name he was known as was, "Pig's Head and Cabbage".*

☛ *Willie Anglim of Knockelly had the only motor-car between Fethard and Drangan.*

☛ *For one of the carnival parades, Louis O'Donnell persuaded Mary Purcell from Barrack Street, who was seventy years old at the time, to take part. He dressed her up in a jockey's outfit – cap, silks, boots and a whip put a card with the name "Gordon Richards" on her back and paraded her around the town on the back of the biggest horse he could find. People who remember it, still find it funny.*

☛ *Maggie Tobin from Knockelly*

bought a car and when she went to town she took her servant Kitty Moynihan with her and when she came to the Killenaule Road cross Kitty had to get out and check to make sure the coast was clear.

☛ *Nobody could figure out what the strange looking gadget with a pole and wires attached being put up on the roof of a pub in Lisonagh was. It turned out to be the antennae for the first television anyone had seen.*

☛ *The only telephone was the one in the post office and Miss Moran had to "crank it up" six or eight times to generate enough power to send a message.*

☛ *There were not many Protestant families in the area at that time but oddly enough five of them lived in the short distance between The Green and Saucestown. Mrs Thompson lived in the last house on the*

Green. The Holmes family lived in the Lodge, Canon Patton in the Rectory, Mrs. Kellett in the bungalow and the Hunt family a little further down the road. All were well-respected families even though Catholics were not

*allowed to enter the Protestant church grounds. Whether walking past those big steel gates would qualify as a mortal or venial sin nobody was sure, but either way, the faithful did not take any chances. **

*This is a message an Irish mother sent to her son in America.
It was told to a neighbour, Denis O'Leary, who was leaving for America.*

*Remember, Denis, all I bade you say,
Tell him we're well and happy, thank the Lord.
But of all our troubles since he went away,
Remember, lad, and never say a word.*

*Tell him the spotted heifer calved in May,
She died poor thing but that you needn't mind.
Nor how the driving rain destroyed the hay,
Just tell him God to us is always kind.*

*Be sure you tell him how the neighbours come
To cut the corn and store it in the barn.
'Tivould be as well to mention them by name,
Pat Murphy, Ned Magroo and James Magorn.
And big Jim Daly from behind the hill,
But say again; oh, say we miss him still.*

*Tell him poor Pincer (the sheepdog) fretted many a day,
Ah, poor old fellow sure he had liked to die.
Crouched by the roadside how he watched the way,
And sniffed at travellers as they passed him by.
Hail, rain or sunshine, 'twas all the same.
He listened for the foot that never came.*

*Tell him she was with us, he'll know who.
Mavourneen hasn't she the winsome eyes.
The darkest, deepest, bonniest blue,
That ever shone except in summer skies.
And such black hair it was the blackest hair,
That ever rippled o'er a neck so fair.*

*Give him my blessings morning, noon and night.
Tell him our prayers are offered for his good.
That he may keep his maker still in sight,
And firmly stand as his brave father stood.
True to his name, his country and his God.
Faithful at home and steadfast still abroad.*

Note: It is probably 100 years ago when that message was sent. — (Bill Cantwell)

Living on The Green

On Ordinance Maps of the early 20th century which I used to scan eagerly as a child, the Green was always referred to as the 'Fair Green'. I assumed that this was because at one time it was the venue for fairs, not the type which those of us who grew up in the 1940s and '50s remember as simply the sale of cattle but the fair redolent of medieval Europe. Presumably because Fethard was originally a Norman town it must have received a charter allowing it to hold a fair and this may well have occurred on some saint's feast day. Such events were characterised by

the arrival of those sorts of traders whose wares were not usually available in the town as well as entertainers like clowns, jugglers, tumblers and the like. The local council took a great interest in the conduct of these events, they brought revenue to the area in the form of license fees, which visiting traders and entertainers had to pay to participate, they attracted huge numbers of visitors to the area and were generally good for business. They also attracted thieves, confidence tricksters and the usual motley collection of ruffians and scoundrels to add temporarily to the indigenous



Bloody Sunday survivor Frank 'Scout' Butler photographed with friends from The Green c.1940s. L to R: Paddy 'Creamy Top' Daniel, Willie 'Doheny' Sayers, and Frank 'Scout' Butler.

breed. Consequently, the town fathers were alert to the dangers and strengthened their law enforcement facilities for the duration. Justice was rendered swiftly and often brutally by 'pie powder' courts and evil-doers were put in their place. Medieval fairs brightened the often dull and drab existence of the medieval town dweller and introduced him to wholly different characters whom they would otherwise never have encountered.

My grand-uncle Mick used to tell me that the Green was the place where the visiting circuses performed before the Barrack Field became available. Each year Duffy's and Fossett's circuses arrived for a day, offering two performances at 4pm and 8pm. By early the following morning they were on their way to the next town and often exhorted people to attend today with the caption, 'Here today, gone tomorrow'. In this way, at least, the connection with the medieval fair was somewhat tenuously maintained.

Fethard's 'Fair Green', by the time I came to know it, had nothing about it to suggest it might have been the site of exotic medieval gatherings. For one thing the eastern side of it had houses on it, all of which had been built in the 1920s and '30s. A continuous line of these stretched from the corner of the lane from where I first began to notice events to the spot which now accommodates 'Trehy's Garage'. Some were built by the county council, others

by the British Government as accommodation for ex-servicemen. Those on the lane were of a riper age, possibly a few hundred years old and in one of these I grew up.

I remember that during the eighteen years I lived there, there were relatively few people on the lane. Apart from the eight of us there was Tom O'Donnell, or Tom Dannel as we called him and his nephew Tommy. Tom worked for the county council. On one occasion I recall seeing him work in the quarry at Crampscastle. At the time the council used it to extract grit to lay on the roads and the sound of blasting and rock-crushing added a little excitement to an otherwise humdrum existence. Tommy worked as a tailor for O'Flynn's who at that time operated a thriving business in bespoke suits and jackets and with a large and well-heeled clientele. Their house had a thatched roof whose quality was, I remember, rather suspect. Creating a new thatched roof involved the next of our neighbours.

Frank Butler, 'Scout' Butler to those of his own age, lived just a few yards away. In his youth he had been a notable footballer. He played in goal for Fethard and there are numerous photographs of him in that role still in homes in the town. His moment of fame or perhaps tragedy came in November 1920. Tipperary were playing Dublin at Croke Park. It was at the height of the War of Independence. Early on the morning of the match Michael Collins

had arranged the elimination of fourteen British agents who, he believed, threatened his organisation and his scheme was executed with ruthless efficiency. That afternoon, as a reprisal, the Black and Tans fired on the crowd attending the game and fourteen people, including Michael Hogan, a Tipperary player, were killed. Frank was caught up in the general pandemonium which resulted. Accosted by an Auxiliary he was asked, "Where is your gun, Paddy"? His retort was unexpected and to the point. "I left it in Flanders". Being able to tell his interrogator his regiment and unit probably saved his life. Frank had served during the Great War and he bore the scars to prove it. His arms bore the burn marks of exposure to mustard gas and he was lucky to have come through this incident with his life for others were not so lucky and died agonising deaths if they inhaled it.

Frank did many jobs to keep body and soul together but it is in the trade of thatcher I remember him. Tom Dannell's house had a thatched roof so too did Frank's and our's, only they had been covered over with galvanised iron several years before I was born. Tom's had not and it required periodic re-thatching to keep it waterproof. Frank Butler was the thatcher and I occasionally watched him at work. Long fibred straw was the main material. By the time I began to appreciate such niceties this was

extremely hard to obtain. In the days when corn was cut by reaper and binder it was plentiful. The arrival of the combine harvester, apart from giving 'The Wurzels' a subject for a pop music hit, deprived thatchers like Frank of their basic raw material. It cut stalks of corn quite high up and also crushed and bruised the material, making it largely useless for thatching. Some tradesmen resorted to river reed, others tried to obtain straw from abroad. However, seeing Frank thatch Tom Dannell's house fascinated me and I can still see him cutting long hazelwood sticks and pointing and sharpening them to thrust them into the bundles of straw and wind them round to secure the material in place. The result was a golden brown roof which soon weathered into a grey mass and was both waterproof and warm for, in the days before energy conservation became the norm, a thatched roof was regarded as the ultimate insulation.

Tom Dannell died in the mid 1960s, his nephew did not survive him by very long. A few years later Frank Butler had followed him and by then Fethard's band of Great War veterans was in single figures. However, I can still see him working away at his thatching and occasionally telling of his exploits on the Western Front, that is, if you got him in the humour to do so. *

Tommy Healy



The above photograph was taken in March 1936 of Kate Cantwell's shop in Burke Street (beside the late Dick Hayes's house). Kate Cantwell's daughter was Peggy (Cantwell) McCarthy, Burke Street.



This photograph of a procession on The Square was supplied by Michael Stokes. You will notice the name R. Power Racing Office on the corner building. This was probably the first betting office to close due to lack of business! (Date unknown, maybe 1930s)

Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic



The late Frank Purcell photographed with Annette Murphy on 3rd September 2005

It was an honour and a privilege for me on behalf of the Purcell family, to be associated with the annual event which, this year, was renamed the Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic. We are deeply proud that Frank's memory will be kept alive by such a worthy venture.

To be perfectly honest, I wasn't aware of Frank's connection with the event until after his untimely death on Monday 13th February 2006. It is not surprising really; Frank was a great talker, but he never believed in blowing his own trumpet.

The Golf Classic was set up in 2003 as a fundraiser for TRUST, that magnificent charity which provides

such a practical service for the homeless in Dublin. Just imagine, more than €50,000 has been raised since its inception in 2003. Isn't it really inspiring to think that such an amount has come from South Tipp for a charity founded by a young nurse from Fethard more than thirty years ago.

When Frank became aware of the work being done for the homeless by Alice Leahy he, typically, set about doing something to help. He enlisted the help of his good friend Jasper Murphy and the first Golf Classic got under way here just short of three years ago.

If you are not too fully informed of what TRUST does, take a little time out to pop into their very informa-

tive web site at www.trust-ireland.ie One of the most striking elements of their work is the absolute insistence that everybody using their service is treated as a person. Nobody is a number, a statistic or even a client. Each one is a person who wasn't as lucky in life as others, but TRUST will treat him or her with the dignity that is due to every human person.

The work isn't easy and the work isn't glamorous. If it were, sure wouldn't everybody be doing it? But thank God, there are generous people with high ideals and big hearts who can see the beauty behind temporary grime. It is the work of TRUST to eradicate as much grime as it can.

This year's Classic is expected to make over €20,000 and I want to

compliment the people who work so thoroughly to make the event the success it undoubtedly is. Jasper Murphy, Chris Coen, John Leahy, Vincent Woodlock and Brendan Kenny form an excellent committee; you have seen the fruits of their work for yourselves. And for me, personally, the involvement of Babs Keating is a particular thrill.

Once again I want to thank you all for supporting what is now known as The Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic. I cannot tell you how proud the Purcell family is that Frank's good name has become indelibly linked with such an excellent cause. May it continue to enjoy even greater success in the years ahead, all for the benefit of Tipp's great gift to Dublin —TRUST. *

Cha Purcell



Photographed at the presentation of prizes at the Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic are L to R: John Lonergan, Brendan Kenny, Alice Leahy (Trust Charity) and Annette Murphy.

Nano Nagle National School



Staff of Nano Nagle National School photographed at Christmas Outing 2005. Back L to R: Mary McGinn, Ann Marie Harty, Sr. Juliana, Rita Kenny, Mary Hanrahan, Margaret Gleeson, Ann D'Arcy, Aoife Gleeson. Front L to R: Fr. Tom Breen PP, Sr. Maureen Power (Principal) and Maureen Maher (Vice-Principal).

Staff members at Nano Nagle National School in 2006 are: 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 Aoife Gleeson, Learning Support Teacher, Mrs Peg McGarry, Resource Teacher, Ms Lorraine de Lacy, High Support Unit, Ms Ann-Marie Harty, Special Needs Assistant, Mrs. Anne D'Arcy, Secretary and Mr Willie Ryan, Caretaker. Sr. Julianna of the Presentation Order also assists us on a voluntary basis and we very much appreciate the time she

spends with us. Mary Sayers who had been with us for over thirty years retired in June and we wish her well in her retirement.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Sr. Mary Macnamara on 19th June 2006. Sr. Mary had retired just one short year earlier in July 2005 after thirty-seven years teaching in Nano Nagle N.S. Throughout her last year, even while she battled her illness, she stayed in constant touch with us taking a fervent interest in everything relating to school and our pupils. Sr. Mary will be remembered for the dedication she brought to every aspect of her teaching career, her professionalism, her superb organisational skills and her attention to detail.

Having taught sixth class for many years, Sr. Mary became resource teacher for the last five years before retirement and she brought that same dedication and commitment to this most challenging role. Sr. Mary was a valued member of our school community and she is sadly missed by all of us. The Parents Association have paid a lasting tribute to Sr. Mary by planting in her memory a magnolia and a Snowy Mespilus in the school grounds.

Their flowering in years to come will serve as a timely reminder of one who served her school community so well and who enabled so many pupils to reach their potential under her tutelage. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dhilis

The current Parents' Association comprises: Mandy Quigley (Chairperson), Siobhán Burke (Secretary), Carmel Kiely (Treasurer), Kate Phelan, Selina Gleeson, Helena Delany, Cathy



Fethard Nano Nagle Junior Infants Class 2006. Back L to R: Ms Margaret Gleeson (teacher), Laura Kiely (Garrinch), Kyle Allen (Ard Álainn), Richard Anglim (Kilnockin), Daragh Hurley (Strylea), Aaron Trehy (Barrack Street), Andrew Phelan (Slievenamon Close). Third Row L to R: Emma Jayne Burke (Sladagh Cross), Rachel Prout (Woodvale Walk), Cian Hennessy (Kilnockin View), Adam O'Sullivan (Woodvale Walk), Megan Ryan (Woodvale Walk). Second Row L to R: Ben Murphy (Monroe), Lucy Spillane (Tullamaine), Sinéad Regan (Woodvale Walk), Chloe Nolan (Canon Hayes Court), Megan Hackett (Cashel Road), Robert Hackett (Cashel Road). Front L to R: Alison Connolly (Tullamaine), Audrea Pike (Woodvale Walk), Megan Earl (Slievenamon Close), Ashley Bradshaw (St. Patrick's Place), Ryan Butler (Woodvale Walk) and Maggie Fitzgerald (Coleman Cross).



Sixth Class 2006 at Nano Nagle National School. Back L to R: Ann Marie Harty (classroom assistant), Deirdre Dwyer, Chloe Byrne, Katie Baker, Lucinda Carroll, Mary Ellen O'Reilly, Molly O'Dwyer, Rita Kenny (teacher). Front L to R: Aoibhlinn Delany, Amy Pollard, Chloe Gleeson, Lucy Butler and Nicole Looby.

Tobin, Helena O'Shea, Fiona Ryan, Mary Prout, Valerie Rice, Alice Butler, Jackie Flynn and Bridget Hayes. Our Parents' Association is involved in various events throughout the year: the annual cake sale in October, table quiz, 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.

The implementation of the revised curriculum continues apace and this year the teachers will receive in-service in Drama and SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education) as well as school development planning days.

As part of the Department of Education & Science's reorganisation of learning support and resource allocations our school is now 'clustered' with Cloneen N.S. which has afforded us an opportunity to work with another school community to the benefit of all.

Confirmation took place in Holy Trinity Parish church on 12th May when 69 pupils from the parish were confirmed by Archbishop Dermot Clifford. Fifteen 2nd Class pupils made their First Holy Communion on 20th May.

Our pupils are going swimming again this year and athletics has also figured prominently during the first term with our pupils competing in Thurles. Céilí dancing will resume next term and we hope to focus on

basketball and football skills in the third term. Throughout the school year the children participate in a number of local and national art and writing competitions and we are pleased to report that they have had considerable success in their endeavours.

Promoting environmental awareness also continues with ongoing recycling of cans, mobile phones 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 has matured and is now a great resource for the school as it contains a wide variety of trees, with a special emphasis on the native species. Mr Liam Burke, naturalist, has taken all the classes in turn on 'nature' walks around the school and teachers and pupils alike have enjoyed the experience. Liam has also taken the senior classes further afield to Grove Wood and a future trip to Glengarra Woods is in the offing.

The older pupils have also made a number of visits to the County Library and the County Museum in Clonmel. Their most recent outing was to observe Tibetan monks constructing a sand Mandala in the County Museum. Mandalas are part of the artistic tradition of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism entailing painting pictures using coloured sand. The Mandala is constructed to bring peace and harmony to our world

generating positive qualities through mediation. This afforded the girls an interesting insight into the beliefs of another culture.

Our school tours took place as usual in June with the Junior and Senior Infants visiting 'Parson's Green' while the rest of the pupils went to the new Adventure Centre in Tipperary Town. A great time was had by all!

One of the highlights of the past school year was 3rd & 4th Classes' participation in the Junction Festival in Clonmel. The children took Enid Blyton's book, 'The Faraway Tree', as their theme and, facilitated by local artist, Ms Patricia Looby, they created a montage of weaving and collage that was displayed as a banner during the festival. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and the project is now on display in our school hall.

All classes are currently busily preparing for our Christmas Show which will take place on 13th, 15th & 17th December in the Abymill Theatre. This is one of the most enjoyable of our school ventures and we can safely say that it brings pleasure to participants and audiences alike.

As we prepare for Christmas 2006, 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



Staff photographed at their Christmas outing 2005. L to R: Helena Delany, Carmel Lonergan, Aisling Ryan, Patricia Treacy (Principal) and Eileen Fitzgerald.



Sixth Class pupils St Patrick's Boys' School, 2006. Back L to R: Kieran Walsh, David Hayes, Eugene Walsh, Cathal Hurley, Eoin Walsh. Front L to R: Ciarán O'Meara, Ronan Fitzgerald, Mark Fogarty, Dylan Fitzgerald and Adam O'Donnell. Missing from photograph are Dion Butler, Gerry Horan and Dylan Maher.

St. Patrick's National School had another busy year with the boys involved in such activities as swimming, football, hurling, soccer, athletics, etc. Rugby training has also begun after school every Thursday.

We would like to thank all who supported our fundraising events during the year, especially those who organised and supported our Monster Draw, the proceeds of which went towards the cost of re-surfacing the yard.

During Lent the pupils organised various events in school and raised €600 for the charity 'Bothar' —

enough to send two goats to needy families in the Third World. Last year's 6th class took charge of these events and we would like to wish them all the best as they further their education in their new secondary schools.

The most significant development this year has been the Minister for Education's long awaited announcement that we are to be amalgamated with Nano Nagle National School. At this stage we have no further details but we are really looking forward to this development. *



*St. Patricks School Fethard Under - 11 football team, County Champions December 1990.
Back row : Mick O'Connell (Kerry), Michael Costello, Michael Carroll, Adrian Kenrick,
Conor O'Donnell, Tom O'Connor, Joseph Keane, Robert Lawrence, Br. Raymond and
Eamon Dwyer (teacher). Middle Row: Conor McCarthy, Jason Nevin, Alan O'Meara, Nicky
Murphy, Desmond Ward, Cian Maher, M.J. Croke and Karl Maher. Front Row: John
Fitzgerald, Kevin O'Donnell, Aidan Fitzgerald, Michael Ahearne, Keith Woodlock and
Kenneth O'Donnell.*

Work for the Blind Remembered



Olivia Hughes, Muriel Gahan and Dolly O'Keeffe at a Council for the Blind meeting

At Magorban church on 11th September, Cashel Branch of the National Council of the Blind organised the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the National Organisation.

A special plaque was unveiled in

memory of members of the Armitage family (formerly of Noan, Ballinure), and also in memory of Mrs Quinn. Mrs Iva de Wilton, niece of Miss Doris Armitage, unveiled the plaque.

The plaque reads as follows:

*In Commemoration Of Dr Thomas Rhodes Armitage M.D. 1824-1890,
Founder of the Royal National Institute for the Blind London 1868
And promoter of Braille Literature.*

*Miss Doris Mary Rhodes Armitage, 1901-1979,
Former President of the National Council for the Blind and Cashel Branch.
Dr James Sinclair Quin, 1897-1980 and Dr Nancy Quin, 1899-1989,
Founder of the little shop for the Blind.*

*Who are all interred this cemetery
Also in memory of Thomas' daughter Miss Alice Stanley Armitage 1869-1949.
Founder of the National Council for the Blind of Ireland 1931
Who died at Chertsey, Surrey 30 August, 1949*

Members of the National Council for the Blind, Mrs Quin's Charity Shop, the local community and former friends and connections of the

Armitage family were in attendance. Sadly no relatives of Mrs Quin were traced. Wreaths were laid on the graves of Dr Thomas Rhodes

Armitage and Mrs Nancy Quin by Mrs Iva de Wilton and Mrs Jane Grubb.

The commemoration was held in conjunction with Magorban church's annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This service was taken by Dean Philip Knowles assisted by Canon Liam Ryan and Rev Ian Knox to a packed church. Addresses were given by Mrs Majorie Quarton, P.R.O. Mrs Quin Charity Shop, Mr Des Kenny, C.E.O. National Council for the Blind and Mr Frank Callery, researcher, who all paid tribute to the work done in the past to help the blind.

The music was provided by Mrs Marion Thompson who played the harmonium and also by Mr Louis

Clifton Brown, flautist. A collection was made and donated to the Fight for Sight Movement, which needed funds.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and farm produce. Aromatic rosemary leaves were scattered on the porch floor so that those unfortunate enough to be blind might at least smell the decorations.

It was a glorious sunny autumn day which allowed those attending to relax and for some to remember their associations with Noan over 25 years ago or more. All attending were invited to tea at Mobarnane House kindly facilitated by Mr and Mrs Richard Craik-White. *



Greyhound enthusiasts outside Bourke's house Tullamaine. L to R: Derry O'Dwyer, Mick Bourke, Joan Bourke, John Bourke, Carmel Bourke, Michael Croke and Martin Bourke.

Fethard: A Quality Shopping Destination



Emily Sayers at the health food section of her new delicatessen in Burke Street.

A study carried out in 2002 undertook a case study of Fethard to document the Changes in the Traditional Retail Sector. Findings from this study showed that between 1975 and 2002 there was a startling decline of 59% in the number of shops in the town. We are glad to report that the tide has turned. Since last year's publication a number of new businesses have opened in Fethard.

Emily's Delicatessen opened in Burke Street on Saturday 8th April last. This is a specialist food shop offering a wide range of fresh fine foods and home-baked products. Breakfast, lunch and dinner can be purchased as well as a wide variety of snacks – savoury and sweet, desserts, cakes, breads and beverages.

Emily's Delicatessen also stocks a wide variety of other food products – select ingredients for those who enjoy cooking for themselves; a selection of frozen dishes which can be cooked at home; speciality foods that cater for specific dietary requirements and a variety of artisan foods sourced from national and European producers. The business is open from 8am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, and from 8am to 5.30pm on Saturdays. The proprietor, Emily Sayers, ensures that only the highest quality ingredients are used in the kitchen. She demands superior produce from her suppliers to enable her to provide superior products for her customers. 'Quality' is paramount. Emily has chosen the Irish phrase

'Bia d'en scoth' (the Choicest Food) as the maxim for her business – this indeed says it all.

Haute Couture has been available in Fethard since Thursday 7th September when a new exclusive designer boutique 'Opera on the Square' opened for business. Proprietor of this stylish shop is Bernie Maher. The clothes rails in Opera are abundant with this season's wear from such illustrious European designers as Christian Lacroix, Louis Feraud, Maria Grazia Severi, Jean Paul, Daniel Blake and, the BT Irish Designer of the year, Joanne Hynes. To compliment these items, the shelves of Opera are adorned with hats and other creations from the renowned milliner, Philip Treacy. Designer bags, shoes and boots from the acclaimed designer Lulu Guinness are evident too. A selection of hand-

crafted jewellery – exclusively created for Opera – by Kenmare jeweller, Miranda de Barra, is available to complete any outfit. Opera also stock quality bags and accessories from the Irish-made Chesneau range. This elegant boutique is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm.

Meagher's Londis was officially opened on Saturday 16th September. This business combines the relocation of Meagher's Garage to the premises formerly occupied by O'Riordan's at Kerry Street, with a convenience shop. Car sales and servicing, puncture repairs, petrol and diesel, fuel and car-washes are all available on the forecourt. The Londis shop is a fine example of a modern shop offering a wide variety of fast moving consumer goods and grocery products in addition to hot and cold deli, newspapers, mag-



The new stylish 'Opera' boutique, specialising in ladies occasional wear, that opened on Friday 8th September, on Main Street, Fethard, run by Bernie Maher.



Photographed at the opening of Meagher's Filling Station shop at Kerry Street, Fethard, are L to R: Fr Tom Breen PP, Eoin Kelly, who officially opened the shop, Claire and Ian Meagher with their children, baby Rhiannon and Graham.

azines and wine. This business is open seven days a week from 7am to 10pm. Referring back to the study, its findings indicated that between 1988 and 1998 the numbers of garages with shops in Ireland increased from 673 to 1429. There is no doubt that this figure has increased significantly since.

Morrissey Auctioneers are agents for local properties, mortgages and financial services. They also offer a selection of foreign properties and specialise in German, residential and commercial, investments. Having been agents for the previous two years, Morrissey Auctioneers opened an office on Main Street in October.

Wheelie Buzzin, which previously operated from the former creamery premises at Coolmoyn, relocated to the garage premises on the Green that became vacant when Meagher's Londis opened. Wheelie

Buzzin provides sales, service and repair of bicycles, quads and motorbikes. They also sell parts, accessories and clothing, petrol, diesel and fuel along with car-wash, puncture repair and servicing of garden equipment. Opening hours are 7am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday, and 9am to 9pm, Sundays and bank holidays.

Currently there are two new commercial units being developed on Main Street and up to eight more are at various stages of the planning process with South Tipperary County Council. We hope that this augurs well for the commercial revitalisation of Fethard and that the recommendations of the aforementioned study, which have been included in the Fethard Town Plan 2005, can be implemented to develop and promote Fethard as a Quality Shopping Destination. *

Beneath a Maternity Ward

(A Reflection) – Tom McCormack

*The sounds of silence filled the air.
An autumn moon shone clear and bright.
Nurses rushed with patient care
Comforting those who feared the night.
Lying in this narrow bed,
Passing thoughts of yesteryear,
Friends, relations long since dead
Times of laughter and of tears.
Dwelling then on God's grand plan –
The reason for our presence here –
The map drawn up for everyman
From birth until his final year.
I pondered long and hard on this.
I questioned God's all-reasoning might!
The answer came with startling bliss:
'A child cried out in the still of night'.*



Photo from the 1950s L to R: Denise Ashe, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Paddy Lonergan, Anthony Quinn, Tommy Whyte and Richard O'Brien



*Sean Gunne gave us this photograph of Fethard Patrician Brother's School taken c. 1920.
Sean's father, Jack Gunne, (3rd from left in front) was born on 19th Nov 1913.*



Kathleen and Thomas Conway c. 1976. Baby is Marie Gunne their godchild.

Jimmy's literary works

Jimmy O'Donnell, Sandyford, Dublin, and formerly of Crampscastle, sent us this composition 'Ploughing the Rocks of Bawn' which earned him an award in The Golden Pen Competition. This poem and another of Jimmy's work, 'Retiring

Labourer', was recorded on a CD 'The Road to Inishfree' which was produced exclusively for the American market. Jimmy also penned an award winning play, 'The Movements of Mr. Brooker', which won a Whitehead Prize among others. *

Ploughing the Rocks of Bawn

(In the west of Ireland, long gone by)

*An old clay pipe
Chalked the headland
Where he the furrowed ploughman
Would rest for bite and sup
On his throne of sop and fern
To the munching sound of oats and hay
By his seisreach
A white starred chestnut
and a red maned bay.*

*A sea of gulls in chorus wailing
Swarm from Claddagh's harbour wall
Scrambling webfoot for hungry bits
The ploughman's crumbled scraps.
All hope goes
Gulls squall and sheer away,
The journey's end.*

*Ploughman Rest
You toiled and tilled
With "Bit Off"
In rolled up sleeves
Socketed to horse powered hands,
Your coded language
A half closed eye
Well harnessed to the speed
Of the chiselling plough,
And weathering with "spurs on"*

*Against all the odds
Short heading and outcropping
The gustier hacks
Frothing from Atlantic's westerly winds.
It was crucial for you
To possess a world of your own
Your intimate nature controlling
Your gaeltacht's literary haunts
Cock-stepping the days
To swing in the air
A new born Spring
To plough the Rocks of Bawn.*

*Alone you stand
Your spirit landscapes
The white rocked haggards
Of natural art, a legacy
Silhouetted in a hushed
"Still Life"
Conversing with us
Rendering your artistic craft
Through the celestial body
Of the star-lit plough
Flanking a white starred chestnut
And a red maned bay
Stumbling out
"Past and Present"
Ploughing The Rocks of Bawn.*

Class of '76 School Reunion

Kevin Ryan



Fethard Leaving Cert Class Reunion of 1976 photographed at Slievenamon Golf Club. Back L to R: Margaret Ryan, Joan Kearney, Jacinta Kearney, Kevin Ryan, John Keane, Jim Butler, Josephine Moroney, Peggy Maher, Rita McCormack, Peggy Meehan, Liz Holohan, Noel Heffernan. Front L to R: Catherine Keane, Catherine Newport, Nonie O'Donovan, Noreen Guirey and Mary Morrissey.

The Leaving Certificate Class of 1976 held a reunion in Slievenamon Golf Club on Saturday 8th July 2006. This was our first class reunion in thirty years, and I think that most of us who came to Slievenamon Golf Club on the night came with a slight feeling of nervousness and trepidation, but we need not have worried. After the initial meeting and greeting, one only had to listen to the laughter and chatter coming from the tables to know that the evening was going to be a success. Unfortunately, many of our former classmates are now living far from home and could not attend, but as the night wore on and the drinks and conversation flowed, each and every one of them were

mentioned as many tales from school were shared.

I would like to extend some thank-yous to a few people who made the night such a memorable one, firstly to Mark and the staff at Slievenamon Golf Club who looked after us so well; to Jack Kenny, or DJ JK as he has been known since, whose selection of songs brought back memories of the school hops (how we could have done with his sophisticated and subdued lighting back then!); to Catherine Newport for all her hard work and last but not least, to all the class of '76 who made the effort to turn up on the night. If God spares us all the health, our next reunion will be in 2011. Until then, all the best. *

Abbey 700 Jubilee Celebrations

The Abbey 700 Jubilee celebrations began in Lent '05 and continued until the first Sunday of Lent '06. On 20th January, during Church Unity Octave week, this year's celebrations resumed with 'Songs of Praise' in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland.

Canon George Knowd welcomed a very large congregation from Fethard and surrounding areas. Visiting choirs from Cloneen, Drangan and Moyglass were welcomed by Mary Healy on behalf of The Abbey 700 Jubilee Committee.

Locally, the choirs of the Abbey and Parish churches combined for this unique occasion, as did the pupils of Nano Nagle and St. Patrick's schools. The children of Fifth and Sixth classes sang 'Go Tell Everyone', conducted by Ms. Rita Kenny, accompanied on guitar and trumpet by Ms Aoife Brady and Ms

Elaine Gleeson.

The combined choir of Drangan and Cloneen, accompanied by many talented musicians from their parish, sang 'We will Praise You', under the baton of Mary Noonan. Adhering to the theme of our celebration they later sang 'Come and Praise' as their second hymn. Moyglass choir, accompanied by organist Nora Grant, sang 'Glory and Praise to our God'. The Abbey and Parish choir sang Liam Lawton's 'Alleluia' prior to the Gospel reading. Later in the proceedings they sang 'The Church's One Foundation', directed by Fr. Peter Haughey and accompanied by Ann Kenrick Walsh.

The first soloist, Tina Whyte, sang 'Be still in the Presence of the Lord' to a hushed appreciative congregation. Following many well-known and much loved congregational



At "Songs of Praise" were L to R: Sr Bosco, Sr Celsus and Sr Clement

hymns, Jewel Burke enthralled all present with her rendition of 'Amazing Grace'. Kevin Hickey was accompanist to both soloists. Mary Noonan ably conducted all of the congregational singing.

The hymn singing was interspersed by the reading of reflections based upon the themes of peace, church unity, new beginnings, love of God and appreciating His gift of nature.

Mary Smyth, on behalf of the Jubilee 700 Committee, thanked everyone for their wholehearted participation, particularly the Holy Trinity church of Ireland committee for both decorating the church with floral arrangements and for the appetising refreshments they prepared for the entire congregation.

February 25th saw the Augustinian Abbey full to capacity

for the penultimate liturgical celebration when Fr. Joe Walsh returned to his native town to celebrate Mass for the young people of Fethard.

The opening hymn, 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High', was sung by fifth and sixth class pupils of Killusty National School, Nano Nagle National School and St. Patrick's Boys' National School. The primary pupils were accompanied by Miss Elaine Brady and Miss Aoife Gleeson, and conducted by Mrs Rita Kenny. Evelyn O'Connor read the first reading, the responsorial psalm was sung by Jewel Burke, and Suzanne Gorey read the second reading.

Fr. Joe Walsh, now based in Thurles, grew up in Knockbrett and is a past-pupil of the schools in Fethard. His uncle, another Fr. Joe Walsh, is an Augustinian ministering



Award winners in the "Abbey 700 Young Writer" primary schools competition L to R: Joseph Morgan (Killusty N.S.), Mark Fogarty (St. Patrick's N.S.), Cathal Hurley (St. Patrick's N.S.), Mary Jane Kearney (Nano Nagle N.S.), Mary-Anne Fogarty (Nano Nagle N.S.), and Lucy Butler (Nano Nagle N.S.).

in Echuca, Victoria, Australia. Fr. Joe visited his alma mater to assist in the preparation of his youth liturgy.

Mrs Marion Gilpin and Mr Dick Prendergast coordinated the wonderful contribution by the students of Patrician Presentation Secondary School. Aisling Dwyer and Laura Rice sang the gospel acclamation and, 'I am the Bread of Life', accompanied by Fintan Maher and Mike McCarthy on guitar, together with Kevin Hickey, organist for the night.

In his homily, Fr. Joe spoke directly to the youth and at the close received a rapturous applause from the huge congregation. The 'Prayers of the Faithful' were recited by Siobhán O'Brien, Stephen Brady, Joseph Sheehan (2nd Year), Dylan Fitzgerald (St. Patrick's Boys School), Rebecca O'Donnell (Nano Nagle N.S.) and Lee Ann Sheehan (Killusty N.S.). The offertory gifts were presented to Fr. Joe by Chloe Gough (3rd Year), Ciarán Ryan (3rd Year), Adam O'Donnell (St. Patrick's Boys N.S.), Michelle Walsh (Killusty N.S.) and Edel O'Sullivan (Nano Nagle N.S.), while Jillian O'Connell read the commentary.

The primary school students sang a beautiful rendition of, 'Hear Me Call You'.

Prior to communion Jewel Burke sang 'Jesus, Oh Jesus'. Jodie Gilpin sang 'The Cloud's Veil' during communion, its lyrics echoing the words spoken by Fr. Joe in his homily, "Never give up, Jesus is by your side".

Before mass concluded Fr. Joe

invited the examination students of 3rd and 6th year to take a votive candle and a prayer card to assist them through this challenging year.

Fr. Peter Haughey OSA, thanked Fr. Joe, the teachers, the organising committee and everyone who prepared for or participated in the special liturgy for the youth of Fethard. The young people shared their many God-given talents so admirably within the historic Abbey walls, the congregation applauded spontaneously many times during this memorable ceremony.

Mass ended with an uplifting "Hallelujah" sung by Jewel Burke and Jodie Gilpin, joined by Adam O'Donnell, Laura Rice and Aisling Dwyer of the Patrician Presentation Secondary School.

Following mass the results of the "Abbey 700 Young Writer" competition for primary schools were announced. Fr. Peter Haughey OSA presented the prizes to the winners: 1st Nicholas Cleverly (Killusty N.S.), 2nd Lucy Butler (Nano Nagle N.S.), and certificates to those highly commended: Cathal Hurley, Mark Fogarty, Noel O'Brien of St. Patrick's Boys School Fethard; Mary-Anne Fogarty and Mary Jane Kearney of Nano Nagle National School Fethard; and Joseph Morgan of Killusty National School.

Congratulations to all of the above and well done to all the students of 5th and 6th class who gave of their time and energy to compose very impressive poetry and

essays about the life of Blessed William Tirry OSA.

On March 5th, the Jubilee celebrations, to commemorate 700 years of Augustinian presence in Fethard, came to a memorable conclusion with the unveiling of a memorial statue to Blessed William Tirry OSA.

Fr. Gerry Horan, Prior Provincial, was chief celebrant at the 11.30am Concelebrated Mass. Co-concelebrants were Fr. Tom Breen PP, Fr. Peter Haughey OSA, Prior, and Fr. John Meagher OSA. Several Augustinians from other priories came to Fethard for the final liturgical celebration of the Jubilee Year, Fr. Malachy Loughran, Fr. Crean, Fr. P. Cooney and Fr. John O'Connor were among the visiting Augustinian priests.



Fr. John Meagher OSA unveiling and blessing the statue of Blessed William Tirry



Fr. Malachy Loughran OSA talking to local craftsman David Gorey on his carving of Blessed William Tirry.

Cashel Brass and Reed band played outside the Abbey before Mass to welcome the congregation. Beautiful flower arrangements created by Valerie Rice and Mandy Quigley adorned both the altar and the new statue of Blessed William Tirry.

As the priests entered the Abbey, the choir sang a hymn to St. Augustine, accompanied by organist Kathleen Kenny. Vincent Doocey read the readings of the first Sunday of Lent. Fr. Timothy Walsh OSA read the Gospel. After Communion Fr. Gerry called upon Fr. John Meagher OSA to bless and to unveil the specially commissioned wooden statue, sculpted in Fethard by David Gorey. The statue stands on a limestone plinth designed and created by Jerome Lennon of Lisronagh.

Above the statue hangs a beautiful banner incorporating the crests of Fethard and Cork and the dates 1305–2005. Mrs Nelly Ryan laid a wreath at the site where blessed William is buried, close to the door of the 'Shrine' or Mother of Good Counsel chapel.

After the blessing, Fr. Peter Haughey presented plaques to Cormac Grogan and to Colm Horan, winners of the secondary schools 'Jubilee's Young Writer Competition'. He also presented certificates to those who won second prize and to entrants who were highly commended.

Fr. Haughey thanked the Jubilee committee for their dedication to the successful running of a year of events to mark the Augustinians' 700 years in Fethard. The guests and the congregation were invited to the Abymill for tea, refreshments and a gathering of friends after mass.

Gus Fitzgerald, chairman of the Jubilee committee, thanked the Augustinians for seven centuries of service to the people of Fethard and surrounding parishes. In remembering Blessed William we also recall with gratitude the many Augustinian Fathers who ministered caringly in Fethard's Abbey down through the centuries.

As the clergy and congregation departed the choir sang 'Blessed William, you lived and died for Christ, Like you may we be steadfast in faith and grace....'

Every member of the committee called upon the talents of friends, colleges and relatives to assist us in enriching each liturgical celebration. Those friends and helpers filled the Jubilee year with goodwill and generosity of heart and spirit. We are truly grateful. Together we enacted the seanfhocal, 'Ní neart go cur le chéile', 'In unity there is strength'. *



Prizewinners in the Young Writers Competition for Secondary Schools Back L to R: Cormac Grogan (1st in Category C), Cian Grogan, Liam Ryan. Front L to R: David Gorey, Ida Carroll, Jane Kenny, Colm Horan (1st in Category B), Owen Healy and Emma Walsh.

Marriages

Weddings in the Parish

Joseph Looby, 16 St. Patrick's Place and Sarah J. Colby
 Brian Morgan, Carrighthill, Cork and Aisling Aherne, Monroe
 Sean Foran, Longwood, Co. Meath, and Olivia Phelan, Strylea
 Richard Thompson, Dunfermline, Scotland, and Lorraine Morrissey, Tullow
 Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Clogheen and Edwina McGrath, Kilnockin
 James Smith, Cashel Road, and Deirdre H. Brady, St. Patrick's Place
 Eamon Power, Dungarvan, and Helen Morrissey, St. Patrick's Place
 William McGarry, Clonmel, and Alison McCarthy, Clonmel
 Patrick Kavanagh, Kilkenny, and Barbara Luttrell, Callan
 Declan Browne, Clerihan and Niamh Sheehan, Garrinch
 Dara Holmes, Cashel, and Mary Gazley, Cashel
 Gerard Reilly, Littleton, and Kathleen Cawley, Fethard
 Roger Daly, St. Patrick's Place, and Elaine O'Connell, Coolmoyne
 Oliver Woodlock, Fethard, and Melanie Sheehan, Clerihan
 Páraic McCormack, Ballinure, and Mary B. Barry, Tullamaine
 Eugene Blanchfield, Kilsheelan, and Shona Coen, Killusty
 Shane Byrne, Clonmel, and Susan McLoughlin, Strylea
 Paul Moroney, Clonmel, and Niamh Kenny, Barrack Street
 Brian Moore, Killusty, and Bridget Holohan, Killusty

Weddings outside the Parish

Tommy O'Brien, Redcity, to Liz Tobin, Kilenahone
 Cecelia Walsh and Donal Mulrooney, Corrandulla, Galway
 Ken Lee, Killusty, and Sineád Hyland, Knockgraffon, New Inn
 Ciaran Hayes, Killerk, and Natalie Onslow, Bath, England
 Donnacha Prendergast, Brodeen, and Yvonne Laffey, Newtownforbes
 Eric O'Donnell, Monroe, and Ailbhe Kinsella, Leixlip, Co. Kildare
 Conor O'Donnell, Slanestown, and Breda Burke, Cloneen
 Jean-Marc Magret, Kiltinan, and Clarisse Boisgard, France
 Alan Roche, Cedar Grove, and Edel Fitzgerald, Clonmel
 John Walsh, Coolmoyne, and Maura Murphy, Kerry
 Darren Dengel, Strylea and Helen Kennedy, Strylea,
 James Ward, Cork, and Michelle Cummins, Everardsgrange
 Olivia Hazel, Mobarnane, and Oliver Blaque, Carrick-on-Suir
 Michael Knightly, Cullen, and Aine Wright, Killerk
 Francis Minogue and Ita Lonergan, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare
 Thomas Magnier, Coolmore, and Sophie Penfold, UK
 Edward Barry, Tullamaine, and Anne Molloy, New Ross.



Ailbhe Kinsella and Eric O'Donnell



Michelle Cummins and James Ward



Olivia Phelan and Sean Foran



Kathleen Cawley and Gerard Reilly



Yvonne Laffey & Donnacha Prendergast



Aine Wright and Michael Knightly



Niamh Kenny and Paul Moroney



Mary Barry and Páraic McCormack

Fethard's Cheltenham Gold Cup win



Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, "War of Attrition" on his return to Fethard. L to R: Oonagh Barrett (Groom), Noelle O'Gorman, Johnny Cummins (Assistant Trainer) and Mouse Morris. In front is Harry Cummins.

The town of Fethard is synonymous with horses. They feature heavily in the life of the town. Oliver Cromwell fell from his steed in Barrack Street, rose from the ground and cursed the street, and to this day the funeral processions in town never pass through it. He later stabled his horses in the Abbey church.

Centuries later, Fethard was a changing point for the Bianconi horses when they passed through town. These days, every conceivable type of horse can be found in or around the town, from the thoroughbred stallions standing in Coolmore Stud to the trotter grazing the long

acre. Many a Grand National and Derby winner started their lives in the fields around the town of Fethard.

On St. Patrick's Day 2006, Mouse Morris and his team did the town proud when their Michael O'Leary owned "War of Attrition" romped home under jockey Conor O'Dwyer to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The cheer in McCarthy's as he cleared the last fence and passed the winning post must have been heard in Prestbury Park itself.

When head lad Johnny Cummins arrived at McCarthy's later that evening to announce there was to be a free bar that night the news

was greeted with almost as loud a cheer. A few minutes later, the party started - what shamrock was not wetted in Cheltenham was drowned in McCarthy's that night.

Once trainer Mouse Morris arrived later that night with the Gold Cup the cheers were renewed with gusto as he was carried shoulder high into what has been rightly described as "The Ultimate Racing Pub." Mouse Morris held an 'Open Afternoon' at his Everardsgrange Stables the following Sunday. War of Attrition, who seemed quite obli-

ous to what he had accomplished, was paraded. Many of the huge crowd who turned up availed of the opportunity to have their photograph taken with the horse and the cup. Heartiest congratulations to Mouse, Johnny, the stable staff, and of course to owner Mr Michael O'Leary on this fantastic win.

War of Attrition won another accolade when named 'Horse of the Year' by Horse Racing Ireland when the Irish Racing Awards 2006 were announced at the Westin Hotel, Dublin on 12th December. *

Fethard & Killusty Anglers

Officers elected at the Fethard & Killusty Anglers AGM were: Tom Fogarty (chairman), Matty Fleming (secretary) and Davy Grant (treasurer).

Fethard & Killusty Anglers held their annual fishing competition on Sunday 23rd April. From the start, conditions were very bad for fishing with a northwest wind and very bright sunshine. However, eighteen anglers fished hard all day and fifteen trout were returned, with two very fine trout weighing just over one and a half pounds each. The results were: 1st, Matty Fleming; 2nd, Sean Maher; 3rd,

Albert Adcock; 4th, Robby Ryan. The heaviest trout was caught by Matty Fleming.

Fishing this season has been very bad on the Anner and Clashawley rivers. Reports from fishermen say

there is a good stock of fish in the Anner but the Clashawley river, from Kiltinan to Fethard, has no trout at all. The Southern Regional Fisheries Board tell us the water quality has never been as good so why are the fish gone?

On a brighter note, we congratulate George McGrath on winning the Munster Fly Fishing Completion held in Cork. Well done, George. *



Tom Sayers presents Matty Fleming with trophy after winning annual competition.

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.

Allen, Monica, *St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)*
 Bricknell, Tara, *Moanbarron*
 Burke, Frank, *Lur Main St. and Loughrea (Calvary)*
 Carroll (Morrissey) Mary Bridget, formerly *Bannixtown*
 Casey, Johnny, *The Green (Dunganran)*
 Coady, Nora, *The Valley (Calvary)*
 Coen, Alice, *Rocklow Road (Calvary)*
 Colville (O'Shea), Nellie, *St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)*
 Cummins, Theresa, *Burke Street (Calvary)*
 Fahy, Eileen, formerly *Crampscastle (England)*
 Feery, Samantha, *Killusty (Killusty)*
 Fennel (McCarthy), Josie, *Kerry Street (England)*
 Fogarty, Kitty, *Curraghscarteen (Calvary)*
 Gleeson (Boland), Kathleen, *Moyglass (Moyglass)*
 Halley, Kathleen, formerly *Kilnockin (New Inn)*
 Halpin, Pat, *Quatercross (Killusty)*
 Harrington, Nicholas 'Nick', *Garrinch (Calvary)*
 Henehan, Sean, *The Square (Calvary)*
 Jones (Prout), Mary, *Gloucester & Killusty (England)*
 Kelly, Phil, *Fr. Tiny Park (Moyglass)*
 Kennedy, Angela, *Burke Street (Calvary)*
 Lucey, Mary, *Cois Falla (Clonea-Power)*
 Macnamara, Sr. Mary, *Presentation Convent*
 Maher, Paddy, *Abbey Street (Cremation)*

Matthews, Mary 'Mamie', *Cashel & Kerry St. (Calvary)*
 McCormack, Tom, *Cashel Road (Calvary)*
 Meagher, Leo, *Milestown (Cloneen)*
 Meagher, Mary, *Milestown (Cloneen)*
 Meaney, Nellie, *St. Johnstown (Peppardstown)*
 Mullins, Michael, *Knockbrack (Calvary)*
 Murphy, Paddy, *Burke Street, (Calvary)*
 Murray (Coffey) Edith 'Edie', *Mocklers Tce. (Calvary)*
 O'Donnell, Hannah, *Mobarnane (Moyglass)*
 O'Donovan, Tom, *Fr. Tirry Park, Fethard*
 O'Dwyer, Elsie, *Derryluskin (Cahir)*
 O'Flaherty, Peg, *Killusty Castle (Cremation)*
 O'Shea, Patrick, *Ardsallagh (Cashel)*
 O'Brien, Richard, *Dublin & The Square (Calvary)*
 O'Connor, John Joe, *Ballyvaden (Moyglass)*
 O'Donovan, Greta, *Burke Street (Parish Church)*
 Purcell, Frank, *Jossestown & Dublin (Calvary)*
 Raglow (Bergin) Nora, *Walbridge Ohio USA*
 Roberts (Cassells) Mela, *Cashel Rd (Wolverhampton)*
 Sheehan, Tony, *Ballycarron (Killusty)*
 Smyth, Gus, *Tinakelly (Cloneen)*
 Trehy, Edward, *Kilnockin (Calvary)*
 Vinten (O'Shea), Joan, *St. Patrick's Place (England)*
 Ward, Desmond, *Woodvale Walk (Ballingary)*



Sean Henehan



Sr. Mary Mcnamara



Tara Bricknell



Teresa Cummins



Tom McCormack



Tony Sheehan



Paddy Murphy



Nellie Meaney

Our dear departed 2006

from available photographs



Angela Kennedy



Edie Murray



Neddy Trehy



Elsie O'Dwyer



Frank Purcell



Greta O'Donovan



Gus Smyth



John Joe O'Connor



Patrick O'Shea



Leo Meagher



Mary Meagher



Mela Cassells



Nellie Colville



Nick Harrington



Noelle O'Dwyer



Nora Coady



Paddy Maher



Pat Halpin



Phil Kelly



Samantha Feery

Fethard & District Rugby Club



Parents helping at the Fethard Rugby Club end of season barbecue and party organised for their players and visiting St. Joseph's team from Newport in Wales.

The new season sees our club entering its most exciting period to date with our boys competing in the under-18 east Munster cup and league for the first time. This is a major step forward for the club, which has been in existence for only five years. In that time we have had great successes in all groups.

The highlights have been reach-

ing four finals for under-12s, under-13s and under-14s and winning the east Munster plate with under-13 and under-14 teams. Five of our players have been selected to the east Munster development side and one of our players is participating in the Munster cadets.

For a rural community we have great support from Fethard and sur-



Fethard Under-16 Rugby team photographed on their visit to Beddau in South Wales.



Fethard Under-12 Rugby Team who beat Clonmel in a 'blitz' in Fethard on 8th October.

rounding parishes and look forward to welcoming new and seasoned players for the forthcoming season. All our coaches who worked so hard last year have signed up again this year and we are delighted to welcome Joe Burke and John Stokes on board.

Maybe one of your young stars could be the next Denis Leamy! Training for the under 8s, 10s and 12s will take place in the Community Field every Friday

evening at 7pm, and training for the under-16s and 18s takes place on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Our first club constitution is drawn up and will be ratified at an EGM. Rumour has it that a trips may take place in the New Year to England and Wales. Our friends from Badeau, in Wales will visit us over Easter 2007 and senior club membership s now being accepted, application forms are available from any of our club Officers. *



Fethard Under-8 Rugby Team who took part in a 'blitz' at the Community Sportfield

Knitting for pleasure



Knitting for pleasure in Fethard are L to R: Chrissie Cummins, Sr. Betty, Agnes Evans, Sr. Juliana, Margaret Croke, Ann Darcy and Geraldine Treacy.

A Knitting Cafe takes place every Tuesday evening at The Green from 7.30pm to 9.30pm or thereabouts. Sr. Juliana and a group of knitting friends gather there to knit and you are very welcome to come along if you are interested in knitting or learning to knit, as there are many experienced knitters there willing to teach anyone who comes along. If you are interested in just coming in for a chat and a cuppa, that can be catered for too.

There is a great variety of knitting projects on hand among the group of knitting enthusiasts! Those making a return to knitting after a long absence have contented themselves with producing simple items like scarves but made in the new fashion yarns which turn out really stunning. Some of the group are knitting for charity, some for First

Communion, others for family members and some just for themselves! From evening jackets to Aran, simple sweaters to complicated cardigans, all are there.

There is a great exchange of ideas and advice among the group. So you will be made very welcome by Sr. Juliana and you can enjoy the chat over a friendly cup of tea. *



John Stokes, Nicky Stokes and David Purcell photographed in the 1980s

Fethard / Killusty London Reunion

The Fethard / Killusty London Reunion was held on the 7th October in the Function Room at the Walkabout, Temple, London. The central London venue was chosen after feedback received in previous years, as was the change of date to get away from the holiday season, which was cited by several as a reason for not attending. A small crowd was in attendance for what was a very entertaining evening with music and song from Mary Morrissey and her Band and a superb hot buffet provided by the Walkabout. The dance floor saw plenty of action before the night was out as Mary and the lads played a great selection of tunes, old and new, for us to enjoy.

Redcity was well represented with Tim Curran, Helen Curran and Ena (Curran) Griffin coming down from Hertfordshire. Ollie Fitzgerald travelled from Leicestershire to meet up with daughter Clare and Mick and Mary, on the London leg of their European tour, which has also taken in the Netherlands this year.

Tom Ryan from Killusty received a great round of applause when he popped up to give us an auld song. The auction of Clonacody House having taken place earlier in the week, provided a base for many sto-

ries of life and times around Clonacody, Jossestown, Coleman and Coolmoynne.

"The numbers were disappointing, but the evening was great", commented Paul Looby, organiser of the event. Paul has, once again, asked for feedback from those who attended and those who didn't. It would be a pity to lose the opportunity to meet, on an informal basis, others from home, but there is a considerable expense involved in organising anything at London venues.

Questions have been asked about the Irish Centre at Camden Town. The Kennedy Hall, venue of the Reunion for many years, is now office space, with the smallest available room in the Irish Centre accommodating over 320 people for functions. Most of the other Irish centre-type venues have regular Saturday night events, such as Bingo, country music, etc.

As ever, without the generous support of the Fethard & Killusty Community Council, the London Reunion could not take place. Paul Looby would like to thank the Community Council, Mary Morrissey and her Band, Michael Falsey and Simon and Adam from the walkabout in Temple for making the evening the success that it was. *



Frances Barnes (O'Halloran) and Jimmy O'Connell at the Reunion



Lord of the Rings Syndicate, owners of 'Feathard Lady' unbeaten in seven starts, celebrating their rare achievement in National Hunt racing at Butler's Sports Bar in Fethard on 6th January 2006, where the syndicate began. Back L to R: Peter Nolan, James Cooney, Joe Bradshaw, Bob Grant, Sean Óg Ryan, Davy Maher, Bob Maher. Front L to R: Dwayne Mulligan, Justin Maher, Stuart Looby, Cathal Ryan, Philip Furnell and Mark Moloney. Also in the syndicate is Seamus McGowan.



On Christmas Day 2005, Fethard locals showed the spirit of Christmas by over 100 walkers turning out to support the international humanitarian organisation Goal's mile walk. Above photograph shows organiser Colm McGrath (left), sports personality Miceál McCormack signing in Catherine Kearney and daughter Mary Jane.

Final Farewell as Pat leaves the Kennels



Some of the large number of wellwishers that turned up at the Kennells on 29th April 2006, to bid farewell and wish good luck to huntsman, Pat O'Brien, on his last day on duty. Included with Pat O'Brien are Hillary O'Connor, Josephine and Joseph O'Hagen, Sarah Hatton, Michael O'Hagen, Tom O'Meara, Eddie Byrne, Janet Barbour, Cormac Browne and children.

Members, followers and supporters of Tipperary Foxhounds turned out in force at the Kennels, Tullamaine, on Saturday 29th April to bid a final farewell to huntsman Pat O'Brien on his last day in office. Pat who retired after 40 years service finished his long term with the Tipps officially on Sunday 30th April — the final day of the hunting year. Champagne corks popped, toasts were drunk, old memories and friends recalled as an era came to an end.

*"Farewell to the hounds, kennels,
lodes and yards,
I leave them behind me with sorrow.
The memories and good friends I've made
through the years,
I take with me as I leave tomorrow."*

May we take this opportunity to bid a hearty 'Cead Mile Failte' to the new huntsman Derry Donegan and his whipper-in Mark Casserly and wish them the very best of luck and good hunting. *

Donations Received 2006

Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th November 2006. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.

Aherne, Joan (Murphy), Clondalkin, Dublin
 Allen, Vincent, Edenderry
 Anglim, Monica (Woodlock), New Jersey USA
 Arkell, Joan (O'Donnell), Warwick
 Armstrong, Monica (Dwyer), Northampton
 Aylward, Mrs. Mary, Bray
 Bagley, Margaret (Cooney), New York
 Barnes, Frances (O'Halloran), Kent
 Barrett, Angela (McCarthy), Ardinnan
 Barry, Fr. Michael, Borrisoleigh
 Barry, Michael, Kilkenny
 Barry, Rose (Ryan), Lismore
 Beavis, Pat (Finn), Herts., England
 Boland, Claire (O'Neill), Dun Laoighre, Dublin
 Bradley, Teresa (Fogarty), West Sussex
 Browne, D., Portlarnington
 Browne, Nora (Ryan), Rathdowney
 Burke, Eamonn & Nora, Tralee, Co. Kerry
 Burke, Gemma and Mike, Redcity, Fethard
 Burke, James, San Francisco, USA
 Burke, Kevin, Illinois, USA
 Burke, Martin, Bridge Bar, Fethard
 Burke, Mary, Thurles
 Burke, Richard, Moangarriff, Clonmel
 Butler, Mike, Limerick City
 Butler, Sean, Lisronagh
 Byard, Dr. Donal, Cincinnati, USA
 Byrne Healy, Peg, New Jersey
 Byrne, John, Ballincollig, Cork
 Byrnes, George, Texas, USA
 Cahill, Michael, New York
 Cantwell, Bill, Florida
 Canty, Mary (Casey), Tramore
 Carrigan, Eithne, Clonacody, Fethard
 Carroll, Mary (Morrissey), Nuneaton, UK
 Caruana, George J., Bondi Junction NSW
 Casey, Fionnuala (Murray), Cork
 Casey, Rosemarie, Wimbledon, London
 Cathie, Alice (Mulcahy), Hants
 Clark, Rita, San Mateo USA
 Coady, Johnnie & Mary, Dorset, England
 Coady, Michael & Elizabeth, Manchester
 Coen, Louise, Boston, USA
 Coffey, Marie, Leeds, England
 Colville, Anthony, Essex, England
 Colville, Tony & Maeve (O'Shea), Tullamore
 Connolly, Eileen (Carey), Garrinch, Fethard
 Connolly, Liam, Tramore
 Connolly, Sean, Kilsheelan
 Connolly, Thomas, Essex UK
 Connor, Phil (O'Hanrahan), Tramore
 Coolmore Stud Farm
 Cooney, Tom, New York
 Cord, J., Sussex, England
 Crane, Tom, Illinois USA

Croke, Patrick, Tobertaiscain, Ennis
 Croke, Thomas, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
 Culligan, James, Malaga, Spain
 Cummins, Joan (Sayers), Cashel
 Cummins, John, Dublin 5
 Cummins, Liam, Clonmel
 Cummins, Michael, Yorkshire
 Cummins, Mrs. R., Hemel Hempstead, UK
 Curran, Timmy, Welwyn Garden City, UK
 Curtin, Jacqueline (Moloney), Stillorgan
 Curtin, Rena (McGrath), Kilkenny
 Dalton, Aine (Tierney), Oakland, California
 Dalton, Claire (Morrissey), London NW10
 Dalton, Michael, Howard Beach, N.Y.
 Danaher, Celine, Dublin 15
 Darcy, Mr & Mrs Phil, Kent, England
 Davern, Honor (Mulligan), Cashel
 Davey, Catherine (O'Connor), Penzance, Cornwall
 Davin Haran, Mrs Lois, New York
 Delahunty, Steve & Kathy, Novato, USA
 Delany, Kitty, Parsonshill, Fethard
 Devlin, Rairy (Healy), Toledo, Ohio, USA
 Dixon, Patrick, Enniscorthy
 Duggan, Eugene, Christchurch, New Zealand
 Dunphy, Deborah (Guiry), Dunhill, Co. Waterford
 Evans, Bob & Karin, Germany
 Everard, Richard, Holland,
 Farrell, Christina (O'Donovan), Clonmel
 Fethard & Killusty Community Council
 Fethard Ballroom Ltd
 Fethard Community Employment Scheme
 Fethard Community Playgroup
 Fethard Country Markets
 Fethard Historical Society
 Fethard ICA Guild
 Fethard Legion of Mary
 Fitzgerald, Con, Bradford
 Fitzgerald, Paddy, Wrexham UK
 Fitzgerald, Patrick, Leicester UK
 Fitzgerald, Tony, Clonmel
 Fitzgerald-Ryan, Denis & Sheena, Middlesex, UK
 Fitzpatrick, Jo Beatty, Long Island, NY
 Fitzpatrick, Thomas, Woodlaun, New York
 Flanagan, Frank & Rita (Fitzgerald), Bristol, BS7 UK
 Flanagan, Tony, London W5
 Fleming, Sarah, London
 Flynn, Denis, Redhill, Surrey
 Flynn, Mick, Bradford, England
 Flynn, Pat, West Yorkshire, England
 Fogarty, Madge (McGrath), Glanmire, Cork
 Fox, Andy, Thurles
 Frewen, Willie, Fenor, Co. Waterford
 Gibbs, Maria (Scanlan), Calgary, Canada
 Gibson, Mrs M., Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny
 Gleeson, Pauline (Ryan), Boherlahan

- Gluck, Kathleen (Morrissey), Isle of Wight
 Goans, Rita (Morrissey), Tennessee
 Gunne, Patrick, Islington, London
 Hanlon, Margaret, New Jersey USA
 Hanlon, Mary (Ryan), Dalky, Dublin
 Hanrahan, Alice (Phelan), London W4
 Harkin, Jennifer (Cummins), Old Leighlin,
 Harrington, William, Cavan
 Hayes, Canon Matthew, Bath, UK
 Hayes, Joe & Mossie, Rathcoole, Fethard
 Hayes, Pat & Mary (Anglim), Queensland, Australia
 Hayes, Willie, Roscrea
 Healy, Jack, Cork
 Healy, Marion, Cork
 Heffernan, Larry & Inger, Oslo, Norway
 Heffernan, Michael
 Henehan, Paddy, Dublin 20
 Hennessy, Mary (Skehan), Coleman, Fethard
 Hetterley, David & Frances (Kenrick), Hereford, UK
 Hoey, Cathleen (Murphy), Birmingham, England
 Holloway PP, Fr. James, Pallasgreen
 Homfray, Rev. Kenyon, Convooy, Co. Donegal
 Hopkins, Mary (O'Connell), Victoria, Australia
 Hunt, Maureen (Mackey), Staffordshire, UK
 Jakeman, Rodney, Cheshire UK
 Johnson, Dr. Brian & Joan (Carey), CT, USA
 Jones, John, San Francisco USA
 Jones, Kathleen, Perth, Australia
 Kane, Dermot, Dublin 8
 Kane, Rita & Danny, Kerry Street, Fethard
 Kavanagh, Rena (Keyes), Waterford
 Keane, Joe, Portlaoise
 Keane, John, Tullamore
 Kelly, Carmel (Kenney), Dublin 16
 Kennedy, Fr. A. B., Portumna
 Kenny, Billy and Carol, The Green, Fethard
 Kenny, Maura (Stokes), Dublin 6
 Kenrick, Paddy, Clonmel
 Kerr, Colleen, Ontario, Canada
 Kidd, Ethel (Whyte), Waterford
 Knight, Mai, Wantage, UK
 Lavin, Michael James, New Jersey, USA
 Leahy, Gerry, Kilkenny
 Lines, Ellen (Flynn), Milton Keynes
 Local Studies Dept., County Library, Thurles
 Lonergan, Alice, Cahir
 Lonergan, Thomas, Preston, UK
 Lonergan, William, Killaloe
 Lovatt-Dolan, Elizabeth (Quirke), Dublin 14
 Lynam, Ann (Morrissey), Dublin 12
 Mackay, Ann (Murphy), Devon, England
 Maher, Geraldine, Kilkenny
 Maher, John & Anne, Texas, USA
 Maher, Tess, Coolbawn, Fethard
 Mallon, Nuala (Kenney), Sandymount, Dublin 4
 Malone, Elsie (Burke), Cranston USA
 Mannion, Cathryn (Byrne), Athlone
 Marshall, Frank, Kilkenny
 Marshall, Tom & Patricia, Portlaoise
 McCarthy, Don, Leixlip,
 McCarthy, Kitty, Fethard,
 McCarthy, Tony, Clonmel,
 McCole, Nora (O'Shea), Perth,
 McCormack, Sheridan, Eileen, Naas, Co. Kildare
 McCormack, Fergus, Copenhagen, Denmark
 McCormack, Leonora, New Zealand
 McCormack, Michael, Luton Beds, England
 McCormack, Thomas, Gwynedd, Wales
 McGrath, Peggy (Carroll), Cashel
 McLaren, Mary (Ryan), Kent, UK
 McLean, Arthur, USA
 McNamee, Mary (King), Wantage, Oxon
 McNulty, Mary (Maher), Bedford, UK
 Meagher, Bridie (Phelan) RIP, Birmingham
 Meaney, James J., London SW19
 Meehan, Mrs. Ellen, Oklahoma, USA
 Millett, Augustine, West Norwood, London
 Millett, Frank, Nottingham, England
 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, Abbeylax, Co. Laois
 Morrissey, Billy, Herts. UK
 Morrissey, Colm, Delgany, Co. Wicklow
 Morrissey, J.J., Tralee, Co. Kerry
 Morrissey, Mamie, St. Patrick's Place, Fethard
 Morrissey, Mary, London N19
 Morrissey, Sean, Newcastle Upon Tyne
 Morrissey, Teresa (McCarthy), Ballymacarby
 Mulligan, Declan, San Francisco
 Mullins, Denis, New Jersey
 Mullins, Paul, London
 Mullins, Vincent, North Yorks UK
 Mulvihill, Yvonne (O'Donovan), Ballylongford
 Murphy, Annette (McCarthy), Fethard
 Murphy, Muriel (Mullins), New Ross
 Murphy, Patrick, Braintree, Essex UK
 Murray, Tom, Redcity, Fethard
 Nagle, Anastasia (Kelly), Bansha
 Neville, Michael, Cork
 Neville, Roger, Tullamore
 Neville, Seamus, Tamore
 Nevin, Gerry, New York
 Newport, Tony & Mary, Congress Terrace, Fethard
 Nichols, Betty (Dineen), Warwick UK
 Noonan, Jim, Herts. England
 O'Brien, O.S.U., St. Margaret, New York
 O'Brien, OSU, Sr. Philomena, Blue Point, N.Y.
 O'Carroll, Lila, California
 O'Connell, Katie, West Yorkshire, UK
 O'Connell, Mrs. Freda, Scunthorpe
 O'Connell, Peg (Darcy), Basildon, Essex
 O'Connell, Peter, Victoria, Australia
 O'Connell, Seamus
 O'Connell, Seamus, Barking, Essex
 O'Connor, Des, Allison Park, USA
 O'Connor, Kevin, London N4
 O'Connor, O.S.A., Fr. John, Dungarvan
 O'Connor, Stephen, Chatham, Kent, England
 O'Donnell, Anna (Mackey), Niles, Illinois

O'Donnell, Jimmy, Dublin 16
 O'Donnell, Joe, Clonmel
 O'Donnell, Liam, Glasnevin, Dublin 11
 O'Donnell, Michael, London N4
 O'Donnell, Tony, Dublin 9
 O'Donovan, Gabrielle (Mackey), Naas Road, Dublin
 O'Dwyer, Kay, Dublin 5
 O'Dwyer, Patricia, Limerick
 O'Flynn, Patrick, Glen Ellyn, Illinois,
 O'Flynn, Peggy, Ballincollig
 O'Gorman, Paddy, Woking, Surrey.,
 O'Hanrahan, Patrick, London W9,
 O'Hara, Catherine, Oxford, England
 O'Keefe, Larry & Helen (Cummins), Clonmel
 O'Kennedy, Peggy, Waterford
 O'Mahoney, Laura (Ward), Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
 O'Meara, Des, Cheshire UK
 O'Meara, Molly, Caoimhe & Dara, Killusty
 O'Neill, Hal, Cork
 O'Neill, Hugh, Wilton, Cork
 O'Neill, Ken, Dublin 6
 O'Riain, Padraig, Baille Atha Cliath 13
 O'Riordan Macpherson, Eleanor, Argyll, Scotland
 O'Rourke, Paddy, Dublin 6W
 O'Sullivan, Brian & Edith, Ayr, Scotland
 O'Sullivan, John & Claire, Clonmel
 O'Sullivan, Marie (McCarthy), Main Street, Fethard
 O'Donnell, James, Tickhoe, New York
 O'Neill, P.P.Rt. Rev. Msgr William, Savannah, USA
 Orski, Patricia (Morrissey), Beckenham, Kent
 Ostler, Alice (McInerney), Southampton
 Patrician Presentation, Secondary School, Fethard
 Pereira, Geraldine (White), Madeira, Portugal
 Phelan, Kathleen (Elsie), New York
 Power, Ellen, Rosslare Road, Co. Wexford
 Power, Ned, Wolverhampton UK
 Purcell, Frank, Fethard
 Purcell, Tom, Burke Street, Fethard
 Quirke, Mary, Kiltinan, Fethard
 Reeves, Maureen (Fogarty), Shrewley, UK
 Reynolds, Mick, M. Glamorgan, Wales
 Robinson, Bridget (Smith), Dundalk
 Roche, Peggy (Kenny), Thurles
 Ryan (Jnr), Mattie, Buffana, Killenaule
 Ryan, Ann (Neville), Thurles
 Ryan, Danny, Clonmel
 Ryan, Donal, Kentucky, USA
 Ryan, John (Boxer), Kilsheelan
 Ryan, Majella (Neville), Ballinure, Thurles
 Ryan, Mary (Murphy), Cashel
 Ryan, Michael J., St. Albans, Herts
 Ryan, Michael, Monasterevin
 Ryan, Noel, Surrey UK
 Ryan, Philip, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

Ryan, Thomas, London NW3
 Shannon, Tony, Leeds, UK
 Shattock, Jack & Pam (Myles), Essex UK
 Sheehan, Patrick, London N17
 Shine, Benny, Essex, England
 Shine, Nessa (O'Donovan), London E7
 Shine, Tom, Cahir
 Skehan, CSsR, Rev. William, Philippines
 Skehan, Helen, London
 Skehan, Nicholas, Dublin
 Slattery, William, Mitchelstown,
 Smith, Robert, Waltham Abbey, Essex
 South Tipperary County Museum, Clonmel
 Squires, May (O'Dwyer), Essex
 Stapleton, Martin & Rita (O'Grady), Dublin 7
 Stapleton, Peggy, Thurles,
 Staunton, Rena (Stokes), London NW1
 Sweeney, Carol (Delahunty), Westminster, USA
 Synnott, Bridie (Roche), Essex, England
 Synnott, Marie (Lucy), Clontarf, Dublin
 Swarc, Agnes (Culligan), Kent UK
 Taylor Family, Saucestown, Fethard
 Tingley, Ellen (Culligan), Seven Oaks, Kent, UK
 Tobin, Margaret (Burke), Altrincham, Cheshire, UK
 Tobin, Michael, Oak Lawn, USA
 Tobin, Patrick & Ellen (Walsh), Clonmel
 Torpey, Kitty (Strappe), Cambridge
 Totonchi, Louise (Kenrick), Illinois
 Tumpane, Breeda (Lucey), Naas
 Tyska, Katherine (Sayers), Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Vinten, Joan (O'Shea), Maidstone, Kent
 Voss, Eleanor (Morrissey), Surrey UK
 Wade-Palmer, Eileen (Doherty), Hampshire
 Wagner, Rita (Fallon), New York
 Walker, Eleanor (O'Donnell), Australia
 Walsh, Anne (Kenrick), Glenageary, Co. Dublin
 Walsh, Gerard, Ontario, Canada
 Walsh, Mary (Fahy), Portlao
 Walsh, OSA, Fr. Joseph, Victoria, Australia
 Walsh, Pat, Leeds UK
 Walsh, Pat, N.S.W. Australia
 Warren, Susan, Omaha USA
 Watson, Simon & Amanda, New Zealand
 Whelan, Kathleen (Quirke), Clonmel
 Whelan, Miriam (O'Brien), Drakesland, Kilkenny
 Whelan, Paddy, London SE13
 White, Eileen, Drangan
 White, Marie (Dineen), Leamington Spa UK
 Wilkins, Christine (Sayers), Taghmon, Co. Wexford
 Woodlock, Michael, c/o Flancare Ltd. Clonmel
 Woodlock, Vincent, c/o South East Scaffolding
 Woodward, Sheila Aline, Warwickshire UK
 Wright, Ann (Flanagan), Wantage, Oxon
 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.*

Glamour's World Record

Sean "Glamour" Walsh has achieved his target of playing cards in 200 different venues throughout Ireland. He now has to present the paperwork to the Guinness Book of Records to have his achievement verified, and if nobody else has laid claim to the title, Sean will hold the title for playing in the most venues in the World.

Sean is better known to all and sundry by his nickname, 'Glamour'. As a younger man, Sean played hurling with Coolmoynes, Fethard and Killenaule, as well as wearing the blue and gold for Tipperary. He also won a county final with a team in Cork, which got him banned from the Tipperary team when he was found out, although this deed did get him immortalised in a poem that he heard recently when he revisited the parish whilst on his record drive.

Sean has always been a flamboyant character. To quote a neighbouring farmer, "If you see a man walking down the Main Street in Fethard in the middle of the week wearing a white suit, it's probably the Glamour." With his blonde hair and white



boots in the 1960's, he was the David Beckham of Tipperary hurling.

So don't be surprised when you open next year's Guinness Book of Records at the entertainment section and see, alongside the Beatles, Elvis and other legendary record breakers, the face of Sean "Glamour" Walsh smiling out at you. Maybe it's time for Sean to live up to the glamorous image and get ready for the big time. Get the white suit out Sean ... it's showtime! *

Killusty Sheep Dog Trials



Photographed with the 'Perpetual Paddy Morrissey Cup' at the Killusty Sheep Trials are L to R: Declan Morrissey, Dan Morrissey, Mona Rehn, Simon Moss and Bill Seale.

In glorious sunshine, the inter-provincial sheepdog final was held in Killusty on Saturday 14th October. Twenty of the top dogs and handlers in the country, five from each province, hotly contested this final. Ulster swept the board with the Ulster team of Roger Doohan, Sammy Long, James McGee, John McGinn and Tom Doherty taking the team prize and Roger Doohan taking the individual prize with his dog Lee. The competition was judged by Eamon Sharkey from the North and Jim McConnell from the South.

Sunday morning at 8.30am saw the first of fifty-two dogs compete for the Paddy Morrissey Cup. The competition continued all day with dogs and handlers travelling from far and near to compete in this annual event.

Everyone was delighted with the lovely course and the sheep ran well all day which made for a very keen competition with very few points being lost. Continuing from Saturday's success the cup went North to Donegal with Sammy Long and Daisy only losing 5 points out of 100. *

Newsletter Contact Details

Articles for publication

Joe Kenny, Rocklow Road, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: +353 52 31663 Fax: +353 52 30051 Email: joe@fethard.com

Donations, Letters, Change of Addresses

Carmel Rice, Brookhill, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: +353 52 31134



Fethard Coursing Club members photographed at the presentation of trophies on 12th February 2006. L to R: Margaret Flanagan, Arthur Daly (chairman), Pat Cormack (Lowesgreen), Martin Burke, Michael Shine, Helen O'Gorman (Killenaule), Frank O'Donovan, Fionnuala Gleeson (front), Peggy O'Gorman (Killenaule), Jim Cormack (Lowesgreen), Frankie O'Donovan, Rachel Delaney (holding cup), John O'Donovan, Andrea Carroll, Michael Flanagan, Stephen Curran, David Flanagan, Paddy Hickey (treasurer), Marie Murphy and Peter O'Sullivan (secretary).



Huntsman, Pat O'Brien, leading the Tipperary Hunt out of Fethard by Watergate Bridge, for his last time at the closing meet on 25th February. Pat retired after 40 years service.



Cheltenham Gold Cup winner 'War of Attrition' photographed at Mouse Morris Stables at Everardsgrange in Fethard with the Gold Cup & Heineken Cup. L to R: Paul Collins (Rugby Development Officer), Mouse Morris, Sean Devaney (Fethard Rugby Club), Paul Kavanagh (Fethard Rugby Club) and Johnny Lacey (Rugby Development Officer).



St. Patrick's Boys School staff members photographed with the Heineken Cup on 23rd November 2006 L to R: Carmel Lonergan, Mary McCarthy (Special Needs Assistant), Patricia Treacy (Principal), Eileen Fitzgerald and Aisling Ryan.