

# FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2007





*Niall Quinn presenting a Sunderland jersey signed by himself, Roy Keane and the rest of the squad, to Alice Leahy, co-founder of Trust. The jersey was auctioned at the Frank Purcell Memorial Golf Classic barbecue. Also in the photograph is Vincent Murphy (left).*



*The Presleys photographed in McCarthy's Hotel, Fethard, on Tuesday 2nd January 2007  
L to R: Michael Lockwood, Lisa Marie Presley and Priscilla Presley.*

# FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2007

Dedicated to our friends and relations  
living away from home

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# Expanding Fethard

by Joe Kenny (editor)



*Fethard from the air on 28th August 2007 showing some of the many new developments underway.*

In the past twelve months here in Fethard one of the most noticeable intrusions in our dormant, quiet lives is the huge building activity in and around the town. It wasn't so many years ago that we were looking for council houses to be built in Fethard and were lucky to get five built in a two-year cycle. Well, for better or worse, things have changed in sleepy old Fethard. We have new housing developments built or being built at Strylea, Killenaule Road, Abbey Road and Congress Terrace with more even larger developments planned for the Rocklow Road and Jesuit's Walk /Congress Terrace areas. While an influx of new people is always welcome in any town it is particularly important that proper planning, with community

involvement, should pave the way.

In the past, county councils throughout the country have created housing estates that have not enhanced towns or benefited the people living in them as the majority of residents aspire to leave at the first possible opportunity. How long does it take to learn from mistakes?

From attending community-driven meetings with county council officials it appears they are duty bound to build houses, however and wherever they get the land, and then house families from waiting lists throughout the county. In doing their 'duty' they are also 'forced' to ignore the wishes of communities that have spent generations providing schools, community centres, theatres, halls, sport centres



*New housing developments between Barrack Street (left) and Burke Street (right).*

and various voluntary services and organisations necessary to provide for community living. While many people have come to live in Fethard and have been very proactive in their community involvement, it is our experience that this figure is getting less and less. Unfortunately, in the case of council housing lists, our community has no involvement whatsoever in who comes to live in our town and share our community facilities. Not alone have we no involvement, but we are not even entitled to know, for legal reasons, if we have re-housed sex offenders, drug dealers, or murderers living among us. Until this matter is addressed, what community would want council housing estates built in their town?

On the positive side, many of the current building developments are

readdressing the 3 to 1 imbalance of social housing to private housing that has occurred in Fethard over the past few years. We also notice an increase in new businesses starting up in town, which is always welcome. Overall things are looking up and our good relationship with local elected councillors has helped in no end to have our wishes listened to at county council level. I take this opportunity to congratulate Cllr. John Fahey, Killenaule, on his election this year as Chairman of South Tipperary County Council. Since first elected to South Tipperary County Council, John has attended our monthly Community Council meetings and various other community meetings in Fethard, to keep well informed of the work and wishes of the community.

Fethard received a tremendous

boost this year with Fethard's affiliation to the Irish Walled Town Network, spearheaded by Tim Robinson, Watergate, and the involvement and support of the Heritage Council of Ireland.

Since August 1986, when Mr John Bradley M.A. (Director of the Urban Archaeology Survey) speaking at "The Norman Festival Weekend" was first heard say, "Fethard is without any doubt the most important small medieval town in Ireland. Its preservation and its proper development as a historic town is a matter of national importance", we have been fighting an uphill battle to convince officialdom of the uniqueness of Fethard's Town Walls. This year, we have finally achieved these objectives through the work of the Historical Society and the formation of a local steering committee for the Fethard Town Wall Conservation and Management Plan,

which is currently underway. The Heritage Council's Planning and Development Officer, Alison Harvey, has played a great role in securing significant funding for Fethard, which will secure the proper conservation of Fethard Town Wall and recognition for Fethard's tourist potential at national and international level. Alison, a keen supporter of Fethard's Town Wall, was also instrumental in forming the Irish Walled Towns Network to which Fethard is affiliated.

As we look forward to another Christmas and New Year we can only be optimistic and pray the path we're on is the correct one. We wish our emigrants and readers at home and abroad, a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Who knows, with house prices dropping every day here, some of you may even consider moving back home again . . . Fethard's still a great old place to live! \*



*New housing development at Congress Terrace (Fethard Ballroom on left)*





*Killenaule Road housing developments. In the top right corner of the photograph (above) is the new Equine Hospital and below it is Calvary Cemetery, lower down is Dawn Foods factory and the new Ard Alainn estate. On the left hand side from top down is the new Friar's Field estate, Woodvale Walk and Strylea.*



*Killenaule Road housing developments looking back towards Fethard. On the left from bottom up is Dawn Foods factory and the new Ard Alainn estate. On the right hand side from top down is Canon Hayes Park, Kilnockin View, Slievenamon Close, Strylea, Woodvale Walk and Friar's Field (on bottom edge)*





*New housing development on Abbey Road. Fethard town is to the left of photograph.*



*Above is the site for the new council houses above St. Patrick's Place and adjacent to Strylea lane (left). 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 consist of approx. forty-six houses completed (Strylea, Cedar Grove, Cois Falla, Abbey Close) and approx. thirty-three under construction (Killenaule and Cashel roads).*

## Parish Greetings

Once again it gives me great pleasure, through the pages of the Fethard & Killusty Newsletter, to send greetings to all both home and away on behalf of the Canon and myself. May this greeting find you well and happy wherever you are. We send special good wishes to the unwell: may the Lord be close to you as you journey under the shadow of the Cross.

The year that is now drawing to a close has had its moments of happiness and also its occasions of sadness

but the sense of belonging has always brought us through. To all our readers we wish you every happiness and peace for this Christmas and New Year. May the experience of the season fill you with hope and joy that will truly help you to experience Christ for the year ahead.

We are truly grateful to the people of Fethard and Killusty for their faith and support over the past year. May the Lord in his goodness protect you always. \*

*Fr. T.F. Breen P.P. and Canon J. Power*



*Photographed at this year's Corpus Christi Procession to the Augustinian Abbey grounds on 10th June are L to R: Canon James Power, Fr. Timmy Walsh OSA, Fr. Peter Haughey OSA, Tom Butler, Kathleen Kenny, Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Gus Maher and Fr. John Meagher OSA.*

## Christmas Greetings from the Abbey

The Augustinians in the Abbey send warm greetings to all our exiles. At Christmas you will be thinking of Fethard, and we will remember you, and hope that some of you will be able to make at least a flying visit

home.

March 16th last was a special day for those in the Abbey; it marked the 50th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Fr Timmy Walsh. A native of Ballylanders, he entered the

Augustinian order in 1950 and was ordained in Rome on 16th March 1957. His first appointment was to missions in northern Nigeria where he spent twenty years. He went back for a further eight years after a spell in a parish in California run by the Irish Augustinians. When he returned to Ireland, he ministered in Limerick, Dungarvan and Ballyhaunis before being appointed to Fethard in 2001. We join the many who congratulated him on his Golden Jubilee, and pray that he will be blessed in his ministry here.

Fr Robert Prevost, the American-born Prior General of the Augustinian Order, visited some of the Irish prior-

ies after Easter. We were glad that he spent a night in Fethard at the start of May and concelebrated Mass with the community. He was impressed by the age of the Abbey church — not many of the Order's churches could boast, as Fethard can, of having walls that were part of the original building which dates from 700 years ago.

I am joined by Frs Gerry Horan, John Meagher and Timmy Walsh in praying that Christmas will be a time of rich blessings for all of you and the members of your families, and that in 2008 you will enjoy good health, happiness and peace of mind. \*

*Peter Haughey O.S.A.*



*Corpus Christi Procession making its way through Burke Street to the Augustinian Abbey grounds on 10th June*

## Church of Ireland News



*Helping at the Confidential Art Sale at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Fethard were  
L to R: Jenny Butler, Judy Butler, Ernest Bates and Anne Bailly.*

On Monday 6th November 2006 a funeral service was held in Holy Trinity Church for Jean Mary Tara Bricknell. She was very well known in the Fethard area, and a supporter of Holy Trinity Church. On 22nd December 2006 the Annual Carol Service was held, it was well attended and the collection went to Meals on Wheels.

On 12th January 2007 the Reverend Barbara Yvonne Fryday was installed as Rector of Clonmel, Cahir and Fethard. The Service took place at Old Saint Mary's Church, Clonmel.

On Sunday 17th June a Confidential Art Sale was organised by Mrs Judy Butler and her daughter Jenny. To date

this was the best fundraising event ever held for Holy Trinity. The event attracted a large attendance and was blessed with sunshine. Nellie Shortall formally opened the doors at 3pm and customers quickly viewed the art works by many well-known artists and amateurs alike that were donated and sold at the one price of €25 each. The 'anonymous' works were signed on the back so buyers had to trust their judgement and purchase their pieces without knowing who the artist was. Everyone was very happy with their pieces and some were pleasantly surprised to find they had purchased a valuable painting for €25.

A marquee was erected on the





*Photographed at the Confidential Art Sale at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Fethard were L to R: Diana Watson, Eve Goodbody, Tim Goodbody and Harry Ponsonby*

grounds where a delicious cream tea was provided by Thelma Griffith and friends. The day concluded with the auction of a framed print by Peter Curling. Mr Christopher Horsman was in control of bidding and finally agreed to sell to the highest offer of €500 from Brian Palmer. A wonderful

day and a novel fundraising idea raising a total just short of €10,000.

On 14th September Jill Lawlor daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Lawlor, Rathkenty, Lisronagh, married James Nolan. We wish the young couple a long and happy life together. \*



*Photographed at the Confidential Art Sale at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Fethard were L to R: Chrissie Cummins, Monica Moriarty, Mary Cummins, Ann Tillyer and Fiona Cummins.*



*Photographed at the Confidential Art Sale at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Fethard were L to R: Marianne Shortall, Nellie Shortall, who opened the event, John Shortall and Anne Heverin.*



*L to R: Holly Moore, Caroline Stokes, Matilda Magner, Tadhg Magner and Zoë Stokes.*



*Christopher Horsman auctioning the hunt print by Peter Curling which sold for €500 to Brian Palmer.*

## Fethard Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary extends greetings to all readers. We wish you a pleasant, peaceful Christmas and New Year. We express appreciation to all who have helped us this past year, and we are pleased that there are those among you who avail of the opportunity to take papers or books that are provided.

Since last year many of our loyal friends and relatives have been called to their eternal reward. We pray for those left behind as well as for the souls of their departed.

You may wish to know what the Legion of Mary is doing nowadays.

Well, the Legion is still in existence, but badly in need of members. We do remind you to pray the Rosary. This is stressed during May and October. Let us encourage one another to pray the Rosary and attend daily Mass, to practice reverence and respect in Church and to tune in to ETWN religious channel on Sky 769.

We pay tribute to all who helped to lay the foundations for the faithful practice of our religion. Now it is up to us to continue this work, as we thank God for all the helps and blessings of our lives. ✱

*Your Fethard Legionnaires of Mary.*

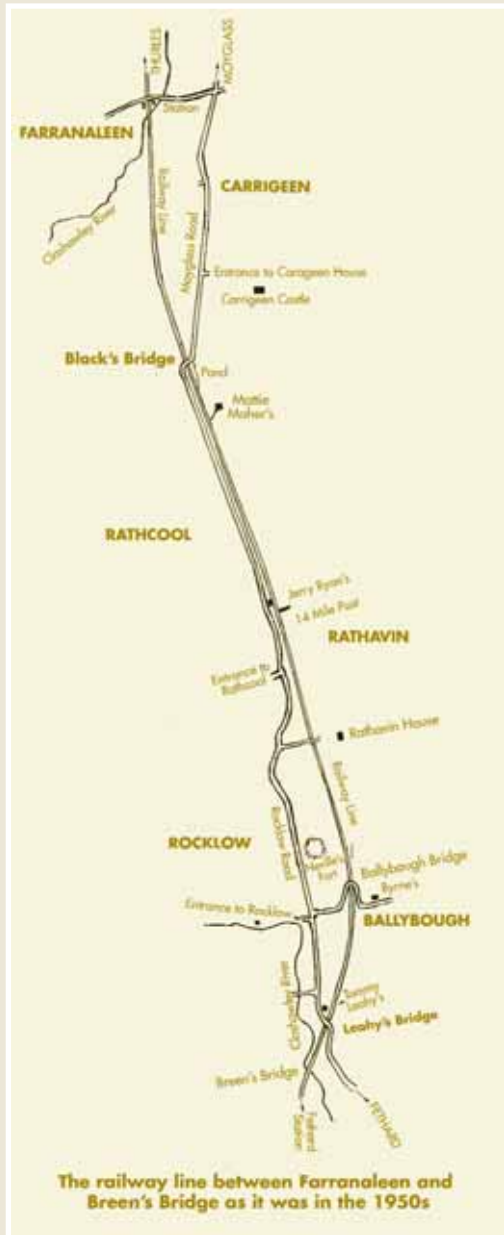


*Group photographed at the old Fethard Tennis Court in Burke Street in the 1950s. Back L to R: Tossie Stapleton, Paddy Tierney, Johnny O'Flynn, Fr. Lambe, Dermot Rice, Louis O'Donnell. Front L to R: Ann O'Sullivan, Bridget Fahey, Noreen Ward, Rita Tierney, Marie Rice, Alice Mulcahy and Marie McCarthy.*

## From Black's Bridge to Leahy's Bridge

The title refers to about a mile and a half stretch of the former railway track between the two road bridges known as Black's Bridge and Leahy's Bridge, on the Farranaleen to Fethard section of the old Thurles-Clonmel branch line. Although it is now exactly forty years since the line was finally closed, faint traces of it can still be seen on the ground here and there. The two hump-back bridges that we knew as Black's Bridge and Leahy's Bridge remain the principal reminders of the now vanished railway along that part of the countryside. Black's Bridge is now redundant as the Fethard-Moyglass road bypasses it. The road, however, still passes over Leahy's Bridge, which has the typical twist at the top of it to suit the direction that railway line had.

It was the 'Black's Bridge bypass' that got me thinking again about the old railway line along there and how much it featured in our lives as we were growing up in Rathcoole. Black's Bridge was near the top end of our farm. It was there that the railway and the road converged, and from there the two ran side by side for about a half mile in the direction of Fethard. This meant that the trains ran practi-





cally along the edge of our farm.

When we were saving hay in one or other of the fields alongside the road — fields such as the Hill Field, the Road Field, the Paddock, the Kiln Field — the passenger train coming down from Thurles, and passing by us around quarter to one, was a welcome signal that the dinnertime was approaching. Hunger would be beginning to gnaw at us by that time, with all the manual work we were doing, 'piking' the hay. Ignoring the train, my father, who was well skilled at working the horse-drawn tumbler rake, would keep bringing in more supplies of hay to the pike sites. Someone would finally call out to Dan, our old bachelor cousin, who was forking up to one of us on a pike, "What's the time, Dan?" Sticking the pitchfork in the ground, Dan would take out the watch from his waistcoat pocket — he never shed the waistcoat, even on the hottest day — and declare that it was "One-a-clock, and five minutes along with it", or some such precise time. We slid down from the pikes, and traipsed home across the sun-filled fields to the dinner, generally of home-cured bacon, cabbage and potatoes, followed by stewed rhubarb and custard.

A goods train coming up the line from Clonmel and passing by our fields around half past five was another important time signal — that it was time that some of us left the meadow to hunt in the cows for milking. There were no volunteers for this task coming at a time when tiredness was set-

ting in, and the prospect of beginning the hand-milking was far from inviting. My father would nominate two of us for the task, and the hay-saving went on for another three-quarters of an hour or so. The milking crew would then be augmented, and the other tasks, such as feeding the calves and pigs, would be done. There might be time for a quick dip in one of the pools of the Clashawley behind the house, which would refresh us as well as wash away hay seed and dried sweat. After that there was no need to give us a second call for the 'supper'.

There was little traffic along the road in the 1940s when we were growing up, and this gave the trains, especially the steam trains, that went up and down extra prominence. During the war years and for a while afterwards there was only bicycle and horse, pony and ass traffic going by. Parson Grey, who lived in the former, creeper-clad rectory in Magorban and who was the last rector of Magorban Church and parish, passed down almost daily in a trap drawn by a stout, slow-moving pony. We used to wonder how the pony fitted between the shafts. With him in the trap were his wife and another lady. They seemed to take ages passing by, and gave only hesitant responses to our waving to them.

Another regular passer-by was Ter Donnell in his ass and cart. Ter lived in a roadside cottage in Ballyvaden, about a half mile from Farranaleen station, with his brother Mick. Ter's progress to Fethard was even slower



*Ter Daniels buying bread from Mrs Skehan at the Country Market in the ICA Hall Fethard May 1948.  
In the background is Mrs Ahearn.*

than Parson Grey's, and both ass and driver appeared to be in a daydream coming along the road. When Ter would see us working in the meadow, he would rouse himself, and give the ass a few smacks of the stick to present a purposeful appearance passing us by. Ter gave us a moment of hilarity one day as he passed our meadow. He stood up to convey all the more urgency to the ass, and in the forward thrust the board across the sideboards of the cart that served as his seat slipped back. When Ter went to sit down again he fell backwards in the cart, his two legs swinging up into the air.

Although as youngsters we often stood on the road at the top of Black's Bridge, which had a more acute turn at its top than Leahy's Bridge, we gave no attention to the fine craftsmanship

that went into the bridge, or the immense amount of physical work involved in building up the earthen mound to carry the road over the railway — all done by men and horse and carts. Albert Maher in his *Signalman's Memories* relates that 280 men worked on the completion of the extension of the railway line along there in 1878 by the Southern Railway Company.

Black's Bridge was originally known as Blackmore's Bridge, and I suspect that it took on its shortened form as time went on. It was named after the Blackmore family that had a leasehold of Rathcoole farm for practically all of the 19th century. Henry Blackmore was the lessee in the early part of the century, and then it passed to his son Charles. The farm was larger than it is today, and included all of Rathcoole

townland and probably the townland of Farranaleen as well. Albert Maher states that it was originally intended to name the railway station at Farranaleen as Rathcoole, and he also states that it was proposed to construct a branch line to Cashel from that station, as well as another one from there to the Slieveardagh Collieries. Those proposals were abandoned, however, as priority was given to completion of the Thurles-Clonmel line along the Clashawley valley, complete with its bridges and stations.

A former feature of Black's Bridge was the long narrow pond on the Fethard side of it. It occupied the space between the railway line and the wire and concrete post fence. Limestone for the construction of the bridge was probably quarried at that spot, and the deep quarry hole filled up with water to form a permanent pond. The area all around is well known for its

springs. Conspicuous on the fence side of the pond was a small white iron celtic cross, commemorating a fourteen year old boy who was so tragically drowned there on 14 February 1940. He was Dick McCarthy of Buffana.

This little memorial cross has been re-erected at the now by-passed and redundant bridge. As I looked at it recently it recalled one of my own memories of that immensely sad event. Young Dick was assisting a neighbour, Mick Ryall, in the droving of cattle to Fethard fair. It was early morning and still dark on that fateful February day, and apparently Mick sent Dick ahead before Black's Bridge to keep the cattle from going into any open entrances. Dick came around Black's Bridge by the field on the Carrigeen side, and intending to cross the railway track he jumped from the wire fence of the railway into a deep



*The memorial to Richard McCarthy at the now by-passed Black's Bridge. Two of his older brothers, Patrick and Michael, became members of the Patrician Brothers, and Patrick went on to become Provincial of the Order. Michael died in 1979, and Patrick in 1993.*

pond between the track and the fence. He must not have been aware that the pond was there, or mistook it for the road. His cries for help were unheard, and it was some time before the awful tragedy was discovered.

I recall the impact the news had on us when it arrived at the national school. Vividly embedded in my memory is seeing Mrs McCarthy, the distraught mother all dressed in black, arriving in her pony and trap in the schoolyard, maybe the following day. It was playtime, and we all came to a standstill when we realised who was arriving. Silence reigned. It was a poignant moment. Brother Columban, who was out in the yard with us, went over quickly to the trap with outstretched arms, calling out, as far as I remember, "My poor woman, my poor woman". I could sense something of the heartfelt sympathy he was pouring out. Supporting her he directed her into a classroom. No doubt he gave her some measure of comforting, for he was a big-hearted, sensitive man.

We often walked stretches of that railway line, hopping from one sleeper to another. After Black's Bridge the railway crossed over the entrance to the house we knew as Mattie Maher's, now owned by Denis Walsh, of Rathcoole Sand and Gravel. The house there was originally a herdsman's house going with Rathcoole farm, and Mattie Maher was the last of the herdsmen to occupy it. That was in the 1910s and early 1920s. Before that it was occupied by a fami-

ly named Dorney. Quarrying for the gravel that was there in such quantities under the nearby fields was little done in those times, and there were no signs of the extensive ponds that later developed there through the quarrying operations.

The next entrance the railway crossed was that going into McCarthy's farm, owned formerly by the late Dick McCarthy, of Burke Street, and now by his son Michael. This crossing was beside what we knew as Jerry Ryan's cottage, now owned by owned by his daughter Teresa, and her husband Sean Kelly. At that point the space between road and railway was widening, and the one acre plot going with the cottage stretched between the railway and the road on either side of the house. Jerry was an engine driver, and drove the engine for the threshing set of the O'Keeffe's of Horse and Jockey, popularly called Keeffe's of the Jockey.

Not far below Jerry Ryan's was an angled iron post beside the track with 14 on its two faces. This was one of the mileposts along the line indicting the distance from Thurles Junction — 14 miles in this case.

Next came the railway crossing over the entrance to O'Connell's of Rathvin, (or Rathavin as it is in the Ordnance Survey maps), now owned by John Halley. There were two railway gates there with a sign on them which read '*GS & WR Notice. Any person leaving this gate open is liable to penalty of forty shillings*'. The opening and closing of the two gates





*One of the notices attached to all the gates on railway crossings between Black's Bridge and Leahy's Bridge*

each time they were going out their driveway must have been a nuisance for the O'Connell family, especially in the days of the pony and trap. The gates had timber styles at one side of them.

The O'Connell family was associated with Rathvin for generations. Phillip O'Connell occupied the farm when the railway was being put through in 1878. In our time growing up it was owned by his grandson, Edward O'Connell, known to all simply as Ned Connell. There was a big apple orchard below Ned's house bounded on the lower side by the railway fence. The sight of red apples ripening in August was more than any lad could resist. Even though we had plenty of apple trees ourselves, we made an odd raid on Connell's orchard. The approach through the outward-leaning railway fence was the obvious strategy. I remember two of us stealthily approaching the tree with the reddest apples one evening when a sudden barrage of barking froze us in

our tracks. Ned had his crossbred sheepdog tied to a tree. The barking brought Ned on the scene shouting in our general direction, but by then we had scaled the railway fence and lay hidden like undercover agents in the high rank grass of the sloped bank beside the track. We got only a few windfalls.

After passing Neville's bush-covered fort and the line of fine beech trees that was along by Rocklow, the railway passed over the Ballybough Road, which swung sharply down the inclining ground in an S-bend to go under the stone bridge. The farmhouse, now derelict, above the bridge was owned by Pat Byrne when we were going to school. In the late 1910s and early 1920s Jack Walsh and family lived there. He later bought Carrigeen farm, with its late 16th century tower-house and extensive pond, formerly owned by the Dunne family. Jack's wife Bridget was the well-known bone-setter.

The Walsh family was in Ballybough in the course of the War of Independence and the Civil War. It was in the Civil War period of 1922-23 that the Thurles-Clonmel railway line was targeted, and eight bridges were blown up, including the one at Ballybough. Jimmy Walsh made the blowing up of that bridge the subject of one of his poems in a little collection entitled *Arkle and Other Poems*, which he published in 1977 in England where he spent most of his life. *Ballybough Bridge*, the first poem in this modest collection, runs thus:



*The now ivy-covered railway bridge at Ballybough that was rebuilt following the bombing of it in 1922 by the anti-Treaty Republicans towards the end of the Civil War*

*Silently they came with guns that night,  
And a knock on the window gave us all a fright.*

*"Wake up, wake up, get out of bed:  
"Open your doors and windows", they said.*

*"The railway bridge we want to blow:  
In a little while you'll hear it go".*

*The hour was late so the fire was lit.*

*Then quietly there we all did sit.*

*To such men we paid little heed;*

*For I was very young indeed.*

*In actual fact I was but five,  
And to understand it all I did not strive.*

*In a little while the bang did go,  
The house fair shook, but stood it so.*

*"Holy Mary!" — Mother went,  
And a few more prayers to the angels sent.*

*Now all was quiet, so back to bed,  
No more we heard for the boys fled.  
Next morning we saw the bridge was broke.*

*As an army officer to Father spoke,  
Two bombs he said that there had been,  
But one had failed, as he had seen.*

*"Lucky people," he did say,  
"That your house is there today."*

*If perchance you wish to know,  
The name of the bridge was Ballybough.*

After Ballybough Bridge the railway line curved gently towards the Rocklow road to cross under it at Leahy's Bridge. We pronounced the

name as Lahy. We went over the bridge every school day in the pony and trap in the early 1940s. I recall that the slogan "Up Duffy", painted in white on the wall face at the top of the bridge, had become rather faded by that time. It was a faint echo of the Blueshirt days. The bridge took its popular name from Tommy Leahy, whose house, now owned by Alphie Brett, is on the Rocklow side of it. Tommy was a small, quiet man, who had joined the British army as a young man and saw action in World War I, especially in the notorious and ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. He used to come to till our kitchen garden for my mother every springtime. I often regretted that I not get him to tell me some of his war experiences.

After Leahy's Bridge the railway curved again to cross over the Clashawley at Breen's Bridge before heading for Fethard station. We often swam in the deep hole under the Breen's Bridge. It was in 1967 that the last train, a goods train, passed along that way. It was the last time a train was heard going between Black's Bridge and Leahy's Bridge. \*

*by Willie Hayes*



*Red City Knackers – Winners of First Prize in 1989 Fethard Festival Parade. Derry O'Dwyer with Billy the donkey and on cart. Back L to R (standing): Dermot Burke, Kevin Burke, Michael O'Dwyer. Middle L to R: Mark O'Dwyer, Emmet Burke, Mary Conway, Glen Burke, Carmel O'Dwyer. Front: Leeann Burke.*



*Michael Whyte's birthday party October 1978. Back L to R: Declan Morrissey, Vincent Murphy, Michael Whyte, Vincent Slattery, Stanley Murphy, Pat Whyte, Deirdre Norris. Front L to R Brendan Morrissey, Ted Connolly, Michael Slattery, Do O'Sullivan and Aishling Norris.*

## Fethard GAA Club



*Fethard Minor football team who drew 1-6 to 1-6 with Upperchurch / Drombane in the County Minor 'B' Football Final played in Boherlahan on 27th October. Back L to R: Tom O'Connell, Christopher Sheehan, Cathal Gorey, Aaron Donovan, Declan Doyle, Adrian Lawrence, J.P. McGrath, Michael Fleming, Eoin Condon, Ciarán O'Connell, Ciarán Ryan. Front L to R: Eoin Healy, Ben Walsh, Johnny Fleming, Alan O'Connor, James Kelly, Eoin O'Connell, Gavin Fitzgerald, Dean Tobin and Daniel Hickey.*

On Sunday 4th November 2007, our senior footballers' year on the playing field came to an end with a very poor performance in the county senior football final. This was our first time reaching a senior football county final in 6 years and it was our second defeat this year to Moyle Rovers, having already lost the south final. While it was great to qualify for both finals, the manner in losing them leaves a lot to be desired and one would have to ask where the future lies for this current team.

The brighter side of 2007 was the success of our Minor B teams having won both south titles. The Minor B hurlers gave us great enjoyment in winning the title when they beat Carrick Swans in the final, 6-13 to 3-11, and eventually losing to Toomevara by 2-10 to 2-4 in the coun-

ty semifinal.

Our Minor B footballers came back from the dead in the south final to record a 2-14 to 2-9 win over Ballyporeen and then went on to beat Newport by 1-9 to 1-6 in the county semifinal played in Templemore. The team went on to meet Upperchurch/Drombane in the county final played in Boherlahan on 27th October and were lucky to survive on a score line of 1-6 each to earn a second chance in a replay on 11th November 2007 at the same venue. Unfortunately, we were not good enough on the day in a game that could have been saved with a little bit of luck. After missing a penalty and two very scorable frees in front of goal, the game finished on a scoreline, Fethard 0-8, Upperchurch 1-10. Overall Upperchurch / Drombane



proved to be a well-balanced opposition in both size, power and football over the 120 minutes.

The Club Officers elected for the current year were: Chairman Michael O'Dwyer; Secretary Mary Godfrey; Joint Treasurers Noel Byrne & Nicky O'Shea; and PRO Noel Byrne. We take this opportunity to thank sponsors, players, supporters, selectors and the committee for all their wonderful work in keeping the club on the road. May 2008 bring us further success on the playing fields.

### South Board History

The launch of 'The South Board History 1907-2007' took place on 7th October in GAA Centre, Clonmel. Our 'Ard Stiurthoir' (Director General GAA), Liam Mulvihill, on his first official visit to the South Board as Director General since his appointment in 1979 and his stepping down

from this position on 2007, launched the book. This excellent book of history, Gaelic culture and club records, will retail at €40 and is available in Fethard at Newport's, Main Street, or from Noel Byrne (book committee member), and has something in it for everyone who has a love of Gaelic culture and beyond. It was great to see a fine turnout and appropriate that the Director General of the GAA was welcomed to our division by our own Miceál McCormack (South Board Chairman 2007).

The book was excellently produced by Michael O'Meara and his committee and is available in hard-back edition featuring 800 pages, 250 photos (present and past), 220 profiles of south players and mentors over the past 100 years, and some excellent stories of times gone bye in upholding the running of our championship. The book committee apologise for any



*Fethard South Minor B Hurling Champions 2007. Back L to R: P.J. Aherne (selector), Michael Carroll (selector), Gavin Fitzgerald, Alan O'Connor, Thomas O'Connell, Jerome Ahearne, Jack O'Sullivan, Aaron O'Donovan, Declan Doyle, Christopher Sheehan, J.P. McGrath, Cathal Gorey, Joe Fogarty, Dean Tobin. Front L to R: Eoin O'Connell, Mathew Fitzgerald, Ciarán O'Connell, James Kelly, Johnny Fleming, Kevin Hayes, Shamie O'Keeffe. Seated in front are Kieran Ryan and Adrian Lawrence.*



*Fethard Senior Football 2007 Back L to R: Miceál Spillane, Edmond Sheehan, Stephen O'Donnell, John P Looby, Connie O'Flynn, Aiden Fitzgerald, Paul Fitzgerald, Tommy Gahan, J P McGrath, Cian Maher, Eoin Doyle, Glen Burke, Benny Hahessy. Front L to R: Michael Dillon, Willie Morrissey, Adrian Lawrence, Dean Tobin, Kenneth O'Donnell, Brian Coen, Ian Kenrick, Michael Aherne, Shane Walsh, Conor McCarthy, Christopher Sheehan, Damien Byrne and Shane Aylward. Missing from photo is Jamie McCormack.*

omissions or mistakes. This book would make an excellent Christmas present for anyone interested in GAA over the 100 years.

### **Deceased Officers remembered**

At the South Board Centenary Celebrations on Saturday 13th January 2007, all deceased officers of the board were honoured and a medallion presentation was made to family members who were present on the day. Nearly 150 people were present and Fethard had seven recipients: Dan P Walsh who was Club Secretary in 1912-1913 and also held Treasurer of South Board in 1912, and now the D.P. Walsh Cup perpetuates his memory; Ned Kenrick served as Secretary of the South Board in 1909 and 1910 and also served as Secretary of the Fethard Club between 1911 and 1913; school teacher Tom Keating served as Vice Chairman of the Board in 1932 and 1933, and served as Secretary of

the Fethard Club from 1928 to 1930. Tom was a highly respected referee and a brother of John Keating who was South Board Chairman in 1956, was Club Chairman from 1937 to 1950, and again in 1953 and 1954. Ned O'Shea of Bloody Sunday fame, served as Vice Chairman of the South Board from 1912 to 1915 and in 1916 became the fifth South Board Chairman, a position he held until 1922. He was also Chairman of the Fethard Club from 1919 to 1924 before emigrating to USA in 1925. His brother, Sean O'Shea, was the seventh Chairman of South Board from 1928 to 1936 (died in office), and was also Chairman of Fethard Club from 1919 to 1924 and from 1927 to 1936. He was also Secretary of Fethard Club from 1920 to 1927 and the South Senior Football Championship Trophy is named in his honour. Dick Cummins (Jnr) was Life President of the South Board from 2003 to his



*Group photographed at the grave of Dick Cummins in Fethard Parish Church graveyard where Dick was honoured by the South Board. L to R: Michael O'Dwyer (Chairman Fethard GAA Club), Kay O'Dwyer, Miceál McCormack (Chairman South Board GAA), Fr Tom Breen P.P. and Michael O'Dwyer (Dublin).*



*Fethard GAA members photographed at the grave of John Keating in Calvary Cemetery Fethard where he was honoured by the South Board as part of the Centenary Celebrations in South Tipperary. L to R: Joe Ahearn, Sean Moloney, Tony Newport, Dick Fitzgerald, Liam Connolly, Percy O'Flynn and Austin Godfrey.*



*Photographed at Redcity Cemetery where Ned Kenrick and John O'Shea were honoured by the South Board. L to R: Sean Moloney, Tony Newport and Jimmy McInerney.*





GAA South Board Members and Fethard club members at the grave of John O'Shea in Redcity Cemetery



GAA South Board Members and Fethard club members at the grave of Ned Kenrick in Redcity Cemetery



GAA South Board Members and Fethard club members at the grave of John Keating in Calvary Cemetery



GAA South Board and Fethard club members at the grave of Dick Cummins in Parish Church Graveyard



passing in 2005. Dick was also honoured with the Sean Na Ghael award in 2003 for his services to the GAA. He served as Chairman of the Fethard Club from 1981 to 1984.

To all those who kept the flag flying for 100 years we are truly grateful and look forward with optimism to what the next 100 will bring.

The South Board Commemoration visitations on 27th May 2007 to Fethard Cemeteries went off very well. Our thanks to Jimmy O'Shea, Denis Burke, Gussy Fitzgerald and Miceál McCormack for their orations at the gravesides; to all the South Board officials for their presence; and to the families of the deceased honoured for their kind words of thanks and appreciation. Go ndeana Dia trocaire orthu.

### Liam Connolly



It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of one of Fethard's finest Gaels, Liam Connolly. Liam spanned a playing career of 25 years with club and county from 1951 to 1976 as a dual player. No other person in the club won such honours in senior hurling — All Ireland 1958, 1961 and 1962 (sub). Liam also won Munster medals in 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, Intermediate All Ireland and Munster Medals in 1966, and won a Minor All Ireland title in 1953 with Munster in that grade in 1953 and 1954.

In football Liam wore the county senior jersey for 11 years from 1956 to

1967 without success. He also represented his club at minor in 1954, a feat unrivalled by any other person in the Fethard club.

For his Fethard club Liam holds Senior County Football titles for 1954 and 1957, when he won his first title at age eighteen. He won South Senior Titles in 1954, 1955, 1957, 1969, 1976, spanning 22 years between his first and last, and also won Tipperary Man Cup Medals during that period.

Having had the privilege of winning two South titles with him I can say that Liam was a gentleman at all times with tremendous commitment and advice. In junior football he was a member of the Killusty 1956 South and County winning team. He held a unique record when he won South minor hurling and football titles in 1952 with Fethard as a 16 year old, and another minor South football medal in 1951 as a 15 year old.

Hurling was his great love and he holds a south senior medal with Na Piarraig 1957 and a Group B South title in 1956 with Pádraigh Pearse. He was part of the Coolmoyn Junior A South winners of 1959, and later in life was honoured with a Hall of Fame in 1994, and a Cumann na Sean Ghael Award in 2006.

Liam will be sadly missed for his guidance on the field and his ability to read the game. His presence will also be a void on the sideline. To his family we offer our sincere condolences at this time.

Go ndeana Dia trocaire orthu.

### Mick Ahearn



The parish was shocked at the untimely passing on 10th August 2007 of Mick Ahearne at a relatively young age. His work and commitment to many organizations within the parish will be sorely missed. He gave freely of his time to the Fethard GAA Club and served as Club Chairman 2002–2004. It was a pleasure to work and serve under his guidance to his wife Monica, sons P J, Gerry, Michael and family we offer our sincere condolence.

### John O'Riordan



Our sincere sympathy to the O'Riordan family (Kerry Street and Barrack Street) on the death of John in America. John played with Fethard in the 1950s, winning a south and county senior football medal in 1954.

### Joe O'Dwyer



Our sincere sympathy to the O'Dwyer family (St. Patrick's Place) on the passing of Joe at the great age of 97. Joe was a man who played for the club winning honours at senior football in 1942, both south and county, and was also the last survivor of the Killusty junior side of 1932. Go ndeana Dia trocaire orthu.

### Killusty 1956 Junior Football Team

Fethard GAA Club hosted a most enjoyable social evening in the Fethard Arms on Friday 30th March 2007. The evening was organised to honour the members of the Killusty Junior Football Team, winners of the 1956 South and County Tipperary Junior Football Championships, and to present the 2005 South Tipperary Senior Football Championship medals and the 2006 South Tipperary Intermediate medals to the respective Fethard winning teams. Club chairman Michael O'Dwyer first welcomed each and everyone with a special Cead Mile Failte for the guests of honour, South Tipperary Chairman, Miceál McCormack, Secretary Sean Nugent and Jimmy Ryan, Carrick, recipient of the South Tipperary player of the past award 2006.

Jimmy O'Shea, a member of the '56 team, was a most capable MC for the presentation of a beautiful memento of the occasion to the 1956 veterans. All of those in attendance looked fit enough to go out and play next Sunday. Four members of the panel were unable to attend, and especially remembered were the six members of the panel, Mick Byrne, Mick O'Riordan, Ned Sheehan, Brian O'Donnell, Gus Danaher and Tom McCormack, who are no longer with us. It was an evening of remembering, matches won and lost, and worthy opponents of the day. More than one of the old timers remarked, "what a pity we do not have more such nights when old friends could meet and



*St. Augustine's Senior Hurling Team (Kilsheelan and Fethard), South Tipperary Champions 1982. Back L to R: Joe Ahearn (selector), John Kehoe, Noel Byrne, Matt Cahill, Jim McGrath, Maurice Harrington, Davy Fitzgerald, Gerry Kehoe, Stephen McCormack, Jim Kehoe, Cyril Robinson, William Robinson, Michael Kehoe, Liam Stokes, John Donovan (selector). Front L to R: Liam McCarthy, Peter Moore, James Downes, A.B. Kennedy, Pat Larkin (captain), Sean Nugent, Pat O'Neill, Davy Morrissey, Pakie Harrington, John Larkin, Liam Corcoran, Michael Keane (selector). Mascot in front is Liam Robinson. Inserts L to R: John Keyes (selector), Ray Reidy (selector), Brian McNally and Dick Strang.*

recall past glories".

Very welcome refreshments were provided by the ladies of the club. The evening concluded with a terrific sing-song, many of the guests contributing, and local talented accordionist Joan O'Brien at her brilliant best.

### **St Augustine's 1982 Team Reunion**

St. Augustine's, South Senior Hurling Champions 1982, were honoured at a function in Hotel Minella on 26th October 2007. A presentation of a framed photo was made to members of the team, from Fethard and Kilsheelan, honoured and present on the night. The Fethard recipients were: Stephen McCormack, Davy

Morrissey, Pakie Harrington, Maurice Harrington, A.B. Kennedy, Davy Fitzgerald, Liam McCarthy, Noel Byrne, Jim McGrath and selector Michael Keane. Unable to be present on the night were James Downes and Joe Ahearne (selector). With Paddy Finnucane of Tipp FM radio looking after MC duties for the evening, a great night of chat and music was had by all.

We would like to thank the organising committee of Noel Byrne, Michael Keane, Gussy Fitzgerald – Fethard's representatives on the committee – for a wonderful event that was much appreciated by all those present. \*



*Killusty Junior Team 1956 South and County Champions*

*Back L to R: Gerald Mackey, Brian O'Donnell, Jim Williams, Johnny Ferris, Tony Newport, Jack Prout, Mick Byrne, Vincent Allen, Tom Ryan and Dick Allen. Middle Row L to R: Nicholas O'Shea, Gus Danaher, Liam Connolly, Sean Connolly, Jimmy O'Shea, Alfie Brett, Gus Neville, Mick O'Riordan. Front L to R: Ned Sheehan, Liam O'Flaherty, Tom McCormack, Seamus Hackett and Sean Moloney.*



*Tipperary Football Team 1927*

*Back L to R: J Ryan, E Connolly, J Phelan, M Spillane, M Gunne, E Cummins, E O'Shea. Middle L to R: P Dwyer (sec), M Cleer, W Rouse, P Landy, T Armitage, P McGrath, P Dwane, Jack Quane (trainer). Front L to R: S Grant, W Barrett (jnr), Billy Barrett (capt), J O'Connor (jnr) and J O'Connor (vice capt).*



## First Irishman at the Dutch Open

History was made this year as Dan Morrissey (photographed on right) was the first Irishman to represent the country at the Dutch Open Sheepdog Trials held in July. The prestigious event is one of the highlights on the continental sheepdog calendar with ninety-six of the top dogs from eleven countries competing. The competition was decided over two days with each dog competing twice each day. Dan and his dog 'Gem' showed great consistency and despite stiff competition took home the honours for Ireland securing a very credible fourth place overall. \*



## Sheepdog Trials in Killusty

It was a busy year on the sheepdog calendar as Ireland hosted the Supreme International Sheepdog Trials in Burnchurch, County Kilkenny, in September.

On the local front the Killusty Sheepdog Trials were held once again this year in glorious October sunshine – climate change has its benefits! Five competitions were held over two days covering novice, intermediate, doubles and an open competition on both days.

The novice competition proved interesting with the young dogs demonstrating what they had learned or not as the case may be! The competition was won by Wexford's Bill Seale with 'Ben', second place went to Tipperary-man John O'Brien with

'Shan', third to Kilkenny's Richard Butler with 'Glen' and fourth to local man Dom O'Driscoll with 'Jack'.

The intermediate competition was won by Dan Morrissey with his young blue dog, 'Toss'. Martin Walsh took second place with 'Nell' and third place went to Norman Deacon with 'Jim'.

There was an extra edge to the doubles competition as competitors fought it out to win the new Maurice O'Connell Doubles Trophy. It was a local derby with the trophy going to Kilcash man Martin Walsh with 'Cap' and 'Vic' and Dan Morrissey taking second place with 'Gem' and 'Flash'. Third place went to Cork man Tom Quirke with 'Spot' and 'Nell'.

The local trend continued in

Saturday's Open Competition with Dan Morrissey taking the first and second places with 'Toss' and 'Flash'. Third place went to Bill Seale with 'Ben', fourth to Tom Quirke with 'Spot', fifth to Dan Morrissey with 'Kim' and sixth place to Jim McConnell with 'Nan'.

Sunday's Open Competition for the Paddy Morrissey Cup was keenly contested by competitors from all over the country. The cup was retained locally this year as Martin Walsh from Kilcash continued his winning streak with 'Cap'. Second went to Toddy Lambe with 'Sam', third to John Brennan with 'Cap', fourth to Brian Casey with 'Ben', fifth to Bill Seale

with 'Rose' and sixth to Denis O'Brien with 'Jim'.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped in making the event a success, to the sponsors, judges and of course, the competitors and their dogs for providing a most enjoyable two days of excellent trialling.

In other news, Dan Morrissey having served three busy years as Chairman of the Irish Sheepdog Society, during which time Ireland hosted both the World and the Supreme International Sheepdog Trials, was recently elected as President of the Irish Sheepdog Society. \*



*Killusty South Junior Football Champions 1932. Back L to R: Ned 'Buz' Lawrence, Connie Ryan, Paddy Keating, trainer (hat), Mick Hayes, Bill Nagle, Dan Davis (hat), Eddie Walsh, Jim Lee, Dick Hayes and Jim Pollard (president). Middle: George Williams, Paddy Maher, Frank Byrne, Mick or Tom Maher, Mickey Holohan, Billy Ahessy and Pat Sheehan. Front: Jimmy Davis (boy), Joe Lee, Mick Byrne, Jack 'Sprig' Nagle, Ned 'Cab' Holohan, Mick Condon, Paddy Ahearne and James Byrne. Boy in the front is Johnny Sheehan.*

## Killusty Pony Show



*L to R: Thomas O'Connell, Killenaule; Jim O'Connell, Silberfort; and Mattie Ryan, Buffana, watching the Killusty Pony Show in 1980*

Earlier this year the committee decided that any show in its 44th year and held on 7/7/07 would have to be lucky with the weather, and so it transpired. One short sharp shower showed us what we were missing as we went about the business of judging ponies. Claremore was looking superb as no one had taken a vehicle onto the field for a week. The setting-up had been done by an army of volunteers and the rings were a credit to their work. The rain both before and after this year's show was of deluge proportions and only a scorching wind on the Friday and a fine day on show day made it possible to go ahead. The landowner showed great courage in persevering and was rewarded. As the season went on, 14 major shows were cancelled including Tullamore (not to be rescheduled) and Clonmel Show on 1st July, while held, was a washout.

The FitzGerald family have been coming to Killusty since its inception but although they had won the Welsh Championship in the past the In-hand Cup had eluded them until this year. Rosie FitzGerald's Zulu Warrior won the 2&3-year-old Hunter Pony Class to go forward to the Championship which he also won. Jenny O'Driscoll's Amesbury Bumble Bee, the yearling Show Pony winner, was a good reserve champion while Ann Grimes' Lambay for Fun took the Tansy Taran Cup for the best filly in the Championship. Mary Hayden's Tullocussane Maybelle won the Lydon House Cup for the Best Local in the Championship for the second year in succession.

Isobel Reynolds' Roodlebats Sinnitta, whose name appears on the Ridden Show Pony Championship Cup several times, has now staked her



*Ann Lalor leading children Jill and Liz Lalor to the Fancy Dress competition at Killusty Pony Show in 1986*

claim for a mention on the Broodmare Championship Cup. Patrick Geoghegan's Dangan Patricka, also known for her efforts in the ridden rings, has graduated to the paddocks and was a worthy Reserve. The Welsh Championship for the cup in memory of Gus Keane was won this year by Mary Moore's Rookery Sugar Mouse with Liz Freeman's Moelgarnedd Bendith in reserve. The Butler Connemara Championship went to R. Fallon's Cashelbay Prince with Dangan Patricka again in reserve.

The Coolmore Stud Killusty Show Pony Championship went to Miss Claire Wall's Glenhuntley Hoity-Toity with Majella Scully's Broteifi Vivacious in reserve although numbers in this division continue to disappoint. The Side Saddle Champion was Jill Poole's Whitehouse Chorister with David J. Byrne's Brookvale Skylark in

reserve. Numbers for the mini Championship certainly did not disappoint and from nearly 100 entries in the various classes Sean Scallan's Millay Margarite came from the Open Lead-Rein Hunter Pony to pip Shane McNamara's Upacott Xotica for the championship. The Lismortagh Stables Open Show Hunter Championship went to Basil Brindley's Lovely Ludlow with Sarah Collen's Inspector Morse in reserve in a repeat of last year's championship. The GAIN Novice Show Hunter Championship went to S. Garrigan's Penni Farthing with Orla Hayes Lismakeera Shadowlands in reserve. Local ponies may not have been quite so prominent in the lists this year but in the Novice Working Hunter Championship they truly came into their own. Yvonne Casey's Snowbelle was pulled in champion ahead of



Barbara Murphy's Master Mozart, both with addresses in the Parish of Fethard and Killusty. The Open Working Championship and the Captain Curtin Cup went to Ann Stanley's great old campaigner Bob Marley with Inspector Morse again in reserve. The Intermediate Championship went to Whitehouse Chorister to add to his side-saddle honours with Julie Brindley-O'Brien's Beechfield Bircari Breezer in reserve. Bob Marley came out on top again in the Performance Working Hunter Championship with Sarah Collen's Ardfry Rivendell in Reserve. To round off the day, Avril Breen won the Tate Croome Carroll Memorial Equitation Championship with Patricia Ryan in reserve. She went on to be Reserve Champion at Peterborough Show.

Without the help of the many vol-

unteers Killusty could not happen and it is all credit to them that yet another great day was had in the valley of Slievenamon. They are looking forward in anticipation to the 45th Show on the first Saturday in July as always. Our sponsors, as ever, came up trumps. Classes were sponsored in the names of long-term supporters Michael Coffey and Paddy and Ann Maher who are no longer with us but were remembered fondly on the day.

Since the Show, Killusty has lost another long-term supporter. Sarah Miller, who took the minutes at the first ever Killusty Show, was due to receive a presentation for her help and support over the 44 years as judge and adviser but due to illness was unable to attend the Show. She died peacefully in early September. \*



*Emily (Croom-Carroll) Graafland and daughter Emily 'Tempe' at the 1986 Killusty Pony Show Fancy Dress*

## Badgers Over 30's Soccer



*Badgers Soccer Team Front L to R: John Bermingham, Seanie Bermingham, Liam Meagher, Bryan Steedman, Mick Tyllier, Liam Harrington, Michael Ryan, John McClain, Kevin O'Dwyer. Middle Row L to R: Cohn McGrath, Mikolaj Kwasek, Dominik Grydziusko, Philip Funnell, Tom Hogan (referee), Pat O'Donnell, Kevin Ryan. Back L to R: Mateusz Machulski, Richard Thompson, Owen Roach, Noel O'Dwyer, Andy Donovan.*

What a year it has been. Let us begin with the weather. This year was the wettest on record with the country experiencing over fifty days in which it rained some part of each day. Yet by some miracle every Wednesday night at eight it cleared away and the sun shone down providing perfect playing conditions. This year I don't think we had to cancel one game because of inclement weather. In fact all the rain provided a fantastic playing surface of lush green grass and a nice spongy soft turf.

One of the big events of the year

was a visit to John and Monica Bermingham's farm retreat of 'Croc an Óir', Mullinahone. The Berminghams provide self-catering accommodation and workshops for groups of up to 20 or more. But on the night in question it was a game of soccer away from home with an international flavour. A group of Polish visitors took part in a friendly game with the Badgers and afterwards there was great celebration with food and wine of plenty. Music was provided by 'Wahoo' and there was no end to the talent with Mick Tillyer giving a spectacular perform-

ance that was on par with the likes of Dean Martin or any of the rat pack. John McClain brought the house down with his very authentic Proclaimers number while Bryan Steedman gave us all a good laugh with 'Stand by Your Man'. Over all it was a fantastic night enjoyed by all, thanks again to John, Monica and Seanie.

Coming into the new premiership season the talk is of new players' transfers and new sponsor and change of management. Well, the Badgers will not be out done there either. Thanks to the 'Magic' Michael Ryan who is a man of action on and off the pitch, we have new jerseys sponsored by Philip and Ann Butler of Butlers Sports Bar, Main Street. Thanks to the Butlers' generosity two sets of jerseys were purchased with crest and sponsors

name. The choice of colours was a contentious issue but in the end it was our new chairman and assistant secretary (see below) who made the final choice. So you would be forgiven if you thought that it was Fethard playing Ballingarry every Wed night as we don our maroon and blue.

At the AGM, which took place on 30th March this year a new committee was elected which comprises of: Owen Roche (Chairman), Bryan Steedman (Treasurer), Colm McGrath (Secretary) with Kevin Ryan (assistant Secretary, to take full post next year). Andy Donovan volunteered to take on the secretary's job in 2010, we look forward to it.

Congratulations to all on their election to office and to all our members we wish a fit, happy, healthy and fun year ahead. \*

## Conor Maher remembered by a friend

Many of us in Fethard shed a tear while listening to John Fitzgerald pay a final tribute to the late Conor Maher at his funeral Mass held in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 22nd September 2007. John was his employer in Clonmel and Conor worked in his auctioneering firm, Dougan & Fitzgerald, for nine years. John reminded us of Conor's good way dealing with people, his interest in Fethard Ballroom, his love for Fethard,

and why he wouldn't choose to live elsewhere.



It started with playing cards in the Fr. Tirry Community Centre, where Conor was welcomed at an early age by Michael O'Dwyer. At the age of eleven he was a familiar face at the card games, volunteering to serve teas and biscuits at break time. During this period Conor created lifelong friendships with a generation of people far beyond his years.



*Easter Sunday night, 19th April 1995, saw the Fethard Mayoral Election come to a close when David O'Donnell, Coleman, was elected as the new Mayor of Fethard. The two other candidates, Paddy Hickey and Mick Ahearne, were gracious in defeat saying, "The better man won!". David is pictured above with his campaign crew and country singing star, Trudy Lawlor, who played for the ecstatic large crowd at the dance which followed the election. Proceeds of the Mayoral Election went towards the Ballroom Renovation Fund.*

*Back L to R: Patricia Byrne, Derry O'Dwyer, Ann O'Dwyer, Chris O'Dwyer, Sheila O'Donnell, Pat Byrne. Front L to R: David O'Donnell, Trudy Lawlor and Conor Maher.*

From the early nineties, Fethard & Killusty Community Council set about purchasing and renovating the old ballroom, which had been derelict for years and was put up for sale. Conor was introduced to the Fethard Mayoral fundraising project at the age of sixteen by candidate David O'Donnell. Canvassing the countryside with David, Conor and the team succeeded in raising nine thousand pounds as part of the Mayoral Election. From this point on, Conor became involved in other voluntary activities in the town, including his work with Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA, who

ran the local lotto to raise funds for the restoration of the Abbey Church. In 1997 Fethard Ballroom was in financial difficulty and Conor was once again out canvassing support for the Sunday night dances which were being established and have since become the mainstay of the hall's social and financial success.

Conor touched many in Fethard and beyond with his out-going personality, his ever-present smile, and always helping others when he could. Conor, you will be greatly missed and always remembered by your friends in Fethard. \*



## Fethard Ladies Football Club



*Fethard under-10 ladies football team who played in the blitz in Fethard on 15th September 2007.*

Fethard Ladies Football Club commenced this year with our under-age players. We had some very good games in our under-12 age group with a mixture of under-10s used to make up the team. We hope next year will be better. Our under-14 team reached the county semifinal against Aherlow who were much stronger and finished easy winners in the end.

We held a very successful under-10 blitz in Fethard in August where we lost one and won one game. We would like to thank Mark Tynan of MT Construction for presenting the club with a set of jerseys for underage level and all who presented medals

and refreshments on the day.

The junior team had great success winning the Junior C League final against Boherlahan. We went on to play Mullinahone in the championship who eventually were easy winners.

We found it very hard to get 15 players in the end as some of our minor players do not want to play on. This is a great pity after providing training and coaching for them.

Special thanks to coaches Marie Holohan (underage) and Dinny Burke (juniors) for all the time they gave to the club and to anyone who helped the club in any way. \*



*Photographed at training L to R: Áine Proudfoot, Aileen Butler, Annie Prout and Alana Coady.*



*Photographed at training are L to R: Jade Pattison, Laura Ryan, Áine Phelan and Amy Pollard.*



*Fethard Ladies Football Coaches L to R: Michael Ryan, Denis Burke and Joe Keane.*



*Photographed at training are L to R: Jane Kenny, Áine Phelan, Jean Anglim, Emma Hayes and Hanna Daly.*

## Fethard Senior Citizens Club

Fethard Senior Citizens Club is twenty-five years old this year and going as good as ever. As usual our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Tirry Community Centre where all present are served with tea, sandwiches and cakes, followed by a guest speaker, music or bingo. Last December we had Mass for our senior citizens in the Augustinian Abbey Church after which everybody boarded the bus for the Anner Hotel in Thurles where we held our Christmas Party. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Our Easter outing was to Kilkenny where we had ample time for shopping and then on to the Springhill Court Hotel for dinner. Of course, the ladies were resplendent dressed in their Easter Bonnets which were dis-

played and judged by the hotel staff.

Our summer outing was to Kinsale where we had refreshments at the Trident Hotel. Later we headed back towards home to the Fairways Restaurant at Slievenamon Golf Club for dinner.

In August we went on our annual trip to Tramore and all were delighted with the lovely summer afternoon, again finishing up at The Fairways for dinner.

Preparations are now underway for this year's Christmas Party and we take this opportunity to thank all those who helped us in any way, either financially or otherwise, to keep our club going.

A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all our friends at home and abroad. \*

## Fethard & Killusty Community Games

This year brought further success to the Fethard and Killusty area. The same hard-working committee organised various events in the area commencing with Art and Model-making where the following children won medals at area level: Girls U-8: Roisín McDonnell, Carly Tobin, Chelsea Kenny and Aoife Sheehan. U-10: Ciara Hayes, Aine Proudfoot and Sadie McGrath. U-12: Leah O'Donnell, Jennifer Rice and Aobh O'Shea. U-14: Nicole Looby, Aoibhlinn Delany and Lucy Butler. U-16: Laura Rice. Boys U-8: Conor

Harrington, Conor Clancy, Jack Pollard and Darragh Lynch. U-10: Tim Hurley, Connie Coen and Harry Butler. U-12: Charlie Manton, Colin Grant and Kevin Shine. U-14: Cathal Hurley, Gerry Horan and Mattie Holohan.

The County Final of the Art Competition took place in Fethard Ballroom and we achieved a double gold when Róisín McDonnell, daughter of former competitor Pat, won the U-8 event and Laura Rice, Everardsgrange, completed a hat-trick qualifying for the National Finals in



*Fethard girls Under-16 Volleyball team who received their HSE Community Games Certificates and brought the Tommy Butler Shield back to Fethard once more are pictured in University of Limerick. Back L to R: Igor Naginsky (referee from Ukraine), Kelly Coady, Kelly Fox, Gráinne Horan, Katie Coen, Anthony Fitzsimons, Chairman of Munster Council who presented certificates and shield. Front L to R: Aisha Tobin, Sarah O'Meara, Kelly Fogarty, Jean Anglim and Jane Kenny.*

Mosney for the third time. Leah O'Donnell won silver and Nicole Looby won bronze.

The U-14 Quiz was contested in Thurles and the Fethard team comprised of Jane Holohan, Faye Manton, Deirdre Dwyer and Mary-Jane Kearney. Radika Jannickova, Kevin Hayes and Ciara Tillyer were our representatives at the Swimming Championships in Nenagh where Radika won gold and Kevin won silver.

In Judo Aobh and Pádraig O'Shea, Kate Delahunty, Lorraine Feery and Gary Bradshaw all won county titles. They travelled to Tralee for the Munster finals where Gary and

Pádraig won gold and Aobh and Kate won silver medals. Gary and Pádraig both won silver medals at HSE Community Games National Finals in Mosney.

In Athletics the following children qualified for the County finals in Nenagh. U-8 60m: Laura Butler, Rebecca Kenny, Darragh Lynch and Mark Heffernan. U-8 80m: Isobel Kennedy, Aisling Gorey, Eric Fogarty and Jack Ward. U-10 100m: Annie Prout, Nicola Thompson, Jack Gleeson and Luke Grant. U-10 200m: Megan Hayes, Chloe Burke, Dean Dorney and Matthew Lynch. U-12 100m: Hannah Tobin, Kate Quigley,



David Heffernan and Darren Needham. U-12 600m: Karen Hayes and Clodagh Bradshaw. U-14 100m: Aine Phelan and Shannon O'Brien. U-16 100m: Kevin Hayes. U-16 1500m: Adam O'Donnell and Eoin Prout. This was a very successful event for

Fethard's competitors as they came home from the county finals with three gold medals — Darragh Lynch, Coolmore; Eric Fogarty, Barrack Street; and Adam O'Donnell, Redcity; — all winning their events to qualify for the National finals. Mark Heffernan won silver, being defeated by the narrowest of margins by team mate Darragh Lynch.

In the team events both Mini and Tag Rugby teams were defeated in the county finals and in volleyball, both boys and girls teams qualified for Mosney where they were awarded certificates having finished in fourth place. Well done and thank you to Damien Byrne, Killusty, who undertook the task of coaching and looking after these teams. Boys Team: Darren Thompson, Dean Sharpe, Garreth Lawrence, Tony Myler, Andrew

Maheer and Damien Morrissey. Girls Team: Gráinne Horan, Kelly Coady, Sarah O'Meara, Kelly Fox, Jane Kenny, Aisha Tobin, Jean Anglim, Fiona Crotty and Kelly Fogarty.

Aobh O'Shea was presentation girl on the first weekend while Helena

O'Shea and Patricia Bradshaw both acted as Judo officials and supervisors for the county. A big 'Thank You' and very well done to all.

We advise that skittles is a new event on the programme for 2008. Anybody who would like to get involved in this sport can contact the Community Games Office (Phone: 052 31906) for further

information.

Due to changes at headquarters there will be three National Finals in 2008, one in May and two in August and an extra Munster Final in March, so all events will be earlier next year. Anybody interested in any event or who would like to join the committee please make contact with the Community Games Office. We would like to take this opportunity to wish a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all our readers. \*



*Róisín McDonnell at the Community Games Art & Model Making County Finals.*



*County Athletics Finals of the Community Games at CBS Nenagh on 27th May 2007. L to R: Darragh Lynch winner of the U-8 60m race, and Eric Fogarty winner of the U-8 80m race. Both qualified for Mosney.*



*Winners of the 1500m race at the County Athletics Finals receiving medals. L to R: Joe Keane (vice-chairman Tipperary Community Games), 2nd Ciarán Purcell (Gortnahoe), 1st Adam O'Donnell (Fethard), 3rd John Crowe (Tipp Town) and Peggy Colville (PRO Tipperary Community Games).*

## Do You Remember . . . 1980

The summer of 1980 was a dreadful one. Rain, rain, rain, with no end in sight. Hay making and harvesting had been most difficult, making the task of the farmer nigh to impossible. By September the Clashawley had such a depth of water as had not been known in living memory. And this year was a different age in other ways. There were still enough nuns in the convent to make the holding of a seven-thirty Mass in their chapel. And Mrs Joe O'Connor of The Green was still tapping her way briskly down to the Abbey to ring the bell for eight o'clock Mass which she had done day in day out for years. Cars and trailers still converged on the creamery in The Valley with their tankers of milk. Sherrards Engineering were still operating on the Rosegreen Road; Whyte's Garage still gave a service on the Main Street; the Forge Tavern and John O'Shea's Lounge were still offering

their social services. Yes, the rain fell and the sun shone on little everyday actions and on shops and public places that are no longer a part of Fethard life.

In this year the County Council had completed the first stage of the plan for the development and landscaping of the Clashawley river bank between the Convent bridge and Watergate Street bridge. This, and the later work of 'The Friends of Fethard' led on to the lovely vista of today and to the startlingly beautiful photograph which graces the 2007 Coolmore Stud catalogue which has gone around the world. And in all of this we should not forget the Fethard Town Commissioners who were first elected in the 1840s, were much enhanced and broadened by the Local Government act of 1898, and continued to function down to the mid 1930s. They too, with little money, gave their best for the



*Fethard from Cashel Road taken from a postcard published in the 1960s*

town. All patriots and lovers of their town.

The big event of 1980 was also a renewal. This was the renovation of the old Tirry Social Club into the Tirry Community Centre and new Community Hall. The lovely old Georgian building had begun life about 1800 as a Protestant school and older readers will recall the place as the Tirry Club and as the local library. By the late 1970s the building had

been abandoned and had begun to decay. So that when the Community Council took over the structure as part of its 'town renewal' projects the members placed a considerable burden on

their shoulders, a burden that was to become in total £20,000 (a considerable sum of money in 1980, perhaps somewhere between a quarter and a half a million euro in today's money) before it was finished. The festivals, the walks, the furniture auctions, the sale of produce all helped to reduce this burden. The County Council paid the sum of £2,366 for the installation of various amenities. And those men and women of courage were: Father John Stapleton of Clonakenny near Roscrea who was then curate in Fethard and national president of Muintir na Tire; Father John was also president and driving force of the local Community Council; the chairman of the Council was Jerry Skehan and his

vice-chairs were occupied by Mrs Annie O'Brien and Jimmy McInerney; the secretary was Peter Colville; the treasurers were John White and Austin O'Flynn; and the committee were, Tommy Butler, Percy O'Donnell, Michael Ahearn, Sean Spillane, Mrs Nellie Donovan, Mrs Carol Kenny, Timothy Slattery, Brother James Moran, Vincent Doocey, Paddy Broderick, Gabriel Horan and Michael O'Dwyer. The drive and public com-

mitment of each of those people should be remembered in time to come.

The work on the old building began about 1978 and the restoration was under the general direction of Michael

Stringer, an architect then living at Tullamaine. The work was part of the AnCO youth training project, which supplied and paid the labour, though the Community Council choose and purchased all the materials being used and paid for them. As well, many local people helped in the clearing of the half-acre site on which the building stood. When the building was taken over by the Council (who will write a detailed account of this project which is the warp and woof of local history) it was in such a bad condition that the upper story had to be demolished. What should not be forgotten is that members of the Council had to be available week in week out to make decisions and to fetch and carry.



*Old Tirry Social Club, Barrack Street.*





*Tomás Roseingrave from Muintir na Tire cutting the tape at the official opening 29 September 1980. Also in the picture are Jerry Skehan, Chairman of the Community Council, Fr John Stapleton C.C. and Austy O'Flynn who took over as chairman of the Community Council after the AGM held in November of the same year.*

Incidentally, all the new doors and partitions in the building were made by local man Billy Kenny.

A wonderful voluntary project, but then Fethard people have had for so long a commitment to voluntary work and local government in its best sense.

The centre was officially opened on Monday 29 September and the ceremony was performed by Tomás Roseingrave, National Director of Muintir na Tire, and the blessing was by Father Philip Noonan, late parish priest of Fethard. As noted, the centre bore the name of Father William Tirry, a member of the Augustinian order, who was hanged at Clonmel on 12 November 1654 because he refused to abandon his Fethard people in dark

and turbulent times. Soon after it was opened the six-roomed centre was estimated to have had a value of £100,000. When the centre opened Jim Allen was appointed as the new caretaker.

Another notable event in the year was that Fethard served as the venue for the county senior and minor finals, which were held on 31 August. Ahead of the event much work was being undertaken on the sportsfield. This was the showpiece of the GAA year in the county and quite a coup for the local club to be given the honour of fielding such events; and the task of refereeing was given to local man Joe Keane. The minor game was between Arravale Rovers and Ballylooby and



*Match officials before the County Football final played in Fethard on 31st August 1980.  
L to R: Jim Keane, Maurice Harrington, Larry Maher, Loughmore team captain, Joe Keane (referee), Galtee Rovers team captain, Michael Keane, Martin Cuddihy and Tom Kearney.*

the senior contest had Galtee Rovers pitted against a Loughmore/Castleiney side. The local club made every effort to have the sportsfield immaculate on what was a special occasion. Extra sideline seating was put in and a band was on hand to lead the pre-match parade. And a special souvenir programme had been produced for the day. How many are still to be had today? One of them would enhance any Fethard man's collection of local memorabilia. As well, a stand was provided for the press and commentators which was much appreciated by the sports scribblers. The stewarding and traffic control on the day gained much favourable comment. Incidentally, Galtee Rovers were winners by a point on that beautiful summer's day. Perhaps this is a good point to record that the sportsfield was purchased sometime in the early 1950s (I think); it had been on lease for years previously. The purchase was accomplished in hard times and during the

period when the 'Big Five' ran the local club: Richie Fitzgerald, Tommy Hogan, John Keating, Tim Tierney, and Brother Albert Small.

Fethard deserved their big day. In the eighty-seven finals held between 1887 and 1980 Fethard were senior football champions on fifteen occasions.

The Fethard football team started out well, being the south champions from the previous year. On Sunday 27 April they faced Moyle Rovers, but without two of their leading players, A.B. Kennedy and Pierce Dillon. Though on that day Fethard won by one point the reporter noted that they squandered many chances for further scores and he was of the opinion that the final score should have been a draw so as to reflect the level of play on both sides. The Fethard team were, Michael Kenrick, Joe Allen, Davy Fitzgerald, Pakie Harrington, Paddy Kenrick, Joe Keane, Paschal Hanrahan, Michael O'Riordan, Dave Williams,

Michael Healy, Michael Downes, Noel Sharpe, Joe Keane, Maurice Harrington and Richie Hayes who was substituted by Noel Byrne. But on Sunday 18 May Fethard were beaten by one point by Galtee Rovers, who were described as worthy winners. Though the senior team had done well Fethard did have a very active and recently formed under-fourteen football club which was under the guidance of Brother James Moran. The club had as its chairman Ned Sheehan, Brother James was its secretary, and Mrs Margaret Hackett and Mrs. Sheehan were its treasurers. This encouraging of young people augured well for the future of Gaelic football in the town. The football club did not forget its social side. On Friday night 29 February it held its annual dinner dance in Clonmel.

After many years of silence the old

cry of 'Come on Coolmoyne' was heard again on the sportsfield. A hurling team, selected in the main from that area, beat a Clonoulty/Rossmore side by two points in a challenge game which was held on Sunday evening 22 June. Many old-time Coolmoyne hurlers and supporters must have felt the sun on their backs as they stood and watched such a victory. Incidentally, hurling in Coolmoyne probably owes its foundation to the famed Denis Walsh of Tobberadora who came to live in the area; and to his two sons Denis and Eddie. Coolmoyne teams continued to play under that name up to about 1960.

In hurling Fethard had united with Kilsheelan to form St. Augustine's club. This combination was performing well and by mid-June was heading towards winning the semi-final place. On Sunday 15 June they beat Eire Óg



*Fethard Football team, South Champions 1980, Front L to R: Joe Keane, A.B. Kennedy, Noel Sharpe, John Keane, Paddy Kenrick, Michael 'Buddy' Fitzgerald, Philly O'Connell, Pakie Harrington, Michael Healy. Back L. to R: Danny Kane, Noel Byrne, Pascal Hanrahan, Maurice Harrington, Waltie Moloney, Joe Allen, Michael Downes, Richie Hayes, Michael O'Riordan, Dinny Burke, Davy Williams.*



*Group of Fethard supporters at the South Final in 1980 included Joe 'Duffy' Barrett, Eamon Butler, Timmy O'Riordan, Dick Fitzgerald, Mick Keane, Michael Fitzgerald, David Kane, Danny Kane, Sean Moloney, Derek Walsh, Alfie Brett, the two children in front are Johnny Barrett's son and Michael Fitzgerald's son William.*

by one point under wet and demanding conditions. In a hard-fought game St. Augustine's were described as lucky. The local team were Stephen McCormack, Dick Prendergast, Liam McCarthy, Dave Fitzgerald, Pat Larkin, Sean Nugent, Pat O'Neill, Pakie Harrington, Mick O'Riordan, Cyril Robinson, Dick Strang, A.B. Kennedy, John Kehoe, Noel Byrne, Michael Healy, and the sub was W. Walsh. But on Sunday 6 July St. Augustine's lost their bid for the senior hurling championship when they were beaten by nine points by Carrick Davins, a game that was played in appalling conditions.

Towards the end of 1980 the south GAA Board announced its sports stars and its hurler of the past. The latter category was won by Pat O'Keeffe of Kiltinan. Pat O'Keeffe had graced the playing fields of south Tipperary for well over twenty years, though he was never lucky enough to win an All-

Ireland with his county. Sadly, this is the case with many a good hurler and footballer. Pat began his sporting career with Coolmoynce, but he then moved to Solohead/Arravale Rovers with whom he won south junior honours in 1926 when he was twenty-eight. In the late 1920s he played with junior and senior sides and won a Munster junior medal. He was playing with the Killenaule team that won south titles in 1931 and 1932. In 1934 he was playing with Moyglass (in the 1930s other great Moyglass men well-known in Fethard were: Pat and Ter Guiry, Mick Hayes, Dick Hayes and John Tynan). In 1937 and 1938 he was a member of Fethard's senior championship teams. And in 1942 he played a leading role in Coolmoynce's junior triumph. Pat generally played at left half-back, but he was a man who could fit in elsewhere on the field and at the end of his hurling life he played in goal. In short, Pat played hurling



skilfully and enthusiastically in the years between 1918 and 1940 and was a dedicated supporter of GAA games. Pat was also an athlete of note and in his day was Munster pole vault champion. He had, as well, considerable merit as a greyhound trainer. Pat O'Keeffe was presented with his award at the Board's annual social held at the GAA Centre, Clonmel, on Wednesday 10 December.

But in the Fethard of 1980 other sports held their places. Fethard had, for example, two athletic clubs: St. Patrick's Athletic Club, which incorporated the national B.L.E and B.L.O.E. systems (which had affiliated in this year); and the Fethard Athletic Club. Among the St. Patrick's officers were John Looby, Tommy Butler and Brother James Moran. The trainer for the club was Brother Raymond. The Fethard Athletic Club had Dick Cummins, Steven McCormack, Pat Ryan and Tom McCormack.

On Sunday 2 March the Munster cross-country championships were held at Tulla, Co. Clare. St. Patrick's participated in what was the last cross-country fixture of the season. The Fethard Club did well on the day in some team events. In the under-elevens the winners were locals Regina Foley, A. Fox, A. Flannery and J. O'Dwyer. And in the boys' under seventeen event the winning side were Pat Heffernan, J. Hickey, J. Croke and J. Quinn. A number of boys under nine years had a good day. County track and field events were held at Nenagh on Sunday 20 April in extremely poor weather. Among the locals who did well were Pat Heffernan who came second in the 5,000 metres, and Kay O'Riordan who won the high jump. However, better performances were expected on Sunday 27 April when the competitors met on the all-weather track of the Presentation Convent, Thurles, at 2.30pm, especially from



*Photograph taken at AGM of St. Patricks Athletic BLOE Club 1980. Front L to R: Frances Burke (Treasurer), Tom Butler (Secretary), John Looby (Chairman), Maureen Guiry (Vice Chairperson), Bro Raymond (Trainer). Back L to R: Chris Looby, ?, Margaret Hackett, ?, Diana Stokes, ?, Jenny Fogarty, Mrs O'Riordan, Anne Connolly, Mary Looby, Johnny Carey, Breda Walsh, ?, William Guiry, Lolo Trehy and Dr. Paddy Stokes.*



*Group of young NACA athletes photographed at a social in the Fethard Arms in 1980. Back L to R: Alice Ryan, Rena Sheehan, Vera Sheehan. Middle L to R: Sharon Connors, Georgina Mathewos, Ann Bradshaw, Lorraine McCormack, Cathy O'Donnell, Brendan Morrissey, Declan Morrissey. Front L to R: Corina Morrissey, Maureen Connors, Darren Bradshaw, Adrian Bradshaw and ? Lawrence*

Willie Guiry of Fethard who had been performing well in training. The juvenile athletes from St. Patrick's performed well at a meeting held at Limerick on Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 June in the Munster and All-Ireland track and field events. Very worthy of mention were Jacqueline Stokes and Kay O'Riordan of Fethard and Pat Heffernan of Ballyvaden.

Thirteen-year-old Jacqueline Stokes was one of eight girls who represented Ireland in the Celtic International Women's Athletics held at Coalbridge near Glasgow on Sunday 3 August. Jacqueline, a member of the Fethard/Clerihan BLOE club, emerged as a winner in the high jump and the long jump. She came second in the relay race. This event had attracted athletes from the UK and Ireland, but had the drawback of being held in

miserable weather conditions. All of which made her wins the more memorable. In the Dublin City Marathon held on the October Bank Holiday Pat Heffernan turned in a fine performance when, out of about 2,000 starters, he came 28th at a time of two hours and thirty-seven minutes. A truly great performance from the seventeen-year-old. Another local man who did well in the Marathon was Pakie Ryan of Curraghtarsna. He came in at a very creditable 228th place. Pakie had been a runner in the 1950s with the Ballynonty Club.

The new cross-country season for St. Patrick's opened on Sunday 5 October on the lands of Mr Tommy Butler of Coolenure with a large card of events and an attendance of about 200 athletes from Munster and south Leinster. The meeting comprised both

juniors and seniors. The course on the day was described as being in excellent condition and the fine dry day made the four-mile cross-country run a splendid one. About sixty runners started out in that event and the dry day and excellent conditions meant that a fast pace was set. It was won by a runner from Grange A.C.

Hardly had the New Year settled in when the Fethard Athletic Club held an international cross-country event at Michael Smyth's Airfield at Coolbawn. The meet began at 2.30pm on 6 January with teams from Ireland, Poland, France, Belgium, Italy and Portugal (though none from the UK). In all there were about 300 competitors. The teams arrived in Fethard on the Saturday afternoon and were given an official welcome by the Rás Mumhan officers in the Fethard Arms. This was followed by an evening of

music and beer. During their three-day stay in the town a mayoral reception was held in Clonmel as was a visit to the County Council, but it was among the people of Fethard that the teams spent what was for them a wonderful weekend. The course at Coolbawn was five laps on a 2,000 metre course and was extremely testing as the day was wet. The event was won by an Irish runner in almost thirty-four minutes. For the same club Jimmy McCarthy had a distinguished year. In the veterans' section of the Rás na hEireann held at Dunleer, Co. Louth, on Sunday 20 January he finished first in the over-50s category. But then Jimmy had been winning honours since 1939 when he won an under-eighteen tennis championship. And in his day he won a Munster singles badminton title and a Munster junior football medal. Jimmy also gained var-



*Photographed at NACA Social L to R: Jimmy McCarthy, Dick Cummins and Paddy McCormack*

ious tennis honours. At Mount Pleasant near Dundalk in February he, together with Tom Nugent of Clerihan and Tom Lawrence of Clonmel, won the over-45s cross-county team championships. And throughout 1980 Jimmy was still winning trophies.

And Fethard enjoyed the benefits of other sports. In January the Fethard Open Coursing Club celebrated twenty-five years of existence, and marked the occasion by honouring its founders: P.J. Henahan, Jack Kenrick, William Byrne, and James Heffernan. On 20 January a large contingent of fans and participants travelled to Fethard from the Blackrock (Cork) coursing club to mark the anniversary. In ideal coursing weather there was an abundance of hares which gave a most enjoyable day to visitors and locals. That day the perpetual 'Tommy Ryan' cup was won by local man Michael

Flanagan. The Club officers for the season were, Tim O'Riordan, chairman, John O'Donovan, secretary, and Michael Keane, treasurer. Hunting with beagles was also popular and in late January the Maryboro Farmers' Beagles paid their annual visit to the town where they had a good Sunday afternoon of hunting. In February the Munster handball championships were being held in the Fethard ball

court during which John Woodlock, representing Tipperary, beat the Kerry contestant in the minor singles. And in the county junior singles semi-final Willie O'Donnell beat Noel Ryan from Ballypatrick. The same Willie O'Donnell later qualified for the finals of the Munster games. As the New Year opened Killusty were doing well

in soccer. Their first win of the year placed them at the top of the First Division; among their scorers on that occasion were Noel Sharpe and Kevin Ryan. But as the season advanced they began to slip to the bottom of the Division. Badminton, too, had its place in the life of Fethard. The local club had been shaky over the previous few years, but with an influx of new members in 1980 it seemed to be firmly back on its feet. At the annual general meeting held on 6 October the officers elected were, Tony

Newport, president, Gemma Kenny, secretary/treasurer, and Catherine Newport, assistant secretary/treasurer.

Keeping up an old tradition the Tipperary Foxhounds held their opening meet in Fethard on Monday 9 November. However, a small field of only fifty mounted followers turned out on the day. It was the smallest opening meet over the previous twenty years. Some very enjoyable hunting



*Pat Heffernan competing in the World Cross-Country Race held in Fethard in 1980*



was had in the Rocklow area. The published photo does not show the hounds rushing eagerly under the arch at Sparagoleith, rather the photographer choose the railway bridge on the Rocklow Road about a mile out of Fethard for his scene which showed the Master, Michael Higgins and the First-Whip Michael Flanagan with the hounds as they came over the narrow bridge. On St. Stephen's Day the hounds had the internationally famous equestrian artist Peter Curling riding out with them. Peter Curling will be well-known to those who like their Christmas cards with a 'horsey' flavour. The Hunt held its dance in the Country Club ballroom on Friday 28 November and the music was supplied by the wonderful dance band of the late Mick Delahunty.

On Sunday 13 April the Ponsonby family opened their lands at Grove where a one-day jumping and horse-dressage event was held. The jumping course was described as excellent, but testing; and a number of young riders participated in the events. Among the winners were Desmond O'Connor of Knockelly, Gillian Maher of Ballybough, and Jacqueline Stokes of Fethard. And the nearby Killusty Pony Show was held on 12 July. There was a big turnout on a day which was greatly marred by heavy rain.

And fishermen, too, had their days of sport. The Fethard/Killusty anglers' summer competition was held on Saturday 5 July. Cly Mullins was an overall winner having both the heaviest catch and the heaviest trout.

Others who did well on that day were Jack O'Donnell, Jim Ryan, John Martin and Tom Sayers.

As well as sport the town also kept up its tradition of a summer festival. The Festival, which was organised by the Fethard Community Council with the hope that whatever profits were made would be used to pay for the final touches to the new Community Hall in Barrack Street. It ran from Monday 23 June to Sunday 29 June and opened with a gala concert in the Country Club on the Monday night at which the Fethard Players performed an amusing revue to the great delight of all present. This was the 'Tavern in the Town' which was devised by Billy McLellan with music direction from Don Byard of Fethard, and produced by Michael O'Donoghue of Clonmel. Among those who trod the boards that night were old stalwarts, Ned Maher, Jackie White, Sean Hanrahan and Jimmy O'Shea. On Tuesday night the ICA sponsored a cookery demonstration. In the GAA field on Wednesday evening Bansha played Cashel in senior football, and at the same time a tug-o-war with eight competitions was taking place. And these sports continued on Thursday night. On Friday night the summer festival dance was held at which a festival queen, Mary Morrissey of Tullamaine, was chosen; and a turkey supper was provided by the ladies' committee. And throughout the week a poker classic had been running in the Country Club. The highlight of Sunday was the fancy-dress parade



*Billy Treacy and his son Liam taking part in the Fethard Festival Parade 1980*



*Fethard Festival 1980 L to R: Gerry Aherne, P.J. Aherne, Patricia Morrissey and Pamela Morrissey*



*L to R: Barry Connolly, John Ward, Edmund O'Neill, Ted Connolly, Jimpy Connolly and Michael Whyte.*

and for this the organisers were offering £100 prize to the best individual and best group on display. Incidentally, the first carnival in Fethard goes back to the mid 1920s. It was established to raise funds for the building, in 1926, of a parochial house

(which is still in use) for Father John Russell who served as parish priest from December 1924 to April 1930. The highlights of that first carnival was the fancy-dress parade and the 'Sodality Band' led by Tom Hickey. The 1980 parade started out from Kerry Street at 2.0pm and was led by the Templemore Brass band. From there it made its way to the GAA field where a

number of side events were laid on. Among these were a bonny baby competition which was won by baby Janice Carroll the daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Carroll of St. Patrick's Place, Fethard. And bigger children were entertained by O'Sullivan's Amusements which had set up in the field.

As well as their enjoyable contribution to the summer Festival the Fethard Players also presented a three-act comedy, 'The Late Christopher Bean' by the British playwright Emlyn Williams, from Wednesday 26 March to Sunday 30 March. The venue was the Town Hall and the admission was £1. As always the production was

under the very sure hand of Austin O'Flynn; and the actors were, Jimmy O'Shea, Rita O'Connor, Angela Dillon, Carmel Rice, Marion Mulligan, Billy McLellan, Paddy Kenrick, Catherine Newport, and Joe Kenny. And keeping up the tradition

of other years they played to a full house each night. A special performance was given for the senior citizens of Fethard during the run of the play. At the end of the show all who attended were given a nice tea which had been provided by Sister Peter from the Presentation Convent and friends.

The Players society had as its officers, Austin O'Flynn, president,

Jimmy O'Shea, chairman, Paddy Kenrick, secretary, and Angela Dillon, treasurer.

But people, too, made an impression on that year. At the annual general meeting of the South Tipperary County Council held on Monday night 30 June Councillor John Holohan of Ballinard was elected chairman. John farmed at Ballinard. In 1967 he had been approached to put his name forward as a Fine Gael representative in the County Council. However, in that year he did not garnish enough votes to be elected; seven years later he was elected without reaching the quota, but when he became known and his work admired



*Janice Carroll, daughter of Jim and Mary Carroll, St. Patrick's Place, winner in the Fethard Festival Baby Show 1980*

he was elected on the first count in 1979. In this last election he received 1,455 votes when the quota was 1,270. This was, I think, the highest first-preference vote given to a County Council candidate up to 1980. This vote well showed that people admired his impartial efforts on their behalf. And we should remember that John worked well for his people in difficult financial times. For example, in 1975/76 the roads grants for south Tipperary was cut by 50 per cent; and around the same period Killusty had great need of a footpath which it was estimated would cost £1,200 to complete, yet all that the county engineer could lay his hands on for the task

was £400. In 1980, also, John's brother, Father Patrick of the Holy Ghost Fathers, was appointed president of Rockwell College. Father Patrick had been educated at Rockwell and later at UCD and Rome. He spent thirteen years in Nigeria and returned to Rockwell in 1971 where he served as dean until his appointment as president.

Another individual who, rather than moving into the limelight, slipped quietly out of it, was Patrick Lynch who retired as principal teacher at Moyglass. He came first to the little village in 1944 and in his thirty-six years of educating the children from the area he never spared himself. He



*Moyglass School pupils photographed with Mr Patrick Lynch on the occasion of his retirement from teaching in 1980. Also included in photograph is Mrs Eileen Horan who took over as Principal.*





*John and Dymyna O'Donovan with Raymond, Adrian and baby Maura at Fethard Festival 1980.*



*Mary Morrissey, Tullamaine, who was elected Festival Queen at Fethard Festival in 1980.*



*Pauline Morrissey with pupils from the Danny Ryan School of Music's accordion band taking part in the Fethard Festival Parade in 1980. Standing L to R: Pauline Morrissey, Catherine Fleming, Marina Gorey, Bernie Power, Catherine Morrissey, Elaine Woodlock, Tom Power, Ann Bradshaw. Sitting L to R: Myles Tobin, Michael Power, Joan Fleming, Fiona Butler, Aisling Horan and Marie Horan.*



*Fethard Festival 1980 L to R: Denise Maher, Josie O'Dwyer and Edwina Newport*



*Fethard Festival 1980 L to R: Assumpta Coffey, Claire Coffey and Ailish Kenny*



*Fethard Festival 1980 L to R: Roseanne Flanagan and Elaine Gleeson*

was the first teacher in the district who prepared his pupils for County Council scholarships year after year until that offer ceased. His encouragement and drive had enabled many a student to find a worthwhile niche in life.

Along the fringes of the education system in Fethard the Patrician Brothers Past Pupils Union was still active. Its president was Tommy Carey of The Green and the chairman was John Whyte of Main Street. The committee were: Brother John, Brother James, Michael O'Sullivan, Grove, Jimmy McInerney, Burke Street, Paddy Lonergan, The Square, Joe Hayes, Rathcoole, Timmy O'Connor, Main Street, Joe Kenny, The Green, and Pat White, Derryluskin. The patron was the late Father Philip Noonan. The annual dinner-dance was held in the Clonmel Arms Hotel on 14 March

and a concert in the Country Club ballroom on Friday 9 November. In July the new president had the task of presenting a trophy to a young student, John Croke, who was chosen as the best student of the year. Tommy Carey made the presentation in the presence of Brother John, the school principal, and Mr Timmy O'Connor, the well-known and very respected teacher. And due to the fund-raising efforts of the union books to a value of £480 had been purchased for the school library.

In church matters the great event of this year was the presentation of the site of the old Coffey store and bakery, through the generosity of Mrs Pauline Coffey of Burke Street, to the Augustinian Fathers. The old bakery and shop had closed in 1936 and the mill was forced to close in the 1940s. The site had been part of the old pre-



*Past Pupil of the Year 1980 L to R: Bro James, Paddy Broderick, Deborah Conway, Vincent Doocey, Tommy Carey (President Patrician Brothers Past Pupils Union), Michael Dalton, John Croke (Pupil of the Year), Bro John, Timmy O'Connor, Dick Prendergast, Paddy Maher and Michael O'Gorman.*

Reformation friary and so its 'coming-home' to its old owners was an event of note. A partial restoration and cleaning of the plot was immediately carried out which revealed the western aspect of the original friary house. It also exposed to view what was once the cloistered front garden and the original doorway of the friary, dating back to the 1300s. The upper structure of the old store was made safe by having its floor covered with asphalt. However, as we advance into the twenty-first century we can but wonder as to the future of this ancient and historic structure. For all who have an interest in the history of Ireland Fethard, with its visible proof of that historical past, has been a place to visit. One such visitor was Canon William Carrigan, the eminent historian, who shyly and quietly came to Fethard in 1894 in his pony and trap to enjoy its medieval aspects. He was entertained by the Augustinian Fathers. He was but one of the many who came over the past one hundred years. In 1980 the Old Waterford Society came and were enlightened on the local history by Father Sean O'Doherty, then president of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, and now parish priest of Durrow where Canon Carrigan served his final ministry.

Elsewhere in religion some 200 people walked in pilgrimage to the Holy Year Cross on Slievenamon on Sunday 10 August. The group were led by Father Cunningham who was then a curate in Fethard.

But Fethard also had a number of

secular societies which throughout the year conferred much social benefit on the local community. Macra na Feirme brought together the young people of the rural community. On Saturday 15 March they fielded a team which participated in a debating contest held in the Drangan Community centre. The team on the night were Tom Delany, Gay O'Connell, John Heffernan, and Liam O'Connor; they defeated Carrick-on-Suir and then went on to debate with Drangan in the south final which was held at Boherlahan Hall on Sunday 30 March. To mark the thirtieth anniversary of the local club a three-act play was produced and staged. This was John B. Keane's 'Many Young Men of Twenty'. Generally, the club's repertoire had been one-act plays so this was an innovation. The producer was Paddy Maher who had previously won two awards in the south Tipperary Macra drama competitions. The play ran in the Town Hall from Friday 19 December to Sunday 21 December. In the cast were, L. O'Connell, S. Kennedy, J. Aylward, A. O'Connell, S. O'Dea, N. Fahy, S. Delahunty, P. Quinn, L. Heffernan, P. Fahy, F. McGivern, A. Harrington, J. O'Meara, T. O'Connell, C. Harrington and T. Phelan.

Another such of long standing was the Council of the Blind. At its annual general meeting of the south Tipperary branch of the National Council of the Blind held in May well-justified tributes were paid to some wonderful south Tipperary people





*The Fethard Padraig Mac Piarais Commemoration Committee erected a plaque to the 1916 martyr on 9th November, 1980. The plaque was unveiled by Fr. Philip Noonan P.P. (left) also included is Austin O'Flynn.*



*Group at Commemoration L to R: Jack Purtill, Tom Neill, Pat Whyte (back), Carrie Adhesion (Mayor of Clonmel), Michael Crean (back), Jack Wall, Chris Mackey, Fr. Philip Noonan P.P.*



who devoted much of their spare time to helping the blind. The great friend of the blind who came to Ireland from Yorkshire was Dr. Thomas Armitage of Noan near Ballinure whose grave is to be found in Magorban Church. His good work was continued by his only daughter Doris Armitage, by Olive Hughes of Fethard and by Mrs Dolly O'Keeffe of Fethard (a short account and a photo of them appeared in the 2006 Newsletter). Those four, who were honoured and remembered at the 1980 meeting of the Council, had selflessly laboured to support and help blind people when state aid was no more than basic.

But in another case a state institution (a hospital in this case) was of great help. All of us have at one time or another gone out without a care to enjoy ourselves on a warm summer's day. In August a young man from the Coolmore area went to Tramore to enjoy the day, the sea and the beach. While swimming he got into difficulties in the sea, had a narrow escape from drowning and when he was taken from the water did not recover consciousness for about a quarter of an hour. He spent four days in Ardkeen Hospital where with good care he made a full recovery.

And mention of Olive Hughes brings to mind the local guild of the ICA which at their January meeting elected their officers for the coming year. The new president was Mrs Breda Smyth of Milestown with Miss Phyllis O'Connell as vice-president. The treasurer was Mrs Phyllis Wyatt

of Jossestown, Lisonagh, and the secretary was Mrs Bitsy Carrigan of Clonacody. In this year the main achievement of the guild, apart from educating and entertaining the members with monthly talks, was the re-roofing of the ICA Hall which was accomplished through the wonderful efforts of the members. The result meant that the Hall, which had been purchased second-hand sometime in the 1950s, would be good for many years to come. In December the ICA sponsored their annual Christmas party which was held at the Fethard Arms. The older people of Fethard were entertained to a lovely meal and afterwards to a variety of entertainments. Traditional music was played by John Shortall and Phil Shee and this was coupled with recitations and ballads. There were also games and contests which had been invented and supervised by Mrs Cecilia Byrne. The ladies who made that night such a wonderful success were, Annie O'Brien, Mrs Alice Quinn, Sister Peter, Mrs Ann Lucy, Mrs Ann Lynch, Mrs Donovan, Ann O'Riordan, Mrs Kathy Aylward, Mrs Margaret Keane, Mrs Walsh, Mrs Nora O'Riordan, Mrs Morrissey, Mrs Biddy Trehy, Mrs Aggie Barrett and Mrs Maher.

In this year the country market was still a popular venue on Friday mornings for anyone seeking fresh produce. The market opened at 9.30am in the morning to sell vegetables, flowers, plants, eggs, cakes, butter, cream and goat's milk. Every Friday morning the rush for the stalls was strenuous, but

the treasurer (Ned Maher) and the men and women (the producers) selling the produce were endlessly patient and had a kind word for everyone. The country markets first began in Fethard in 1947 and it was the first of its kind in the direct selling between the producer and the user. The whole concept of direct selling was innovative in those years and many looked at it suspiciously. For the country market in 1980 the big event was the coming to Fethard of a television team to do a 'shoot' on a morning of selling. I don't know if the end result ever appeared on TV.

Throughout the year the local Meals-on-Wheels delivered some 2,808 meals from the Social Service centre; and the average number of

houses served on each delivery run was eighteen. This service was offered to those who, for one reason or another, had difficulty in preparing a hot main meal for themselves. In June the society was presented with a cooker by the Clonmel Rotary Club, a present which probably much appreciated by the hard-working cooking ladies. The officers of the Meals society were, Dr. J.B. Maher, Main Street, president, Sister Agatha, Presentation Convent, secretary, and Mr Tim Slattery, Allied Irish Banks, treasurer.

Another organisation that was still active and still beneficial to the people of Fethard was the Credit Union which in this year was in its eleventh year of existence. Not alone was its membership firm but it was increas-



*Clonmel Rotary Club presenting a cooker to Fethard Meals-on-Wheels in 1980. L to R: Tim Slattery (Allied Irish Banks, treasurer Meals-on-Wheels), Paddy Lonergan (Clonmel Rotary Club), Ned Maher, Phyllis O'Connell, Aggie Barrett and Sr. Agatha (Secretary Meals-on-Wheels).*



*Fethard Bridge Club members playing in the Tirry Centre 1980  
L to R: Kathleen Harrison, Sean Henehan, Moira McInerney and Dick Gorey.*

ing. The chairman was Sean Henehan with Tommy Carey in the vice-chair. The secretary was Angela Dillon and the treasurer Sean O'Callaghan. And the annual reunion of Fethard people with their friends and relatives in England took place on Friday 3 October. The organising locally of the event was in the hands of Tommy Carey, The Green, and Christy Williams, Killusty.

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association was still active in the town. In 1980 it carried out a census of members and former members who still observed abstinence. It was discovered that the branch had five Golden Jubilarians, fifty-two Silver Jubilarians, forty full Pioneers and fifteen Probationers. In October a rally was held at Holy Cross and forty-two members travelled there for the occasion. One of the Golden Jubilarians, Mrs T. O'Flynn, of Derryluskan, carried the Fethard banner on that day.

Incidentally, the president of the local branch was Mr Paddy Whyte of Main Street who had served the Pioneer Council for some forty years.

And the town had its Bridge Club which ended its 1979/80 season in May, and the new season began in September with several new members joining. As the new season opened the members had the comfort of a room in the newly opened Tirry Community Centre. At the end of the old season the president's prize was won by Brother John and Mrs Kitty Hayes.

A small flavour of what prices were in 1980 can be gleaned from the sale of a house on the Cashel road just outside the town. The family, who were moving to Melbourne, placed their bungalow, which was finished to a very high standard and stood on one-and-a-half acres of land on the market. It fetched £38,000 (somewhere between €45,000 and €50,000 in



modern terms). How prices have rocketed since.

But for many life was ending; their allotted span closing. Just as the old year of 1979 ended we read of the unexpected death of Father Thomas A. Cooke who was a well-known curate in Fethard between 1955 and 1969. Father Thomas was born at Knockaney, Co. Limerick in 1921 and was educated at St. Patrick's College, Thurles and later at the Irish College in Rome where he was ordained a priest in 1943, at a time when Europe was gripped in terrible war. At the end of that war he returned to Ireland where he spent until 1947 on loan to the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. He served as curate in New Inn from 1947 to 1954 and in Kilbehenny from 1954 to 1955. In 1969 he was appointed as parish priest of Clerihan and in 1977 he transferred from there to being

parish priest of Cappamore, Co. Limerick. Another remembered priest was Father Thomas Hand, OSA, whose death occurred in August at Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Father Thomas was long after his time in Fethard recalled as a fine preacher. In July the death occurred in England of Mr Joe Leahy who in former times lived on the Rocklow Road. Joe was involved in the old Fethard Rugby Club of the 1930s and was popularly known as 'The Gunner'. He served as occasional player and managed its equipment. Who, someday, will give us an account of old clubs and forgotten organisations? In September Denis Shine of Monroe died. Without doubt there are readers of this who will recall that Denis was one of the founders of Fethard's dance-band, 'The Twilight Serenaders'. He was a talented musician who specialised on the banjo and



*Pat O'Shea, born in 1888, was Fethard's oldest citizen in 1980. Pat is photographed above with his wife Kathleen (Farrell) whom he married in 1924. They had four daughters Joanna, Mary, Nellie and Peggy.*



*Large group of children at the Killusty Field Day held in 1980*

mandolin. The band is deserving of some account of its days and perhaps a photo or two. A connection with old Fethard passed away when Minnie Maher of Coolbawn died. She was the last of those who worked at Grove House with the legendary Richard Burke. Minnie, who was a cook there, was buried in Moyglass cemetery. On 2 November Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, the former Archbishop of Brisbane, died and was buried in his cathedral of St. Stephen in downtown Brisbane. He was a little short of his eighty-third birthday being born in Fethard on 2 February 1897. He was the youngest of sixteen children of Thomas O'Donnell, draper, Main Street (now O'Sullivan's Pharmacy) and Johanna Sheehan, The Quarry, Thurles. Dr. Patrick never forgot the town where he was born and the school, long since razed, where he received his early education. Perhaps it's a good time to recall that Dr. O'Donnell was not the only native son to be ordained an Archbishop. The parish was the birth-

place of three Archbishops of Cashel, James Butler, Thomas Bray and Patrick Everard, and Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles was born here.

And the year, as always, ends with Christmas and the Christmas holiday. In 1980 midnight Masses were still being celebrated and had large attendances in both the Abbey and the parish church. The Abbey had its crib in its lovely medieval setting. On the Saturday night before Christmas Day a group of adult carol singers toured the town bringing joy and entertainment to all and sundry; what money they collected went to the local St. Vincent de Paul society. And on St. Stephen's Day it was noticed that there had been a great increase in the number of wren boys and the quality of the performance given by some of the senior groups was very good. And for many the year of 1980 came to an end in Fethard with song and good cheer. \*

— Michael O'Donnell



*'Tavern in The Town' rehearsal in Country Club Ballroom 1980. Front: Marian Gilpin, Ned Maher, Billy Kenny, Mattie Bradshaw, Paddy Kenrick, Michael McCarthy, Jimmy O'Shea & Brendan Kenny. Middle: Ann Woodlock, Kathleen Bradshaw, Eddie Sheehan, Catherine Newport, Gemma Kenny, Angela Dillon, Rita O'Connor, Geraldine McCarthy. Back: Frances Morrissey and Mary Morrissey.*



*'Tavern in The Town' rehearsal in Country Club Ballroom 1980.  
L to R: Ned Maher, Jackie White, Sean Hanrahan, Eddie Sheehan and Jimmy O'Shea.*

## Fethard Community Sportsfield



*Committee members organising ticket sales for the community field clubhouse draw. L to R: Paul Kavanagh, Valerie Colville, Mary Kelly, Gerard Manton, Pat O'Donnell, Niall O'Connell, Sean Devaney and Jimmy O'Sullivan. Also on the committee were: John Hurley, Joe Burke, Colm McGrath, Fintan Rice, Jerome Casey, Peggy Colville and Suzanna Manton.*

Fethard Community Sportsfield is going from strength to strength. There is a huge demand on the pitch, which is being used each evening of the week and all weekends.

Groups using the facility are: Fethard Athletic Club, Fethard and District Rugby Club, Juvenile GAA Club, Badgers Soccer Club and Community Games. It has also been used for coaching courses. To date floodlighting has been erected on the pitch and the Athletic Club have their own sprint, throwing and long jump area. Demand has grown so much that the group have been given the use of the adjacent area by Mr John Halley, MRCVS, who has a magnificent equine surgery next door. Plans are currently being made to erect a clubhouse, which will include changing rooms, showers, meeting room and gym. Capital grant aid will be applied for in respect for funding and hopeful-

ly the application will be successful.

Earlier this year Jimmy O'Sullivan and Paul Kavanagh mooted the idea of a major draw to secure funding for developing the club. A finance committee was formed consisting of members of the field committee, and representatives of clubs using the facility. This draw was a great success and the committee would like to express their sincere thanks to the people of Fethard and Killusty and indeed neighbouring areas who put their heart into this venture. Proceeds from the draw were in the region of €78,000. There was €20,000 in prize money won by the following: First prize €10,000 to Frances Harrington, Railstown; 2nd prize €5,000 to Michael Hayes, Coolmore; Third Prize €2,500 to Anthony Hayes Burke Street. Five prizes of €500 each went to Michael Conway St. Patricks Place; David Tierney, Ballydoyle; Fethard Branch of



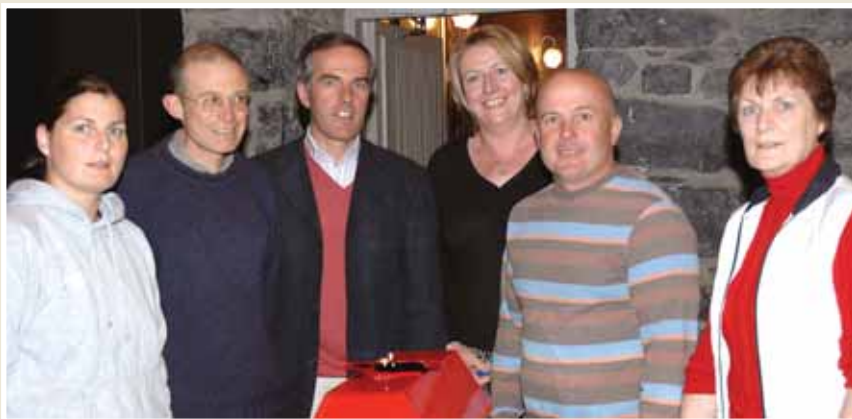
IFA, c/o David Tierney Bannixtown; Ellen Morrissey, Barrack Street; and Lucy, Sally, Harry and Katie Butler, Kilknockin.

The field was also sanctioned the sum of €40,000 from South Tipperary County Council Amenities Grant in respect of the development.

There is a lot of work to be done but there is wonderful community spirit

here and we hope to have a lot of progress made by this time next year. Thanks to everybody who spent a lot of time selling tickets, those who purchased tickets, especially to Jimmy O'Sullivan, Paul Kavanagh, Sean Devaney, and everybody else who helped in any way.

Wishing everybody a holy and Happy Christmas. \*



*Members of the Fethard Community Sportsfield draw committee photographed at the open draw for €20,000. L to R: Valerie Colville, Fintan Rice, Jerome Casey, Suzanna Manton, Sean Devaney and Peggy Colville.*

## Fethard & District Rugby Club

The annual general meeting of Fethard Rugby Club was held on Tuesday 22nd May 2007 in the Tirry Community Centre. The club is now a limited company and this affords protection to all involved in the promotion and playing of rugby in the area. The outgoing officers, Mr Jimmy O'Sullivan, President; Mr Paul Kavanagh, Chairman; Ms Polly Murphy, Secretary; Ms Valerie Colville Connolly, Treasurer; Ms Mary Kelly, Youth Officer; Mr Liam Hayes

PRO were returned unopposed.

The chairman thanked all those involved, the players, the parents and particularly the coaches for their unselfish service throughout the year, sacrificing 2-3 nights weekly plus a game or two every weekend. He also thanked the secretary for her tireless commitment to the club throughout the year. Paul also paid tribute to Valerie for the professional manner in which she organised the finances of the club.

The secretary in her comprehensive report paid tribute to all the parents for their support, particularly for providing the transport to all the matches, and for their great support in organising the end of season barbecue. She also thanked the Community Field Committee for their support and help throughout the season and Mr John Hally for allowing the club use of his field during the season.

The treasurer's report showed that the club cost €18,000 to run last year but due to the successful fundraisers and parents taking the responsibility of organising the transport we are showing a credit balance of €7,500 but in a 'Scrooge' like fashion she warned that this was needed to upgrade the lighting and install temporary show-ers. Mr Jerome Casey on behalf of the field committee stated that plans were being advanced to make a planning application and an application for

Sports Lottery funding, but that it will probably be late 2008 before building commences.

The meeting also decided that the protocol for the allocation of international / inter-provincial tickets will be as follows: (a) the coaches in recognition of their unselfish work will have first call on the tickets; (b) the remainder will be allocated on a rotational basis to paid-up adult members by the Chairman and Treasurer; (c) a list of all those who receive tickets will be circulated to members prior to the AGM each year.

### First Munster Cup

Sunday 22 April 2007 — Oh what a day, when Fethard Juvenile Rugby Club won their first Munster title in Carrick. Our under 14-team, captained by Daniel Hickey, produced a scintillating display to bring home the under-14 East Munster Cup.



*Fethard Rugby Club's under-14 team who won the under-14 East Munster Cup beating Kilfeale in the final played at Carrick on Sunday 22nd April. Back L to R: Paul Ronan (coach), Jack Brett, William Croke, Aaron Conran, Colm Shanahan, Thomas Nolan, Alan Casey, Robert Hall, Daniel Hickey (captain), Ciarán Power, Michael John Murphy, Timmy O'Donovan, Declan Fanning, Craig Dorney, Frankie O'Donovan, Paul Kavanagh (coach). Front L to R: Conor McGuire, Shane Power, Ciarán Hayes, Stephen McGuire, Danny Gerard, Conor Kavanagh, Joe Morgan, Colin Meagher, Kevin Hall and Stephen Tierney.*

Our gallant band of young men started nervously and gave an easy ball to Kilfeacle who punished them with a well taken penalty in the first half to leave the score at 3 points to nil in favour of Kilfeacle at half time. All the parents, mentors and supporters were on tenterhooks, as stout Kilfeacle defence had kept our team scoreless for the first half, despite having the bulk of the possession and playing the best rugby.

The half-time talk from the coaches was direct and inspirational, with young Paul Ronan giving one of the most concise and motivational half time talks ever heard. The captain brought them into a huddle and the players prepared themselves for the battle of the second half and again listening to them as they roared out, "Fethard, Fethard, Fethard", one could not but feel that something special was going to follow.

From the start of the second half when Kieran Power claimed the kick off and took route one, to gain fifty yards with all the forwards in support, Fethard showed its intent. Daniel Hickey, who produced another best personal performance, began to play the corners and with Colm Shanahan played the best rugby of his career. He conspired with Michael John Murphy and Robert Hall to win a line out on Kilfeacle's 25 and with a quick ball from Conor Kavanagh, who again excelled at scrum half, released Kieran Power for the first and only try of the game. Daniel's conversion attempt went wide off the post.

The Fethard team were now firing on all cylinders and the attacking runs from the backs was amazing to see. Thomas Nolan, Ciarán Power and Aaron Conran broke the defensive line so many times it lifted the entire team. The Kilfeacle side resorted to kicking out of defence, but our young full back Joe Morgan handled everything they threw at him with the maturity of a professional.

The forwards at this stage were dominating the bigger Kilfeacle pack and Robert Hall and Michael John Murphy were now winning all the line outs and any one they missed, 'Bomber' Shanahan contrived to win it back for Fethard. This pressure from Fethard yielded a penalty which Daniel Hickey converted to leave the score at eight points to three.

From the kick off Kilfeacle attacked with purpose which was very well defended by Fethard, but at a cost, as every parent present groaned with anxiety, as two of our stars, Thomas Nolan and young Frankie O'Donovan, lay prostrate on the field. Thank God both young men were fine with Thomas continuing and almost breaking way for a try on the restart, gaining all of 50 yards. Frankie, having played very well, had to retire with an egg size bump on his forehead, but within minutes, this brave young man was cheering on his team mates as he held an ice-pack to his bump. Frankie's spirit epitomizes the spirit, purpose, commitment and dedication shown by these young men all season.

The victorious team were paraded



through Fethard and arrived back at the Community Field at 3.30pm for the end of season barbecue, where our club president Jimmy O'Sullivan welcomed them back and their coach and our club chairman, Paul Kavanagh, thanked them for their sportsmanship and the sense of pride he felt for their success.

God smiled on us as the threatened rain never came and with the music

blaring out from our DJ Jack Kenny, the games played were great craic and the food tasted so sweet, with loads for everyone. A big thanks to all the parents who donated so much food; to Conor Murray for sponsoring the beautiful burgers; and to all the cooks on the day led by super chef Ger Manton and that turned head grill chef, Tony Fitzgerald. \*



*Jack Kenny and Mark Sullivan providing the disco for the Fethard Rugby Club 'End of Season Party'.*





Fethard Rugby Club 'End of Season Party'

## The Life and Times of Canon Patten



*Canon Patten's grandson, Richard Welch, and his wife Janet, photographed in Fethard on 27th July 2007*

The only one of my grandparents that I never met is the one who is best remembered by all those with whom he came into contact. He was Canon Cecil Patten, Church of Ireland rector of Fethard from 1904 to 1942. He served almost his entire ministry in the town, dying in office. He loved his rectory, with its wonderful view overlooking Slievenamon, he loved Holy Trinity Church and he loved the people and town of Fethard. Long gone, it seems, are the days when the clergy took on a job for life, without thought of promotion. That my grandfather's service in Fethard is still remembered, 65 years after his death, and over 100 years since it began, was brought home vividly to my wife and me when we called by in July of this year (2007). We drove up the Rectory (The Glebe House) drive, wanting to take a photo

of my mother's childhood home and were met by the new owners, Larry and Rosena Kenny. We were given a real Irish welcome and stayed the night. I promised that one day I would dig into the Patten family archives (actually two cardboard boxes) and write a few lines about my grandfather, hence this piece. Larry took us for a quick tour of Fethard the following morning and we met people who still have clear and happy memories of Canon Patten, not least Hannie Leahy, who had worked for him all those years ago.

Richard Cecil Patten (RCP) was born in Dublin in 1872, one of five children born to William Patten and Agnes (née Kirkwood). I have found out a little about his forbears. If you happen upon that marvellous book, 'Woodbrook' by David Thomson, you

will learn a lot about the Kirkwoods of Connacht, from which stock Agnes came. Mention is made in the book of RCP's great-grandfather, William Kirkwood, who, in the rebellion of 1798, took up arms against General Humbert and his French force during that brief invasion. The invaders had early success and were joined by many downtrodden and hungry Irish peasants. William was captured and put under house arrest but escaped in order to find his wife, who had fled in terror. Having broken the terms of his 'bail' he was a wanted man. In the end, the intervention of the bishop saved his skin.

There is some interesting history on the Patten side too. In 1791, RCP's cousin, Jane Patten, had married Thomas Addis Emmet, a founding member of the United Irishmen. For his part in that same rebellion of 1798 he was exiled to Scotland and eventually left for America where he became Attorney General for New York. So RCP had family ties on both sides in a conflict. Of course, there is nothing new here; in any study of history coincidences of this sort abound. And Jane Patten's brother-in-law was none other than the renowned Robert Emmet, hanged and beheaded in September

1803 for High Treason following the abortive uprising of that year. It was Robert's speech from the dock, his death sentence having been pronounced, that is said to have inspired Churchill's wartime masterpiece – "We shall fight them on the beaches . . . We shall never surrender!" Robert Emmet was telling the court that he would



*Cecil and Ida Patten*

never have supported the French as invaders, only as saviours – "[if they come as invaders you should] meet them on the beach with a sword in one hand . . . immolate them in their boats . . . dispute every inch of

ground . . . raze every house . . . burn every blade of grass . . ." It is stirring stuff indeed.

Canon Patten had another worthy kinsman in one James Patten, his great, great uncle. As Surgeon James Patten he saved the life of Captain Cook on the second of his three round-the-world voyages. In early 1774 Cook was stricken with a life-threatening intestinal complaint. At first he ignored it but eventually was so ill he allowed James to ministrare. Stomach plasters and hot baths were employed to good effect and a nourishing soup made from dog-meat aided convalescence. Cook later acknowledged that James' round-the-clock efforts had



*Rectory House in the 1920s*

undoubtedly saved his life. What would the map of the world look like today if Cook had perished then?

Cecil Patten had graduated from Trinity College Dublin when he was ordained deacon in 1898. A year later he was priested and after a curacy was briefly incumbent at Mogorban, whence he was poached by Fethard. When he was offered the job he wrote to the bishop twice on the matter, wondering whether it was right to move after so short a time at Mogorban. I have letters from his friends encouraging him to take the job. "It is a very nice parish indeed. If ever a man was called to fill a place, you can surely consider you have been. You have not sought them, they have sought you," wrote one friend. His predecessor, The Rev. Basil Chastel de Boinville (now there's a fine surname) wrote, "My very dear friend, I need hardly say how much I would

like to know that my dear old church was in your charge and that our happy house was being occupied by our good friend." I suspect the departing rector had told his churchwardens to snap up his friend Cecil if they possibly could.

Little is known of Canon Patten's early life. He was brought up in the Dublin area and money was always tight. His father, William, is believed to have committed suicide whilst his mother, Agnes, was a restless and demanding woman. I am told she continued in this vein until her death in 1914, making life difficult for her daughters-in-law and scaring the wits out of her grandchildren.

The Reverend Cecil Patten was determined that his own family life would be happier. He was married, amidst much celebration, in St. Mary's church, Clonmel in April 1906 to Ida Fitzgerald Grimley (1877-1966) from



Queensland, Australia, whose mother was a Phelan, originally from Clonmel. Presents were sent from all corners of the globe and, as was the custom at the time, a full list was given in the Clonmel Chronicle. Woe betide any skinflints who gave less than the going rate for their station in society! Most presents were items of silver. Fethard Hockey Club gave a silver salver for instance, but his sister Daisy, in Canada sent a bearskin rug. It is astonishing to think that, with the time involved in long-distance travel in those days, after Daisy left Ireland in 1900, I believe they met only once more in their lives, when she came to Europe in the 1930's.

To mark the centenary of the wedding, Cecil and Ida's descendants arranged a party in April 2006 that

was attended by 20 direct descendants and their families, a grand party of almost 50.

In the early days, in spite of the splendid list of wedding presents, there was little money to go round. At that time it was pot luck as to whether your parish provided a good 'living'. Fethard's was, emphatically, not such a parish. Indeed as late as 1938 his income was only £335 per annum and one was supposed to run a large house with several staff on that. Not that Canon Patten ever grumbled about his lot. I can remember my mother ticking me off one day for saying that something was unfair. She said how her father would never allow that to be said in the house. He was well aware that his family's lot was vastly better than that of so many of



*Staff who worked in Canon Patten's Garden at the Rectory c1937. Back L to R.: Mattie Tynan, Bob Hally, Danny Mullins, Dick Allen, Tom Walsh, Jack Hally, Connie Fitzgerald. Front L.to R.: Mick Boughe, Pat Butler, Paddy Daniel, Jimmy Hally, Christy Allen, Jim Halley (Senior) and Jimmy Slattery.*

those in the locality. For my mother, however, as a child, it must have seemed a little harsh. She will have mixed with children from landed Anglo-Irish families who wanted for nothing. Financial hardships were such that, on at least two occasions the family moved out of the Rectory in order to let it and later they took in paying guests.

A year after the wedding my aunt, Ruth (Duthie) was born. In 1913 came William and in 1921, my mother Patience (Welch).

Life continued on a regular pattern through the decades. But they were momentous decades in Irish history. The civil war brought strife to the locality with the murder of several protestants and the flight of many such families who were given an hour to clear out before their houses were torched. On one occasion Holy Trinity church was taken over by the republi-

cans and my aunt recalled a service where prayers were punctuated by shots being fired from the church tower. During the same period a lad with a gun stood threatening at the rectory door. My grandmother, a somewhat fearsome, tall woman is reported who have said to the would-be attacker "Come on now, [Jimmy], put that gun down and step inside and have a cup of tea." The matter ended there!

All through the troubles, and throughout his ministry, there is no doubt that Canon Patten was a man way ahead of his time in terms of developing and understanding between the different branches of the Christian faith. His ecumenical outlook was a beacon for the development of better relations between the catholic and protestant communities. For many young people today it will be hard to imagine what a great,



*Canon Patten's gardens in the 1920s*



*Rectory staff on steps Back L to R: Kitty Owens, Margaret Browne, Phyllis O'Connell.  
Front L to R: Mary Clancy and Hannie Leahy*

almost intractable divide existed across society in Ireland in those times. His own brother in Belfast had had difficulties because he had married a catholic and life in a mixed marriage was proving fraught.

Canon Patten sought to improve his family's lot by growing as much food for the family as he could. Self-taught, he became an expert gardener, not only in the kitchen garden but also when it came to flowers. Before long it occurred to him that he could develop this passion of his to the great benefit of the unemployed of Fethard and to hundreds of hungry families across Ireland. He set up Patten's Gardens and gradually built up a staff of 18 full-time, permanent gardeners, with more taken on in high season. He taught them gardening skills and several moved on to full time jobs in hor-

ticulture. Not only did he provide the opportunity for people to beautify their gardens with all sorts of bedding and other flowering plants, including alpines, he also sold brassicas in their 100s. An advert in 1921 states 'Quarter Million Cabbage plants for sale. Per 100 1s 6d, 1000 12s.6d.' These were wrapped in wet newspaper and sent by train all over Ireland. He was providing work at home and the opportunity to grow food for countless thousands of families, many of them poor and hungry. Fethard station was not only kept busy with his bundles of plants, he saw to it that it was a floral masterpiece and regularly won best-kept station awards.

He didn't stop at gardening. He was involved in the whole of town life. He helped to lay out the first golf course and played himself. Is that where my



*Pictured at the Harvest Festival held in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Fethard on 6th October 1991 are L to R: Kate Charmant, Richard Weld, Meg Owen, Ruth Duthie and Dr. Robert McCarthy.*

sons get it from, I wonder? They all play off low handicaps - I am pretty hopeless! He was highly involved with the setting up of the milk depot. It is hard to imagine it, but there was a crying need for a reliable supply of good, clean milk. The relief of the poor was a priority throughout his life and his favourite charity was the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He never turned away a beggar.

Amidst all these other activities he was a much loved parish priest. He would visit the sick on a daily basis, travelling by his push-bike - he never owned a car. His sermons were thoughtful and thought-provoking, and short! I have one, written for the Sunday following the death of General Kellett in 1931. It is touching

and full of comfort for the bereaved. In spite of his innate humility he became a canon in 1923, rural dean in 1927 and chancellor of Cashel Cathedral in 1935.

When Canon Patten himself died there was an enormous outpouring of grief from the whole town, irrespective of creed. My mother proudly told me that his coffin was carried by six catholics, large numbers of whom attended. On his gravestone is the simple inscription 'For God Loveth a Cheerful Giver'. A fine and apt epitaph. I wish I had known him. \*

*— by Richard Weld*

*[I am indebted to Kieran McGovern of Dublin for the information on Surgeon James Patten and for providing the family link to the Emmet family.]*



**GRAND £10 PRIZE for SWEET PEAS, OPEN TO ALL IRELAND.**

## **SCHEDULE OF PRIZES**

FOR THE

# **Fethard Flower Show**

(Affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland)

## **AND FÊTE.**

By kind permission of RICHARD BURKE, Esq., M.F.H.,

## **The Third Annual Show**

WILL BE HELD AT

## **GROVE HOUSE**

(One mile from Fethard), on

**Thursday, July 31st, 1913,**

From 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**MILITARY BAND WILL ATTEND.**

**ENTRANCE TO SHOW, 6d.**

**CHILDREN, 3d.**

**TEA GARDEN**

(9d. per head ad lib.)

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**Miss B. MURPHY,**

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**POPULAR TEAS**

(1d. per cup; Cakes 1d. each)

**Mrs. J. G. O'BRIEN,**

Lakefield.

Plain Luncheons will be provided for Exhibitors, etc., etc., at 1/6 each.

Hon. | **Rev. R. C. PATTEN, F.R.H.S.,** Rectory, Fethard, and

Secs. | **J. G. O'BRIEN, Lakefield, Fethard.**

**GRAND £3 PRIZE for CARNATIONS, OPEN TO ALL IRELAND.**

*Fethard Flower Show and Fête — Thursday 31st July 1913*

# Fethard Flower Show and Fête 1912

## Annual Report for 1912

The Show was held, by kind permission of Col. and Mrs Cooke, at Kiltinane Castle, on Thursday, 1st August 1912.

In spite of the bad weather experienced up to the day before the Show, the entries showed a very gratifying increase, numbering upwards of 700, whereas there cannot have been more than 200 at our first Show.

The attendance also showed a marked increase, as the gate money amounted to nearly £47, as against £23 the year before. It was estimated that over 3,000 persons were present.

For the £10 Sweet Pea Prize there were 48 entries, representing the majority of the counties in Ireland. Unfortunately, owing to the havoc wrought by the terrible weather of the preceding days, only 23 exhibits were actually staged. With anything like propitious weather at our next Show, the Sweet Pea display should be even better worth seeing.

The balance brought forward this year, we regret to say, is not as large as the previous one, but we have now a complete set of staging trestles, besides other equipment, which will effect a saving in future Shows. As against this, however, we shall have to

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 **BRETT'S. Fethard, Tip.**

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face in the future a considerable outlay on tent hire. It is hoped, therefore, that the supporters of our Show will not relax their generosity.

It is hoped to make efficient provision this year for the protection of fruit, cakes and sewing, so that the public will not be able to touch the exhibits.

The Sports which were organised and carried to a successful conclusion by a special committee — the secretarial duties of which were in the energetic and capable hands of Mr J. Moran — were a great attraction and source of pleasure to the public. There were 80 entries for the different events, many of which resulted in exciting finishes.

The entries for the Dancing Competitions were not as numerous as might be expected. Should there be sufficient entries at next Show special prizes will be given, open only to those who have not previously won prizes at public competitions.

It is felt that apology is due to the public for the somewhat crude arrangement of the Show, which was due to the fact that the preceding day was the wettest day experienced for many years, necessitating the postponement of a great deal of the preparation till the morning of the Show.

The Committee wish to express their grateful thanks to Col. and Mrs. Cooke for the use of their picturesque grounds, and they regret that more

than usual damage must have been done owing to the inclemency of the weather.

In conclusion, the Committee wish to sincerely thank the Judges for their services, and all the ladies and gentlemen who, by their help, contributed so greatly to the success of the Show.

The Committee have great pleasure in announcing that Mr Richard Burke, M.F.H., has most kindly granted the use of his convenient and spacious grounds at Grove for next Show, which will be held on Thursday, 31st July 31.

## General Committee 1913

Mr. and Mrs C. R. Barton, Marlfield.  
 Mrs. Baker, Bank House, Fethard.  
 Mr. Richard Broke, M.F.H.  
 Rev. Father Burke, C.C., Lisronagh.  
 Mr. Tobias Burke, Donoughmore, Lisronagh.  
 Mrs. Buggy, Fethard.  
 Rev. Father Byrne, P.P., Clerihan.  
 Mrs. Carroll and Mr. Clement J. Carroll, Rocklow.  
 Mr. P. Carroll, Thorney Bridge.  
 Mrs. Church, Knockeevan.  
 Colonel and Mrs. Cooke, Kiltinane Castle.  
 Rev. and Mrs. A. Cooke, Mogorban Rectory.  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Croome, Annesfort.  
 Mr. Edmond Cummins, Brookhill.  
 Mr. Edward Cuthbert, Derryluskan.  
 Mrs. M. Coffey, Abbey Ville.  
 Mrs. P. Coffey, Fethard.  
 Mr. Thomas Fennelly, Prospect Hill.  
 Col. and Mrs. Hussey de Burgh, Mobarnane.  
 Dr. Heffernan, Killenaule.  
 Mr. Heffernan, D'Arcy's Cross.  
 Col. and Mrs. Heffernan, Barretstown.  
 Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Higgins, Ardsallagh.  
 Mrs. Hughes, Annesgift.  
 Mrs. Hughes, Ballyrichard, Drangan.  
 Rev. Father Humphries, P.P., Killenaule.  
 Col. and Mrs. Kellett, of Clonacody.  
 Mr. P.M. Lindsay, Garronkyle.  
 Mr. and Mrs. G. Lysaght, Kilbury.

Miss Landers, Fethard.  
 Mrs. Lonergan, Fethard.  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Morel, Tullamaine Castle.  
 The Misses Murphy, Coolmore.  
 Mrs. R. McCarthy, Hotel, Fethard.  
 Mrs. J.G. O'Brien, Lakefield.  
 Rev. Father O'Brien, P.P., Drangan.  
 Dr. and Mrs. O'Connell, Fethard.  
 Mr. Richard O'Connell, Rathvin.  
 Mr. Michael O'Donnell, Bannoxtown.  
 Mr. Con O'Neill, Lisronagh House.  
 Mr. Andrew O'Shea, Courthouse, Clonmel.  
 Mrs. Patten, Fethard.  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Pennefather, Rathcoole.  
 Mr. Michael Purcell, Fortwilliam, Lisronagh.  
 Mr. M. Quirke, Drangan.  
 Mr. Frank Quinlan, Coleman, Lisronagh.  
 The Very Rev. Archdeacon Ryan, P.P., Fethard.  
 Mr. Darby Scully, Silverfort.  
 Mr. J. and Miss Shirley, Derryluskan Cross.  
 Mr. P. Stokes, Thorney Bridge.  
 Mrs. Schofield, Fethard.  
 Mrs. Tennant and the Misses Tennant, Ballinard Castle.  
 Mr. W. Toppin, Fethard.  
 Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Triphook, The Lilacs.  
 Mr. Michael Walsh, Newtown.  
 Mr. R. M. O'Hanrahan, Fethard.



## Shopping in Fethard in 1913

<p><b>Edmond O'Shea,</b> </p> <p><b>BURKE ST., FETHARD,</b></p> <p>Sells Boots &amp; Shoes, Drapery Goods, Knitting Wools, Wall Papers, Stationery, School Books of all kinds.</p> <p><b>NEWSPAPERS.</b> Buy your Newspapers locally, and save postage.</p>	<p><b>T. Stapleton's</b></p> <p><b>GENERAL GROCERY, BAKERY,</b> <b>FLOUR, MEAL &amp; BRAN STORES.</b></p> <p><b>MAIN ST., FETHARD.</b></p> <p>All Goods sold at the ... <b>LOWEST POSSIBLE PROFIT.</b></p>
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<p><b>Mrs. O'Donohue,</b></p> <p><b>Main Street, Fethard,</b></p> <p>KEEPS LARGE STOCKS OF . . .</p> <p><b>China, Glass, and Delph</b> <b>of all kinds for Hire. . .</b></p> <p><b>Price 5d. per dozen.      A trial solicited.</b></p>	<p><b>Hanrahan &amp; Co.,</b></p> <p><b>MEDICAL HALL, FETHARD.</b></p> <p>PATENT AND FAMILY MEDICINES. HORSE, SHEEP AND CATTLE MEDICINES. FAMOUS PIG POWDERS</p> <p> Prescriptions carefully compounded.</p>

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My Tea at 2s. per lb. is unequalled.

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
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**Special Reductions on all Feeding Stuffs and  
Provisions for Cash.**

# Killusty National School

Frances Harrington (Principal)



*Pupils working on the Heraldry Project at Killusty National School for Heritage Day Parade which took place in Fethard on 26th August*

It was another busy year in Killusty National School. Once again we have had a year full of variety, helping us to implement our vision for Killusty National School, that each child would be developed intellectually, socially, spiritually, physically and morally. We had a coffee morning in September in aid of the Hospice Movement. €30 was raised for this worthy cause. During the first term, we had many extra-curricular activities. We enjoyed Irish dancing and football matches, we attended dramatic productions of 'Setanta' and 'Santa and his Magic Sleigh'. In December we had a Carol Service in the Sacred Heart Church with many parents in attendance. Our Christmas Choir sang at both masses in Sacred Heart Church, Killusty.

In January 2007, our swimming commenced. Children, from first to

sixth class, enjoyed these swimming sessions for ten weeks. In January, also, Marie and Ann-Marie, members of the staff of Clonmel Library, came to visit our school. Everyone, pupils and teachers alike, enjoyed a story-filled morning. Our visitors enjoyed the visit so much that they invited us to visit them in Clonmel, which we did in March.

After Easter, in the third term, the junior classes enjoyed 'Cinderella' in the White Memorial Theatre. The senior classes played three matches with Cill Cais, Kilvemnon and Mohober in a sporting fashion. Our school was the venue this year for the annual Sports Day. The pupils of Cloneen National School and Kilvemnon National School joined us and enjoyed a fabulous day filled with non-competitive games. Once again our Management Board and parents

did us proud. The refreshments supplied by them were second to none. Our visitors were very complimentary about the beautiful food supplied. We had very educational visits during this term by a fire-fighter from Clonmel Fire Department and from Gerry Tobin from ENFO. We also had the benefit of the expertise of local artist Pat Looby. All the children, under her guidance, and with the fabulous help of Lory Kenny, prepared their shields for the Medieval Heraldic Parade, which took place in Fethard, during National Heritage Week in August.

We all travelled to Waterford Institute of Technology for our school trip, where we had a day filled with activities, which ranged from Bouncy Castles to Bungee Jumping. The chil-

dren enjoyed a wonderful day and once again the coordinators in the institute were very impressed with our well-behaved and lovely mannered pupils. To finish the term we enjoyed 'Kool School', an outdoor activity session, with Karen and Nikki. Our three junior infants for September had their first day in school June 19th. It was a busy year, academically and otherwise.

The highlight of the year was once again that beautiful summer Sunday in June, when our seven second class pupils made their First Holy Communion. It was a very special day in the lives of those children and as always a very special day in the lives of the school community. Our Summer holidays commenced in June. Another year over. \*



*Shannon Hickey, Killusty National School, presenting a cheque for €250, the proceeds of a coffee morning, to Sinaida Jansen, South Tipperary Hospice, on behalf of the people of Killusty. Also included with the pupils are Ms Frances Harrington (Principal), Catriona Morrissey (Teacher), Tracy Wallace (Special Needs Assistant), Ann Darcy (Office Staff) and Jim Bond (South Tipperary Hospice).*

# St. Patrick's Boys' National School



*Heraldry Project at St Patrick's Boys National School for Heritage Day Parade in Fethard on 26th August.*

Following a very busy year we take this opportunity to wish Ms Carmel Lonergan well on her travels over the next year and best wishes also go to Ms Aisling Ryan on her marriage to Paul Fanning. We welcome Sarah O'Sullivan, Carmel Maher and Mary Hickey to our staff.

We had a very full and satisfying year and came second in the Fethard Electoral Area Tidy Schools' Competition. Thanks to Willie Ryan and Helena Delany for their hard work. Success was experienced in the local Credit Union Quiz with the school winning both the Junior and



*St. Patrick's Boys School pupils photographed with Irish rugby stars, Alan Quinlan and Roman O'Gara, who paid a surprise visit to our final rugby training session in June.*





*Pupils pictured at the Discover Primary Science Awards in Kilkenny*

Senior sections.

The school was also awarded the 'Discover Primary Science School of Excellence Award'. This involved a visit to the Young Scientists' Exhibition in the RDS, a guided tour of the woodlands at Kilsheelan, a classroom visit by Gerard Tobin of ENFO Ireland, numerous school-based science experiments and projects including the building of bridges and boots. We would like to thank the parents who attended and participated in our Science Open Day. We were presented with this science award in the Springhill Hotel in Kilkenny.

Willie Ryan and Eileen Fitzgerald continued to train the boys in GAA skills and the under-13 hurling team reached the quarter finals of the

County Cumann na mBunscol competition and went on to win the 'Lift and Strike' competition. Mark Andrews took rugby training every Thursday after school and our final training session was interrupted by the surprise visit of none other than Ireland's rugby stars, Alan Quinlan and Ronan O'Gara!

Our Parents' Association was very active and supportive during the year and our thanks go to them on the fantastic success of their Race Night which raised €10,000 to supplement school funds and enabled us to buy a new set of jerseys for the school.

We wish last year's 6th class well in their new schools as we look forward to another challenging and fulfilling year. Best wishes to all. \*



*Photographed at the Race Night in McCarthy's Hotel in aid of St. Patrick's Boys National School are L to R: John Delany, Percy Butler, Paddy Wallace, Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Eddie Croke.*



*Photographed at the Race Night in McCarthy's Hotel in aid of St. Patrick's Boys National School are L to R: Liza Ward, Aine Doocey, Fiona Lawrence, Patricia Treacy and Mandy Quigley.*



*St. Patrick's Boys School Parents' Association and Board of Management with the proceeds of their Race Night fundraiser for school renovations. L to R: Theresa Hurley, Mandy Quigley, Majella Hayden, Patricia Treacy, Liza Ward, Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Fiona Lawrence, Suzanna Manton and Caroline Brastock.*

# Nano Nagle National School



*Heraldry Project at Nano Nagle National School for Heritage Day Parade in Fethard on 26th August.*

Staff members at Nano Nagle National School for the current year are: Sr. Maureen Power (Principal) 5th Class, Mrs Maureen Maher (Vice-Principal) 1st & 2nd Classes, Mrs Rita Kenny, 6th Class, Ms Denise Kelly, 3rd & 4th Classes, Sr. Winnie Kirwan, Senior Infants, Mrs Margaret Gleeson, Junior Infants, Mrs Mary Hanrahan, Learning Support Teacher, Mrs Aoife Moore, Learning Support Teacher, Mrs Peg McGarry, Resource Teacher, Ms Lorraine de Lacy, High Support Unit, Ms Ann-Marie Harty, Special Needs Assistant, Mrs Mary Morrissey, Special Needs Assistant, Mrs Anne D'Arcy, Secretary and Mr Willie Ryan, Caretaker. We offer our warmest welcome to our new teacher Ms Denise Kelly who replaces Ms Elaine Brady. Elaine made a wonderful contribution to our staff team during her tenure at Nano Nagle. She has left us for foreign shores and we all wish her the

very best on her travels. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to Mrs Aoife Moore, née Gleeson on the wonderful occasion of her marriage in June of this year.

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. Their annual table quiz took place in The Well, Burke Street on Thursday 15th November. We thank the association and very much appreciate all their efforts on our behalf. The generous support of our parents is a major factor in the success of all our undertakings and so we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and co-operation.

The revised curriculum has now been fully implemented and will be enhanced this year through school development planning days.



*Pupils from Nano Nagle National School photographed on their outing to Cahir Farmers' Market as part of their prizewinning 'Live Simply that others may Simply Live' school project.*

Confirmation will take place in Holy Trinity Parish church in 2008 and we think of our 5th and 6th classes as they prepare for this sacrament. Sixteen 2nd Class pupils will make their First Holy Communion in May 2008.

Our pupils are going swimming again this year and athletics has also figured prominently during the first term with our pupils competing in Thurles. Ceilí dancing will resume next term. Mark Edwards, I.R.F.U. introduced our pupils to Tag Rugby and the girls really enjoyed their foray into this new sport. Our thanks to the local rugby club for facilitating Mark's visit.

Throughout the school year the children participate in a number of local and national art, photographic and writing competitions and we are pleased to report that they have had

considerable success in their endeavours. The older pupils have made a number of visits to Clonmel Library, and the County Museum and we also have the facility of the travelling library coming to our school. Local history also figures strongly on our curriculum with tours of the Town Wall supplemented by visits to the Fethard Folk Museum, both Churches of the Holy Trinity and, of course, the Augustinian Abbey.

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 a field to Glengarra Woods during the month of October. The sun came out for us and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas Show took place on 13th, 15th & 17th December 2006 in the Abymill Theatre. This was one of the most enjoyable of our school ven-

tures. 'Christmas Eve in the Toy Shop' was ably performed by Junior Infants. 'Born In Bethlehem' featured beautiful singing from Senior Infants and 'The Night before Christmas' performed by 1st & 2nd Classes, was a highly entertaining musical based on the poem of the same name. The Senior Classes excelled in 'The Snow Queen' a chilling tale of Gerda's journey to rescue her foster brother from the wicked Snow Queen.

Our sixth class took part in



*Junior Infants Class at Nano Nagle National School. Back L to R: Cathal O'Mahoney (Tullamaine), Ryan Walsh (Kilnockin), Ethan Coen (Knockelly Road), Jennifer Phelan (Jossesstown), Ciarán Moroney (Tullamaine), Matthew Burke (Sladagh Cross), Mrs Margaret Gleeson (teacher). Third Row L to R: Richard Robinson (Watergate), Josh Nevin (Killerk), Annica O'Connor (Northgate House), Jamie Webster (Barrack Street), Kaylin O'Donnell (Kilconnell), Rachel O'Loughman (Graon). Second Row L to R: Eve McArthur (Coolmoynne), David Cowland (St. Patrick's Place), Shane Neville (Kilnockin), Kiefer Burke (Woodvale Walk), Ryan Butler (Woodvale Walk), Alison Comoay (Tullamaine), Patrick Shine (Killusty). Front L to R: Molly Curran (Kilnockin View), Miceál Quinlan (Tullamaine), Oleg Novikova (Lakefield), Haley Kane (Abbey Court), Michael Comoay (Kilnockin View) and Nell Spillane (Tullamaine). Missing is Michael O'Reilly (Barrack Street).*

Challenge to Change, an exciting learning opportunity developed by the Presentation Sisters. Their project entitled 'Live Simply that others may Simply Live' raised their awareness of a range of issues: slavery, war and conflict, the use of the world's resources and our responsibility as stewards of the Earth. Our students visited Traas Farm and country markets in Fethard and Cahir where they received a warm welcome from all involved. They presented their project on completion in Kilkenny and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. They will be missed and we wish them every success at second-level.

Our school tours took place as usual in June with the Junior and Senior Infants going to a puppet show in Clonmel followed by a picnic in

Mulcahy Park while the rest of the pupils enjoyed an Outdoor Activity Day in Roscrea College. Our 3rd and 4th classes also travelled to Kilkenny where they visited Kilkenny Castle

A great time was had by all!

As we write this article for the newsletter our pupils are once again taking part in 'Operation Christmas Child'. Each child fills a shoebox with items suitable for either a boy or a girl (toys, educational supplies, toiletries, sweets, small items of clothing). These shoeboxes will be sent to children in Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nepal, Romania, Swaziland or Ukraine. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on how very fortunate we are here in Ireland and, in some small way, to share some of that good fortune with



*Fifth and Sixth Class Pupils from Nano Nagle National School photographed on their outing to Fethard Folk Museum. The pupils were delighted with the variety of interesting items on display from dolls to hearses and in particular the guided tour by Margaret Mullins.*



*Happy Children in Nano Nagle School, Fethard, supporting Operation Christmas Child, bringing Christmas joy to many less fortunate children around the world.*

children in need overseas. Each year our pupils, and by default their parents, amaze us with their generosity and the children's joy in giving serves to remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas 2007, 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. \*



*This year's Sixth Class at Nano Nagle National School. Back L to R: Svetlana Novikova, Emma Walsh, Tara Horan, Jade Pattison, Emma Hayes, Emma Morrissey, Leah O'Donnell, Christina Myler. Front L to R: Danielle Sheehan, Karen Hayes, Shannon Garrett, Robyn Tobin, Aobh O'Shea and Aine Phelan.*

# Killerk Land Division

by Tom Burke

*Give me land, lots of land, under starry skies above, Don't fence me in.  
Let me ride through the wide-open country that I love, Don't fence me in.*

The popular ditty of the time could be used to sum up the feeling of the people of Redcity, Market Hill, and Killerk during the late 1950s. What had whetted their appetites and stirred their emotions to a fever pitch previously reserved for perhaps the Tipp Hurling team in an All-Ireland or indeed the Fethard 'Blues' in a South Final? To understand fully, we should go back to the beginning.

**"It was the best of times,  
it was the worst of times."**

Dickens could well have been writing about the 50s in Ireland. It would be hard for those reared on the Celtic Tiger to appreciate the conditions which generally prevailed at that time. Almost all economic activity was agriculture based, therefore land was important. Land provided all the necessities of life; vegetables could be grown, cows could be grazed and provide milk, butter and an offspring each year. The latter could be raised and sold for cash, which could then be used to buy tea, sugar and flour. Pigs and hens could be raised to provide meat and eggs. The land supplied all the needs. It was indeed everything.

Rural Electrification, which had begun over 20 years previously, had not yet reached us. Consequently, the modern conveniences such as TV,

radio (the odd house had battery set), washing machine, dryer etc were missing. Cooking was achieved by solid fuel cooker or open fire. Lighting was by oil lamp and candle. No one in our area had central heating facilities, or indeed a phone. A visit to the Capitol Cinema, Fethard, once a week was considered a real treat. Fifty thousand of our young people left each year, not on holidays to Spain or the Canaries as at present, but to ply their wares in places such as Kilburn or on the 'Streets of Baltimore'. The 'craic' may have been 'good in Crickelwood' but the concrete jungle can be a cold forbidding substitute for the green hills of home. It may as well have been the 19th century.

But were people unhappy with their lot, not a bit of it, the people around me growing up never seemed to be in a hurry, never seemed to be depressed, and were always ready to help out when called upon. Despite the economic gloom they were content in Redcity, Market Hill and Killerk in 1955, even though Tipp had not come out of Munster since '51, but wonder of wonders, a Tipp minor football team (which contained 5 locals) was beating all before it, even Kerry (powered by a young midfielder called Mick O'Connell) in a replayed Munster Final.

Into this calm and contented setting,



an event occurred on June 29th 1955 which would set in train events destined to disturb the peace and tranquility for many years to come.

The Killerk road forks away from the Cahir Road outside our house, and climbs steeply the 400ft to the top of Killerk Hill, from where it drops just as suddenly to the valley on the south

side. Dairy farming was the thriving industry in this valley, and its importance had long been recognized by the establishment of the Killerk Branch of the Coolmoyné & Fethard Cooperative Creameries Ltd. The Slattery's farmed 272 acres of good land in Killerk North, just a stone's throw from the Killerk Creamery. When Patrick died in 1952, the land then

passed to the only surviving member of the family, Mary, who had never married. Mary's house was off the Killerk road at the bottom, accessed by an old boreen. Now living alone, she decided to move closer to the Killerk road and built a modern bungalow, which could be further enhanced by the imminent arrival of electricity to the area. Contracts were awarded to local builder, Michael Barrett, of Market Hill, which was a wise choice, as Michael's diligence and attention to detail was legendary. Work commenced in 1954 and by June

of the following year, the structure was complete and ready for occupation. But Mary was to never enjoy the modern facilities which the short move from the ancestral homestead would have allowed, for on June 29th, in the 65th year of her life, she suddenly passed to her eternal reward.

With no 'close' relatives, there was



immediate agitation locally for the lands to be 'compulsorily purchased' by the Land Commission, and divided among the locals, all of whom imagined themselves to be more deserving of extra acres than the next. There was a multiplicity of meetings: small meetings, large meetings, ad hoc meetings, clandestine meetings, and meetings with public representa-

tives. Irrespective of this feverish activity, the law took its course, and the property was taken over by one Mrs Mary A. Bradshaw, administratrix of the Slattery Estate. But this only stirred the local agitation to even higher level, as it was feared that the property might now be disposed of before the Land Commission could be induced to move.

*"The Powers and Functions under which the Land Commission acquired lands were provided for in the various Land Acts. The Land Commission*

*were allotted extensive powers to compulsorily acquire land and divide it locally for the relief of congestion. It also bought land voluntarily where the owner was prepared to sell. In addition, it migrated farmers from congested areas and provided them with new equipped farms. It undertook schemes of rearrangement with a view to consolidating scattered and fragmented holdings into compact viable units.*

*The Land Commission did not have a Mission Statement as it was dissolved in 1999 by the commencement of the Irish Land Commission (Dissolution ) Act, 1992. In its latter years, the basic aim of the Land Commission was to create the largest number possible of viable economic small holdings.*

*(Definition of the aims and objectives of the Land Commission as stated in correspondence from Dept of Agriculture & Food . . . dated 16/10/07)*

All Government Departments move slowly, and this situation would be no different, for many legal aspects had to be examined and the patience of the locals was tested to the extreme, for over 18 months in fact. Finally, they were to be rewarded when, on 12th February 1957, the Land Commission, having completed all of their preliminary investigations, and pursuant to the Land Acts 1923-1954, vested in the said Commission the untenanted lands of Killerk North in the Barony of Middle Third, with an acreage of 272 acres, 4 roods and 23 perches. The

sum of £8,500 was lodged "To the Reps. Mary Slattery, deceased, per Edgar J. Ryan, Esq, Solicitor, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary, who appear to the Land Commission to be the Owners of the said Lands, and to all other persons, if any, interested in the said lands." (Record No. S 21031- Irish Land Commission)

The locals had stood united and had won out. Division of the land could now proceed. Whilst the events of the previous 18 months had forged them into a strong, cohesive unit, it would not take long to fragment that unity and drive wedges between them, which were in some cases taken to their deathbeds.

Looking back over the years to that period, one could feel great sympathy for those in the Land Commission charged with the responsibility of preparing a Division Plan. Neither the wisdom of Solomon, nor the patience of Job, would have been sufficient to satisfy the myriad of demands which were presented.

The problems were as follows:

- Some would not concede small portions of their lands at one side to gain double and treble that amount in Killerk, which bounded them on the other. They had sentimental attachment to their own land, handed down through generations, and who could blame them.
- Some would not accept certain areas of Killerk Land under any circumstances.
- Some would not move from



*Killerk Land Dispute public meeting in 1955*

their own homes to occupy the new Bungalow.

- Some would not even meet with the Commissioners to work on the possibilities. The dilemma being presented was too disturbing for them.

Difficulties were also added by the criteria laid down by the Land Commission for those qualifying for land in Killerk, or indeed anywhere else where 'Divided Land' was being allocated — 'One had to own some land already'. This disqualified at least two of our neighbours, who, whilst owning no land, had actually rented part of the Slattery Estate in Killerk for many years, and were very successful dairy farmers.

The situation during those years was not without its humour. When the 'Commissioners' were doing their rounds in the preparatory phase of

their deliberations, the appearance (or indeed a rumour) of a 'suited' individual or individuals in the area was sufficient to cause havoc. There was one occasion when a well-dressed man toured about, visiting houses in Redcity and Market Hill, and was wined and dined everywhere he touched. It transpired that the said individual was none other than a salesman for Kosangas Cookers, which would of course been very popular in an area that had not yet secured the services of the ESB. There was at least one local who signed up for the cooker, fully convinced that it was being sold to him by a 'Commissioner' who was double-jobbing. At least he was the only one honest enough to admit it.

### **Then there was the poem**

A local family, who specialised in composing a verse or two to com-



*Killerk Land Dispute public meeting in 1955*

memorate any noteworthy event, be it a county championship victory for Fethard, or a Grand National win for Vincent O'Brien, were not found wanting on this occasion. A 'Satirical Sonnet' appeared, under 'Anonymous' of course, which poked fun at some of the locals who were actively pursuing extra acreage in Killerk.

I remember well when my father was advised of his inclusion in the poem, and he was not at all pleased.

*"Dinny will plough, and Dinny will sow,  
and Dinny will live in a new Bungalowo."*

That seemed innocent enough to us but to him it exposed publicly that his hat was in the ring, not alone for land in Killerk, but indeed as a contender for the new Bungalow. His good friend and neighbour (a quiet, retiring man who shall remain nameless), could not resist giving him an almighty 'ribbing'

at every opportunity. Who could blame him. My offer to 'compose' a few lines on the neighbours candidacy was eagerly accepted, and when I produced the following my father was estatic

*" --- ----- is a very quiet man,  
But he is trying to acquire new possessions  
as fast as he can."*

Now that our neighbour believed that he was also included in the poem, it lost a good deal of its earlier attraction for him. He was even heard to say that those people composing poetry about something which was none of their business should be careful lest someone who had been offended (presumably himself) might seek redress by exercising the full rigours of the law.

Whether due to the intransigence of some of the locals, or perhaps politics taking precedence over policy, the final



'Division Plan' implemented was strange to say the least and certainly gave impetus to those who argued that no strategic plan was involved in the allocation of the divided land. The Division Plan, when implemented in 1958, could be quantified as follows:

- Two farms, both of approx 60 acres (one complete with new Bungalow) were created and assigned to applicants from 20 miles away. These applicants gave up holdings in their 'home' area.
- Two locals, married, of advancing years and with no children, were awarded 26 acres and 18 acres respectively, to make their existing holdings more viable. This latter land (18 acres) was sold after short time as the owner scaled down due to advancing years.
- One local man, with four young sons, was awarded 7 acres, to bring his holding to a total of 13 acres.
- Another local man, with four young sons, was awarded 12 acres, to bring his holding to a total of 20 acres.
- A small plot of 1 rood and 10 perches was allocated to the Coolmoyné & Fethard Co-Op at Killerk Creamery.
- The remaining 90 acres approx was awarded to a local man, who gave up his existing land on all sides to facilitate his neighbours, and whose farseeing and conciliatory attitude

must have been like a breath of fresh air to the hard-pressed Commissioners.

- The local beneficiaries were all from the North side of the Slattery estate.

It was like as if an examination had been held, to which some had not been permitted to enter at all; some could not bring themselves to enter; others entered and failed, and some passed. The celebration of the latter, if they were so inclined, had to be muted lest they give offence to their less fortunate neighbours.

The impact from the Killerk Land Division would last for many years. Neighbours who had been close, became estranged and barely spoke. The community had been severely traumatized by the events of the '55-'59 period and would take many years to forgive itself for its weaknesses:

- Inability to accept change during the initial preparatory phase.
- The anguish and disappointment of the awards phase.
- And finally, the envy and jealousy generated during the post mortem phase.

In other words, it was hard to forgive itself for being human.

### Postscript

In producing this article at the request of the Editor, I have tried, in deference to the good people of Redcity, Market Hill and Killerk, to be as factual as possible. Nothing can be more offensive than misrepresenta-

tion. No names, other than those of the Slattery family, their accredited solicitor, and the administratrix of the Slattery estate, are mentioned.

I should point out that the Killerk File is listed as existing in the Records Office of the Land Commission. It is available for examination under the FOI Act or so I was informed. I was particularly interested in establishing from the file, if possible, why no divided land was awarded to farmers other than those to the North of the Slattery estate (excluding the two non locals).

When I came to examine the file it could not be located. Am I paranoid enough to imagine that it contains information not suitable for public

consumption? No. But, then maybe it is in everyone's best interests that the file is left to gather dust in some Dublin basement. The protagonists would perhaps have wished it so.

The last word goes to a poet, not the local amateurs who provided such fun with their composition in 1955, but to a great English poet who died 20 years before that. A.E. Housman probably never heard of Killerk, but he captured the pessimistic mood that many of the locals would have experienced by the Killerk Land Division. \*

*And how am I to face the odds,  
Of men's bedevilment and Gods.  
I, a stranger and afraid,  
In a world I never made.*



*This photograph, supplied by Gene Walsh, was taken in Fethard Tennis Court in the 1950s. L to R: Mary (Dwyer) Walsh, Carmel McSweeney, Main Street, and Sally (O'Brien) Finn, Burke Street.*

# Killusty Soccer Club



*Killusty team who beat Glengoolie in the Statail EAI Junior Cup 2nd Round played in Killusty. Back L to R: Jason Nevin, Declan Fanning, Barry Hanley, Noel Walsh, John Connoy, Eoghan Aylward. Front L to R: Tony Shelly, Shane Aylward, Ross Aylward, Tommy Gahan and Martin Coen.*

The promising start we made in last season's league only flattered to deceive. We were out of cup competitions at the early stages, and interest and results went from bad to worse. We picked up only a few more points, and ended up being relegated. The club is now in the second division of the TSDL, our lowest position in over twenty years.

On a brighter note there seems to be renewed interest in the club. Team manager, George Williams, is getting a good turnout at training and although results are mixed we are hoping for a decent run in the league.

Away from the playing field, the club organised a fund-raising golf classic at Slievenamon Golf Club, which was very successful. In October, clubman Declan Fanning from Killenaule, was the deserving winner of a GAA hurling All Star, a fitting award for a fine sportsman, whatever code he plays.

At our AGM which was held in July, the following officers were elected: Chairman Shay Coen; Hon. Sec. Sarah Shelly; Hon. Tres. Emma Fitzgerald; and Team Manager George Williams. \*

## Fethard Historical Society

Fethard Historical Society held their Annual General Meeting on the 27th March 2007 and the following committee was elected: Dóirín Saurus (Chairperson), Mary Hanrahan (Vice-Chairperson), Margaret Newport (Secretary), Peter Delaney (Assistant Secretary), Catherine O'Flynn (Treasurer), Tim Robinson (Planning Officer), Terry Cunningham (Public Relations Officer). Committee members: Kitty Delany, Marie O'Donnell, Ann Lynch, Frances Murphy, Mary McCormack and Pat Looby.

This year, 2007, was a very good year for the Historical Society. We believe we have 'turned the corner' in terms of finally getting official recognition for the uniqueness of the walled town of Fethard - the best in Ireland

apart from the walled city of Derry.

There is now a very good working relationship between the Society and all the interested government agencies, especially South Tipperary County Council, the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland.

In particular, The Irish Walled Network, which is funded by the Heritage Council and covers all of Ireland, has been the main force in convincing the 'powers that be' that Fethard is a very special and unusual place.

### Grants for the Wall and Town

This year, nearly €200,000 has been agreed with the above agencies for both practical repair-work on the town wall and for three major reports that will issue early in 2008.



*Dóirín Saurus, Chairperson Fethard Historical Society, presenting the Tipperarian Book of the Year Award to Michael Ahearn, Clonmel, for his publication, 'Figures in a Clonmel Landscape'. L to R: Deirdre Ahearn, Michael Ahearn, Dóirín Saurus and Niamh Ahearn.*





*Photographed at a preliminary meeting to form a Conservation and Management Plan for Fethard on 31st Jan 2007 are Back L to R: Terry Cunningham (Rural Tourism Adviser, Teagasc), Cllr John Fahey. Front L to R: Tim Robinson, Dóirín Saurus (Chairperson Fethard Historical Society), Damian O'Brien (Product Marketing Officer, Fáilte Ireland), Alison Harvey (Irish Walled Towns Network), Mary Hanrahan (Vice Chairperson Fethard Historical Society), Hugh O'Brien, (Forward Planning Section South Tipperary County Council), Eoin Powell (Fethard Area Engineer) and Joe Kenny (Chairperson Fethard & Killusty Community Council).*

One report will deal exclusively with the wall itself. It will come up with a detailed conservation plan for the full circle of the wall and the areas close to the wall.

The second report is known as a public realm plan, and this could prove to be the most important document written about Fethard in recent times. It will deal with Fethard as a living place – where people walk, play, work, park, shop, socialise, etc., and this should be a great help in planning developments in the town for the next twenty years.

The third report will deal with the Town Hall and will try to come up with a plan to save the building and to suggest a real sustainable working use for the most central building in the town.

Preparing the groundwork for these reports has taken up most of the time and efforts of the Historical Society during 2007 but hopefully it will all be worthwhile when all the reports feed into the next development plan for the town that will be drawn up by the County Council.

The highlight of the year was 'The Walled Towns Day' festival that took place in The Valley area on Sunday 26th August. The Heritage Council, County Council, County Museum, Fáilte Ireland, local clubs and individuals all supported the Historical Society in staging a wonderful Medieval Event on what was the finest and hottest day of the summer.

Congratulations must also go to Laurence Kenny who came second in the National Walled Towns Photo

Competition and his picture will now be made into a postcard by the Heritage Council and circulated nationally.

Normal business did continue also for the society with lectures and a very enjoyable summer trip, with local artist Pat Looby, to visit the high crosses of the South East of Ireland.

Members of the committee also joined Tim Robinson, resident in medieval Watergate, on an investigative trip to South West France to see their walled towns which are called 'Bastides'. These towns were founded and walled at the same time and by the same English/Norman kings who were carrying out similar 'plantations' in their other 'lands' here in Fethard and other parts of Ireland in the 12th and 13th centuries. A 'twinning' arrangement may result with one of these small French towns in the future

when more research and consultation has been carried out.

The usual Tipperarian 'Book of the Year' presentation and the Book Fair (on the second Sunday of February) all went off very well and are set to continue into the future.

In 2008 it is planned to publish a book on Heraldry in Fethard, by Gerard Crotty, and finances are in place to do this. Also the long awaited History of Fethard may come out late next year and ideas to finance this major undertaking are now becoming a priority for the society.

We wish all Fethard and Killusty people a happy Christmastime and more of the same for all of 2008. The society can be contacted, supported, or joined by email at [history@fethard.com](mailto:history@fethard.com) or by writing to: The Secretary, Fethard Historical Society, Fethard, Co. Tipperary. \*



*Fethard Historical Society members celebrate the erection of new doors at the Mural Tower on Fethard Town Wall with tea and scones on Sunday morning 29th June 2007. L to R: Tim Robinson, Mary Hanrahan, Kitty Delany, Mary McCormack, Dóirín Saurus, Kate Corcoran with her son Richard, Terry Cunningham, Dot Gibson and Colm McGrath.*



Winners of the senior and junior Fethard Walled Towns Photographic Competition accepting their prizes of €500 and €200 respectively from members of the Fethard Historical Society and Fethard Walled Towns Committee who coordinated the competition in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Ireland. L to R: Terry Cunningham, Angelico Bano (Junior Section Winner), Dóirín Saurus, Laurence Kenny (Senior Section Winner and runner-up in the national competition) and Pat Looby. There was a great response to the Fethard competition with over 120 entries. The Clonmel photographer, John Crowley, kindly took on the difficult task of choosing the winners. Larry Kenny won the adult section with his photograph entitled 'Light on the Past'. This photograph of the wall by moonlight went on to become a runner up in the national competition organised by the Heritage Council. The first prize in the under 18 section was won by Angelico Bano with her photograph, 'Incrocio' (Meeting Place). Four runner up prizes went to Aisling Dwyer, Xuan Wyatt, Andrew Phelan and Katie Butler.



*The national runner-up photograph of Fethard Town Wall by Laurence Kenny*

## What's the Forecast?

by Tony Newport

Did you ever notice that when two people meet their first remarks to each other usually refer to the weather? "Lovely day", "Very cold", "Will it ever stop raining?", are just a few of the greetings between friends. Perhaps Ireland being primarily an agricultural country, with the weather having such an effect on day-to-day living, is the reason for our great interest in prevailing weather conditions.

With very accurate weather forecasts being given almost every hour on radio and television we might reflect on the ways and means of weather forecasting in pre-television

and radio days. Accurate weather forecasting was far more important then. The most important farm work such as hay-saving and corn-harvesting with horse and manual work took days, if not weeks. Currently with balers, mowing-bars and up to eighteen-foot combines, the work is done in a few days, weather permitting.

Time was when every farmer was an excellent judge of the weather, as indeed he had to be, being close to nature every day. Each district had its own local weather experts whose opinions were often sought and acted upon. Local signs such as behaviour of animals, birds and even insects



*Ardsallagh House c.1951, renovations of house by contractor Laurence Kenny, The Green. Front: Mattie Kavanagh (Clonmel), Dick Fitzgerald, Tom McCormack (Annesgift), Mick McCormack (Annesgift), Johnny Jacobs (Waterford), Johnny Littleton. Back: Dick (Reidy) Power, Tom Burke (Coolmoyne), Tommy Kenny (Baptistgrange), Paddy Fitzgerald, Employee of Jacobs (Waterford), Bill 'Uncle' Connors, Dan McCarthy (Coolmoyne), Tom Finn (Burke Street).*



were watched and studied as a guide to weather forecasting. Some of the other methods used locally and naturally are now lost and gone forever. We will do our best to recall some of them in order that the younger generation may keep them alive at least for another generation.

Locally, our beloved Slievenamon was regarded as an excellent weather barometer. Extraordinary is the only word to describe how accurate the short-term weather forecasts local farmers could give by studying what they always referred to as 'the hill'. Cloud formation played a very important part. Were the clouds lying low on the hill or higher-up? Did they lift slowly or quickly? Did they move east or west or straight up? All these signs foretold something concerning the weather. Did the hill appear near or distant? Did the top 'Suidhe Fionn' wear a cloud bonnet, especially after being clear for some days? Did the sheep stay on high ground or move down to lower pastures? All these were signs to be watched and studied. Other locals truly believed that when the Presentation Convent Sisters cut their hay, it always rained. The bell of the Augustinian Church heard clearly at the other end of town was considered a sure sign of rain.

Our two local weather forecasters were the late Tom Finn, of Burke Street, and Neddy Wall. Tom kept records and was most reliable. Ned's guide was the moon. The moon was either on its back or as straight as a candle. When waxing, when full or

nearly full, it had a big ring around it or a small ring. When waning it had cloud above it, below it or around it. We often hear of a blue moon, but Neddy was the only man I ever heard speak of a red one. All these signs meant something to Neddy. The problem was he covered every eventuality and was seldom wrong!

With regard to the sayings and folklore concerning the weather, some pertain to the weather itself, others to precautions to be taken at certain times. Many are as old as time itself. "Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky at morning, sailors warning", is said to date back to biblical times. "Oak before ash, you are sure of a clash; ash before oak, sure of a soak", is another one. "If cuckoo comes before whitethorn, sell the cow and buy the corn", "If grass in January doth appear, 'twill grow the worse for the rest of year". "Sun before seven, rain before eleven". One relating to hunting, where scent is all important, is "when the drop is on the thorn, huntsman put away the horn" has been recorded as far back as the 17th Century and is still true today.

Enough blue, in an otherwise cloudy sky, to make a cloak for the Blessed Virgin was taken to signal a good day. "Button up to the chin while April is in", "Don't cast a clout 'till May be out", were mottos that mothers of a previous generation strictly adhered to. Now, at the first sign of a bit of sunshine, shirts off for the boys and bare midribs and backs are the order of the day for the young ladies.



*Well known cyclist and weatherman Neddy Wall (left) brings news of a spell of good weather to a delighted Jack Ryan from Fethard. Neddy is well known in many towns around County Tipperary.*

A cricket chirping on the hearthstone at night, cocks crowing and peacocks screaming at dusk were all thought to be sure signs of rain. As children we brought seaweed from Tramore, hung inside a back-kitchen door and it was our weather clock. Damp meant rain; dry, fine weather. A saying widely known, "East wind is not good for man or beast" comes from a weather verse never quoted in full. "When the wind is from the East, it is not good for man or beast. When

the wind is from the North, wise men seldom venture forth. When the wind is from the South, it blows the bait into the fish's mouth. But the wind that is by far the best, is the gentle wind blowing from the West."

Fishing boat skippers will not allow whistling on board, as they believe it brings on a storm. Swallows flying high, good weather; swallows flying low, rain. Seagulls coming inland, storms at sea; crows flying high and tossing and tumbling, storms inland.

Chimney smoke rising straight upwards, good weather; turning down towards the ground, rain. Sheep coming down from the higher mountains to lower ground or cattle standing with their tail-ends towards a hedge usually signalled rain or snow... and on it goes, the list is endless.

Another one worth recalling refers to the three hard months of the year. We must remember that these were from the days when electric blankets, central heating, double-glazing, etc., were never heard of and referred to those of the community who were of delicate constitution and dreaded the approach of winter. "January searches, February tries and March decides if one lives or dies." A bit morbid maybe, but if we look at the long lists of the dear departed in the papers in the months mentioned maybe they were not so far off the mark after all.

Now, who are we to believe? The farmers and rural dwellers who read the signs and judged by them, or the ladies and gentlemen of the Met Office, with their University Degrees, satellites, weather ships, etc., who more than likely never spent a day working outdoors in their lives. The following quotations may be of assistance. One says, "Only fools are weather-wise and have not much knowledge otherwise". We must also remember that, "The best of clerks (even clerks of the weather) make mistakes". Maybe the lady who, requiring a good day for a family wedding, puts the Infant of Prague outside the night before has the best method of all. Or

how about the old time country Parish Priest who on receiving instructions from his Bishop to pray for fine harvest weather, said, "We'll do as His Grace asks but while the wind is from the point it is coming from at present it is only a waste of time", had got it correct. We must never forget that nature has a way of balancing things out eventually.

Well, there you have it. There are dozens of other signs and symbols of forthcoming weather but space does not allow recording. Whatever the forecast, as the Americans say, "Have a nice day", and be sure to bring an umbrella, just in case! \*



*Stephen Maher, St. Patrick's Place, with Sarah Cashman outside Kiltinan Castle.*

## Fethard Scout Notes - 27th Tipperary



*Fethard Boy Scouts and their leaders photographed at St. Patrick's Day mass at Holy Trinity Parish Church.*

Scouts last meeting of 2006 was held on 15 December. We hiked to the Holy Year Cross on Slievenamon under cover of darkness, which was enjoyed by all. Reports that the Cross, when illuminated by torch-light was visible from Fethard added to the sense of fun and adventure. Fethard Group hosted the Mountain Pursuit Challenge on Slievenamon on 21 January 2007. The day was enjoyed by all, helped no doubt by the mostly fine conditions and change of venue (most groups in the county not having hiked on Slievenamon before). Much thanks and praise goes Mr & Mrs Jimmy O'Donnell who allowed the parking of so many cars in their yard, thanks also to the leaders from the

county, but the biggest thanks of all goes to the scouts themselves who turned out in great numbers on the day.

In preparation for the County Orienteering, the scouts went to Lyrnalea Wood, 18 February 2007, where a good training session was enjoyed by all, helped in no small part by excellent weather and good conditions also under foot. A planned hike for the afternoon to the Punchbowl ended up as more of a leisurely stroll, the lads feeling a bit tired after the training.

County Orienteering, hosted by Cahir on 25 March 2007, was attended by Scouts. Despite not having had as much training as we would have liked



prior to the event, we still got a result – Brian Delahunty and Gerry Horan winning the U-14 paired event. Well done to them.

The Group attended the county hike on 28 April 2007, to mark 100 years of World Scouting. Both the Cub and Scout sections attended. The hike was well attended by the groups from the county and scouts from foreign parts who took in the Holy Year Cross overlooking Clonmel and Carey's Castle in glorious sunshine.

All the while preparations and training were taking place for the County Shield which took place in Melleray from 4th to 6th May. No trophies this time out but the weekend was enjoyed by all the Scouts who attended.

Our 3rd hike to the Galtees this year proved a huge success. Previous efforts in reaching the summit were hampered by bad weather but, third time lucky, we reached the summit of Galtymore, and two of the Galtee's lakes were hiked in good weather, albeit a bit windy! Memories are made of hikes like this, a great day.

The highlight of the year was when we joined with the Clonmel, Kilsheelan and Ardfinnan troops for the Annual Camp which this year was held in Fethard-on-Sea. The weather wasn't too unkind to us with only a few days' rain, not too bad for two weeks under canvas! Highlights of the fortnight were daytrips to Oakwood Theme Park in Wales and a shopping trip to Wexford, a packed games and evening entertainment programme, numerous trips to the beach and so

on. Roll on camp next year.

### **Cub Brief**

Wind and rain failed to dampen the spirits of cubs on a backwoods cook-out in October 2006. In November we participated in a County Activity Challenge. Other activities were the County Swimming Gala, Sportsday and Hike which celebrated 100 years of world scouting, and of course an enjoyable fun weekend at Mount Melleray Scout Centre. Unfortunately this was the only weekend away for cubs, essentially due to lack of leaders.

Our Sixers and Seconders, Tommy Anglim, Paul Moloney, Donal Walsh and Eoin O'Donovan did get an overnight away on a Sixer Training Activity in January. At weekly meetings we worked on badgework, challenges and played lots of games. Early May saw us move outdoors for most of our meetings which allowed us to expand our programme, i.e., following the course of the Clashawley River, stopping at different locations to fry a few sausages. During the year we invested Shane Quigley, Brendan Walsh, Michael Halley and Alex O'Donovan.

We ended the year on Sunday 15 July with a hike on Slievenamon. We took in the same route the bigger fellows (Scouts) took on the Mountain Pursuit Challenge earlier in the year. This proved no problem to the hardy Cubs and for good measure we took in a huge backwoods cookout, a great achievement for the Cubs, well done. A great and exciting programme is

promised for 2008 as we celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Ireland, and 21 years in Fethard. However, unless we get some growth in our leader resources, the Cubs will be unable to enjoy the full extent of the planned programme.

As per tradition, the group marched to Mass on St. Patrick's Day from the Tirry Centre to the Parish church for 11 o'clock Mass. The group, accompa-

nied by Ladybirds and Guides, looked well on the day, with most now sporting full uniform, something which was noted from the altar by Parish Priest, Fr Tom Breen. July saw the group purchase a mar-

quee and already it's being put to good use — three times for Horse Trials in Grove and once on the Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Year Cross on Slievenamon.

Our Annual Flag day was held on 29th/30th June. A huge thank you to the people of Fethard and beyond who supported us so well and to the Cubs and Scouts themselves who did the collecting. Many thanks also to everyone who supported our Annual Church Gate collection. Many thanks

to all the parents who helped us, to our Chairperson Mary Healy, Treasurer Mary O'Donnell, Secretary Peter Grant, Scout Section Leader Philip O'Donnell, and Cub Section Leader Sean Cloonan. Sean was one of our first scouts back in 1986 and has been with us since without a break. He moved through the ranks and is currently Chairman of the County Management Team. Sean is

moving to Ardfinnan where he will join the group there and I'm sure will be as big an asset to them as he was to us. We will miss him enormously. He was very dedicated, thorough and unstinting of his time, however, our loss



*Scouts and leaders photographed on the summit of Galtymore*

is their gain. We wish him well and we thank John and Mikey McCarthy, Dermot Culligan and Scout Section Leader Philip O'Donnell (who is taking some well deserved time out), and Group Leader Robert Phelan. We would welcome any assistance from adults, especially ex-members. We thank all who helped and supported us during the year, we wish all the people of the parish and surrounding areas a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. \*

## Irish Girl Guides



*Fethard Girl Guides and their leaders photographed at St. Patrick's Day mass at Holy Trinity Parish Church.*

Girl Guides in Fethard had a very good year in 2007. For the first time in a number of years we had five Guides, as well as our Brownies and Ladybirds. This is a very welcome development and hopefully one which will continue. We also had a new leader Martina (Morrissey) Cowlard who was one of the first group of Girl Guides enrolled back in 1988. This coming year we will celebrate twenty years of Guiding in Fethard, and it's amazing to realise how many girls and leaders have passed through in those years.

During the year we had various outdoor activities including a lovely sunny day in Dundrum Wood and a cold wet Sunday climbing

Slievenamon in May. On both these activities we were joined by girls from Cashel. We had several trips to Catherine and Jim O'Donnell's farm for cook outs, fun and games. Many thanks for having us out.

Our weekly meetings in the ball-room continued as usual with games, crafts, badge work and of course learning the Law and Promise. We were also involved in the Christmas shoebox appeal.

Many thanks to our leaders Catherine O'Donnell, Teresa Hurley, Martina Cowlard, Catherine O'Connell and Judy Doyle. Also thanks to parents and to everyone who contributed to our church gate collection. \*

# John Joe's Corner

*by John Joe Keane*

## Ammo from Grove Wood

Over the lane, near the creamery or from Jesuits Walk, across Stoke's fields and the Boody Bridge, stopping to be engulfed in steam from the Clonmel to Thurles train, down the wooden steps, through the wooden gate and Eureka, spears, bows and arrows, catapults, poles for goals and vaulting, cap timber, a natural resource for growing minds, the one stipulation was ash, was sacred. The long journey home afterwards meant we were beasts of burden, cowboys and Indians, gang warfare, football, hurling, soccer, card playing, tents, vaulting with a pole, high jump, just some of the uses we made of the timber from the natural wealth of the forest.

## The Tirry Club

Adjacently, Tommie Barrett gardened, upstairs a poker game was held. When the old stone school was knocked the Tirry Club, substituted. Occasionally the youth club used it for dances, games and meetings. The building, being aged was functional and once a cat spent a fortnight beside a chimney on the roof. Clonmel fire brigade wouldn't cross the slates and so it took Paddy Morrissey of St. Patricks Place to coax it down with meat, as a lure. Nowadays it is restored beautifully and houses the Day Care Centre and various other events and it is wheelchair accessible.

## Les Bleus

Excitement in the air, students from France arrived. Stayed locally and mingled freely, a barbecue organised on Slievenamon. Billy Holohan and family hosted. Home made buns, sausages, chops spiked with spokes of bicycle wheels then cooked and consumed greedily. A sing song, by the fire started. One French chap played the guitar and a medley of songs were sung. My Grandfather's Clock, Swanee River, the latest hits and many more. Some French was learned amidst young romance, wee wee, moujeu and Ce la vie!

## Mining some time ago

Gathered at Bob Burn's corner, laden with lunch box, overalls and head light. The moans were few and far between, digging down the pit for anthracite; water pumps, props, buggies, shift work. Wages owing to output and position. The pub trade, a slave for some, sometimes dangerous and there were fatalities. In later life, lungs were affected by the conditions. The rats leaving, was a sign it was time to go. Tommy O'Brien, aka 'Tommie Coal' to some, was the employer. Collum balls were also made and the mines have been long since closed. The product was high grade.





*In the 1970s L to R: Gerry Fogarty, Adrian Cashin, Thomas Barrett, Jimmy O'Shea and A.B. Kennedy.*

### **Ann's Gift in Bloom**

Tulips were grown there annually, a great source of employment for the youth during the summer months. Work was back-breaking, but the wages were good. During the spring, when the tulips were in flower, it was like a multi coloured quilt over the countryside. When picked, the bulbs were cleaned, put in boxes and stored at different times, in various

conditions in the sheds. Diseased tulips were discarded, the ganger Willie Crean, the Leahy family and Mr Brown supervised the operation, lunch was consumed daily and everything that was topical was discussed Mr Naundorf was the steward who drove a Volkswagen and maintained it mechanically himself. \*

*— J.J. Keane*



*In the late 1960s L to R: Ed Healy, Norma Hanrahan, John Joe McCormack and Marion McCarthy.*

## An unusual find at Watergate!

by Sean O'Brien

Sean O'Brien, originally from Killenaule and now living in Portlawn, relates this interesting story that happened while showing a U.S. lady around Killenaule-Moyglass parish. The lady, Sue Connolly-Watt, from Andover, Massachusetts, was seeking information on her ancestors in the parish from the Famine era. In the process, Sean brought her to Fethard and showed her around the town walls and then stopped to view the Sheila-na-Gig at Watergate.

While there and taking photographs, Sean drew the attention of his visitor to a tall narrow opening in the corner of the wall (maybe for archers?). The lady noticed a small

packet within the opening, and on pulling it out saw a piece of tightly rolled paper tied securely with sewing thread! On opening it, much to their surprise, they saw that it was a photograph of a group of people, and bore a description in fine handwriting about those in the picture who were members of a family named 'Eager'. On the back of the photograph the following is written:

"John, James Jnr, Marjorie, Nora, Helen, Nana & Pop Pop, Dottie, Grace, Katherine and Robert. This is a family portrait of the Eager family from Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Their two nieces have been travelling Ireland as a pilgrimage to remember this love-



*This photograph was found rolled up and placed in an opening in the Town Wall at Watergate with the following inscription on the back: "John, James Jnr, Marjorie, Nora, Helen, Nana & Poppop, Dottie, Grace, Katherine and Robert. This is a family portrait of the Eager family from Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Their two nieces have been travelling Ireland as a pilgrimage to remember this lovely, kind, generous family, all of whom in this picture have passed on. Please embrace them in your thoughts, prayers and memory as brothers and sisters of this motherland. Pray for their wonderful spirits — they live in our hearts with the same spirit. Thank You."*

ly, kind, generous family, all of whom in this picture have passed on. Please embrace them in your thoughts, prayers and memory as brothers and sisters of this motherland. Pray for their wonderful spirits — they live in our hearts with the same spirit. Thank You" If anyone has any information on the 'Eagar' family we would love to hear from them.

Sean and his lady friend found no fewer than five headstones in Moyglass cemetery with inscriptions re her ancestors, Bergins (Silverfort) and Heffernans. Visiting Magorban cemetery later they had the pleasure of a lengthy conversation with Louis Grubb of Cashel

Blue cheese fame, and Barry Cleary (am uncertain of surname) of Sliverfort Stud, and some other local Church of Ireland parishioners.

On the way back to Youghal and Portlawn, they were treated to refreshments and further lengthy conversation at the Village Inn, Moyglass, for which they are most grateful. They also wished to thank Fethard newsagent Edwina Newport who kindly gave a copy of a Fethard local history book to

the visitor. On the trip they were accompanied by Eileen O'Callaghan, Youghal, daughter-in-law of the late Dr. Pat O'Callaghan of Clonmel, famous Irish Olympic sportsman. \*



*Sue Connolly-Watt and Sean O'Brien at a Heffernan ancestral headstone in Moyglass.*



*At Magorban Cemetery: L to R: Louis Grubb, Sue Connolly-Watt, Barry Lalor and Sandra Craik-White.*

## Fethard Ballroom Ltd

As the end of 2007 beckons, the year was a financial success with a bounty of bookings and dances. The committee were busy with maintenance and taking care of operational matters. We are very lucky to have a great FÁS worker in Shem Butler, to whom we are very grateful.

We suffered a tremendous blow with the untimely loss of our Chairman Mick Aherne. Mick was a great chairman, unafraid to make a decision. He was instrumental in the resurrection of the ballroom from a debt to our present very credible position. He was thoroughly dependable, a stalwart member of the committee,

and had an enduring sense of humour with a fund of wit. He was widely known, had been involved with the local GAA and the equine industry at which he frequently judged shows from Wexford and Cork to as far as our friends in Northern Ireland. Mick had a wish to be waked at his home in Prospect where the door was always open and then for a few hours in his beloved ballroom. The number of people that attended Mick's home and the ballroom are testament to his popularity. A great character, a fine a man as you are ever likely to encounter, you always knew he was on your side, especially, he was a great friend. His



*Fethard Mayoral candidate, Mick Aherne (back), photographed on 24th February 1995 at his 'Bachelor of the Year' fund-raising night in aid of Fethard Ballroom. Fethard bachelor Joe Hanly gets a big congratulatory kiss from competition organiser Catriona Stapleton after he beat stiff competition to win the 'Fethard Bachelor of the Year' award before a capacity crowd at Fethard Ballroom. Over twenty bachelors, young and old, were interviewed and put through their paces by a very capable Gerry Fogarty and Marie Crean. Pictured above are L to R: Jimmy Mullins (2nd); Joe Hanly (winner); Catriona Stapleton (organiser); Vincent Cummins (3rd).*



absence is indescribable, especially to his family, which he always spoke highly of and loved so much. To Monica, sons PJ, Gerry and Mikey and extended family, our deepest sympathy. We too, miss him greatly. Slán, a chara, ar dheis De go raibh a ainm.

To all the people of the parish and

surrounding areas, the clubs, organisations, dancers and individuals who support us, thank you, and, we wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. \*

*For and on behalf of Ballroom Committee,  
— R. Phelan, Hon Sec.*

## Fethard Knitting Group

Fethard Knitting Group meets at 7.30pm every Tuesday night from September to June at the Presentation Convent. We have ten or so members who get together every week to knit, crochet, exchange ideas and chat. During the summer some of the members went on an outing to the craft/wool shop in Lismore where there was a varied and interesting display of craft items and wool. After lunch in Lismore we went on to the wool shop in Dungarvan. Everyone bought some yarn for winter projects.

The members were also busy during the summer crocheting blankets for Sr. Winnie's mission in Africa. In November we visited the Knitting & Stitching Show at the RDS in Dublin. For some of the group it was their first visit to the show, for the rest it was a

return visit, many of the group having been to the show a number of times over the years. We hope to make it an annual event.



*Sr. Juliana and Sr. Winnie photographed with a selection of baby cardigans and blankets knitted.*

We had our Christmas Party at the Cashel Palace Hotel on 14th December at which we were joined by our founder member, Sr. Juliana. Sr. Juliana moved on to pastures new in Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny this year, however, she still makes an occasional return visit to Fethard on a Tuesday evening to check up on us! Sr.

Winnie now "looks after" the group and provides a much appreciated cup of tea and biscuits during the evening. New members are always welcome. Don't be put off if you haven't picked up needles and wool for years — there are lots of interesting yarns available now which knit up in no time to make a variety of simple projects. \*

## Fethard Bridge Club



*President's Prize winners: Marie Delaney (left) and Annie O'Brien with Mike Burke (President)*

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 31st 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 half-way 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 death this year of two former club members, Maura Mullins and Tess O'Flynn. Both were popular members of the club for a long number of years. Although they hadn't played bridge for the past few years, both maintained an interest in the activities of the club and will be fondly remembered by the club members.

At our President's Prize dinner at

Slievenamon Golf Club on 9th May 2007 the following prizes were presented: President's Prize to Marie Delaney and Annie O'Brien; Committee Prize to Rita Kane and Kay St. John; Player of the Year, for which the O'Flynn trophy is presented, to Alice Quinn; Club Champions, for which the Hayes trophy is presented, to Alice Quinn and Berney Myles; Individual Champion, for which the Dick Gorey Trophy is presented, to Alice Quinn; The Suzanne Opray Trophy was won by Breda Walsh as the player who reduced her handicap by the most during the year.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on 3rd October and 10th October and the winners of the gross free sub were Brigid Gorey and Betty Walsh, and the free nett sub was won by Tony Hanrahan and David Abell. On 14th November we held a charity

night and donated the proceeds for the evening to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Our Christmas party was held in McCarthy's restaurant on 19th December at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 16th May 2007 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Bernie O'Meara, Vice President / PRO: Gemma Burke, Secretary: Anne Connolly, Treasurer:

Rita Kane, Assistant Treasurer: Anna Cooke. Tournament Directors: Alice Quinn, Betty Walsh, Frances Burke, and Gemma Burke. Partner Facilitator: Berney Myles. Committee: Mike Burke 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. \*

## Our Town Walls for all to enjoy

*by John Cooney*



*Photographic Survey of the Town Wall at Burke Street in progress on 21st November 2007*

History is often made available to us in what it leaves behind and nothing is more striking or immediately available than the buildings that surround us. Coming into Fethard from most roads, there is a structure to be seen that has hugely determined the town's shape, size and streetscape; that contributes to a sense of pride and place; that gives the town its particular flavour and perhaps, may in the

future, help in the economic sustainability of its inhabitants.

Crossing the Clashawley over either Madam's Bridge or Watergate, the town wall is easily observed; coming in the Rocklow road you must pass under the North Gate and pity the poor drivers of the huge trucks who have to slowly manoeuvre their way under this archway; through Barrack Street the wall can be easily seen on



*South Tipperary County Council Manager, Ned O'Connor, photographed with representatives from Fethard Historical Society and Fethard & Killusty Community Council during his visit and tour of the Town Wall on 21st November 2007. L to R: Terry Cunningham (Rural Tourism Adviser, Teagasc), Joe Kenny (Chairperson Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Hugh O'Brien (Planning South Tipperary County Council), Cllr John Fahey, Chairperson South Tipperary County Council), Ned O'Connor, County Manager South Tipperary County Council), Dóirín Saurus (Chairperson Fethard Historical Society), Peter Grant (Fethard & Killusty Community Council) and Tim Robinson (Fethard Historical Society).*

the right hand side but through Burke Street you might pretend the wall was never there but a big stretch of it is less than ten feet away on the right hand side. Huge sections of this imposing structure that originally surrounded the old town have survived and it is now considered that Fethard is one of the very best examples of a small walled medieval town in the republic. Just because that statement is repeated here, once again, does not make the assertion less relevant.

It was a royal decree that signified the first official mark of the wall on paper and this royal provision in 1292

allowed for the inhabitants of the town to begin to build this fortification: in the following two centuries there were further provisions made regarding taxes and grants for the wall to be continued or to be rebuilt. For about seven hundred years the wall has hugely dominated the physical shape of the town, the market place, the layout of the streets and, obviously, the size of gardens. For many and, one presumes, various reasons portions of the wall have collapsed, been dismantled and entrances broken through but what is most remarkable is that so much has survived to the



present day whether by design or fortune — the more economically minded might be prone to suggest ill-fortune. In recent years, various groups within the town have taken an interest in the wall, from the Friends of Fethard and the Historical Society to many individual householders whose properties back onto and border the wall. Legally, who owns it or has a claim to it is more a consideration for those who know the law or claim to know the law but it might be best to view this matter like the way the man who

was too poor to own a garden decided that all the flowers and trees were really a blessing for him from the earth and he learned to genuinely appreciate them all. So for those

who live inside or outside the wall or those whose property borders it or not, the wall is for everyone, a great historical medieval artefact that helps to give the town part of its appeal. With the increased prosperity of recent years and a peace settlement that appears to be holding between the dominant religious-political groupings on the island, there has been a resurgence of interest in all matters pertaining to the peoples who have lived here before us. The Heritage Council has set up the 'Irish Walled Towns Network' which seeks to promote the appreciation of walled towns and they have taken a particular

interest in the situation here. As a national body, they are implementing policies that are probably not too dissimilar from the great work carried out by the Friends of Fethard who, through their restoration work, adorned the panoramic view of the wall in the valley and defined it as a great public space in the town. And it was this very space that was used to such great effect this year for the National Heritage Day in August when several hundred people gathered on a glorious Sunday afternoon

for celebrations.

So what remains of the wall is what we have and the wonderment of its survival must now give way to consultation and decisions as to how the wall can shape our



imagination for the future. Other statutory bodies all have a powerful say in what might happen around this physical structure but they, as well as the citizens of the town, have the potential to maintain and improve this structure in order to mark the town on the historical tourist trail. It is not inconceivable that money might become available to further enhance various features. Recently, one of the towers on the wall by the Holy Trinity Church was restored in a fashion and there is a possibility of more work and grants to follow. It may prove possible to lure just a small percentage of the many tourists that visit the neighbour-

ing towns of Cashel and Cahir to this small town in order to view it, possessed as it is with many historical buildings and artefacts. But no less important than luring visitors is the preservation of the wall itself and celebrating it as the iconoclastic feature of the town. From its functional past, the wall in its present charm passes on, one hopes, through emotional appre-

ciation to the future generations with a sense of pride, a sense of history and a sense of place. Whether it is for the existing residents or for those who have lived here and left or for those who will come to live in the new schemes planned for the town, all can share in the local heritage which links us, even if in a tiny way, with the wider European Community. \*

## Spirits in the Bar

*by Vincent Murphy*



I don't believe in ghosts, but I love a good ghost story. One that can send a tingle down your spine, raise the hairs on your neck and leave your arms covered in goosebumps. I'm writing this story in the dark of the night having just come home from my place of work, the family pub, McCarthy's on the Main Street, which earlier today I heard described on the radio as one of the "most haunted places in Ireland", by a writer who

specializes in the paranormal. I have lived there most of my adult life and have never seen a thing. But others claim to have seen ghosts while in my company, so who am I to cast doubt on their visions.

The first I heard of the paranormal activities in the house was when I was a teenager. My grand-aunt Nell was in her latter years (some would say that she was scarier than any ghost), living on her own in the then run down

hotel over the bar, and needed nursing. The lady who nursed her told stories that would rivet you to your seat. I heard of doors opening of their own accord upstairs or of locked doors being found unlocked the next morning with nobody else in the house. I heard of pictures falling from the wall for no apparent reason before a member of the family died. I heard about the three loud knocks on the front door the night before Beatty died. I had been told first hand by a gentleman who was working in the hallway about an object that came flying down the stairs and landed behind him in the middle of the day. Upon investigation, there was nobody found upstairs. And despite all of this, I still don't believe in ghosts.

Many years later, I was present on a number of occasions when sightings of people from beyond the grave took place. I never saw a thing, but the people who saw what they saw are adamant that something was there. As the setting for the paranormal visits is a bar, many have jumped to the same conclusion . . . the visionaries were drunk! Not so! Dispute as I may the visions that were seen, I can confirm that none of the people involved were

so inebriated that they saw visions from the nether world.

Some of the visions could be put down to winding people up by the disbelievers, but one incident stands out as very believable. It was a quiet

mid-week night in the bar, with only a scattering of customers about. As I collected empty glasses from a table, three young ladies sat chatting at a table. One I knew, one I had met before and the other was a friend of theirs on a first visit to Ireland from Wales. We chatted for a few minutes before the Welsh girl asked who the old lady was behind the bar. I told her that there was no old lady behind the bar unless

somebody had walked through from the back room. I looked into that room. There wasn't a soul in there. I told the girl that there was no old lady behind the bar. Having been present at other sightings, I asked her to describe the lady. She said that she couldn't describe her as she hadn't paid much attention to her, but noticed that her attire was of a different era.

Fearing that one of the family members was harassing the public from the other side, I asked her to accompany me to the office. There are various pictures on the wall of generations of the



*Kitty McCarthy*



*Beatty and Nell looking at their brother's grave in Holy Trinity Church graveyard.*

McCarthy clan. I wanted the Welsh girl to see the pictures in case her apparition was one of them. She was dubious at first about retiring to the office with a stranger, but she was assured by her friend that my interests were purely paranormal. We stepped in and looked at my dead relatives on the wall. She scanned them and suddenly pointed at one. "That's the woman that I saw". She was pointing at a photograph of my grand-aunt Beatty, who had passed away almost thirty years ago.

Another night, a friend was home from San Francisco, and as we hadn't caught up with each other for a while, I asked him to hang on for a pint after work. About half-way through the pint, he declared that he could see someone beside him. Thinking that he was winding me up, I decided to put him to the test. I went to the toilet and

waited a few minutes before returning. He was as white as a sheet when I came back. What he called me for abandoning him with the visiting spirit I shall leave to your imagination. Once again I saw nothing.

The following morning, as I was hauling kegs in to the cellar, my mother asked me to cover her shift in the bar as my grandfather, Dick, had had a stroke the night before. I then told her about the strange vision in the bar the previous night. My aunt had joined her in the meantime, so I phoned my friend who had seen the spirit. He described the attire of the man that he saw and both my aunt and mother said the same thing at the same time, "Uncle Gus!"

Numerous other sightings have been seen since then, some believable and some a little bit out there. A number of people have turned up at the



bar looking for the spirits, as the stories have gained extra credibility by being discussed on television and published by recognized spiritual and paranormal investigators and mediums. One of the strangest visitors was a woman who walked in one day and declared herself in contact with the other side. She said that she saw a man wearing a flat cap sitting in the snug in the bar. She then told a customer at the bar that anybody could

make contact with the other world if they only left down their barriers. She then opened her shirt and exposed most of her breast to the unsuspecting customer who was sipping his beer. She pointed to something on her ample bosom. There was a tattoo of a witch on a broomstick flying across her breast. Her guarantee that she was in contact with the other side. The truth is out there. Somewhere! \*

## Fethard and District Credit Union

At the AGM in December 2006 the following officers were elected: President, Marian Gilpin; Honorary President, Canon Power; Treasurer, Katie Healy; Secretary, Eddie O'Brien. Credit Committee: Jonathan Gilpin, Kate Spillane and Jacinta O'Connell. Credit Control: Betty McLoughlin and Caroline O'Connell. Supervisory Committee: John Barrett, Marion O'Connor and Richard Nevin. Tellers: Phyllis Healy, Ann Nevin and Anne Healy.

During the Credit Union year 2006-2007 Transition year students David Gorey, Ida Carroll and Lisa Anglim operated as voluntary tellers. Since August 2007 our opening hours have been extended to Saturday morning opening – commencing at 10.30am. Hopefully, this will attract the out-and-about Saturday morning shopper, as well as facilitate those who work during the week. Our aim is to provide a valuable, voluntary service to members of the Fethard area and its hinter-

land.

We would encourage more young people to join, and now is ideal opportunity at the beginning of the Credit Union year. In January 2007 Jonathan Gilpin was elected as Vice-President of the Chapter X – of which Fethard is one of 16 Credit Unions. It is a valuable asset to have a voice at Chapter level and our Chapter X contains some of the biggest Credit Unions in the country, Waterford and Clonmel.

We would like to take this opportunity of offering our sympathy to any of our officials or members who have suffered loss or bereavement during the past year. May you be safe and well this seasonal time and for the year to come.

Opening hours are on Friday morning from 10am to 12 noon; Saturday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm; Saturday night from 7pm to 8.30pm. Loan Applications taken on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm to 8pm. \*

## Patrician Presentation Secondary School



*Award winners photographed at the Patrician Presentation Secondary School Awards Day on 19th October 2007. Back L to R: Rebecca O'Donnell (Writers Quill Award), Angelica Bano (Photography Award), Ida Carroll (Gradam na Gaeilge Award), James Cotter (Writers Quill Award), Colm Horan (Attendance Award), Kate O'Brien (Pupil of the Year 6th Year), Gráinne Horan (Paddy Broderick Perpetual Award), Jonathan Hall (Pupil of the Year Leaving Cert 2007), Melissa Wallace (Attendance Award), Eoin Condon (Sports Award), Aisling Dwyer (Photography Award), Alex Channon (Business and Enterprise Award). Front L to R: Jane Fitzgerald (Pupil of the Year 2nd Year), Laura Rice (Padraig Pearse Perpetual Award), Jonathan Gilpin (Fethard & District Credit Union), Mr Ernan Britton (Principal), Ms Marian Gilpin (Deputy Principal), Anne Marie O'Donnell (Guest Speaker and Past Pupil) and Fiona Crotty (Pupil of the Year 3rd Year).*

After the achievement of excellent Leaving and Junior Cert results the year commenced on an enthusiastic and energetic note. Transition year, under the guidance of their co-ordinator, Ms Mary-Anne Fogarty, had a hugely successful year crowded with activities – work experience, mini-company, first aid, swimming, stage musical, Meals on Wheels, Credit Union, carol singing, Daffodil Day, as well as numerous outings, the final one to Delphi Outdoor Activities Centre in Mayo in glorious weather. Ida Carroll of TY entered a National Physics Competition and got to spend a week in Trinity College, Dublin.

December saw the staging of the school musical in Aby mill and the production of 'Grease' as always was a real winner.

In January 2007 three international students arrived at the school – Vitor Viera Antunes from Brazil, Franzi Fritz from Germany and Ricardo Caiazzo from Italy. They adapted well to 5th year and Transition Year respectively and stayed until the conclusion of the academic year.

On February 5th 2007 the school held its 'Open Evening'. It was very well attended and parents and students alike thoroughly enjoyed the wide variety of student displays and a chance to view the newly refurbished

state-of-the-art science rooms. A group of students treated the visitors to home cooking and a 'cuppa' in the Home Economics room under the supervision of Ms Marie Maher.

Mr and Mrs Prendergast held two very successful table quiz nights at the school – one for library funding and the second, the ever popular 'Lourdes Invalid Fund Quiz'.

On 16th February 2007 approximately forty students headed for the 'ski slopes' with Mr Maher, Mr Leonard, Ms Mahon and Mrs Griffin. The venue was Lavarone, Italian Alps. It was a new experience for all, but many took to the slopes as though they had been skiing for years. A trip to Verona, associated with Romeo and Juliet, was on the itinerary on the way home.

Easter heralded the beautiful summer weather and of course the last term before exams. Congratulations to all our students who sat the state examinations and who did so well in them. The academic year ended with the usual Leaving Cert Celebration

Mass and the Transition Year Evening.

On a sporting note we may not have won any All Ireland Finals as in the previous year, but we were in the 'shake-up' and plan to reassess the situation this year.

Mr Burke's lunchtime volleyball was a huge success, as was his challenge for Tanzania, which raised over €1,000. One of our 5th year students, Sarah Hayes, has now been chosen to play volleyball for Ireland, and we wish her the very best of luck.

Under the careful eye of Ms Sullivan our uniform looks very smart indeed, with the crested jumper and school jacket, now extended to 5th year.

On a welcoming note for September 2007 we extend a Cead Mile Fáilte to past pupil Damien Byrne, who is monitoring the School Completion Programme, and Willie Quigley who is Home-School Liaison. Margaret Barrett, also a past pupil, has joined Special Educational Needs and we have three new International students – Angelica Bano from Italy, Esther



*Full cast of Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School Show 'Abbabuja' photographed on stage after their very successful show staged for three nights in the Abymill Theatre on 5th 7th and 8th December 2007.*



*Patrician Presentation Secondary School 2nd to 5th year students photographed before they headed off on a skiing trip to Lavarone, Italy, on Friday 16th February. The group were accompanied by teachers, Ms Marian Gilpin, Mr Michael Leonard, Ms Marie Maher and Mr Noel Maher.*

Müller and Anna-Marie Limpach from Germany, and Lyubov Novikova from the Ukraine have joined first year, but sadly we said goodbye to Xuan Wyatt, who has returned to San Francisco with her family.

At 11am on Friday morning, 19th October 2007, the Patrician / Presentation Secondary School student awards ceremony commenced with Mass. The celebrants Rev. Tom Breen and Fr. Gerry Horan welcomed all — the Principal and Deputy Principal, staff, students, Board of Management representatives, Parents Association, parents and family members of students, ancillary staff, business representatives and our special guest of honour, Ann-Marie O'Donnell, of Mockler's Hill, a past pupil of the school.

The choir, made up of seniors, Transition Year, 5th and 6th Year students was accompanied by Kevin Hickey. The interlude between the

Mass and the commencement of the awards ceremony was devoted to our up and coming 2nd Year group 'Zero Tolerance'. The band comprising of Noel O'Brien, Ted Barrett, Tony Myler and Gareth Lawrence treated us to a very professional 'Simple Man' composed by Leonard Skinner. The Principal Mr Ernan Britton addressed the assembly regarding the importance of this day for everyone and how it had become a milestone in the eventful year of the school. He thanked all those who had helped in the preparation for the event, particularly Mr Michael O'Gorman, Mr Denis Burke and Mr R. Prendergast. He then introduced guest speaker Ann-Marie O' Donnell to all.

Ann-Marie completed her Honours Leaving Cert in 1991 and is now involved in a legal practice in Wexford Town. Ann-Marie's address was clear and practical, offering the students very sound advice on their future



careers and what road they should take. Ann-Marie went on to present the 'Student of the Year' Druid Cuchulainn awards to Jane Fitzgerald (2nd year), Fiona Crotty (3rd year) and Jonathan Hall (6th year).

The Padraig Pearse Award for the most outstanding Junior Cert went to Laura Rice. Ann-Marie presented the Paddy Broderick Award to Gráinne Horan. Denis Burke presented the Sports Person of the Year awards to Sarah Hayes and, amidst huge applause, Eoin Condon. Deputy Principal, Marian Gilpin, introduced the Vice President of Chapter 10 Irish League of Credit Unions, Jonathan Gilpin, who presented the Credit Union Enterprise award to Alex Channon.

Mrs Gilpin then presented the Credit Union Fethard Quill Writers award to James Cotter and Rebecca O'Donnell. Mrs Margaret Prendergast presented the Gradam Na Gaeilge

award to Ida Carroll.

The best school attendance awards were presented to Ted Barrett, Fiona Crotty, Melissa Wallace, Colm Horan and Alan O'Connor.

In September the Fethard Historical Society had organised a Town Wall Photography Competition in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Ireland and Ms Patricia Looby, Art Teacher, presented the junior 1st Prize to Angelica Bano, one of our international students from Italy. Runners up were Aisling O'Dwyer and Xuan Wyatt whose family have recently returned to the United States, so Xuan's prize was collected by her grandmother Mrs Phil Wyatt.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Principal Mr Britton presented Ann-Marie O'Donnell with a framed photograph to commemorate her return to the school as our guest on this very special day. And so, passed another beautiful Awards Day on a



*Members of the Parents Association helping at the Patrician Presentation Secondary School Open Evening. L to R: Marie McGrath, Maura Gorey, Valerie Rice, Veronica Fogarty and Helena O'Shea.*



*Members of the Parents Association photographed at their stall at the Patrician Presentation Secondary School Open Evening. L to R: Rita Kenny, Judy Doyle, Mary Carroll, Finola Anglim and Joan Hayes.*

serene and sunny autumn day in October 2007.

On a sad note, we would like to extend our sympathy to the Maher family on the passing of Conor. So young and so enthusiastic, Conor was a member of the cast of the First Transition Year's show 'Temple Rock'. Many of his classmates who heard of his untimely death were exchanging memories of Conor and themselves at his funeral and that first step onto the

stage of Abymill Theatre. May he rest in peace.

As the season of winter and Christmas approaches the Principal, Mr Ernan Britton, Vice Principal Marian Gilpin and all the staff and students would like to extend our hope for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all newsletter readers, wherever you may be, in far-flung extremes of the world. \*



*Ross Maher, Rathronan, Clonmel, with his parents, Seamus and Maureen, at his graduation with a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Strathclyde University, Glasgow, on 31st October 2007.*



*Linda Corcoran, The Valley, Fethard, who graduated from U.C.C. with a First Class Honours Degree in Biomedical Science.*



*Evelyn O'Connor, St. Patrick's Place, Fethard, who graduated from the Institute of Technology, Carlow, with a Bachelor of Business (Honours) Degree in Marketing.*



*Miriam Carroll, Menlo, Fethard who graduated with 1st class honours degree in psychology from NUI Maynooth.*



*Rebecca Carroll, Menlo, Fethard, who graduated with 1st class honours degree in veterinary medicine from UC.D.*



*Breda Kearney (centre), who graduated at Tipperary Institute, Thurles, with a Bachelors Degree (Honours) in Business Studies SME, is photographed above with her brother Tom and mother Biddy. Breda is originally from St. Patrick's Place, Fethard, and is now working for an Irish Engineering company based in Wembley, London.*

## Abymill Theatre



*Fethard Players cast of 'The Country Boy' who had a very successful run in the Abymill Theatre with full houses for the one week run in October 2007. L to R: Niamh Hayes, Anne Connolly, Pat Brophy, Mia Treacy, Joe Hanly and Jimmy O'Sullivan.*

The Annual General Meeting took place on June 14th 2007. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Joe Kenny; Administrator, Austie O'Flynn; Secretary, Marian Gilpin; Treasurer, Agnes T. Evans. To the board: Eileen Maher, Jimmy O'Shea, Carmel Rice, Vincent Murphy, Michael McCarthy, Mary McCormack and Bernard Walsh.

As usual, the winter/spring programme for the theatre was active and lively. The Fethard Players staged '12 Angry Men' (mixed cast) in November 2006 under the direction of Austie Flynn. In early December the Patrician Presentation Secondary School took the popular musical 'Grease' to Abymill, under the direction of Marion Gilpin. Closer to

Christmas came Nano Nagle primary school girls with their Christmas concert.

Fethard Abymill Theatre was awash with talent on Monday 19th March, when twenty boys, whittled down from an initial entry of over 12,000, auditioned before a live audience for the lead part in a new West End production of Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Only twelve of these boys went forward to the final live TV series of auditions, which commenced on BBC1 on Saturday 31st March. Footage from the Fethard recording was shown on the second pre-recorded show on 7th April. Martin Scott, Editor, Light Entertainment BBC, was in charge of the production in the Abymill Theatre,



which went off without a hitch.

The BBC television search show called 'Any Dream will Do' came to Fethard at the invitation of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Andrew Lloyd Webber said, "There hasn't been a male rock superstar cast in a role for some time and that's what I'm looking for – somebody like Justin Timberlake." He chose Fethard as the final test that would stretch the boys to their limit as he invited them to perform for his friends, family and local people at the Abymill and Kiltinan Castle.

Andrew Lloyd Webber welcomed the audience and Graham Norton acted as MC for the night. Stars in the audience included Westlife's and Boyzone's manager, Louis Walsh, as well as a former 'Joseph' and

boyfriend of pop queen Kylie Minogue, Jason Donovan.

Graham Norton used his free flowing humour to loosen any remaining inhibitions that a well catered for audience may have had and then introduced a series of very polished acts where the boys performed in various choreographed songs to display their individual singing talents and stage presence. The audience were given ballot papers to mark their choices after the auditions. These votes were also taken into consideration by the judges when choosing the eight finalists to go forward.

The evening concluded with refreshments in the foyer where the artists chatted to locals, celebrities and guests. The artists then retired to



*Photographed at 'Joseph' in the Abymill Theatre on 19th March 2007 are L to R: Bob Lanigan, Graham Norton and Andrew Lloyd Webber*



*Photographed in McCarthy's after the 'Any Dream will Do' auditions were L to R: Annette Murphy, Graham Norton, Louis Walsh and Andrew Lloyd Webber.*

McCarthy's to let their hair down and relax. Some of these handsome and talented young men are going back to ordinary life once they are knocked out. That's where reality TV bites. Louis Walsh said that he saw a potential group in a few others, so maybe they will make it too!

Lee Meade was chosen as the new Joseph, and making a very good job of it. It was a wonderful opportunity to 'showcase' Abymill to millions of viewers in England and Ireland, and it indeed looked well.

Majella Hewitt-Fortes Dance Exhibition took its annual stand, and on Friday June 8th Vincent Murphy gave all our young hopeful local groups an opportunity to 'strut their stuff' in the aptly named 'Any Scream

Will Do'. Young and enthusiastic bands Autocrats, Rootless and Zero Tolerance took to the stage and they are all Fethard based.

Thursday night Bingo, is as ever, a popular night thanks not only to Austie, but to Cinta O'Flynn and Gerry Fogarty, who are at the chalk face every Thursday night. Christy Mullins, Abymill's caretaker, is ever present during these bouts. Thanks also to Mary and Benny Morrissey for ancillary work. The Fethard Players staged this year's production of Tom Murphy's 'The Country Boy' in October and this was followed in early December with the school production 'Abbabuja', written and devised by Marian Gilpin and featuring the music of Abba. \*



*The Autocats band on stage in the Abymill. Band Members Declan Doyle, Laura Rice, Matt O'Sullivan (guest), Kevin Maher, Fintan Maher and Lory Kenny.*



*Photographed in McCarthy's after the 'Any Dream will Do' auditions were L to R: Linda Shanahan, Susan Halley, Róisín Earls and Deirdre Lanigan.*



*Aidan Ward performing back in his hometown in the Abymill on 17th November 2007 L to R: Richard Dunkley, Eithne Hannigan, Aidan Ward and Tom Portman.*

## First Steps Playgroup

First Steps playschool is situated in the Tirry Centre, Barrack Street, Fethard. It is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and caters for children aged 2 years 10 months to 6 years. It is run by Cora (Breen) McGarry who has childcare qualifications as well as eight years working in the childcare sector. Cora is assisted by Mary Morgan who also

has previous experience in childcare.

It is great to welcome back the old faces along with the new boys and girls. A really big 'Thank You' to Joan O'Donohoe and all the staff in the Tirry Centre. If you have any queries please feel free to call into the Tirry Centre or you can contact us on Tel: 086 1686688. \*

## Fethard ICA celebrating 80 years



*Cutting the cake at the Fethard ICA 80th anniversary celebrations on 1st July 2007 are L to R: Aggie Barrett, Hannie Leahy (founder member) and La Curtin.*

Our contribution to the Newsletter this year begins on a sad note, as two of our most dedicated members passed away in the past twelve months — Nuala Delaney, Red City, and Mary Meagher, Cloneen. Nuala had been our President from May 2003 to 2006, and then was elected Hon. Sec. Nuala worked very hard

for the betterment of the Guild at all times, and her kindness and support to all our members will always be remembered. Mary Meagher, too, was a very faithful member, and could always be relied on when a helping hand was needed. Mary represented the Guild on many occasions, in golfing and pitch and putt competitions.





*Committee members of Fethard ICA Guild photographed at their 80th Anniversary Celebrations held in Fethard on Sunday 1st July. Back L to R: Sheila O'Donnell, Rose Holohan, Breda Slattery, Kathy Aythoward, Betty Lanigan, Kay McGrath, Marie Crean. Front L to R: Anne Horan (secretary), Ann Gleeson (president), Nora-Mai Kennedy (Federation President) and Phil Wyatt (treasurer).*

At our Guild meeting in January 2007 many tributes were paid to both ladies. We will miss them greatly. May they rest in peace.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday in our hall at Rocklow Road.

On 1st July 2007 we celebrated a wonderful occasion in our long history, the 80th birthday of the Guild in Fethard. We are almost the oldest Guild in the country, Bree in county Wexford being, we believe, the oldest. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day, one of the few this year.

Our celebrations commenced with Holy Mass, celebrated in the Augustinian Abbey. The celebrant was Fr. Timothy Walshe, and he was joined by Rev. Barbara Fryday, who read the second reading. The ceremony was much enhanced by the beautiful singing of the Abbey Choir. After

Mass we adjourned to our hall where a beautiful meal was served and there was lots of opportunity for old friends to have a chat and reminisce. We had a large attendance of present and former members of ICA. Among our guests were Federation President Mrs Nora-Mai Kennedy, Federation President Mrs Mary Quinlan, and special guest La Curtin. La served as President and Secretary and in many other positions within the Guild over the years. It was wonderful to see La entering the hall again, she received a standing ovation from all present.

In place of the annual summer outing this year, we had a lovely night in Brú Ború on 12th July, starting with a wonderful meal followed by entertainment in their beautiful theatre. Twenty-four members attended.

We would like to wish all Newsletter readers a very Happy Christmas. \*



*La Curtin photographed with some of her Fethard ICA Friends over the years at the 80th Anniversary Celebrations held in Fethard. Back L to R: Josie Casey, Phyllis McDonnell, Aggie Barrett, Celia Byrne, Kay McGrath. Front L to R: Kitty Ahearne, Kathy Aylward, Hannie Leahy and La Curtin.*

## Country Market's 60th Birthday

On Friday 22nd June 2007, Fethard Country Markets celebrated its 60th birthday with founder member Hannie Leahy cutting a beautiful birthday cake, baked by Marie Moclair, at their weekly market held in the Town Hall. Hannie, the only surviving founder member, fondly remembered many of the people who were involved in the Country Market throughout the years which prompted us to republish this extract taken from *The Farmer's Gazette* from sixty years ago when the Fethard Country Market was founded.

"Our market started in most adverse circumstances. Vegetables had never been scarcer owing to the bad weather of 1946, and bread rationing, which had recently been introduced, was

stringent, and no one had surplus flour. All the other towns in South Tipperary had been discussed as possible sites for the venture, but the local committees, for some reason or other another thought that nothing could be done.

Fethard Guild, spurred on by its members, and against the advice of the chairman, who writes this report, decided to open a weekly market, on the model of the markets run by Women's Institutes in England, charging one penny in a shilling for all produce disposed of.

We rented the bottom of the Town Hall, which is in a central position, and we insured it against fire. This Hall has wide doors which open straight off the street. It was being used as a store for

empty packing cases and for a fire engine, and part of it is being used as an office for the town weighing scales. The ancient fourteenth century walls are pierced with deep apertures, which make the hall very cold and draughty, and we had before us two months of snow and flood.

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

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

We bought an electric kettle and were lent an electric stove. We converted a handsome Victorian workbox

into the most efficient of moneyboxes by getting a carpenter to divide it into sloping compartments. We bought a lock-up case for our books and we had the loan of some egg packing cases. We had a few pounds which

had been subscribed by sympathizers, and we had two jolly posters which showed glorious cakes and vegetables, and were headed, 'The shape of things to come.'

Some local opposition was to be expected, and to meet this, we had circularised every household explaining our plans saying, "A Market should not conflict with shopkeepers or traders, as the prices

charged will be current market prices, and if the country women bring their produce into the towns they will spend their money in the town, and do their shopping there. Where these markets have been held, they have proved a stimulus to business, and created a steady demand for high-class produce. We hope we shall have your sympathy and support."

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

The pricing proved to be a problem, and the controller, May Quinlan, had the ultimate authority of the task. It



*Hannie Leahy cutting the 60th Birthday Cake*



*Members of Fethard Country Markets celebrating their 60th Birthday at Fethard Town Hall on Friday 22nd June 2007. L to R: Rena Kennedy, Marie Modair, David Curran, Nellie O'Donovan, David O'Donnell, Hannie Leahy (founder member), Mai Kennedy, Christy Williams, Megan Sceats and Maura Meaney.*

was soon found to be increasingly difficult to look at everything brought in during the crowded half-hour in which the stalls were being prepared. To combat this problem the pricing was done by the stall-holders, who became expert with added experience.

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

The market, as reported, went from strength to strength. More than one third of the total sales was in eggs and poultry, and a dealer's license had to be taken out to comply with regulations, also a girl had to be employed as egg packer.

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

From that first day when everything had been sold, and the takings were ten pounds, it was quoted, 'We knew we would succeed if we persevered!'

Fethard Country Markets was featured on RTE Nationwide television programme on Wednesday 31st October 2007 as part of their 'Hallowe'en Special' programme recorded in Fethard. Hannie gave a great interview and the town looked really lovely on the day. Also featured was Lonergan's Pub where Cornelia Ryan demonstrated how to make a seasonal Pumpkin Pie. \*



# Soldiers Were We . . .

*by John Fogarty*

Years afterwards, when we'd all gone our different ways in the world and would only bump into one other occasionally, and mostly by accident, we were never quite sure exactly whose idea it had been. I had always thought it was Connie Coen's - he used to think it was mine. What I do remember is how we used to talk about it as we leaned against the door-jambs of Moll O'Brien's chip shop, no money to play the juke box or the football machine or to chance one of Moll's bags of chips. There were always some of us hanging around there in those days, looking up and down a mostly empty street, hoping that something would happen, something different, something unusual - but nothing ever did. And so we waited.

I seem to recall that it was October when we first began to talk about it, that the evenings were beginning to darken earlier and earlier, that wintry breezes were beginning to sneak down Barrack Street and across the square of the old town.

Most Monday evenings this normal, uneventful routine was broken by the arrival on the street of an old army jeep. It would swing around Schofield's corner and pull up at the Nissen hut on the Rocklow road, usually at around half-past seven. We'd also see older lads like Billy Treacy parading up and down the Main Street in uniform, passing the time and showing themselves off as they awaited the arrival of the jeep from the

army barracks in Clonmel. They were members of the FCA (Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil) - in English, the Local Defence Force. Every Monday evening they'd report for basic training in arms drill in the Nissen hut. We'd often hear them talk about the great crack they had at training with Sergeant Scanlan, who drove out in the jeep from Kickham Barracks. They used to joke that FCA meant the Free Clothes Association and that they'd really only joined to get the big overcoat and hobnail boots for the winter. The greatcoat would keep them warm in cold weather and on frosty nights it would serve as a quilt for the bed.

Then one Monday night, as Connie and I watched from Schofield's corner, Sgt. Scanlan hauled a black, murderous looking machine gun and a tripod from the back of the jeep, as well as some rifles. We were intrigued.

Afterwards we met the boys at Moll's in their greatcoats and hobnail boots. They told us that the black weapon was a Bren gun and could fire hundreds of rounds per minute. Of course, they said carelessly, we have been trained to strip it down and assemble it again - blindfolded, in the dark. We were impressed. They also told us that the rifles were Lee Enfield .303s and that soon they would be given one of their own to take home. No ammo of course.

And, they said, in November you can go to a training camp for a fortnight and be paid for it as well as

being fed. I can't remember what the amount was, except that it was almost treble what we were being paid at the time.

That did it. Connie and I decided there and then that we'd approach Sgt. Scanlan the following Monday night.

The only problem was we were both too young, even though we were a long time left school and working. We were both in our fourteenth year. The required age was seventeen.

'Sure you'd pass for twenty,' Connie very kindly told me.

'What if they ask for our birth certs?'

'We'll worry about that when the time comes'

Still we hummed and hawed about attempting to join.

When the following Monday evening came round we couldn't keep still and walked up and down the street, smoking. Finally we saw the jeep swing round Schofield's corner as usual. We waited for a while until everything had been hauled in and everyone was settled inside.

Connie marched up to the door and rapped loudly with his knuckles.

The door opened and Sergeant Scanlan peered out at us.

'Well, Blossom what can I do for you?' he said to Connie.

'We want to join up, sergeant,' Connie announced, a little too boldly I thought. I fully expected the sergeant to run us from the door.

Instead he asked us to come into the light so as he could have a look at us. I followed Connie, who stepped in with his chest thrust defiantly out.

Billy Treacy and some others were standing around a table with the big Bren gun half-dismantled, big grins on their faces, expecting a good laugh.

Sergeant Scanlan looked us up and down, like a dealer sizing up horses at a fair.

He asked our age.

'Seventeen', says Connie.

'Seventeen', says I.

'Hmm', says the sergeant.

'We can show you our birth certs if you want', says Connie, managing to sound hurt and offended that the sergeant should doubt our word.

I looked at Connie – show him our birth certs?

'What do ye think, lads?' the sergeant asked, turning to the others.

'Oh, they're dead genuine', says Billy Treacy, grinning.

'OK,' Sergeant Scanlan said, 'come back next Monday and we'll sign ye up. I'll take yeer sizes now for the uniforms.'

And that was it. We were practically there.

We were down to Moll's like a shot to tell the others that we were in.

Every Monday night from then on we were in the Nissen Hut saluting, clicking our hobnailed heels, presenting arms, ordering arms, snapping to attention, doing left turns, doing right turns, eyes left, eyes right – and all the commands roared as Gaelige: *IOM-PAIGH, IOMPAIGH THART, GASRA, GASRA AIRE, ARDAIGH AIRM, THAISPEANAGHI AIRM, CLE, DAS, CLE, DAS.*

The uniform, when it came, consist-



*FCA group taken at Kickham Barracks in 1965. L to R: Tom Ryan (Carrick-on-Suir) John Fogarty (Fethard), Pat Lonergan (Carrick-on-Suir), Connie Coen (Fethard) and Willie Moroney (Carrick-on-Suir).*

ed of a greatcoat, a beret, trousers, jerkin with a white cord called a lanyard to be worn on the right shoulder, some epaulettes to be sewn onto the shoulders, brooches for our lapels and beret and a pair of hobnailed boots and leather gaiters. Wearing all of that regalia we began to imagine we were members of some crack military unit and strutted importantly up the Main Street like a pair of Napoleons.

Outside Scully's shop we met Mick 'The Dust' Ryan. He stopped and took a long boozy look at us.

'Is there a war after starting, lads?'

'No.'

'Well it's nice to know we have soldiers like yeerselves to defend us,' he said. 'An' I hope ye make good use of

the free clothes and boots.'

Connie's answer was unprintable.

In mid-November Sergeant Scanlan looked for names for the winter training camp which would be held at Kickham's Barracks in Clonmel and last for two weeks. Connie and I volunteered, motivated by the prospect of the handsome wages that would be paid.

On a bleak November evening we arrived at the barracks. It seemed as though we'd landed in Siberia. We were marched to a huge dormitory with high ceilings and as draughty as a hay-barn. It was furnished with about forty beds and some lockers. There was an open fireplace at both ends and a large skip filled with turf,

and a lively population of fleas. Most of the other lads were either from Clonmel or Carrick, and from the way some of them were sizing us up and the way Connie was eyeing them back I had a premonition that there could be an outbreak of some kind before too long.

The Carrick contingent commandeered the beds close to the fire at one end; the Clonmel lads the beds at the other end. Connie, myself and a chap from Grangemockler occupied a kind of buffer zone in between. As a precautionary measure we chose the draughty beds near the door, in case we should have to evacuate in a hurry.

A severe frost fell that first night and the two turf fires were lit early. We sat around them berets on our heads, only taking our hands from our great-

coat pockets to light a fag, or crack the occasional flea. Connie took out the mouth organ he always carried in his top pocket and began playing, vamping and stamping 'The Banks of the Roses' which drew some colourful responses from the Carrick/Clonmel contingent—mostly to the effect that he should shove that effin harmonica in a place where the sun never shines.

Time for lights out was signalled when the door was kicked open by a very angry looking individual wearing a greatcoat with sergeant's stripes and a cap with two tassels. He stood in the middle of the dormitory and roared that it was time to 'get those \*\*\*\*\* lights out ye shower of \*\*\*\*\*'.

We didn't debate the matter.

When we'd been in bed about an hour the bombardment started. It was



*FCA Group some years ago — maybe some reader will remember the day?*



hard to know which side started it but within a short time sods of turf were flying from the Carrick to the Clonmel end and vice versa – with the Fethard boys keeping their heads under the blankets in no man's land as occasional sods fell short onto our beds.

Very early in the morning we were rudely awakened from our slumber by a terrifying crash. I jumped up in bed. The lights were on and the angry looking sergeant was back again, this time wielding a short stick and using it to batter a row of decrepit lockers positioned inside the door and bellowing at us to get the \*\*\*\* out of those beds straight away, get shaved, get dressed, get the blankets folded in the regulation way, get over to the canteen, get ready for parade, get an effin move on.

We scuttled through the frosty air to the washroom which was about fifty yards from the dormitory. There was no hot water and the mirrors were cracked and permanently misted over, which made shaving a risky undertaking.

In the canteen we were served what resembled a fry for breakfast. The puddings were as hard as hazel nuts. The toast was like a piece of timber. The tea was like tar.

'Tis a hammer and chisel you'd want here not a knife and fork', says Connie.

A big sour looking soldier wearing a huge white apron across his pot belly stood in the kitchen doorway with folded arms, as if daring anyone to find anything wrong with his

preparations.

The following days were spent square-bashing in time to the bellowing of the demented sergeant, and learning how to shoot using .22 rifles on a miniature shooting range in the barracks.

One morning we were introduced to the hazards of riding motorcycles. The bikes looked like ancient museum pieces and our suspicions were confirmed when the sergeant informed us that they were 'veterans' of the Second World War and had been built in 1939. They were unbelievably heavy, cumbersome and difficult to keep upright let alone ride. The Grangemockler lad was first to go. He went round the square like an Irish version of Evel Knievel, wobbling at first, slowing down jerkily, suddenly surging forward, gradually building up speed, swerving, veering madly, unpredictably, the sergeant roaring himself purple telling him to stop before he effin well killed someone, preferably himself.

Finally he came careering round the square towards where we stood waiting our turn, bearing down on us in a long swerving loop, forcing us all to flee for safety before crashing to the ground, the bike spinning and skittering one way across the square and himself the other. That ended the motorbike riding.

The first week passed. Early on Wednesday morning of the second week all of the FCA recruits piled into a couple of trucks and were transported to the army firing range at Kilworth

in Co. Cork. Twice the trip had been cancelled due to torrential rain. There had been a tremendous build up to this trip. Our abilities as soldiers, we were led to believe, would be judged on how we performed on the firing range using live ammo fired from Lee Enfield .303 rifles. We had been drilled in the techniques of firing rifles: adjusting the sights, allowing for recoil, lying spread-eagled at a certain angle 'oblique to the line of fire'. That's what Sergeant Scanlan said, repeating it like a mantra, 'always lie oblique to the line of fire'.

Unfortunately, I had developed a massive sty in my right eye in the days before going to the range. When I closed the left eye to look through the sights with my right the sty suddenly reared up before me as big as the bloody Matterhorn blotting out the target. Even though I couldn't see the target I squeezed off the first shot when the command to fire was given. The rifle kicked back viciously catching me on the chin, almost knocking me out. After five shots Sergeant Scanlan went around telling each trooper what he'd scored.

'I don't know where your bullets went, Blossom', he said to me, 'but none of them went within an ass's roar of the shaggin target.'

I spent the rest of the morning handing out bullets instead of firing them.

On the last morning of the training camp, after we'd handed our blankets and rifles back to the quartermaster, a poker game got underway in an

upstairs room overlooking the quadrangle where the jeep was to pick Connie and myself up and bring us back home. Connie sat into the game with four Carrick lads. I sat behind Connie, innocently observing the play. The game unfolded without incident with the pots being won variously around the table. Then Connie, through a combination of luck and astuteness, won three pots in a row. Two of the games had developed into a showdown between Connie and a thin faced, chain-smoking jumpy kind of individual. He began muttering accusations and throwing murderous glances in my direction and at the Grangemockler lad who was sitting quietly smoking behind him. I sat back taking in what was beginning to resemble one of those tense poker-playing saloon scenes from a Western: smoke curling to the ceiling, stakes being raised, met, raised again, tempers beginning to fray, hands hovering over gun butts.

When Connie won yet another pot he began to sympathise extravagantly with the thin faced, chain-smoking jumpy individual saying, 'sure you're in hard luck there you're just not getting the right cards you sir.' Well, it didn't go down well with your man; after that things took a definite turn for the worst. The thin faced, chain-smoking individual pointed furiously at me and the Grangemockler lad, accusing us of being in 'cahoots' with Connie and of giving him 'tokens' whatever that meant. The other Carrick lads began to mutter agree-

ment with him and started throwing murderous looks at the Grangemockler lad and myself.

Things settled a little when the Grangemockler lad and I were banished from the table. Another hand was dealt. I began to pray that Connie would throw in his hand. That we would get out of there in one piece. But no, he had to go seeing and raising yer man again. I looked out a window and saw with gratitude that Sergeant Scanlan had pulled up in a jeep ready to take us back to Fethard.

Suddenly in true Wild West fashion, there was an eruption at the table. The thin faced lad dived across the table and tried to grab Connie by the throat, Connie tumbled backwards

and landed, chair and all, onto the floor with a crash.

'Kill the \*\*\*\*\*', someone shouted.

We didn't need to hear anymore. We were gone, faster than rabbits at the sound of a gunshot. Down the stairs, Connie shoving coins into his pocket and shouting that the last effin pot was his and we should go back for it, me pushing him on and pleading with him to shut up or we'd all be killed, the Grangemockler lad going head over arse down the last three or four steps and we trampling right over him and out the door in a panic, into the jeep, me pleading with Sergeant Scanlan to get going quick. The last thing I saw as the jeep headed for the gate was the Grangemockler lad being



*Fethard First Communion boys class 1958. Back L to R: John Joe Napier, Ed Healy, Pierce Lyttleton, Thomas Keating, Austin Godfrey, Pat O'Brien and Michael O'Sullivan. Front L to R: John Fogarty, Tony Sayers, Jimmy Hayes, Thomas Barrett, Connie Coen and Gerry Nevin.*

chased across the quadrangle by three Carrick lads. The thin faced fella was running beside the jeep waving his fist and shouting abuse at us and demanding his money back. Then we were out the gate and gone.

We never saw any of them again.

We continued going to the training sessions on Monday nights and sometimes on Sundays we'd go off in a truck to the firing range at Kilworth or to the barracks in Clonmel for more intensive training. But Connie and I found that we didn't have a true vocation for the military life and gradually stopped going to the Nissen hut.

(Years later, though, Connie did join the regular army for a while.)

We held onto the hobnailed boots and the greatcoats though. \*

*(Connie Coen and I went to school together and were friends throughout our teenage years until time led us in different directions. Connie was a lively and generous character with a great sense of humour. He was always ready with a quip or a witty remark to keep us laughing during hard times: he died tragically in England twenty-five years ago in February of 1982 aged just thirty-one. — J.F.)*

## Red Hills Farmers' Market and the Beaverskin Hat

by Jim Trehy

This story began on a cold winter morning in Melbourne, Australia. My daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter had planned a trip to the Farmers' Market in Red Hills, 'down the Peninsula' from Melbourne.

A Farmers' Market, I thought – could be an interesting outing. I imagined a village marketplace with stalls selling farm produce and maybe hot coffee and a cookup to take the edge off a cold early morning.

Speeding down the Peninsula at about 6.00 AM, it was difficult to figure out where greater Melbourne ended and rural Australia began. First, it was all housing estates just like suburban Dublin. Then came the stockbroker belt with large houses hidden behind high eucalyptus trees, with

security gates and high fences.

Finally some open country with cherry orchards dotted here and there, the fruit recently harvested and the trees dormant for the winter months. After almost an hour's drive, we arrived at Red Hills village. The market has a permanent site outside the village and on every first Saturday of the month, come hail or shine, it convenes from 7.30am till 12 noon.

Just past the village, we came on lines of cars, jeeps and trucks parked on both sides of the country road and we had to abandon our transport to walk the final half a kilometre to the market site.

There was a nominal entry charge of one Australian dollar – about 60 cents in our currency and we were in the





*Jim Trehy, Donoughmore, on his way to visit his daughter Angela in Perth, Australia. Jim is photographed in Cork Airport with his daughter Gaye and grandson Jamie.*

thick of the action. There were lots of people moving around the large field on gravel footpaths between stalls that sold all kinds of articles - fresh farm produce, mostly labelled organic, home-made leather goods, poultry alive and dead, farm implements, flowers and herbs and even hand-crafted violins.

A couple of groups had taken up stands playing country music and the inevitable Peruvian pan pipes which seemed to be so popular around Melbourne at the time.

There were stalls selling steaming hot foods and you could feast on a cooked breakfast of steak and eggs, hot coffee, toast and pizza, all very welcome on this cold winter morning.

Because we were there during the first hour of the market, there was intense activity. "G'day mate, can we interest you in a pot of home-made

preserves, fresh carrots, Irish potatoes, a merino wool fleece, (even) a Nubian goat," you name it, all was there.

In deference to my age, I suppose, my daughter bought me a pair of merino wool slippers - more like woolly wellies, I thought. And, while I scoffed at them at the time, I have to admit they are comfortable in winter.

We got into conversation with one stallholder who made all sorts of leather goods, belts, purses, wallets, bags and brief cases in different styles. Like a lot of the stall holders at farmers markets, he took time to chat and to explain that in winter on his small-holding (only about 150 acres) he and his family worked with leather which he bought from a small tannery in his local town.

My daughter made some purchases and on hearing that she originally came from Ireland, he told her that his

name was Sean Barry and his great-grandparents had come from Mallow in Ireland in the late 1800s. His wife, Sally, was of French extraction and her family were leather workers over generations, hence the little industry that the stall was based on.

While Sally attended to customers, Sean chatted with us about Ireland which he had never visited but hoped, at some stage in the future, to do.

Enter the beaverskin hat! Next stall to the Barry's was one which displayed beaverskin everything – jackets, full length coats, bags and hats, hats, hats of every shape and size.

The elderly man sitting on a high stool was almost a replica of his St. Bernard snoring at his feet. Both looked so sad that I decided to try on a few hats, if only to cheer him up a bit. Almost immediately, the man came to life and went into a sales spiel which finally resulted in my planking a wide brimmed beaverskin hat on my head and shelling out 27 Australian dollars – about €13 – to appease the salesman and, I must confess, my own fascination with hats.

Anyway, by now the sun had come out and I needed shade so the hat stayed put and we continued our tour of the market. One of our calls was to a plant and flower stall where there were proteas of every colour and size. Generally the protea is a massive bloom that is grown a lot in the Melbourne area and is in high demand because it is a long lasting decoration. We bought two blooms that would be equal to one large bou-

quet for the princely sum of \$5 – about €2.50 – good value as a floral decoration.

By 11.30, the crowds began to thin out. Only the food stalls remained centres of brisk business as the stall holders took a well earned break and relaxed before packing up their gear. We went back to say goodbye to the Barrys who were now unwinding with their 'stubbies' and sandwiches and socialising with other stallholders about the business of the morning.

Sean explained that, after the market business was over, it became a sort of social occasion for an hour or so before stalls were dismantled and the homeward trek began. So the market served two purposes really. First, it was a sales outlet for all kinds of rural activity, harvested crops and local crafts cultivated to supplement farm income. But secondly, it was a social event for stall holders who often came from less populated areas and who had few opportunities to meet and swap stories and information with other families involved.

Finally we headed back to our jeep laden with fresh vegetables, rye bread, a cuddly toy for granddaughter, Ashling, and, of course the beaverskin hat that sparked off this memory of a holiday spent in the environs of Melbourne a few years ago.

That beaverskin hat has seen five or six mixed seasons since that time and it is wearing well and is better than any umbrella in an Irish summer downpour. \*

## Community Employment Scheme

Just when it seemed all was well within FÁS, once again things are very unsettled. It is envisaged that more places may be lost by March 2008. It seems a great shame because the work carried out by Community Employment Schemes is immeasurable. If this happens then the volunteers' time and resources will be stretched once again.

On a brighter note a lot of training courses were completed during the year – Classroom Assistant, ECDL, Sage Level 2, Health & Safety Management, Start Your Own Business and many more. All our learners did very well and I congratulate them on their achievements.

During the summer our three ladies, Linda Phelan, Melanie Ryan and Marie Hannigan, did great work painting the centre during the summer break. We have 12 participants on the scheme at present, Maura Ryan

and Monica Aherne in the Community Office, (deepest sympathy to Monica on the recent sad loss of her husband Mick) and Linda Phelan, Melanie Ryan, Marie Hannigan, James Roche and Tony Keating who look after the cooking and upkeep of the centre. Martin Bolger and Michael Morrissey are on Tidy Towns maintenance and Eddie McCarthy in the GAA field. Emma Wallace helps out in the Day Centre and Annmarie Buck is in St. Bernard Group Homes.

I would like to say a big thank you to our committee, Fethard & Killusty Community Council, who are always very supportive, to all the staff who worked so hard during the year and last but not least, Catherine McCormack FÁS. On behalf of all at the Fr. Tirry Community Centre a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all. \* —Joan O'Donohoe



*Sr. Monica Kevin OSU, formerly from Barrack Street, Fethard, photographed celebrating 70 years with the Ursuline Order in New York in October this year. L to R: Sr. Monica Kevin, Sr James Frances McDonald (50 Years) and Sr. Margaret Golab (50 years).*

# Marriages

## *Weddings in the Parish*

Michael Sheehan, Cahir, and Nicola Carey, Cahir  
 Alan Connolly, Garrinch, and Valerie Colville, Spitalfield  
 Francis Tyrrell, Árd Álainn, and Áine Doocey, Abbey Road  
 Hugh Tierney, Inver (Donegal) and Victoria Roche, Strylea  
 Austin Smyth, Dublin, and Laura Doyle, Strylea  
 Mark Moloney, Redcity, to Edel Bradshaw, Congress Terrace  
 John Ivory, Kilmachthomas, and Elizabeth Holohan, Abbey Road  
 Mark Neville, Scotland, and Stacey Baker, Ayrshire, Scotland

## *Weddings outside the Parish*

Frazer Duffy, Grove, and Joanna Sharpe, Grove (Rosegreen)  
 Martin Power, Portlao, and Niamh Lonergan, (Rosegreen)  
 Paul Murphy, Kiltinan, and Rachel Harwood, Terenure (Adare)  
 Robert Lanigan, Tullamaine, and Judy Walshe, Kilmachthomas  
 David O'Loughlin, Coolmore, and Treasa Melody, Clonmel (Holycross)  
 Richard McCarthy, Monroe, and Sandra Lucaben, Clonmel (Marlfield)  
 Kenneth Cleary, Ballinure, and Barbara Ahearne, Monroe (Italy)  
 Tyrone Tobin, Kilnoddin, and Edel Cryan, Frenshipark (Boyle)



Laura Doyle, Strylea, Fethard and Mr Austin Smyth, Firhouse, Dublin who were married on 23rd June in the Parish Church. Bridesmaids were, Mary Doyle, sister of bride and Sharon Lyons friend of the bride.





*Boys and girls who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in Fethard on Saturday 12th May. Also included are Fr Tom Breen PP., Ms Maureen Maher (teacher) and Ms Cammel Lonergan (teacher).*



*Tony O'Donnell, Druncondra, winner of the Easter Cup and Presidents Cup at Ierne Sports Club 2005*



*Jimmy O'Donnell, Sandyford, Dublin, prizewinner in the P. Mac Gill Literary Competition 2007*



*Happy 50th birthday to Valerie O'Meara who celebrated her 50th birthday with family and friends at The Castle Inn, Fethard, on Friday 16th February 2007. Valerie is photographed above with Back L to R: Bill Carver, Tishy McCormack, Ronan O'Meara, Esther McCormack, Darren O'Meara, Valerie O'Meara, Peter O'Brien, Glen O'Meara, Gina Power. Front L to R: Russell O'Meara and Ricardo Caiazo.*



*Members of the 'Lord of the Rings' syndicate photographed celebrating in Butler's Bar after selling the unbeaten Irish mare 'Feathard Lady' for 270,000 guineas at the Doncaster August Sales on 8th August 2007. The mare was bought by Howard Johnson for the Graham Wylie-owned Chesters Stud in England. 'Feathard Lady' daughter of 'Acordion', won seven successive starts before injury curtailed a highly-promising career. Trainer Colm Murphy had hoped to keep her in training for this year's Cheltenham Festival but a recurrence of a ligament injury led to her retirement in February. Feathard Lady is in foal to 'Presenting', whose progeny include Cheltenham Gold Cup winner 'War of Attrition'.*

## Playing for Life — Tanzania



*Photographed at the Playing for Life project in the parish of Esso in Arusha, Tanzania, are L to R: Honor (Mulligan) Davern, originally from Fethard and now living in Cashel; Cathy Whyte, whose father is Noel Whyte originally from Fethard; Mary Cloonan, Killenaule Road, Fethard; Joe Kenny, Rocklowl Road, Fethard; Nuncie O'Dwyer, from Clerihan and working in Fethard; and Adrian Dooley, New Inn, whose mother is Joan (Fergus) originally from Cashel Road, Fethard.*

Playing For Life volunteers from South Tipperary photographed in the Esso Parish in Arusha, Tanzania. They are part of a group of over sixty people who departed Ireland on September 26th for a fortnight's experience in Tanzania, a magical place with amazing, friendly people, who are musical and colourful.

In co-operation with the Pallotine Fathers and the parishioners and local community of the Esso parish, Playing For Life volunteers are building a much-needed Community Centre / Sports Hall. A vibrant local community group already exists in the Parish of Esso and despite its situation in a very poor slum area in Arusha the spirit and the determination of the

community has to be experienced to be believed. Their desire to improve themselves and their sense of community spirit is evident all around, and assistance with building this centre will give them a much-needed boost.

Playing For Life also provides short courses to various sections of the community in areas such as basic IT training, sports and gymnastics coaching, account keeping, music and drama, and food preservation, such as jam making and pickling. Playing For Life is a registered charity and promotes self-development through education, sport and health awareness. Directors are: Tracy Piggott, Paula Murray, Robbie O'Malley, Barney Rock, Peter McCloone and Ossie Kilkenny. \*

## Fethard & Killusty Community Council

The past year has been quite a busy one for the committee and members of Fethard & Killusty Community Council. In addition to the regular, ongoing, activities 2007 saw the organisation involve itself in a number of new initiatives. These include the establishment of two new groups in the Parish, namely, Fethard Community Alert Group and the Fethard Childcare Committee, the co-ordination of activities to celebrate Walled Towns Day and the arranging of a meeting for the residents of Árd Álainn.

In June Fethard & Killusty Community Council hosted a successful public meeting to establish a Community Alert Programme for the Fethard area. This meeting was addressed by Margaret Quinn, Community Alert Co-ordinator, South-East Region; Sgt. Sean Sherlock, Crime Prevention Officer & Community Alert Advisor; Garda Liam Tobin, recently appointed Guard to Fethard Station and Cllr. John Fahey, newly elected Chairman of South Tipperary County Council. This meeting was Councillor Fahey's



*Fethard's new Community Alert Committee elected at a public meeting on Thursday 28th June. Back L to R: Margaret Slattery (joint-treasurer), Sgt. Sean Sherlock, Crime Prevention Officer & Community Alert Advisor, Geraldine McCarthy, Garda Liam Tobin (Fethard Station and Liaison Officer), Diana Stokes (joint treasurer). Front L to R: Margaret Quinn, Community Alert Co-ordinator, South-East Region; Cllr John Fahey, Chairman South Tipperary County Council; and Michael O'Dwyer (Chairman).*



first official function as Council Chairman and his attendance was greeted with warm applause. Margaret Quinn informed the meeting that Community Alert is for everyone, it is incumbent on each person to play their part and that everyone can do a little in their own way. Neighbourliness is the key to Community Alert. On completion of the presentations it was unanimously agreed that a Community Alert Group would be established. The following committee were elected on the night – Chairman, Michael O'Dwyer; Secretary, Margaret Slattery; and Joint-Treasurers, Diana Stokes and Geraldine McCarthy.

Another successful public meeting was convened in November. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a committee to co-ordinate the development of a purpose-built childcare facility in Fethard. Representatives from the South Tipperary County Childcare Committee, Mr Gerry Hickey, Manager, and Ms Ger Boland, Development Officer, were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Joe Kenny. He informed the meeting that there was both a need and an opportunity in Fethard to develop a purpose-built childcare facility in the town. Joe's address was followed by a contribution from Ger Boland who expressed her delight at the large number in attendance. Ger informed the meeting that successful community facilities had been set up in many locations throughout the county from similar meetings. Ger advised that as

a substantial amount of the 2008 budget has already been allocated it could be likely that the 2009 funds would be applicable to Fethard. She further advised that an amount of €1.2 million should be sufficient to develop a multi-functional childcare building incorporating indoor and outdoor play areas. Ger advised that getting involved in a committee would involve a considerable amount of work and that the involvement of skilled members would be highly beneficial. Mr Gerry Hickey added that the strength of the committee would be greatly enhanced by 'networking': people on the committee might know someone who would be willing to contribute. Before the meeting concluded a committee was formed to progress the project. The following Officers were elected – Chairperson: Joe Burke, Secretary: Helena O'Shea and Treasurer: Carmel Kiely.

In recent months the Community Council has worked, along with Fethard Historical Society and South Tipperary County Council, in co-operation with The Heritage Council of Ireland and the Irish Walled Towns Network in an effort to document and promote our local treasure – The Town Wall. The highlight of this involvement was, undoubtedly, the festival to celebrate Walled Towns Day on Sunday, August 26th. A number of events and activities, all free as part of National Heritage Week, took place in various locations and culminated in a memorable, medieval-type fayre in the area between the Town Wall and the

Clashawley River. At present a number of archaeological consultancy groups are at work in Fethard assessing and documenting the built environment of the town with a view to producing plans that will direct conservation and future development. Draft copies of these reports – The Public Realm Plan and The Conservation and Management Plan have recently been made available. It is envisaged that once the final documents have been completed an Implementation Committee, which will include representatives from the Community Council, will be set up.

In an effort to promote the establishment of residents' associations and to encourage new neighbours to meet and greet, the Community Council decided to organise an informal meeting and to issue invitations to the residents of new housing developments in

the town. In July, the residents of Árd Álainn, a recently completed development at Killenaule Road, were invited to such a meeting. While the turnout on the night was rather small the meeting certainly enabled neighbours to meet, some for the first time, and mingle. It is hoped that the seeds have been sown for the establishment of a residents association in Árd Álainn sometime in the future.

In May, we were sorry to have to say "Goodbye" to Suzie O'Shea. Suzie had commenced work as a Youth Officer with the Fethard Community Youth Project in September 2006. Unfortunately, due to the lack of ongoing funding for the project it was forced to cease. We hope that this situation is but for a short time. While the project was in existence for a mere nine months almost eighty young people were involved every week and



*Photographed at the public meeting to object to the lack of funding and support from the government for the Fethard Youth Project in operation for the past year are L to R: Edwina Newport (Secretary Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Rachel Murphy (Area Manager Foróige), Peter Grant (Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Lisa Kavanagh (Youth Officer South Tipperary VEC), Gerard Manton (Fethard & Killusty Community Council), Maura Carey (Tipperary Regional Youth Services), Jimmy Connolly (Fethard & Killusty Community Council), and Suzie O'Shea (Fethard Youth Project).*



*Walking Woodies Youth Group photographed at their Christmas party in the Woodvale Walk Community House with adult volunteers Teresa Roche, Delores O'Donnell, Cora McGarry, Patsy Lawrence and Suzie O'Shea (Fethard Youth Project) on 20th December 2006.*

approximately fourteen individual groups were activated during the lifespan of the project. These figures speak for themselves. The success of the Fethard Community Youth Project was due in no small way to the involvement, energy and enthusiasm of Suzie. As we go to print final preparations are being made by Foróige to secure adequate funding so that the youth project can be reinstated and that the badly needed provisions for youth can be put in place once more. It is hoped that 2008 will see the Convent Hall being transformed into a dedicated Youth Centre. Once planning permission has been secured plans are ready to roll so that building work and renovations can commence.

The Community Council are

indebted to Joan O'Donohoe and her staff for their involvement and contribution towards the activities of the Community Council, particularly in the Community Office, the Tirry Community Centre and other locations. Joan is an unsung heroine of the Community Council. Her official function is as supervisor of the Community Employment Scheme but in reality she does an awful lot more. It seems, at times, that she carries out the roles of all the officers of the Community Council, all at once! Thank you Joan. We would also like to thank our two local County Council representatives, Cllr John Fahey and Cllr Jimmy O'Brien who are in attendance at almost all our meetings.

The members of the Community

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Fethard for their ongoing and continuous support. Your weekly commitment to the Community Lotto contributes greatly towards financial support to many and varied activities in the town. Also, the funds collected locally help towards the cost of the Christmas Lights, which add a festive cheer to the holiday season.

The officers of Fethard & Killusty Community Council, elected at the Annual General Meeting held in February 2007, are as follows: Chairman, Joe Kenny; Vice-Chairman, Peter Grant; Secretary, Edwina Newport; Treasurer, Jimmy Connolly; Public Relations Officer, Marie Murphy and Scheme Participant Development Officer, Peter Grant. The Board of Directors for 2007 of Fethard

and Community Council are: Joe Kenny, Edwina Newport, Jimmy Connolly, Peter Grant, Thelma Griffith, Paddy McEvoy, Maria Murphy, Brian Sheehy, Diana Stokes, Ger Manton, Liam Hayes, Very Rev. Fr. T. Breen PP and Rev. George Knowld.

If you have any concerns in relation to the development of Fethard & Killusty or you feel that you have something to contribute feel free to become involved in the Community Council. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the second or third Tuesday, in the Tirry Community Centre. On behalf of the committee and members of Fethard & Killusty Community Council, I extend Seasons Greetings to all our readers at home and away and to wish you every Peace and Blessing for 2008 \*



*Liam Hayes, Fethard Heart Safe Committee, photographed erecting the new defibrillator boxes on Main Street, Fethard, with Paul Shanahan (right) on 3rd March 2007.*





*Marie Smyth, proprietor of The Well, Fethard, presenting a cheque for €50 to Jim Bond, representing South Tipperary Hospice. The cheque was the proceeds of a pool competition run in the pub by the locals. L to R: Anthony Hayes (winner), John Hurley (runner-up), Marie Smyth (The Well), Jim Bond (South Tipperary Hospice), Tommy Gahan (organiser) and Michael O'Flaherty (organiser).*



*Presenting the proceeds of 'The Castle Inn' Benefit Night in aid of South Tipperary Hospice held on Saturday 21st July where a total of €2,025 was raised are L to R: Kathleen Coen, Jim Bond (South Tipperary Hospice Support Group), Denis Burke, Noel Sharpe, Irene Sharpe and Brud Roche.*

## 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.

Aherne, Mick, Prospect (Calvary)  
 Coffey, Michael, Modker's Tec & USA (Calvary)  
 Connolly, Liam, St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)  
 Connoy, Peggy, Coleman (Clerihan)  
 Delaney, Nuala, Redcity (Calvary)  
 Donovan, Paddy, Fr. Tirry Park & Mullinahone  
 Fahey, Gerry, Coleman (Calvary)  
 Grant, Patrick 'Paddy', Fr. Tirry Park (Kilfeacle)  
 Heffernan, Johnny, Fethard (England)  
 Heffernan, Michael, Lower Green (England)  
 Holohan CSSp, Rev Fr Patrick, Ballinard (Rockwell)  
 Lawrence, Tessie, Fr Tirry Park (Calvary)  
 Madden, Patrick 'Paddy', Kerry Street (Canada)  
 Maher, Conor, Killenaule Road (Calvary)  
 Maher, Philip, Ballybough (Calvary)  
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 Morrissey, John, Fethard & Cottage Nursing Home  
 Mullins, Maura St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)

Napier, Peter, The Green (Holy Trinity Church of Ireland)  
 O'Dwyer (O'Neill), Breda, Farranaleen & Naobridge  
 O'Connor, William, Ballyvaden (Moyglass)  
 O'Donnell, Mary, Killusty (Killusty)  
 O'Donnell, Willie, Monroe (Calvary)  
 O'Dwyer, Joe, St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)  
 O'Flynn, Tess, The Valley (Cashel)  
 O'Neill, Margaret 'Peggy', Main St. (Rosegreen)  
 O'Riordan, John, Kerry Street and New York  
 Owens, Kitty, The Green (Holy Trinity Church of Ireland)  
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 Whyte, Tommy, Main Street (Calvary)



Joe O'Dwyer



Liam Connolly



John O'Riordan



Mick Aherne

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#### Donations, Letters, Change of Addresses

Carmel Rice, Brookhill, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: +353 52 31134

# Our dear departed 2007

*from available photographs*



*Willie O'Donnell*



*Kitty (Barry) Quinn*



*Tess O'Flynn*



*Philip Maher*



*Gerry Fahey*



*Nuala Delaney*



*Tommy Whyte*



*Tess Lawrence*



*Peter Napier*



*Peggy O'Neill*



*Paddy Grant*



*Paddy Donovan*



*Michael Tierney*



*Michael Coffey*



*Maura Mullins*



*Marie (Dineen) White*



*Kitty Prout*



*Kitty Owens*



*Gus Millet*



*Conor Maher*

## The late Catherine Quinn

Catherine Quinn (Kitty Barry, Curraghtarsna, Fethard) was by any standards an exceptional person whose sudden and unexpected death at the age of 64 on 18th April left family and friends with deep sadness and an abiding sense of loss. Catherine's four daughters, Kristin, Jannine, Adrienne and Micheline, have lost a wonderful mother and friend. The massive crowd of neighbours and friends from so many walks of life who filled Rathcoole Church to mourn her loss was a testament to the respect in which she was held.



Catherine's career began as one of the state's first woman Garda and in those days she was obliged to retire on marriage. She then became active in her local Rathcoole community in Dublin. She responded with enthusiasm, was duly elected and served with distinction. The members of Rathcoole church choir gave a magnificent tribute to their beloved colleague at the funeral service. We will all miss her greatly. We have lost a very special person; a bright light has gone out in Rathcoole. \*

—Mary Harney



*Old Fethard School Group. Included are Mary O'Sullivan, Mella Cassells, Eileen Murphy (Rocklow Road), Elsie Ryan (Kerry Street), Vera Stokes (The Square), Molly O'Dwyer (The Green) and Noreen Cummins (Kilnockin Road). If any of our readers can identify others in the photograph or when it was taken we would to hear from you.*



## Traditional Gardener at Crampscastle



*Bill Meaney photographed on 15th December 2007 harvesting his Brussels sprouts in time for Christmas*

As the emperor of ice cream outlives all other empires, the increasingly, uncommon, common gardener may yet outlast all the fads, fashions and experts of the modern food industry. If 'local' is to be the new discovery in food production, perhaps the vegetable gardeners will re-emerge to be cherished in their rightful pivotal position as providers of nutritious and healthy food.

Bill and Maura Meaney live less than a mile from Fethard in Crampscastle and they continue to provide fresh tasty vegetables, gorgeous flowers and soft fruit from a plot of earth that has been tilled for fifty years. Much of this and other associated produce is available each Friday morning as Maura is part of the

Country Market which was recently featured in the RTE television programme, Nationwide.

During the past decade, there have been great efforts made on a national basis to have farmers markets both in rural and urban communities but the Country Market in Fethard has been quietly undertaking a similar service in that it has provided for many years an outlet for fresh vegetables and home-made produce at a reasonable rate to the immediate community.

Daffodils begin the flower cycle in the Meaney's garden followed by tulips and the wall-flower plants, then Sweet William, sweet peas, dahlias and finally Michaelmas daisies with their purple pink flowers growing to a height of four to six feet. Other vari-

eties grown are gladiolus, the occasional sunflower and nerines, which have a slender pink flower and wait to bloom until October. The flowers are mixed with vegetables and fruit bushes which makes the garden a luscious delight to look at. Gooseberries, blackcurrants, raspberries and strawberries are the main fruits and already this November the new ranks of the strawberry runners are well bedded in their fresh weedless patch of soil.

There is a tradition that it is moral or sensible to have seeds sown by a certain date, for example, seed potatoes should be in by 17th March, but Bill will have none of it believing that the casualty from late frosts in May does not make it workable or viable. "Not too early and not too deep", is the simple but effective and prudent lesson learnt from many years of tending the garden. And as for pest and weed control, "there is the hand and the hoe", a constant cultivation of the soil between the crops which allows air, water and earth to mix while hindering and constraining the growth of unwanted intruders, sometimes, known as weeds.

Roosters are the preferred choice of potatoes. Each seed potato is planted in a bed of farmyard manure and its yield and taste are regarded as most suitable for this well drained lime area. Bill believes in sowing in late spring and early summer; parsnips in May, carrots and turnip in June and in November there are busy but proud rows of lively leeks ready to be harvested as well as Brussels sprouts,

broccoli, parsley, Swede turnips and bulging heads of cabbage. Lettuce and scallions are grown all year round and there is a plentiful supply of peas in July and a variety of beans in September; there are rhubarb and chives and tomatoes from golden sunrise to money-maker.

Needless to say, changes in lifestyles have wrought changes in the garden; pumpkins have arrived though there is a lack of variety in lettuce seeds, dried flowers which were once so popular are no longer in demand. Who's who in the parsnip prize winners have long been forgotten about in the now defunct flower and chrysanthemum show in Fethard and the supermarket shelves do not note food miles or our carbon footprints. Nevertheless, the Piltown show has survived and continues to expand and Bill and Maura have been the recipients of many accolades there over the years for their garden produce.

The Meaney's garden plot is south facing and is on a slight slope to catch the sun and there is a low shelter for protection from the north wind. If you cannot buy at the country market early on Friday mornings then perhaps you could go for a walk to Crampscastle and see, amidst a sea of grass, a garden that nearly always has something in bloom and blossom and, in its bountifulness, through the work of Bill and Maura, has an air of blessing about it, if that is not too strong a word. \*

—John Cooney

## Fethard & District Day Care Centre

The Fethard & District Day Care Centre is now in its 11th year. The service is expanding all the time catering for the needs of our senior citizens as they arise. A daily programme is set out to incorporate as many interests and hobbies that our clients might enjoy. The activities for each week consist of: art, crafts, weaving, board games, cards, bingo, and discussions on the daily newspapers. Our musical entertainment is provided on a daily basis by Pauline Morrissey and John Pollard who have been playing their accordions on a voluntary basis for

years. Our clients also join in with a variety of different musical instruments, dancing and, of course, singing.

We are now getting ready for our Christmas Bazaar. The clients are busy sewing and knitting, making a variety of crafts including Christmas cards, Christmas gift tags and dusters, all of which will be on sale. As our bazaar takes place in November we will shortly be decorating the centre with an exhibition of the paintings our

clients did throughout the year.

Exercise is so important in all our daily lives that it has become a daily activity in the centre. Over the past year we had weekly lessons in Tai-Chi which is very good for both body and soul. In the afternoons our clients

enjoy a relaxing massage of their hands and feet after a busy morning.

We paid a visit to the Slievenamon Golf Club courtesy of the Clonmel Lions Club. We enjoyed a lovely afternoon of beautiful food followed by music and dancing.

In March we held a table quiz in Butler's Sports Bar, Main Street. Thank

you to Philip and Anne (proprietors) for facilitating us, to all our sponsors of prizes and all who took part and who helped in any way to make this night a huge success.

For our summer outing we enjoyed a trip to Dungarvan via the beautiful scenic Vee. Afterwards we had a lovely meal at Slievenamon Golf Club.

Our Christmas party was held in the Day Centre at the Tirry Centre. The catering staff put on a fabulous meal with all the trimmings.



*Tipp FM Radio 'Down Your Way' presenter Eamon O'Dwyer interviewing musicians John Pollard and Pauline Morrissey at the Day Care Centre.*

The Day Centre Committee meet once a month. Also once a month we hold a 'Senior Day', where our elderly neighbours who do not attend the centre can avail of a chiropody service. The district nurse also attends and a hot meal is served. Thank you to staff, volunteers and transition year students.

The committee members are as follows: Thelma Griffith (chairperson), Jimmy Connolly (vice-chairperson), Fionnuala O'Sullivan (secretary), Liam Hayes (treasurer), Marie Murphy, Joan O'Donohoe, Carmel Rice, Nellie O'Donovan, Nora Lawrence, Joe

Kenny, Breda Nolan, Desmond Martin. Our employed staff are Geraldine McCarthy, supervisor of the Day Care Centre and Michael Cleere our minibus driver. We would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to Phil Wyatt and Megan Sceats for their tireless work as committee members for several years. Phil and Megan retired from the committee this year.

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to our families, friends and neighbours and to you our readers, from all at the Day Centre. \*



Presentation of a cheque of €2000 to Fethard Day Care Centre, proceeds from a Vintage Road Run and a Charity Horse Ride organised jointly by the Tipperary Vintage Motor Club and Premier Harriers. Back L to R: David Burke, Pamela Burke, Tom Shanahan, Nora Lawrence, Jimmy Connolly, Geraldine McCarthy. Front L to R: Eddie Murphy (Tipperary Vintage Motor Club), Tommy Griffin (Premier Harriers), Thelma Griffith (Fethard & District Day Care Centre) and Joan O'Donohoe (Fethard Community Employment Scheme).





*Three school friends meeting after 40 years at The Castle Inn L to R: Chris Mackey, Tommy Shea and Michael Mullins. The photograph was taken in August 1999. Michael Mullins died in 2006.*

## Donal wins photographic competition

The winners of the €10,000 'Notice Nature' TV3 Wildlife Photographic Competition were presented with their prizes by Mr John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government at a reception in the Custom House.

The second prize was won by Donal Mullins from Fethard for his photograph of a longhorn beetle, entitled 'The Lone Explorer'. Donal, an employee in HSE Clonmel won €3000 of the €10,000 prize fund. The photograph was taken at the Galtee mountains. The competition was run in conjunction with TV3's weatherman Martin King who encouraged the public to send their wildlife photo-

graphs to him during the month of June.

Speaking at the prize giving ceremony, Minister Gormley expressed his delight at the public response to the competition stating, "the interest in the campaign shows the keen interest the Irish people have in their natural environment".



*Donal Mullins and Stephanie Pagliaccio*

The judges' comments on Donal Mullin's photo: "The Lone Explorer is a superb photo. With the animal shown as a small part of a big picture we are invited into another world. The pattern and form of the fern and the contrast in colour between it and the beetle, make this a lovely and interesting image." \*

# Donations Received 2007

*Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th November 2007. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.*

Aheame, Bridie, Youghal  
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*If, for any reason, we have omitted your name, please let us know  
 and we will acknowledge your donation next year.*





*Group photographed at the Patrician Presentation Secondary School Class Reunion of 1980/1981 at the Fethard Arms on Friday 29th December 2006.*



*Some of the large group of children and adults that turned out for the Annual Christmas Carols on the streets of Fethard in aid of the CRC 'Santa Bear Appeal' on Thursday 21st December 2006.*

*Patrick Keating who died  
in London on 12th  
November 2006.*

*Patrick was originally  
from Cashel Road and is  
buried in Kilbride,  
Callan.*





*Members of Fethard Foróige Club photographed with leaders at their meeting on Friday 27th April 2007 before heading off for a trip to the cinema in Clonmel. The club hold their meetings every Friday evening in the ICA Hall from 7pm to 8.30pm.*



*Fethard Under-14 team, South Champions, photographed after beating St. Mary's 1-9 to 0-5 in the Under-14 South Hurling Final played in Clonmel on Monday 3rd September 2007. Congratulations to Fethard's Under-14 hurlers who put on a terrific performance against a physically stronger St. Mary's side to win the South Final before a large attendance at Clonmel Og GAA field. After a slow scoring start the team finally settled and commanded the field in almost every area with some great individual displays of hurling. The final score was 1-9 to 0-5 and it was a particular proud day for Paddy Lawrence, who had three of his grandchildren on the team, Alan (captain), Garreth, and his great grandchild Dean Butler.*



*St. Patrick's Boys National School Sixth Class 2007 L to R: Gary Bradshaw, Paul Norrby, Brian Healy, Adam Hall, Gerard Gorey, Kevin Shine and Colin Grant.*



*Long time foot-follower of Tipperary Foxhounds, Tony Newport, photographed above on his pony 'Minnie Gray' outside Lander's shop on Main Street while waiting for the off at the opening meet of the Tipps in 1937. Tony is also over sixty years a follower and supporter of the local foot pack, 'The White Heather Harriers', of which he is current chairman. Tony is also 50 years hunting correspondent with the Nationalist. Seventy not out, Tony says he intends to keep going as long as the old legs will carry him.*





*National Heritage Day Festival in Fethard 26th August 2007*

