

THE CAVAN EASTENDER

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See the Cavan Eastender Section of Shercock Online Website www.shercock.co.uk

Kingscourt's £300,000 Youthreach Centre opened by the Minister for Education and Science.



Linda Carolan, one of the students in Kingscourt's Youthreach Training Programme, receives her certificate from the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Michael Woods.

The Youthreach Scheme is for young people who have dropped out of secondary education and have none of the qualifications required in the work places of today, it is sponsored by the Dept. of Education and Science and administered by the Co. Cavan Vocational Education Committee.

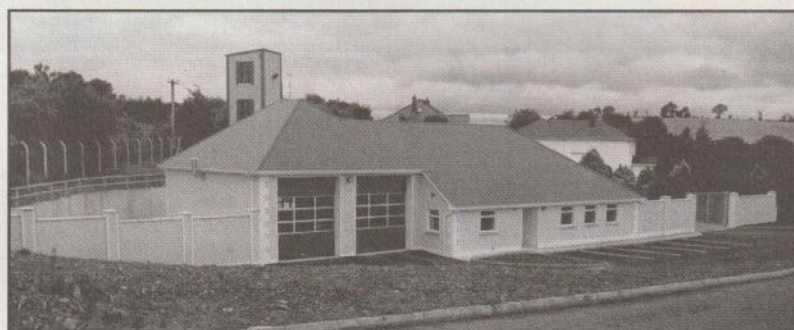
The scheme gives those people an opportunity to learn some valuable life skills and also to go forward and do various modules under the old N.C.V.A system, now called F.E.T.A.C, where they can get credits and if they wish to they can continue on with their education and carry their credits forward.

The Training Programme carried on under this scheme includes instruction in; Arts and Crafts, Home Design, Hairdressing, Personal Development, Building Construction, Woodcraft etc. The courses are broken into grades from the basic Foundation Level through Level One, Level Two and Level Three, which is third level college standard. Certificates are presented to students who are successful in the Work Evaluation Tests, which are carried out at the end of each course by external examiners. The Tutors in charge of the various courses are Maeve O'Neill (I.T.), Doris Fitzpatrick (Communications), Damien O'Brien (Woodcraft), Marie Reilly and Bernie Sexton (Arts and Crafts), Jodie Woods (Home Management), & Ingrid Shekleton (Hairdressing).



At the request of the chairman of the V.E.C., local councillor Clifford Kelly, the scheme was started in Kingscourt in 1997 under the supervision of Diarmud Wilson, Youthreach Co-Ordinator for County Cavan, and there were only nine trainees on the first course, there are thirty on the current courses.

Photo taken at an exhibition of landscape paintings by local artist Roisin Duffy (Nee Keegan, Shercock), in the Bailieboro Library recently. Left to Right - Ricky van den Berg, (well known artist, who opened the exhibition), Sean Kelliher (Com. School), Laura Diver, Brian Duffy, Roisin Duffy (artist), Pat Aiken (nee Kane, Bangor), Anne Keegan, Katriona O'Reilly (County Arts Officer), and Maura Kane.



Bailieboro's New Fire Station, which was officially opened by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey recently. The Eastender apologises for not being able to get there to photograph this historic event and would be very grateful for a photo of same.

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Christmas Greetings

In the unlikely event of our Christmas Edition not getting out on time, on behalf of The Eastender and all our advertisers, we wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and a great new year. On my own and my family and friends behalf I offer the same greetings to our readers, advertisers and all those who helped us over the year.

Peter McConnell, Editor.



More snaps from Siobhan Duffy's Art exhibition in Bailieboro Library.

Left to Right - Siobhan Duffy (exhibiting artist), Brendan Smith T.D., Francis McDermott (county councillor).



Aine De Vere, Turlough Smith (county councillor), Peggie Burns, Roisin Duffy, Rose McEvoy.



Joe O'Reilly (county councillor), Katrina O'Reilly (county arts officer), Fiona Burke (Bailieboro Librarian), Roisin Duffy, Anne Duffy, Dr. Rory O'Hanlon (T.D., Lease Ceann Comhairle, & National Chairman of Fianna Fail).

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Kingscourt Under 10 GAA Team's Year of Achievements

On that cold first Sunday in April last year 25 local children, all under the age of ten, turned up in the O'Raghilly Park for the first session of training which continued on every Sunday morning, hail, rain or shine, for the remainder of the season.

After a few sessions the number of "Under 10's" in training grew to 37 and thanks to the skill and dedication of Ollie Smith (Manager), and Coaches Brendan Kane, Pat Faulkner, Eamon Smith and John Woods, these "Stars" of tomorrow soon picked up the skills of the historic game of Gaelic Football.

The young team's first experience was in a league sponsored by the Bailieboro Health Project and they were narrowly beaten by the Bailieboro team in the final. Great success came their way shortly after this when they beat all comers in a one day "Blitz" competition in Newry and there was jubilation in their town when they returned with the coveted Shield.

More successes followed shortly afterwards when they won a similar competition in Castleblaney and in another in Navan they beat the Wolfe Tone's in the divisional final. Then they finished off a great season by a good performance in their own club's Blitz and Skills Competition which was sponsored by the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Cavan Drugs Awareness group and the Wishing Well Pub in Kingscourt.

Congratulations To All Concerned.

Shercock artist, Roisin Duffy, with the county arts officer and members of the staff of Bailieboro library, where her exhibition of landscape paintings were presented recently. Left to Right - Katrina O'Reilly (county arts officer), Lucy Clarke, (library staff), Roisin Duffy (artist), Anne O'Reilly (library staff), Fiona Burke (Bailieboro senior librarian).



Popular local resident, Jimmie McCabe, who is seen performing the formal tape cutting ceremony at the official reopening of "Kangley's" pub in Bailieboro's Main Street. Also in the photo are Left to Right - John O'Brien, Michael Hynes and Martina Argue (Props.), Peter McConnell (Cavan Eastender) and Kevin McKenna.



The Kingscourt Under 10 G.A.A. team photographed at the end of their great year.
 Front Row L to R; Darren McCabe, Noel Rooney, Ruiri O'Rourke, Joe Dillon, Paul Woods, Aiden Smith, Paul Lennon, Eoin Lynch, Lisa Regan.
 Middle Row; Shane Smith, Ronan Martin, Sarah Regan, Michael Flood, Barry O'Reilly, Terry Reilly, Padraig Clarke, Stephen Clarke, Eugene Smith, Niall Roe.
 Annette O'Rourke (sec. juvenile club), Jim McGovern (chairman juvenile club), John Woods (coach), Brendan Kane (coach).



Apology: Once again I have to apologise for the delay in getting out this issue. It is very difficult for one person to produce 16 pages, on his own, each month. I am therefore very grateful to Kingscourt Community Council for agreeing to produce two pages for each issue in future and to Liam Stewart and Roisin Duffy, from Shercock, who have agreed to give me articles. I am also happy to have got a similar offer from some friends in my home town of Bailieboro.



Martin Gargan

Newcastle, Moynalty, Co. Meath.

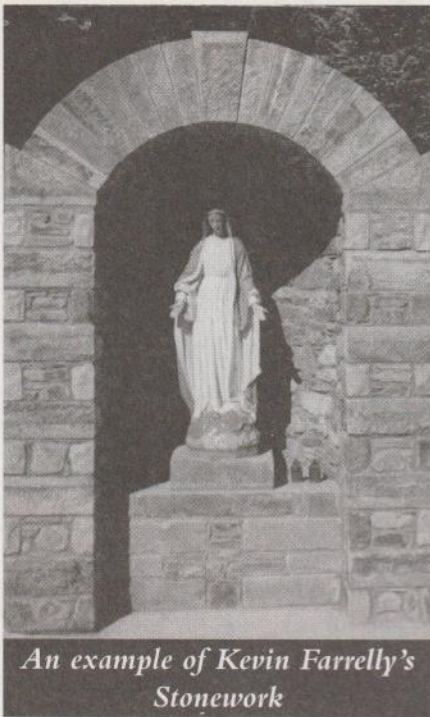
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An example of Kevin Farrelly's Stonework

Traditional Stone Building

(By Peter McConnell)

While driving to Kells from Nobber I noticed a very attractive traditional stone walled entrance to a homestead which reminded me of the beauty of Ireland's stone buildings of yesteryear.

On enquiring about this work of art in stone I was told that it was built recently by a young man, Kevin Farrelly, from Ardamanagh, Kilmainhamwood. Kevin's natural flair for this form of art was discovered when he was working on a Fas project in Kilmainhamwood where a wall along the river, a bridge and a picnic area was constructed. Kevin's natural skill as a stonemason was put to good use by Fas and Leader officials and he was involved in many stonework projects in Nobber, Castletown, Drumcondrath, Kilskyre and other places.

While the manual side of his new found skill was developing Kevin studied the history and theory side by reading relevant books and studying examples of traditional stonework in old Churches, Castles, Schools etc. I am and I am sure many readers are lovers of the handiwork of our country's Stonemasons of times gone by and we are very happy to see that great Irish skill being practiced now locally once again, in this age of mass produced - plastic looking - new buildings. Kevin may be contacted on 046 44660 or Mobile 086 8755745.

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Pictured at the Irish Professional Photographer Association's National Exhibition, which is currently on display at the Dundalk Library, featuring a number of Gold Award Images by Paul Callaghan (on left). Also in photo Fergal McGinnety, President I.P.P.A. and retired photographer Pauk Kavanagh, Dundalk, who officially opened the exhibition. (Watch out for our following **Christmas / New Year Issue** which features a selection of wedding photos from our community).



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Belfast folk enjoying a holiday in the Bailie Hotel, Bailieboro recently. From left; Reg and Maude Shields, and Ray and Violet Shields. Violet, whose maiden name is Smyth, was born and lived in Galbolie, Bailieboro, before "emigrating" to Belfast. She attended Bailieboro Model School and the old Bailieboro Vocational School.

Traditional Stone Building

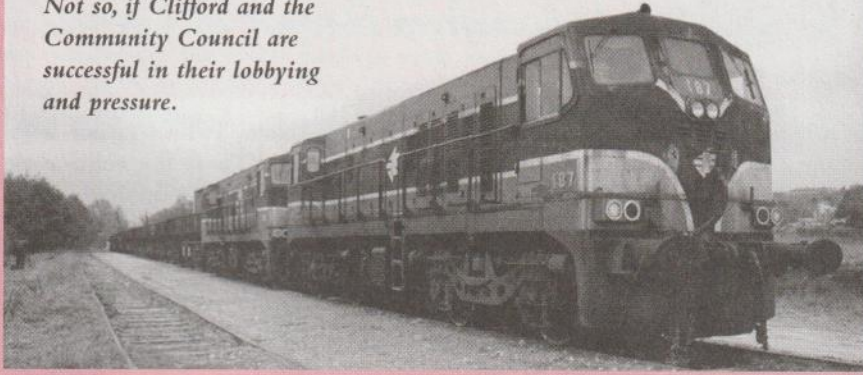
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Last Train From Kingscourt ?

*Last train from Kingscourt?
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Community Council are
successful in their lobbying
and pressure.*



The old Kingscourt Railway Station. Deserted and derelict now, but soon to be restored, enlarged and developed by Kingscourt Community Council, into a state of the art, Trade, Commerce, Theatre, and Heritage, etc., Centre. Which will be constructed in such a way as to be easily converted back into a passenger railway station if the council are successful in convincing the government to do so.



Sad and disappointed

Kingscourt People voice their disappointment and sadness on LMFM Local Radio Station before the last Freight Train left their station recently.

Philip Cassidy, (Kilmainhamwood), prepares his "Shovel" to load the last wagons of gypsum ore to leave Kingscourt by rail.



The Cahill family of Buffalo, NY would like to send our deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers to our beloved sister and aunt, Philomena Clarke who recently lost her husband Tom. While we can not be with you in body during your time of grief, please know we are there in spirit and hold you in our prayers. We love you and wish you God's peace.
Love, Sonny Cahill and the entire Cahill family.

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Kevin Barry And Nine Of His Comrades Finally Laid To Rest And Honoured By The State Their Sacrifices Helped To Create.

(By Peter McConnell)

In his graveside oration An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, (who's father also fought in the War of Independence) explained that. "These ten volunteers executed in Mountjoy Jail in 1920/1921 died defending and upholding the Independence proclaimed by Dail Eireann on January 21st. 1919. The British Government of the day, who would relinquish control of this part of Ireland in 1922, were seeking in vain to maintain their continued rule by force, long after popular consent had been definitively withdrawn."

To understand the reason for this State Funeral it is necessary for us to refresh our knowledge of those troubled times before these men and many others died in that War of Independence in the nineteen twenties.

In 1914 the unionist Ulster Volunteers, with the connivance of British sympathisers in high places, took a large consignment of arms in through the port of Larne. Soon after this the British Government prohibited the importation of arms into Ireland but the nationalist Irish Volunteers, despite this, were able to illegally take in a consignment of arms from the continent on the famous yacht The Asguard. After training their members in the use of these and other available weapons the leadership of The Irish Volunteers planned a National Uprising for Easter Sunday 1916, but at the last minute this rising was called off.

Despite the leadership's decision to call off the rising Padraig Pearse and other leaders decided to go ahead with the insurrection and along with James Connolly and The Irish Citizen's Army they and their forces occupied key positions in and around Dublin City and proclaimed the setting up of an independent Irish Republic on that fateful Easter Monday in 1916.

The British, having learned that the original rising had been called off, were caught unawares and so it was really Tuesday before they moved on the insurgents. Using a reported number of 4,500 men they attacked the rebel's positions. The plan for the original rising was that it would take place simultaneously in various parts of the country as well but because of the confusion caused by the cancellation the actual rising was confined to Dublin and the small risings in Galway and Athenry which were quickly put down

A Guard of Honour drawn from the Irish Army, Navy and Airforce meet the cortage as it arrives at Glasnevin Cemetary.



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by the British forces. Fighting continued through the week in Dublin culminating in a fierce artillery barrage by the British on Friday which caused the deaths of a large number of innocent non combatant citizens. The inevitable surrender of the Irish rebels took place at 2pm on Saturday and some time later the leaders were executed, except Eamon De Valera whose American citizenship saved him from the firing squad.

The execution of the leaders enraged the people of Ireland and they withdrew their support from the old conservative Irish Parliamentary Party and gave it to the new Sinn Fein Party led by Eamon De Valera, Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and others. The General Election of 1918 was the turning point in Nationalist politics in Ireland because in that election Sinn Fein swept the boards and the old Irish Party was wiped out. Following that election the newly elected Sinn Fein M.P.'s decided that they would not take their seats in the British Parliament, instead they came together in January 1919 and set up the first Dail Eireann, elected an Irish Government and proceeded to take over the running of the country and sent a request for recognition to the nations of the world. Their 'Irish Republican Army' was set up and they began attacking the British forces of occupation, using the then new 'Guerrilla War' tactics. Britain responded by not only pouring in thousands of extra troops with armoured vehicles etc., but also by recruiting and setting up and sending over here the notorious "Black and Tan" regiment, their name derived from the fact that one half of their uniform was in the black of the then Police and the other half in brown or tan of the Army.

This unit proved to be the most indisciplined, vicious and murderous gang that had ever worn the British army uniform and their murderous and scandalous actions and behaviour provoked a vicious and bloody war between the I.R.A. on one side and themselves, the Royal Irish Constabulary and the regular British Army on the other. It was for their part in this war that Kevin Barry and the others were executed.

The ten dead Irish soldiers that Ireland finally honoured on that wet October day, eighty years after their executions, were; Kevin Barry (Carlow), Thomas Whelan (Clifden), Patrick Moran (Roscommon), Patrick Doyle (Dublin), Bernard Ryan (Dublin), Frank Flood (Dublin), Thomas Bryan (Dublin), Thomas Traynor (Tullow), and Edmond Foley and Patrick Maher, from Galbally, Co. Limerick.

There was spontaneous and dignified applause as the remains left Mountjoy, passed through O'Connell Street and arrived at Glasnevin Cemetery. Sadly that dignity was slightly marred by the actions of a small group of republicans, believed to be members of Sinn Fein, who disrupted the proceedings when the coffins arrived at Glasnevin by their loud cheering and cat calls when Gerry Adams and his colleagues arrived. When the gates of Glasnevin Cemetery were closed to all but invited guests some republican supporters disgracefully heckled the Gardai.

Footnote; When the British pulled out of these twenty six counties of Ireland in 1922 a British Army unit was set up for ex-Black and Tans and ex Royal Irish Constabulary members. The unit was called the Palestine Gendarmerie and half of its members were Irish. They were shipped to the Holy Land in terrible conditions and their job was to keep the peace in that blood soaked land of perpetual fighting between the Arab natives and the Jewish settlers from Europe.



The cortage of ten hearses and a fleet of state cars take the remains and their relatives through a street long guard of honour formed by members of the FCA, (locally based part time branch of the Defence Forces) as huge crowds cheer and some silently pray for all those who died or fought in our country's struggle for freedom.

Liam Stewart, Shercock, overlooking the new Athletic Track in his home town. Liam will contribute a series of articles on the Shercock area in following issues.



Shercock On-Line

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Our Camera at the Opening of the



Front Row; Sean Corcoran, (Co-Ordinator), Ingrid Shekleton, (Tutor), Maeve O'Neill, (Tutor), Jody Woods, (Tutor), Clifford Kelly, (Chairman, Co. Cavan VEC).
Middle Row - Susan Rock, Samantha Conway, Amanda Ruggles, Karen Smyth, Teresa Johnston, Sarah McKenna, Sabrina Yorke.
Back Row - Helen O'Leary, Pamela O'leary, Pamela McEntee, Mark Cobley, Christopher Kennedy, Kevin Rogers.



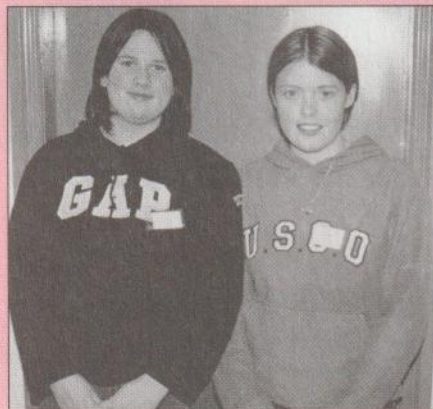
Sean Corcoran, Hugh Clifford and Clifford Kelly marking out the Kingscourt Community Centre Complex which is recognised as one of the best in the country, despite the fact that Kingscourt is a company town.



Kevin Rogers and Mark Cobley in the Woodcraft Room.



Marie Reilly (Tutor), Kristal Hawthorn, K. Conway, Sabrina Yorke, Teresa Johns



Regina Carolan and Sarah McKenna, who greeted the guests and visitors with a smile, as they arrived for the official opening.



Pat Hogan and Jodie Woods in the modern and sparkling kitchen in the new centre.

Kingscourt Brick Factory, whose owners supplied all the building bricks, free of charge, to the Kingscourt Community Development Council to use in the construction of their many great amenities for their town.



new Kingscourt Youthreach Centre



extension about to be built to the
of the largest and most extensive in
paratively small town.



Front Row - Marie Carroll, Kitty Finnegan, Catherine Burns, Anne Bolger, Linda Cassidy, Frances Johnston, Clifford Kelly.
Back Row - Gerry McCabe, Vincent Muldoon, Patsy Fleming, Philip Tevlin, Paddy Murray, Tommy Yorke, Hugh Clifford, Sean Corcoran. A group of workers on the FAS Community Project who assisted with the development of the Youthreach Centre.



Karen Smyth, Diana McCabe, Samantha
ston, in the Arts and Crafts room.



Students in the Computer Studies Room.

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the Kingscourt
Community Development
Council in their great
work for their town.



Thoughts of Kingscourt
always turn to the
town's pride and joy,
St. Mary's Brass and
Reed band who
celebrate the 85th
anniversary of their
founding this year.

Bailieboro Resource House Going From Strength To Strength

The photo on left is of a presentation of £100 to Anne Hanley and Martin Murray of Woodview Resource Centre on Oct. 5th. last, from Martina Argue and Michael Hynes of Kangley's Bar, Main St., Bailieboro, whose customers bought tickets to support same.

Babes In The Wood Playgroup in the Resource House, 31 Woodview, Bailieboro, is fully booked out and operates from Monday - Thursday each week. There is a waiting list in operation and the children from this meet each Friday morning from 9.30 to 12 noon. The playgroup is registered with the NEHB and undergoes inspections annually. There are three staff members all of whom have IPPA training and two of the staff are currently doing their NCVA childcare level 2 training.

The Resource House is going from strength to strength. There is a homework club each afternoon for children from junior infants to 6th. class. There is also a youth club three evenings a week.

A representative from Citizens Information Service is in the House each Thursday morning at 9.30. There is also a mediator for the long-term unemployed and a representative from the Cavan Information and Opportunities Centre here one-day per week.

There are a number of courses arranged for the winter months and for further information please call Ann on 042 966 6068.



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Above, Staff; Ann Hanley, Sheila Gorman, Yvonne Lynch. James Lynch (work exp.), Eugene McEnroe (work exp.). Children; Donna Sheridan, Antoinette Brady, Shane Lynch, Niamh Smith, Louise Gorman and Sean Cosgrave.

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Brigie - Our Agony Aunt

Dear Brigie

You have not been in the paper lately and I was wondering if you were alright. You said one time that you lived in Hackballsross so I was over that way lately and I was asking about you and they told me that you went down to go up Croake Patrick and they hadnt seen you since.

By the way Brigie, Hackballsross is a quare name for a town, how did it get a name like that?

Yours, Katie, (Bailieboro).

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your letter and I am glad to hear that I was missed and I am sure that the newsletter was very dry without my column. Yes, I did climb Croake Patrick and prayed like a politician. God did not seem to be listening because I broke my ankle on the way down. They got the Army Helicopter out and it was great to see them young fellows dropping out of the sky to pick me up, but it was embarrassing when they were trying to get me on the stretcher because I have put on a bit of weight lately. It was hard on my conscience too because I was only after making up my mind that I would not let a man put his hand on me ever again and here was these hunky airmen handling me big time.

Well I was lying on a trolley outside the hospital for a week before they had place to take me in and then it nearly took them another week till they got round to looking at me. When they did get a look at my ankle they found that it had set but my foot was turned the wrong way round, so they had to break it again and then I had to take my place in the queue again to get it fixed again. They turned my foot around the right way and welded it so I am fine again, but I am not going up that mountain again if I was never to get into heaven.

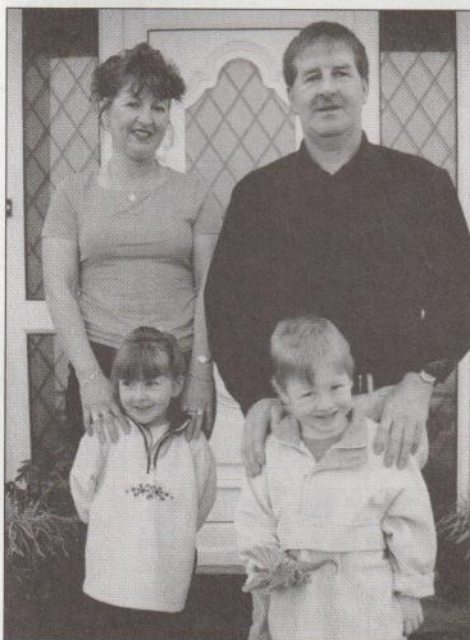
Now I am not a saint and I am not a divil either and wouldnt we all be saints only for that damned sixth commandment. The other eleven are easy enough to keep but that one about the 'bold thing' is a damn nuisance.

About the name of Hackballsross; How it got that name was that in the bad old days in Ireland, when British Landlords owned this country the people around here were very poor and sometimes would not have the money for the rent.

The landlord was a randy old divil and if he did not get the bit of rent he would have to get a bit of something else off the tenant's wife.

The tenant husbands got fed up of this and one night they kidnapped the old landlord, took him to the local crossroads and with a hacksaw removed his facilities to take the rent in that form and that is how this villiage got it's name.

Yours Sincerely, Brigie



*Christmas Greetings and
Best Wishes to our Emigrants
in all those in far away places
around the world.*

*I know how you feel because I too
was an exile and spent Christmases
away from my homeland and loved
ones. Our thoughts are with you.*

*Peter McConnell
Publisher/Editor*

*Helen and Sean Smith (Sean Smith
Motors, Nolagh, Shercock), and their
twins Laura and Paul, enjoying the
autumn sunshine recently.*

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The Eastender's View

Lack of Democracy in Bailieboro (By Peter McConnell)

Some of our readers have asked me to highlight the damage being done to Bailieboro by the divisions in the community. As a Bailieboro man I am well aware of these divisions, which I believe are caused by a large segment of the community not being given an opportunity to participate in decision making for the locality.

By contrast Kingscourt, where I now live, appears to have a much more united community which is led by a democratically elected Community Council, that appears to have the full backing and support of all classes, creeds, and areas around the town. The benefit of this unity can be seen in the fantastic range of community facilities that the town now has, and led by the dynamic "Councillor Kingscourt", Clifford Kelly, their Community Council is lobbying for a secondary school, a passenger railway station, a library, a trade centre, a theatre and it would not surprise me to hear that they are looking for an airport on Loch An Lea. Because the Kingscourt council is properly and democratically elected it is recognised by Cavan County Council as the legitimate voice of Kingscourt.

It would be very easy for the people of Bailieboro to democratically elect a proper community council by holding elections in the same way as the Kingscourt council or local Catholic Parish did. Alternatively the present 'Bailieboro Development Association' could become a community council by their present "Directors" putting themselves forward for election by all the people of "Bailieboro", if those people were then re-elected they would be entitled to the full support of the whole community. We understand that none of Bailieboro's three elected councillors are among the present B.D.A. "Directors" who are taking decisions for the future of this town without a proper mandate to do so. This situation is simply not acceptable in a modern democratic society.

Bailieboro is probably the only town of its size in the country that does not have an Urban Council, a Town Commission, a Community Council, a Chamber of Commerce or even a Trader's Committee. A community council in the area would, with the support of the people, attempt to tackle some of the town's many problems, such as - the need for the widening and straightening of the Bailieboro/ Virginia road to connect the town properly with the N3, the need for a new factory, the traffic chaos on it's streets, the empty car park, the large unoccupied area in the enterprise centre, the lack of sufficient 'council' or affordable housing in the town, the lack of an outdoor playground for the younger children, the need for another nursing home in the town and the need for housing locally for the mentally handicapped.



Bernie Smyth presenting Anna Mae Crosbie with a cheque for £575 raised at a Round Table Quiz in Smyth's of Relaghbeg, in aid of Down's Syndrome.

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*Front Left to Right - Gwen McKenna, Paddy Watters, Sean Brady, Brendan McHugh, John Cassidy, Siobhan Lamb, Lisa Clarke.
Back Row L. to R - James Smith, Michelle Reilly, Eugene McEnroe.*



Trained facilitators of the Parent to Parent programme on a Networking and refresher course held in the Old Rectory, Bailieboro recently.



Pat Freeman (Kingspan), presenting Martin McKenna (C.D.A. Trust Ltd) with safety and protective workwear for students practical workshops.

CDA Trust Ltd.

Community Development Association Trust Limited is a voluntary organisation incorporated on June 12th 2001.

Currently there are two sub committees, (a) Cavan Drug Awareness, and (b) Cavan Driving Academy.

Cavan Drug Awareness aims to highlight the problems of underage abuse of alcohol and drugs and tackle these problems through the setting up of Family Support Groups, Parent to Parent meetings and a counselling service.

It was from a recognition of a need for an alternative outlet to drugs and alcohol that the Cavan Driving Academy came into being. The Academy aims to address two problems very prevalent in our society today.

Firstly, as already mentioned, it's aim is to provide an alternative to alcohol and drugs and secondly it's aim is to reduce the carnage taking place on our roads through the delivery of safe driving instruction from registered driving instructors on our custom built - off road - driving track. The driving instruction is one part of a three part programme; behind the Wheel, Under the Bonnet and In the Mind.

The Trust membership is truly representative of the target area and includes people qualified to work in drug counselling, youth work, road safety and community development. In the delivery of their programmes they will be working in partnership with the Health Board and the VEC.

Innovative projects like this would not come about if it were not for the diligent work put in by a lot of people and for the generosity of local businesses. The Trust thanks O'Reilly Bros., Gray's, and Conway's quarries for their donations of hardcore for the track construction, they thank Kingspan for their donation of protective clothing and footwear and they also thank all the people who voluntarily gave of their time and equipment during the construction work. They would also like to express their thanks to Cavan Partnership, Cavan County Council, People In Need and the National Committee on Volunteering for funding the project. Last, but not least they acknowledge the hard work put in by the committee members, without whom this would not be possible.

If you would like more information about this project or would like to contribute towards it contact Ms. Jackie McKenna, Manager, at 042 966 6983.

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The Local Old I.R.A.'s Activities In The War Of Independence (1916 to 1921)

By
Peter McConnell

In the 1981 issue of Capt. Jim Kelly's 'Bailieboro Community Annual', the then last surviving member of the Old I.R.A. in Bailieboro, the late John Clarke, then a Hackney Car Operator in Henry St. Bailieboro, published the official history of his old unit's activities in what is often referred to as "The Black and Tan War". That historic document was put together in the late 1920's and early 1930's when most of the participants were still alive and it is authenticated by the Unit's Commanding Officer, the late Frank Connell, Kells Road and his Adjutant, the late Michael McGovern Market Square. This writer is very grateful to Jim Kelly for allowing me to use this invaluable information in the preparation of this article which, due to lack of space, only covers a minute portion of the activities of those Bailieboro members of the then de facto Irish Army in our country's War Of Independence.

The local Commandant Frank Connell, joined The Irish Volunteers in Bailieboro in 1913 and in 1919 the Irish Volunteers became the Irish Republican Army (Old IRA) and Frank was promoted to Commanding Officer in 1920, when the Bailieboro Battalion consisted of companies from Bailieboro, Kingscourt and Knockbride and was itself a part of the Cavan Brigade. According to John Clarke's history the Battalion Staff was made up of Bailieboro men as follows; Commandant Frank Connell - Vice Commandant Jack Reilly, Lisnalea - Adjutant Michael McGovern, Market Square - Quartermaster Michael King, Lisnalea - Battalion Engineer John Clarke, Henry St., - Intelligence Officer Owen Farrell, Main St., - Police Officer Terence Reilly, Lisnalea. The Bailieboro Company within the Battalion was commanded by Capt. James Kelly, Leiter, (Jim's father), with other Officers 1st. Lieutenant Chas. Cooke, Crocknahattina, 2nd. Lieutenant Tom Smith, Urcher, Adjutant Matthew Smith and Quartermaster Owen McPhillips, Broomfield. The Volunteers were Edward Heaney, Crocknahattina, Joe Sheridan, Curkish, Joe McGovern, Market Square, Jack Rogers, Thomas St., Michael McCabe and Dan Cullen.

These Officers and Volunteers in this East Cavan area carried out their duties under very dangerous and most difficult circumstances

because a large number of people in this area at that time were very hostile towards the Sinn Fein of that era and many were opposed to the setting up of Dail Eireann and an independent Irish Government. East Cavan became the centre of all Ireland's attention in 1918 when the first Sinn Fein M.P., Arthur Griffith was elected in that historic Bye Election. Local volunteers were very active during that bye election and in the general election later that year. They were involved in canvassing for votes, organising public meetings and keeping order at these meetings etc. Because of the violent opposition that they faced the volunteers usually carried arms and on occasions had to use these arms to keep order or to defend themselves.

Dail Eireann, at that time operating in secret, were taking over the running of the country despite the continued occupation by the British. The Dail set up their own Courts (the late Tom McDaniel, Drumacarrow was a Judge) and the Old IRA acted as an Army and Police Force for the fledgling and still suppressed Irish Government of that day. Consequently the Bailieboro Battalion, being a small unit, were extremely busy in trying to carry out their duties. These duties varied from harrasing the local RIC and Black and Tans, raiding the homes of members of the then Ulster Volunteers for arms, providing protection for the new unofficial Irish Courts and their Judges and ensuring that the instructions and orders of these courts were carried out. Also during this period the Dail Eireann Loan was floated and the battalion took an active part in canvassing and collecting for it. In addition they carried out the normal everyday duties of a police force investigating local crimes like thefts etc. These onerous and often very dangerous duties were really a full time occupation but somehow these patriots were able to also work to make a living for themselves because that infant Irish government could not afford to pay them and anyway they would not accept payment for what they saw as their duty to their country and it's people.

In the war itself the battalion carried out many attacks on the Crown Forces in this locality the major one was an attack on Bailieboro RIC Barracks on July 10th. 1921, when an attempt to capture the barracks was foiled by the unexpected arrival of a military patrol. Three of their volunteers were wounded and two captured in that attack.

A faded but historic photo of the members of the Old I.R.A. who took over the then Bailieboro Royal Irish Constabulary barracks on February 18th. 1922. The Bailieboro Battalion Commander, the late Comdt. Frank Connell, is seen in the doorway and the Bailieboro Company Commander, the late Captain James Kelly, is the last man on the right of the photo.



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Happy Old Friends Meet Again At Bailieboro's 'Lourdesville' Reunion

(Pictures By Ian Mc Cabe)



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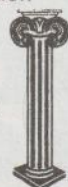
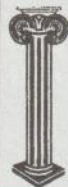
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The Kingscourt Scholars of 1960



(Photo Courtesy Gerry Curtis)

Pupils in Kingscourt Boys School, Circa 1960.

- (1) Peadar Hand. (2) Pat Lee. (3) Gerry McKenna. (4) Gerry O'Connor. (5) P..... O'Connor. (6) John Clarke. (7) Davy Shields. (8) Pat Burns. (9) John Sheanan. (10) Teddy McDaniel. (11) Ed. Sheridan. (12) Willie Burns. (13) John Ward. (14) J.J. Reilly. (15) Pawric McDaniel. (16) Val Martin. (17) Michael Clarke. (18) Pat McKenna. (19) John Carolan. (20) Lan Sheanan. (21) Laurence Clarke. (22) Eugene Clarke. (23) Val Russell. (24) Michael Martin. (25) Bernard Muldoon. (26) Brian Tinnelly. (27) Brian Rafferty. (28) Peter Corrigan. (29) Pat Sheanan. (30) Kieran Russell. (31) Philip Tinnelly. (32) John Russell. (33) Bernard O'Reilly. (34) Thomas Carolan. (35) Brendan O'Reilly. (36) Philip Marry N.T.



Eileen O'Connell, Ballingarry, Limerick and Frankie Sheridan, Kingscourt, who were married in Ballingarry on Sept. 26th. last.



The Maestro, Sean Maguire, one of Ireland's leading players of traditional Irish music, seen here in Murtagh's Lounge (Kingscourt) with two of his many friends and fans James Lynch and Oliver O'Reilly, both from Mullahoran.

Request: The Eastender would be very grateful for a loan of old school photos like that above. We will scan them into our computer and return them to you by return, unharmed and undamaged. We would also be very grateful for a loan of any other old photos of families, organisations or individuals.

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