

DURROW PARISH NEWSLETTER

Compiled by the Durrow Scouts.

Fr. Jackie Robinsons's OUTLOOK

" Fear not ..... only believe "

There is a story I love to tell about a young boy who was left behind on the third floor of his blazing home. His family had already escaped into the street below. His father called to the boy telling him to jump from the window assuring the boy that he would catch him.

At first the boy refused, crying " I can't see you daddy there is too much smoke ". His father reassured him: " never mind, I can see you and that's all that matters ". After a slight hesitation the boy with complete trust in his father's reassurance jumped into the smoke - and into the safety of his father's waiting arms.

When we need help we often have to trust ourselves to other people. We sometimes put our lives into the hands of a doctor or a surgeon. We put our working future into the hands of Management or a Trade Union leader. We show trust.

But increasingly in this modern world we are becoming less inclined to put our trust in God. Perhaps its because of the incredible advances being made daily in science, medicine and technology.

Were we given the opportunity, how many of us today would take up Christ's invitation to walk on water as Peter did.

But Jesus Christ is forever stretching out his hands and we don't want to know.

Perhaps the smoke is too thick. All those worldly pleasures and pressures of life do tend to blur our vision of Christ.

If only we had the confidence to accept Christ's invitation to trust him no matter what our situation. Poor Peter got a bit of a drenching when he began to sink because of his lack of faith. Perhaps many of us share Peter's doubts - especially when we are unemployed or sick or when we have to live with an alcoholic husband or a cold wife.

And then there's the other side of the coin-many of us are being drenched by a dependence on worldly preoccupation such as drink, drugs and sex. But we can't even see that we are getting wet.

It is time that we heeded Christ's own words.

" Men of little faith; why do you doubt ".

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FINE GAEL

The A.G.M of Durrow Fine Gael branch will take place in the Durrow Inn on Thursday 1st December at 8.30p.m. - First of the Agenda will be the closure of St. Fintan's College. All are welcome to attend.

Durrow Bridge Club.

Winners for November 2: 1st W/S S. Bolger. A Aylward. 2nd W/S J. Dowling and M. Brophy. 1st E/W R. Dempsey. J. Dempsey. 2nd E/W H. Woods. P. Monnelly.

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BROPHYS PREFAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS.

Sills, Lintals, Flue retainers, fire lintals, single and double chimney caps, wall cappings, pier capping, paving slabs, kerb stones, garden edgings, fencing posts, strainer posts, strut post and gate post. - Carrigan St. Durrow.

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Twin Buggy for sale in good condition - contact 36304.

## SCOUT NEWS.

Since the Troop resumed their meetings in September, we have both lost and gained Leaders. Noelleen Dunphy has emigrated to England and the Troop wish her well in her stay there. Sean Healy has rejoined after a lapse of a few years and John O'Regan who has experience of scouting in Cork comes in as a new Leader.

Hopefully our search for a female leader is over as both Ann Moore and Angela Donohue expressed interest in joining.

At a recent meeting of older scouts and Instructors, it was decided to start a Venture Unit, which caters for people from 17 to 21. This Unit has been registered with H.Q. in Dublin and is waiting with interest the arrival in Durrow of Leaders from the S.A.I. National Venture Team who will set the wheels in motion. The Ventures differ from scouting by having a more adventurous outdoor programme aimed at the 18+ age group. Sean Healy will be taking over as Venture Scout Leader while retaining his contact with the Scout section. Initially the unit will start with the older scouts and if proves successful, it will be reviewed after 6 months with a view to expanding the membership. Best of luck to everyone involved in this 'venture'.

This years Slieve Bloom District Christmas party is being held in the Killeshin Hotel on Saturday 17th December. Leaders from all sections are welcome to attend. Further details from Dermot Woods.

## St. Fintans College.

On Friday 11th November - St. Fintan's College Senior Soccer team challenged Abbeyleix Tech School to a game in the Lions pitch. The game was tough, hard fought and enjoyable and in the end St Fintan's won with a 3-1 score line. St. Fintan's goalscorers were John McEvoy, John Farrell and Andrew Walsh.

On Thursday 17th Nov, the under 11 team travelled to Ballinakill to play Cellbridge on a neutral venue. The game was very close and John McEvoy and Pauric Feohan helped to establish a 2-1 scoreline for St. Fintans and held this until the final five minutes of play, when the team from Newbridge scored two goals and finished victorious.

" The Globetrotters " who are a group of actors, that perform Shakesperian plays for Inter and Leaving Cert students visited the school on 10th November. They acted out the two plays " King Lear " and " The Merchant of Venice " for both exam classes. To all it was a very good, cultural and educational experience.

The girls senior basketball team played Mountrath on 15th November and the following day they played Portlaoise. Because of renovations being carried out in the C.Y.M.S. Hall both games were played on the oppositions ground. Unfortunately on both occasions St. Fintans lost by a narrow margin.

## Folk Choir.

We had a very successful day in Carlow Liturgy Centre last Sunday. It consisted of a discussion on the role of the Folk Choir in the parish and preparing and participating a beautiful Mass. Fourteen members travelled. We continue weekly with our practices for Christmas.

## Our Lady's Meadow.

On Thursday 14th November the children of 5th and 6th are going to Portlaoise for a rehearsal with the Schools there. They will practice the songs for the National Childrens Choir.

We would like to thank all our parents for the 100% attendance at Parent/Teacher meetings last week and for your co-operation in it's organisation.

## POKER NIGHT.

Tuesday 15th.	1st prize - £70.	Joe Cashin.
	2nd " £20.	John Phelan.
	3rd " £5.	Frank Campion.
	4th " £5.	Phillip Monnelly.
Tuesday 22nd.	1st prize - £70.	Helen Woods.
	2nd " £20.	Mgt. McKenzie.
	3rd " £5.	M. Meade.
	4th " £5.	John Woods.

Patrick Brophy was a civil servant and the position he held in Durrow was Lamp Lighter. He was an uncle of Paddy Brophy of St. Fintans Terrace. Each day he had to trim the wick and fill the lamps with oil. Lightening time was governed by the time of year. The lamps were located as follows:- on the wall of Bernie McLoughlin's Patrick Street (the Gallows Hill), Scotts Corner, Mahoneys shop, Gay Lalors, Sean Clancy's, Keenans Shop, Market House (now Alleys Drapery), Castle Gates, M. Graces (R.I.C. Barracks) Joe Murphys (The Red Lion Hotel) and on the Bridge. John Cashin The Bridge Bar has one of these lamps and will soon have it erected in the original position on the Bridge.

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Durrow Community Alert Association.

The Durrow Community Alert Association would like to remind the public, now with the long winter nights with us it is very important for us all to be extra vigilant to the needs of our elderly citizens particularly elderly people living on their own and if possible pay them a visit on a regular basis thus insuring their not in need of anything. Another point to remember is if you can see any suspicious persons or vehicles if possible get the make colour and reg-no and report same to the Gardai immediately ( phone 999 )

We have quite a few alarm systems installed in our area to date. Anyone interested in having an alarm system installed please contact any member of the committee. Some short time ago a Senior Citizen, who luckily has an alarm system, fell coming out of her bathroom late at night and broke her hip. She rang the alarm and her minder was with her in minutes with the result this person had medical attention immediately. If this person had not had the alarm system it was very possible she would be lying in the hall all night possibly with tragic results.

The Committee would like the public to know that they have some smoke alarms and fire blankets still for sale at very competitive prices, anyone requiring one please contact any member of the committee.

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Durrow Tour.

by

Liam O'Banain.

As we approach the entrance to St. Fintan's Collage, we see a plaque on the wall, this was donated by Bord na Mona to the Tidy Towns Committee for their good showing in the annual competition. Durrow was beaten that year by one mark for first place. Rathvilly were the winners. The local I.C.A. did trojan work. As a matter of interest it was the I.C.A. that started the Tidy Towns in Durrow.

We now come to the Manor House known as Castle Durrow home of the Flower Family. They became Ashbrooks with the title of Viscount.

Some years back I consulted the Knights of Glin regarding the building of Durrow Castle. He is a famous architect and an authority on the big houses. He informed me that the actual building of Castle Durrow is the most completely documented domestic building in Ireland. In the first half of the 18th century all the building accounts are fully set out in Cannon Carrigan's note books. These are in the National Library.

As we approach the Convent Avenue we see another entrance on our left. This is for the Primary School. This is a lovely modern building with lovely surrounding landscaping. Both teachers and pupils are very fortunate to be working in such a building. There is one person to whom the Durrow people will always be indebted and that is the late Sister Mary Bowe. She was a great friend of ours and on one occasion I suggested to her that we should have an Irish Hymn now and then at Mass. The result was that we had one every Sunday. We have some beautiful hymns in Irish.

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## DURROW TOUR

Continued/... ..

Failte Romhat a Ri na nAingal  
Dear mile failte Romhat a Iosa.  
Is maith an Ehoan Muire Mhor.  
and leaving Church.  
Beannacht leat a Mhuire,  
Beannacht leat a Ciriost.

In my opinion these hymns are far superior to our English hymns and are more devotional. I wonder could we have an Irish hymn now and then.

Now a brief account of some of the Ashbrooks. Sir George Flower and English Officer, came to Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth I. accompanied by 100 soldiers. His son Sir William came to Durrow in 1664. He rented a house from the Duke of Ormond. His son another William got the title of Viscount Ashbrook. He built the present building in 1716.

There is a bit of romance attached to the 2nd Viscount. In England on the Thames there is a ferry crossing. A girl once operated this ferry. She was Betty Rudge, the ferryman's daughter. The Ridges were of humble stock.

To be continued.

A vote of sympathy to Dinah Keena on the death of her brother.

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### Credit Union.

Durrow Credit Union wishes to inform its members that any member who receives a letter from our Auditors should reply to same as soon as possible.

### Beaver Scouts.

Beaver meetings resume on Friday last after a somewhat extended summer holiday. Seventeen beavers attended the first meeting. The venue for meetings this year will be in the C.Y.M.S. Hall. New beavers 6-8 years are welcome to come along any Friday from 4.30 to 5.30pm. We would like to thank Mgt Kelly and Marie Phelan for their assistance last year and to welcome Aileen Donohue and Mary Doyle as Beaver Leaders.

### For Sale.

Sindy House for sale including all furniture also swimming pool - party trap - horse box and car etc. - Contact M. Tobin, Mary St, Durrow.

### For Sale.

Ferguson Colour Television in perfect working order. - Contact H Erkindale Dr, Durrow.

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