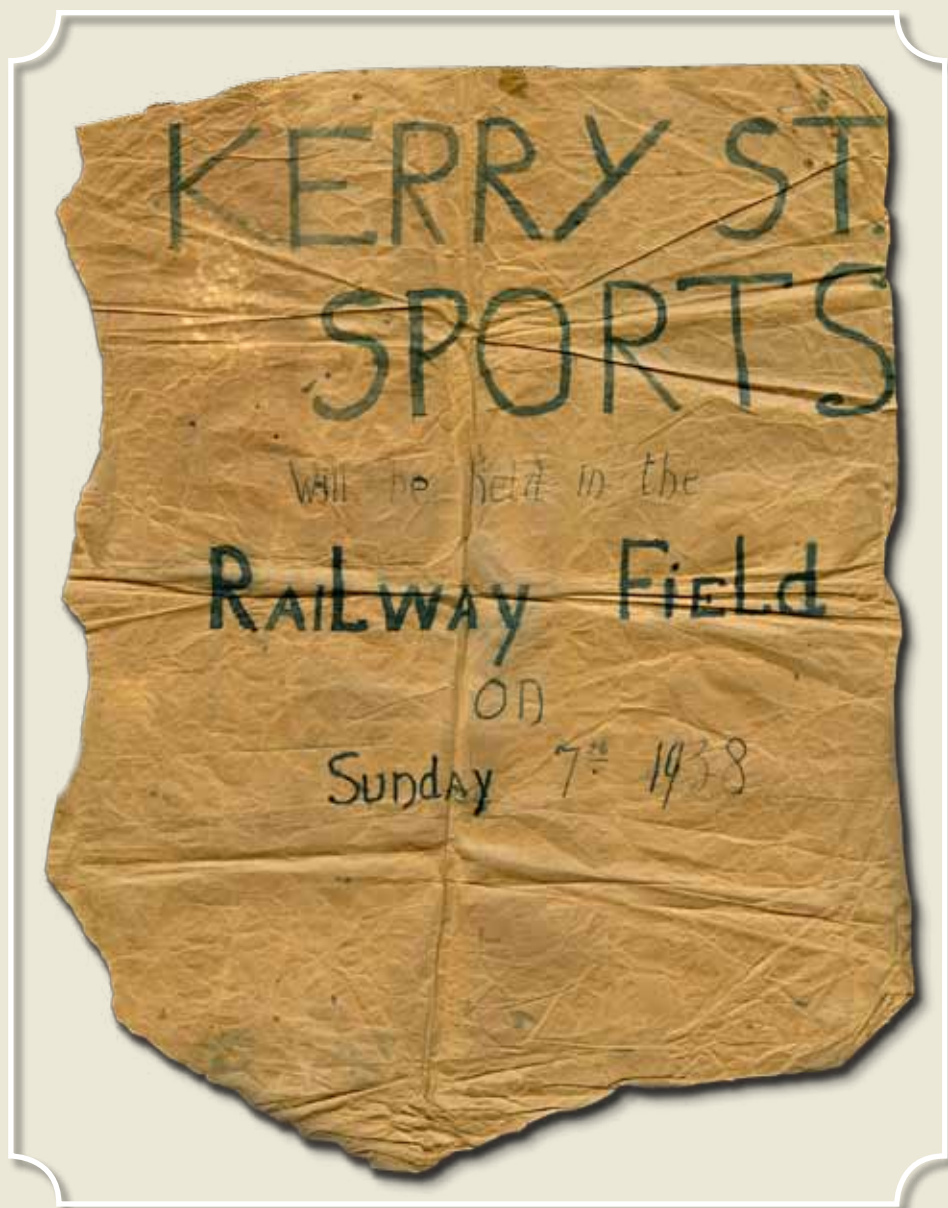


A nighttime photograph of a stone wall, likely part of a castle or fortress, illuminated by warm orange lights. In the background, a tall, multi-story stone tower, possibly a church spire, is visible against the dark sky. The scene is framed by dark foliage in the foreground.

# FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2009

€12





*Kerry Street Sports will be held in the Railway Field on Sunday 7th 1938*

*This original 26"x20" paper hand-made poster was supplied by Michael McCarthy, Kerry Street.  
The month was August as it was the only month that year that had a Sunday on the 7th.*



# FETHARD & KILLUSTY NEWSLETTER 2009

Dedicated to our friends and relations  
living away from home

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Cover: View of Fethard Town Wall and Watergate Bridge from the East

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## Don't lose those memories!

*by Joe Kenny (editor)*

The past twelve months will be remembered by many people at home and abroad for very different reasons, some will have happy memories and others very sad ones. As another year rolls by and takes its toll we can only look back and ask, where have all the years gone? Time races on relentlessly, babies become adults and adults become young again. Photography is one of the main aids to enhancing our memories and helping us remember the passing years. Every year at this time I really look forward to researching photographs for the Annual Newsletter.

I first started taking photographs at the age of ten with a camera purchased at Woolworths in Clonmel for

two shillings and sixpence. By the age of twelve, I was developing my own photographs, thanks to a Christmas present from my mother of a small 'Photographic Kit' purchased from Donal O'Sullivan's Chemist. Donal had a very keen interest in photography and his knowledge and encouragement helped me overcome the many teething problems I experienced in those first few months setting up a temporary darkroom at home.

Now, over forty years later, I have amassed a collection of thousands of images, unfortunately not all catalogued, and the publication of the Emigrants' Newsletter every year affords me the opportunity to dive into the archives to unearth images



*Group at dance in Fethard Town Hall in the late 1940s. This is one of the many photographs taken by Willie Boland on glass plates*



never published before. This is a slow process and names of people in photographs are more difficult to find as the years pass.

Some years ago I remember meeting two Clonmel photographers, Willie Boland and Michael Keating, now deceased, and both relaying how they lost a lot of their 1940s and 1950s glass plate negatives due to a 'crash' — their storage shelves collapsed under the weight of the glass plates and crashed on the floor. I often think of the wonderful photographs and memories lost from that era.

For the past ten years, digital photography has helped in a great way to make photography easy to catalogue and also more affordable without the ongoing costs of film, chemicals and

processing materials. On the downside, newspapers and publishers no longer keep photographic records and future generations will not have the luxury of viewing the vast collections of historical photographs available to us today. Today's budding photographers also have the added problem of losing their stored images with one 'crash' of their computer's hard disk.

This is one piece of advice that I will always remember: *"There are two types of hard disks, ones that have failed and ones that are about to fail."*

Since my first computer purchased back in 1988, I've had at least eight disk failures, so PLEASE remember to 'back up' your hard disks or we may have no 'old photographs' for our Newsletter in years to come! ●



*Wedding of Paddy McCarthy and Josie O'Shea, Fethard.*



## Parish Greetings



*Canon Tom Breen P.P. photographed with assistants after St. Patrick's Day Mass this year. L to R: Charlie Manton, Allannah Coady, Katie Butler, Tommy Anglim, Fr. Tom Breen P.P. and Harry Butler.*

Greetings once again to all our Readers. The year that is now drawing to a close had been rather an eventful but sometimes sad year. Sad because of the passing of so many parishioners to their eternal reward but especially our great friend, Canon Power, who loved this parish and gave to it so many of his talents and gifts, above all his prayerfulness. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends. Sad also because of the many reports in our church of abuse cases. We indeed hang our heads in shame and sorrow as we ask pardon and forgiveness. The challenge now facing all of us is quite unprecedented. Let us hope that we meet this challenge in the most appropriate way.

I welcome Fr. Anthony McSweeney to the parish team and wish him every happiness and a fruitful ministry with us all.

This season is a time of joy, hope and happiness for us all. What went on in 2009 we remember and what lies ahead in 2010 we contemplate in hope. Our prayers and thoughts include all of you, your families and friends. May the year ahead have reason to tell a good story regarding the faith of the parish of Fethard and Killusty. We ask the Lord to guide and protect each of us now and always. May God bless and care for each of you. ☉

*Canon Tom Breen P.P. & Fr. Anthony McSweeney.*



## Christmas Greetings from the Abbey

Dear readers, when I was asked to write a Christmas greeting to the exiles of the Fethard and Killusty parish, I asked to see a former letter. To my surprise, I was handed a sizeable book and very well produced. Well done to all concerned.

I am a newcomer to the Abbey community. In June we held our Chapter at which Fr. Gerry Horan, who lives with us in Fethard, was reinstated as the Irish Provincial. One of the tasks of a Provincial is to look at the communities in the country and make changes if necessary. The priest, Fr. Peter Haughey, at the age of 85 years was appointed to his native Dublin. Now Fr. Gerry had to find a successor. The lot fell on me.

I was just eight years in our Cork community and before that, I completed thirty-three years in our Mission

in Nigeria where I had a very fulfilled ministry. Coming back to Ireland to Cork and now Fethard, anything I do for the Lord I take as a bonus.

Many of our senior citizens are living longer now. Fr. John Meagher OSA is no exception. He celebrated his 93rd birthday on 20th September 2009 and his 70th anniversary of ordination on 24th September 2009. Fr. John is seen every day walking the Main Street of the town. He does a full day's work in the Abbey. Ad multos annos!

So from the Augustinian community of Fathers Gerry, John, Tim and myself, we wish all our exiles and readers a very happy Christmas filled with the peace of the Birthday Boy.

A happy New Year to you all. ☉

*Fr. Martin Crean OSA*



*L to R: Fr. Martin Crean OSA (Prior), Fr. Gerry Horan OSA (Provincial), Fr. John Meagher OSA, Canon Tom Breen P.P. and Fr. Timmy Walsh OSA.*



# Holy Trinity Church of Ireland



*Photographed at the Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland held on 21st December 2008 are L to R: Canon Tom Breen P.P., Rev Barbara Fryday, Fr. John Meagher OSA and Fr. Peter Haughey OSA*

On the 30th November 2008 a memorial service was held for the late Wyndham Hughes. The service was taken by our rector, Canon Fryday. Mrs Johnstone was present as were many of Wyndham's friends.

As is our tradition, the carol service was held on 21st December and a large gathering of people came to herald the start of the Christmas festivities. Mulled wine and light refreshments were served afterwards and a generous collection was donated to Fethard and District Day Care Centre.

Very sadly we lost a dear friend to our community in Canon James Power. As always, Canon Power read the Gospel of St. John at our carol service when he was parish priest. It was a joy to hear his powerful voice. A good Christian and friend to all, we

miss him greatly.

During the course of the year we have had some changes. Mr Brendan Walsh who was our parish reader has left and gone to further his religious knowledge in Dublin. We thank him for looking after our spiritual welfare and wish him well in his studies. On the 24th June we celebrated the licensing of the Reverend James Mulhall at St. Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore. We welcome him and his wife Suzanne and their son Jacob to our parish. The Reverend James takes some of his services in Fethard and assists Canon Fryday in the Clonmel Union.

During the course of the year much work has been done in the church to make it look more presentable; slowly we are getting there! Sadly this year the church was twice





*Photographed at the Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland held on 21st December 2008 are  
L to R: John Stokes, Febie Moore, Lucy Moore and Tony Askins.*

vandalised. The most recent was the worst in that a window was smashed and a fire extinguisher was sprayed all over the inside of the church. But for the services of Mr Frank O'Donovan and his Top Class Cleaning firm, the service of Harvest Festival could not take place, for which many thanks.

The service was held on the 4th

October and the sermon preached by the Very Reverend Paul Draper, the new Dean of Lismore Cathedral. A large congregation attended and refreshments were served afterwards.

Our church and grounds have been looked after by John Nagle who, as always, has done a great job and his work is much appreciated. ●



*L to R: Marion Goodbody and Diane Stokes who helped serve refreshments at the Carol Service*



## *Harvest Thanksgiving Festival – 4th October 2009*



*L to R: Fr. Anthony McSweeney C.C.; The Very Revd. Paul Draper, Dean of Lismore; The Revd. Canon Barbara Fryday; Revd. James Mulhall NSM and Fr. John Meagher OSA.*



*Photographed at the Harvest Festival in Fethard were L to R: Rose McCarthy, Margaret O'Connell, Phill Wyatt, Mary Hanton, Rosemary Ponsonby and Ann Gleeson.*



*Photographed at the Harvest Festival were Back L to R: Louis Grubb, Louise Bailly, Sara MacDonald. Front L to R: Ruth MacDonald and Angus MacDonald.*



## Legion of Mary

Fethard Legion of Mary Members greet all readers and wish all of you a blessed Christmas and New Year. The work of the Legion continues at a reduced rate as membership is low. Through this Newsletter we encourage faithful attendance at daily Mass, daily praying of the Rosary and continued prayer as we battle the difficulties, anxieties and crosses of each day.

Our heart-felt prayers go to those who grieve their loved ones gone to God suddenly, through illness, or through awful accidents. We pray for you and for the repose of their souls.

Some of you will have been read-

ing authentic religious papers and books. Others will have been tuned in to EWTN radio and television programmes. These are to be received through Sky, Chorus or EWTN satellite as advertised in the 'Alive' paper.

This year our Spiritual Director, Fr. John Meagher, OSA celebrated his 93rd birthday and 70 years ordained in the Priesthood of Christ.

This celebration brings many graces and blessings to Father, his order, his family and our parish. May God be praised for his goodness to Father and to all of us. ●

*Fethard Legionaries of Mary and all auxiliary members.*



*Children from Nano Nagle Primary School and St. Patrick's Boys' School Fethard who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in Holy Trinity Parish Church on Saturday 9th May. Also included are Rev. Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Rev. Fr. Anthony McSweeney C.C., Ms Maureen Maher (vice-principal Nano Nagle Primary School) and Ms Patricia Treacy (principal St. Patrick's Boys' School).*



## Cashel Blue Cheese

*by John Cooney*



Twenty-five years ago a soft blue cheese was making its appearance at the Fethard Country Market on Friday mornings. It is probably foolish and obvious to say, and impossible to resist, that the makers were waiting to see whether this cheese would take off. Two previous different cheeses had been tried by the same makers in this venue, one called Fethard – a Cheshire or cheddar type, and the other a Caerphilly called Ballingarry. Caerphilly is a quick ripening mild fresh cheese greatly favoured by Welsh miners and so this version was named in honour of the nearest mine in these parts.

Fethard and Ballingarry were not unsuccessful but were not becoming what the makers Jane and Louis Grubb were hoping for. Avonmore, via the creamery in Fethard, had began

to take an interest in what the Grubbs were attempting to do and management suggested that the Grubbs might look at the possibility of a soft cheese. The reason for this suggestion was that Avonmore at that time were importing twenty five tons of Danish Blue into the market here and were seeking domestic replacement. So with hands-on technical know how, advice and support from Avonmore, which even at that time was a huge national company, a creamy Irish farmhouse cheese had its initial outing at the Country Market. As mould has to be present in the production of blue cheese, Fethard and Ballingarry cheese had to give way to a new but more recognizable place name from Tipperary.

Mrs Olivia Hughes and Hanna Leahy offered encouragement and practical advice and facilitated what





*L to R: Helena Koci, Mary Ryall, Majella Gearon and Liz Grogan*

would now be referred to as market research, indeed Hanna to this very day visits the market every Friday morning. For its twenty-fifth anniversary in production, Cashel Blue won several gold awards including the award for best Irish Cheese at the Worlds Cheese competition held in Gran Canaria this year.

Louis and Jane Grubb live in the townland of Foulkstown at Beechmount, Fethard, just beyond Silverfort Cross. Louis can remember platform dancing at the crossroads and the meeting of the Tipperary Hounds there. The famous and iconic De Valera speech about dancing at the crossroads also, however, mentions industry and it is this portion of the speech which now seems most appropriate for Silverfort Cross because within the immediate vicinity there is a mushroom enterprise, a hurley maker, a dog grooming parlour, a garage and cheese production. In the midst of this major economic slump

is it not pleasing and inspiring to hear how local enterprise can survive and sustain itself. We may yet celebrate such ventures and value them all the more because the multinational corporations are not quite as reliable as we had thought. This local agri-business arose out of the last big recession in the early 1980s when farm incomes were again meagre and what existed at that time was the aptly named butter mountain. Louis and Jane Grubb sought to supplement their income from the farm as many farmers were obliged to do in those times. They saw neighbours diversify into off farm activity and they themselves considered making ice-cream but concluded that it would be too seasonal. Jane was an experienced cook with a fine appreciation of good healthy food and she began to focus on the possibility of farmhouse cheese-making which was only then in its infancy countrywide. So, as neither wished to contribute their valuable produce to the endless



storage regime, they began cheese-making in the basement of their farm house. And thus the cheese business was built and thus could their dairy herd survive and prosper. Not being hidebound by tradition enabled them, they say, to experiment and to try various types until they settled on Cashel Blue. Today twenty people, full-time and part-time are employed around this enterprise and though the business is feeling the effects of the poor economic circumstances, Louis and Jane Grubb are investing in a new grant-aided dairy specially designed to prepare them for production for the

next twenty to thirty years.

This year, on the 25th anniversary, congratulations are most definitely due to Louis and to Jane for their bravery in setting up their business, for their interest in food and for their passion in keeping the show on the road.

The Grubbs, of Quaker extraction, came to Tipperary from Wexford in the eighteenth century and as coincidence would have it, rented out a neighbouring farm to Beech mount before settling nearer to Cashel. Samuel Grubb, Louis' father, went as a young man to work in England before



*Grubb family photographed at Beechmount, Fethard. Back L to R: Louis Clifton Broton, Louis Grubb, Jane Grubb, Sergio Furno. Front Sarah Furno, Luca Furno and Rolo the dog!*



returning to purchase the present house and farm. Louis himself left the farm as a young man went to the West of Ireland before he returned with Jane whose family used to live on the outskirts of Dublin. In a similar fashion the next generation has now returned after a period away. Sarah with her husband Sergio and their two children are now actively involved in the business. Cheese-making allowed them to return home and allows this generation to have a positive attitude to the dairy farm and the food it produces.

Cashel Blue is made in the locality and was first appreciated in this locality but it has travelled well as more

than fifty percent of production is exported to America and to England and so next time when you are shopping, whether here or abroad, look for Cashel Blue. And as we never seem to tire of misquoting our leaders, what about the famous slogan of President Clinton, that if he had known about this cheese, he would definitely have said, "It is the taste, stupid!"

If you have a dairy farm and want to try your luck with an enterprise and are willing to work hard and feck the begrudgers, what about a good local farm house cheddar and there are great place names still left. ●

### *The Lord Mayor - Patrician Brothers c.1950*



*Patrician Brothers' production of 'The Lord Mayor' in the early 1950s. Back L to R: Liam Connolly, Denis Hayes, Austin O'Flynn, Jim Nugent, Tossie Stapleton, Billy McLellan, Cha Finn, Percy O'Flynn, Sean Moloney. Front L to R: Gus Neville, Nicholas Skehan, Jimmy Mullins and Joe Kenny.*



## Fethard – The town I loved so well



*Stefan Müller, international visiting student at Patrician Presentation Secondary School*

In summer 2007 I had to decide whether to go abroad next year, for how long and which country. At first nobody could really convince or motivate me to go to another country with a different culture. Furthermore I was not able to imagine leaving my family, relatives and friends even for a few weeks not alone for four or five months. Eventually in August 2008 I found myself on the way to Tipperary and it is a long way to Tipperary.

From the start I said that if I should go abroad to an English speaking country I would only choose Ireland because I was told that the people were very nice and friendly and I would have a wonderful time. Therefore I decided to go to Ireland for nearly four months, which seemed

to me to be an endless period. Possibly I was 'forced' a little bit by my parents at this time because I just couldn't imagine leaving Germany for such a long time.

Having spoken to students who had already been to Ireland they spoke very highly of the benefits of going to Ireland. They convinced me that the improvement of my English is not the most important thing about my stay but also meeting new people, forming friendships, living like a typical Irish student, and getting an unforgettable experience. So I decided, independently, to extend my stay for another five weeks. After all these considerations I would stay for five months, from the end of August '08 until the end of January '09. I asked myself a lot





*Stefan Müller photographed with some of his Transition Year friends from Patrician Presentation Secondary School. L to R: Joseph Thompson, Kelly Fogarty, Niall Rodford, Jane Kenny, Jean Anglim, Stefan Müller, Bridget O'Reilly, Niamh McGrath, Rebecca Fogarty and Fiona Crotty.*

of questions. Will I find friends and will they accept me? Will my host family be friendly? Will I be able to get integrated to school and school activities? Will the school be different to my German one? And the most important question that worried me most; Is it the right decision to go abroad?

Before my departure I 'Googled' Fethard in Tipperary and the school I was going to. I was very impressed with my finding on the Fethard website. A typical small Irish town with medieval roots and a medium size population.

I was lucky that I had a 'two family stay'. The first time I was with Tommy and Caroline Sheehan and family in Woodvale Walk and later on with Miceál and Mary McCormack in Kerry Street. In Sheehan's house I had a wonderful time and experienced a typical Irish family and how they carried out their daily activities. The family took me to many hurling and football matches which gave me an insight

into the sport. In my free time I often practised playing hurling and at the end I hit nearly every sliotar – a great success for the 'German' who didn't know a few weeks before what a hurley looked like.

After two months I changed the family and came to Mary and Miceál who also had Mattia staying with them, an Italian student. My second family was naturally different because their children had all grown up. I had my own room and on my bed I had two electric blankets for the night – a luxury I don't even have in Germany. I had to find new friends because from now on I lived on the other side of the town. Mattia was a great friend and I went out with him and his friends who were mostly in 5th and 6th year. I had a great time with them during lunchtime and after school. Because of the cold, rainy and short days in the wintertime we visited friends' houses. Mary and Miceál didn't mind when I brought them into our home. Every evening we



had great fun and soccer matches on the 'Playstation'.

On Sundays I went to church. A highlight was the mass on Christmas Eve with Miceál and Mary's family who come back home for Christmas. More than ten people, sons and daughters and their grandchildren, lived in our house during the Christmas holidays. I couldn't possibly get bored. In January my host-father Miceál took us running with the boys in the GAA field. I took part as well to get a bit fitter for my sport activities in Germany as well as being together with the boys. Beside a nice family, and I had two great families, the most important part of a good stay is the school.

Visiting an Irish school was a new experience. First of all the school in Germany starts earlier (8am) and ends earlier (between 1 and 3pm). I attended Transition Year and I think it was the right decision because I

learned a lot of useful things I will need in my future life, for example a First Aid Course and two job interviews. At school I took part in our 'mini company' holding the position of marketing manager.

The way I was treated in school by the teachers as well as by the other students was absolutely overwhelming. Every teacher tried to help me, above all during my first weeks. I always felt welcome and was looking forward every morning to attend school. The Patrician Presentation Secondary School is like a huge family – everybody knows everybody for ages, and everyone was willing to support each other. I was proud of wearing the uniform of this school and be part of this 'family'.

Another highlight was the school show in which I took part. Before I came to Ireland I didn't even know that I was able to sing and in the Abymill Theatre I sang a song on



*Stefan Müller (back centre) performing in 'Malibu' school show December 2008*



my own. Also the craic during the show and practise was mighty. Marian Gilpin, our teacher and co-ordinator of the 'Malibu' show, is a very special person and has great patience. To be allowed to sing 'Stille Nacht' during the Christmas Mass in school made me very proud as well.

I would have loved to have been able to learn some Irish phrases to take home but my schedule was so packed I didn't have time to learn this wonderful language. Mind you I did learn a couple of words (Cúpla Fócla) like 'slainte' and other sentences which aren't printable.

Besides my Transition Year classmates, I had about fifteen to twenty really good friends. After school I met some of them nearly every day and we had a lot of fun and unforgettable moments. During my stay I totally changed my character and personality in a positive way. I became more open, talked away with everyone and got new experiences that will help me certainly in the future. As a result of

being more open for conversations I spoke English with everyone and improved it at the same time.

Furthermore, I have to say that Fethard's inhabitants are very active. It is amazing that a town of this size has such a day-care centre which includes 'meals on wheels', very attractive theatre, a very good and topical website by Joe Kenny and an annual newsletter. Especially I want to show my appreciation to the inhabitants of Fethard who treated me always in a nice way – without exception. I never met such helpful people who accepted the 'German' without any stereotypes but showed great interest about my way of living in the foreign country. In totally different ways every single one of you made my stay a lot easier for me and made my stay too an unforgettable one.

I want to thank everyone who met me during this time. You made the "best time of my life" come true. ●

*by Stefan Müller*



*'Malibu' school show December 2008*



## Fethard Bridge Club

Fethard Bridge Club is now in its 33rd year. At our President's Prize dinner at Fairways Restaurant on 17th May 2009 our president Gemma Burke presented the following prizes: President's Prize to Frances Burke and Breda Walsh; Committee Prize to Alice Quinn and Berney Myles; Club Championship (Hayes Trophy) to Alice Quinn and Berney Myles; Player of the Year (O'Flynn Trophy) to Carmel Condon; Individual Champion (Dick Gorey Perpetual Trophy) to Betty Walsh; Most Improved Player (Suzanne Opray Trophy) to Carmel Condon; The Lucey Trophy to Brigid Gorey and Betty Walsh.

We played for the free sub for the coming year on 30th September and 7th October and the winners of the gross free sub were Alice Quinn and Berney Myles, and the free nett sub was won by Carmel Condon and

Brendan Kenny. On 12th November we held a charity night and donated the proceeds for the evening to the

Augustinian mission in Ecuador. Our Christmas party was held in the Tirry Centre on 13th December at which our Christmas prizes were presented.

At our AGM on 20th May 2009 the following officers and committee were elected: President: Kathleen Kenny, Vice President: Carmel Condon, 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: Nell Broderick, Marie Delaney and Ellen Rochford.

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



*President's Prize 2009 L to R: Gemma Burke (President) presenting winners Frances Burke and Breda Walsh.*



*Player of the Year 2009, Carmel Condon (left) receiving her prize from Gemma Burke (President)*



*Princess Ju Ju - Presentation Convent - 18th April 1944*





*Princess Ju Ju - Presentation Convent - 18th April 1944*





*Princess Ju Ju - Presentation Convent - 18th April 1944*





## *Princess Ju Ju - Presentation Convent - 18th April 1944*



*Dermot Rice and Marie Rice*



*Mary Walsh and Rita Walsh.*



*L to R: Mary Delaney (Prince) and  
Joan Goldsborough (Princess)*



*Back L to R: Eleanor O'Connell, Goldie Newport.  
Front L to R: Aine Tierney and Alice Stapleton.*



*Leila Byrne*



*Colette Morrissey*



*Betty Dineen*



## One of Fethard's own

*A tribute to my father by David Murphy*

This is a brief article to acknowledge the lives of my father and in turn, my mother. My father David Murphy (Davey) passed away on the 20th September 2008 after a brief illness. He was born on the 8th July 1930 to Patrick and Mary Murphy of Monroe, Cashel Road, Fethard.

Davey was one of twenty-one children born, of which fifteen survived, some are still alive, while others have passed on. Many family members and relations are still scattered throughout Fethard and far beyond. Davey spent his early years working alongside his father Patrick and his brothers and sisters on all sorts of farming work, tending livestock and particularly growing crops, for which he had a lifelong passion. He was a man of the soil.

Davey thrived on a 'country way of living'. It was his dream to return to Fethard to see out his autumnal years. This was not to be as my mother's many ailments and illnesses dictated that they remain in Sandyford,

Dublin, to be close at hand to the many hospitals and health clinics she attended on a weekly basis. His grandchild, Deborah (my daughter), has realised his dream and returned to buy a home in his native soil with her partner Jonathon (a Limerick man).

Davey's family name lives on with his grandson, David Frewen, and great



*Davey and Florrie Murphy*

grandson, Aaron David Sean Wood, who was born on the 7th December 2008 to my daughter Jennifer and her partner Mike (a Clonmel man).

Davey never forgot his beloved Tipperary or his roots. As the saying goes, "You can take the man out of the country but you cannot take the country out of the man." This saying summed

up my father. Whenever anything relating to Tipperary arose, he was in his element.

Davey lived as if still in Tipperary; the old ways were so ingrained into his life. Hurling was his passion and he enjoyed listening to games on the radio or watching them on TV. He was a man who loved to sing and what a



complete natural voice he had. I can still hear him sing 'Slievenamon' and 'Spancil Hill' with gusto.

Davey's nickname was 'Sweat', a name he got because of the amount of perspiration produced when working. He was a man who loved a good joke and craic; he had a wicked sense of humour.

Davey set out for Dublin in his mid teens with the intention of travelling and working in Africa; this never happened. He landed in Geraldine House, Milltown, Dublin, as a lodger and met my future mother, Florence (Florrie) Harmon. Florrie was her preferred name. She was one of twelve children and her father Edward was a dairy farmer / shopkeeper. His milking sheds were located originally at the old Shamrock Rovers soccer grounds at Glenmalure in Milltown. Florrie delivered the milk to customers in churns on a horse and cart with her sisters.

Davey will always be synonymous with the JCB digger, and whenever I encounter one I picture Davey at the controls. He was possibly one of the very first drivers of this famous machine and the mobile crane truck in this country. I have never encountered anybody with his skill or genius at operating a JCB. His ability was second to none. Davey worked for Hastings then Park Development and McNerney for over 30 years on the many building sites throughout the land, including UCD's original buildings. Many thousands of house foundations were dug out by his JCB,

assisted by his eldest brother Pat, who still lives at the family home in Fethard.

When visiting Fethard, Davey was always very excited and animated. He loved to walk around the town, enjoy a pint, speak to his old friends and acquaintances. He marvelled at the changes in people's lives, at the "butt of Slievenamon", as he used to say himself.

After his passing in September 2008, we lost our mother six weeks later due to a broken heart. She had lost her soul mate and did not want to live on without him. She gave up the will to live. Little did we realise how soon her words would come true. Within days of Davey's burial, she was taken to hospital and died on the 4th November 2009, the day after her 82nd birthday. She attended a wreath laying ceremony at my father's grave with family members on Saturday, 27th September 2008, the day before she went to hospital.

We never realise or truly value what we have or who we have, until they are gone. Both parents' passing has left a huge void in our lives and hearts which can never be filled. We are comforted by the impact and influences they left upon our daily lives and find ourselves mirroring and absorbing their traits. It is comforting in this day and age of materialism to witness true love.

Davey and Florrie are both gone now but not forgotten in our hearts. Rest in peace. Amen. ●



## Killusty Soccer Club - 40th Anniversary



*Killusty soccer team 2009 Back L to R: Colm Coen, Shay Coen, Aaron Kelly, Noel Walsh, David Conway, Ronan Maher, Adrian Lawrence, Mick Smyth (The Well Bar), George Williams (Manager). Front L to R: Ben Coen, Danny Shelly, Tony Shelly, Shane Aylward, Andrew Aylward, Ross Aylward, Dean Tobin, Martin Coen holding Matt Coen and Jake Coen.*

Last season was one of mixed fortune for Killusty Soccer Club. We lost our first four games but then went on a winning run that saw us finishing runners-up in League Div 2. We also reached the final of the Paddy Purtill Cup but once again had to settle for runners-up. As I said in previous issues, this team could be very successful if they put more of an effort into training.

This season we are in Division 1 of the Tipperary Southern & District League and unfortunately, once again, we had a poor start. Things are starting to improve and with a stronger panel and better attendances at training we are hoping to maintain our Division 1 status.

We also have some good news to report as this year marks our 40th

anniversary. An anniversary dinner dance was held on 24th October 2009 in Clonmel Park Hotel. To say our anniversary night was a success would be the understatement of the year. It was a fantastic night, filled with nostalgia, music, song and dance.

To see so many former players there was great, and even more heartening was the amount of support we received from friends and relations who travelled from near and far to be with us on this special night, not least our old colleague Ciaran Kehoe.

They say a week is a long time in politics, well 40 years is a fair achievement in junior soccer. This statement was brought home by both our guest speakers, Richard Power, Hon. Treasurer of the TS&DL and Billy O'Donoghue, representing the ref-



erees' association. While many teams have gone by the wayside, the little village of Killusty is still there. We have a number of people to thank for making it a success, firstly our hard working committee, especially Sarah and Shay, who did such sterling work and the Clonmel Park Hotel for their excellent service and help on the night. The brilliant Pat Marnane band who got lads sweating that hadn't sweated in years, in fact I thought we were going to need oxygen for some of them after the Siege of Ennis.

Thanks to DJ Kumar Mehta who rocked us into the early hours, also to our sponsors Mick and Marie Smyth, The Well Bar, and to everyone who gave prizes for our raffle, also Joe Kenny who put our old photos

on disc, although I thought Joe could have done a bit better on the old air brushing! Finally to all of you who took the time and effort to be with us, we were delighted to see so many of you there, thank you one and all.

Our AGM was held last July and the following officers were elected: Shay Coen (Chairman), Sarah Shelly (Hon. Secretary), Emma Fitzgerald (Treasurer), and George Williams (Team Manager). Committee: Sean Aylward, Tom Kearney, Louis Coen, Tony Shelly, Martin Coen, Kevin Ryan and Chris Coen.

Finally, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Aylward family on the death of Jackie, may he rest in peace. 🍷



*Killusty Soccer Club's cup winning team of 1989-'90 who also won the 2nd Division League, 2nd Division Shield and Tipperary Cup in the same year, photographed at the club's 40th anniversary dinner dance.*

*Back L to R: George Williams, Eamon Holohan, Kevin Ryan, Gerry Murphy, Shay Coen, Tommy Sheehan, Willie O'Meara, Martin Coen, Chris Coen. Front L to R: Billy O'Donoghue (Referees' Association), Tom Kearney, Sean Aylward, Michael Cranitch, Christy Aylward, Richard Power (TS&DL) and Louis Coen.*



## *Killusty Soccer Club 40th Anniversary Dance - October 2009*



*L to R: Eleanor Roche, Bernadette O'Meara and Lorraine Coen.*



*L to R: Amy Walsh, Aisling Aylward and Lyndsey McHugh.*



*L to R: Georgina O'Flaherty, Pauline Millea, Bernie Horan and Deirdre McEvoy.*



## *Killusty Soccer Club 40th Anniversary Dance - October 2009*



*L to R: Damien Byrne, Miceál Spillane, Michael Ryan, P.J. Ahearne, John Hurley and Willie Morrissey.*



*L to R: Paddy Kenrick, Mary Kenrick and Michael Kenrick.*



*Annette (Coen) Healy and her four daughters L to R: Claire, Ann-Marie, Annette Healy, Sarah and Denise.*



*Killusty Soccer 40th Anniversary — teams over the years!*





*Killusty Soccer 40th Anniversary — teams over the years!*





## An unlikely connection?

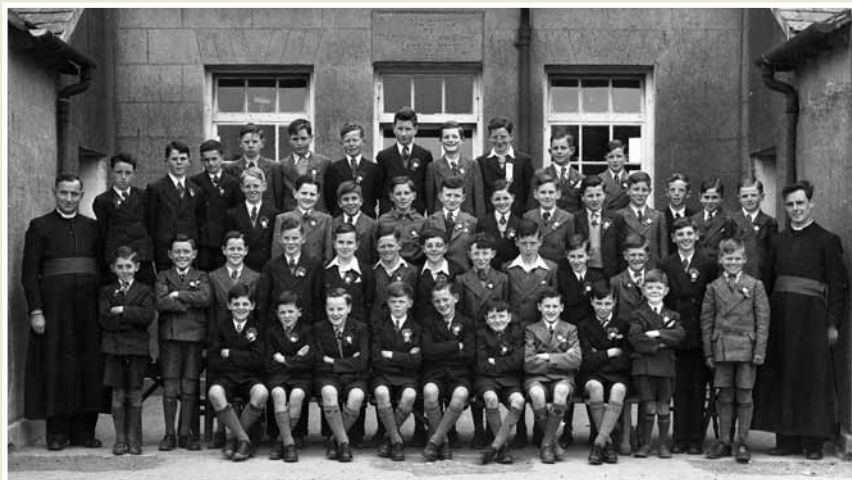
by Denis Hayes

The original National School for boys in Fethard was never a pleasant or inviting building. It had three big rooms with high ceilings and windows well above eye level. It was built like a fortress and the return trip back to school after the long summer holidays was always a most reluctant journey. In winter, as we sat there with runny noses and chilblains, it was indeed an exercise in Spartan fortitude. The small fireplace in each room was most inadequate to heat the rooms and when the turf was wet, as was often the case, there was lots of smoke and no heat at all.

Despite the adverse conditions, the

Brothers did a fine job in instilling the fundamentals of a decent education in us. In fifth or sixth class, at the time, our English Book was a collection of essays by known authors or extracts from books that they had written. One of the essays that stuck in my mind was an extract from a book entitled Jail Journal which was written by a man named John Mitchell. He had been sentenced to penal servitude in Van Diemen's Land in 1848 and the extract described his escape over some very mountainous country to meet up with a ship off the north coast which would take him to America.

He gave a very vivid description of



*Fethard Patrician Brothers National School in the early 1950s.*

*Back L to R: Bro Fergus, Eddie Grant, Perry Napier, \_\_\_\_\_, John Slattery, Tom McCormack, Gussy Danaher, Austin O'Flynn, Jimmy Mullins, Denis Hayes, Sean Leahy, Pat Walsh. 3rd Row L to R: Paddy Tobin, John Whyte, Christy Matthews, Brendan Fergus, Jimmy Kenny, Gus Fahey, Tony O'Donnell, Corry Sweeney, Christy Mullins, Liam O'Donnell, \_\_\_\_\_, Dan Murphy, Bro Dominic. 2nd Row L to R: John Ryan, Joe Keane, Joe Kenny, Peter O'Flynn, Tom Burke, Sean Connolly, Sean Moloney, Billy McLellan, Bobby Maher, Mike Cummins, Bobby Guiry, Sean Smith, Jim Connolly. Front L to R: Vincent Allen, Gerry McDonnell, ? Sweeney, Mickey Fitzgerald, \_\_\_\_\_, Derry McLellan, Jim O'Connell, Joe Fitzgerald and Pat Fitzgerald.*



camping out overnight in very frosty conditions and making a fire. But the frost was so severe that the part of the body facing the fire was too hot and the part facing away from the fire was frost bitten. In our geography lessons we had learnt that Van Diemen's Land was now known as Tasmania. There was a large map of the world hanging on the wall on our right hand side and we could see the remote island off the south coast of mainland Australia. We had also learned that Australia was a hot and dry continent which produced great quantities of wheat and wool, and that there were gold mines in places with funny names like Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie. How poor Mitchell could be so frozen in a place that was hot and dry was not explained.

Many years later I came to know Australia and Tasmania very well and read much more about John Mitchell. He was born in 1815, the son of a Presbyterian Minister in Northern Ireland and later studied law at Trinity College, Dublin. He was a brilliant lawyer and author. He practiced in Newry and frequently acted on behalf of Catholic tenant farmers. He had a keen interest in politics, was an advocate for Repeal of the Act of Union and wrote many newspaper articles supporting the return of an Irish Parliament.

His legal work frequently took him to the Four Courts in Dublin where he came to know Thomas Davis and Charles Gavin Duffy who were founder members of the Young

Ireland Movement. They persuaded him to move his family to Dublin and become a journalist for their paper "The Nation". This he did for some years but as the injustices of the Famine years took their toll on the population, he became impatient with the moderate views of The Nation and, with the assistance of other Young Irelanders, started his own newspaper The United Irishman. In this, he promoted resistance against British Rule in Ireland by non-payment of rents and the active prevention of the export of wheat and cattle and other foodstuffs from Ireland while the population starved. He addressed editorials to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland accusing him of misrule and illegal practices. He also accused the Administration of a deliberate policy of depriving the Irish people of food and eviction from their houses or farms so that the population would be reduced to make the "Irish Question" more manageable. He called the Lord Lieutenant the "Executioner-General and Butcher of Ireland". While he did not incite armed rebellion as an option at that particular time, he certainly made it clear that at some time he thought armed rebellion would be the only option. The paper had a wide circulation and it accurately reflected the mood of the people.

The Young Ireland movement had strong connections with County Tipperary. As well as their writings, rallies were held around the countryside. The eastern slopes of Slievenamon were a favourite gather-



ing place. Rallies were also held in Carrick-on-Suir. Cashel was a frequent meeting place for the leaders. William Smith O'Brien led the ill fated and poorly planned armed uprising against a police force at Ballingarry. The British press took great delight in calling this "The battle of Mrs McCormack's cabbage patch". He was arrested at Thurles Station as he tried to board a train to get away from the activity that resulted from the events in Ballingarry.

Predictably, from the viewpoint of those that legislated for the mighty British Empire of that time, this sort of mischief could not be allowed to continue. A sharp lesson was needed and this was quickly handed out. Up to this time, speaking out against the Crown was treated as sedition which was a relatively minor offence punishable by short imprisonment. Now, new legislation was quickly drawn up and passed in Westminster. This new

legislation was termed Treason Felony and carried the death penalty.

The Young Irelanders were quickly rounded up and sent for trial. Mitchell was tried in Dublin and the others in Clonmel in 1848. All were found guilty and sentenced to death but the penalties were commuted to transport beyond the seas for fourteen years.

Initially Mitchell was deported to Bermuda, which was also a British penal colony. Because many of the Young Irelanders were from well-known influential families and had contacts in high places, it was decreed that they were to be treated as political prisoners and not be subjected to prison clothing or hard labour. Mitchell had always been subject to asthma and the tropical climate in Bermuda caused him much ill health from this condition. He was eventually moved to South Africa and from there to Tasmania. He kept his Jail Journal from the start but due to his asthma, there



*Young Ireland 1848 monument at the Commons, Ballingarry, unveiled by Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh, on 29th July 1989.*



were long periods without any entries.

He certainly did not appear to relish the thoughts of living in Tasmania. He called it "The utmost verge of the earth" and the "Gardens of Hell". However, he knew that the other Young Irelanders had been sent there and that the doctor on the ship had recommended that Mitchell be lodged with one of them on account of his poor health. Each of the Young Irelanders had been allocated to a separate Police District in different parts of the Island. It was decided that Mitchell would be lodged in the Police District of Bothwell in the central highlands of Tasmania along with his friend John Martin, who was also from Northern Ireland.

Thomas Francis Meagher, Kevin O'Doherty and Terence McManus resided in neighbouring Police Districts. Each one was obliged to give a written undertaking that they would stay within the District, not attempt to escape and report to the Police Magistrate once each month. They were then given parole and the Ticket of Leave. William Smith O'Brien refused to give the undertaking for some years and he was held on Maria Island Penal Colony on the East coast. He made an unsuccessful attempt to escape and was then imprisoned in the infamous Penal Colony of Port Arthur near Hobart.



*John Mitchell*

They were all treated well and held in high regard by the settlers that had taken up land in the areas. They were allocated houses and some land. They could move at will around the Police District, hunt and fish. Mitchell's family joined him after some years and they lived in Nant Cottage outside Bothwell and farmed 200 acres of land. Despite his earlier misgivings about Tasmania, the Jail Journal describes how he came to love the countryside, the eucalypt and wattle trees and the beauty of the magnificent untamed wilderness that stretched west from the mountains near Bothwell.

Although Bothwell is a small town of no more than 500 or so inhabitants, as well as being home to Mitchell and Martin for seven years, it has another claim to fame. It is also a place of pilgrimage for golfers. In 1822, a group of men from Leith on the East Coast of Scotland took up some land grants there. Back home these men had played a game with stick and ball, which, legend has it, came from Holland many years earlier and was called golf. They brought the sticks and balls to Bothwell and made a course on one of the farms called Ratho belonging to the Reid family. The course is still there to this day and although slightly changed from the original, is still prospering. It is





*Denis Hayes looking at the display of old golf clubs and golf balls in the Golf Museum in Bothwell*

considered to be the oldest golf course in the southern hemisphere.

The property is a sheep farm and sheep graze on the course all the time. The entry to the little clubhouse is through the sheep yards, past the shearing shed and down the paddock. On the day we visited, shearing was in progress and we made our way in through the shorn and unshorn customers.

There is a golfing museum in the town that is justifiably proud of its tradition and displays the old clubs and balls used over the years. The original golf balls were made by wetting goose feathers and wrapping them very tightly inside a wet leather cover. When they dried out the feathers expanded and the leather contracted to make a very hard ball.

The present Committee plans to restore the course to its origi-

nal design. The fairways will not be watered or cut and the sheep will keep the grass down. When it gets too high for the sheep in summer, players must hit out of rough grass the way the original game was played. Rather than sand bunkers and ponds, the hazards will be the vegetable garden, the shearing shed and yards, hedges and rock walls. There are plans to stage competitions using the old style hickory clubs and balls similar to the original and it is even hinted that the 2022 Australian Golf Open may be played there to celebrate 200 years of continuous golf in that place.

Now, the question must be asked — did Mitchell and Martin try their hand at a golf game? While the Jail Journal does not refer to the game in any way, it does record being on very friendly terms with the Reid family of Ratho and visiting the house on many



occasions. Mitchell recovered his health and Martin and he were very active and spent many days hunting, exploring on horseback and running their farms. They were excellent bushmen and could spend days and nights away from home living off the land.

However, they did conspire with contacts in USA to escape and plans were made. As people of integrity, they were mindful that they must hand in their Ticket of Leave and formally end their parole before they would leave. This he did on the 12th June 1853. He describes riding into Bothwell in the company of a Mr Smyth – nicknamed Nicaragua Smyth – who was known to the police as the correspondent for The New York Tribune.

They met a Mr Russell on the way and discussed the sale of some sheep. On arrival at the Police Barracks they walked into the courtroom where the Police Magistrate was sitting. He handed the Magistrate a note offering to be taken into custody. The presence of Nicaragua Smyth must have confused the officials and the police because they did not react in any way. Mitchell repeated his statement that he was handing in his Ticket of Leave

but still there was no response. He then said “Now, good morning, sir” and they both walked out and rode away followed by great confusion and a loud outcry from the police station. The locals looked on with great amusement and some young fellows at a corner offered odds on the outcome of the race.

It is interesting to note that the horse that carried him on the escape route over very rough wild desolate country and marshes for many days had been purchased from the Police Magistrate some weeks earlier.

Mitchell finally got to America and became involved in politics there and also edited a newspaper. He returned to Ireland and again

involved himself in politics, standing for Parliament for the seat of Tipperary in 1875. He was successfully elected on two occasions with an increased majority but was not allowed to sit in Parliament because he was a convicted felon. He died soon after that and so ended his controversial and fanatical battle with the mighty British Empire.

From the viewpoint of modern standards and attitudes, it is difficult to understand why Mitchell and his



*Carolyn Hayes outside the old Ratho homestead, near Bothwell, Tasmania, where the oldest golf course in the Southern Hemisphere was established*





comrades had embarked on such a hopeless venture from the start. They had everything to lose. They had come from influential backgrounds, were well educated, had status and money-some even had large estates. They knew full well what the outcome was going to be but still they pressed on, motivated by the dreadful plight of the people during the famine, the desire to see the wrongs of the Act of Union redressed and self government restored in Ireland.

With a little imagination one could reinvent the scenario of Mitchell going into the Police Station in Bothwell

on the 12th June 1853 with a letter in hand and asking to see the Magistrate who would also be a keen golfer. Then a long discussion about the previous Saturday's golf competition would follow over a mug of tea. Finally Mitchell would take his leave telling the Magistrate to have a look at his letter when he got a chance.

By the time the Magistrate got around to the letter, Mitchell would have had many hours head start on his successful escape that we read about in sixth class. It is probably an unlikely connection. ●



*Schofield children at Fethard Carnival 1950s L to R: Olivia, Gabrielle, Ann and Dorethea*



## Fethard Ladies Football Club

There was a good attendance at our annual general meeting which took on Friday, 20th February. Plans were made for the coming year and the following officers were elected: President Fr Tom Breen P.P., Chairman Thomas McCarthy, Vice Chairperson Sandra Maher, Hon. Sec. Joseph Keane, Assistant Sec. Fiona Conway, Hon. Treasurer Maureen McCarthy, Child Protection Officer Maureen McCarthy. Delegates to County Board are: Thomas McCarthy, Joseph Keane, Paddy Cooney and Patsy Lawrence. Training Officers for U-10: Maureen McCarthy, Sandra Maher, Hannah Daly, Fay Manton, Mary Jane Kearney, Louis O'Donnell and Jo Jo Keane.

Training Selectors for U-12 and U-14: Michael Ryan, Michael Hayes and Denis Burke. Training Selectors for U-16: Thomas McCarthy, Joseph Keane and Paddy Cooney. Junior Trainers/Selectors: Aiden Lonergan,

Sandra Maher, Thomas McCarthy and Ian Kenrick. Fethard Ladies Football club had another great year. The Under-12 team won the County Championship. These girls are the backbone of the club at a time when so many girls are giving up football so early. Well done to all teams in U-10, U-12 and U-14 age groups.

What a finish to the year on winning the County Junior Championship against Emly in Golden on Saturday 10th October. The Fethard girls, contesting their first ever county final, played an excellent game under captain Sandra Maher. Special mention must go to our youngest players Amy Pollard, Louise O'Donnell and Mary Jane Kearney. The winning team consisted of: Jennifer Fogarty, Jean Morrissey, Edel Fitzgerald, Nora O'Meara, Mary Jane Kearney, Marian Harrington, Amy Pollard, Emily Noonan, Sandra Maher, Sarah



*Fethard Junior Ladies, County Champions, 2009.*



Smith, Sandra Spillane, Jennifer Keane, Sharon O'Meara, Bernadette O'Meara, Audrey Conway, Fiona Conway, Louise O'Donnell, Marie Holohan and Helen Frewen. Thanks to the team, trainers Tommy Sheehan and Aidan Lonergan who put in so much work bringing the players to such heights.

Thanks to Thomas and Maureen McCarthy, Michael Hayes, Michael Ryan, Joe Keane, Alice Butler and Kieran Butler. Kieran took many excellent photographs at the matches, which will be of great benefit to the club in years to come.

Thanks also to the ladies who took part in the parachute jump Maureen McCarthy, Alice Butler and Caroline Sheehan. Great credit must go to the girls for their great bravery in taking part in this fundraising venture for the club. Thanks to Sandra Maher and Fiona Conway for training the under-age girls. A special word of thanks to Philip Butler for all his support during the year and to everybody else who helped in any way. If anyone has been omitted sincere apologies.

Congratulations to Marie Holohan and Gerry Burgess, Lisronagh who got married during the year. ●



*Suited, booted, and ready for action are L to R: Caroline Sheehan, Maureen McCarthy and Alice Butler, photographed before their Parachute Jump in aid of Fethard Ladies Football Club, that took place on 25th July at Clonbollogue, Co. Offaly. The three girls were thrilled with the experience after the jump.*



## Fethard & Killusty Community Games



*Some of the competitors from the Fethard Killusty Community Games area who competed at the County Finals of Tipperary Community Games Art competition in Gortnahee. Back L to R: Matthew Burke, Conor Harrington, Larissa Clancy, Sadbh Horan, Roisín McDonnell who won a bronze medal Under-10. Front L to R: Gavin Mullally, Jennifer Phelan, Sarah Slattery and Ciara Connolly.*

Our Annual General Meeting took place in the Tirry Community Centre on 12th November. This was a good meeting where the current programme of events on offer was discussed at length and it was decided to enter teams from the area in as many activities as we could comfortably cater for.

It gave us great pleasure to welcome Alice Butler, Coolanure on to the committee. Alice is a fitting member as her dad, the late Pat Ryan, was one of our greatest supporters. Pat looked after several events and put many young people on the step-

ping stone to greater achievements. Alice's father-in-law, Tom Butler, was a founder member of the games in both the area and the county. Alice took care of a girls under-16 volleyball team in Mosney in 1986 when her brother Paddy competed in the high jump. Alice also represented Ireland in the world walking championships in Rome. No shortage of experience there and we are delighted to have her on board along with Willie Quigley, Redcity, who is another new committee member with great prospects.

All the other staunch members who put in so much work over the



years were prepared to soldier on. It was decided that more effort must be put in to creating awareness of the games at local level and plans are underway to hold an U-14 Quiz early in the new year to select teams who will represent the area at the county finals.

The following committee was elected: President, Canon Tom Breen PP; Chairman, Joe Keane; Vice Chairman, Willie Quigley; Treasurers, Joe Keane and Peggy Colville; RTD Officer, Alice Butler; PRO, Peggy Colville; Games Director, Denis Burke; Youth Officer, Helena O'Shea; Child Officer, Helena O'Shea. Delegates to County Committee: Helena O'Shea and Alice Butler. Subs, Joe Keane and Bernard Feery. Nominee to Company, Peggy Colville. Committee members: Miceál McCormack, Tom Tobin and Patricia Treacy.

During the year we took part in the following Individual events Art, Athletics, Gymnastics and Swimming where all competitors did very well

#### Results as follows:

##### Art Results

- U-6 Junior Infants: 1st Natasha McGarry, 2nd Keenan Ahearne, 3rd Emma Lyons.
- U-8 Girls: 1st Jennifer Phelan, 2nd Ciara Connolly, 3rd Megan Ryan.
- U-8 Boys: 1st Matthew Burke, 2nd Cathal Ryan, 3rd Richard Robinson.
- U-10 Girls: 1st Sarah Slattery, 2nd Roisín McDonnell, 3rd Katie Ryan.

- U-10 Boys: 1st Conor Harrington, 2nd Gavin Mullally, 3rd Jack Pollard.
- U-12 Girls: 1st Sadbh Horan, 2nd Cassandra Needham, 3rd Rachel O'Meara.
- U-12 Boys: 1st Francis Holohan, 2nd Ronan Coffey, 3rd Harry Butler.
- U-14 Girls: 1st Larissa Clancy, 2nd Katie Butler, 3rd Lily Lee.
- U-14 Boys: 1st Tommy Anglim, 2nd Cormac Horan.

##### Athletics

- U-8 Girls 60m: 1st Lucy Spillane, 2nd Annika O'Connor, 3rd Laura Kiely.
- U-8 Boys 60m: 1st Ben Coen, 2nd Ryan Walsh, 3rd Shane Neville.
- U-8 Girls 80m: 1st Laura Kiely.
- U-8 Boys 80m: 1st Shane Neville, 2nd Cathal Ryan.
- U-10 Girls 100m: 1st Ebony Burke, 2nd Megan McCarthy, 3rd Amye O'Donovan.
- U-10 Boys 100m: 1st Darragh Lynch, 2nd Joseph O'Connor, 3rd Jack Spillane.
- U-10 Girls 200m: 1st Amye O'Donovan, 2nd Rebecca McCarthy, 3rd Sally Nagle.
- U-10 Boys 200m: 1st Jack Spillane.
- U-12 Girls 100m: 1st Molly O'Meara, 2nd Cassandra Needham.
- U-12 Boys 100m: 1st Paul Moloney, 2nd Jack Dolan, 3rd Liam Quigley.
- U-12 Boys 600m: 1st Jessie McCormack.
- U-14 Girls 100m: 1st Jessie McCarthy, 2nd Sinead Sheehan.
- U-14 Boys 100m: 1st Jodie Sheehan,



2nd Darragh Bradshaw, 3rd Adam Fitzgerald.

U-14 Boys Ball Throw: 1st Eoin O'Donovan, 2nd Liam Quigley.

U-14 Girls Long Jump: 1st Kate Quigley.

### Non Qualifying Races

U-4 Boys: 1st Oisín Ryan, 2nd Mark Neville.

U-4 Girls: 1st Amy Morrissey, 2nd Heather Spillane.

U-6 Boys: 1st Kiefer Burke, 2nd Conor Neville.

U-6 Girls: 1st Hannah Sheehy.

### Swimming

U-10 Freestyle: Zoë Stokes

U-12 Backstroke: Caroline Stokes

U-14 Freestyle: David Morgan

U-16 Freestyle: William and Joseph Morgan.

### County Finals

Swimming: Gold medal for Caroline Stokes, daughter of John and Melissa, Ballybough.

Silver medal for David Morgan and Bronze medal for Joseph Morgan. The Morgan brothers are sons of Tommy and Mary, Meadowville, Grangebeg.

Athletics U-8 60m: Silver medal won by Ben Coen, son of Shay and Anne, Killusty.

Thanks to all parents and supporters who assisted in running the events, to all those who supported us financially and last but not least to Joe Kenny for his wonderful website and his constant support with photographs etc. All help very much appreciated.

We wish everybody a Holy and Happy Christmas and best of luck for 2010. ●



Photographed above are four boys, all descendants of Fethard parents, who represented Killenaule Moyglass Area at the Tipperary Community Games Art Finals. L to R: Harry Cummins, Knockinglass, son of John and Lynn formerly from Burke Street; Gavin Ryan, son of Cornelia and Matthew Ryan, Knockbriitt; Ben Purcell, Knockbriitt, son of David and Sarah Purcell formerly Burke Street; and Ciaran O'Loughlin, Moyglass. All these families have strong Fethard connections.



## Fethard Senior Citizens Club

Our meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every month in the Tirry Centre where all members are served tea, sandwiches and cakes, followed by a guest speaker, music or bingo.

At our March meeting Marie Crean had us all intrigued with her display of arts, crafts, patchwork, rush-work, etc., all worked by hand.

Our Easter outing was to Waterford for shopping and evening meal at the Woodlands Hotel.

Our annual summer outing in June was to Rathwood, Carlow, where we had a tour of the gardens on a mini-train. We had dinner in Rathwood Restaurant. Our members enjoyed the day immensely.

In July, we got a special invitation from John and Sue Magnier to visit Coolmore Stud. On arrival there, we were given a guided tour of the yards where we were shown several famous stallions plus the racing history of each one. Then we were taken on a bus tour of the whole spread finishing with a beautiful tea in the Boardroom. To finish the evening we visited Glanbia Garden centre in Fethard where we were served tea and biscuits on our arrival followed by a very informative talk by Laura the horticulturist on flowers and shrubs. Laura also demonstrated the filling of hanging baskets and window boxes.

In August, we had our mini trip to Tramore ending with dinner at the



*Sitting on boxes near the bridge below the town outside Donovan's bar and grocery (now the Bridge Bar) c.1920. From left: Tom Nevin, Baby Anne Tierney (McLellan) from the drapery shop next door, Joe Heamy, person in doorway unknown, girl in hat unknown, May Nevin, Johnny Connolly, John O'Shea.*



Majestic Hotel.

In October, we were given a slide-show by Larry Kenny on his trip to Malawi and Tanzania.

In November, we had our quiz night set up by Eddie and it was a huge success.

Preparations are now under way for our annual Christmas Party, to be held in the Anner Hotel, Thurles,

preceded by Mass in the Augustinian Abbey Fethard.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who in any way helped us financially or otherwise to keep our club going.

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

## Fethard Country Markets



*Hannie Leahy, founder member of Fethard Country Markets in 1947, is still a very active member and is photographed above baking bread for the Friday morning market, held every week in the Town Hall Fethard.*

Since 1947 the country market is held in the town hall every Friday morning from 8 o'clock to 11 o'clock. The helpers and suppliers are there to have everything in order and ready to greet the customers.

The quality of produce is excellent

and to prove it, some of our suppliers have won all the top prizes in the local shows, for vegetables, jams, marmalade and confectionary.

The sale of cut flowers and plants, local honey and farm fresh eggs are in big demand.



Country Markets Limited was established in 1946 by the Irish Homespun Society and the Irish Country Women's Association. As both the Irish Homespun Society and the Irish Countrywoman's Association carried charitable status it was not possible to trade on an individual's behalf. Therefore Country Markets Limited was established as a totally independent registered co-operative Society and was affiliated to I.C.O.S. (Irish Co-operative Organisation Society) in early 1947.

The aim of Country Markets Limited is to market by co-operative means, producer member's good fresh quality farm, garden and home produce and traditional crafts using

our natural resources. Marketing co-operatively in this way it is hoped to enhance family incomes.

The first branch market opened in Fethard, Co. Tipperary on 17th January 1947 and is still in operation. That both original markets are still trading is in large part due to the rigid operating systems the two national organisations use. Currently there are 54 branch markets around the country. While the primary purpose is to enhance the home and farm income we also believe in a vibrant rural life and help promote it in every way available to us.

Greetings to our friends overseas. We look forward to your visit when home in Fethard. ●

### *Fethard Carnival 1946 — 'Kilnockin Races'*



*Kilnockin Races at Fethard Carnival 1946 L to R: Ned Maher, Dinny Looby, Noddy Hennessy, Biddy Henahan, Betty O'Donnell, Sean Henahan, Joan Goldsborough, Mary Anglim and Monica Kenny.*



## Fethard Ballroom Ltd.

Fethard Ballroom had another successful year with full bookings each night. Groups catered for include: On Your Toes; Girl Guides; Scouts; Under Age Irish Dancing; Keep Fit Classes; Martial Arts; Cards; and Adult Dancing Classes.

A dancing competition in aid of South Tipperary Hospice, with a special perpetual trophy in memory of our late chairman, Mick Aherne, was held in May. This event raised €2,000 and was a most enjoyable night with competitors coming from far and wide. Two 'Card Nights' were also held in aid of parish funds.

The wanton interference of the Fethard Heartsafe Programme's Defibrillator box outside the hall and removal of this life saving equipment, cost of replacement and repair, necessitated that CCTV be fitted for security reasons which gives twenty-four hour, seven-day, recorded coverage of all activities happening around the Ballroom.

As well as the usual maintenance

on the hall, which keeps the committee busy, the day-to-day accommodating of all the groups and individuals using the ballroom would not have been possible were it not for our good friend Shem Butler, who, often at short notice, would get a phone call to open the Ballroom for someone or other, to take out tables and chairs, etc. Shem never quibbles as to the hours / time he has already put in, no questions are asked, he just accommodates all the groups' and individual's various requirements.

Ballroom committee: Gay Horan (chairman), Monica Aherne (treasurer), Robert Phelan (secretary), Sheila O'Donnell, David O'Donnell, Breda Spillane, Sean Spillane, Pat Horan, Margaret Phelan, Paddy Hickey and Seamus Barry.

To the groups, clubs and individuals who supported the Ballroom we say thanks. To all the people of the parish and beyond we wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. ●



*Having a chat in Burke Street some years ago were  
L to R: Pat Mullins, Dinny Walsh, Jimmy O'Shea, Shem Butler and Joe O'Dwyer.*



## 27 Tipperary Scout Group *by Robert Phelan (Group Leader)*



*Scouts and Cubs from the 27th Tipperary Scout Group photographed with leaders at the St. Patrick's Day Mass held in Holy Trinity Parish Church Fethard.*

Fethard 27th Tipperary Scout Group has forty members, twenty-nine youths and eleven adults (three committee members and eight leaders). This year on St Patrick's Day the full group paraded to 11am Mass in Holy Trinity Parish Church as they do annually. The group also provided a guard of honour for the May and Corpus Christie processions.

Leaders and committee had their annual day out when they went quadriging to Castlemartyr, followed by a bit of grub in Sadel's restaurant in Fethard and finishing up in McCarthy's.

During the year we had many hikes and participated in all county events. We held a number of week-ends away, one in June to a group camp in Srahan Scout Centre, Co Laois, which was a great weekend. Scouts took part in a hike over the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The Cubs learned some new skills and cooked

their lunch on a Latvian fire. Fifteen scouts and their leaders attended.

Our annual two-week camp was held in Templetown, Co Wexford, where we were joined by Ardfinnan, Clonmel and Kilsheelan. Surprisingly we had reasonably good weather. It was a good camp with many activities and scouting skills were put to the test in many disciplines. Fethard scouts also went to Oakwood Adventure Park in Wales for a day.

We ran an open sports day in the Boys' Primary School where we set up kitchen and marquee tents, cooked burgers, sausages, and served rolls and minerals, which were provided by the school. We organised a number of events and ran them as bases. This went down very well with the pupils and was most appreciated by the school principal, teachers and parents.

Fundraising this year included a flag-day and a church gate collection.



We erected our kitchen tent for the annual mass in Calvary Cemetery. Over the year our marquee was erected no less than eight times: Rosemary Ponsonby, P. Walsh, Pony Club, Mass on Slievenamon, Fethard Historical Society, Fethard Rugby Club, and St. Patrick's Boys' Primary School. We are always happy to be of assistance and are most grateful for donations received in respect of same. We had our 'Twelve Days of Christmas Draw' with the Cubs, having a better result than with the Scouts. We should really encourage them to make a better effort as all monies received go to the respective Cub / Scout / venture by way of savings.

We purchased some equipment during the year, mainly three gas fridges and three light-weight two-man tents of mountain-pursuit quality. As stated earlier we had a Group Camp in June and as a result of purchases made in recent years we wanted for nothing. This made our camp very efficient and we could now 'go-it-alone' even for our annual camp, which we will most likely do in 2010.

We had an unexpected flying visit of nine scouts and two leaders from Germany, having got off the boat in Rosslare they set about getting to Mount Melleray (on foot). After five days walking they landed in Fethard and needed somewhere to set up camp and rest for the night. Following contact with our group, we approached Rosemary Ponsonby at Grove, who without stopping to draw her breath,

said bring them to Grove and pick a spot for them. We brought their gear and one leader picked a spot adjacent to the river. The remainder walked and when they arrived the first thing they did was to strip off and jump into the river for a swim. They only had planned for an overnight stay, but with the great hospitality they received they stayed for three days. The hospitality shown by the Ponsonby family was tremendous and very typical of them. Great ambassadors for Ireland.

Rosemary & Harry Ponsonby have, since our formation twenty-three years ago, been most generous in allowing scouts from far and wide (providing they come through us) go through Grove Estate, river and wood, which has been a great source of adventure for all. Over a year ago we made an application to Scout National HQ in Dublin for the 'National Thank You Badge' on behalf of Mr and Mrs Ponsonby. We received approval and a presentation, on our behalf, was made by the County Commissioner at the recent horse-trials in Grove. While it didn't get the hype we had hoped, it was publicly announced via the public address on the day.

We have been donated a second-hand sixteen-seated minibus by Tony Burgess, a very good friend to Fethard Scouts. It is running well and needs only minor repairs. Eoin O'Brien (an ex-scout) is currently doing some work on it, for free, then it will need a service and a DOE (Department of the Environment) test.

We congratulate Sean Cloonan on





*Fethard Scouts carrying the statue of Our Blessed Lady at the May Procession from Fethard Parish Church to the Augustinian Abbey.*

being elected County Commissioner for the next three years. He has a tough task ahead with the normal duties associated with such a post, and also the implementation of the new programme. We wish him well and have no doubt he will make it work.

We have a number of scouts who are eligible to move to Venture Section. While in the past we have had Ventures, we never had a Venture Section of our own. In charge of Venture Section will be one of our most experienced leaders, Philip O'Donnell.

John Walsh, ably assisted by Michelle, will take over the running of the Cub Section from Sean. I, with the help of Mikey McCarthy and Dermot Culligan, will continue to run the Scout Section. We would also welcome any help in running the group.

We wish a speedy recovery to our

treasurer, Mary O'Donnell, who is making very good progress after her recent operation.

Many thanks to all who helped with the many meetings/events, the parents of all the boys and Sean Quigley for transporting our equipment to and from Srahan Scout Centre, Co Laois, and up and down to Grove Wood. A special thanks to Tony Burgess who has on so many occasions helped us in many ways, not to mention the minibus. A very special thanks also to leaders, Michelle, John, Lofty (Sean), Philip, Mikey and Dermot for being so generous with their time and patience; to John McCarthy who is having some time out currently building his nest and preparing for the 'big day'. We wish him well and look forward to his return in due course; to our committee chairperson, Mary Healy, our



treasurer, Mary O'Donnell, and to our outgoing secretary, Peter, many thanks for all your services. Were it not for all of you, nothing could be done and the Cubs, Scouts & Ventures would not have the fun and training that they get. Hopefully this will stand them all good stead later in life.

We formally welcome on board our incoming secretary, Mary Lynch. I've known Mary for some years and have no doubt she will be a great asset to our group. To all the people of the Parish and beyond, we wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. ●

## THE SOLDIER'S TREE

*The Soldiers Tree is a song recorded by Joe Giltrap in 1999 recorded on a CD of the same name. It featured fifteen original compositions written or co-written by Joe and received enthusiastic reviews, thus further enhancing his reputation as a songwriter. Joe was born and raised in Leixlip, Co. Kildare, and moved to London in the early seventies, where he continues to gather fans worldwide as his music spreads through radio in Ireland, UK, Australia, USA and Canada. Further information from his website: [www.joegiltrap.com](http://www.joegiltrap.com)*



Photographed at the 'Soldier's Tree' are L to R: Conor O'Donnell, Donal O'Rourke, Mick O'Neill, M.J. Ryan, Derry O'Dwyer and Matty Tynan

### The Soldier's Tree

By a Tipperary roadside  
There stands for all to see  
A monument to life and death  
They call the soldier's tree

And a few miles out from Cashel  
In this green and lovely land  
A soldier prayed beneath a tree  
Took his life by his own hand

Sometimes he is seen at dead of night  
As he stands beneath the tree  
Preparing his last moments  
To ease pain and misery

They say the road was different then  
Lying further to the west  
When the soldier left his column  
To take his final rest

They cut the bough that ended life  
And time has eased the pain  
Of that day in Tipperary  
When a broken soldier died in vain





*Photo believed to be taken in 1930s L to R: Gerry Lee, Loughcapple; Nell Pollard, Grangebeg; Jim Corr, Slievenamon; Mick Prout, Slievenamon; Jim Lee, Loughcapple and Patricia Lee (holding dog), Loughcapple. (photo supplied by John Lee)*



*Kitty McCarthy and Louis O'Donnell photographed at Fethard Dance in the 1950s*



*This photo was taken in the late 1950s in Josie Kane's Pub, Killusty, of Pat O'Keeffe, Kiltinan, assisting Johnny Pollard, Quartercross. (photo supplied by John Lee)*



*Presentation Convent c.1955 photographed with Sr. Victoire are L to R: Miriam O'Brien, Olivia Schofield, Dorothea Schofield and Mary Slattery. (photo supplied by Miriam O'Brien)*



*50 years ago — 'The Babes in the Wood' programme 1959*

MARY IMMACULATE HALL,  
PRESENTATION CONVENT,  
FETHARD.

Annual Pantomime

“The Babes in the Wood”

Presented by  
THE PUPILS OF THE PRESENTATION CONVENT  
ON  
SUNDAY, DEC. 6th, and TUESDAY, DEC. 8th  
1959, at 8.15 p.m.

Matinee : Sunday, December 6th, at 3 p.m.

CORBETT'S, GLONMEL



*50 years ago — 'The Babes in the Wood' programme 1959*



## PART I



### 1. "In Old Kentucky."

M. Brennan, E. Curran, D. Darcy, R. Fergus, M. Gallahue, I. Houlihan, H. Houlihan, A. Healy, M. Kennedy, E. Leahy, M. Loneragan, C. Mockler, N. Morrissey, M. Murray, P. O'Neill, N. Ryan, M. O'Shea, A. O'Shea, G. Schofield, A. Slattery, T. Skehan, M. Sayers, B. Sheehan, M. Teehan, B. Treacy, N. Tobin, M. Walsh, B. O'Meara.

### 2. Recitation : "Josephine." P. Quinlan.

### 3. Dutch Folk Dance.

G. Barrett, K. Gunne, A. Hurley, B. Kenny, A. McCarthy, A. Sayers, E. Scanlan, P. Sheehan.

### 4. Percussion Band. Pupils of Standard III.

### 5. Italian Folk Dance.

M. Bergin, M. Carey, D. Hackett, B. Hurley, B. Lucey, M. Lucey, E. Mackey, M. McCormack, M. O'Connell, M. O'Flynn, B. O'Rourke, R. Scanlan.

### 6. Monologue : "Thank Goodness I'm At Home Again."

E. Scanlan.

### 7. Dance—Ring of Kerry.

G. Barrett, K. Gunne, A. Hurley, B. Kenny, A. McCarthy, P. Quinlan, A. Sayers, P. Sheehan.



Dances: Mrs. Le Gear and Miss H. O'Connell.

INTERVAL—(10 minutes).





*50 years ago — 'The Babes in the Wood' programme 1959*



**PART II**



**THE BABES IN THE WOOD.**

BARON BASKETTE ... .. A. CUMMINS

BARONESS ... .. N. CREAN

THE BABES:

DOT ... .. M. O'CONNOR

DASH ... .. H. DILLON

NURSE ... .. M. HANLEY

THE ROBBERS:

ROUGH ... .. T. RYAN

TOUGH ... .. U. RYAN

FAIRY QUEEN ... .. J. O'BRIEN

FAIRY MESSENGER ... .. P. DELAHUNTY

GUARDIAN OF EVERGREEN GLADE:

WINKIE BINKIE ... .. M. LAWLESS

FREDA FIREFLY ... .. J. COFFEY

ROBIN REDBREAST ... .. B. O'BRIEN

JENNY WREN ... .. P. McLELLAN

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FAIRIES: M. Coffey, M. J. Flynn, M. Gannon, L. Grant, E. Hayes, F. Kenrick, E. Lawless, J. Leahy, J. Nevin, E. O'Donnell, D. O'Flynn, P. Quinlan, M. Ryan, K. Trehy, M. Williams.





*50 years ago — 'The Babes in the Wood' programme 1959*



**COUNTRY DANCE:** C. Flynn, M. Hanly, M. Kenrick, A. Mockler, E. O'Shea, A. Purcell, M. Ryan, P. Sayers, A. Sheehan, S. Walsh.

**CHORUS:**

**VILLAGERS:** M. Bradshaw, A. Bradshaw, K. Byrne, A. Coffey, A. Fitzgerald, M. Fitzgerald, O. Flanagan, C. Healy, S. Kennedy, C. Kenny, B. Mullins, J. O'Flynn, M. O'Donnell, M. Purcell, T. Quinlan, B. Ryan, M. Shine, H. Shine, A. Smyth, B. Trehy, P. Leahy, M. O'Shea, A. McCarthy, J. Kennedy.

**SAILORS:** A. Coen, G. Delany, T. Leahy, J. Lonergan, M. McCarthy, E. McCormack, E. Nevin, C. O'Connor, M. O'Dwyer, A. O'Meara, E. Ryan, A. Smyth, M. Walsh.

**MOONBEAMS:** C. Allen, C. Allen, B. Byrne, F. Flynn, B. Grant, G. Heffernan, P. Kelly, A. Kenrick, N. Harrington, P. Long, A. Madigan, K. Maher, M. Mulligan, L. Quinlan, M. Sayers, P. Sayers, M. Sharpe, M. Shortall.

**FIREFLIES:** J. Coffey, J. Dargan, B. Harrington, L. Kenrick, J. McCarthy, P. O'Connor, M. Slattery, D. Whitfield.

**ROBINS:** A. Coen, C. Dargan, C. Heffernan, M. Fox, P. Morrissey, A. Mullins, J. Smyth, U. Sharpe.

**DREAM CHILDREN:** A. Aherne, J. Burke, E. Callaghan, M. Cummins, M. Delany, M. F. Donovan, M. Donovan, M. Hayes, F. Hayes, M. Murphy, M. F. O'Connell, H. Reardon, M. Scanlan, J. Smyth.

**INDIANS:** M. Burke, P. Coen, E. Delahunty, H. Delany, D. Donovan, T. Donovan, P. Henahan, H. Holohan, M. Kenrick, T. Kennedy, T. McCarthy, A. Maher, P. Smyth, J. Smyth.



**ACT I—Baskette Hall.**

**ACT II—Scene I: Evergreen Glade.**

**Scene II: The Babes' Dream.**

**Short Interval.**

**ACT III—Later, in Evergreen Glade.**





## Fethard Players



*Fethard Players cast of 'Any Number Can Die' photographed on stage after their very successful six-nights performance in the Abynill Theatre. L to R: John Fogarty, Mia Treacy, Matt O'Sullivan, Deirdre Dwyer, Pat Brophy, Jimmy O'Sullivan, Marian Gilpin, Colm McGrath, Anne Connolly and Gerry Fogarty.*

This year's production, 'Any Number Can Die' by Fred Carmichael was a huge success. It opened on 6th November 2009 and played to full houses for six nights. A fast moving comedy, bordering on farce, the 'who-dunnit?' theme went down a treat with the audiences, as did the two 'busybody' sleuths, Hannibal Hix and Ernestine Wintergreen, played by Colm McGrath and Anne Connolly.

Characterisation was colourful and strange – the colourful ones being Mia Tracey, John Fogarty, Pat Brophy and Matt O'Sullivan and the strange ones being Marian Gilpin, Gerry Fogarty, and of course the murderer 'supreme' – Jimmy O'Sullivan. The youngest, and newest, member of the cast, Sally, was played by Deirdre Dwyer, and it was with great pleasure the Fethard Players welcomed her, and enjoyed

her performance.

The set and backstage management was excellently carried out by Michael McCarthy and our backstage crew were Ger McCarthy and Agnes Evans on props, Gemma Burke and Rita Kenny on continuity, Ann Marie O'Sullivan was on make up and Christy Mullins, our caretaker, was always there to assist. A trojan undertaking was that of Johnny O'Connor on sound and lighting. Front of house was diligently carried out by Josie Fitzgerald, Trish Ryan, Paul O'Meara and Jimmy O'Shea.

Angela Dillon White spoke on behalf of the Fethard Players on closing night and of course, last, but by no means least, huge congratulations are extended to our producer, Austie O'Flynn, who worked so tirelessly to make his play the success it most surely was. Onwards to the next! ●



# A look back at Lisronagh N.S.

by James O'Mara

*He's gone to school wee Hughie,  
An' him not four;  
Sure I saw the fright was in him  
when he left the door.  
He took a hand of Dinny  
and a hand of Dan,  
With Joe's auld coat upon him  
Oh, the poor wee man"*

— (Elizabeth Shane)

My earliest memory of Lisronagh National School is being escorted there on that first morning by my sisters, Eileen and Sally, and delivered into the hands of school mistress, Mrs Hannon. It was in the early forties.

In retrospect it would seem that I had much in common with 'Wee Hughie' as described in 'The Ballad of Wee Hughie' by Elizabeth Shane. The school, a long single story building was located right on the corner of the Clonmel/ Fethard and Donoughmore roads. It was typical of the two-room, two teacher school, so common throughout rural Ireland in the middle of the last century. At the far end of the building were two outside toilets of the most primitive kind and a stable used to accommodate the priest's pony and trap when he came to say Mass in the adjacent chapel.

Electricity and running water had not yet reached the Lisronagh area.

Mrs Hannon greeted us new arrivals with some sweets from a tin box a, "Come into my parlour, said the spider to the fly," gesture, no doubt. She came to Lisronagh from Dungarvan as a young girl straight from teachers training college. Influenced by the proximity of the Waterford Gaeltacht area her use of the Gaelic language was rich and beautiful, and coupled with a sweet singing voice she soon had a reputation of being a gifted

teacher. She guided us through the formative stages from infants, senior infants, first, second and third class at which stage we moved up to the master's room.

Mr O'Connor, whose wife taught in Powerstown School, was a native of County Cork. I remember him as a grey haired middle-aged man who cycled out

from Clonmel each morning in fine weather or foul with a brown case on the carrier of his bicycle. Later on he would graduate to a little black Baby Ford and it was not unusual on wet or very cold mornings to see him arrive with a car load of children picked up along the way.

On Monday mornings before classes would commence he would



Mr E. O'Connor



open a small cupboard and we would line up as customers to purchase perhaps a copy book, a pen, a nib for a pen, pencil or blotting paper, none costing more than a few pennies. Roll call would be taken mid morning and absentees of the previous day were required to account for their absence. Apart from sickness, thrashing days, fair days, pig killings or potato picking were legitimate excuses.

When it came to the subject of English Mr O'Connor instilled in us his absolute passion for the written word be it poetry or prose. Seated at a table with his back to the fire we would form a half circle in front of him and read like a relay team, picking up the last word when your name was called. The story came to life from the page as we read and so we walked the fields and woodlands of Co. Derry with a young Benedict Kiely through his "Boyhood of a Naturalist" and relived the anguish yet rewarding experience of the Chinese father Ho-Ti and his son Bobo through Charles Lamb's "A Dissertation upon Roast Pig". For the Master, poetry reading was not just reading it was also a lesson in elocution. We recited favourites such as, "The Owl and the Pussy Cat", "The Daffodils", "I will go with My Father a Ploughing" and we set sail

with the poor misguided wanderer in search of "Hy Brasil, the Isle of the Blessed", only to sadly die with him "on the waters away, far away"

Geography he also made easy and attractive to us as we stood and studied the old faded maps on the walls. We drew our own maps tracing the Volga, the Ganges, Amazon and Murray-Darling Rivers and marked in faraway romantic places like Barcelona, Montevideo, Chicago and Santa Cruz.

Friday afternoon was a relaxed time when the girls retreated to Mrs Hannon's room to be taught knitting, darning and needlework. Meanwhile the boys had time for quiet revision while a few volunteered for the daunting task of cleaning the toilets or making ink and refilling the inkwells, sometimes with messy results!

Even now when in a reflective mood I will still think of Mrs Hannon and Mr O'Connor and realize the huge debt of gratitude we, their scholars, owe them. As teachers of their time their resources were basic and minimal compared to teaching methods of today. Yet they equipped us with a sound sensible education as we left the dear old school to venture out into a bigger intimidating and competitive world.

They had given us quite a head start. ●



*Mrs May Hannon*



## Mervyn Colville - Glasnevin

by Vincent Murphy

Mervyn Colville, a native of Fethard, is a member of the executive management team with the Glasnevin Trust, a not-for-profit charitable organisation that oversees five cemeteries, two crematoria with monument and florist outlets in each location, within the Dublin area. The main cemetery is Glasnevin, founded in 1832 by Daniel O'Connell, the Kerry politician that fought for Catholic Emancipation in the 19th Century. The cemetery was opened with the aim of allowing people of all denominations and none to bury

their dead with dignity, as services at the graveside were not allowed at that time, including proper burial rites. It started as a nine-acre site and now encompasses over 120 acres. Glasnevin, however, is more than just a cemetery. It was, for many years, Ireland's only crematorium. It is also a very important site in Ireland's history, with over one million people interred, from all walks of life – famine, cholera, infants and the good and the bad of Dublin. I was fortunate enough to get a guided tour of the cemetery from Mervyn.

"Funding under the National Development Plan in association with the OPW has enabled the Trust to

restore large sections of the cemetery to its former glory as a 'Victorian Garden Cemetery', though there is so much work that could be done, we would love some more money to help us with that!" said Mervyn, as we toured a section of the cemetery that has been restored in the past few years. The headstones in the renovated section stand straight in stark contrast



*Mervyn Colville walking in Glasnevin Cemetery*

to the neighbouring section with its headstones slumping forward and backwards in old age, at a variety of angles, often bearing chips and breaks. It looks like a very daunting job, which will

take years if not decades to complete. Maintenance of the 6 kilometres of pathways alone on the one hundred and twenty acre site, just to get to the graves, seems like a mammoth task.

We then visited some of the cemetery's more well known graves, starting with that of the writer Brendan Behan and his wife Beatrice. Unless you have one of the cemetery maps or a guide, this grave would be hard to find, but there is one unique marker on the headstone, a large circular hole, big enough to hold a pint glass. Legend has it that this hole was left so that friends and admirers of the late scribe could stop at the grave and use the hole in the headstone as



a bar counter whilst enjoying a pint in honour of the man who quaffed more than a few pints in his day. A more plausible reason for the hole is that there was once a brass plaque there, which fell off, leaving the hole, but the former is a better story . . . so that's the one that will go down in the folklore surrounding Behan.

Other names of interest include Eamon De Valera and his family in a large but modest plot which lies

a short distance from the grave of Michael Collins, which Mervyn remarked, is the most visited grave in the cemetery and which always has fresh flowers from his many admirers resting

upon it. His former love, Kitty Kiernan, rests just a short distance away. As we walked this section, the republican plot in the cemetery, name upon name familiar from the school history books appeared. Many were very young, some killed in battle, some executed by the Crown and some assassinated by their own. It's a stark reminder that this country was forged in blood less than one hundred years ago.

One can't help but notice the high walls that surround the cemetery upon arrival at Glasnevin, with what look like sentry towers at intervals along the perimeter. Mervyn joked that they were put up to prevent him escaping, as he had no idea that he would still

be working in Glasnevin twenty years after he had answered an ad in the paper upon graduation from college. It is clear as we walked through the cemetery that Mervyn really enjoys his job, so we know that this is not true. The walls and towers were there to stop a more sinister practise, graverobbing! The recently deceased were valuable to the "Resurrectionists" or "sack-em-ups" (as the graverobbers were commonly known), first

for the valuable jewellery that may have accompanied them to the grave and secondly for their bodies which were in great demand for medical studies in the halls of academia around

Dublin City. The initial guards in the towers were armed with guns, but some proved over zealous, shooting at anything that moved in the vicinity of Glasnevin, so the guns were replaced with dogs, much to the relief of the locals. The practise of robbing the graves has long died out, but the tales remain as part of the history of the cemetery forever.

We then stepped in to what is the future of Glasnevin. The new museum, as I write, is half built but due for opening in March/April 2010. Mervyn pointed out the various aspects of the new centre, which, once finished, will be very impressive – including an interactive exhibition center, res-



*Mervyn Colville at Daniel O'Connell's tomb*



restaurant and retail outlets. It will serve a number of roles, incorporating the past, present and future of the cemetery. The cemetery is still a working cemetery with many burials and cremations taking place every day, but it also has a large number of visitors ranging from tourists to academics to people trying to research their lost ancestry. The job in the future is to keep all of these working in unison, but at the same time maintaining a distance between the grieving families and the tourists taking snapshots. The new visitor centre will provide this, as well as housing the archives that are currently being scanned to allow online access to the files in the future.

As we stood in what will soon be an exhibition space and looked across

the acres of stone crosses, markers and mini chapels, we could see the roofs of the buildings in the Botanic Gardens next door. Mervyn explained that the red tourist busses that visit the major attractions of Dublin City don't travel the two miles out of town to Glasnevin and the Botanic Gardens, but that the Trust plans in the future to run their own busses from the city centre to visit Glasnevin, the Botanic Garden's and Croke Park.

Anybody interested in learning more about Glasnevin can take the tour of the Cemetery with one of its resident historians, which begins at 2.30 every day and lasts around an hour and a half or look it up online at [www.glasnevintrust.ie](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie) ●



*Fethard Festival entry 'To the Waters and the Wilds' in the 1970s  
L to R: Evan Colville, Alan Colville, Mervyn Colville and Eugene Colville*





*Photo from the 1960s L to R: Leo Beirne (Manager Provincial Bank), Cautious Cummins, Dick Holohan, Jack Willis, Fien Willis, Tom Moloney and Joan Anglim*



*Photo at Larry Keating's retirement. Back L to R: Jack Freeman (Vét), Paddy Anglim, Angela Anglim, John Harrington. Front L to R: Joan Anglim, May Keating, Larry Keating, Dr. Paddy Stokes and Mrs Freeman.*



*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 20 Years Ago — July 1989*





*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 20 Years Ago — July 1989*





*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 20 Years Ago – July 1989*





*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 20 Years Ago – July 1989*





## Whispers from the past

*by Tommy Healy*

Over thirty years ago I was obliged as part of a course I was doing to read a slim volume called "Medieval People" by a much loved and highly regarded social historian called Eileen Power. In it she chronicled the daily lives, not of kings, queens or statesmen of Medieval Europe, but of ordinary people. These, often by sheer accident, had left accounts of their existence or someone had described them and their lives. The book tells the story of, among others, Bodo, a peasant living at the time of Charlemagne, Thomas Betson, a fifteenth century wool merchant and Madame Eglentyne, the prioress or mother superior of a convent as described by Chaucer in *The Canterbury Tales*. All would not otherwise have figured in any history of a period which deserves to be better known and the book provides a fascinating insight into their lives and thoughts.

I suppose that one way we can discover how our own forebears lived in the recent past is by the records government compiled on them. This year the National Archives put the 1911 Census of Population on the internet and this I have been devouring with much interest and enjoyment.

Reading the entries for Fethard and its surrounding countryside brought me back over fifty years to a time when many of the characters, who were obliged to enter their details at the government's behest, were still

alive. I learned who their parents and grandparents were and I have been taken back over one hundred and fifty years in many cases. It has been strange to think that some listed in this document were alive at the time of the Famine, that many had lived through the campaigns for agrarian reform like the Land League. Many would have seen figures like Parnell and lived through the First and Second Home Rule Bills for the third such attempt at self-government was in preparation as the census was being taken following the November General Election of 1910. There had been another such poll at the beginning of that year and the outcome of both ballots was to give the Irish Nationalist Party led by John Redmond the balance of power in a hung parliament and, as a result, the political clout to get home rule for Ireland reintroduced at Westminster.

The entries for my own family have been very informative. Living on The Green was my great grandfather, James Healy and his wife Mary. He was sixty seven, she, sixty nine, their years of birth being 1844 and 1842 respectively, the Famine being imminent though few, at that time, suspected that such a tragedy could happen. His occupation is listed as labourer, her's as dairy maid/domestic servant. Neither could read or write as stated in the section of the form covering education. Living with them was their son Michael, my grand uncle Mick who died in 1966 and their



daughter Katie. Mick's occupation is given as groom/domestic servant for he was employed by the Tipperary Foxhounds as a whipper-in. Katie does not list an occupation and here listening to Mick talking about her nearly fifty years ago brought back memories. Katie had emigrated to the USA early in the century and had, he told me, returned briefly 'before the war', the First World War. She was back on holiday in April 1911 and was shortly to return to America never to see Ireland again. The signature on the return is James Healy and it is in a firm hand so I suspect that Mick or Katie signed on their father's behalf. They state that they had ten children of whom seven were still living. From talking to Mick I had learned that twins, Michael and Mary, born, I have since discovered, in 1873 had died in infancy and these lie buried in Kilmaclugh Cemetery, just beyond the New Bridge on the Grove Estate. The third to die was, I suspect from my researches at the Tipperary Family History Research Office in Tipperary Town, a child listed as "Christian name unknown", and born in October 1883. Is the "unknown" the result of faded hand-

writing in the parish records or was he/she baptised in great haste, only to die soon afterwards?

Living in one of the many lodge houses at Grove, the one near the entrance to the railway line, were my grandparents, Thomas and Catherine Healy. His occupation is given as groom for he worked on the Grove Estate for Mr Richard Burke, master of the Tipperary Foxhounds. He died in 1937 but my grandmother, of whom I have strong memories lived until March 1955. They had at this time six children, of whom the youngest was my father. His age is given as 18 months. His brother Michael was to follow a few years later bringing the total to seven children,

all of whom I knew so well. The last to depart was Kitty who passed on a few years ago at 97.

What surprised me about this census was the fact that Peppardstown covers a wide area of countryside from Ballybough to Tinakelly. It takes in Crampscastle, Everardsgrange, Kilnockan, Knockkelly, Redcity, Rocklow and Spitalfield, to name but a few. Living at Rocklow are Mr Clement Carroll, his mother and a household



*Local social historian Brendan O'Gorman from Mullinahone and William Lee from Loughcopple studying extracts from the 1911 Irish Census Record.*



staff including an Englishman, Henry Walker who is listed as butler. Mr Carroll gives his occupation as 'gentleman'. He was to employ at various times both my father and Uncle Michael. At Kilnockan there is the Trehy family, then as now engaged in farming. Living with them was Tommy Fogarty who I mentioned in a previous article some years ago. Also at Kilnockan is the Neville family, like the Trehys involved in farming. Living on the Killenaule Road are Jim Halley, his wife Bridget and infant son Patrick. Jim I remember well from my childhood and I remember attending his wake when he died back in the early 1950s. At Crampscastle lived the Phelans who farmed where Billy still carries on that trade. I remember well Ned and Alice and occasionally went into town to get some shopping for her. Further on lived the St Johns, Jim, Mary and Peg. All are listed on the census. None married and so the name died out and the farm passed to Mr Fenton nearly forty years ago. My grandmother often sent me to buy eggs from them and I was occasionally treated to a mug of tea and a slice of cake as Peg counted them out and packed them.

In Fethard itself many names appear of whom I have no recollection whatever from my time growing up. Names like Weir, Sawyer, Triphook, Thurstan and Cockings I cannot recall ever having encountered. However, Lonergans are listed as conducting the trade of 'Wine and Spirit Merchants'. Patrick, his wife Joanna, son William

and daughter Margaret live where the business is still situated with two shop assistants and a servant residing with them. Clearly they conducted a substantial and, no doubt, prosperous business. Many years ago Paddy showed he some ledgers dating from around that time and I remember that much business was done with the military barracks, especially for whiskey for the mess. Living at number 59 was the Schofield family who carried on the trade of grocer and publican. They had four children and the name which instantly stands out for me is that of James Schofield who so many of my generation will remember as Fethard's veterinary surgeon. In 1911 he was 13 years old. Number 1000 Main Street is the Military Barracks, then housing 115 members of the Royal Field Artillery. Most of the soldiers are listed as having been born in England, a few are Irish, some are from Wales and Scotland and there is a lone New Zealander who lists his previous occupation as seaman. He must have left or jumped ship to enlist. The police station lists just one occupant, a Sergeant OC, fifty years old, previously a farmer who had been born in County Kerry.

Moving to Burke Street we find that a Richard Cecil Patten is residing at number 22 with his wife Ida, daughter Ruth and two servants. He was, of course, Canon Patten, Church of Ireland rector, long serving clergyman of the parish and a still very kindly remembered benefactor of the town. His enterprise provided employment





*The Healy family, formerly from The Green, photographed together when all six met in Fethard this year.  
Back L to R: Jim, Tommy, Ed. Front L to R: Catherine, Concepta and Ann Healy.*

during some of the most economically depressed decades of the century, a Christian gentleman in the fullest sense of the term. Why he is residing in Burke Street I do not know; was someone else in possession of The Rectory? Number 24 is the residence of the Kenrick family, parents John and Margaret and children Margaret, Edward and Christopher. John I remember vaguely but his wife I knew well for she was a friend of my grandmother, kept a shop in Burke Street where I bought sweets and lemonade and, occasionally, Thompsons' cream cakes when I could afford them. She was organist at the Abbey for more than half a century and is buried in

the Abbey Churchyard along with her son Gus who died just a few years ago and who had a distinguished military career. Her son, Edward, who is listed, became an Augustinian priest, was posted to Australia and died in 1938 at a very young age. At number 25 lived the Finn family whose sons, Bill and Tom I well remember. Both were painters and carried out some very fine work around the town. Tom could produce a very fine grain on wood and I once watched him do an exquisite job on the door of the Provincial Bank.

Living at number 29 The Valley was Thomas Bulfin, his wife Catherine and their eleven children. He lists his



occupation as cattle dealer. Listed also are his sons Ned, Michael and Jim. These, in the days before milk came in bottles or cartons, were responsible for providing Fethard's milk supply. Jim, I believe, often rose at 4 a.m. to get the cows rounded up and milked and I well remember Michael calling with his milk can with the long spout and dispensing the several pints my mother needed to keep us fed. Ned owned the land on which the Strylea housing estate now stands and I have happy memories of walking the lane which parallels the Killenaule Road and seeing Ned's herd of cows grazing those fields. In 1911 Ned is aged 8, Michael 10 and Jim is 5. Were they to be still alive all would now be receiving telegrams from Aras An Uachtarán.

I have not counted how many souls lived in Fethard at that time but I suspect the population must have been far higher then than now. There were more small businesses with their attendant employment and the military barracks must have created considerable demand. The 1951 census accounted for a population of just over 900 in the town, the last count revealed around 1300. What happened to all those listed as residents in 1911 and their families for large numbers of surnames which appeared then appear no longer. How many left during the 1916-26 period, and why, is currently the subject of learned investigation by Dr Andy Bielenberg at UCD. I would like to see the full fruits of his research when they become available. The political upheavals of the 1920s, the

economic devastation of the '30s and the period 1945-60 all took a heavy toll on the population of rural Ireland. George Thompson in a later preface to his translation of *Twenty Years A Growing* referred to the ruinous depopulation of South West Ireland and hoped that a solution might not long be forthcoming. The current economic meltdown may set the depopulation process in train once again, but I hope not. It might be better to stay at home and raise hell for real economic and social reform rather than emigrate and get the scoundrels who created the mess off the hook. Emigration was long portrayed as the inevitable consequence of British misrule. There has been an Irish government in charge for more than 80 years so that reason no longer applies. In fact such a government presided over one of the greatest outflows of people in Ireland's history, that of the post 1945 period. To get the country out of its present mess requires a breadth of vision and an ingenuity of approach which none of the present tawdry, squalid shower possesses. Until the country wakes up to this reality, understands that the old attitudes of, "I'm all right, tough about the rest" will sink everybody, only more upheaval and misery will result. There is a Chinese curse which says, "may you live in interesting times". Ireland at the current time seems to have fallen victim.

I return to Eileen Power's *"Medieval People"*. In it she recounts most sympathetically the careers of some ordinary folk who pursued their



everyday lives, doing their best and making an impact where they could. They did their work, raised their families and helped those around them. At the beginning and end of the book she quotes from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 44, which begins with, "let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us" and goes on to quote a later passage of that chapter; "and some there be which have no memorial; who are perished as though

they had never been and become as though they had never been born; and their children after them." Like Eileen Power's *Medieval People* those who are listed in the 1911 Census have "no memorial" save the inscription on some gravestone in some part of Fethard or elsewhere. Like the ordinary folk who lived nearly a thousand years ago their lives meant something and we should remember them for what they were and did. ●



*Dance in the Town Hall in the 1950s*



## A small world!

*by Jim Trehy*

Wherever one travels in Australia, there are reminders of the history of transportation and linkages to Irish political life in the nineteenth century when even small penalties resulted in a sentence of penal servitude in Australia and Tasmania.

Some years ago, while staying with a farming family whose roots were in Co. Clare, I came across a story that stretched back to Clonoulty and also to the village of Killusty in Co. Tipperary. Near the farming town of Boorowa in New South Wales, there is a Redemptorist Monastery in an area known as Galong Castle. This is where my host family, the Cusacks, went to Sunday Mass. It was customary for the family members to visit the graves of their deceased relations after Mass and I was shown where the parents of the then head of household were interred.

I wandered through the cemetery reading the various nameplates and could not but notice the many Irish names. One headstone almost escaped my notice but I did see the nameplate and address. It read in large print:

ELLEN NAGLE RYAN  
Born Killusty Fethard  
Died March 1856 at  
Galong Castle.

My curiosity was aroused and I asked Mrs Cusack about the tombstone and she introduced me to the priest in charge of the Monastery.

He brought me to the Library of the rambling establishment and gave me a book entitled *The King of Galong Castle - The Story of Ned Ryan 1786 - 1871*.

This book, he said, was written by a colleague priest, Father Max Barrett, and it detailed the story of Ned Ryan and eleven other men who were deported from Tipperary in the year 1816 for taking part

in the destruction of the infirmary at Ballagh, Clonoulty, which had been designated as a barracks for the Royal Irish Constabulary and was about to be occupied in order to control "Whiteboy" activity which was rumoured to be very active in the area.

It was already noted that at least one murder in the Clonoulty area had been put down to the activities of this secret society some months previously. The murdered man was an agent of



*Jim Trehy*



the Rev. Robert Carew Armstrong whose job was to collect tithes from the local tenant farmers for the Rev. Carew Armstrong.

The story that unfolded for me was fascinating and I was amazed that I had not heard about it in Ireland. Twelve men were arrested for taking part in the demolition of the house at Ballagh and also for being implicated in the murder of a landlord's agent named Dwyer. On the evidence of the brother of the murdered man, one person, Patrick Keogh, was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death.

Eleven others, including Ned Ryan, were sentenced to deportation to Australia where they were to serve seven years penal servitude for, among other charges, "throwing down the house of the Governors of the County Infirmary which was taken for a barrack."

The death sentence on Patrick Keogh was carried out at Ballagh on the 20th January, 1816. The remaining eleven conspirators were sentenced on the 22nd January and were transferred to Cobh to await transportation. In July they boarded the three masted schooner, The Surrey, and landed in Botany Bay in Australia on December

16th in the same year.

Ned Ryan was assigned to a farm surveyor and farmer named James Meehan who, fortunately for Ned, was a kind and helpful person. In the course of his work Meehan discovered the Goulburn Plains, a very fertile and well watered area and here, Meehan acquired a property in the early 1820s. Ned Ryan was appointed Superintendant on the farm and was there until the 1830s. It is on record that Ned was a squatter on land in the Galong area of Goulburn before he left Meehan's employ.

Then began the business of building up of a pastoral farming empire which Ned excelled at. It is on record that, in 1840, he

controlled upwards of 15,000 acres of land at Galong and that his farming enterprise consisted of 355 acres under cultivation, 990 head of grazing cattle, 8832 sheep and 49 horses.

While building up this empire, he helped other members of the Ballagh gang to get established as squatters on lands beyond Galong and stretching to the settlement of Boorowea. His cousin and fellow conspirator, Roger Corcoran, acquired lands near the town of Boorowa and the river which flows through these lands is known as



*Ned Ryan 1786-1871*



the Corcoran River.

Today, the town of Boorowa could be any town in Tipperary. The names of its citizens reflect the influence of Ned Ryan on the settlement of the area. Costelloes, McGraths, Hacketts, Lahys and Ryans all figure in the political, economic and social life of the area.

None, however, form a direct line back to Ned Ryan, the King of Galong Castle. Ned's wife Ellen finally joined him at Galong in January, 1847. She was accompanied by Ned's surviving son, John, and daughter, Anastasia. It is not known how Ellen Nagle Ryan managed to put together the money to fund the passage of herself and her family to Australia at such a difficult time in Ireland - the height of the famine period.

It is clear that Ned Ryan, for some unknown reason did not assist Ellen and her family to come to Australia and the mystery remains to this day. But, having arrived, Ned did all in his power to make life as easy as possible for the family. Galong Castle was built to accommodate the new family. John was made Manager of a large tract of Ned's land on the Western extremities, an area now known as Geraldra.

Ellen Nagle Ryan and her daughter lived in Galong and took up residence in Galong Castle when it was completed. Neither John or Anastasia married and so there was no direct issue to carry on the large business that the father Ned had worked so hard to set up. John, however, became involved in politics and was duly elected to the first Legislative Assembly of the State of New South Wales. He did inherit the estates at Galong and, since he had no issue, willed it to the Catholic Church when

it became a Redemptorist Novitiate, at one time housing up to 70 novices for the Order.

So ends the story of Ned and the quiet lady from Killusty, Ellen Nagle Ryan. But not so Ned's cousin, Roger Corcoran. Roger's descendants still carry on a very large farming empire near Boorowa, which embraces vineyards, pastureland and cultivated areas. There are also big interests in Sydney made up of hotels and commercial properties.

The Corcorans too, prospered in their new country even though they came as felons to the shores of Australia. That is another story for another day. ●



*Ned Ryan 1786-1871*





*Youghal Stadium 1976. Chris Mackey receiving trophy after his dog 'Mick the Rallier' won the Trainmore Sweepstake. Also included in the photograph is Eddie Wade, the dog's trainer, the bank manager and the late Derek Wall.*



*Presentation Convent 1st Class 1956. The girls are: Teresa Leahy, Dolores Moore, June Kennedy, Ann Wall, Concepta Healy, Biddy Mullins, Ann Smyth, Teresa Quinlan, Peg Sayers, Angela McCarthy, Veronica Tobin, Frances Kenrick, Joy Lonergan and Mary O'Dwyer. Photo supplied by Frances Hetterley (Kenrick).*





*This photograph, supplied by Jean Collins (O'Brien) was taken in July 1988 of the late Sr. Agnes O'Brien OSU, Ballinard Wood and New York, with her two brothers, Pat O'Brien (left), The Valley, and the late Bill O'Brien, Ballinard Wood, on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee in religious life. Sr. Agnes' niece and Pat's daughter, Sr. Margaret O'Brien OSU, is the current General Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk and is based in Brussels, Belgium.*



*Paddy Fitzgerald from Wrexham, North Wales sent us this photograph, taken on his 82nd birthday, with his great-grandsons, Liam age 12 and Charlie age 7. Paddy formerly lived in The Green and St. Patrick's Place and left Fethard in 1948.*





*Tom and Eileen Purcell and family photographed after David's First Communion. Back L to R: Elaine, Eileen, Tom. Front L to R: Patricia, David, Yvonne and Barry.*



*Tipperary fan, Patricia Purcell, photographed with the McCarthy Cup in the Burlington Hotel in 2001 after Tipperary beat Galway in the All-Ireland final by 2-18 to 2-15.*



## *Pat Aylward Memorial Shield at Killusty Soccer Club - September 2002*



*Runners up in the sixth annual 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition' September 2002 were Back L to R: Katie Ann O'Byrne (Cashel), Jason Lawrence (Fethard), Daniel Conroy (Clonmel). Front L to R: Padraig O'Shea (Fethard), Aisling Slattery (Killenaule), Alan Lawrence (Fethard) and Adam Lyons (Fethard).*

*Finishing in third place in the 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition' September 2002 Back L to R: Patrick Kearney (Killusty), Owen Condon (Fethard), Michael Feeney (Clonmel), Brian Anglim (Cashel). Front L to R: Owen Dillon (Fethard), Emily Aylward (Naas) and Yvonne Slattery (Killenaule).*





## *Pat Aylward Memorial Shield at Killusty Soccer Club - September 2002*



Winners of the 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition', confined to juvenile players under/14. The 2002 competition, which attracted over 100 players annually, was won by this draxon team. Back L to R: Stephen O'Meara (Fethard), David Connolly (Fethard), Lory Kenny (Fethard). Front L to R: Tony Myler (Fethard), Sean O'Casey (Dualla) and Sinead Lee (Killusty).



Finishing in fourth place in the sixth annual 'Pat Aylward Memorial Shield and Trophy Competition' organised by Killusty Soccer Club were Back L to R: Ciaran Ryan (Fethard), Liam Tobin (Fethard), David Lee (Killusty), Lorraine Feery (Killusty). Front L to R: Shane Power (Cloneen), Robert Anglim (Cashel) and Kelly Aylward (Bray).



## Fethard & District Day Care Centre



*Photographed at Fethard & Killushy Community Council / Fethard & District Day Care Centre volunteers function at Slievenamon Golf Club are L to R: Michael Walsh, Kay Walsh, John Pollard, Pauline Morrissey, Geraldine McCarthy, Des Martin and Jimmy Connolly.*

Christmas comes around very quickly and once again we will try to keep you up to date on all the activities happening at the Day Care Centre. At this time of the year we are getting ready for our Christmas Bazaar. Our clients start making Christmas cards and Christmas decorations as early as February and our knitters are busy knitting throughout the year. Our bazaar takes place on the last Thursday of November.

Last year we held our 2008 Christmas party at Slievenamon Golf Club, which was very enjoyable. Our art classes continued in February. Art is very popular throughout the year in the centre. It is very therapeutic. We also continue with our exercise classes every day and we all feel the benefit of keeping our joints supple.

We had a full programme throughout the year. We attended the opening of the Bealtaine Festival for older people in Cahir House Hotel on Thursday 7th May.

A concert in association with Tipp FM Radio was held in aid of the centre on Friday 8th May in the Abymill Theatre. 'Closure', an up and coming 'boy band', were the main attraction, supported by our own superb local talent. All associated with the concert gave of their time and talents for free. We thank you all most sincerely.

Our holiday this year saw us in Lisdoonvarna in May. We were a bit early for the Matchmaking Festival but we enjoyed good food, good company and good weather. Our summer outing took us to Waterford where we had a tour of Dunmore East



and Tramore. We dined at the lovely Woodlands Hotel and we were lucky with the weather.

In October the Clonmel Lions Club invited us to an afternoon tea party in the Park Hotel, Clonmel. We had a fabulous afternoon with lovely food and great entertainment.

We still continue to provide our very popular 'Senior Day', where our elderly neighbours who do not attend the centre can avail of a chiropody service, district nurse, and also enjoy a hot meal for a minimal charge.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, committee members, Patrician Presentation Secondary School transition year students, who together

continue to try and provide the best service possible for our clients.

The Day Centre committee, as follows, meet once a month: Jimmy



*Jimmy Connolly, Chairman Fethard & District Day Care Centre, making a presentation to Thelma Griffith to mark her dedicated voluntary service over the past 14 years to Fethard & District Day Care Centre.*

Connolly (chairperson), Fionnuala O'Sullivan (secretary), Liam Hayes (treasurer), Carmel Rice, Breda Nolan, Desmond Martin, Marie Murphy, Maureen Whyte, Geraldine McCarthy (supervisor) and Michael Cleere (minibus driver).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors who continually help in our fundraising efforts. We wish you all, and our readers, a very happy and peaceful Christmas. ●



*The Gleeson twins from Knockelly celebrated their 70th birthday with friends at Fethard & Killusty District Day Care Centre. L to R: Mary Harrington, Pauline Morrissey, Margaret Croke, Peg O'Reilly, Annie Ryan, Des Martin, Eileen Gleeson, Margaret Thompson, Joan Gleeson, Kitty O'Donnell, Jimmy Roche, Kathy Aylward, Jackie Aylward, Geraldine McCarthy (supervisor), Kitty O'Sullivan and Maggie Sayers.*



## Jimmy O'Donnell's winning entry

*The following is an excerpt from Jimmy O'Donnell's award winning entry, 'A Letter from a Navvy's Room', at this year's Patrick MacGill Literary Competition, Glenties, Co. Donegal.*

### The Dawning of the Morning in Carrigduff

Tá an lá ag tosnú ag breacadh (day is beginning to break)  
And Wall's Rhode Island cock  
Is now flapping its wings majestically  
To crow in a new creation to Carrigduff.  
I hear the crickets warmly chirping  
With their saw-edged legs that is their song  
From behind the burning hearth  
Of peat and brushwood  
In Molly Brown's little hidey-hole  
A privileged place off the brisked-up bar  
A refuge from any surveillance,  
And where the bog-oak mantelpiece  
Is stained with circles of constant art  
From pints roman-collared  
In the jewelled light of the tilley lamps glow  
And where in the half silence  
Literary strangers gather to stamp authority  
On their knowledge about Handel's messiah, Shakespeare,  
Brench and Bach,  
While there is no lack of joy in our listening  
To our own local veterans trumpeting  
The stark realities about their exploits  
At the Somme, Dardanells and green fields of France,  
The dawn rambles on its onward journey  
With thudding thoughts of words  
Written or spoken by one alone  
Can be conversation  
And a way of living.





## Fethard & District Credit Union

We wish all readers of the Annual Newsletter, near and far, compliments of the season at this time of year.

Despite the downturn in the economy we have been kept steadily busy all year. Last year's Annual General Meeting was well attended, and early in 2009 we held a special meeting of an informative nature, attended by the Board of Directors and Kieran Bishop of the Irish League of Credit Unions.

The meeting, in the Tirry Centre, was very well attended and Mr Bishop informed the members that the Board of Fethard Credit Union, with the veto of the members, would enter into ongoing negotiations with Clonmel Credit Union, regarding transfer of engagements. This would mean that, with the consensus of both Credit Unions involved, Clonmel would take over the running of Fethard, probably early in 2010.

This was not a decision taken lightly, but would be for the enhancement of facilities for our members. At this moment discussions are still ongoing.

The Annual General Meeting of the League was held in Killarney this year and was attended by the chairperson Marian Gilpin.

Board of Directors: Marian Gilpin (Chairperson), Eddie O'Brien (Secretary), Catherine Healy (Treasurer), Catherine O'Connell, Kay Spillane, Jacinta O'Connell, Elizabeth McLaughlin and Philomena Morrissey.

It was with regret we had the deaths of Canon Jim Power, Honorary President, and Percy Dillon, a former director. May they rest in peace.

Opening Hours: Tuesday from 7.30pm to 8pm (loan applications); Fridays from 10am to 12 noon; and Saturdays from 7pm to 8.30pm. ●

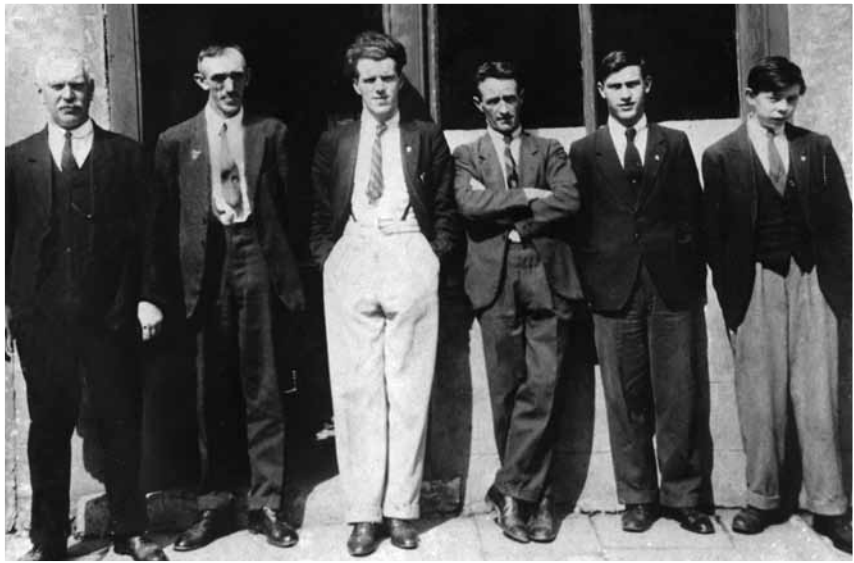


*Main Street 1999 L to R: Derek Wall, Don O'Connell, Sean Spillane, Jim Barry and Paddy Heffernan*



## Tailors fit for a president!

by John Cooney



*O'Flynn's Drapery in the 1930s. L to R: Paddy O'Flynn, Bill Morrissey, Billy O'Flynn, Mark Carey, Joe Farrell and Tommy O'Donnell.*

Side by side in Burke Street sit two of the finest shop fronts in the town. These old vernacular wooden crafted shop fronts are beautiful compositions even though they are now seen more in historical terms or as a contrast to the glitzy neon lights of the ultra modern chain store. In 1986 the Ua Floinn shop won the Bord Na Gaeilge Award for best shop front in the country and even to this day it is always a well-dressed window. But then again, it would have to be, for its business since 1898 has been the provision of men's clothes and a tailoring service to the locality.

Paddy Flynn, who came from Lisonagh and whose own father was a journeyman tailor, commenced busi-

ness there in 1898 and this business has survived through three generations. Paddy married Margaret Morrissey from Tullamaine and two of their eight children, Billy and Jimmy, followed their father into the business. Jimmy focused on the shop and on the customers while Billy was the trained and credited tailor. At the beginning of the last century all towns would have had a tailoring service as cloth had to be cut, measured and sewn to exacting standards for each individual customer. Clothes for the most part were hand-made locally by skilled men as women did not traditionally work in men's clothing until the 1950s.

In the early days the business was built up and the children were reared



above the shop. However, there was great turmoil in the country as people lost faith in politics believing that politics could no longer deliver what they wished for and as a consequence the volunteer movement came into being. Paddy was part of this movement and the premises was later to serve as headquarters to the volunteers in this area. During the war of independence many a visitor to the shop was not concerned with sartorial elegance and some of the parcels posted on the continent to the shop might not have met the approval of the garrison stationed on the square.

From the 1930s to the 1960s Jimmy O'Flynn also became the ESB agent for Fethard and many older people will remember paying their ESB bills

in the shop especially on Saturday nights.

One day in the 1950s a Mr White from London visited the shop. Who was he? Well, not alone was he the editor of the Tailoring Magazine but he was also president of the British Tailors and Cutters Guilds. While he was in the shop talking about cloth to Paddy, who was measuring a customer for a suit, an individual from Market Hill burst into the shop and exclaimed, "Quick Paddy the cattle are out on the road." Paddy abandoned the customer, and Mr White, who ran his own business in the West End in London but had not before witnessed the trials and tribulations of the rural tailor, apparently, ever afterwards recounted this incident with



*The above postcard, published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, shows Jacqueline Kennedy riding Sardar (gift of Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan, 1962) at Glen-Ora on 25 September 1962, and her brown and green wool check riding jacket made at O'Flynn's Drapers Fethard in 1967.*



glee. Whatever happened to the customer is not known, perhaps it was a suit of patience that he really needed.

Paddy O'Flynn died in 1959 and his funeral was attended by Mr Eamon de Valera. Paddy and Dev, as he was colloquially referred to, were well known to one another from their days in the War of Independence and from their participation in the Fianna Fail organisation.

Paddy's son, Billy, was also very well known to Eamon de Valera for Billy had served as ADC to him during the troubles and they had been on the run together, both by the way, former Rockwell Boys. After the funeral in Lisonagh, Eamon de Valera held forth in the room above the shop to about thirty people. He explained and outlined to this gathering how and

why in 1919 he had gone to America as a stowaway on the SS Lapland which sailed from Liverpool to New York, and how he tried to respond to the split that took place in the Irish American community. This controversial voyage in his life remains a subject of dispute among historians and this

conversation by De Valera must have been a great talking point for those who attended on the night for Dev was not alone a founding father of the state but the dominant political figure for decades.

In the 1950s and 1960s up to six local women were employed in a premises across the road from the main shop sewing, stitching and making garments.

Great business was generated in these years by the presence of wealthy East Coast Americans who came here to be part of the horse scene and to hunt with the Tipperary and the Waterford hunts. Many prominent legal and business people from the east coast cities, with time and money to spare, would visit each year and became part of the country scene and while

here had their riding costumes made at O'Flynn's. It was and it remains the custom of the shop, however, never to disclose customer details. So you can relax if a bill is still outstanding. However, when put under pressure, the present proprietor Austin O'Flynn concedes that one Jacqueline Kennedy



*Margaret, Rita, Dolores and Cinta O'Flynn c.1955*



or Jacqueline Onassis or Jackie O was one of those Fifth Avenue customers with whom he did business and, yes, she did pay her bill. Though it was to be a secret, many people in the town happened to walk down Burke Street on the day and around the time she was due to arrive, perhaps the presence of American secret service officials in the Post Office gave the game away. Younger readers, if there are any, will have to pinch themselves at this point and remember that there was a time, a dark time, years and years ago, when there were no mobile phones and worse still, even private phones were not readily available.

Jacqueline Kennedy, the widow of the assassinated President Kennedy of the USA, was a glamorous lady who commanded international attention and respect, a trendsetter in the best sense of that expression who is still revered by many Americans. It

was 1967 and she had taken a holiday home in Woodstown, Co. Waterford where she spent some time with her two children. Being part of that rich East Coast community she had heard about O'Flynn's tailors in Fethard and decided to buy an outfit there, so she had to come to be measured and to select her material. Of course, great preparations were made and after she arrived and selected her material, she was invited to the upstairs parlour which doubled as a try-on room. When she saw it, she exclaimed in her beautiful voice, "What a charming room." Was she a hit or not! Her costumes were made and Austin O'Flynn was duly dispatched after a few days by his father to deliver them to her in Woodstown. Today, one of her riding coats in brown and green wool check is to be found in the John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, USA. The pattern used is now in the possession



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

*Tommy was a tailor at O'Flynn's.*



of one of the many avid collectors of memorabilia in the town. It is believed that Jackie O did not ride out in this locality nor did she go for a sherry in any of the local hostelrys but any contradictory anecdotes would be very welcome. It was commented in some of the national press in America that their national iconic fashion figure had been forced to purchase her riding gear in a small town in Ireland.

In 1968 Jimmy O'Flynn died and trends in the tailoring business were about to change dramatically on two fronts. The troubles in Northern Ireland grew more severe at the end of the sixties and as a result the wealthy Americans ceased to come to Ireland and that exciting part of the business abruptly ceased. The arrival of chain stores like Burtons also brought the cheaper ready-made suit to every

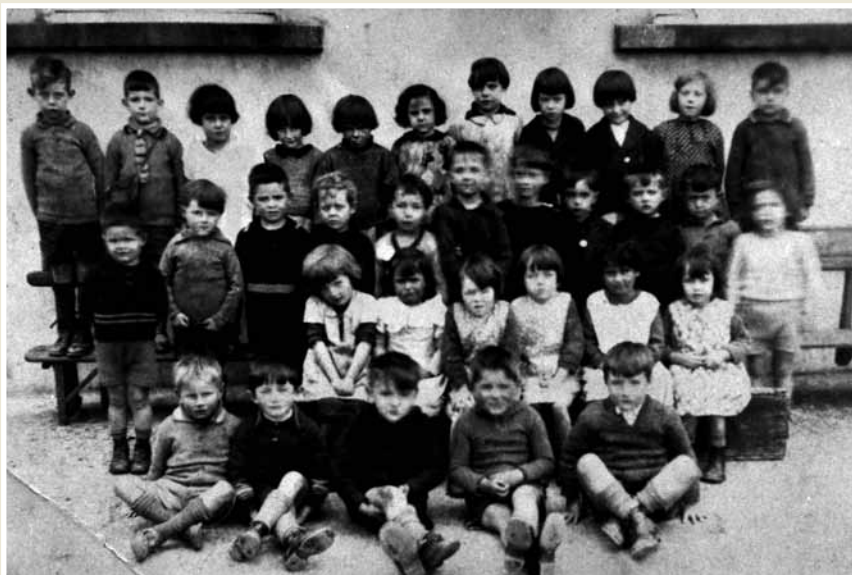
town in the country and heralded a more casual informal approach to men's dress. The tailoring business contracted and what now remains is a fine clothes shop but it does carry some of the best of Irish made clothes. For many years, also, the inside room of the shop has served as general headquarters for the production team of the annual play and sitting by the tiny coal fire and listening to discussions about plays, a feeling or a sensation of a broader world can arise, a feeling of and about matters that exist beyond our own immediate concerns and worries.

What was going on in the premises before 1898 or what will happen there in the future is unknown but the shop has mirrored many of the social, political and sartorial happenings over the past century. ●



*Fethard Tennis Dance in the 1950s Back L to R: Paddy O'Flynn, Betty O'Flynn, Dolores O'Flynn, Billy O'Flynn. Front L to R: Leila O'Flynn, Kitty O'Flynn, Maura O'Flynn and Hayden Plant*





*Fethard school group. c. 1935 (supplied by Joe O'Donnell)*



*Gussie O'Donnell and his wife Rita leaving on the train from Bantry*



## *Looking Back 10 Years to 1999*



*Taking a break from rehearsals at Hogan Musical Society's 'Fiddler on the Roof'—March 1999*



*Having a chat outside the Abbey are L to R: Sean Hanrahan, Phil Tobin and Gus Phelan — April 1999*



## *Looking Back 10 Years to 1999*



*Group pictured at Fethard Historical Society's organised walk from Fethard to Grove Estate which included a visit to 'Tinsley Bridge' and the nearby Kilmadugh cemetery. — April 1999*



*Out for a stroll are Nancy Sheehan, Mary Mullins and Nellie Heffernan — May 1999*



*Looking Back 10 Years to May 1999*





*Looking Back 10 Years to May 1999*





## Badgers Over 30s Soccer & Social Club



*Badgers Club members presenting the proceeds of their 'Round Slievenamon' sponsored cycle to Sr. Winnie in aid of the Presentation Sisters Zimbabwe Appeal. L to R: Liam Harrington, Kevin O'Dwyer, Sr. Winnie, Willie Quigley and Cohn McGrath.*

Looking back on the past year it seems, at first hand, it was a particularly quiet one. We had no major outings, tournaments or big trophies won. Yet, on consulting the AGM minutes held in Butler's Sports Bar on a Saturday evening in April, it seems we actually accomplished all we set out to achieve this year. First we elected Mick Tillyer as our new treasurer, replacing Brian Steedman

who moved to Dungarvan — he has come back since, welcome back Brian. In May we held a table quiz which proved a great night and the money raised was given to Fethard Day Care Centre to help the great work going on there.

A certain 'school teacher' suggested we might do a sponsored cycle around Slabh-na-mbhan, the mountain of the women! When proposed,



*Sponsored Cycle 2009 L to R: Liam Harrington, Neil McCormack, Paul Shanahan and Alan Connolly*



almost everyone seemed enthusiastic about the prospect. Although it was decided on the night who would organise the run and where the money raised would go, it all went out the window in good 'Badger' fashion.

The cycle did go ahead on Saturday 22nd August and we thank all those who took part, especially two non-badgers, John O'Shea and Paul Shanahan. €1,310 in all was raised and donated to Sr. Winnie's Zimbabwean Appeal, which helps provide the most basic of human needs to the poorest of the poor.

Competitive games outside the club were very few this year apart

from a great seven-a-side tournament promoting cross cultures in Clonmel and a tough match against Burncourt, played in Killusty. Our Wednesday nights are going strong in the community field and some great football is being enjoyed by all, though the weather this summer left something to be desired the condition of the pitch was next to perfect.

New members are always welcome, or even visitors to Fethard during the year, why not join us, all you need is to be over thirty, have a pair of boots, and be willing to have a go. See you in the field 'cave canem'. ●●



*'Tipperary Eviction 1886' an entry in Fethard Carnival in the 1950s*



# Marriages

## Weddings in the Parish

*John Paul Cooney, Scotland, and Ailish Sheehan, Garrinch  
Maurice Murray, Gahway, and Kate O'Connell, The Valley  
Robert Paul Kehoe, Cork, and Margaret Walsh, Coolmoynne  
Gerald Connors, Enniscorthy, and Anne Connors, Enniscorthy  
Gearóid Moore, Bandon, and Elizabeth Marie Walsh, Burke Street  
David John Meaney, Piltown, and Marian Kelly, Rathwin  
Gerard Burgess, Lisronagh, and Marie Holohan, Killusty*

## Weddings outside the Parish

*Declan Lawless, Cloneen, and Claire Moloney, Red City  
Joseph Connolly, Coolmore, and Sarah Hogan, Celbridge  
Liam O'Sullivan, Perryville, and Gwen Cooke, Fethard  
Brian O'Dwyer, Strylea, and Rachel O'Carroll, Waterford  
David Gleeson, Brookhill, and Ruth Cody, Dublin  
William Lee, Loughcoppole, and Marie Kinnane, Cork  
Jimmy Butler, Garrinch, and Jennifer Walker, Wicklow*



*Gerard Burgess & Marie Holohan*



*Jimmy Butler & Jennifer Walker,*



*William Lee & Marie Kinnane*



*John Paul Cooney & Ailish Sheehan*



## Fethard's International Boxer

**A** Tipperary, Munster and two All-Ireland titles, what a fantastic second season for our very own Jack Connolly, The Green, who is a member of the well renowned Clonmel Boxing club.

A year to remember for this talented young thirteen-year-old boxer who also received his International Jersey, and wore it with pride representing Ireland both at home in Dungarvan against England and abroad at the European Championships in Russia.

Apart from the international competitions, the National Boxing Stadium in Dublin

was home to Jack for most of the summer, as he was part of the Irish high performance team. Here the training is very intense and diets and weights are extremely strict. By being cute and skilful you can win fights, but you also have to watch your weight and being on the scales four or five times a day is not unusual for Jack, who for the coming season will be boxing at 52kg.

A very popular young man both at club and national level, Jack trains very hard, sometimes up to five times

a week, but the hard work and determination is starting to pay off with the growing list of honours he has already won. He also won many 'boxer of the tournament' awards during the past year.

Boxing can be a lonely sport where

you have no team mates to console you after a defeat. Jack handles himself brilliantly, dusts himself down and gets on with the next fight, attributes that all go into the making of a great boxer.

From Clonmel Boxing Club to the National Boxing Stadium, and International competitions from

Dungarvan to

Russia, Jack is a credit to the sport of boxing. His conduct both inside and outside the ring is a credit to his club, national team, and last but not least, his family. Jack has achieved so much in such a short space of time, we are confident that many more national and international titles are just around the corner.

We wish you success and most importantly safety in the coming year. 'Gracious in Victory - Humble in Defeat'. ●



*Photographed at Clonmel Club L to R: Olympic silver medallist Kenny Egan, Irish gold medallist Jack Connolly, and European Union gold medallist Con Sheehan,*



## Emigrant's poem from 1800s

*This is the message sent by an Irish mother to her son in America. It was given to a neighbour's boy, Denis O'Neill, who was going to meet her son in America. At that time, the 1800s, most people who had the chance to emigrate, seldom, if ever, returned to their impoverished homeland.*

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

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

*Be sure you tell him how the neighbours came,  
To cut the corn and stored it in the barn.  
It would be as well to mention them by name:  
Pat Murphy, Ned Magroo and James Macarrie,  
And big Tim Daly from behind the hill.  
But say, my lad, O say we miss him still.*

*Tell him poor Pincer fretted many a day,  
Poor old collie, sure he would have liked to die.  
Crouched by the roadside, how he watched the way  
And sniffed at the traveller as they passed him by.  
Hail, rain or sunshine it was all the same.  
He listened for the foot that never came.*

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

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

*— supplied by Bill Cantowell, Florida, USA*





*Jamsey Gleeson and his sister Molly Cantwell, Knockelly, on their way to mass. 1931*



## Do You Remember . . . 1979?



*Pope John Paul II arriving at Dublin Airport on 29th September 1979*

Was that the year you got your Leaving Cert., or your degree from University? Did you get married that year, or was it the year your first child was born? Yes, women readers will remember, vividly, the year their first child was born. For all our lives the dates of the special events remain with us, but the little everyday things can be forgotten. I do hope that the few items I have written about below will jog your memory and make you say, 'How did I forget that'.

It is most unlikely that you have forgotten the visit to Ireland over a weekend in September by Pope John Paul II. Did you travel to the Phoenix Park on Saturday 29th in the bus run by local man Eugene Walsh? Or were you one of the many that travelled overnight to Ballybrit Racecourse outside Galway for the Papal visit on the following Sunday? Do you still remember shivering in the mist and

fog as you arrived at dawn at the racecourse? Do you recall being entertained by Father Cleary and Bishop Casey, men that have since gone down in flames? And the flames of idealism that were lit on that glorious weekend have, sadly, long since died.

But other little pleasures came the way of Fethard. The Fethard football team beat (2-9 to 0-7) Clonmel Commercials in the South Division's Senior Football final. John Kane was both captain and star on that occasion. Over that year John, who was then a Garda at Tullamore, had given sterling service to both his native town and his county. His services to local football won him the title of Player of the Year 1979. He was presented with his award in Clonmel on Wednesday 12 December.

Another Fethard football stalwart received justified notice that year. At the end of January Sean Moloney



received the Cidona Sports Award as the Tipperary Footballer of the Year. At the date of the presentation Sean was still captain and chairman of the Fethard club, and at the local club's dinner dance held in Cashel on 26 January before about 300 people Sean was given a standing ovation and presented with his county championship medal. The sad news for the attendance on that night was that Sean was retiring from football. In the February following Sean was presented with an award at the Tipperary Sports Stars presentations held in Clonmel.

Sean had been a young player on the football team which won the county Senior Football title at Cashel on 6 October 1957 against Loughmore. On that occasion Fethard won by 2-4 to 1-4. In 1978 when Fethard came to participate in the county championship Sean was now the captain. The latter game, against Galtee Rovers, was played at Cashel on a beautiful warm Sunday on 1 October, and the final score was 1-8 for Fethard and 0-9 for the opposition. Sean was one of the consistently good players on the day. Incidentally, in 1979 Fethard were beaten by Galtee Rovers in the quarter finals held in Clonmel.

In the September of that year Sean's father, Willie, died. Willie was himself a lifelong supporter of local football and hurling; a great tradition that he handed on to his two sons, Sean and Walter.

While Gaelic games were enjoying success the same could not be said about badminton in the town, even

though the club had been in existence since 1946. The club throughout 1979 was not getting the young and enthusiastic membership which it needed to keep it viable. Indeed, so weak was the membership that the club could not field a team in that year's County Badminton league competition.

However, Fethard itself was being improved. In January the County Council were making efforts to give the town a much needed face-lift. The facade of the Town Hall was being improved and some extra street lighting was being erected, especially on the Rocklow Road. About the same month an archway was being opened for pedestrians through the old town gate at Sparagoleith. As motor traffic had increased walking through the existing archway was becoming difficult and dangerous. When the masonry for the new archway was being taken down it was discovered that the demolished area was of a much later construction than the gateway, giving a sort of proof to the English translation of Sparagoleith as 'gate and a half'. As the old County Council were winding up their affairs (new Council elections were due that year) they made £2,000 available for the provision of an amenity park at The Valley.

Likewise the general appearance of the town was beginning to improve. Dowling's Pub in Watergate Street had a new owner as did the old laundry building next to the church and the curate's house next door to that. The new owners were carrying out various renovations. On the other side



of the church the houses once occupied by Sergeant Byrne and Paddy Greene also acquired new owners.

Since 1978 the Community Council had been actively working towards the improvement of the town and had high-lighted services that were badly needed. According to their report at that date the town lacked such facilities as a good quality restaurant, a geriatric home, a barber shop, a shoe-repair shop, a laundrette and a craft shop. They were expressing the hope that private enterprise would create those essential service resources. In 1979 the Council was devoting the greater part of its efforts to improving the community hall in Barrack Street. The sum of £6,500 had already been spent on the structure and on 12 February the members received a grant of £1,920 from the County Council. The Community Council was encouraging an anti-litter campaign and the entry of the town into the Tidy Towns competition. At their annual general meeting this year the very active Father John Stapleton (then president of Muintir na Tire) was elected president of the Council with Jerry Skehan and Jimmy McInerney as chair and vice-chair.

In June of that year there were European and County Council elections. While electioneering in south Tipperary that year Mr. Tom O'Donnell of the Fine Gael party landed in a small plane at Fethard Airfield at Coolbawn. There to welcome him was Mr. Michael Smyth, the owner of the field, and Mr. John Holohan

who was then seeking re-election to the County Council. At the latter election John topped the poll on the first count; the quota was 1,270 votes and he received 1,455. It is worthy of note that in that election seventy-eight per cent of the electorate in the Fethard area turned out to vote.

While the County Councillors were being attentive to the needs of Fethard – a local election was a great encourager of local projects – the old Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs, not having to seek any sort of mandate, was not so accommodating. Residents of the Killenale Road area had approached the Dept. to request that a telephone kiosk be erected in that area. They were met with a firm refusal. Looking back from a mobile-phone world of 2009 it is hard to comprehend the pressing need for a public telephone. And yet we should remember that it would have represented the only verbal contact that a mother would have with her loved ones abroad. Even in that year many homes were still without a telephone. How convenient the nearby public phone would have been on a cold winter's night, when that mother would so wish to have a few words with a son or daughter far away. However, hard economics and not sentiment motivated Posts and Telegraphs.

But in those lean times the state was often not in a position to help, which meant that volunteer effort had to be part of life. Fethard had experienced some of this. A co-operative housing society was in place in 1979



and the hope was being expressed that a second scheme of housing could soon begin. Fethard was also fortunate in having a volunteer fire service under station officer John Whyte. Over that 1979 they dealt with seven fires.

In that year of 1979 Fethard also enjoyed the benefits of other voluntary organisations. One such was the Fethard Players. This year they presented Agatha Christie's 'Murder at the Vicarage' in the Town Hall from Wednesday 4 to Sunday 8 April. As happened on so many other occasions the production was directed by Austin O'Flynn. The performances began at 8.30pm on each night and the admission price was £1. On this occasion the Players had a most

financially successful production with a full house on each night. Austin received well-deserved acclaim on the final night. The performers that year were Carmel Rice, Marian Mulligan (who was also chairwoman of the Players), Joe Hanly, Geraldine Hayes, Billy McLellan, Mary O'Connor, Rita O'Connor, Angela Dillon, Jerry Skehan, Billy Kenny, Joe Kenny, and Paddy Kenrick. Did we really ever give a thought to the hours and hours of boring rehearsals held in a cold hall which they had to endure so as to give us a week of wonderful entertainment?

And there were other entertainments. Courtney Brothers Circus was in Fethard on Tuesday, 4 September. They were advertising their four-pole



*Fethard Players cast of 'Murder at the Vicarage' 1979 production staged in the Town Hall.  
Back L to R: Billy McLellan, Joe Kenny, Joe Hanly, Austin O'Flynn (producer), Jerry Skehan, Billy Kenny,  
Jimmy O'Shea, Paddy Kenrick. Front L to R: Carmel Rice, Angela Dillon, Marian Mulligan,  
Rita O'Connor, Mary O'Connor and Geraldine Hayes.*



big top marquee in which they entertained with jugglers, clowns, performing dogs, horses and acrobats. They offered two performances on the day and all disabled children were admitted free. The show of chrysanthemums and autumn produce was held in the Country Club ballroom on the afternoon of Thursday, 18 October. The proceeds of this went to charity. In this year there was a very successful Flower and Garden Club which had been flourishing for the previous four years. Over that period the members had been instructed and coached by various knowledgeable gardening people. One such was the head gardener from Clonmel Corporation. In that year the members had been taken on a tour of the delightful Botanic gardens at Glasnevin, Dublin. They were also honoured by being asked to decorate Kilcooley Church in July for the Festival of Praise.

Another organisation which provided entertainment and instruction for the women of the town and countryside was the I.C.A., which like the Fethard Players was long established. Their big event in this year was the unveiling of a plaque at Clare Bridge, Killusty on Sunday, 12 August. This was to commemorate the first Summer School of the I.C.A. which was held in 1929 (the local branch had been established in the same year) on the slopes of Slievenamon. At that first school about eighteen women trekked up the mountain to camp around a hut then owned by Dr. O'Connell (father of Helen and Phyllis) of Fethard. The

camp was a pioneer effort at Adult Education and the young women at the camp made handicrafts with local materials. They also entertained themselves with singing, dancing, recitations and readings, slept on sacks of hay, and washed in a nearby stream. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Olivia Hughes and also served as a memorial to her work for Irish country women. Clare Bridge spans the Anner and was a romantic choice for a plaque which was the work of the Holycross based sculptor Thomas Karl Dietrich. All who attended the event then went to a nearby field for a picnic lunch.

Those who had made their lives in the south of England were not forgotten. The annual Fethard/Killusty London reunion took place on Friday, 26 October at 36 Willesden High Road, London. As always, old memories were revived and nostalgic stories told. Country people also had their few hours of entertainment. The local branch of Macra na Feirme held its annual field evening on Friday, 22 June in the Mart premises. The evening's show consisted of open stick-judging, farm management questions, and home management. But other things did not come to pass. The Tipperary Foxhounds did not hold their opening meet in Fethard – a great tradition going back many years. The meeting had to be postponed because a viral infection had broken out among the dogs. Instead the opening meet was held at Hoare Abbey Cross on Wednesday, 14 November and the



## Unveiling of ICA Plaque 12th August 1979



Pictured above is Mrs Olivia Hughes unveiling a plaque at Clarebridge, Killusty on Sunday 12th August 1979. The plaque was unveiled to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of An Grianán, the College of the Irish Countrywomen's Association in Co. Louth. The unveiling also marked another very historic occasion - the very first Summer School of the I.C.A., which was started on nearby Slievenamon in 1929 by Mrs Hughes and the ladies of Fethard I.C.A. guild. Mrs Hughes, who was past National President of the organisation, regaled the gathering with a vivid account of those early days, when twenty women trekked up the mountain where they camped out, some were lucky to find accommodation in the hut. While there, members shared their knowledge of the various crafts and generally enjoyed themselves mountain-climbing and fishing. Mr. Thomas Dietrich, stone carver, who designed and made the plaque, thanked Mrs Hughes for her kind remarks and Fr Noonan P.P. congratulated the I.C.A. on their success.





pack was led off by the Master, Michael Higgins, and First Whip, Michael Flanagan.

The big entertainment event of that year was the three-day festival which was held between 29 June and 1 July – a Thursday to a Sunday. The event was sponsored and organised by the Fethard and Killusty Community Council. Earlier that year the Council had taken the decision to restore the old festival in a new and revamped form, and the results were a fashion show in the Country Club ballroom on the Thursday night, which had been organised by the I.C.A., an auction of furniture in the Town Hall on Friday afternoon and a football tournament and a tug-o-war in the Sportsfield that evening. On that night there was a Supper Dance in the ballroom from 10pm until 2am. The music was supplied by Mel O'Driscoll and his orchestra. On Saturday night there was a disco in the same ballroom with Danny Hughes. The fancy dress parade was held on Sunday afternoon. It started out in Kerry Street and wound its way through the Main Street to end in the Sportsfield where the judging took place. It was led by Cashel's Bishop Dermot O'Hurley pipe band. Later in the Sportsfield there were many side-shows among which was a volley-ball competition, relay races for boys and girls, and sack races. The whole event was a very successful one and made a profit of £2,250.

Fortunately, local young men and women were also getting work locally.

By now Coolmore Stud Farm was firmly established. Also, a factory was in operation on the Kilnockin Road. This was Lydon House Exports which was producing such things as hamburgers, and in this year had an output of about 10,000 packets per day. In the main it was packaging and exporting choice food to Germany. It was giving full-time employment to about twenty men and twenty women.

The big news event of that year was the burning of Kiltinan Castle which had recently been renovated by a wealthy American industrialist, Mr. Ogden White. The actual burning took place on 6 November 1978, but the trial of the young, unstable man from Clonmel did not take place until August 1979 when all the background detail became readily available to the public. Mr. White submitted a claim for one and a half million Irish pounds to compensate for the damage.

Death, too, came to Fethard. Mr. Eddie O'Neill, a national teacher at Cloneen, died in February. He was married to Peggy Goldsborough of Fethard and was father to Mrs. Connolly the present postmistress in Fethard. In his day Eddie was a first-class sportsman, especially in handball, hurling and tennis. But he was best remembered for his long association with the Fethard Players for whom he was a talented actor, a producer, and a gifted script writer. He also took a part in pantomime productions. He had a fine singing voice and was a stalwart in the Fethard Men's Choir. In short, during his



*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 30 Years Ago – July 1979*





*Fethard Festival Fancy Dress Parade 30 Years Ago – July 1979*





days in Fethard he offered his talents unstintingly. Members of old native families also died during the year. Ciss Casey of Abbey Street, Harry Sayers of St. Patrick's Place and Tom Browne of Burke Street, were three such. If memory serves me right, both Harry and Tom worked for Henehan's on the Main Street. The man who supplied milk to Fethard for years, Ned Bulfin, died in this year. Captain Arthur Curtin of Tullow, Killusty, died in September. His wife, La Walsh Curtin, was a native Fethard person, who made a number of contributions to the Newsletter; one, in a recent issue, was an account of her late husband. La herself died recently. A widely known figure, Larry Keating, horse trainer, of the Main Street, died in a Dublin nursing home on Friday 21 September. He was buried in Calvary cemetery. Long before Fethard became famous for the breeding and training of horses Larry was 'Mr. Horses' in the town.

Another old native of the town who died in March was Tommy Tyrrell of The Valley. Tommy devoted his life to the motor trade and obtained his first driving licence as early as 1916. It was said of him that he drove the first motor bread delivery van in Waterford city. Tommy also had the distinction of being an old I.R.A. veteran, having served as a Volunteer in the Fethard area. He lies buried in Calvary cemetery.

Another veteran of the War of Independence died in this year. He was Mr. William ('Billy') O'Flynn of Burke Street. He died on 3 May and

was buried in Lisronagh cemetery. Incidentally, his father was the subject of an essay in the Newsletter of 2008. At the beginning of the War of Independence (1919-1921) Billy O'Flynn was still a schoolboy attending the Patrician Brother's school in the town. At that time his father was actively associated with the political side of the Irish Volunteer movement and his brother, Jimmy, was an officer in the 3rd Tipperary I.R.A. Brigade. Billy's grandfather had been a Fenian, so Billy was reared in a strong nationalist household.

While still young Billy became a scout for the Fethard Company of the Volunteers. At school he was friendly with two boys who had connections with the police and military in the town. The father of one was the head constable of the local constabulary and the father of the other was a warrant officer in the barracks. This gave Billy an opportunity to enter both places where he gleaned much information that was of value to the I.R.A. which he passed on to Jerry Whelan of Crampscastle or James Keating of Brookhill.

Out of this scouting work developed the idea of forming a branch of Sluagh Fianna Eireann (similar to the Boy Scouts) in the town. When Countess Markievicz visited Fethard for a few days in 1920 she stayed with Pdraig and Mrs. O'Floinn and was told about the local scouting group. She suggested that it be put on a proper footing and affiliated to her national organisation. Soon after





*This photograph was taken in March 1979 of a group leaving Larkins Hotel, Clonmel, by minibus for the three-day national hunt festival at Cheltenham. Included are: Mrs and Mrs Donal O'Sullivan, Mr and Mrs Jackie White, Miss Mary White, Mr and Mrs Eddie Holohan, Tom Purcell, Derek Wall, Joe Hayes, John Burke (Lisronagh), Sean Henehan, Margaret O'Brien, proprietor of Corrig Travel, Carrick-on-Suir and Laurence O'Donoghue (Clonmel) who drove the group.*

an official branch of the Sluagh was created and Billy was appointed as captain. The Sluagh held parades and drills in the fields about Fethard; by then it had a membership of about fifteen youths. A small weekly subscription was taken up which was used to purchase whistles and belts. The group acted as scouts when the local Volunteers were training on Kilnockin Hill or Market Hill. Another of Billy's duties was to convey small arms to various Volunteers; this was possible as the Crown forces did not pay much attention to the activities of young boys. He recalled taking arms to a 'dug-out' at Carrigbawn. Other missions involved lengthy cycling trips conveying information between I.R.A. units. Boys such as Billy were of great benefit to the I.R.A. in the War of Independence and are hardly mentioned in the histories of the period.

On a more mundane level Billy's shop in Burke Street was the first to sell pasteurised and bottled milk which was bottled in nearby Clonacody. Billy was also a staunch member of the

Fethard Players, and old readers will recall his grand dame in the pantomimes.

In the same year Father Thomas A. Cooke died. He was a well-known figure in Fethard where he had spent fourteen years (1955-1969) as curate. When he died unexpectedly at the age of fifty-eight he was parish priest of Cappamore, Co. Limerick. He was a native of Knockaney, Co. Limerick, and had studied at St. Patrick's College, Thurles, and the Irish College, Rome. He was ordained a priest in 1943, but was unable to return to Ireland until 1946 because of the Second World War.

The year ended with the death of John Tobin of Kilnockin who died on the 27th of December, having endured a long illness with great fortitude. His was a most kindly, genial and helpful disposition. Sadly, he left a wife and a baby son. He was buried in Killusty.

Another year of joys and sorrows had come to a close. ●

*by Michael O'Donnell.*



## *Leaving Cert Class 1979 – 30 Years Ago*



*Secondary School 'Pupil of the Year' award 1979 L to R: Sr. Carmel, Jimmy McNerney (President Past Pupils Union), Paul Murray (Pupil of the Year), and Bro. John Gallagher.*



*1979 Leaving Cert Class & teachers Ms Deborah Comoay, Mrs Molly Maher, Mr Michael Dalton, Mr Paddy Maher, Mr Dick Prendergast, Mr Vincent Doocey, Mr Jimmy McNerney (President PPU), Mr Paddy Broderick, Mr Timmy O'Connor, Mr Michael O'Gorman, Bro James Foley, Sr. Carmel, Br. John Gallagher.*



*Presentation Leaving Cert Class 1979. Back L to R: Mary Lyons, Catherine Ryan, Lucy Wyatt, Carmel Millet, Sr. Carmel, Theresa Keane, Margaret Newport, Mary O'Donovan, Geraldine Anglin, Mary Ryan. Front L to R: Georgina Phelan, Mary Meehan, Frances Morrissey, Geraldine Hayes, Suzanne Maher, Catriona Ward, Mona Ahearne and Noreen Trehy.*



## Fethard Senior GAA Club

We had a very disappointing year in terms of winning South or county titles in both football and hurling. It's the fourth year only in the past twenty-eight years that we haven't secured some silverware for the club.

### Senior Football

Operating with a limited panel and carrying injuries we reached the South final against old rivals Moyle Rovers, finishing on a scoreline, Moyle Rovers 0-14, Fethard 0-08. Moyle Rovers went on to win the County Title.

### Junior A Football

We headed the League section of the South Championship but failed narrowly to come through the semi-final against Carrick Swans. A mid-

week game, that caught us out with three of our forwards unable to get back for the game.

### U21 B Football

We lost both our two games, thus failing to reach the semifinal stage.

### Minor A Football

We failed to reach the qualifying stages fielding a very under-age side and also a lack of players.

### Intermediate Hurling

We did poorly in the League, but progressed well in the South Championship reaching South semi-final against Carrick Davins which ended in a draw on a scoreline, Fethard 1-18, Davins 3-12. The replay



*L to R: Tom Keane (Fethard) and Arravale Rover's goalkeeper Thomas Gleeson in the Intermediate Hurling League 'B' Round 1 game between Fethard and Arravale Rovers played in Fethard*



was an equally tough, well contested game, ending Carrick Davins 3-13, Fethard 2-14, thus taking a narrow defeat after two great games. Davins lost the South Final but progressed and won the County title.

### **U21 B Hurling**

We lost the semifinal to St. Patrick Gales (a combination team) on a scoreline, St Patrick Gaels 1-10, Fethard 1-08.

### **Minor B Hurling**

We were beaten in the semifinal by Knockmealdown Gaels (a combination team) on a scoreline, Knockmealdown Gaels 3-17, Fethard 1-06.

### **County Representatives**

At County level, and following in the footsteps of great players of the past, we had a number of players who did sterling service for their county in the 'Blue and Gold'.

In Minor Hurling, we had Eoin O'Connell, Coolmoyne, — a player with a great future.

At Intermediate Hurling level, we had Aidan Fitzgerald, Shane Walsh and Cian Maher, while at Senior Football level, we had Paul Fitzgerald and his brother Aidan, Kiltinan, and Brian Coen, Killusty. All played their part in helping Tipperary win Division 3 of the National Football League and gain promotion to Division 2 for next season. The team went on to be defeated in the Munster championship by a strong Limerick side by the narrowest of margins. Paul Fitzgerald was

chosen as Munster goalkeeper on the Railway Cup competition, winning their semi-final versus Connaught and being narrowly defeated by Ulster in the final played this year in Ruislip, London.

Tony Newport, a club football and hurling stalwart of the past, was duly honoured by being chosen for a Shean Ghael Award in October. Tony was a worthy and popular recipient of this coveted award and received due recognition of distinguished service to club, county and province as player and a faithful club enthusiast for over half a century.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Canon James Power**



Our beloved Canon James Power and our Club Life President passed to his eternal reward on 10th March 2009. A native of Moycarkey-Borris, he had a life-long association with our games as well as having a distinguished playing career with his native club. He won a Harty Cup medal with Thurles CBS.

### **Billy Mackey**



Late of Red City, Fethard, he died in England. A player of promise in his youth, he won Minor Football Championship in 1957 with his native club.



Like so many of his generation, his talent was lost to the club through emigration.

### Joseph (Joey) Fogarty



Joey played on the team that won the Tipperary man's Cup in 1942. He was also part of the Fethard Senior Football team from 1942 to 1952 and won a South Football title in 1943. He played Senior and Junior Hurling with Coolmoyne through the 1940s.

### Timmy O'Riordan



Our Club Vice-President, who served as a Committee Member for over 50 years, passed away on 21st May 2009. A North Cork native, who, with his late brothers, Michael and John, made a massive contribution to football in

Fethard. Timmy won South Senior Football with Fethard in 1950, 1954, 1955 and County Senior Football title in 1954.

### Jackie Aylward



Jackie Aylward, Roebucksland, died on Monday 9th November 2009. During his career, he played Junior Football with both Killusty and Fethard in the early 1950s.

Our AGM was held in the Tirry Centre on Saturday 5th December '09 and we had no changes in officers elected for the coming year; Jimmy O'Shea (chairman), Mary Godfrey (secretary) and Nicky O'Shea (treasurer).

As we approach the start of a new year, we look forward with enthusiasm to a better and more focused year and with determination to get back to our winning ways. ●



*Photographed at the Fethard GAA Medal Presentation Function at Slievenamon Golf Club are L to R: Mikie Aherne, John Paul Looby, Paul Fitzgerald, Paul Curran, Shane Walsh, Aidan Fitzgerald and Michael Ryan.*



## *Fethard GAA Medal Presentation Function - 27th March 2009*



*Photographed at the Fethard GAA Medal Presentation Function at Slievenamon Golf Club are L to R: Michael Quinlan, Caroline Quinlan, Willie Morrissey, Maura Morrissey, Gerry Aherne and Lesley Swift.*



*Photographed at the Fethard GAA Medal Presentation Function at Slievenamon Golf Club are L to R: Vanessa O'Donnell, Sandra Maher, Fiona Conway, Jean Morrissey, Audrey Conway and Norah O'Meara.*



*Back L to R: Aaron O'Donovan, Edmond Sheehan, Aisling Dwyer, Chris Sheehan, Jamie McCormack.  
Front L to R: Declan Doyle, Alan O'Connor and Linda Murphy.*



## *Fethard GAA Medal Presentation Function - 27th March 2009*



*L to R: Ann Keane, Joe Keane, Tom McCarthy, Maureen McCarthy and Mary Godfrey (Secretary).*



*Jimmy O'Shea, Chairman Fethard GAA Club, photographed with recipients of special awards at the club's Medal Presentation Function at Slievenamon Golf Club. L to R: Michael Ryan (retiring after two decades service to club and county), Jimmy O'Shea (chairman), Paul Fitzgerald (first Railway Cup medal for the club), and Noel Byrne (service as South Board Secretary).*



*Back L to R: Eddie Crotty, Damien Byrne (School Liaison Officer), Noel Byrne. Front L to R: Helen Crotty and Bernie Byrne.*



## Fiodh Árd Bord na nOg

The officers of Fiodh Árd Bord na nOg for 2009 were: Fran Conran (chairperson), Patsy Lawrence (vice-chairperson and asst. secretary), Ann Fleming (secretary) and Andy O'Donovan (treasurer).

It is with pride that we are able to congratulate the following players who have represented our club at county level: David Hayes, Frankie O'Donovan, Brian Healy, Cathal Hurley, Dylan Fitzgerald and Arron Conran. Also Jody Sheehan who played on the 'Primary Game' team.

This year the GAA celebrates 125 years and numerous events have been taking place around the country, both through clubs and schools. On 10th

May we organised a fun day for the age groups up to 14 years. The field was full of future stars, both boys and girls, playing their hearts out for the spectators. The special 'Lá na gClub' flag was flying and the sun was shining. Each child received a special 'Lá na gClub' commemorative medal. We had the assistance of Paul Fitzgerald (Tipperary football goalkeeper) and Brian Coen (Tipperary football panel) to help with proceedings.

The GAA VHI Cúl Camp took place from 24th to 28th August, at which each child received a kit bag, shorts, jersey and socks. The cost of the four-day camp was €55 for individuals, or €100 for two, and less



*Coaches and assistants photographed at Fethard Juvenile GAA VHI Cúl Camp on 27th August 2009. Back L to R: Ann Fleming, Kevin Halley, Fr. Anthony McSweeney C.C., Barry Shortall, Gus Fitzgerald, Johnny Cummins. Front L to R: Mary Godfrey, Julie McGrath, Claire Ryan and Emma Fleming.*





*Fethard under-12 football team travelled to Ballyporeen on Saturday 28th March to play their first competitive game of the season Back L to R: Andy O'Donovan, Laura Ryan, Annie Prout, Katie Butler, Jessie McCarthy, Thomas Condon, Paul Moloney, Eoin O'Donovan, Adam Fitzgerald, Charlie Manton, Alex O'Donovan, Jody Sheehan, William O'Meara, Christopher Sheehan, Tommy Sheehan. Front L to R: Ross McCormack, Tom Sheehan, Harry Butler, Dean Dorney, Jesse McCormack, Matthew Lynch, Liam Quigley and J.J. Roche.*

for more than two. Many parents registered online this year. Participants also received a certificate and medal at the end of the week. Tipperary hurling full-back, Paul Curran from Mullinahone, called in during the week to visit and sign posters, jerseys or whatever was available.

Our new curate, Fr. Anthony McSweeney, also visited the camp and really enjoyed it, staying for a good length of time, chatting and visiting the kids and watching them training with the coaches.

We were thrilled to be filmed by RTE for their 'Up for the Match' television programme This was broadcast on the eve of the All Ireland Hurling Final. Also on this day we were privileged to have a visit from a couple of Tipperary All Stars – Tom Ryan (Graystown) who played for Tipperary in the 60s and 70s, and Michael Ryan

who played for Tipperary in the 80s, 90s and early 2000s.

This year we located our missing perpetual cups – Bro Albert Cup, Danagher Cup and Tony Newport Cup. The Danagher Cup was played for in conjunction with the Community Field Day on 13th September. This day consisted of Fethard and Killusty community getting together for a fun day including barbecue, donkey derby, music, stalls, cake competition, dog show and sport. And what a day! Even the weather was terrific. Surrounding communities also joined in our under-age football blitz. County players, Paul Curran, Paul Fitzgerald and Eoin Kelly, to name a few, also attended the field day. Miceál McCormack was compere on the day to the music supplied by Jack Kenny. Fethard were unable to retain the Danagher Cup this year as Mullinahone were overall winners on



this occasion.

Our Golf Classic was a big undertaking in today's financial climate. We are so grateful to all those who sponsored, had a team, or helped us in any way to run our Golf Classic, in particular our main sponsor, Coolmore Stud. We raised a massive €12,829 on the day.

The GAA was formed in 1884 when it was felt there was a need to preserve the Gaelic games, athletics, as well as the social and cultural aspects of the Irish people. Ironically, hurling and football was not introduced until later.

Through the years the GAA has grown worldwide. The Juvenile GAA

plays a major part in introducing the games to young people and it is done through the dedication and commitment of men and woman who volunteer their time. But now, society being the way it is, we must now follow government guidelines when dealing with young people. Each coach must be vetted for child welfare and protection, have completed certified training courses, first aid, etc. This is at a cost to the clubs; some items are subsidised, but not all. Therefore, it has become even more important to fund raise, not only for equipment but to keep our club fully qualified to carry on. ●



*Local girls taking part in the Fethard Juvenile GAA VHI Cúl Summer Camp. Back L to R: Katie Butler, Niamh Shanahan, Laura Ryan, Katie Ryan. Front L to R: Amye O'Donovan, Sally Butler, Ciara Hayes, Amy Brophy and Laura Hards.*



## Patrician Presentation Awards Day



*Award winners photographed at the Patrician Presentation Secondary School Awards Ceremony. Back L to R: Jack Connolly (Special Achievement Award), Aisling Dwyer (Student of the Year 3rd Year & Gaeltacht Certificate), Melissa Wallace (Attendance Award 5th Year), Gráinne Horan (Gaeltacht Certificate), Deirdre Dwyer (LAM Award, Student of the Year 2nd Year & Gaeltacht Certificate), Darragh Dwyer (Sports Award), Noel O'Brien (Paddy Broderick Award, Writers Quill Senior & Attendance 3rd Year), Gavin Loneragan (Padraig Pearse Award), Karen Hayes (Student of the Year 1st Year, Entrepreneurs Award & Attendance Award 1st Year), Lucy Butler (Gaeltacht Certificate), Bridget O'Reilly (Sports Award), Tara Horan (Entrepreneurs Award), Michelle Walsh (Entrepreneurs Award), Aobh O'Shea (Entrepreneurs Award), Cormac Horan (Writers Quill Award 1st Year). Front L to R: Ms Marie Ring (Le Chéile), Ms Catherine Healy (Fethard Credit Union), Mr Ernan Britton (School Principal), Ms Margaret Browne (Guest Speaker), Ms Marian Gilpin (Deputy Principal), Mr Sean Goan (Le Chéile), Fr. Martin Crean OSA, and Bro. Matthew Hayes (Patrician Brothers).*

An Indian summer Friday saw the dawning of a very important day in the Patrician Presentation school year in Fethard – the Annual Awards Day. A flurry of activity from the opening of the school on Friday 16th October to the first class of the day was evident. The students were eagerly anticipating the ceremony due to commence at 11am.

By 10am, the awards day committee, Mr Prendergast, Mr O'Gorman, assisted by Ms Lysaght, Ms Gilpin, Ms Maher and, of course, Con Sullivan, school caretaker, were putting the finishing touches to the assembly hall and home economics room where

refreshments would be served after the ceremony.

By 10.30am many of the guests had arrived, Séan Goan and Marie Ring of 'Le Chéile', Bro Matthew of the Patrician Brothers, and past-pupil Margaret Browne, President IBOA, who was guest speaker at the ceremony.

Mass commenced at 11am celebrated by Canon Tom Breen P.P. and Fr. Martin Crean OSA, the newly appointed prior of the Augustinian Abbey.

A selection of students from 3rd, 5th and all of 6th Year comprised the choir, accompanied by Kevin Hickey.



Soloists were Kayleigh Morrissey of 5th Year and the trio from 3rd Year, Lucy Butler, Deirdre Dwyer and Mary-Ellen O'Reilly.

The ceremony incorporated an exchange of symbols between the trustees of the Patrician Order and 'Le Chéile', the new trust board set up by twelve religious congregations who are now trustees of the school. A special anthem 'New Beginnings' had been specially composed for the ceremonies throughout the 'Le Chéile' schools and this was sung by the choir.

School Principal, Mr Ernan Britton, welcomed all to the occasion and thanked those who had done so much to make the day a special occasion. Canon Breen complimented the students on their attentiveness and the school on its success in every aspect of

education throughout the years.

Margaret Browne, guest speaker, addressed the gathering. A native of Moyglass, Margaret attended school in Fethard from 3rd class in Primary School until her Leaving Certificate year. She spoke on the family tradition and links with the school in Fethard, both the Patrician and the Presentation, and what a positive influence her schooling had on her very successful career in banking. She particularly remembered Mother Alphonsus and Sr. Annunciata, her maths teacher for helping and encouraging her on her way.

Being the IBOA Union's second female only to hold the position of President, her life is now a very busy one, but she still took the time to come to the school and congratulate all those who had won prizes. Margaret



*Ernan Britton, Principal, presenting the Pádraig Pearse Perpetual Trophy to Gavin Loneragan for his results in Irish and History in the Junior Cert examination. L to R: Geraldine Loneragan, Ernan Britton, Gavin Loneragan, Francis Loneragan and Eileen Needham.*



was accompanied by her husband Dan Lenihan.

She concluded her speech with the challenging and effective statement regarding the future of all assembled – “You can make a difference, and together we all make a difference.”

Margaret then presented the ‘Student of the Year’ awards to the following pupils: Karen Hayes (1st Year), Deirdre Dwyer (2nd Year), Aisling Dwyer (3rd Year) and Ida Carroll (4th Year).

The Padraig Pearse Perpetual Award for best results in Irish and History in the Junior Cert examination was presented to Gavin Lonergan by school principal, Mr Ernán Britton. He then presented the Paddy Broderick Award for geography to Noel O’Brien.

The sports person of the year awards were presented by Ms Creed and Mr McGree to Bridget O’Reilly (female winner) and Darragh Dwyer (male winner).

Deputy Principal, Ms Marian Gilpin, presented the new L.A.M. Award for acting and musical skills over the year to Deirdre Dwyer. Catherine Healy, representing Fethard & District Credit Union, then presented the Credit Union Young Entrepreneurs Awards to Aobh

O’Shea, Michelle Walsh, Tara Horan and Karen Hayes.

Ms O’Sullivan, standing in for Mrs Prendergast presented the Gradam na Gaeilge award to Ida Carroll and Gaeltacht Certificates to Gráinne Horan, Aisling Dwyer, Lucy Butler and Deirdre Dwyer.

Fethard Quill Writers Awards were presented to Noel O’Brien (senior), Svetlana Novikova (junior) and Cormac Horan (1st Year) by Ms Marian Gilpin.

Attendance and Punctuality Awards were presented to: Karen Hayes (1st Year), Deirdre Dwyer (2nd Year), Noel O’Brien (3rd Year), Fiona Crotty (4th Year) and Melissa Wallace (5th Year).

Mr Britton then presented a Special Achievement Award to Jack Connolly for his outstanding success in boxing at national and international level. He then concluded the award ceremony with a presentation of a framed print to special guest speaker Ms Margaret Browne, and a presentation to local photographer, Joe Kenny, to thank him for his ongoing help in promoting the school and work on the annual school magazine.

Tea and refreshments were served to all present. ●



*Margaret Brown, President IBOA, special guest speaker and past pupil, photographed with Marian Gilpin, Deputy Principal, at the awards ceremony.*





*Photographed at the exchange of symbols between the trustees of the Patrician Order and new trustees 'Le Chéile' are L to R: Mr Ernan Britton (School Principal), Ms Marie Ring (Le Chéile), Mr Sean Goan (Le Chéile), Ms Marie Maher (teacher), Mr Michael Leonard (teacher), Melissa Wallace (student) and Bro. Matthew Hayes (Patrician Brothers).*



*Jack Connolly who received a special achievement award for his success in boxing at national and international level is photographed here with his parents, William and Dorothy.*



## All Ireland Volleyball Champions



*Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School senior volleyball team who won the All-Ireland Senior B final. Back L to R: Laura Rice, Niamh Fanning, Gráinne Horan, Sarah O'Meara, Sarah Hayes, Jane Kenny, Myra Nagy, Samantha Morrissey, Lisa Anglim. Front L to R: Mary Ann Keane, Lesley Looby, Sarah Conway, Carrie Sweeney, Jean Anglim, Aisling Dwyer and Justin McGree (coach). Also on the team was Louiza Lima.*

What a year for volleyball in Fethard! Thanks to a massive commitment and effort from our senior girls early in the year, the school not only began the year as All-Ireland Senior Champions in 2009 but also with a real sense of expectation amongst the remaining school panels at cadette and junior levels.

They say that success breeds success, and this was certainly the case this year. While it is very rare for a school to have an All-Ireland Final to attend in any sport, to have two teams in the same year reach this level (along with two others reaching semi-final stages) is almost beyond belief and a great reflection on the strength of the sport

in the school and community.

In December 2008, the senior girls reached the All-Ireland Finals, having faced tough opposition from Manor House, Raheny in the semi-finals but comfortably seeing off previous winners Tramore, as well as the top qualifiers from the Western region, in previous qualifying stages.

On the day they faced a team from Lismore who were previously unbeaten by all but Fethard in qualifiers, though games between the two teams were becoming tighter and tighter. A final encounter loomed in UCD and, though nerves were a factor for both sides, our girls emerged victorious in two straight sets. ●



## Staff farewell to popular teacher



*Staff members of Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School photographed with Mr Denis Burke and family members on the occasion of his retirement on Friday 29th May. Back L to R: Vincent Doocey, Gwen Cronin, Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Emma Ryan, Nuala Ahearne, Michelle Edwards, Margaret Barrett, Fr. Anthony McSweeney, John White, Michael O'Gorman, Justin McGree, Rita Kenny, Connie Sullivan, Michael Leonard. Middle L to R: Richard Looney, Paddy Broderick, Ann O'Donnell, Mary Ann Fogarty, Margaret Prendergast, Catherine Creed, Deirdre Mulhall, Mary O'Sullivan, Bernie O'Connor, Catriona McKeogh, Majella Whelan, Melissa Rochford, Bronagh Trainor, Dick Prendergast, Marie Maher, John Cummins. Front L to R: Mary Lysaght, Ernan Britton, Dermot Burke, Leanne Burke, Denis Burke, Eileen Burke, Glen Burke, Kevin Burke and Marian Gilpin.*

On Friday 29th May, Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School bid a fond farewell to our much revered staff member and colleague Denis Burke, affectionately known as 'Dinny'. He was joined by his wife Eileen and children Kevin, Leanne, Dermot, Glen and in absentia, Emmet. A sad but joyful occasion after 40 years of dedicated and enthusiastic service to the teaching profession.

Denis and family were joined by principal Ernan Britton, deputy principal Marian Gilpin, staff, board of management, parents' association, Canon Tom Breen P.P., curate Fr. Anthony

McSweeney C.C., and former colleagues Paddy Broderick and Vincent Doocey, at a lovely luncheon which took place in the school.

Dinny's contribution to the school and to sport has been tremendous and his retirement will leave 'very hard shoes to fill'. As our esteemed Irish playwright Brian Friel said in 'Philadelphia Here I Come' — 'It's all over and it's all about to begin'.

Our wish for Dinny is that this new beginning will be a healthy, happy and contented one and that he will continue to have that song in his heart. ●



## Irish Walled Towns Network 2009

The Irish Walled Towns Network has been good to Fethard again this year. Our links with the IWTN resulted in a visit to the Town Hall from the Irish Landmark Trust; proposed new signage for a Historic Towns Trail and a substantial capital fund of €85,000 for repairs to the Town Wall.

The 2009 fund was made up of a grant from the Heritage Council and 10% 'matched funding' provided by South Tipperary. The money has been spent on conservation and repair to six sections of the Town Wall. This year the work was overseen by Carrig Building Fabric Consultants of Dame Street, Dublin. John Beattie was the

archaeologist on site. The consultants were able to call upon the advice of Ivor McElveen, Ireland's leading conservation engineer (Chairman of the Irish Lime Forum) and David Sweetman, Ireland's principal authority on medieval defensive archaeology. The contractor selected, after tender, was Anthony Morris Construction Limited of Clonmel. Ministerial Consent for the works was received on 4th September and works were completed on 12th October 2009.

As with 2008, the contractors reported that the people of Fethard welcomed them throughout the works with warmth and genuine enthusiasm for the project.

**SECTION A** — Part of the North Wall between the garden of Martin Burke's Bridge House and the Convent graveyard was first on the list. Heavy blanket vegetation (mostly mature and invasive ivy) was removed by a large team from Morris Construction. The wall concealed beneath the plantlife has now been cleaned out, repaired and repointed. The wall top has been 'flaunched' (capped with a thick mixture of sand and hydraulic lime). At the west end (overlooking the river) the work revealed a 'wall walk' which can be seen from Madam's Bridge on the left as you drive into the town.



*Before - Overview aspect of Section A showing significant plantlife.*



*After - aspect taken following removal of the plantlife and consolidation of the wall.*



**SECTION B** - Part of the North Wall between Kitty Ahearne's vegetable garden and the Convent. This work was a continuation of last year's and has resulted in the repair and repointing of a long section of wall and the discovery of a stone marked 'M + C 1832'. Who could they be?



*Before - Section B prior to conservation works.*



*After - Section B following removal of plantlife and re-pointing of masonry.*

**SECTION C** - The North Gate and Currikeen Castle. Fethard has one of the very few remaining medieval gateways in Ireland adjoined by a small tower 'Currikeen Castle.' Last year's work (2008) repointed much of this building and this year, the team moved up onto the top of the structure, cleared away all the plantlife and flauched it with lime. It is now easy to see the vaulted arch of the castle from the road. The vault was once topped by a (now missing) chamber and battlements.



*Before - North Gate prior to conservation works*



*After - North Gate following re-pointing of elevation*



*Before - North Gate and tower prior to conservation*



*After - North Gate and tower following conservation work*





*Before – Barrel vault to tower heavily colonised by plantlife*



*After – Barrel vault following removal of plantlife and flaunding of skyward surfaces*

**SECTION D** – The East Wall between Barrack Street and Burke Street. This section backs onto private property but fronts onto land now in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council. The 2008 works cleared and repaired much of this stretch and in 2009 the team gave the wall a good flaunch of lime and repaired a section that seems to have been damaged by vandals.



*Before – Section D prior to removal of plantlife and failed capping at wall head level.*



*After – Section D following re-flaunding and removal of plantlife.*

**SECTION E** – The South Wall – a small section within Peter Grant's property was repaired and made safe. This is an interesting area because it seems to retain some of the 'wall walk' and parapet.



*Before – Open core at Section E. Note the plantlife.*



*After – Consolidation of the open core at Section E*



**SECTION F** — The South Wall. Tim Robinson's section at Watergate was repaired as a continuation to the works undertaken last year in the neighbouring property of the late Jimmy Ryan. Two 'chimney flues' were filled in and made safe and the fallen stones were restored to repair the gap adjacent to Edmond's Castle. A 'draw-bar slot' was discovered during the works indicating that the lane at Watergate was once shut by a lost door. The consultants have marked the position of the lost door (with a metal marker) and have reported the find to the Department of the Environment.



*Before – Breaches in section F concealed by corrugated tin*



*After – Patch repair of breaches to Section F*

### **SOUTH TIPPERARY AMENITY GRANT**

In addition to the capital works to the Town Wall, a programme of works intended to improve the Town Wall as an amenity is underway. Fethard once had five gates through the wall allowing passage in and out of the town. Each of the missing gates will be marked by the insertion of a four foot wide 'rumble strip' in the road – an IWTN idea borrowed from the walled town of Carrickfergus.



Government bodies are keen to see that the North Gate is properly protected from the impact of large rectangular HGVs. The 1500-year old Roman Gate in Lincoln was lost to a fish lorry and this could be the fate of the North Gate if no action is taken. The plan is to commission an ornamental metal arch restricting height without obstructing the normal comings and goings of the town.



## IRISH LANDMARK TRUST AND THE TOWN HALL OR 'THOLSEL.'

In May this year, Mary O'Brien, the Executive Director of the Irish Landmark Trust visited Fethard accompanied by Caroline Crowley and by the Trust's architect, Margaret Quinlan. The Trust was set up in 1992 with a remit to save interesting and unusual landmark properties and sustain these properties by letting them out to holidaymakers. The trust already have a number of superb properties (including lighthouses) which you can rent for a week or just for a weekend. In Fethard, the Trust were shown round the empty Town Hall by Heritage Officer, Labhaoise McKenna. The building is a precious and rare survival from the early seventeenth century and...they loved it! The ambition now is to see whether there is some way for the Trust to breathe life into this exceptional structure (or part of it) in collaboration with South Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council. (See the website: [www.irislandmark.com](http://www.irislandmark.com))

## FAILTE IRELAND. HISTORIC TOWN TRAIL.

Fethard is one of a select group of 100 'historic' towns in Ireland (i.e. on average less than four towns per county) that is to receive government sponsored information boards, directional signs and plaques. The initiative is being funded by Failte Ireland and the Heritage Council. These signs are to be installed by the Council in a number of locations around Fethard

so that it will be possible to walk around the town discovering the historic sites and understanding what they are. It is hoped that the trail will be in place early in 2010.

## IWTN CONFERENCE

Labhaoise McKenna, Heritage Officer for South Tipperary gave an inspiring presentation on the subject of Walled Towns Day in Fethard. The presentation was accompanied by some stunning photographs from Joe Kenny. Terry Cunningham continues to fight Fethard's corner as a member of the IWTN Committee who meet in various venues all over Ireland with the aim of preserving and improving the Walled Towns and raising public awareness of their importance.



As more and more of Fethard's walls are revealed and repaired the more they are recognised as the best preserved and most impressive medieval walls in Ireland. This makes Fethard exceptional. After three years of capital works, the walls of Fethard are also in remarkably good condition. There is more to do and maybe the funds will not be available in 2010.

For now, we just have to wait and see. ●



## Jackie Aylward – an appreciation

Wednesday 11th November was a cold, wet day in Killusty, where we laid Jackie Aylward to rest. Jackie, as most people know, was postman in the Fethard and Killusty parish for over 40 years, but to call Jackie a mere postman

would be to do him an injustice. Jackie was also a messenger, a time keeper, a mobile information centre; I suppose you could say he was like broadband on a bicycle. For younger readers I'm sure it's hard to imagine a time before mobile phones and

laptops, Twitter, Facebook and chat rooms, but when Jackie began his working life in the 1930s and 40s, many homes – especially in rural areas – didn't have radios and the first television didn't come to Killusty until early 1960s, so for many people Jackie was their only contact with the outside world, so to speak.

With regard to time keeping, the first question asked when neighbours met was: "Is Jackie gone yet?" The yes or no answer could mean different things, depending on your circumstances. If you were on route somewhere and the answer was yes, then chances were you were run-

ning late. Or if you were waiting for a letter or parcel from abroad, a no answer would mean your precious delivery might still arrive that day. The idea that Jackie might be delayed rarely entered people's heads; it was always a given that Jackie would be on

time. This was no mean feat when you consider that part of his route was to deliver to 34 families from Boolagh Bridge to the Hill Wall, across the mountain and down into Walshbog – try walking that every day with a post bag on your back and all for the

princely sum of seven shillings and six pence per week.

My earliest memory of Jackie was on a miserable day with rain coming down like stair-rods, the sort of day that you wouldn't even put the mother-in-law out in. Jackie was cycling along the road in his black oil skins with his cape covering the mail bag, and he was whistling a tune. The last time I met Jackie was five days before he died and although he was in poor health he still managed to sing a song. For me these memories sum up Jackie Aylward; no matter what life threw at him and there were times when it threw plenty, not least the



*Jackie Aylward and Kathy Aylward  
photographed on the 30th May 2009*





*Retirement Presentation to postman, Jackie Aylward L to R: Joey Fogarty, Paddy Murphy (Post Office Official), Anne Connolly, Kathy and Jackie Aylward, John Fogarty, Joe Danaher, Nellie O'Donovan, Davy Lawless and Arthur Daly. Photograph taken in February 1985*

deaths of his son Pat, daughter-in-law Kathleen, and his three sisters, Jackie dealt with these tragedies in his own quiet way but still found time to help others, and there was always time to whistle, sing a song or play a tune on

the old mouth organ. To Kathy, Chris, Sean, Mary and Tony, I know that any words of mine will not lessen your pain or sorrow, but time and happy memories will ease his passing. Jackie, may you rest in peace.

—KTR



*Fr. John Stapleton making a presentation to Jackie Aylward on behalf of Fethard & Killusty Community Council on the occasion of his retirement as postman. Back L to R: Mattie Bradshaw, Paddy Halpin, Percy O'Donnell, Christy Aylward, Fr. John Stapleton, Jackie Aylward, Kathy Aylward, Dermot Rice, Mick Holohan, Gay Horan, Christy Williams. Front L to R: Gerry Fogarty, Patricia Horan, Sean Aylward, Kathleen Aylward, Nicky O'Shea and Catriona Horan.*



## Community Employment Scheme

It is always nice to start with good news and this year it is possible for Fethard & Killusty Community Employment Scheme to do so. Our Scheme rolled over in November and we were lucky enough to lose only one person, albeit a very good one, our own Linda Phelan. Linda was with us for four years and it is always sad to lose someone who is an integral part of the team. I would like to wish Linda the best of luck for the future.

We have fifteen participants on the scheme at present, all doing great work for the good of the Community. This can sometimes be overlooked, especially in the recent past when FÁS has had such bad press. This is a shame as without FÁS a lot of things would be left undone.

We had quite a lot of training this year and each participant received certification in some area. We had Pre-ECDL, Fire Safety & Evacuation, Hygiene, Cookery, Health & Safety, Skills for Life to name just a few. Well done to all our achievers.

As you can see it has been a busy year because, apart from their work on the scheme, they also have their training time. Who said it was easy with FÁS?

Our participants this year are Marie Hannigan, Brud Roche, Linda Webster, Bernadette Meehan and Tony Keating in the kitchen, doing all that lovely cooking, even better now thanks to Catherine Ryan of KT's Delights who gave an excellent cookery course this year. Monica Aherne



*Photographed at the 'Clozure' boy band concert in the Abymill Theatre in aid of Fethard and District Day Care Centre are Back L to R: Nicola Harrington, Anita Pollard and Shannon O'Brien*



is in the Community Office, Marion Noonan and Jack Kenny are in the Youth Centre, Emma Wallace is in the Day Centre, Martin Bolger, is in Tidy Towns, John Nagle maintains the Holy Trinity Church, Angela Taylor and William Needham are based in The Augustinian Abbey, Pat Coyne is looking after Killusty Graveyard and Bridget O'Dwyer maintains Calvary.

I would like to say a personal thanks to all of them and let them know that I appreciate their dedication to their work and training. I would also like to extend a big thank you to our sponsoring committee, Fethard & Killusty Community Council, without

whom we wouldn't have a scheme. They are always very supportive and accommodating when it comes to training. All of us on the Scheme realise how lucky we are, especially with so many amalgamations having taken place over the past couple of years. Last but not least, on behalf of everyone on the Scheme I would like to thank our FÁS CDO Catherine McCormack for her support throughout the year.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and lots of hope for a better 2010. ●

—Joan O'Donohoe (Scheme Supervisor)



*Photographed outside the Parish Church after Mass in Fethard back in the 1960s are L to R: Jim Walsh, Kilmacnall, and John McCormack, Ballintemple. (Photo supplied by Thomas McCormack, Gwynedd, Wales, brother of the late Michael "Toby Boy" McCormack, The Green.*





*Fethard native, Sr. Monica Kevin from the Ursuline Order based in New York, is photographed with some of her Fethard friends on her return trip to Fethard 14th May '09. Monica, formerly from Barrack Street, left Fethard in August 1935. She remembers bringing Tony Newport to his first day at school when he was four years old. L to R: Pat Burke, Tony Newport, Sr. Monica Kevin OSU, Jackie Aythoward, Kathy Aythoward and Pat O'Brien.*



*L to R: Mary Carroll-Guerin, formerly Mary Shine, Crampscastle, photographed with her daughter Elaine and her husband Gary Dionysius, on the occasion of Elaine's graduation as a Lawyer last year. Mary now lives in Gawler East, South Australia and Elaine and Gary live in Brisbane.*



### *Some 'Birthdays' celebrated in 2009*



*Chris Mullins pictured with his uncle Jim, his partner Pamela Daly and his sister Marina, celebrating his 40th birthday at Raheen House in August.*



*Ryan Laslett celebrating his 18th birthday in Moyglass with family L to R: Ryan Laslett, his mother Hilda, brothers Ashley and Wayne Laslett.*



## *Some 'Birthdays' celebrated in 2009*



*Celebrating birthdays at the Kenny family's 'Noughty Party' were L to R: Martin Jenson (10), Kelda McManus (10), John Kenny (30), Michael Kenny (60), Mary Newport (80), Joe Kenny (70), Catherine Kearney (50), Gary McManus (40) and Chelsey Kenny (10).*



*Group photographed at the 'Noughty Party' at Slievenamon Golf Club on Sunday, 2nd August, including in front, the nine siblings of the late Maggie and Laurence Kenny, Hilloiew, Fethard. L to R: Billy, Philly, Kathleen, Joe, Rita (Kane), Mary (Newport), Carmel (Kelly), Michael and Bernadette (McManus).*



## Researching a History of Fethard



A long time ago, in 1953 to be exact, Ireland organised a festival to celebrate its past. The people of Fethard decided to play their part in the remembrance by holding an exhibition of items that would tell some of the story of our local town. The display of artefacts was laid out in the Nissan Hut on the Rocklow Road and I was among the many that were enthralled by what was on put on view.

As I gazed in wonder all those years ago the germ of an idea was instilled in me that Fethard had a past that was worthy of further investigation. But the idea only developed slowly as I was more taken by the wonders of a new job and working in a big town. It was not until the end of the 1950s that the desire to know more about Fethard in former times came to

the fore.

To pursue my interest I wrote to Dr. Philip O'Connell, then a prominent member of the Clonmel Historical Society, for advice on seeking sources of information. He most kindly dealt with the silly questions of a then young man by writing two long letters (in a beautiful and legible hand) giving his thoughts and guidelines on the composition of a local history. I still treasure those letters. During my days in Clonmel post office in the mid 1950s I occasionally had the task of collecting the weekly rent from an austere and stern old man who lived in one of the houses on Post Office Lane. This was Patrick Lyons (the subject of a modern biography by a young girl from Galway University) who, according to post office rumour, was a keen archaeologist. But he was



not the sort of man that encouraged conversation so I never spoke to him, but I did become alert to his articles in *The Nationalist* and elsewhere. These I cut out, kept, and still have. Locally, he wrote about medieval Kiltinane and Neville's fort at Ballybough. Then in January 1960 I came upon an article by the late District Justice Dermot F. Gleeson on 'Your Parish and its History' which he published in *The Irish Ecclesiastical Record*. All these gave me a solid foundation of advice and guidance. From then on I began to collect any and every item that I came upon on Fethard's past.

At the beginning of 1957 I had been transferred to work in Co. Leitrim which meant that whenever I was coming home to Kilnockin I had to come through Dublin. With time on my hands there I found the National Library in Kildare Street with its wonderful collection of books and manuscripts. In those more carefree days a person could wander in and out of the reading room in the Library without meeting any form of security or without having to obtain a reader's ticket. The desks, the chairs, the green-shaded lamps, and the books of that place have given me years of infinite pleasure. In mid 1960 I returned to Carrick-on-Suir, having spent three and a half years in Co. Leitrim, and I acquired a car. I was now able to travel to the County Library headquarters in Thurles to discover what they had. One day I met the late County Librarian, Dan Kinnane, who showed me a new eleven-volume purchase he

had made. This listed all the known manuscript sources necessary for the researching of local and national history. Both 'Fethard' and 'Co. Tipperary' had section devoted to them.

The tools were now in place. All that remained was the physical effort on my part. And so researching the history of Fethard became my hobby.

But research is more than reading books and manuscripts. Whenever possible I visited the places associated with Fethard men and women, or I wandered along the same paths that they did. It meant travelling along the Blue Ridge Mountains in the company of an eccentric Virginian as I followed the trail of Thomas Francis Burke as the Southern army of which he was a part moved towards, for them, the disastrous battle of Gettysburg. It was this same battle that brought injury and imprisonment to Burke. I stood in a tropical downpour as I looked on the Celtic cross that commemorated a Fethard priest who brought Catholicism to the people of a new and young New South Wales. It served as the excuse for my wife and me to visit the beautiful Norfolk Island where a Fethard-man spent four years of his life. Again the local interest added zest to a visit to the old Bohemia (modern-day Czech Republic) to overlook the scenes of the various battles during the Thirty Years War (1618-48). The Chaplain-General to the Imperial forces in that terrible conflict was a Carew from Mobarnane. And once in my lifetime I was offered a copy, by a London bookseller, of Carew's



account of his years as a chaplain which was published in the late 1600s, but the price was way above what I could afford and so it does not sit on my bookshelves. All-in-all, then, the researching of a local chronicle is not all dull work.

And it can serve as an excuse to visit different libraries. As I said above it was the reason that I became familiar with the National Library in Dublin. Through research I learned to push my way (gently, I might add) through the rough criminal types when the old State Paper Office was in a corner of the Four Courts, and I braved the dust of the Bermingham Tower in the Castle Yard. Today both of those places are combined in a bright and clean research centre down in Bishop Street on the south side of Dublin city. Over the years the library headquarters at both Thurles and Kilkenny were of enormous help to me as were the different staffs. The help of such people can be of colossal benefit to the amateur historian. To know more about Fethard and its people so often served as the goad that got me into such places as the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the Public Record Office in London and the British Library in the same city, into the Vatican Library in Rome, to the Mitchell Library in Sydney and La Trobe in Melbourne. I should add that the level of helpfulness varies from library to library, in some courtesy is taken to a high level and in others I have been treated as if I was a danger-

ous incendiary.

But over the years I did read books and whenever possible manuscripts, finding a nugget of information here or a trace there. That, too, can have its excitement for the researcher.

About fifteen years ago Joe Kenny asked if I would bring it all together which I attempted to do, but the demands of work meant that I was unable to fully concentrate on the need to accomplish a decent job. And so that effort was abandoned. Two years ago my sister, Ann Lynch, and later Dóirín Saurus approached me to undertake the compilation. I was now retired from work and so had the leisure to concentrate fully on the writing. At the end of August 2009 I finished a typescript of 260,000 words which has now gone to a publisher. Whether the product is good, or bad, or indifferent, I cannot judge; that will rest with the readers. I should add that I have concentrated more on post-Cromwellian Fethard than on the medieval period. The latter is nowadays the subject of much scholarly interest and consequently has been more ably examined. Especially valuable has been the work of Dr. Tadhg O'Keeffe.

As a coda to all this I think I should add that the only other history of Fethard was published one hundred and six years ago. And it still sells after all those years. I saw a lovely clean copy the other day selling for seventy-six euro. ●

*—Michael O'Donnell*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*Fethard Watergate and Main Street taken at dusk*



*Fethard Main Street, Town Hall and Holy Trinity Church of Ireland*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*Fethard GAA Field, Cois Falla and Rocklow Road*



*Patrician Presentation Secondary School, St. Patrick's Boys and Nano Nagle National Schools*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*Abbey Street and Burke Street, Fethard*



*Fethard Town at the foot of Slievenamon*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*Árd Alainn Estate and Dawn Foods Factory*



*Friars Field, Woodvale Walk and Strylea*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*The Valley and Kerry Street*



*Congress Terrace and Redcity Road*



*Fethard Views taken June 2009*



*St. Bernard Group Homes and new High Support Unit*



*Fethard Youth Centre and Madam's Bridge*



*Killusty Views taken June 2009*



*Killusty Village*



*Church of the Sacred Heart Killusty and National School*



## Killusty National School

It was another busy year in Killusty National School. In September 2008, we had two new entrants, Ella-Mai Hackett and Micheál Cuddihy.

Our First Holy Communicants were Laura O'Donnell, Niamh Harrington and Stephen Crotty. In June, six students graduated to secondary school. They were Kate O'Donnell, Niamh Crotty, Lily Lee, David Morgan, Derek O'Brien and James Harrington. Throughout the year a variety of activities were mingled with our academic programme. They were Irish Dancing, Swimming, Music in the Classroom, Recorder Tuition, Kool School Activities and a fabulous Fabric and Fibre Art Programme with local Artist Pat Looby. Our Sports Day in June, and

our annual school outing, brought to a close another wonderful year.

Our whole school community was deeply saddened on 9th March, when we heard that our dear friend Canon James Power had passed away. He was a regular, and most welcomed visitor to our classrooms. May he rest in peace.

In Autumn 2010, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of Killusty National School. We welcome our past pupils to join us in celebrating this wonderful occasion. We would welcome any old photographs or submissions at the school. Email [killustyns@hotmail.com](mailto:killustyns@hotmail.com)

We in Killusty wish all our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year. ●



*Killusty National School team that part in the Credit Union regional table quiz for primary schools.  
L to R: Orla Walsh, Niamh Crotty, Lily Lee and Kate O'Donnell.*



## Killusty Pony Show



*Killusty Pony Show incoming committee L to R: Pat Culligan (treasurer), Lorraine Thompson (secretary), Betsy O'Connor (outgoing secretary), and Noel Byrne (chairman)*

Killusty Pony Show held their AGM on 16th October 2009. Chairman, Noel Byrne, welcomed a very good attendance to the 46th Killusty Pony Show AGM in the Tirry Centre, after asking the assemblage to remember specially Dinny Walsh and Mrs. Callie Poole, a former judge at Killusty, both of whom had died during the year. Entries continued high and the success of so many local ponies against All-Ireland competition was noted. The younger stewards had been particularly commended by the judges on the day. The accounts showed a healthy balance in these days of recession and the sponsors were thanked for their support.

As Betsy O'Connor was retiring as Secretary after 25 years, it was necessary to elect her replacements. Mrs Lorraine Thompson (Morrissey) took on the job of secretary while Pat Culligan shouldered the responsibilities of treasurer. Noel Byrne

remained as chairman and Donie Slattery took over as field manager. Betsy O'Connor will remain available to advise if needed.

We did have a request for a larger Dog Show Ring next year which attests to the popularity of that section of Killusty Pony Show. The meeting concluded with a presentation to Betsy O'Connor in recognition of her dedicated work on the committee over the past twenty-five years. Accompanying the presentation of a lovely picture frame and vouchers to Chez Hans, Christopher Horsman remembered Betsy's first Killusty Show meeting when he serenaded her with the 'Black Velvet Band' (since adopted by Tommy Bowe as his theme song) and Judy Butler read the minutes of the first ever meeting of Killusty Show. After further reminiscences, the meeting adjourned to avail of refreshments and to celebrate another very successful Show. ●



## The late Canon James Power



*Canon Power photographed with the other priests who concelebrated his Golden Jubilee Mass on 26th June 2002. Back L to R: Fr. Timmy Walsh OSA, Fr. Ben O'Brien OSA, Fr. John McGrath, Fr. Christy Maguire, Fr. Jim Fogarty, Fr. Albert Hayes, Fr. Michael Ryan, Fr. John Meagher OSA, Fr. Tony Lambe. Front L to R: Fr. Tom Breen, Fr. Michael Meagher, Canon James Power, Fr. John Dwyer and Fr. Michael Barry.*

The parish of Fethard & Killusty very saddened on Monday 9th March when they learned that Canon James Power, retired parish priest of Fethard & Killusty Parish, had passed to his eternal reward.

Canon Power was born in Leigh, Two-Mile-Borris, on 26th February 1926, into a family of three brothers and one sister. He attended national school in Two-Mile-Borris and the Christian Brothers in Thurles. In 1945 he entered St. Patrick's College, Thurles, to study for the priesthood. He was ordained on the 15th June 1952 and was first posted to Dublin as temporary mission. He returned to the diocese in 1955 when he was appointed Chaplain at Cashel Hospital

where he served for two years. His next parish was Cappawhite, starting on 28th September 1957 where he spent six years, before moving to Kilbehenny as Vicarius Adjutor in August 1963. On 15th January 1966 he was appointed to Tipperary Town where he spent ten years before moving to Borrisoleigh on 4th December 1976. Fr Power moved to Fethard as Parish Priest on 28th September 1986 and was made Canon of the Chapter in March 1988.

The late Canon Power was a keen hurling sportsman in his day and loved to attend all games whenever possible. He also loved walking and the odd game of golf in Thurles. His many parishioners will best remember



him for his dedication to hospital visitation and visiting the sick.

Canon Power was also a great community man and was very involved in local committees. He served as President of Fethard & District Credit Union (1989) and Fethard & Killusty Community Games (1990).

In 1993, on behalf of the Catholic community, Canon James Power welcomed President Mary Robinson to Fethard and said, "The achievements of such committees as the Abymill Theatre, Community Council and Tidy Towns was indicative of the tremendous pride in the parish and the 'Friends of Fethard' was another marvellous example of what a local committee could achieve."

On Friday 2nd February 1996 Canon Power was proud to organise a special concelebrated mass for Fethard's new Bishop, Richard Burke, when he returned to Fethard after being consecrated Bishop of Warri (Nigeria) in Rome by Pope John Paul II. The Parish Church was packed to capacity for the occasion.

Another very proud day for Canon Power that year was when Fr. Michael Barry celebrated his first Holy Mass in Fethard on 9th June, 1996. The church was packed to overflowing as his fellow parishioners gave Michael an emotional welcome home. There was sustained applause as Canon Power said how very special Michael was to everyone and how his courage, faith and joy were an inspiration to all.

In 2001, Canon James Power retired as Parish Priest, and at a most

enjoyable parish function in the ballroom on Thursday 2nd August, presentations were made from the Fethard and Killusty parishes to mark his retirement. Mr Jimmy Connolly, M.C. on the night, on behalf of the Fethard parishioners thanked Canon Power for his dedicated and unselfish service to the people of Fethard and Killusty. He paid a very special tribute to the Canon's devotion to the sick and incapacitated of the parish and said he never failed to visit any member of his flock who were hospitalised, whatever the distance.

The following year, on the 26th June 2002, Canon James Power celebrated his Golden Jubilee Mass with family, relatives, parishioners and guests. The large attendance at the mass and at the community reception held in Fethard Ballroom showed the high respect the community had for Canon Power and the tremendous work he achieved in the parish over the previous 16 years.

In these latter years, Canon Power suffered various illnesses but this in no way affected his parish work. His determination to continue working in the parish right up to his death was a reflection of a life fully dedicated to the work of God. The parish of Fethard & Killusty has lost a true friend.

Requiem Mass, concelebrated by Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr. Dermot Clifford, took place at Holy Trinity Parish Church on Wednesday 11th March followed by interment in the adjoining graveyard. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dilis. ●



## 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.

Aylward, Jackie, Roebucksland (Killusty)  
 Bourke, Joan, London & Tullamaine (Cashel)  
 Buckley, June (nee Aird), Australia & The Green.  
 Carroll, Philip, Menlo (Parish Church Graveyard)  
 Cassells, Evelyn, England & Cashel Road (Calvary)  
 Casey, Irene (nee O'Donnell), Coleman (Ballyclerihan)  
 Clancy, Ann, Dublin & The Green (Calvary)  
 Cleary, Dr Tom, Manister & Mogorban (Manister)  
 Connors, Dan, Cashel Road, Fethard  
 Cosgrave, Sam John (aged 4), Seán Line (Calvary)  
 Cammins, Dan, St. Patrick's Place (Calvary)  
 Cammins, Eddie, St. Patrick's Place (Holy Trinity Graveyard)  
 Cammins, Gus, England and St. Patrick's Place (Lisronagh)  
 Curtain, La (nee Walsh), St. Patrick's Place (Churchyard)  
 Dillon (MPSI), Percy, Rocklow Road (Calvary)  
 Dorney, Ned, St. Johnstown, Fethard  
 Duncan, Mary (nee Bulfin), The Valley (Capetown)  
 ffolliott, Rosemary, England & The Rectory  
 Fleming, Jack, Barrettstown (Calvary)  
 Fogarty, Joey, Congress Terrace (Calvary)  
 Heffernan, Paddy 'Pakie', Ballyrodden (Calvary)  
 Hennessy, Thomas, Morden Surrey (England).  
 Hyland, Eileen, Lisronagh & Cloran (Birmingham)  
 Kearney, Mick, Friarsgrange (Killusty)  
 Kennedy, Michael, Silverfort Cross (Moyglass)  
 Kenny, Billy, England & Grove, Fethard (England)  
 Lee, Marie, Loughcopple (Killusty)  
 Lines, Ellen (nee Flynn), Milton Keynes & Green (Milton Keynes)  
 Mackey, Billy, England & Redcity (Newport, Lincoln)  
 McManus, Danny, Woodvale Walk (Calvary)  
 Mehta, Ajay, Carlow & Fethard (Calvary)  
 Millett, Tommy, St. Johnstown & The Valley (Calvary)  
 O'Donnell, Bridget (nee O'Sullivan) Knockbrack (St. Michael City)  
 O'Riordan, Tim, Barrack Street (Calvary)  
 O'Meara, Dinny, Knockbrack (Calvary)  
 Power, Canon James, Cashel Road, Fethard (Calvary)  
 Quinlan, Bridget, Clommel & Patrick's Place (Calvary)  
 Roberts, Alice (nee Flynn) Adelaide & The Green (Adelaide)  
 Ryan, Dinny, St. Johnstown (Moyglass)  
 Stokes, Michael, Killurney (Kiltinan)  
 Walsh, Andrew, Jossestown (Calvary)  
 Walsh, Dinny, Knockbrack (Calvary)  
 Walsh, Gene, Kilnockin Road (Calvary)  
 Welch, Kathleen (nee O'Shea), New Jersey & Tullow (New Jersey)



Mick Kearney



Paddy Heffernan



Percy Dillon (MPSI)



Philip Carroll



Thomas Hennessy



Tim O'Riordan

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# Our dear departed 2009

from available photographs



*Ajay Mehta*



*Alice Roberts*



*Andrea Walsh*



*Billy Mackey*



*Billy Kenny*



*Bridget O'Donnell*



*Bridget Quinlan*



*Canon James Power*



*Dan Cummins*



*Danny McManus*



*Dinny O'Meara*



*Dinny Ryan*



*Dinny Walsh*



*Dr. Tom Cleary*



*Eddie Cummins*



*Gene Walsh*



*Gus Cummins*



*Irene Casey*



*Jack Fleming*



*Jackie Aylward*



*Joan Bourke*



*Joey Fogarty*



*La Curtain*



*Mary Bulfin*



*Michael Stokes*



# Fethard Historical Society



*Photographed at the presentation of this year's Tipperarian Book of the Year, 'A Day to Remember— a photographic memoir of The Loughmore Pageant' published and compiled by Loughmore community, at a reception organised by Fethard Historical Society are L to R: Tom Cullagh, Caroline Nesbitt, Sean Gleeson, Dóirín Saurus (Fethard Historical Society), Graham Cullen, Philip Maher and Terry Cunningham (Fethard Historical Society).*

The years roll on, over twenty years now since Fethard Historical Society was formed, but in the last two years, especially, great strides have been made in preserving Fethard's exceptional medieval heritage. The details of the work on the Town Wall are recorded elsewhere in this newsletter and members and friends of the society can be happy and proud that their efforts over many years finally persuaded the 'powers that be' to take note of Fethard and begin to take care of this unique walled town.

The society meets on the last Tuesday of the month in the Abymill Theatre (8.30pm) to review progress, to plan the programme for the coming months and of course 'to do work' with the various agencies on the many

projects and reports that are ongoing at any given time.

The year began with the presentation of the 'Tipperarian Book of the Year' (for 2008) to the people of Loughmore for their book, 'A Day to Remember- a photographic memoir of the Loughmore pageant', on Friday, 23rd January, at a very lively function in the Abymill Theatre.

The Tipperarian Book Fair held on the second Sunday of February in the Ballroom was the most successful to date and the fair seems to fulfil a need for up to 700 punters who come every year.

At the AGM on 28th April, the County Heritage Officer, Ms Labhaoise McKenna, made a presentation on her work in the county and she has been of huge help to the



Fethard Historical Society in their dealings with 'officialdom' and in securing funding for the restoration work on the Town Wall and also funds towards the running of the festival in August.

The committee elected was as follows: Terry Cunningham, chairperson; Colm McGrath, vice-chairperson; Catherine O'Flynn, secretary; Marie Taylor, assistant secretary; Pat Looby, treasurer; Tim Robinson, membership secretary; Mary Hanrahan, PRO; Peter Grant, Kitty Delany, Dóirín Saurus, Rachel Murphy, Marie O'Donnell and Ann Lynch.

Outings over the year were made to Waterford (May), Kiltinan (June) and Knockelly (October). Members also travelled to Kilmallock, Youghal, Dublin, Athlone and Carlingford on Irish Walled Towns Network business.

Many groups visited Fethard and were hosted by the society, especially up to thirty county heritage officers from across the country who came on a 'training day' on Tuesday 23rd June.

### MEDIEVAL WALLED TOWN FESTIVAL

The third Medieval Walled Town Festival was held on Saturday 22nd



*Taking in the impressive view from Fethard's Mural Tower are members of the Irish Landmark Trust and local representatives on 12th May 2009 L to R: Tim Robinson (Fethard Historical Society), Tom O'Reilly (South Tipperary County Council's Housing Section's Senior Executive Engineer), Cllr John Fahey; Margaret Quinlan (Consultant Conservation Architect); Labhaoise McKenna (Heritage Officer South Tipperary County Council); Mary O'Brien (Irish Landmark Trust) and Caroline Crowley (Irish Landmark Trust). Also present was Joe Kenny (Fethard & Killusty Community Council).*





*Group photograph taken after Fethard Historical Society's AGM held in the Abymill Theatre on 28th April. Back L to R: Colm McGrath, Tim Robinson, Dóirín Saurus, Peter Grant, Rita Walsh, Agnes Evans, Kitty Delany, Rachel Murphy, Ann Gleeson, Marie O'Donnell, Joe Kenny, Ann Lynch, Pat Looby. Front L to R: Labhaoise McKenna (Heritage Officer South Tipperary County Council), Cllr John Fahey, Mary Hanrahan, Terry Cunningham (chairman), Catherine O'Flynn and Frances Murphy.*

and Sunday 23rd August and, despite some heavy rain, was a colourful success, as can be seen from the photographic record on the Fethard website. The 'striking' of a special Fethard coin on the day (to be repeated next year) was a novel event and created great interest. As regards real money, the Heritage Council again provided the major funding of €12,500 and the Heritage Office of the South Tipperary County Council 'officially sponsored' the event and also gave €2,000 in funds. The County Museum gave €500. The Historical Society contributed €1,000 and the society members contributed a whole lot of voluntary effort. Other societies, especially the Scouts, Rugby Club, Macra na Feirme, Ballroom, and various individuals and businesses also helped out over the weekend. The work of Jimmy O'Shea, and others, in The Valley Park area

must be singled out for comment as the area never looked better and strolling there on that beautiful Saturday evening was a pleasure indeed.

Hopefully the Medieval Festival will go ahead on week ending 21st & 22nd August as part of Heritage Week 2010 and that funding will be made available again.

But it is a huge effort for a small number of people and ways must be found to include more organisations and individuals as the brand of 'Medieval Fethard' is really catching on nationally and the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland very much want the Medieval Festival to continue and expand. Fethard is now held up as 'best in class', but staying there will take a lot of effort by a lot of people, so all ideas and offers of help are very welcome indeed.

At present the society is working



with the County Council to complete a whole new Fáilte Ireland approved signage system for the town. This is part of Fáilte Ireland's 'Historic Towns' programme and again this takes up a lot of Society time and effort in helping the Council to plan, design, and come up with the wording for all the signs, plaques and information panels – in both Irish and English.

The coming year, 2010, should bring more good news, as in the spring the society will publish a book

on the Heraldry of Fethard by Gerard Crotty and Michael O'Donnell's massive 'History of Fethard' is complete and will be published by Geography Publications in early summer.

Again we wish Fethard people everywhere a happy Christmas and all the best for 2010. Fethard Historical Society can be contacted (or joined) by contacting the Secretary, Catherine O'Flynn, Knockelly, Fethard, or by emailing [history@fethard.com](mailto:history@fethard.com). ●



*Photographed at the launch of the Conservation & Management Plan for Fethard's Medieval Town Walls are L to R: Alison Mumby, Julian Mumby, Mary Hanrahan, Alison Harvey and Labhaoise McKenna.*

*The Conservation and Management plan for Fethard Town Walls was officially launched by Cllr. John Fahey on 22nd August 2009 in the Abymill Theatre. Julian Mumby, the author of the plan, from Oxford Archaeology, gave a very informative illustrated talk on the Fethard Town Walls and stated that, "Fethard is of outstanding significance as a medieval defended town with its very complete circuit of walls and other buildings demonstrating the life and trade of the town." Now, at the highest level nationally, it is accepted that Fethard is indeed the jewel in the crown of the walled towns in the state.*



*Fethard Town Wall Medieval Festival - 22nd August 2009*

*Photographed at the launch of the Conservation & Management Plan for Fethard's Medieval Town Walls  
are L to R: Louis Grubb, Tommy Healy and John Whyte.*



*Photographed at the launch of the Conservation & Management Plan for Fethard's Medieval Town Walls  
are L to R: Denis Burke, Mike Cummins and Michael Coady.*



## *Fethard Town Wall Medieval Festival - 23rd August 2009*



*A section of the large crowd that attended this year's Medieval Festival on 23rd August*



*Local artist Pat Looby helping to raise the childrens 20-foot 'Medieval Tapestry' on to the Mural Tower at Fethard Town Wall. As part of this year's Festival, Pat Looby held workshops for children aged 8 to 14, on a textile art project based on medieval tapestries. Children learnt how to draw, paint and sew on to fabric to create a new tapestry based on the medieval features of Fethard.*



## *Fethard Town Wall Medieval Festival - 23rd August 2009*



*In front is 96 year-old Nellie Shortall photographed with family members  
L to R: Marie, Ann, Marianne and John.*



*Children working on the Medieval Tapestry Art Project overseen by local artist Pat Looby*



## *Fethard Town Wall Medieval Festival - 23rd August 2009*



*Photographed at this year's Medieval Festival L to R: Gerry Nevin, Liam Daly and Eamon Keane*



*Sheehan family helping at Johnny's wood-turning craft stall  
L to R: Phyllis Sheehan, Johnny Sheehan, Peg Sheehan and Terri Sheehan*



## Plumber and Painter

Last October, in the course of reviewing a group art exhibition at The Granary in Waterford, the Arts & Entertainment critic of the Munster Express generously praised one of the exhibitors, declaring that his work, ". . . excels . . . with six acrylic paintings that deserve a return visit to savour the detail and emotion in their imagery. 'Bed of Rocks' catches the subtlety of a rock-pool as a girl bends with her hand rippling the surface. 'The Waiting Place' has a lover's quality, a special place suffused with tones and a glow of natural light. 'The Lookout' shows a lovely solitary figure on a beach in a fine sheen of light. My favourite is his detailed photo-study style of 'Making the Effort' where a woman with a walking stick at the gable of a house feeds birds on the ground. Very evocative."

The exhibition being reviewed

was mounted by the Drawmhor Art Group from nearby Tramore. The exhibitor attracting such high praise was Fethard man, Joe Fogarty.

He could, I suppose, be classed as an émigré of sorts, having lived and laboured in Tramore, Co. Waterford, for more than thirty years now. (Always remaining true to the Blue and Gold, of course!) He has spent all of those years in the plumbing trade.

You may wonder how one moves between the practical and precise craft of plumbing and the less easily definable, more intuitive and creative, skills of painting. I suppose there is no clear demarcation line between the creative and the pragmatic. Both can co-exist within an individual. Perhaps the pragmatic element may become more



Joe Fogarty working at his studio in Tramore, Co. Waterford





*Joe Fogarty's painting of Sliabhnamon in sombre mood*

dominant in response to the demands of, well, having to make a living, put bread on the table. The needs of everyday life can mean that creative talents may have to lie dormant for many years. Not everyone can afford to starve for their art!

Most people, if they're honest, will admit that at some stage in their lives they have harboured a dream, a secret desire, to launch out and do that something that they'd always wanted to do. Not big dramatic, eye-catching undertakings, like climbing Everest or circumnavigating the world. Or winning X Factor! No, the goals may be more modest but still be difficult to achieve.

No matter what one's motivation and goals it takes a certain degree of courage to launch into something new, to break away from old routines, to risk the scorn of others and the possibility of failure. But wasn't it one of

the ancient Romans who said that fortune favours the bold: if you're brave enough to take a chance new worlds and new opportunities may open up. Choose to stay in your cocoon, and you'll be warm and safe, but you may have to live with nagging doubts, an endless litany of maybes and if onlies.

In Joe's case, the first, tentative involvement in painting was the re-awakening of something that had lain dormant for many years: an interest in, and a flair for painting. This had been evident from his earliest years – his mother still has in her possession a youthful, untutored effort at a painting of Sliabhnamon which, nevertheless, showed a certain innate feel for painting.

However, painting, as with writing poetry, plays, novels, or sculpting a figure from a lump of stone or wood, isn't just about innate creative flair: it requires the mastery of certain techni-





*Joe Fogarty's seascape painting 'On the Beach'*

cal skills. So, to acquire some of the technical skills needed for painting Joe enrolled in life drawing classes at WIT in 2005. Two years later he found himself joining the Drawmhor Art Group in Tramore, a loose association of beginner painters grouped around, and being mentored by, the experienced hand of Mick Flavin, an accomplished artist in his own right. (Mick has described Joe as a 'special talent'.)

As the beginners began to grow in confidence and ability and to develop their own distinctive styles a number of group exhibitions were arranged. The first at the old Coastguard Station in Tramore, followed by a second at the Clancy Festival in Carrick-on-Suir, and more recently, at The Granary in Waterford. All of these exhibitions were very successful with Joe's

work proving to be very popular and much in demand. Some new projects too were commissioned by interested individuals who had seen Joe's work exhibited.

In his work to date Joe has tended to focus on landscapes often with a human presence as an integral element. Sometimes there is a suggestion of human presence, either impending or lately departed, along those strangely alluring steps in 'The Waiting-Place.'

A number of his paintings - appropriately enough in that he lives by the sea in Tramore - are seascapes. 'The Lookout', and 'On the Beach' are easily identifiable for what they are. Yet the juxtaposing of human subjects against the vast blueness of sky and ocean has somehow imbued these



works with a strange, almost ethereal luminosity.

Joe has painted some scenes from the landscape of his home place, Fethard. One is a painting of Sliabhnamon in sombre mood, a decidedly more accomplished piece than the earlier, childhood effort. He has also painted a section of the normally placid Clashawley rushing like a miniature Niagara over the sewerage pipe which was used by many a young boy as a route to the forbidden fruit in McCarthy's orchard, now long

since gone.

Anybody wishing to view further examples of Joe's paintings can do so by logging on to the New Irish Art website at <http://www.newirishart.com/Galleries/CFOGJO01.htm>. A dozen or so quality reproductions of his paintings can be accessed there.

Some of the works on view at New Irish Art may still be available for purchase and Joe is willing to undertake works commissioned by interested individuals or organisations. ●



## 106TH BIRTHDAY

*Liz Sheehan,  
St. Patrick's  
Place, Fethard,  
photographed with  
her two brothers and  
aunt, Anastasia  
Kealy, who celebrated  
her 106th birthday  
on 5th July 2009.  
Back L to R: Jimmy  
Kealy, Liz Sheehan  
and Front L to R:  
Anastasia Kealy and  
Willie Kealy*



## *Fethard Car Boot Sale*



*Fethard Car Boot Sale outside the 'The Den' 22nd November 1992 L to R: David Casey, Johnny Burke, Rory Walsh, Marina Mullins, Brendan Kenny and Nicholas Casey.*



*Seventeen years later — Rory Walsh (centre) photographed with his Car Boot Sale friends on his final day at his stall on Sunday 18th October 2009. Rory, who retired from his stall this year, was one of the first to have a stall at the weekly Car Boot Sale in Fethard which started over twenty-five years ago. L to R: Arthur Daly, Jimmy Mullins, Rory Walsh, Brendan Kenny and Johnny Burke.*



# Nano Nagle National School



*Junior Infants Class at Nano Nagle National School Fethard. Back L to R: JJ. Stokes (Kilnockin View), Abby McGrath (Friarsfield), Shane Lawrence (Woodvale Walk), Ciara Spillane (Tullamaine), Katie Wyse (Knockbordan), Tamara Doyle (Woodvale Walk), Michael James Phelan (Jossestown), Alex Freeman (Woodvale Walk), Sophia O'Brien (Strylea). Third Row L to R: Ciara O'Meara (Derryluskin), Anna Quigley (Ballinattin), Dawn Cuddihy (Woodvale Walk), Conor Neville (Kilnockin), Jake Dorney (Ard Álainn), Gillian Burke (Sladagh Cross), Brian O'Meara (Woodvale Walk), Heather Spillane (Tullamaine), Kelly Ryan (Cedar Grove), Mrs Margaret Gleeson (teacher). Second Row L to R: Lily O'Mahony (Tullamaine), Gráinne Murray (Railway Close), Alex Ryan (Woodvale Walk), Ashlee Needham (Barrack Street), Tegan Roche (Barrack Street), Seán Moroney (Tullamaine), Daragh Spillane (Tullamaine), Thomas Donegan (Tullamaine), Leanne McGarry (Woodvale Walk). First Row L to R: Lewis McArthur (Quartercross), Jessica Stokes (Knockbordan), Tom Murray (Railway Close), Anna Collier (Coolmore Stud), Michael Flanagan (Derryluskin), Sophie Hahessy (Barrack Street), Jason Thompson (St. Patrick's Place) and Luke Allen (Canon Hayes Court).*

Nano Nagle staff members for the current year are, Sr. Maureen Power (Principal) 3rd & 4th Classes; Mrs. Maureen Maher (Vice-Principal) 1st & 2nd Classes; Mrs. Rita Kenny, 6th Class; Sr. Winnie Kirwan, Senior Infants; Mrs. Margaret Gleeson, Junior Infants; Mrs. Mary Hanrahan, Learning Support / Resource Teacher; Ms. Denise Kelly, Learning Support / Resource Teacher; Mrs. Peg McGarry, Resource Teacher; Ms. Lorraine de Lacy, High Support Unit; Ms. Ann-Marie Harty, Special Needs Assistant; Mrs. Anne D'Arcy, Secretary; and Mr.

Willie Ryan, Caretaker.

In June, unfortunately, we said goodbye to Mrs. Mary Morrissey, S.N.A., who had been with us for almost two years. We would like to express our appreciation of Mary's dedication to her work and the valuable contribution she made to our staff. We will miss her unfailing good humour and her willingness to undertake all tasks deemed necessary for the pupils to whom she was assigned. We can only hope that our loss will prove a gain for some other school and we wish Mary well in her next position.



The Parents' Association was involved in various events throughout the year: the annual Cake Sale in October, table quiz, sponsored walk and our ever-popular Fun Sports Day in June. This year they organised the school Christmas cards featuring photographs of each class. We thank the association and very much appreciate their efforts on our behalf. The generous support of all parents is a major factor in the success of our undertakings and so we would like to take this opportunity to thank them, once again, for their continued support and co-operation.

Our return to the Abymill theatre in April was one of the highlights of the school year. It was 'all hands on deck' when Junior and Senior Infants took to the stage with 'Toby's Ark.' The other classes, meanwhile, invited everyone to join them on 'Paradise Island'. Great fun was had by all, pupils and teachers alike, and needless to say we played to full houses every night. We would, once again, like to state our appreciation of Austy O'Flynn and his team in the Abymill and to reiterate what a wonderful resource the theatre is for all of us.

Congratulations to the sixteen 2nd Class pupils, under the aegis of Mrs Maureen Maher, who made their First Holy Communion in May. As usual, there was a great turn out to support the children on their special day. We say a special thank-you to our organist Goldie Newport who, as ever, provided a wonderful accompaniment to the school choirs.

Our school tours took place in June; the junior and Senior Infants had a wonderful 'hands-on' experience in The Fairy Fort Farm, near Thurles, where there was a great array of animals and lots of opportunities for the children to interact with them. The other classes, 1st-6th, went to the ever-popular outdoor activity centre in University Limerick where they got the chance to try out orienteering, water sports and lots of indoor games.

Our pupils are going swimming again this year and athletics also figured prominently during the first term with our students competing in Thurles. Ceili dancing will resume next term. We are delighted to welcome Johnny Cummins who is coaching football skills to 3rd - 6th Classes. Anne-Marie Healy is teaching basketball skills to the 1st -6th class pupils. 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.

On the environmental front we continue with ongoing recycling of cans, mobile phones (for the Jack & Jill foundation) and computer ink cartridges. We are also committed to the promotion of a litter-free environment and our litter wardens selected from various classes do a great job of encouraging us all to be tidy.

The planting of the courtyard and the introduction of raised beds down below the playground has proved





*Pupils and adults who helped out with the running of the Fairtrade and Sharing Fair evening at Nano Nagle National School on 1st December 2009*

most successful, enabling all our pupils to experience the cycle of growth from planting of seeds and plants through the entire maturation process. The pupils were engaged from start to finish taking responsibility for planting seeds, transplanting seedlings, weeding, watering and caring for the plants and finally harvesting and sharing the produce. We participated in the Incredible Edibles scheme, sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, and grew potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, scallions and strawberries. Mrs. Maher's class harvested the crops and took home vegetables to share with their families. The apple trees in the courtyard bore a great crop this October and the pupils got to pick and eat the resulting bounty. We have planted our usual array of spring bulbs- daffodils, crocuses, tulips and hyacinths and we intend to plant cabbage and leeks in our raised beds in the springtime.

Water conservation is also a feature of our gardening as we use a water-barrel to collect rainwater from a down-pipe, which is then used for watering our plants.

Our decision to sign up to the Food Dudes programme seemed a natural follow-on to all our gardening activities as well as complementing our long-standing commitment to the promotion of healthy eating habits. Food Dudes is a programme developed in Wales to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables, both in school and at home. It is based on positive role models (Food Dude characters), repeated tasting and rewards. In schools in England and Wales and in over 100 schools in Ireland the programme has been shown to be effective, with long-lasting results across the primary age range. It is ultimately designed to enable children to eat healthy diets and to create a healthy





*Sixth Class at Nano Nagle National School. Back L to R: Katie Butler, Kiya Burke, Áine Proudfoot, Niamh Shanahan, Amy Tynan, Nicola Thompson, Annie Prout, Jade Callanan, Vicky Cummins. Front L to R: Jessie McCarthy, Laura Ryan, Louise Fitzgerald, Sadie McGrath, Alannah Coady, Lily Dalton and Aileen Butler.*

eating culture within schools. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is funding the national roll-out in Ireland. Bord Bia is managing the programme.

Most of the children thoroughly enjoyed Phase 1 where portions of fruit and vegetables were delivered to school every day. Mrs. Kenny and her class very capably executed the distribution of the fruit and veg to all classes. The children became acquainted with the Food Dude superheroes (who saved the life force from a gang of baddies called the Junk Punks) on specially designed DVDs. They received a small prize daily if they ate the fruit and veg. Now we are in Phase 2, which extends the home element of the Food Dude programme by encouraging the children to bring their own fruit and veg to school every day in special Food Dude containers. Class wall charts are used to record progress and children receive certificates and further prizes upon reaching desig-

nated goals.

The children are very enthusiastic and quite proud of their chosen fruit and veg each day. There is a noticeable reduction in the consumption of bars, sweets and chocolate at both break and lunch time. This can only improve general health and concentration in class. We, the teachers are delighted with this trend and commend pupils and parents on their whole-hearted participation in the programme.

The grove of trees planted just below the playground continues to flourish and is a great source of pleasure as an invaluable educational resource. All the teachers use it for environmental studies and Liam Bourke, a local naturalist, comes from time to time to share his extensive knowledge with us all. Liam also facilitates walks to Grove and Glengarra Woods for us.

We have just resurfaced our playground and it is currently being painted with lots of different games



such as hopscotch, a map of Ireland, number snake, eight point compass and clown target. We would like to thank the Parents' Association who are sponsoring 'What's the time Mr. Wolf?', and the basketball court markings. Doubtless all these new activities will add a new dimension to playtime for the children.

As regular readers of this newsletter will be aware, our sixth class has been involved for the past three years with the Challenge to Change initiative developed by the Presentation Sisters and funded by Irish Aid, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Presentation Trustees. This year, the girls decided to do a project on Fairtrade. Their aims were to first

educate themselves about Fairtrade and then to raise awareness of the Fairtrade movement in our school and throughout the local community. They also hoped to organise events to highlight Fairtrade and to become more aware of the consequences of our actions in regard to justice and equality. The girls threw themselves into the project with great enthusiasm and, under the expert guidance of their class teacher, Mrs. Rita Kenny, they achieved an impressive amount throughout the school year. To launch the project, they invited Catherine Corcoran, Tipperary Institute & Fairtrade Thurles to come and give an introductory talk on Fairtrade to the class. The girls followed up by



*Nano Nagle 6th Class (2008) photographed on an introductory visit to Fethard Youth Café. Fethard Youth Centre invited sixth class pupils and their teachers to visit the centre before the summer break with a view to pupils joining the centre when they move on to second level education in September.*



undertaking their own research using the internet, the library and information leaflets sourced from Fairtrade Mark Ireland, Kinsale Distribution and Amnesty International. They also went to Thurles to hear Mr. John Nuwagaba, Fairtrade Co-operative Manager, from Uganda speak about the positive difference Fairtrade has made to the lives of people in his country.

The pupils then decided to prepare and present Fairtrade hampers to the three schools in Fethard: St. Patrick's B.N.S., the Patrician Presentation Secondary School and our own school. Still focusing on raising awareness within the school community, 6th Class organised competitions – designing posters and bookmarks, as well as writing poems for each class with prizes of Fairtrade chocolate.

Later on, in March 2009, the whole school took part in the nationwide Go Bananas campaign when all 137 of our pupils ate a Fairtrade banana. Our thanks to Kenny's Centra, Fethard who kindly sponsored this event for us.

The next step was to expand the remit of the project and the girls did this in various ways:

- They held a Fairtrade\Sharing Fair sale on 14th February 2009
- They organised a Cake-Bake for the sale, making biscuits & cakes, from Fairtrade ingredients, to be served with tea on the night of the sale.
- Coverage of their endeavours in articles and photographs in the Nationalist and on both the School and the Fethard website.
- Organising a large window display in the centre of town to adver-



*Full group of Nano Nagle Primary School Junior and Senior Infant classes photographed after their production of 'Toby's Ark' in the Abymill Theatre, Fethard, on 1st April 2009.*





*Photographed at the 'Challenge to Change' project highlighting the sale of Fairtrade and 'Trade Fairly' goods are L to R: Katie Butler, Shannon Dorney, Kelly Keating, Jessie McCarthy, Emma Keating and Chloe Burke.*

tise the Fairtrade sale. Many thanks to Marianne Shortall, The Valley, Fethard who co-ordinated this display for them.

- Visiting the Irish Aid headquarters in Dublin in June.
- They presented their project to other classes and to the local secondary school.
- The girls distributed cards to local shops requesting them to stock Fairtrade goods.
- Finally, they presented their project at the "Challenge to Change" seminar in Kilkenny, where they also got the opportunity to view the other projects and to participate in related workshops.

We found that both pupils and staff very much enjoyed the Fairtrade project and we are certainly much more aware of the implications of our shopping choices. It is amazing to think that just by choosing to do something as simple as switching to Fairtrade produce we can make a tremendous difference to the lives of people in the Third World.

There was also definitely an awareness and support for our project in

Fethard. There was great support for our sale and, as already mentioned, there was lots of coverage in the local newspaper and on the web. The local Community Council passed a motion to make Fethard a Fairtrade town and we would hope to support this effort on an ongoing basis in our school. We believe that the pupils in our school and their parents are now much more aware of Fairtrade and the importance of supporting it.

Perhaps it is only fitting that we quote from the conclusion penned by the girls in summing up their project, "We really loved doing this project . . . we learned that the world is a very unfair place and that we must try to change it, even in little ways . . . it wasn't anything like I expected . . . it was even better. It was so good I wish we could do it all again next year . . . this was amazing....I loved it!"

As we prepare for Christmas 2009, we would like to send greetings to all who read this newsletter, especially all those Fethard folk who find themselves far from home at this special time. Beannacht Dé Oraibh agus Nollaig Shona Dhíbh go léir. ●



## MEMORIES OF NANO NAGLE NATIONAL SCHOOL

*Through the years in Nano Nagle National School I've learned to read, write and speak our native Irish language. Over the years I've made new friends, learned new skills as well as learning self-respect and respect for others. The main highlights of the last seven years for me would have to be school trips, school shows and projects. Every new school year brought new goals, talents and achievements along with the continuous help, hard work, guidance and efforts of our teachers. With school being one of our guides to becoming good, sensible and responsible young people, we have to thank our teachers. This year is our last and we have the opportunity to do the 'Challenge to Change' project, which will be hard work all the way. It is such a privilege to have such a well-cared for, well- equipped school in our locality, for which we are all very grateful.*

*by Amy Tynan, 6th Class*

*I've been in this school for nine whole years  
And on our final day there will be tears.  
We laughed and played and made the teachers cross  
But everyone knew that Sr. Maureen was the boss.  
We learned something new every day  
As Ann-Marie kept us at bay.  
Even though there were lots of rules,  
They helped us not to be silly fools.  
I enjoyed every year of Nano Nagle,  
Working as hard as I was able.  
As 6th Class move on and half of us are gone,  
We hope to be friends many years on.*

*by Katie Butler, 6th Class*

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF THE PBS CLASSES OF 1960

*A 50th Anniversary Reunion of the PBS Classes of 1960 — both male and female — is being planned for sometime next summer, 2010. Although the main focus will be on the 1960 classes, it is open to any past pupils pre 1960 who wish to attend. Any interested parties should contact me at soon as possible.*

*Tel: +353 (0)61 455065 - Tom Burke, 51 Mervall Drive, Clareview, Limerick. - Email: burketf@eircom.net*





*Alice Ryan (right) with her friend Pauline, taking a break from work in London c.1990*



*Nellie Ryan and Louis Coen at Holy Year Cross, Slievenamon c.1985*



*Mai Carey, The Green*



*Michael Ryan, April 1984*



*Group at Killusty Platform in the 1950s (supplied by Nellie Ryan)*



# John Joe's Corner

*by John Joe Keane*

## COMICS

A weekly issue from a shop  
To be read, sold or swapped  
Magazine, sixty-four page  
Athletics, war, humour  
All the rage, handy  
The Victor, Hotspur or Dandy  
Heroes all, Wilson, Wee Bandy, Tupper  
Made of steel and another  
Every one, avidly read,  
By the fire, outside or in bed  
Nowadays, it is the Simpsons,  
Squarepants or Harry Potter.  
A far cry from the Jotter.

## DRAWING WATER

From the judy on the street,  
Two buckets could be a feat,  
The pump had an iron cap  
And a shore, to take a spill  
The pillar was of cast metal  
A relic of the past crown  
The mouth pointed down  
There were at least six in Fethard Town  
Come hard weather, it got a coat of sugawn  
Nowadays a collector's item, to adorn a lawn.

## PIGEON FANCYING

Up the Rocklow Road, by the school  
To the old Kennels, in the chestnut boreen  
Next to the weir and whirlpool  
The nests, were on the wooden beam  
Springtime, young ones, to be seen.  
Nature cooing, food sharing  
The odour was, rather unpleasant  
A smaller bird, then the pheasant.

## AN CIGERA

The classroom was spic and span  
Waiting for the man  
The door opened, in he came  
Things, were not the same  
Then a test, of sums  
Division of spuds, rule of thumbs  
Divide twenty-four by three,  
Sir, Sir, the pupils, shouted with glee  
Yes, you, the answer was eight,  
Divide twenty-five, by the same number  
The inspector said, it cannot be done?  
The class dunce said, mash them sir  
Savvy was, the one.







*Photographed in front of the old handball alley in the Barrack Field, where the Sports Centre (opened 6th June 1974) is now, are L to R: Sean Aylward, Michael Prout and Tom Halpin c.1970*

### THE DROVER

In all weathers, for many years  
 John and Maggie Halpin prevailed, peers  
 Drove the cows, through the town  
 Which caused many a frown.  
 From the corner of Cashel Road  
 To the Killenaule straight  
 A journey, not without Incident, a berate  
 Resident complained about the droppings  
 I'll put napkins on them, John said stopping,  
 Sadly, John passed away, a did Maggie  
 The cows were sold, on a Friday, ending a saga  
 And resold, on that Saturday. Business!

### EXERCISE

In the Barrack field, playing handball  
 Against, a smooth section of the town wall  
 The floor was uneven in places.  
 There, the foul ball was called, faces  
 Sometimes there was a small wager  
 In doubles, an alliance or merger  
 More times, it went up and over  
 Into the garden of cover  
 Nimble limbs, climbed and sought  
 If lost, another was bought  
 Tossing over, the short line  
 The under hand whip, so fine.



*Enjoying a pint L to R: Dinmy O'Brien and John Halpin*



## St. Patrick's Boys National School



*Sixth Class at St. Patrick's Boys National School Fethard. Back L to R: Nathan Costin, J.J. Freeman, Alex O'Donovan, Paul Moloney, Conor Mackey, Dean Dorney. Front L to R: Adam Czak, William O'Meara, Eoin O'Donovan, Thomas Condon and Mike Earl.*

As another year is drawing to a close we look back on a busy and educationally rewarding year.

We said goodbye to our sixth class boys in June and we wish them well in their Secondary School. Jack Connolly won two All Ireland Boxing Titles during the year and Jodie Sheehan took part in the Primary Games on Sunday 21st June. In September we welcomed sixteen boys to first class. We hope they enjoy their years with us and are left with many pleasant memories.

As usual things were very busy on the sporting front. We participated in Cumann na mBunscol hurling and football competitions. We also participated in an indoor hurling blitz in Clonmel to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the G.A.A. Johnny Cummins organised a Lift and Strike

competition in Ardfinnan and we did well in this competition.

Sixth Class boys took part in the Spike Ball competition, coming second. Third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes won the overall shield for this group in the Annual Track and Field competition in Clonmel.

In October all pupils who took part in the Athletics competition in Marlfield received bronze medals. First, third and fifth classes developed their swimming skills in Clonmel Pool for eight weeks. In recent weeks third and fourth class took part in a five-a-side soccer blitz in Thurles. Everyone enjoyed this well organised competition.

In October/November Clíodhna Breen the PPDS (Primary Professional Development Service) coordinator spent six weeks in the school organis-



ing outdoor and adventure activities. Fifth and sixth class teams won the local Credit Union Quiz and came second in the Cashel Library Quiz. Mark Hayde in fourth class won an art competition organised by The Book Market, Superquinn Shopping Centre, Clonmel. Fifth and sixth classes organised the Annual Lenten Bothar collection and raised sufficient funds to sponsor a dairy goat. They also showed their entrepreneurial skills by making Christmas cards, decorations and calendars and selling them at a profit. At the moment they are working on a project organised by South Tipperary County Museum. Already they have participated in a guided walking tour of Fethard and have drawn the streetscape of Main Street. The project will be completed in January.

In May we travelled to Trabolgan for our Annual School Tour. A great day was had by all. In June we had our Sports day with a difference. In the morning the Scouts organised many activities for the boys. This was followed by a barbecue hosted by the Parents Council. The boys then took part in class sporting activities.

In conclusion we would like to thank all those who supported us during the year including the Parents' Council, the Board of Management and the Parent body in general. We all had a very enjoyable and creative experience when members of the Parents' Association helped the boys make Christmas logs and centre pieces. These items were sold the next day at our Christmas Bazaar. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go leir. ●



*Pupils from St. Patrick's Boys National School Fethard photographed with Principal, Ms Patricia Treacy, while recently undertaking a 'Traffic Survey' on the Rocklow Road in Fethard. February 2009*



## Fethard & Killusty Community Council



*Fethard's new Internet Cafe based in Fethard Youth Centre. Open for public use during the daytime from Monday to Friday.*

This year, 2009, has been a fruitful year for Fethard & Killusty Community Council. In addition to the ongoing, regular activities of the organisation, this year saw the culmination of a number of projects that had been in progress for a few years. Perhaps the most noteworthy happenings of the year are the establishment of the Fethard Youth Centre and the publication of the 'Conservation and Management Plan for the Medieval Town Walls of Fethard'.

The year began with the news that the Community Council were successful in their application for a grant under the Scheme of Grants for Community & Voluntary Groups from the Department of Community, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs. The purpose of this funding was to cover the refurbishment and the buying of equipment for the Youth Centre. The amount granted was €70,000 and

this facilitated the purchase of state-of-the-art leisure equipment for the Youth Centre. Indeed, the news of this grant-aid was made all the sweeter when that particular scheme was disbanded, as a result of the declining economic situation, only a matter of days after the Community Council completed their contract. This finance was crucial in fitting-out the Youth Centre to a high standard, ensuring that it is one of the finest such facilities around. According to the Chief Executive Officer of Tipperary Regional Youth Services, Ms. Cora Horgan, the Youth Centre in Fethard is the best one in the country. Once the building-work and refurbishment of the Youth Centre was nearing completion the Community Council set about recruiting volunteers who would act as adult leaders in the Youth Centre. There was a wonderful response from people within the community and in



the spring, fifteen leaders completed training with the Tipperary Regional Youth Services. Some of those who participated were already involved in community organisations – both the Community Council and others – but others presented themselves because they wanted to contribute to the community, they were interested in working with youth or they were aware of the effort being made, by the Community Council, to make provision for the young people of Fethard and wanted to help. The fact that the Youth Centre is entirely volunteer led and run makes it unique in Ireland and it has gained much recognition from individuals and organisations involved in Youth Work.

The Youth Centre first opened for registration on Valentines's Day,

Saturday 14th February 2009, and opened for members on 28th March. On 17th April we opened Friday nights and presently we open every Friday and Saturday night from 8pm to 10pm. To date over seventy young people, aged from thirteen to nineteen, have enrolled. It is hoped to expand the services available into the future. In recent weeks we have been informed that Fethard Youth Centre will benefit from funding of €5,000, to facilitate specific youth programmes, from South Tipperary V.E.C., and another €5,000, from South Tipperary County Council, for a multimedia programme. Both of these programmes will be rolled-out by the staff of Tipperary Regional Youth Services. In addition to the Youth Centre, the building also hosts an Internet Café, which is



*Cyclists preparing to set off on the sponsored cycle in aid of Fethard Youth Centre on 27th September 2009. The cyclists did two laps of the route from Fethard, Coolbaon, Moyglass and back to Fethard. Back L to R: Mary Collins, Michael O'Gorman, Middle L to R: Kevin Coffey, Frank O'Donovan, Paddy Boyle, Jason Collins, Janet Blake, Anastasia Blake, Noel Blake, Sr. Betty Cagney, Matt O'Sullivan, Sam Manton. Front L to R: Liam Harrington, Tom Quinn, Conor Harrington, Barry Connolly, Bobbi Holohan, Kyle O'Donnell, Paul Shanahan and Richard Hayes.*



open regularly on weekdays, and a well equipped audio-visual room. It is proposed that beginners' computer classes, in conjunction with South Tipperary VEC, and a film club will commence early in the new year.

Following nearly two years' work and preparation, a 'Conservation and Management Plan for the Medieval Town Walls of Fethard' was launched, during the Walled Towns Festival, on Saturday 22nd August. This is a very thorough document commissioned by South Tipperary County Council in partnership with the Heritage Council through the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) and completed by the consultancy firm Oxford Archaeology. This report will now inform all future work on 'The Wall' and influence all developments along the line of the best-preserved town walls in the Republic. At the official launch, the Head of Building Archaeology with Oxford

Archaeology, Mr Julian Munby spoke on the findings and recommendations of the study. On the night Julian stated that, "Fethard is of outstanding significance as a Medieval defended town, with its very complete circuit of walls and other medieval buildings demonstrating the life and trade of the original town". He also commented that while academic tomes would be beneficial, in relation to the significance of the Town Wall, what is most important is that people come and enjoy it, because it is theirs. To conclude, and with reference to the event being held during the annual Walled Towns Festival, Julian urged the people of Fethard to enjoy living in the town and to continue to enjoy celebrating the Town Wall each year.

In February, Mathew Mather, a Programme Specialist with Tipperary Institute, introduced the concept of Transition Towns to the community of Fethard. This concept looks at



*Fifth Year pupils photographed at Fethard Youth Cafe after finishing school term on Thursday 28th May.  
L to R: Sarah O'Meara, Mira Nagy, Gráinne Horan, Melissa Wallace and Aisling Dwyer.*





*Matthew Fitzgerald, Arron Conran and friends enjoying a game of pool at the Youth Centre*

how communities can respond to the challenges, and opportunities, of peak oil and climate change. Mathew explained that a Transition Initiative is a community working together to look at 'peak oil and climate change' squarely in the eye and address the 'big' question: "For all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience (to mitigate the effects of peak oil) and drastically reduce carbon emissions (to mitigate the effects of climate change)?" These are challenges and questions that will certainly need to be addressed, both at individual and community level, in the years ahead.

During the summer, Fethard was presented with two opportunities to showcase both the historical aspects and tourism potential of the town. On the first occasion twenty-five heritage officers, representing many local authorities throughout the country,

who were attending their annual convention in South Tipperary, spent a day exploring the town. They were particularly impressed with their visit. Soon afterwards, representatives from the Irish Landmark Trust came to research suitable properties in Fethard with a view to looking at their potential re-use as holiday accommodation. A local group welcomed Executive Director Mary O'Brien and Caroline Crowley from the Irish Landmark Trust and their consultant conservation architect Margaret Quinlan. The welcoming committee was comprised of Cllr John Fahy, Fethard and Killusty Community Council's representative Joe Kenny, Tim Robinson from the Fethard Historical Society and South Tipperary County Council officials – Heritage Officer, Labhaoise McKenna and Housing Section's Senior Executive Engineer, Tom O'Reilly. The group brought the visitors to parts of the Fethard Town Hall and to the



Mural Tower in the Fethard Town Walls. The Irish Landmark Trust was interested to see the upper level of the Fethard Town Hall to examine its potential re-use as a holiday apartment. The Town Hall, also known as the Tholsel, is a medieval building dating to early 17th century and is one of the oldest surviving municipal buildings in Ireland. The Heritage Council have recently commissioned KPMG to undertake a feasibility study to find an appropriate end use for the building. An outcome such as a holiday apartment on the upper floor could potentially draw many tourists to the Medieval Town. The visitors were very impressed with both the Town Hall property and the remarkable condition of the Mural Tower overlooking the Clashawley River in the town wall. Both are remarkable buildings with very attractive architectural features. The group also gave the visitors a run down of the various conservation projects undertaken in Fethard over the years.

A meeting to re-establish a Tidy Towns committee in Fethard was held in the Tirry Centre in October attended by special guests from Emly who spoke on how they started Tidy Towns in their own area and went on to win the overall Tidy Towns national competition. Denis Heffernan gave a very interesting talk on his experiences in Emly and emphasised the importance of being positive at all times and getting out and doing the work on the ground instead of waiting for local authorities to act. He also

stressed that perseverance will also be rewarded with others following good example. He suggested an overall professional plan for the town would be a very good starting point that would help involve individual areas and estates. He also suggested the importance of awareness with local schools encouraged to get involved in 'Green Flag' and 'Wild Life' projects. Mr Heffernan then gave a detailed report on how the group visited Fethard on the previous Sunday in preparation for this meeting and listed their findings and suggestions. This report was surprisingly very complimentary and emphasised how litter-free the town was for a Sunday evening. The other Emly representatives then spoke in turn about how they got involved in Tidy Towns work and answered questions from the floor. Current problem areas such as the litter and broken glass by the river walk, the need to control dog litter, how to get people involved, who to contact in the relevant authorities when needed, and the lack of general support, were all discussed. On the night names of those interested in forming a committee were taken and it was decided to call a further meeting to form the committee. Subsequently, it was decided that a professional opinion would be sought with a view to preparing an overall plan for Fethard that could be used to organise and co-ordinate activities of the re-convened Tidy Towns Committee.

During 2009, Fethard Community Council continued in its endeavours to



maintain and develop its connections with lead development agencies in the immediate area. These linkages included participation in public consultations in relation to the establishment of, and funds available from, South Tipperary Development Company, formerly Tipperary LEADER Company; participation in workshops organised by South Tipperary Tourism Company and involvement with the Rural Development Department of Tipperary Institute in their endeavours to promote Resilient Communities.

The members and committee of Fethard & Killusty Community Council would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who contribute, in any way, to the activities of the organisation – to the many volunteers who work tirelessly in the community; to the personnel involved in the Community Employment

Scheme who contribute so much to the social fabric of the town and especially to Joan O'Donohoe, the 'captain' of the Tirry Centre team for her unwavering effort, diligence and dedication; and our local public representatives, Cllrs. John Fahey and Jimmy O'Brien, for their involvement and contribution.

The Board of Directors of Fethard & Killusty Muintir Council Limited, for 2009, are as follows: Joe Kenny (Chairman), Edwina Newport (Secretary), Jimmy Connolly (Treasurer), Very Rev. T. Canon Breen P.P., Ger Manton, Thelma Griffith, Maria Murphy (P.R.O.), Peter Grant, Paddy McEvoy, Brian Sheehy, Liam Hayes, Diana Stokes and David Woodlock. Wishing you a peaceful and happy Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead. ●



*The first Community Council Committee elected on 13th January 1976. This group was preceded by the Fethard Development Association formed in the 1960s. Back L to R: Joe Allen, Percy O'Donnell, Malachy Brett, Tom Butler, Dick Cummins, Gus Fitzgerald, Mick Ahearn, Tom Noonan, John Clancy, Dr. J.B. Maher, Jimmy Mdnerney, Philip Ward, Paddy Walsh. Front L to R: Paddy Heffernan (Joint Treasurer), Jerry Skehan (Vice-Chairman), Rev. John Stapleton (Chairman), Mrs. Mary Healy (Secretary) Paddy Broderick (Joint Treasurer) and Austin O'Flynn (PRO).*



# Donations Received 2009

Acknowledged below are donations (€10 and over) received from readers and organisations up to 30th November 2009. We would also like to thank all those who wished to remain anonymous.

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 Walshe, Michael A, Surbiton, Surrey, UK  
 Warren, Susan, Omaha USA  
 Watson, Simon & Amanda, North Shore City, NZ  
 Whelan, Jimmy & Susan, Preston  
 Whelan, Miriam (O'Brien), Drakesland, Kilkenny  
 Whelan, Paddy, London SE13  
 White, Eileen (Leahy), Drangan  
 Whyte, Michael, Leicestershire UK  
 Wilkins, Christine (Sayers), Taghmon, Co. Wexford  
 Williams, Sheila, Effingham, Surrey UK  
 Woodlock, Austin, Birmingham  
 Woodward, Gráinne (Cummins), Southampton, UK  
 Woodward, Sheila Aline, Warkidshire UK  
 Wynne, Monica (Dwyer), Clonmel

If, for any reason, we have omitted your name, please let us know  
 and we will acknowledge your donation next year.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Carmel Rice who keeps track of correspondence and donations every year; Brendan Kenny for distribution; and Gemma Burke for proofreading.

Thanks to all who submit articles

and photographs; those who subscribed to our church gate collection, and a special thanks to all those who make annual donations, from home and away, which help make the publishing of this newsletter possible. ●



## *Fethard's Nonagenarians 2009*



*Josie Casey aged 96*



*Hannie Leahy aged 90*



*Willie Crean aged 92*



*Nellie Shortall aged 96*



*Nora Butler aged 91*



*John Lucy aged 93*



*Fr. John Meagher aged 93*



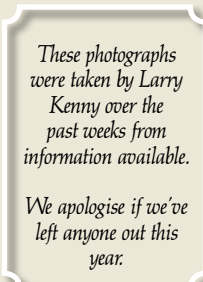
*Sr. Celsus Ryan aged 90*



*Sr. Philomena Croke aged 90*



*Ja Joe Holohan aged 90*



*Chrissie Byrne aged 96*



*Suzanne Opray aged 90*



*Pat O'Brien aged 92*



*Dolly O'Connell aged 90*



*Chrissie Murphy aged 90*



## Get Shortie!

by Tom Burke



*Tom Healy, who took up Rugby refereeing in UK and is now a Referees Assessor for S/W England; visited Tom Burke in Limerick in August 2009. This picture of Tom Healy (right); Tom Burke and his grandson, Thomas, was taken at Thomond Park with the Heineken Cup.*

A favourite pastime during winter months when we were growing up was the writing of letters to the Nationalist. This would be a time when the playing fields lay dormant, and the sports pages would be crying out for material to fill the void. Most of the letters submitted would be on selection of the inter-county senior teams and preferred choices for the coming year. The vast majority of letters would not bear the real author or authors' signature, but names such as, 'Old Gael', Fethard, or 'Blue & Gold', Clonmel.

One winter, we decided to become really controversial and stir it up. We

composed a letter, which to the best of my recollection, went along following lines.

*Sports Editor  
Clonmel Nationalist.*

*A Chara,*

*I have been following both club and inter-county activity for many years, and I'm anxious to publicise the following general observation.*

*The progress of my own club, Fethard, and indeed the county football team, is being severely hampered by the physical shortcomings of the players involved. Too many participants, whilst possessing skill in abundance, are*



cursed with a marked lack of inches, being only around 5ft 8 ins. Indeed, many are even below this meagre height. In addition, these 'short' fellows tend towards a fuller waistline than their taller / slimmer colleagues. In a 50/50 situation, when the ball is dropping from the air, the taller player enjoys a marked advantage, not to mention the length of stride which the tall man can employ when running for the ball opposite the short 'stubby' individual.

For some strange reason, my own club, Fethard, seems to attract a preponderance of the short type, and indeed at county level, we seem to suffer more than our neighbours in this regard.

For team photographs, one will invariably find the fine tall figures standing resplendent in the back row, whilst the 'shorties' are in a kneeling position at the front.

There is no doubting the commitment of these 'vertically challenged' players, and indeed, in general, they play with an aggressiveness which borders on the fanatical. However, the effectiveness of the 'low' man is severely limited in comparison to his taller colleagues.

*Mise Le Meas*

Now the signature we employed for this letter was of a certain Harry Sayers, who resided on the Valley in Fethard. Harry was renowned as a fisherman, but I am not aware that he had any great interest in Gaelic Games. As decent an individual as ever lived, Harry would probably be the last to submit such a letter, but we considered that this would really 'stir up' the controversy.

Was this sufficient to place in the public domain to awaken the Gaels

of Fethard and South Tipp from their well-earned winter rest?

Well, for extra insurance, we followed the above with a 'rebuttal' the following week, which we signed with the name of one of Fethard's greatest footballers — Joey Fogarty, who was not the tallest of players and who also happened to reside on The Valley, not too far from Harry Sayers.

*Sports Editor  
Clonmel Nationalist.*

*A Chara,*

*Ref. is made to the letter in your Sports Page of last week from Mr. H. Sayers, Fethard.*

*This submission casts aspersions on the performance of both Fethard and Tipperary Football teams due primarily to a preponderance of 'low-sized' players.*

*There is no doubting that the author has advanced solid reasons for reaching the position outlined and it is accepted that the letter is submitted in good faith.*

*I myself could be included in the 'short' category referred to, but having operated at full forward for my club for many years, I would place my scoring rate for comparison with any other player in this position in Tipperary. That I have been honoured with selection on the county team is testament to my effectiveness.*

*I believe that the definitive question to be answered in this debate should be, "In any field code, since when did inches become the yardstick by which to measure ability?"*

*In addition, it has long been accepted that the 'short, rotund' type of player is almost impossible to ground when in possession, and bearing down on goal, as he enjoys the advan-*



tage of low center of gravity. The 'long fellow' may appear to have the advantage under a high dropping ball, but it is recognized that a well positioned elbow, delivered sharply to the midriff at the moment of take-off, will serve to negate this advantage and allow scope for the 'low man' to gain possession.

In any case, the Fethard 'Blues' have always been noted for their possession type football, with the ball invariably delivered low to the forwards, so as the latter can secure possession readily in spite of the close presence of perhaps larger defenders.

The 'butty', rotund figure may not appear as aesthetically pleasing as the tall, slim figured individual, and Mr Sayers is right when he points out that, for team photographs, the front row is almost always occupied by the former in a kneeling position, whilst the latter appear in the back row. But could I remind Mr Sayers that no match is contested on the evidence of team photographs, and no amount of posing in upright erect positions will affect one's opponent, once the first whistle is blown.

I would draw the attention of Mr Sayers

to the old saying, "It is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog."

Many thanks for allowing me space to participate in this debate.

Mise Le Meas

J. Fogarty

Our Father used to read the Nationalist, cover to cover, out loud and derived great enjoyment from the controversy, blissfully unaware that it was his sons, plus their good friend Tom Healy, who were at the heart of it. We heard second hand that relations in The Valley area were glacial, to say the least, between Messrs Sayers and Fogarty for a short period. Gradually it dawned on the 'innocents' that they were being 'had'. Fortunately, they never suspected that the culprits were sitting in the Inter Cert class in the Patrician Monastery on the Rocklow Road. It all helped to shorten a winter growing up in the late 1950s. ●

## Fethard Oil – Daly Fuels

A familiar sight on all roads around town on these cold winter days is Roger Daly's 'bright yellow 'Fethard Oil' truck as he makes his way delivering oil to customers.

Roger is the local home heating oil and solid fuel distributor and offers a six-day prompt and efficient service with competitive prices.

You can contact Fethard Oil on Tel: 087 9896709 or 052 6131896 for a swift friendly service catering for all your heating needs this winter. ●





## Rugby - first senior side in over 70 years



*The Fethard & District Rugby Club fielded a senior side week ending 19th September, the first time in over 70 years that a senior rugby team have togged out for Fethard. As well as picking up much needed match practice in their opening encounter, the Fethard men also picked up their share of bumps and bruises against an experienced Clonmel side. The team photographed above were Back L to R: John Smullen, Colm Shanahan, Cathal Gorey, Anthony Wall, Paul Sully, Hugh O'Connor, Niko Hoynes, Jeff Coady, Kevin Hayes, Dick Walsh, Paul Kavanagh. Front L to R: John Russell, Joe Hanley, Martin Murphy, Nigel O'Connell, Peter Collier, Richard Horan, Tom Anglim and Rich Lalor.*



*Fethard Rugby Team 1925. Back L to R: Hal Goldsborough, P.J. O'Donnell, Jack Maher, Christy Heffernan, Joe Coffey, Jack Hughes, Mick Rice, W. Caulfield, T. Tubridy, Tommy Hogan, Mikey Croke. Front L to R: J. (Gunner) Leahy, Jim Schofield, Paddy Brett, Dick McCarthy, Dr. Stokes, Jim O'Sullivan, Joe Dowling, Jack Wall, Edgar Ryan and referee?*



## Fethard Parish Church Organ



The following information on Fethard Parish Church Organ was taken from Dr. David J. Butler's thesis on Pipe Organs of South Tipperary, written on 17th Feb. 2002. David is originally from Carrigeen Castle, Cahir, and lectures at UCC.

- **Location:** Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Fethard.
- **Builder:** Telford & Telford, Dublin. Date: c.1900
- **Situation:** Centrally located in back public gallery, freestanding
- **Specification:** Two manual and pedal with a total of 586 pipes – Great - 324 Pipes (56x5 & 44x1); Swell - 212 pipes (56x3 & 44x1); Pedal - 50 pipes (25x2).
- **Organists** (from 1911 to present): Mrs Catherine Newport & Miss Goldie Newport.

### Comments:

The Church was built in 1818–19. The Pipe Organ was obtained during the pastorate of Archdeacon Wm. V Jones (1895 – 1907), in circa 1900 being the gift of Clement Joseph Carroll Esq. J.P. of Rocklow, Fethard.

Electric light was installed in the church about the same time, one of the first in the archdiocese to do so. The overall condition of the Pipe Organ is quite good given the fact that it has only received renovation of unknown extent in its one hundred year service to the parish.

It is well worth restoring and the costs would be a good investment in preserving a piece of local history which continues to give service on a weekly basis. ●



## Fethard Parish Church record



Fethard Parish Church was founded by John Ryan PP. Its foundation stone was laid by Wm Barton Esq., Grove, 26th April 1818. Like the old chapel, built in Penal Days outside the town wall in Chapel Lane, and the more ancient Catholic (now Protestant) Church in Main Street, it was dedicated to the Blessed Trinity. First Mass was celebrated in it on Trinity Sunday, 6th June, 1819.

Archdeacon Laffan succeeded in 1823. He finished the interior. His successor, Dean Cantwell, succeeded in 1861. He beautified the Chapel and its yard, he also founded the Presentation Convent, 1871 and St. Patrick's Monastery, 1873. First Mother Superior in Convent being Mrs Mary Agnes Ryan and first Superior in the Monastery, was Brother Augustine Holton.

Archdeacon Kinane, who succeeded Dean Cantwell in 1878, introduced into the Parish the religious societies of the Sacred Heart and The Holy Family. These confraternities were blessed and consecrated by our revered Archbishop Dr. Croke on Trinity Sunday 23rd May 1880.

This stone (photographed on left) was erected by John McCarthy Ryan, Rathduff, Fethard, October 1880 and can be seen on the wall at the back of the Parish Church, beside entrance to Presentation Convent. ●



# Days of the Father

by John Fogarty



Joey Fogarty and Laoise Fogarty photographed at Fethard Senior Citizen's Party 2001

Remembering him now is being swept suddenly back to childhood, back to the days of his constant presence, seen and unseen. The simple moments of being together, doing the mundane, forgettable things of everyday life. Things that you never gave a second thought to then. Moments within days that come rushing painfully back to consciousness. Moments that you will mull over secretly in your heart. Now that he is gone forever.

Because in those seemingly insignificant moments with him an invisible connection was forged, slowly, ever so slowly, from moment to moment, over days, months, years.

A connection that death may wrench but will never break.

*These are the days of the endless summer  
These are the days, the time is now  
There is no past, there's only future  
There's only here, there's only now  
(Van Morrison)*

Three of us - Pat, Jim, myself - running through endless summer evenings to the Abbey, to the yard behind the church where we knew he'd be getting ready to milk the Friar's cows. We'd arrive as he was driving them to the cow-house. Big-bellied cows, sedately crossing the creaking timber bridge that spanned the Clashawley, connecting the Abbey Rocks to the field that skirted the Cloneen road. The plop, plop, plop of cow droppings on the dusty timber of the bridge. And there he'd be at the rear of the herd, one hand on the bony rump of the last cow. Waving his cow-stick in recognition when he'd spot us in the yard. The father, our father. I'd never seen him use that stick, except to occasionally swipe the head off a thistle. I'd sit on the sloped pier of the yard gate watching the cows amble towards me through yellow buttercups. Swollen udders swinging. Pat and Jim would duck into the waste-paper shed to



root around in the hope of finding Dell comics or sixty-four page Commandoes.

The cow-house was a rickety, galvanized affair with a low-beamed doorway. Inside, in the gloom, were maybe half a dozen spaces that the cows would enter and wait in to be baled up and milked. They were docile creatures and when the father softly urged them to 'Bale up, bale up' they'd go to their spaces and stand munching calmly as he fastened a heavy chain around their necks.

The best part though was when he'd turn his cap backwards, sit on the three-legged stool and take a teat in each hand. Soon, you'd hear the rhythmic, tinny ping of the milk hitting the bottom of the bucket. When milky froth was rising towards the brim he'd allow Pat or Jim to pour the milk through a strainer and into the churn. The emptied milk would make a sloshy, echoing sound inside the hollowness of the churn. I longed for the day when I would be able to heft a bucket of milk like that in front of the father. Because I couldn't he gave me the job of moving the stool from cow to cow for

him. Occasionally I'd be swiped with a dungy tail. He'd laugh, 'Ya have the war-paint on now' he'd say.

Sometimes he'd squirt a stream of milk at us from the cow's teat. We'd squeal delightedly and run for cover. It would be hot and sticky if it got you on the face or neck. We'd peep around the doorway and somehow he'd know the exact moment someone's face was

going to appear and manage to hit them with another jet of milk.

The last act of his day's work was the ringing of the Angelus. He'd stop at the door of the Abbey and we'd watch as he gripped the knotted rope that came down from the bell-tower into the porch. Slowly, solemnly he'd send the Angelus tolling out over the old town.

Because they were bigger and becoming independent Pat and Jim would run on ahead rarely going directly home. Usually they'd go exploring along the riverbank, or into Henehan's field and over to Nick Harrington's quarry. They'd arrive home when hunger drove them.

He'd always reach for my hand after ringing the Angelus. Then across the weir and up the Valley we'd walk,



*Wedding day. Back L to R: Mick Fogarty and Nelly (Cooney) Molloy. Front Joey Fogarty and Leish Cooney on their wedding day.*





*Coolmoyn Senior Hurling Team 1944. Back Row. Bro. Albert Small, Joe Ahearne, Ned Delahunty, Jack Leahy, John McCormack, Connie O'Donnell, Mick Hayes, Jimmy McCarthy, Dick Wall, Denis Walsh (in suit). Front Row. Jerome Dwyer, Peter Walsh, Dick Hayes, Joey Fogarty, Michael Fogarty, Paddy Dalton. Also on the team was Paddy Ahearne.*

the father and I, slowly, my hand in his right hand, a sweet gallon-full of milk in his left, fingertips white where the wire handle pressed into them.

Further up Harry Sayers would be waiting and I'd listen to them chatting, mostly about horses. Standing right in the middle of the road. Strange sounding names coming from their lips: Uttoxeter, Market Rasen, Lingfield.

The Clashawley flowed heedlessly along in its stony bed as it had done for centuries, Lester Piggott was cursed as he would often be far into future years. 'That long lanky hoor' the father called him and I tried to imagine such a person on board a racehorse.

Nothing much was said, nothing much needed to be said as we left Harry and walked on together in silence. Many had walked that road before us, many would walk it after us, happy and sad - but this was our

time, a happy time. We were simply walking home together. I was maybe five years old, safe with my father, feeling his strength, his permanence, just walking hand in hand with him in the here and now of a summer evening, in a moment of time beyond description.

*These are the days by the sparkling river:  
His timely grace and our treasured find.  
(Van Morrison)*

Sometimes on summer evenings we'd go netting the river. Down through Whelan's bog and beyond. He'd suddenly throw the paper aside when he was finished mulling over that day's winners and the next day's runners. Marking the winners was a daily ritual. If he wasn't home the mother would tune the radio into the Light programme, lay the paper out on the table and wait, pencil at the



ready. As soon as the plummy-voiced announcer began to read out the winners from all of that day's cross-channel meetings there would be intense concentration as the starting prices for the winners and runners-up of every race at every meeting were pencilled in. The mother working the pencil, us pointing out the horses, confusion reigning occasionally if a price or a placing was mistaken. After his dinner he'd sit in our only armchair and study them carefully.

As soon as he'd mention the river we'd all be on our feet and off with him in a flash, skipping and hopping around him all the way down The Valley, excited at the prospect of seeing the silvery trout thrashing about on the river bank. And there was added tension in the possibility that the gamekeeper might come on us.

Some of the Sayers, Tommy, Billy

or Tony, would come along with us, their father, Harry, too. The fishing tackle was kept at Mrs. Mullins' of Knockbrack. It consisted of a net and an old pair of trousers with the legs cut away that the father wore when wading in the river. We'd stop and the father would go to the house to pick up the gear and there would be a lot of banter exchanged between him and Mrs. Mullins before our journey to the river was resumed.

'G'wan off with ya now, Joey,' Mrs Mullins would say, laughing.

Down on the river Harry and he would spend some time selecting a suitable place for netting. Then he'd retire behind the nearest bush and emerge comically with his white legs and cut away trousers. We'd wait tensely on the bank for the fish to be thrown out and it would be our job to dispatch them. Once we'd got hold



*Sean Moloney, chairman Fethard GAA club, pictured above after presenting Joey Fogarty, Congress Terrace, Fethard, with the 'Player of the Past' award at the club's annual dinner dance held in Kearney's Castle Hotel, Cashel, on 25th April 1998. L to R: Joey Fogarty, Sean Moloney and Leish Fogarty.*





*Mary Goldsborough making a presentation to Eddie Dineen on his retirement as a postman c.1977. L to R: Paddy Cadigan (postmaster Clonmel area), Mary Goldsborough, Eddie Dineen, Jackie Aykoard and Joe Fogarty.*

of them, that is, as they slipped and squirted soap-like from our hands if we gripped too hard, as we competed to administer that final, sharp tap of the fish's head on a toe-cap. Then we'd slit them open with an old razor blade and fling their guts to the crows.

He knew how to snare fish too, with a piece of shiny wire looped on the end of a long pole. He'd show us how, but it was a slow business that required stealth and patience, waiting, waiting, timing the moment exactly. Otherwise you'd have a splash of water, an empty snare and the fish gone arrowing into the cover of the rushes. The net was quicker and more efficient.

When we got home from the river the kitchen would slowly fill with the tantalizing aroma and the sizzling, spluttering sound of trout frying in butter as the mother turned them on the pan. We'd all sit on the form at the kitchen table eating them, enjoying the delicious taste of crinkly, fried fish-skin.

But all that was in another time, a younger time that seems like a dream now. The dream of another world in which we were children and doing those simple things with him seemed magical somehow. The world was sparkling and new, a place of adventure, whose horizons didn't stretch far beyond the hills that surrounded the old town. Simply being with him, in his presence, amongst those hills and fields, was the measure of happiness.

*These are the days now  
that we must savour  
And we must enjoy as we can  
These are the days that will last forever  
You've got to hold them in your heart.  
(Van Morrison)*

Years later and we were all much older, at the end of our teenage years, so cool and trendy in our denim jeans and combat jackets. Clattering along in our wine-coloured, steel-tipped loafers. Longish hair and thick, curly side-locks. Fond of the fag and the



pint. So, always in dire need of some supplementary income.

Which was why, early on Sunday mornings we would go ferreting. With the father.

Rabbits were worth money, not a lot, but it was money and we needed it desperately. A man named Carr from Cork came by every Monday in a red scut truck. He'd buy rabbits and foxes. Anything in a pelt, as the father said, bar Maggie Halpin.

The father was an expert on ferreting. We had often heard of his exploits ferreting and lamping with the Daltons from Red City and his brother, Mick, during the war. They'd caught hundreds of rabbits.

He told us a story of Johnny somebody or another who'd gone out lamping one night during the War and came upon a field 'moving' with rabbits. Johnny had got a pain in his hand from dispatching rabbits, dropping them behind as fast as he could then grabbing another. Only to find when they turned round expecting to find a mound of rabbits that most of them were gone. He'd only stunned them with his rabbit punches. They'd come to and scarpered into the darkness. We weren't sure if it was true or not.

What was true though was that the father knew where rabbits were to be found in every hill, hollow and ditch for miles around Fethard.

And so, in the interests of making a few shillings we suppressed all the instincts of the teenage years. The instincts that made us turn aside as we went up the town in our mod

gear and met him pedalling furiously down the Main Street, past the church on his post-bike. Nonchalant as you like, heedless of the faulty brakes. (Our bikes always had faulty brakes. Or none at all.) Wearing a large pair of sunglasses. Sunglasses. Someone shouting to him, hey Joey, what won the three-thirty at Doncaster?

Him shouting back 'Piggott, that long lanky hoor', then careering out over the bridge in a rattle of mudguards and gear-case. Piggott was still around and being cursed as he would be for a long time yet.

There were no cosmetic considerations when he'd bought the sunglasses - he wore them to keep the flies out of his eyes as he went zooming along on his post route.

Still, on Sundays, we'd go ferreting with him. Because he was the man with the knowledge, who could bring us to where the rabbits were. And rabbits meant money. But, in truth we loved those long Sundays spent ferreting with him. There were many Sundays when we hauled our field nets and ferrets around Grove, Crampscastle, Market Hill, Grangebeg, parts of Kiltinan. But it is the expeditions to Moyglass that stand out somehow. Those bicycle trips out to Peter Walsh's of Carrigeen, Anglim's of Farranaleen and Fogarty's of Curraghscarteen.

We'd go to first Mass in the Parish church. Afterwards there would be a flurry of activity as we got ready for the day. Bikes would have to be brought out, field-nets and purse nets



gathered. The ferreting bar located. The small spade for digging out if the ferret should make a kill and lie in. Brown bread sandwiches, flasks of tea or soup; we'd be out for the day and wouldn't start for home until darkness was gathering along the ditches.

And the ferrets. Ugly, unlovable creatures with albino-eyes, bells tinkling as they sniffed eagerly at the wire mesh of their boxes.

Sometimes the father would go ahead of us, taking the field nets, have everything set up when we got there. We never knew exactly where he'd be heading, but somehow we always found him, instinctively making our way through the fields. Led by John Coffey's unerring sense of direction. 'What kept ye', he'd want to know when we'd finally arrive, 'I thought ye were lost'. It would be straight down to business then.

The trick was to search along a ditch pinpointing the burrows, estimating where the inter-connected burrows that made up the warren ended. You'd then position field nets at right angle to both sides of the ditch, place an old manure bag in the ditch which would turn any rabbit trying to escape along that route, forcing them out into the nets. Another field net was placed farther back with maybe fifty feet separating them. We would stand in a row to prevent any bolting rabbits running around the field nets. Sometimes we'd use purse nets, which were placed over the burrows - but this was done if there were only a couple of burrows which weren't expected

to hold too many rabbits. They were no use when ferreting a warren.

When the ferret was released into a burrow John Coffey would follow intently along the ditch sounding him so we'd know exactly where he was. It wouldn't take long for rabbits to flee the burrow once they scented the ferret. Immediately the fleeing rabbits became entangled in the field nets we'd race over and dispatch them quickly. Although he was probably approaching fifty at the time and we were all in our late teens, the father would be at the net before any of us. When we were beginning to move he would already have a yard of ground covered. He would always grab the rabbit with his cap. 'They'd take the hand offa ya' he'd say. We'd slit them open then with a blade and carefully remove the innards to avoid breaking the bladder.

Occasionally, if the ferret lay in we'd have to dig him out using the ferreting bar to locate the run of the burrow then digging along until he was found. Usually asleep after making a kill in a blind burrow where he'd trapped the rabbit.

And so the day would pass, roving along from field to field, farm to farm. It wasn't aimless roving though. The father always knew where he was leading us.

Afterwards there was the slow, companionable cycle home, rabbits along the crossbars of our bikes. Our best Sunday saw us coming back to Fethard with thirty or so rabbits, happy in the knowledge that after



Carr's visit on Monday we'd have some money.

Carr of course, was a man who made every penny a prisoner. Even though there was an agreed price he would still haggle and bargain to reduce the cost to him. Mainly by finding fault with the rabbits: they weren't gutted properly, the bladder was burst and the meat contaminated - even though he was buying the rabbits mainly for their pelts.

And so on we would pedal, contentedly making our way home through the gathering darkness - along by Rathcoole, Rathvin, over the railway bridge at Rocklow and on into town.

The father would be gone ahead of us as always, and that image of him persists, pushing off on that big old bike, swinging into the saddle with abandon, then off with a rattle of the gearcase, absolutely intent on his destination, the momentary sense of loss

as his figure receded slowly, slowly from our view, then faded, faded into the twilight. On we went, talking and laughing in the darkness certain in the knowledge that we'd be seeing him sometime later on in the kindly light of the kitchen.

He is gone now, the punter, the postman, the ferreter, the netter of rivers, the wily snarer, the footballer, the witty humorist, the good neighbour, the helpful friend - all of those things that he was and much more - but most of all the husband, the father, the grandfather, the great-grandfather is gone. We will meet him no more, but it is not the end, he will live on through the twelve children, twenty-nine grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren that will carry a part of him eternally into the future. Above all he will live on in memories that will last to the end in the hearts of those who love him. ●



50th Wedding Anniversary 23rd November 1998



# My Uncle, Michael Browne

by Sheila Williams

My Uncle Michael was the youngest child of Richard and Ellen Browne, Burke Street, Fethard. Margaret, his sister, worked for many years at the butcher's cash desk on Main Street. John, my father, did his training in his Uncle Paddy's drapery shop in Carrick-on-Suir with his cousin Tom Bolger from Slievenamon. They left to seek employment in London aged about 17 years. Thomas (Tom), their brother, worked in a grocery shop on the Main Street. Many will remember him as a great character.

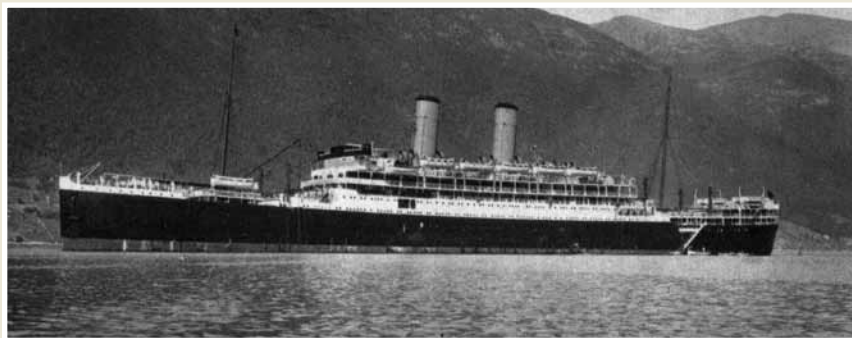
Michael joined the De la Salle order to become a priest and teacher.

He felt blessed to be called by God and his family were very proud of him – especially his mother who was widowed in 1933. My grandfather died aged 59 on Christmas Day. In September 1937 Michael, along with eleven other Brothers, sailed to Australia on the Orient Line SS. Oronsay from Tilbury Docks. My father John was there to say goodbye and gave him a watch which he treasured. Many cards were sent from Gibraltar, Toulon, Naples,

Port Said, and the Suez Canal which he described as eighty-eight miles long and which took 12 hours to go through. They were in the Red Sea for



*Bro Matthew Browne*



*Orient Line S.S. Oronsay 20,000 Tons*



four to five days with dreadful heat and sickness. A crew member died so they experienced a burial at sea.

After a few days they arrived in Aden where it was so hot he did not get off the ship as he was worried about sunstroke. The Indian Ocean he describes as somewhat colder. They arrived at Colombo where they stayed at one of the De la Salle houses for a couple of days. Next stop, nine days later, was Freemantle (Australia at last – it took six weeks).

They spent three days there and then went on to Melbourne. He talked very kindly of Mrs. Whitty who was on the ship with her husband. She was from New Ross and returning from holiday in Ireland. They lived in Melbourne. She did his washing and ironing on board ship and he enjoyed their company.

Michael (Bro. Matthew) and the other brothers arrived in the De la Salle College, Oakhill, Sydney, NSW at the beginning of October 1937. They were greeted with a reception in their honour. He mentioned Fr. O'Dea from Fethard who came out with him to Australia and Sister Theresa from

the Presentation Convent who was his cousin; she wrote to him often. I remember as a child coming to Fethard on holidays always having to visit

Sr. Theresa with my parents and Aunt Margaret. Sr. Theresa loved me to do tap dancing for her. I was so nervous! Bro. Matthew enjoyed his life teaching in Oakhill and exchanged letters home with his mother to get all the news from Fethard.

In March 1943, with tragic suddenness Michael, who was suffering with acute tonsillitis, leaned out of

bed to drink some water, slipped and fell fracturing the base of his skull. On their return from Mass, Bro. Matthew was found dead. He was 26 years old.

My son Jason is now living in Tamworth, NSW, Australia so he went to Oakhill College and met Bro. Lawrence who took him to Bro Matthew's grave where he took photos and emailed them to me. I was overjoyed. I went to visit Jason and the new baby in Feb 2008 and he took me to visit the grave. It was an emotional experience seeing my Uncle's grave. The Uncle I'll never meet. ●



*Sheila Williams (nee Browne) at Bro Matthew Peter's (Michael Brown) grave.*





*Workmen photographed during the building of Fethard Cinema c.1943. Back L to R: Tom Walsh, Foreman (St. Patrick's Place), Dinmy Shine (Monroe), Jim Hayes (Piltown, Co. Kilkenny), Ned Coffey (Mockler's Terrace). Front L to R: Neddy Coffey (Mockler's Terrace), Jimmy Butler (Garrinch), Patsy Fogarty (Cahir Road), Johnny Hayes (Piltown, Co. Kilkenny), and Thomas Littleton (Mockler's Terrace).*



*Coolmoine School group taken on 22nd May 1914. This photograph was supplied by Ned Power, whose Aunt, Hannah Mary Power, is in the front row on the left of the girl holding the board and beside the girl in the dark dress. Her parents were Richard and Alice Power (nee Tracey) who lived at No 4 Kerry Street.*



## *Fethard Brownies & Ladybirds*



*Fethard Brownies and Ladybirds photographed at a recent visit to Fethard Playground, Museum and Car Boot Sale. Anyone wishing to join Ladybirds, Brownies or Guides can come along to Fethard Ballroom any Wednesday night from 7pm to 8pm. For more information contact any of the following leaders: Pamela Daly or Catherine O'Donnell for Ladybirds; Martina Morrissey or Catherine O'Connell for Brownies; and Judy Doyle or Theresa Hurley for Guides.*







*Georgie Matthews at The Bridge Bar 16th October 2009 (photo by Larry Kenny)*



*Overall 2009 county winner of Tipp FM's Premier Star award, Laura Rice receiving her €1,000 cash prize from Pat Doherty, Premier Music Clonmel, and a Tipperary Crystal Trophy from Norman Morrissey, Tipp FM.*