

DURROW PARISH NEWSLETTER
COMPILED BY DURROW SCOUTS

Fr. Jackie Robinson's Outlook

A GOOD HEART

"A good heart, these days, is hard to find".

That line is not from any book of quotations, nor is it the utterance of some contemporary philosopher. In fact it's the very first line of a Number One pop song by Fergal Sharkey.

"A good heart, these days, is hard to find". I wonder. Has it become more difficult in this day and age to come across someone who is kind hearted generous and giving?

When I first heard that song - I was immediately reminded of another little phrase which goes:- "It's getting harder and harder to find a courteous person who isn't trying to sell you something.

I was still in this pessimistic frame of mind when - for some reason or other - I remembered a funeral I had attended recently - the burial of a young woman, the mother of quite a large family. She had been sick for a long time and had suffered a lot. It was when I recalled all the concern and tenderness that I had come across in that family throughout the many years of that woman's long illness. Husband, parents, children - old and young - had all shown tremendous courage, resilience and love. There was no scarcity of "good hearts" here. On the contrary there was an abundance of GREAT hearts - hearts full of kindness, caring and God's good love.

A good heart these days, is not hard to find - if only we know HOW to look. Because like many a thing that's good and wholesome in this life - we fail to see or appreciate it because it's either under our very nose or we have blinded ourselves to it by our selfish preoccupations. Good hearts are NOT hard to find - but they do require much care and protection from the dreaded cholesterol of SELFISHNESS.

By the way, how's your Heart?

DURROW COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

A special meeting was held on Monday 1st October regarding the internal Garda rationalisation Plan for Durrow. The Chief Superintendent, Michael Reid, of the Laois/Offaly District attended, along with Charles Flanagan and Eamon Rafter representing Liam Hyland in his absence.

The Chief Superintendent stated that "Durrow Garda Station will not close, and there is no intention of this happening in the future. The station will open on a daily basis, but the hours of opening will depend on the Manpower situation. A Garda will operate the Station, who may come from another district if our own Gardai are on duty roster in another area. The proposed Scheme will involve the pooling of Garda Personnel from four or five Stations to Man Squad cars operating from Regional Stations. If this Scheme is implemented the Gardai in Durrow will be put on a roster for this district and extra cars will be allocated. There is one car operating at the moment, and possibly with this new system there will be three cars. This will ensure greater efficiency, and the fact that crime has changed, we have no choice but to change".

The Chief Superintendent also stated, "That people will be highly critical of the new system, as people do not like departure from the traditional mould, but it is only when this type of operation is put into force, that people will see the benefit". He advised "that he may be talking prematurely it may never come into operation, but then again it may happen early in the New Year". There will be advanced publicity explaining how the system works.

Charles Flanagan stated that he had talked with the Garda Commissioner on this matter, and was told that Durrow Station was secure and hoped that good relations between the people and the Gardaí would continue.

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DURROW COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CONTD.)

The Durrow Community Council will monitor the new system, if implemented, and if it is not to the satisfaction of the Community, we will make our view known. Oliver Clooney and Eamon Rafter thanked the Chief Superintendent and Charles Flanagan for coming to the meeting.

At the monthly meeting of the Community Council a vote of sympathy was extended to the Parkenson Family and the Fagan/Walsh Family formerly of Carrigan Street. It was proposed that a Christmas Tree be erected this year in the Square. A fund will be set up to cover the cost of Insurance and electrical supplies. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost, can contact the Treasurer Mick Donohue or any other Committee member.

HISTORICAL SNIPPET by J. Conroy.

With the eyes of the world on the Gulf and what is going to happen, everywhere I travelled last week conversation seemed to centre around memories of the last war. Any young people listening found it hard to believe the way things were then, for example do you remember, no petrol, the roads free of all traffic, everyone walking in the centre of the road, children spinning tops and roller skating and at winter time water was spilled on the road to make ice and every one would be out sliding as it was called until very late into the night, with no street lighting. Not every house had electric light many it was also rationed, the only light many homes had was the candle and paraffin lamp, they were also rationed and in short supply, as a result everyone made their own candles. An old bicycle pump would be filled with 'drippin' or lard and a string down the middle, this was the only source of light in many homes. Every house holder was supplied with a 'ration book' filled with coupons. They enabled you to get clothing, tea, sugar, butter and bread. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz tea per person, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb sugar and a loaf of bread each week. In spite of all the shortages of things there was a great spirit among the people everyone was equal, money was no good. There was no fruit and when it came back after the war oranges, bananas and grapes were a wonderful novelty. I remember keeping the wrapping paper with the names of all the countries.

We had our own local army the L.D.F. - Local Defense Force - L.S.E. - Local Security Force. They used to drill each evening in the Church Field, that's where Tim Cleary has his residence and were young lads used to be peeping in at the m through a hole in the gate.

Very little cigarettes and tobacco were available, the famous 'five' wrapped in newspaper were all that could be got, as a result people started growing their own tobacco.

It's nice to look back on some of the wartime memories but what a pity if the lovely world we live in now would be moved back into times like these. Let us Pray that God will make the trouble makers of this day and age return the World to Peace and Happiness.

DURROW CREDIT UNION

The Durrow Credit Union held an inter-school's quiz in Our Lady's Meadow P.S. on Wednesday night 10th October and a team from The Holy Family Boy's School won to represent their school at the Chapter Quiz in the Springhill Hotel on Thursday 18th Sept. at 8.15 p.m. The winning team were:- Angus Campion, Paul Shortall, Tony Dempsey and Brian Shortall. A team from Our Lady's Meadow P.S. came second and they were: Roisin Collins, Arlaith Cleary, Samantha Vaughn and Louise Dunphy. The winning team were presented with a Credit Union book containing £10 and the second team a book containing £5.

A team of 4 directors, Anna Rafter, Oliver Clooney, Margaret Tobin and Kathleen Geoghegan took part in a Chapter Quiz in the Springhill Hotel last week and got through to the Inter Chapter Quiz in Clonmel on Wednesday next 17th October. The best of luck to both teams.

Don't forget if you receive a letter from Bardon & Hulimby please fill in the details requested and return immediately.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann & Ger Parkinson on the birth of a girl
to Joan (nee Donohue) and Michael Joyce on the birth of a girl
to Karen & Eamon Lennon on the birth of a boy
to Margaret & Gerry Murphy, Newtown on the birth of a girl

SCOUT NEWS

Siomnach '90 will be remembered like Artek '90 - as an unforgettable experience. The Siomnach Adventure is a weekend hike held each year in all four Irish Scouting Regions. Patrols of senior Scouts are trained and assessed as part of this event. Ideally patrol and assistant patrol leaders should participate so that the knowledge, skills, standards and enthusiasm acquired will reach a large section of the movement through the use of the patrol system in the Troop.

The Siomnach Adventure is not a competition between patrols but of "Scout against Nature" during what should be a great weekend. That's where the theory ended and reality set in. On the Friday evening as we left for the Comeragh Mountains it was raining fairly heavy, the forecast wasn't good, possible gale force winds for the night even so we hoped that they would by pass us. No such luck. The Durrow Patrols were the first Patrols to start the hike, with only strong moonlight we climbed nearly 1,000 feet to Base Camp. The site was a beautiful one, a small corrie lake with towering cliffs behind it, unfortunately it wasn't very suitable as a camp site. There was very little shelter and we found it hard to drive our tent pegs fully into the ground. While we were setting up the tents the wind was starting to get stronger and stronger until eventually it was even difficult to stand. When the tents were erected we retired for the night still in our clothes because we knew they could collapse at any time. No sleep was had because of the pounding of the wind on the canvas. At 4.00a.m. the leaders tent gave up the struggle and we had to take shelter behind some rocks. Unless you have the proper equipment you will not be allowed to commence the weekend - survival bags are a must. We got into ours and settled down to spend the rest of the night in a large plastic bag mid-way up the Comeragh Mtns., - do we do this for enjoyment! The girls tent was the next to collapse but they are made of sterner stuff - they stayed in it. The boys tent stayed standing but all contents were soaking wet.

When daylight came we took stock of the situation. Two tents remained between fourteen of us, all sleeping equipment was unusable so there was only one decision to make - the safety and wellbeing of those involved is a leaders main concern so that meant retiring from the event which in any case had to be curtailed because of weather. The Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Carlow contingents also had to cut the event short. A pity because of the amount of organising that went into it - but it was a hell of an experience.

Those who took part were;

Leaders

David Kenna, Dermot Woods, Martin Walsh and Mary McKane (Mountnellick).

Scouts

Niamh Drennan, Vicky Walsh, Evelyn Kelly, Any Walsh, Sinead Campion, Valarie O'Sullivan, David O'Flanagan and Raymond O'Sullivan. Keith and Jason Conroy, Mountnellick.

DURROW & DISTRICT ANGLERS

Durrow & District Anglers will hold their next competition on Sunday 14th October for the Victor Bowell Trophy. Entry fees taken at Michael Gaughan's on morning of competition (pike fishing).

The clubs next big event is their 12th Annual BAR-BE-CUE in The Durrow Inn on Saturday 27th October, commencing at 8.30p.m. Spots galore. Music by Express. Admission £3.

Make sure you get your tickets early as limited number is available.

MENUE: Home-made Oxtail Soup
Roast Stuffed Chicken (half chicken per person)
Peas and Creamed Potatoes
~~Lettuce Tomato Garni~~
Sweet: Apple Tart and Cream.

DURROW & DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB will hold its Annual Exhibition in Club premises (Beside the Dispensary) on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st October from 2.30p.m. to 5.30p.m. No admission charge. All are welcome.

HARPS G.A.A. CLUB

Pride of place this week must go to the Harps U/16 players, who completed a hurling and football championship double when they defeated St. Joseph's in the U/16 football final at Tirahoe on Saturday last. The Harps had a commanding seven point lead at half-time but then faced a gale-force wind and a determined St. Joseph's side in the second half. However these young lads proved to be a credit to the Harps when they gave a second half performance of guts and determination to run out clear winners by six points. Great credit is due to trainers Martin Lawlor and Gabriel Muldowney and team adviser Mick Carroll for their commitment to these young lads.

The dream of Senior Football competition in 1991 evaporated in the autumn sunshine of O'Moore Park, Portlaoise on Saturday last when the Harps Intermediate footballers were beaten by Birtlington in the county final. Despite having a fair share of possession, (particularly in the opening twenty minutes) the Harps failed to capitalise on some easy scoring chances and eventually went down by a six point margin. However, even in defeat let us salute the efforts of the players and trainers Mick Carroll and Tommy Walsh.

The Harps Minor hurling team got off to a great start in the 1991 League when they easily defeated Rosnallis 6-6 - 1-9 in Durrow on Sunday morning last. With a terrific will to win, inherited from their U-16 achievements, the lads completely over-ran their opponents despite having played the U-16 final on the previous day.

Congratulations to Noel DeLaney, Billy White and Dan Deegan who have been chosen on the Laois Senior Hurling panel for the National Hurling League game against Down on Sunday next.

Ticket sellers for the Laoise Co. Board draw are reminded that all returns should be in by October 22nd. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket may do so by contacting any committee member. Prizes are as follows:-

1st £5,000 2nd £1,000 3rd £1,000 4th £1,000 20 prizes of £100
Tickets are £10 each.

Network Durrow Video Rentals

Corner Shop,
Durrow.

Open Monday - Friday 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Saturdays 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Sundays 11.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Special rates at weekend, also Video Recorders for sale.

FOR SALE: 3 piece suite, Mink colour, in perfect condition.
Pedigree Pram
Boys racer suitable for 10-12 year old.

Contact: T. Kelly, Derry Road.

OUR LADY'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations all the way:

To Helen Kelly on her appointment as permanent teacher on our staff. We are very happy to have her appointment confirmed.

To the girls of last years 5th and 6th class who won the Regional Award in the Opel/An Taisce 'Work for Ireland' competition recently. We are very proud of the work they put into their projects which included practical and written work. Our thanks to Miss Kelly for her co-ordination of the project.

To our two teams who did so well in the Credit Union 2nd Quizz on Wednesday night. coming 2nd and 3rd.

2nd Roisin Collins, Samantha Vaugh, Louise Dunphy, Orlaith Cleary.
3rd Edel Dunphy, Olivia Clooney, Kathleen Bowe, Aileen Conroy.

FOR YOUR DRIVING LICENCE PICTURE IN 1 minute contact;
M. and F. Conroy, Patrick St., Durrow. Phone 36227 or 37265.