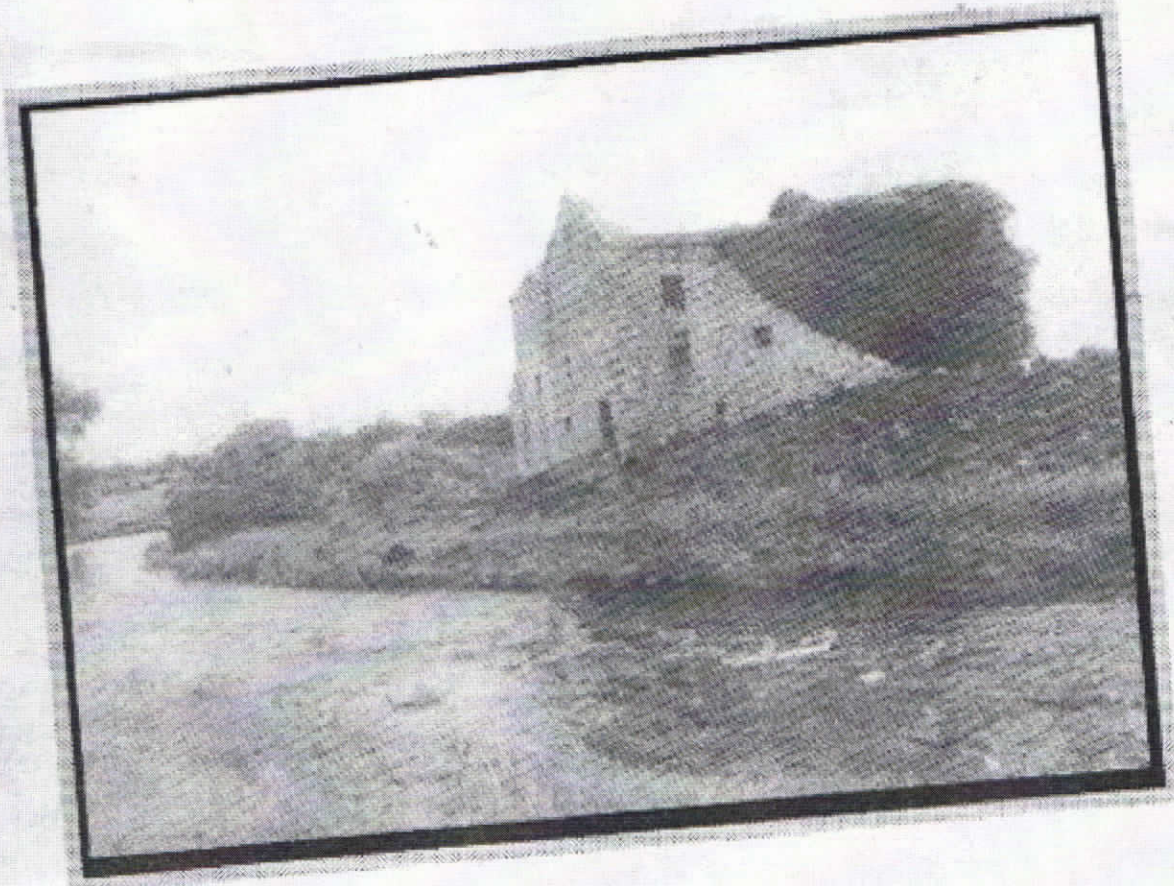


1993

# Milltown Newsletter



**PRICE £1**



One of the old mills on the River Clare from  
which Milltown gets its name



## Editorial

One of several ideas suggested at a meeting held earlier this year to elect a Community Council for Miltown was that the parish needed its own regular newsletter as a means of communication with the area itself but also as an ideal way of keeping our exiles and those based in other parts of Ireland informed about what is happening at home.

The idea, was of course, a good one and was well received on the whole but viewed with a certain amount of nervous apprehension by the five people entrusted with the onerous task of producing it at regular intervals. The words of encouragement spoken with enthusiasm at the meeting soon fade away when the actual work begins.

Nevertheless we, the not-so-famous five are (in alphabetical order) Noel Carney, Pauline Larney, Deirdre McGrath, Michael Oates and Trudi Varley. After many meetings we have coaxed, cajoled, bullied, threatened, teased and blackmailed each other into finally getting enough material for Issue No. 1

We hope you like it and that it will encourage you — yes, you, dear reader — to help us with the next one either by advice, a cash donation, material an advertisement or any other way you can think of. Like all methods of communication the Parish Newsletter can be used as a platform for the feelings, hopes and ideas of the people. Why not use it?

Finally, we would like to thank everybody who has helped in any way with the production of this issue and we hope we can rely on their continued support in the future.

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### A WORD OF THANKS

To these we owe a debt past telling;  
Our several muses, harsh and kind;  
Our friends who stood our sulks and yelling,  
And (in the long run) did not mind;  
Dead legislators, whose orations  
We filched to mix our own potations;  
Indeed, all those whose brains we've pressed,  
Unmerciful, because obsessed;  
Our own dumb soul, which on a pittance  
Survived to weave this fictive spell;  
And, gentle reader, you as well,  
The fountainhead of all remittance.  
Buy me before good sense insists  
You'll strain your purse and sprain your wrists



# The Hot Seat

Each issue will feature an interview in which a local person will answer a number of set questions. The honour of warming up the Hot Seat for our finest newsletter could not go to a more popular person than guest number one George Garvey.

-----



Full Name: George Francis Garvey

Occupation: Retired National Teacher

Favourite Pastimes: Walking, reading and communicating with the youth

Favourite Food: Steak and Onions

Favourite Drink: Power's Gold Label Three Swallow Whiskey

Favourite T.V. Programme: Home and Away

If you Rule the World?: "It would be a better place than it is now. I abhor man's inhumanity to man as witnessed in every continent today."

Favourite Singer: Bing Crosby (because he sings just like myself)

Favourite Actor/Actress: Gary Cooper and Audrey Hepburn. Although if I had been born in the second half of the century I might say Sharon Stone.

Motto: If you can't say something nice about someone don't say anything at all.

Favourite Book: Life of Michael Collins by Tim Pat Coogan

Favourite Songs: Bridle on the Wall and Danny Boy

Favourite Clothes: Pin-Stripe Suit, white shirt and multicoloured tie

Favourite Colour: Beige

Favourite Sport: Gaelic Football

Favourite Video or film: Gone with the Wind

If you won the Lotto: I would look after my family but otherwise it wouldn't change me one iota.

Persons you would most admire: Jack Charlton and Mother Teresa

If you weren't George Garvey who would you like to be? Daniel O'Connell.

He got Catholic Emancipation in 1829 by peaceful means although he was not afraid of violence if the occasion arose as he proved by once fighting a duel with D'Esterre and won it.

Your favourite quotation: It comes from a woman called Biddy Connolly who lived in a one roomed house on our land with her sister and mother.

She was also a great singer and like a nanny to me as a small boy.

"Standing at the foot boys gazing at the sky,

How can you get up boys if you never try

Though you stumble oft boys never be downcast

Try and try again boys you'll get on at last."



## Community Council Elected

A meeting held on April 13th to elect Milltown's first Community Council for several years attracted a very large crowd. Many worthwhile contributions came from those present and after the Executive Council had been elected it was decided to form a number of sub-committees under nominated project leaders. As a result of the great enthusiasm and the excellent sense of civic pride and responsibility that persuaded so many people from the community to come to the meeting there was an air of optimism at the end of the night and most people went home feeling that, due to the unity of purpose evident at the meeting, Milltown would soon be a better place to live in.

The following were elected to the Executive Council:

**Chairman:** Tony Murphy

**Vice-Chairman:** Billy Gallagher

**Secretary:** Trudi Varley

**Assistant-Secretary:** Mary Hernon

**Treasurer:** Liam Glynn

**Assistant -Treasurer:** Stephen Mongan

**P.R.O.:** Noel Carney

**Assistant P.R.O.:** Mary Bermingham

**Hall Committee:** Eamon O'Callaghan,, Gerry O'Neill, Eoin Godwin, Jarlath Farragher, Michael Rhatigan, Michael Flaherty and Michael Oates

**Finance Committee:** Liam Glynn, Stephen Mongan, Helen Flattery, Tom Nestor, P.J. Feerick, Maureen Coyne, Bridie Connolly and Eamonn Blake.

**Jobs Committee:** P.J. Feerick, Tony Murphy, Frank Glynn, Joe Dolan, Michael Long, Michael Rhatigan, Seamus Costello and Michael Collins.

**Community Alert:** Cathal Sheridan, Martin Mullins and John Wrynne

**Newsletter:** Noel Carney, Trudi Varley, Deirdre McGrath, Pauline Larney and Michael Oates.

**Graveyard Committee:** Tommy Ruane, Johnny Hession, Peter Cunningham, Michael Gilligan, Martin McHugh and Pa Devane.

**Town Twinning:** Trudi Varley and the existing committee who had been working on that project for some time.

The above groups were chosen on the night but provision was made for the co-opting of additional members at a later date. The first named in each group is the project leader.



The following people were nominated to represent the areas listed:

**Knock:** Padraic O'Connor and Philip Comer.

**Belmont:** Seamus Costello and Eoin Godwin.

**Drim:** Helen Flattery, Jarlath Connolly and Michael Ruane.

**Musicfield:** Pauline Larney, Paddy Diskin and Anne Coyne.

**Dalgin:** Jarlath Farragher and Billy Gallagher.

**Poillaturick:** P.J. Feerick, Tom Ruane and Liam Delaney.

**Cloondroon and Cloonrane:** Stephen Mongan and Michael Gilligan.

**Cloonagh:** Deirdre McGrath and Michael Flaherty.

**Carrarea:** Bridie Connolly and Gerry O'Neill.

**Lurgan:** Joseph Monaghan and Tom Kirrane.

**Dillonbrook and Stripe:** Johnny Brogan and Martin Brogan.

**Bawnmore:** Michael Rhattigan and Mary Bermingham.

**Kilaphrasogue:** Jim Boyle, Jimmy Murray and Linda Monaghan.

**Milltown South:** Trudi Varley and Tim Ryan.

**Milltown North:** Liam Glynn, Jarlath Molloy and Bryan Flannery.

**Russellstown:** Johnny Hession and Tom Nestor.

**Coole, Creevagh and Curraghaderry:** Peter Cunningham and Pa Devane.

**Parkroe:** Noel Carney, Tony Murphy and John Wrynn.

**Liskeavy:** Eamon Blake, Frank Walsh and Peter Devanney.

**Kilgevrin:** John Hehir, Frank Connolly and Michael Collins.

**Carnageehy:** Michael Oates, Michael Long and Noel Tierney.

**Burrish and Gurrane:** Martin Mullins and Joe Dolan.

**Carranurlaur and Shantalla:** Maureen Coyne.

**Tonemoyle:** Martin McHugh and Padraic Devane.

Organisations represented are:

**G.A.A.:** Eamon O'Callaghan and Mary Hernon.

**Macra na Feirme:** Paddy McWalters and Michael Diskin

**Badminton:** Kathleen Healy and Mary Donnellan

**Development Association:** Frank Glynn and Francie Mullarkey.

**Gun Club:** Michael Kirrane



## HALL OF FAME HONOUR FOR NOEL TIERNEY



Pictured above Noel receives his Hall of Fame Award from the Mayor of Galway Padraic McCormack at the Sports Stars Banquet in the Sacre Coeur Hotel, Salthill.

MEMORIES of Galway football's glory days in the mid-sixties were revived this year with the nomination of stalwart three-in-a-row full back Noel Tierney, of Milltown, as Hall of Fame recipient in the Co. Galway Sports Stars of the Year selections.

Now a very successful farmer, and still a keen follower of the game, Noel Tierney is fondly remembered by football fans for his spectacular fetching, mighty clearances on the burst out of the goalmouth and awe-inspiring courage under pressure.

Noel, who had a legion of admirers around the country, formed the middle part of a famous full back line that had Enda Colleran and Bosco McDermott in the corners, in front of brilliant goalie Johnny Geraghty, and this quartet's uncanny understanding played a major role in sweeping Galway to three successive All-Ireland victories without conceding a single goal to Kerry in '64 and '65 and much vaunted Meath in '66. The powerfully built full back, always commanded the air, leaving the ground work to the speedy Colleran and the crafty McDermott, with Geraghty calling the shots from the line.

An outstanding under-age player with his native Milltown, he won an All-Ireland minor medal with Galway in 1960, on a team captained by another three-in-a-row star, Sean Cleary of Ballygar, but it wasn't until 1971 that he won a county senior championship with Milltown, led by his cousin Sean Brennan.

Noel Tierney departed the inter-county scene — a decision not of his own making — in the late '60s, long before he reached 30, and with hindsight this was a blunder which probably cost the county the chance of another All-Ireland or two. Sadly, many of his three-in-a-row colleagues were also let go in their late 20s, and some, like Tierney went on to prove themselves without peers in club championship football in the 70s.

Noel received his Hall of Fame award at the Sports Stars Banquet in the Sacre Coeur Hotel, Salthill on Friday, January 22nd.



# Milltown Group Water Scheme

By Michael McHugh

The A.G.M. of Milltown Group Water Scheme took place in the C.Y.M.S. Hall, Milltown on April 2nd, 1993. The scheme now supplies 100 houses and farms and extends over four miles from Kilclooney to Musicfield with branch connections to Clashaganny and Parkroe and since January, 1992 a branch connection to Carrarea. The group scheme has been in existence since 1971 and since then has given an unfailing water supply. In recent times the source, in common with many other sources around the countryside, has been affected by pollution for various reasons. This necessitated the installation of chlorination which was installed in 1990. Chlorination controls the level of bacteria in the water but has no control over colour.

At the A.G.M. the following committee was elected:

Chairperson: Seán O'Callaghan

Secretary: Michael McHugh

Joint Treasurers: Jarlath Molloy, Martin Mulroe, Sean O'Callaghan and Michael McHugh

Committee: Paddy Kelly (Parkroe), Gerry O'Neill (Carrarea), Bill Ahearne, Tim Ryan, Liam Glynn, Frank Glynn (Milltown).

Trustees: Seán O'Callaghan, Jarlath Molloy, Martin Mulroe, Michael McHugh.

The committee are indebted to the work that Christy Molloy (recently retired) carried out since the early days of 1971.

The first task designated to the new committee was the finding of an alternative source. The services of a water diviner was acquired and he indicated a number of locations in the area where water was likely to be found. The committee then chose one of these places which is located in Frank Mullarkey's field at the entrance to Davros. This site seemed most appropriate because of ease of access for servicing and availability of three-phase power. Well-boring commenced on May 6th, 1993 by Mulcair and Co. (Well-boring Contractors), Borriskane, Co. Tipperary and a substantial flow was found at 130 feet. Tests are currently being carried out on the well for quantity and quality by the committee under the supervision of Mr. Gerry O'Neill. These tests will be ongoing for several months during all types of weather to ensure that the source will be adequate to meet the needs of the group. Present indications look promising. It is very important that these tests be carried out before the source is developed as developmental costs will be substantial and may require additional funding from group members.

Should this source prove satisfactory it will eventually be connected to the current scheme therefore all members will benefit and leave room for future expansion if necessary.



# The Lurgan Canoe

By T.B. Costello, M.D.



This is the story of the 50 foot long Dug-out Canoe found at Lurgan Bog in 1902 and since estimated to have been made around 2000 B.C. which places it in the early Bronze Age. It was first uncovered by Mr. Pat Coen whose grandson Paddy now live on the family farm at Rosmearin.

Early in 1902 some workmen who were making a drain in a bog in the Townland of Lurgan, Parish of Addergoole (Milltown), came upon what they considered to be two ordinary pieces of bog wood at a short distance from each other and only a few inches from the bottom of the drain. They cut away sufficient of the timber to make the bottom of the drain level and thought no more about the matter till August when Mr. Pat Coen who owned the bog was sinking the drain deeper; on coming to the bog wood he was astonished to find that it was part of something which he thought resembled a coffin. On clearing the mud on it he found it was a dug-out canoe lying in the bog substance at a depth of at least eight feet below the present level of the bog. He reported his find, and after considerable correspondence Father Kelly of Milltown brought the matter under the notice of Sir Thos. Esmonde, who visited the place and purchased the canoe for the R.I. Academy from Mr. Coen for £25. The landlord, Mr. Golding of Derryormonde, having kindly waived any rights he had in favour of the Academy.

The Museum authorities in Dublin sent down a staff of workmen after Christmas and with great difficulty the boat was hauled through the rain-sodden bog and brought to Milltown Railway Station.

It left Tuam on January 20th on its last voyage, safely loaded on three large railway wagons, and arrived in due course at the museum where it underwent a preserving process.

The canoe when first found was as white and as fresh as when in use; but it got very brown and more the colour of the bog material after a short exposure to the air. It is 50 ft. in length and tapers from a few feet from the bow to the stern; at its widest part it is 3 ft. 8 in., and about 30 in. in depth. It is of-course formed from the hollowed out trunk of a single tree. On the bottom inside there runs a moulding (a couple of inches wide) from stern to stern. This moulding had cross branches running up to the gunwale in 4 or 5 places, probably where the rowers sat, and here also the gunwale on both sides was pierced through transversely by holes of about 1 1/2 inch diameter. This is by far the largest canoe of its class that has so far been obtained by the Museum, and is a perfect specimen; the men in the first instance having fortunately only cut away the gunwale on each side for about a foot to the depth of two inches near the middle of the boat.

There is no lake that would float such a boat within a few miles of the place where it was found; and the exact spot is fully 30 ft. higher than the stream at Knock from which it is about 500 yards distant. This river was deepened a few feet in connection with the drainage of the river Clare about 50 years ago.

**Footnote:** Paddy Coen tells us that the local men employed to get the canoe out of the bog and over to Milltown Railway Station were paid a small fee plus a barrel of Guinness per day. No doubt it is just sheer co-incidence that it took over three weeks to reach the station. The canoe can, of course, still be seen at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

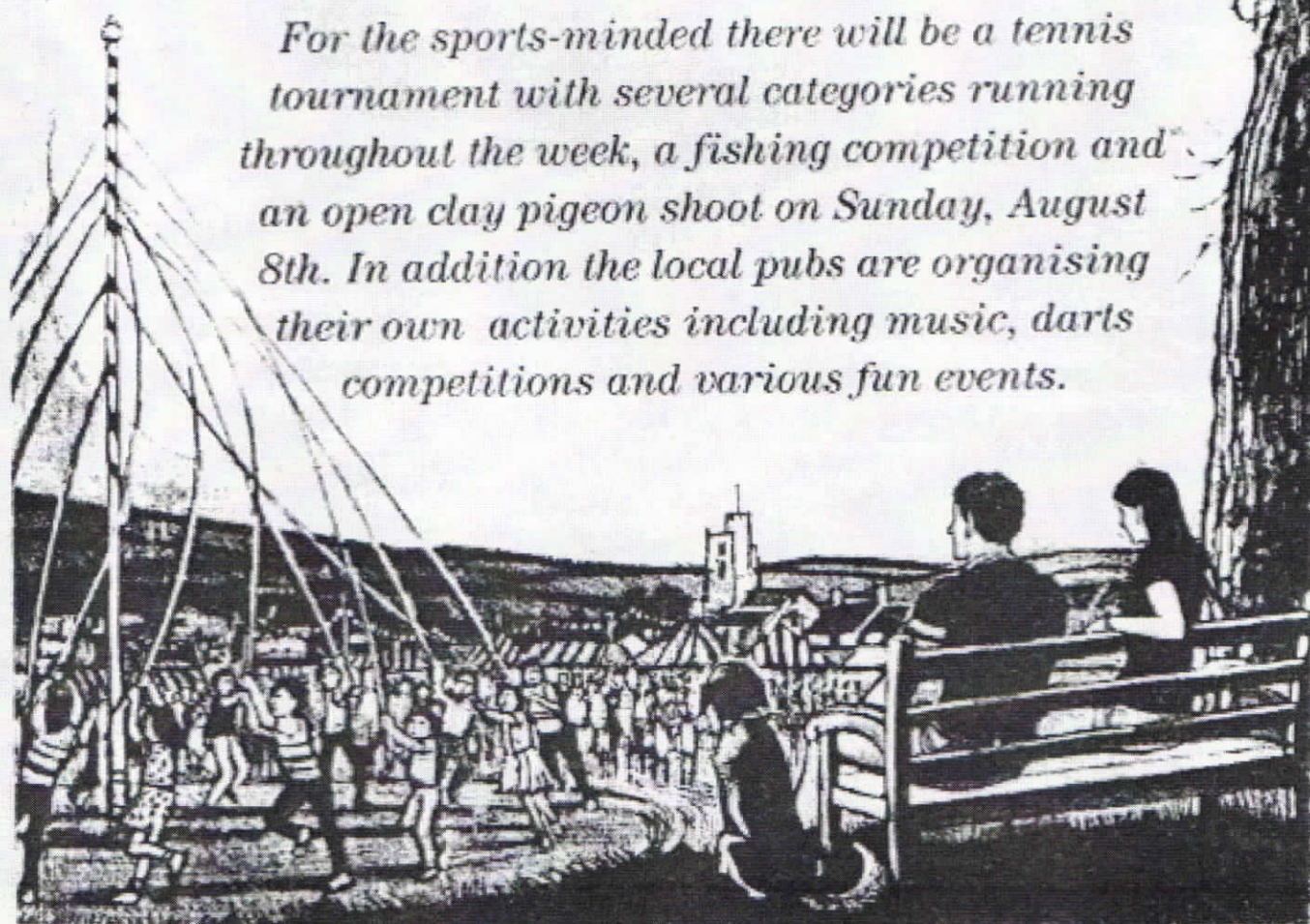


# MILLTOWN FESTIVAL

## 1993

*This year's annual festival runs from August 6th to the 15th and has an action-packed programme designed to include something for all tastes. Among the highlights are the Annual Sports which is held on Sunday 8th, the Gymkhana featuring the £1,000 Mill Meats sponsored D and E championship final on Sunday, August 15th, a dog show also on the 15th, a céilí, a sheep show and sale under the auspices of Tuam Mart, a barbecue and a mini-craft show.*

*For the sports-minded there will be a tennis tournament with several categories running throughout the week, a fishing competition and an open clay pigeon shoot on Sunday, August 8th. In addition the local pubs are organising their own activities including music, darts competitions and various fun events.*





## Day Care Centre gets underway



A decade of hard work and persistence by a dynamic group of local people is now coming to fruition with the start of the new Milltown Day Care Centre for the elderly. The work is being carried out by local contractor Mr. Sean Healy and his company A1 Builders.

The site, acquired in 1981 and since then there has been a continuous drive to get the centre up and running. Every possible means of raising money was brought into play by the hardworking fundraising committee who travelled all over the county and beyond in their determination to succeed.

The centre will be a focal point for the senior citizens of the community, a place where they can meet and socialise, have a chat or a game of cards and perhaps listen to some music or have a meal.

Services on offer will include a laundry room and shower facilities and as things progress there will be room for expansion into areas such as hairdressing and chiropody.

Fundraising is not yet quite complete so that anybody who wants to contribute to this worthy venture can still do so. Look out for details of dances, raffles and other fundraising events in the near future.

The first sod on the building site was turned by Fr. Paddy Gill P.P. assisted by Fr. Michael Acton at a ceremony to mark the beginning of work at the end of April.



# The Apostolic Work Society in Milltown

By Lena Rhatigan

A branch of the Apostolic Work Society was formed in Milltown for the first time in 1976. Mrs. Katie Ryan, Castlebar (then National President) was present with local priest Fr. John Lowry and twelve lay members. The organisation has gone from strength to strength since and now has about twenty members and about a hundred honorary members

These members meet once a fortnight on Tuesday nights in the C.Y.M.S. Hall. We start the meeting with special prayers and then discuss our work. We get materials and wool from head office in Castlebar and in our own quiet way we work at home making priest's vestments, surplices, soutanes and mass servers outfits.

We also make clothes for children including dresses, pants, blouses and nighties which are all sent to the foreign missions after they have been put on display to the public, usually in May. These materials have to be paid for, of course, so we organise a cake sale and sale of work twice yearly in May and at Christmas. We also hold a Church Gate Collection on Mission Sunday and a Fund-Raising Dance in Sheridan's Lounge, usually on August 15th.

We are indeed very grateful for all the support we get and we are anxious to recruit new members for both Milltown and Ballyglass as it is a case of the more members we have the more work we can do and while we work we enjoy the chat and discussions. I'm happy to report that we annually send over £1,000 from Milltown Parish to the foreign mission.

No mean achievement with so many other good causes around. We also have a mini-vigil in Knock each summer and we close down from June to September inclusive.

We are looking forward to getting some new members in October. It is a very rewarding organisation to be part of and it is nice to think that our work and money reaches the four corners of the earth.



## Social and Personal 1993

### Births:

January 8th, 1993: Triona Marie to Anne and Tom Mullaghy, Kilgevrin.  
February 2nd, 1993: Colin Peter to Catherine and Oliver Brennan, Liskeavy.  
April 14th, 1993: Leanne Bridget to Anne and Padraic Coyne, Musicfield.  
April 28th, 1993: Emma Jane to Pauline and Tom Boyle, Kilclooney.  
June 6th, 1993: Emma Teresa to Della and Paddy Hardy, Belmont.  
June 12th, 1993: Adrian Thomas to Mary and Tom Lydon, Carnageehy.  
June 7th, 1993: Sean to Barbara and Liam Glynn, Milltown.

### Engagements:

Noel Brogan, Dillonbrook and Josephine Geraghty, Westport.

### Marriages:

May 8th, 1993: Christina Diskin, Illaune and John Foye, Straide, Co. Mayo.  
July 18th, 1993: Bridgena Varley, Belmont and Billy Staunton, Shrile.  
July 30th, 1993: Brian Gallagher and Marella Deeley, New Inn.  
July 30th, 1993: Tom Noone, Cloondroon and Margaret Ryan, Tuam.

### Deaths:

January 1st, 1993: Eileen Brogan, Dillonbrook  
February 15th, 1993: Bridie Cruise, Parkroe (in Tuam)  
February 17th, 1993: Michael John Quinn, Conagher  
February 18th, 1993: Tom O'Donnell, Cartron.  
March 4th, 1993: Mary Hoban, Carnageehy  
March 12th, 1993: John P. Godwin, Belmont (in Kildare).  
April 7th, 1993: Pa McGagh, Liskeavy.  
April 23rd, 1993: Mary Murray, Kilaphrasogue  
June 11th, 1993: Johnny Keane, Bawnmore  
July 15th, 1993: Michael Feerick, Kilgevrin  
July 16th, 1993: Jack Martin Ruane, Belmont  
July 17th, 1993: Gabriel Slattery, Milltown  
July 24th, 1993: Ellen Byrne, Carnageehy  
July 24th, 1993: Philomena Godwin, Belmont.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

July: Golden Jubilee  
Paddy and Kathleen  
Ruane, Burrish





# Milltown

## Pioneer Total Abstinence Association

### By Elaine Kennedy

**President:** Johnny Brogan

**Chairperson:** Johnny Brogan

**Secretary:** Christina Diskin

**Treasurer:** Jarlath Connolly

**P.R.O.:** Christina Diskin

Milltown's involvement in the North East Galway Region has varied from year to year. The Centre played an active role in the Region during the late 1970s and early 1980s, however, in the mid 1980s the Centre went through a difficult period but thankfully the past five years have seen a great revival. A large number of people have attended their Dinner Dances both in the Sacre Coeur Hotel, Galway and the Belmont Hotel, Knock in the past five years.



In 1988 the Junior Quiz team of Elaine Kennedy, Deirdre McHugh, Brian Murphy, Tadhg Kennedy and Paul Murphy qualified for the Regional Final in their first year involved in the competition. The same year the Centre won an award for the most active revived Centre within the Region. Since 1988 the Centre has taken part in all Readoiri Competitions and were honoured in 1992 when the Junior Quiz team of Brendan McHugh, Stella Kennedy, Mary Flattery, Adrian Kennedy and John Flattery reached the All-Ireland Final in Listowel, Co Kerry. Even though they didn't come home winners they did their Centre and Region proud. Again in 1993 the same Junior Quiz team reached the Connacht Final which was held in Claremorris. The Centre also had quiz teams taking part in the Juvenile which is between 9 and 12 years, intermediate between 16 and 25 years and Senior. In 1990 two members from the Centre qualified for the Connacht Final in the Waltzing Competition.

At present the Centre is proud of all its young members playing an active role within the Region. In June 1991, two members from the Centre attended the Pioneer Youth Seminar held in the Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. An enjoyable week-end was had by all without the consumption of alcohol.

The Pioneer monthly meetings are held at a different Centre within the region each month and an officer from the Centre attends these meetings. Each year members from the Centre attend the Temperance Mass which takes place in Tuam Cathedral on Temperance Sunday.

Our Centre is proud to have some members over 70 years a Pioneer within the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association.

The Centre extends every good wish and happiness for the future to their Secretary, Christina Diskin on her recent marriage to John Foye. Her tremendous work throughout the years will be greatly missed.

*Pictured above John Foye and Christina Diskin who were married Saturday, May 8th.*



## First Communion Day 1993 at Milltown Church



*Front row:* (left to right) Mary Waters, Martin Nally, John Murray, David Lavelle, Michael Murphy, Alan Coen, Anne Marie McGrath.

*Back row:* (left to right) Claire Monaghan, Aóife Monaghan, Michelle McGrath, Marian Donnellan, Tara Phelan, Laura Kelly, Marie Ruane, Graham Farragher, Cathal Blake.

The above Group from Milltown and Belmont Schools received their first Holy Communion from Rev. Fr. Gill, P.P. on May 23rd, 1993 in St. Joseph's Church, Milltown.



# Neighbourhood Watch

By Martin Mullins

Following a meeting in the C.Y.M.S. Hall a Neighbourhood Watch Committee has been set up in the area. Committee members are Cathal Sheridan, Martin Mullins and John Wrynne.

The following are the main aims of the scheme:

- (a) checking the security of senior citizens
- (b) making people more aware of suspicious happenings
- (c) an awareness of the procedures for the protection of homes and business premises

A church gate collection gate will be held in near future as a means of raising funds for the purchase of neighbourhood watch signposts and the success of this new and necessary undertaking will depend on the support of local community. Do support it as it is in your interest.

## Baby Sitters Panel

Mary Teresa Devane, Carramore, Milltown

Josie Cunningham, Creevagh, Milltown .....51520

Mairead Cunningham, Creevagh, Milltown .....51520

Aishling McHugh, Drim, Milltown .....51349

Anne Murphy, Musicfield, Milltown .....51409

Catherina Diskin, Illaune, Milltown ..... 51413

Olivia Hernon, Music field, Milltown..... 51305

Elaine Hernon, Musicfield, Milltown .....51305

Karen and Sarah McGrath, Cloonagh, Milltown ..... 51460

Lisa Kenny, Russelstown, Milltown ..... 51335

Maura Birmingham, Kilclooney, Milltown ..... 51337

Caroline Diskin, Knock, Milltown.

*Anyone wishing to have their names entered in the Baby sitting list in our next issue can do so by contacting any member of the newsletter crew!!*



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