

Rathkeale Newsletter

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Have you something to advertise or tell the community, then you can email rathkealecommunitycouncil@gmail.com or drop a note into Wilmott's Newsagent on Thomas Street, on or before Tuesday evening of each week.

**Due to printing problems, the Newsletter was not published last week.
Apologies to all groups/people that this may have inconvenienced.**

A Community Council meeting, open to the general public, will be held on Monday 9th May @ 8pm in the Community Hall. All are welcome.

MUNSTERS ALAN QUINLAN TO LAUNCH RATHKEALE BUSINESS DIRECTORY and www.rathkealeonline.ie GOES LIVE

More than 6 months after the formation of the Rathkeale Business Committee and an enormous amount of hard work, our first major project -the **Rathkeale Business Directory 2011/2012** - is finally complete!!! The 10 voluntary member of the committee have worked tirelessly in their own time as well as running their regular businesses (looking after children/grandchildren and in one particular case, planning a wedding!) to produce and launch this amazing piece of work.

The official launch of the Directory will take place on **Thursday 5th May, 7.30pm in Davy Mann's Hotel** and **Alan Quinlan** of the Munster Rugby Team will be our guest of honour on the night. Everyone is welcome and we hope to draw a great crowd for speeches, refreshments and of course autographs from our Special Guest.

It is hoped that the Directory in conjunction with Rural Bus beginning to come into Rathkeale on a weekly basis will bring continued and new business into this fabulous town who at times during this recession has been down, but most certainly not out! The community spirit here in Rathkeale and the work of the various voluntary group is as, ever second, to none.

www.rathkealeonline.ie will also launch on the same night as the Directory which will be an extremely useful on-line tool which will include amongst many other things a calendar of events and links and details on businesses in and around the town.

As part of the Business Directory, the Rathkeale Business Committee have decided to run a competition for three lucky people to win a shopping spree in Rathkeale. Details of how to enter are inside the Directory. Good Luck to all.

The article written below was to be printed in last week's Newsletter, so please note that the Dawn Mass happened on Easter Sunday Morning past.

Aspects of Rathkeale's History The Paupers Graveyard

By Patrick Coleman

There will be a dawn mass at 5.40 organised by RTAG in the Paupers burial ground on Easter Sunday morning. Can I personally take this opportunity to thank RTAG for the work they have done on the graveyard and indeed more generally around Rathkeale.

I was recently asked by a member of the RTAG for any information or details I might have on the Paupers Graveyard. Unfortunately I have very little information and indeed I can't say that the information I do have is accurate. For instance an earlier historian of Rathkeale, William (Bill) Hayes writing in the early 20th. Century

wrote that a man by the name of Guinane whom he described as one of the towns older inhabitants recalled to him seeing bodies being taken "by cart over the river", when speaking about the Famine years. This along with my reading of Phillipe Aries book "The Hour of our Death" has resulted in me speculating that the graveyard associated with Holy Trinity Church had a pauper's burial plot, into which the bodies of those too poor to afford a grave were interred. I would have to acknowledge that this is purely speculation on my part. Having said that a place of interment would have to be maintained for the poor and as the officially recognised parish church, if European (or more particularly French norms) were being followed, then having such a site at Holy Trinity makes sense.

According to the Limerick historian Kevin Hannan in a piece he had published in "the famine edition" of the Old Limerick Journal:

"The contract for Rathkeale [Workhouse] was for £6,686 and as it was a smaller workhouse [than the one for Limerick city] for 660 inmates, it was to be completed by December 1840."

It would appear that this schedule was adhered to as the original ordnance survey maps which were completed in 1841 includes the workhouse, but there is no indication that there was a graveyard at the site we now know as the Paupers burial ground. It should be noted that both locally around Rathkeale town itself and more widely in the County (Glin in the Rathkeale area, Ballingarry in the Newcastle West area auxiliary workhouses had to be opened to cope with the numbers at the time of the famine). Some years ago the late Walter Ruddle asked me some questions about the site and at the time I made queries. Pat O'Donovan informed me that he had come across references to the commissioning of a graveyard by the Poor Law Guardians in 1848. I have never been able to confirm this, but trawling through newspapers for a year does take rather a lot of time. I have accepted this date as being that for the establishment of the graveyard though I will need to confirm the details myself at some future date.

I did make some enquiries following RTAG contacting me. Jack O'Dwyer has provided me with two documents though unfortunately he does not recall who gave them to him. The first of these documents is dated 11th. July, though the year is not included. It contains details of a visit to the paupers graveyard when it was badly overgrown and includes both a description of the graveyard as it was at the time and also a map indicating the location of the different types of trees growing in and around the graveyard, where a number of iron crosses were located (by a wall, they had been displaced) the main cross in the graveyard and the path leading to the cross along with the dimensions of the graveyard. Commenting on the layout of the graveyard the writer says: "The graveyard itself is thought to have been bigger than it is currently, approximately 1 acre. It is thought the wall was the same length at either side of the gate ie 120 feet altogether". This would appear to support the claim by a friend of mine that he believes the graveyard was interfered with at the time of the building of the swimming pool. It would appear that the writer made a number of visits to the site, for while at one point in his account he has not been able to locate the small iron crosses that indicated where the burials took place he later comments "right hand side before gate on main wall: five crosses found numbered 14, 33, 60, 65, 71 . . . Left hand side of gate on main wall: Thirty four crosses found in this area, again all planted along by the wall. They were all found in a 60ft area".

Earlier in his account the writer indicates that the last burials in the graveyard was a Paddy Kennedy, though in brackets he adds "Tommy Finn also". I spoke to Gerald Fennell, whose father would through his job have had responsibility for the graveyard from the 1950's through to the 1970's. My recollection was that on a previous occasion that Ger had mentioned Paddy Kennedy, who has been described as a man of the road to me, but on this occasion the person he mentioned was a man whom he thought was named Casey who died on the street in Rathkeale, Ger believed in 1953 and whose funeral was he thought the first one his father had to arrange. When I speak of men of the road, I talk of impoverished men (and I have no doubt women) who walked the roads of Ireland, certainly up to the early 1970's, living from the generosity of people. They were not members of the travelling community, though I have no doubt some of the travellers were also in equally impoverished circumstances.

The writer proceeds to tell a story that they attribute to famine times (historians increasing now would argue that the Irish famine lasted from 1845 to 1851):

"it is rumoured that around the time of the famine, a woman and child were found on Liston's land by a family living there at the time. The woman was dead so the family looked after the baby. The mother was buried in the graveyard, she was not known in the area."

To be continued.

BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

- 1st: Mary Curtin - Ann Roche
2nd: Phil FitzGerald - Margaret Mulcahy
3rd: Kay Cussen - Mossie Stack
4th: Pam McNamara - Pat Neville

St. Joseph's Young Priests will hold a 3 hour vigil of prayer for vacations in St. Nessian's Church, Raheen 14th May. The vigil will commence with 7.30pm mass, and will conclude with Benediction. All are welcome to attend. Celebrant Very Rev Noel Kirwan.

DONEGAL, LEITRIM & NORTHERN IRELAND:- Summer break from June 5th to June 10th. Stay at the Great Northern 4 Star Hotel. After breakfast each day touring, return to beautiful four course dinner and every evening music, dancing and the craic. We have just 2 vacancies. For more information please contact Maureen 087-984502. Full itinerary available.

DAY TRIPS:- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
May 22nd Cape Clear Island Co Cork. June 26th Valentia Island Co Kerry. For more information contact Maureen 087-9845102.

BREAST/CHECK:- is the National Breast Screening Programme that provides women aged 50-64 with a free breast x-ray every two years. Eligible women will be invited to attend the BreastCheck mobile unit on the grounds of Croom Orthopaedic Hospital Croom Co Limerick. To check if your name is on the BreastCheck register please call Freephone 1800454555.

RATHKEALE COMMUNITY GAMES

U-13 Futsal Girls

Well done to the girls and managers on winning the county title this week.

Managers for the following contact Mossie Woulfe 069-64837 for details; closing date 4th May. Forms to be returned by 2nd May.

Judo U-16 Boys & Girls

Pitch & Putt U-16 Boys & Girls

Hardcourt Tennis U-13 & U[16

Photographic Competition U-14 Boys & Girls. Michael Hanley Cup.

Skittles U-12 Mixed, U-14 Mixed & U-16 Mixed.



Tara Coleman 3rd U-14 County Art



Mary Sheahan, Barry Dillon, Rose English and Mossie Woulfe
at the
"Presentation of jerseys to Rathkeale Community Games"

Canon Dempsey wishes to express his sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the presentations and retirement party on Friday night, 15th April. It was a most enjoyable night. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Rathkeale Community Council 45 Drive - Card Results

1st Prize: Vinnie Wrenn - Joan FitzGibbon
Marie Wrenn - Betty Kerins

Table Prizes: Denis O'Keefe - Maureen O'Shea
Mick Neville - Mary Lynch

Raffle: p40 - Tom Hogan
p20 - Pauline Kerins
p10 - Denis O'Keefe
p10 - Mary Lynch
p10 - Sean McElligott

Rathkeale Boxing Club

SAD LOSS FOR RATHKEALE

Last week John Brennan one of our true supporters since we started the club was laid to rest. John was a great sporting man and supported all clubs in the town. His favourite sport was the game of hurling and he loved to chat about the great games of yesterday. John will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Ann and family, may he rest in peace.

Boxing News

It's a busy week in the club as the All Irelands are on all this Easter week, with seven boxers in total taking part looking for national titles.

First in the squared circle was Jason Harty in this boy 1 39kg quarter final against Pearse Nash of Sacred Heart Club, right from the start both lads went straight in looking to score the important shots with big lefts and rights landing and same in round two and round three was very tight right to the end and just as the bell went Nash landed the winning point to take the fight on a 10/9 score.

Next in was his twin Jamie in the boy 1 42kg against Aaron Gettius of Ballinacarrow and just like Jason's fight the two went right at each other again throwing lots of leather and the scores were starting to fly up and again right at the end, this time it was our man that got the last score taking the fight on a 11/10 score line.

Next was the ever improving Darragh O'Grady in this boy 2 48kg quarter final, Darragh was taking on last year's National Champion in Bret McGinty of Oakleaf so he was really up against it as McGinty was noted for stopping lads with his punch power in his right hand so the tactics right away was to keep well away from this and keep Darragh's jab in Bret's nose, and keep on his toes and keep moving fast and it paid off as Darragh took the quarter final on a 5/2 score.

Last into the ring was Mike O'Dwyer in his boy 2 75kg quarter final, it's Mike's first year boxing so fighting in the National Stadium can be a bit of a shock to the system but Mike took it well and had a right go at Martin Mongan of Longford with both lads landing some big shots and again a very tight score at the end with Mongan taking it on a 3/2 score, so well done to all the boxers and with the rest of the lads boxing nearer the weekend we will have the results of these in next week's news.

RATHKEALE AFC

Bonus Ball

There was a rollover in this week's Bonus Ball so the Lucky winner next week will receive €140. Best of Luck to all those involved.

Club Gear

Rose has now put in the order for pink hoodies and is waiting on their arrival. If you would like to pay Rose a deposit on the hoody that you have ordered, you can contact her at (086)1676352.

Bag Packing

We would like to say a big Thank you to Derek Downes and all his staff at Eurospar, Main St, Rathkeale for their help over last weekend when our club held bag packing in the store. Thank you also to all the committee members, managers, parents and children who bag packed over the weekend, it is really appreciated and finally thanks to all those who contributed to the cause over the two days.

Under Age Monster Easter Raffle

We held our Monster Easter Raffle on Sunday last, 24th of April in O'Sullivan's Bar, Rathkeale. There was great support for the Raffle and thanks to all those who sold and bought tickets and to those who donated prizes. The winners were as follows:

1. Easter Egg Hamper - Francis Meade
2. Steam Iron - Maurice O'Connor Jnr
3. Wine Set - John Hayes, Clounties, Shanagolden
4. Bottle of Champagne - Sinead Barry, Ballyhahill
5. Bottle of White Wine - Noreen Hogan
6. 1 hr Astro Turf - Madge Lynch
7. Rose Wine - Alison O'Riordan
8. Baileys - John Lyons
9. Perfume Set - Tom Keating
10. Elizabeth Arden Perfume Set - Mary McCarthy, Athlacca
11. Table Wine - Nicole Sheehy, Ardagh
12. 1 hr Astro turf - Sandra Quaid
13. Hand Blender - Katie Brennan
14. Delphi Pottery Mug Set - Tim Donovan
15. Delphi Tea Set - Jimmy Condon
16. Antique Photo Frame - Matthew Turnbull, Cappagh
17. Pierre Lang Earrings - Madge Lynch
18. Pierre Lang Ring - Catherine Smullen
19. Pierre Lang Ring - Laura Meehan
20. 4pc Mug Set - Louise Jinks
21. Wall Clock - Willie Mulcahy
22. Newgrange Vase - James Keating
23. Horse Racing DVD Set - Caoimhe Molyneaux
24. Lava Lamp - John Fitzgibbon
25. Killarney Crystal - Mairead O'Shea, Athea
26. Wine Glass Set - Kevin Murphy
27. Candle Holders - Mike Fitz
28. Picture Frame - Jessica Barry, Ballyhahill
29. Summer Camp Place €89 - David Clifford
30. Summer Camp Place €89 - Noreen Hogan
31. Bottle Red Wine - Emma Cleary
32. Bottle Rose Wine - Mike Hogan, NCW
33. 1 hour Astro Turf - Geraldine Culhane
34. 1 hour Astro Turf - Casey O'Riordan
35. 1 hour Astro Turf - Tara Coleman
36. Slab of Pepsi - Chappy O'Connor
37. Slab of Ribena - Jack McCarthy, Athlacca
38. Wine Set - Anna Shanagher, Croagh
39. Juke Box Radio - Jack O'Dwyer
40. Wine Set - Mary Kiely
41. Yankee Candle - Mike Enright
42. 2 Bonnie Tyler Tickets - Noreen Hogan
43. Boots Giftset - Ruby Mulcaire
44. Boots Giftset - Andrew Meade
45. Five Cross Road Voucher - Paddy Flaherty
46. Box of Bud - Barry Coleman
47. White Wine - Erin Jacobsen
48. White Wine - Ciaran English
49. Rose Wine - Brian Hickey
50. Candle Holder Set - Brian Hickey

The Big Dribble 2011

The Big Dribble 2011 gets under way this Wednesday 27th of April, participants are all ready to take part and you can still sponsor in shops in Rathkeale. The Big Dribble is a fundraising effort to help raise funds for Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dublin. There will be people collecting in Rathkeale, Adare, Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West and Limerick. Please donate generously as it is a great cause and everyone has put a lot of effort in to make it a success. You can follow The Big Dribble 2011 picture diary on www.facebook.com. Thanks to everyone who has supported so far.

The Big Dribble 2011 Disco

There will be a disco this Saturday night in Davy Mann's Hotel, to celebrate the finish of The Big Dribble. Doors will open at 10.30pm. Please come along and support.

Desmond Cup Semi Finals

Rathkeale AFC are blessed this year to have two of our teams in the Desmond Cup Semi Finals. Rathkeale A will take on Abbeyfeale at Clounreask, Askeaton on Friday 29th of April and Rathkeale B will be in action at the same venue on Saturday 30th of April where they will take on neighbours Newcastle West. Both games have a 7.30pm kick off and we hope to see good support for our boys on both nights. Best of Luck from all involved in Rathkeale AFC.

Fun Day

Rathkeale AFC will hold their annual Summer Fun Day on Sunday 26th of June 2011. There, as always will be great activities for the young and old. So mark the date in your diary and come along for a great day.

St. Mary's / Sean Finns GAA Club

Junior Footballers

Our Junior Footballers played a home game against Cappagh in the Bog Garden on Tuesday night 26th April at 7pm. No results available at time of going to press.

Junior Hurlers

The Junior Hurlers will play Knockaderry in the Bog Garden on today Wednesday 27th April at 7pm in the West Junior Hurling League. This game was postponed last Thursday 21st as a mark of respect to the Brennan Family on the death of John Brennan, RIP. All support is much appreciated.

Under 21 Hurling Championship

The U21s Hurling team await a replay in the County semi-final against Monegea.

The team management of Brian Duggan, Kevin O'Shea and William Coffey will continue with training this week. The replay was postponed from Monday evening as a mark of respect to the Herlihy Family in Monegea.

Minor Hurling

We have our opening game of the West 12-a-side Minor Hurling competition on Sunday 8th May when we play Newcastlewest in the Bog Garden. This game will be preceded on Thursday 5th May with the All-County Minor Hurling Championship (12-a-side) when we travel to Caherline to play an away game at 7.30pm. There will then be an exam break in this competition until July 8th when we are due to have a home-game against Monaleen. Training continues in preparation for both competitions.

Under 16 Football

Sean Finn's Under 16 team played a football game on Bank Holiday Monday 25th April. This was played at the Bog Garden at 7pm and Adare provided the opposition. It was an exciting encounter with high scores and the final score showed Adare as victors with 3:08 while Sean Finn's had scored 3:05. Well done to all concerned.

Under 13 Hurling

On Wednesday 20th April, we travelled to Ballyagran to play and were beaten by a much stronger Castletown/Ballyagran side in our first game in 2011 Under 13 hurling championship. We played 13-a-side. The final score in this game was Castletown/ Ballyagran 4:07 while St. Mary's scored 1:01. The following team played for St. Mary's: S. Byrnes, M. Wilmott, D. Curtin, M. White, P. Power, B. Coleman, S. Keating, G. Mulcahy, J. O Connor, B. Keating, C. McNamara, D. O Donnell, E. Walsh, J. Fahy, E. Sheahan. The next game for this team will be on Wednesday 4th May at the Bog Garden at 7pm when we host Caherline.

Under 12 Hurling Go-Games

Our Under 12 hurlers had a home game against Shamrock Gaels on Thursday last 21st April. The first half was evenly contested but Shamrock Gaels were the better team in the 2nd half. At the final whistle the score line was Shamrock Gaels 5:03 while St. Mary's team scored 2:01. The following players played for St. Mary's Team: S. Byrnes, J. O Connor, M. Wilmott, C. McNamara, P. Power, C. Glynn, B. Keating, B. Coleman, A.Hogan, L. Wilmott, E. Kelly, J. Fahy, D. O Donnell.

Under 12 Football

Our Under 12 Football team will play this Thursday 28th April against Knockaderry. This will be an away fixture at 6.45pm.

Under 8 football Blitz

Our Under 8's have a Blitz to look forward to on this Friday 29th April at the Bog Garden. The following teams will take part: Sean Finn's, Pallaskenry, Ballingarry and Kildimo. Details will be announced at training this week.

CUL Camp 2011

This years Cul Camp will commence on Monday 11th July to Friday 15th July.

Further details later.

Something new from St Marys/Sean Finns

We recently launched out "Last-One-Standing" fundraiser. This is an exciting and fun event that all our supporters may want to be involved in. Contact any player or committee member to be involved as soon as possible. Don't miss out on the action.

Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to the Brennan Family on the untimely death of John Brennan, RIP. John had been a club officer of our GAA club for a number of years and had also trained some teams. We offer our sympathy also to the Herlihy and Normoyle families of Monegea and Newcastle West on the sudden death of Niamh Herlihy, RIP. May they rest in peace.

Upcoming Fixtures

Tues 26th April: Jun Football League: Home V Cappagh 7pm.

Wed. 27th April: Junior A Hurling: Home V Knockaderry 7pm.

Thurs 28th April: U12 football: Away V Knockaderry 6.45pm.

Fri. 29th April; U8 football blitz @ Bog Garden. Time to be confirmed.

Wed 4th May: U13 hurling Home V Caherline @ 7pm.

Thurs 5th May: U12 Hurling Away V Drom/Broadford @ 6.45pm.

Thurs 5th May: County Minor Hurling (12-a-side) Away V Caherline @ 7.30pm.

Sun 8th May: West Minor Hurling Champ V Newcastle West in Coolyrue at 7.30pm