

Durrow Parish Newsletter

Compiled by the Durrow Scouts

Fr. Jackie Robinson's OUTLOOK

THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

I studied the bill-boards as I waited for my train, and I had to smile at one of them. It was a large black and white poster which proclaimed "The meek shall inherit the earth". I wasn't smiling at the familiar and comforting text, but at the timid spidery rider that some wag had added to it, "That's if it's O.K. with the rest of you guys".

Later, on the train I got to thinking about how different the earth is now from what it was, when that lovely promise was made.

Then: lush green forests covered the earth, now: there's a different picture. Some have been indiscriminately cut down. Where they sheltered the earth, and stored precious water, there are dustbowls. More have been deliberately defoliated in war. Acid rain from the highly industrialised areas in Germany, is destroying the wonderful forests in Bavaria. Even as I write, J.C.B.'s and bull-dozers are stripping the Amazon Basin.

Then: rivers could be used for drinking water, and abounded with fish for valuable food. Now: murky waters carry dirt and chemicals, that are gradually killing our rivers and lakes. Some are already dead, devoid of life and dangerous to use.

Our seas, our once majestic blue seas, are used as dumping grounds for all our rubbish. Raw sewerage is pumped from sea-side cities. Oil tankers rinse their holds out at sea, tarring the surface and endangering sea-birds.

Oil slicks have been sighted way out in the Pacific, the sea is no longer able to re-new itself.

Someone else must have been thinking along the same lines as myself because, when I reached my destination there was another "The meek shall inherit the earth" poster, but this time a very firm and determined hand had written "The meek don't want it".

Think about it, and ask yourself, if the earth is a worse or better place because of your coming to it.

We are at present care-takers of this earth, still beautiful despite all our worst destructions. We must pray that God's love will overcome the greed, the war-mongering, and distrust among nations, or the poor, meek will have nothing to inherit.

FAS "Women in Enterprise"

All those ladys with names already given for FAS Women in Enterprise and anyone who may be interested please attend a short meeting in St. Patrick's Hall, Ballacolla, on Wednesday 7th March at 8.00 p.m.

Tidy Towns

The Annual General Meeting of the Tidy Town's Committee will be held in the Castle Arms Hotel on Tuesday night next 6th March at 8.00 p.m. sharp. Please show your appreciation for work well done by coming out and attending this meeting in large numbers.

Rearing of Pheasants and ducks for big shoots on the big estates gave employment to many people. Lord Ashbrook had four game keepers at one time. Major Stubber employed two, Lord Castletown four men. They lived in little houses on the estates so as to afford greater protection for the birds, and their work consisted of rearing the birds from the egg stage. Hens would be purchased from local farmers for hatching, then the young birds would be fed on hard boiled eggs.

Ducks were reared at a place known to this day as "The duck pond" situated on Gay Lalor's farm. My late father told me a story which went like this. Lady Ashbrook was watching the duck swim around the pond one day, when she noticed some duck going under water and not coming up again, so she reported it to the gamekeeper. He opened the sluice gate and drained the pond, and there to his surprise was a huge pike fish, the largest ever seen in this area. He was five feet long, fed all his life on duck. He was on show in Flanagan's Hardware window for a long time, and I believe people came from all over the country to see him.

We will dwell on the big shoots and of course the local poachers next time.

Badminton Notes

The Badminton Club had great success in Kilkenny last week-end when a team of four representing the Club won the Mahon & McPhillips League in their section. They defeated St. Martins, Castlecomer. On the team were:- Gerry Brophy, Martin Brophy, Baird Woods and Sarah Brophy.

On Saturday night the Veterans also had a night out, when they competed in a Veteran's Mixed Doubles. This tournament was run in conjunction with the County Championships. Of the five-players who travelled, three got through to the finals.

Kathleen Stapleton partnered by Ger Foley (Ballinkillen) were unlucky to be beaten by one ace in the "Plate Final". In the Veteran's Mixed Doubles Final, to be played in Kilkenny on March 30th John Kelly partnered by Aileen Doyle (Ballinkillen) will meet Pete Conway (Poincoin) partnered by Ann Dunphy.

Durrow Community Hall

A Cabaret will be held in The Durrow Inn on March 10th in aid of the Durrow Community Hall. Tickets on sale from all committee members, and prizes will be given on door ticket. Music by The Kelly Family.

FOR SALE: Superglo Gas Room Heater in perfect working order.
Telephone 0502 - 34117.

Childs Rosary Beads (Gold Colour) lost on Sunday 4th February between the Church and the Square in Durrow. Sentimental value.

Please contact: Clery's, The Square. Telephone: 36172

Set Dancing Competitions

Set Dancing Competitions will take place each Thursday and Sunday nights starting Sunday 4th March in The Castle Pass Hotel. All sets are very welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Mick Fitzpatrick, Tubbarboe who celebrated his 21st birthday recently.

Scout News

Niall Kelly collected his Chief Scouts Award in the Mansion House on Saturday 24th February. Over 40 Chief Scout recipients from all over the country were gathered there to receive the award from Dr. Eoghan Lavalley (Chief Scout of Ireland) and Sean Haughey, Lord Mayor of Dublin. After the ceremony, lunch was enjoyed by all at National Headquarters, Anglessea St. Again, Congratulations, Niall.

A Basic Leadership Training Course was held in Bagnalstown, last weekend. A new aspect of Basic Training is that Patrol Leaders and Scout Leaders attend the same course, the Scout Leaders then go on to do their Intermediate and finally their Advanced Leadership Training.

All Leaders in the Scout Association of Ireland follow a leadership training scheme, this scheme leads to the earning of the Woodbadge, the International symbol of Scout Training. This is not achieved by simply attending courses but involves assessment and support while working as a Leader.

The Basic Course is designed to help Leaders to plan and run interesting activities and meeting programmes, and to understand the needs of the young people in their sections, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Venture Scouts.

3rd Ladise Patrol Leaders who attended the course were: Evelyn Kelly, Vicky Walsh, Peter McGree and Ray O'Sullivan.

3rd Ladise Leaders were: Helen Kennelly, John O'Regan, Vincent Walsh and David Kenna.

A follow on Intermediate Course is being arranged in Kilkenny during March.

Durrow & District Anglers

Durrow & District Anglers will hold their first Trout Fishing competition of the year on Sunday next 4th March. Usual rules apply. There will be no juvenile competition. All anglers must be paid up members, membership will be taken up on the morning of the competition.

Durrow Bridge

Winners of Durrow Bridge Club, 3 week league sponsored by the Bank of Ireland, and for the Bank of Ireland Cup:-

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| 1. Phil Kingston | 2. Ann O'Doherty | 3. Mary Cole |
| 4. Mary Moran | 5. Peter Delaney | 6. Mairead Woods |
| 7. Marie Foley, Nancy Mahoney (tie). | | |

Keep Fit

Due to the extraordinary demand on keep fit classes in the C.Y.M.S. Hall, the Committee have decided to hold two sessions per night. The first from 8.00 - 9.00 p.m. and the second session from 9.00-10.00p.m. Anyone who wishes to join can come for either session. Cost £1 per session.

CONGRATULATIONS: to John & Edmund Clooney who celebrate their 21st birthdays on 3rd March.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Ian Drennan who celebrates his 21st birthday shortly.

Our Lady's Meadow Primary School

The pupils of Our Lady's Meadow P.S. recently held a 'fair' in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation and raised £100. Many thanks to all the children who took part.

First Confessions will take place on March 15th at 8.00 p.m. and First Communion will be on May 19th.

Results of February Draw:

£100 Ann Purcell, Ballyragget.
£50 John Dunphy, Derry Rd. Durrrow.
£10 Tom Bergin, Grennan, Attanagh.
£10 Mrs. Teresa Ryan c/o Julie Ryan.
£10 Kate Kearney, c/o Miss Ryan.
£10 Jack Murphy, The Stores.
£10 Carmel Kelly, St. Martin's Tce.

Camera Club News

On Monday 19th February a well attended meeting was held. The "Print of the Month" was based on the Kilkenny at night Christmas trip. The competition was won by Andrew Walsh.

On Monday 26th February we had a visit from some members of Portlaoise Camera Club. Some slides were projected and a large amount of prints were on display. The evening was wound off with a cup of tea and a discussion between members of both clubs.

Developing and Printing will take place at our next meeting on Monday next March 5th at 8.30 p.m.

Foroige Notes

The Durrrow Foroige Club are holding a stay awake on the 9th March from 9.00 p.m. until 10.00 a.m. the following morning. Proceeds in aid of Durrrow Foroige Club.

First Aid Part 2

In the last issue of the Newsletter we dealt with the aims of First-aid, we also wrote of the priorities which a person competent in First Aid should learn to deal with - Breathing, Bleeding and Unconsciousness.

Breathing We must be able to breath in order to live. The wind and air passages must be clear. The mouth must be clear of obstructions and foreign bodies. You must check that the casualty is not in danger of swallowing his tongue. This applies particularly to an unconscious casualty whose tongue can easily block the wind pipe. This can be prevented by tilting the head right back. Check for breathing by listening to his mouth and nose, and by looking at his chest and abdomen for a rising and falling movement. If breathing has stopped-apply artificial (mouth to mouth respiration) or the kiss of life.

continued next issue.