

THE CORRAN HERALD

A Ballymote Heritage Group Production

Issue No. 2

Christmas Edition 1985

PRICE 25p

Minister Launches Herald



L-R J. Flanagan, Editor, T. McGettrick, Chairman, Minister Ted Nealon T.D. and Y. Perceval Vice-President.

History was made in Ballymote on Friday October 25th with the launch of the first ever local paper in the area, the "Corran Herald". Months of planning and preparation by the members of the Heritage Group had finally come to fruition and on that night the fledgling pages of the first ever issue of the new paper went on public view.

Special guest to perform the launching was Mr. Ted Nealon, T.D. Minister for Arts and Culture. Also present were the members of the Ballymote Traders' Association and representatives of the local Factories, Banks and N.C.F. All of these were generous advertisers in or sponsors of the new project. Also present were the members of the Heritage Group and those who had contributed articles to the paper. The Community Council was represented by its chairman, Mr. Paddy Brady.

The Vice-President of the Heritage Group, Mrs. Perceval, introduced the proceedings, and Mr. Tom McGettrick, Chairman of the Group, acted as M.C. The Editor, Mr. James Flanagan, spoke about the purpose of the new publication. This purpose was twofold: to reflect the interests and ideals of the Heritage Group in all matters cultural, historical and archaeological, and to reflect the achievements, the potential and the needs of the local community of today. He offered the paper as a platform to all local groups, and all interested parties, on which they might inform the area about their purposes and aims, their problems and their needs. He concluded by formally presenting copies of the paper to Mr. Ted Nealon and Mr. Brady. cont. on back page

A REVIVAL TOURIST ANGLING

It is good to learn that there are signs of a revival of interest in angling as a sport and as a tourist potential in Ballymote. Mr. Tim Kelly, a young and enthusiastic businessman, is the chairman of a group comprised of old enthusiasts and new members who hope if the support is forthcoming, to restore the town to the high place it once held in the Tourist Angling business and at the same time to bring together all these, as a discussion and idea-sharing group, especially young people, interested in Angling as a sport. At a date to be arranged towards the end of January there will be a video and lecture on fishing in the North West, this will feature catches in the waters in the Ballymote catchment area and all are welcome.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
LOFTUS HALL
JAN 21st, 8 p.m.
TO ELECT A NEW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

The Corran Herald would like to wish all their readers and advertisers

A
Merry
Christmas

Mrs. Kate Taheny.....

Kate Taheny was born Kate Savage on July 19th 1897, the year of the apparition of Our Lady at Knock. She was the youngest by 7 years of five children and they lived in Doongeela near Lough Bo in Riverstown Parish.

Her mother's health failed when Kate was twelve years old and she died a year later. Kate's older brothers and sisters then emigrated to America and Canada and she was left with her father at home.

They had a small farm and a couple of cows grazing out at a larger farm which was rented out to various small farmers. She and her father did all the farm work, planting crops and saving turf and hay. Everything had to be done by hand. When her father got too old to work, Kate did almost everything herself. She worked with a spade and shovel but was strong and healthy and enjoyed it. They were comfortable and self-supporting in their home.

They were never lonely as their house was a "rambling" house. At night the neighbours came in and they all sat around the turf fire and talked about everything that was happening around them. Sometimes a couple of local musicians would call and there would be music and dance almost until the following morning. Stories were told of ghosts and fairies and all had a happy time.

Her father lived to be 93 years and she had a difficult time looking after him during his last years of life. Soon after his death she met and married Thomas Taheny of Drumnagranchy, Ballymote. Her years in her new home were the happiest of her life: she did not have to work so hard and did not have to carry responsibility alone.

After her husband's death she became restless and expressed a wish to join the other members of her family in America. But they strongly discouraged her as they thought she was now much too old for travel.

A few years later, at the age of 79, she got herself a cottage at Rockfield, Coolaney and there she lived alone until she reached the age of 101. During those years she read a lot and loved to tell of the old times when she saw her first bicycle and motor car. Her memory was excellent and she could speak of Michael Davitt and the Land League, and the rent collectors who often accepted oats or other farm produce in lieu of money. She recalled how the introduction of the Old Age Pension in the early 1900's for people aged 70 or over made her father feel he was in the lap of luxury on five shillings a week.

In July 1985 Kate Taheny celebrated her 106th birthday in St. John's Hospital, Sligo, where she had been since 1981.



Since this article was received, Kate Taheny has passed to her eternal reward. Few people have lived such a long and fruitful life. We pray that in the fields of Heaven all the old friends and "ramblers" are together again, in peace, for ever.

KEASH A HISTORIC PARISH

by P.J. Duffy, N.T.

The present day parish of Keash is comprised of the old parishes of Drumrat and Toomour.

The most prominent physical feature in the parish is its majestic hill, famed in song and story since prehistoric times. Here there are a number of extensive caves, the entrances to which are on the side of the hill, which rises to approx. 1,188 ft. above sea-level.

The hill of Keash has featured prominently in early Irish literature. According to legend Cormac MacAirt, an illustrious king of Ireland, was born near the foot of the hill and was nurtured by a she-wolf in one of the ancient caves. In fact, to this day, a local well at the foot of the hill bears the name "Cormac's well". The caves of Keash are also reputed to have provided a place of refuge for famed warrior Diarmuid when he eloped with Grainne to avoid the wrath of Fionn. He is said to have set out from Keash on his illfated bear-hunting expedition to Benbulbin.

The derivation of the name "Keash" has been the subject of discussion and debate over the centuries. Some authorities on place-names use the old title Keshcorran and suggest that the area got its name from a legendary harper of the Tuatha De Danann tribe, Corran, to whom this district was reputed to have been granted as a reward for his musical expertise.

Some people attribute the place-name Keash as being derived from the old Irish word "cuas", meaning a cave, and of course the caves are a most prominent feature of the area. A more far-fetched opinion holds that the place-name is derived from the old Gaelic word for a pig and that the pig-shaped outline of the

continued on Page 9

Visit to Newgrange



Section of the group photographed during their visit to Newgrange

Newgrange, Bru na Boinne, fabled survivor from Ireland's ancient past, unequalled and unrivalled, this was the monument we had come to see.

The long blue bus had wound its way across the width of Ireland and now as we rounded the last bend the famous mound came into sight. There was a feeling of excitement tinged with awe and mystery as we came closer and closer to this much accalimed site. We looked forward to taking that sudden step back across 5000 years into Ireland's legendary past.

One has to try fairly hard to overcome and put to one side the feeling of disappointment at the commercialisation of the place, the queuing, the waiting, the rushed tour, the general crush of the modern world into something sacred from another age.

But the effort is well rewarded, for Newgrange is a worthwhile and powerful experience. The structure consists of a huge stone mound covering a circular chamber into which there leads one passage from the edge of the mound. The passage is over 80m long, varying in height from 1.5 to 2.4 m. The chamber is 6m high at its centre. It has three recesses, making with the the classical cruciform shape. These recesses contain large stone basins.

The dome-shaped roof consists of corbelled courses and narrows as it rises to a single square slab at the top. Of the hundred or so corbels involved, only two have cracked in all their 5,000 years.

The mound itself is huge, about 80m in diameter and containing about 200,000 tonnes of stone, including 97 large decorated kerbstones which define its perimeter. Around the mound is a free-standing circle of stones, a later addition. 12 of an original 35 survive.

The entrance to the passage leading to the chamber is marked by a great decorated entrance stone sculpted with spirals, semi-circles and lozenges. Above the entrance is found that feature of the mound which has attracted much media attention in recent years. This is the small square-shaped aperture through which the rays of the rising sun on the Winter Solstice may find their way along the passage and into the central chamber itself.

It was a chastening experience to stand in that chamber and view this remarkable accomplishment of our ancestors of 5,000 years ago, 150 generations back. And remarkable it is indeed: what structure erected today will still stand after 5,000 years, its roof as waterproof as when it was built?

One could wish to have whisked oneself away into that dim and distant past and be able to watch those remote Irishmen in their lives, their work, their play, their religion, their living and dying. Far too little is known of these things, even of the purpose for which the Newgrange mound itself was constructed. Certainly cremated remains were laid to rest inside, but what other purposes may it have served? And the sunlight on the Winter Solstice?

The facade of the monument surrounding the entrance has been restored with gleaming white Wicklow quartz which was found under all the other fallen stone during excavation. This gives a very striking appearance to the mound as it squats atop its hill looking out over the valley of the Boyne.

We enjoyed our conducted tour, brief as it was. We had seen the marvel and sensed the mystery. This was enough.

Newgrange was visited as part of a Heritage Group outing on July 14th. 45 people from the Ballymote area took part. Also visited that day were Trim Castle, Millfont, and Monasterboice. More about these later.

Newgrange was visited as part of a Heritage Group outing on July 14th. 45 people from the Ballymote area took part. Also visited that day were Trim Castle, Melifont and Monasterboice. More about these later.

TEMPLEHOUSE

The Castle Hotel was once again the venue for a study of another aspect of our Irish heritage with a lecture on "Templehouse and the Percevals" given by Mr. A.R.H. Perceval on November 27th.

Mr. Perceval began with a set of slides of the present house. These showed clearly the mastery of architecture, the lover of good style and adornment, and the obvious intent of permanence, that went into the raising of this great home.

Mr. Perceval went on to detail the history of his family. His ancestors can be traced in unbroken line back through Ireland, England and Normandy to the Middle Ages. To listen to their story is to take a fascinating trip through time, through history and through the growth of the Western World.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Perceval for his interest in and love of the past, and his willingness to share his knowledge with us. We hope to hear more of Templehouse.

CASSIDY'S NEWAGENTS

HOT COOKED CHICKENS DAILY

TOP QUALITY COOKED HAM



CHRISTMAS READING

Selection of Magazines & Books

**SPECIAL SELECTION
of Childrens Books
at our Newstand**



Happy Christmas

SCANLON AND IRWIN

THE ROCK BALLYMOTE

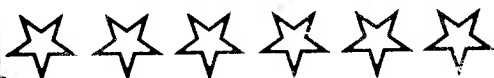
Retail • Wholesale

Deep Freeze Specialists

ORDER YOUR TURKEY NOW

and avail of

LAST YEARS PRICES



wishing our customers a happy
Christmas & Prosperous New Year



BALLINAGLOUGH ABBEY

by Tom McGettrick

Ballinagloough is a townland on the left bank of the Owenmore river about two miles south-west of Ballymote. Close to the river there are the ruins of Ballinagloough Abbey. The ruins consist of a rectangular building, small in comparison with modern church standards, but there is some evidence on the ground that it was at one time bigger than it is today. Nearby there are certain features which make it an extremely interesting place to visit.

Nothing is known of its origin. In the section on the Parish of Bunninadden in his History of Sligo Dr. O'Rorke wrote "Ballinagloough is a townland of some note in the Parish". He did not give any reason for this statement, perhaps there was at that time almost a hundred years ago some information that would help. The building is identified on the early Ordnance Survey map by the word "Abbey".

Much of the stonework of the rectangular building still remains. A loft or gallery at the Western end which was supported by a round bridge-like arch has collapsed in on the floor. This stone arch was the system for supporting the upper floors and passages in old castles, abbeys etc, and also formed the support for the walls over windows and doors. It can be seen over the entrance to the castle at Ballymote and in many sections of this imposing ruin. There is a fine window at the eastern end over where the altar would have been. Sadly it is gradually disintegrating. The general appearance and architecture suggests the passage of many centuries. Did it come into existence under the influence of the Dominican House at Cloonameehan which was established towards the end of the fifteenth century?

continued on Page 11

Fair Day Memories

by P.J. Duffy Killaville

My earliest fair day recollections go back to the mid 1940's when the end of World War two and the ensuing reconstruction of Europe brought a measure of hope and relief to the countryside. The monthly outing to the local town for the fair provided people in rural parts with a bit of activity and excitement that breached the humdrum monotony of their daily lives.

During this time, the Ballymote fair was one of the most successful institutions of its kind in the West of Ireland.

A sign of a good day's trading to come was the arrival in town of a large number of cattle dealers, or "jobbers" as they were more commonly called. Being a stranger in town, the jobber was also conspicuous for they type of clothing he wore. He usually sported a striped suit, a collar and tie, and a pair of red boots.

The jobber moved with an air of confidence in and out between the batches of cattle, choosing his purchases and branding them with raddle and scissor marks at the conclusion of a deal.

By contrast, the farmers who manned the footpaths herding their stock were much less well attired. The hobnailed boots, the baggy patched breeches, the crubeen and the battered hat were still very much in vogue. A far cry indeed from today's blue jeans and white sneakers!

One of the greatest attractions for a youth attending a fair day in those days was provided by the cantmen. Competition between these tradesmen was always keen and they erected their stalls at vantage points, as close as possible to the top of the Rock.

The verbal exchanges that usually took place between the cantmen and their customers could be amusing in the extreme. One salesman named Gorman, from Carrick-on-Shannon, was particularly well known in town and country for his wry wit and scathing comments. Once an odd-looking gentleman who had purchased a pair of trousers enquired if he might leave it for collection until he was ready to go home. "Certainly" said Gorman, placing it inside his stall. His client then had second thoughts and enquired if it might be necessary to write his name on the package. "Not at all" quipped Gorman, "I'd know you in Croke Park amongst eighty thousand people!"

Another time a middle-aged couple approached his stall and began to examine articles of clothing. After enquiring about prices the man moved away, beckoning to his wife to do likewise. "Excuse me a moment" said Gorman, addressing himself to the woman, "I'll bet you two haven't a family". "Well bad cest to you" said the woman "and how did you know that?" "I doubted it" said Gorman, "I doubted it. Sure that ould buck of yours is too miserable to part with anything!"

There were many other singular characters in those days who were part of the scene on all fair days. At the Market House (Now the Youth Centre) there was Tim Healy, the avoirdupois master. If you decided to sell your beast by weight, Tim placed it on a scale outside and provided you with the necessary weight certificate.

An ex-army man, he projected his own special image by dressing up in knickerbockers and long stockings, buttoned by a pair of well polished boots.

With youthful timidity we stood close to our elders as we saw Tom (The Rouser) Carroll parade up and down the streets making pronouncements on anything and everything he saw around him. We were reassured that the man "was harmless" and that he was one of the town's best loved characters.

Then there was Muldoon, "The Town Crier" with placards front and rear who marched back and forth throughout the day with announcements of an impending auction which usually took place at the markethouse. People used to say that "he belled the town all up and down from the Green to Jimmy Flynn's". ("The Green" was the Fairgreen, now the site of the Cattlemart, and Jimmy Flynn's was in O'Connell St.



Another notable character of those days was Stephen Brett of Carrowcushaely. He was a renowned "bargain clencher" or to use a more common term of the period, a "cattle tangler". For well over half a century he was an integral part of fair day.



As the day drew to a close, batches of cattle were driven to the railway station. A man named D'Arcy collected your docket and "boxed your stock" on time provided of course that you slipped a coin about the size of a half-crown into his palm. Then the animals were ready for dispatch to various parts of the country. But at home the doings of the day would be told and retold until that day month.

KELLYS M.N.C.

Ballymote

SPECIAL XMAS OFFERS

2 Litre Orange £1.10	Chivers Jelly 23p	½ Tin Rover Biscuits £3.79
1 lb. Sausages 89p	Stork 25p	½ Tin Assort. Biscuits £3.29
1 lb. Butter 98p	Cookeen 29p	1½ Litre Coke Fanta, Seven Up 99p
	Pennywise Biscuits 22p	
	Toilet Rolls 15p	
	Calvita Cheese 69p	

 **LARGE SELECTION OF**
CHRISTMAS GIFTS 
AT UNBEATABLE PRICES
BONED GAMMONS & FRESH TURKEYS
TO ORDER
HOME MADE XMAS CAKES TO ORDER

Free Draw
2 VELAMOR BICYCLES
£50 HAMPER 1/4 TON COAL

CRYAN & CO.

M.I.A.V.I.

Selling Is Our Business

AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS,

ESTATE AGENTS

Ballymote, Co.Sligo

PHONE (071) 83316

Dear Sir,

I have read the first edition of the 'Corran Herald' and found it interesting.

You want people to write to your paper. I would like to suggest a dog kennels for our town. This would have been called the Pound one time and people would have to pay to get their animals back.

I would like to see it return as it might get rid of some dangerous dogs or at least make the owners keep them where they cannot attack young and old.

I have been attacked recently on a number of occasions and so has one of my children. The Gardai were informed but nothing has happened.

I would like to see the streets cleared of vicious dogs so that children especially may come and go in safety to school and play.

Thank you. I wish you paper a long life and much success.

Mrs. Margaret Muldoon, Marren Park

Dear Sir,

I am all for independance, but why do we have to choose the main streets of our Town for displays of these admirable qualities? We ignore parking places, street corners, any semblance of order, and stop preferably in the middle of the road, blocking completely any feeble-minded driver who has parked correctly. We then depart to have a drink, do our shopping, chat to friends, returning at our leisure and with hardly an apology to those we have kept waiting.

To this, add a few delivery vans, and a stranger or two and traffic is reduced to a sprawling single line. It is incredible that there have not been more serious accidents in our streets. There is nowhere quite as independant as a grave.....

Mrs. Percival, Forthill, Ballymote

Community Council

The period of office of the present Community Council is drawing to a close. It has been in existence since the autumn of 1982. Its original members were elected to it on the basis of the results of elections held in 20 designated areas in the Parish. Nine of those elected did not remain as permanent delegates to the Council, and even replacements in some instances by the persons who had received the second vote did not yield satisfactory results.

Accordingly it was agreed at a meeting of the Council some months ago that the new Council would not be appointed on the same election system as in 1982. Instead it should be elected from interested bodies and business people in the area who would be sufficiently motivated and committed to ensure the continuation of the Council and the promotion of its ideals.

To this end, there will be a public meeting in the Loftus Hall, on Tuesday, January 21st, 1986 at 8 p.m. This will be an open meeting, to which all interested persons and all local organisations are invited. It is intended that at that meeting a new Council will be elected.

A Community Council provides a voice for the people on the ground. Local people are best aware of, and best understand, local problems and needs. In order to change a situation in an effective way, organisation is needed. A Council elected by the people and representing the different interest groups within a community, is one such form of organisation. It has the advantage that it can provide an overall structure within which the different activities organised by the community can take place.



Mr. Paddy Brady Chairman of Ballymote Community Council speaking at the launching of the Corran Herald also included Minister of State Mr. Ted Nealon T.D., Tom McGettrick and Mrs Y. Perceval of The Ballymote Heritage Group.

Where different interest groups are represented on a Council, that council, can be the platform where the discussions and the council, can be the platform where the discussions and the co-ordination that will be necessary can take place.

With organisation and unity there can be the power to influence your own destiny; without these there can be ineffectiveness and chaos.

We would earnestly encourage as many people as possible to attend the January public meeting. There are many problems in and around Ballymote that need decisive and courageous attack and solution. Be prepared to play your part.

The outgoing Council has concerned itself with many issues, including the following: tourism; park development; the Tidy Towns competition; Anco-Line classes (which gave rise to one local dress-making enterprise, now operating very successfully); street-lighting in the town; the public water supply; an area survey.

The area survey, carried out by Anco, was a very ambitious and worthwhile task. It has lead to a very sizeable body of findings concerning all the resources and potentials of the Ballymote area.

These findings will be published shortly and will be an invaluable source of information for all those concerned with the development of the area.

There are many problems to which a new Community Council might address itself, such as:-

- Why doesn't Ballymote have
- Better traffic control
- A proper footpath on the roadside opposite the old cemetery
- Trees and flowers in public areas
- A Public Park
- A Childrens' playground
- A swimming pool
- A cinema
- A museum
- A town band
- A Musical society
- A Dramatic society
- An over sixties club
- better sports facilities
- Public toilets
- A Tidy Towns Committee
- Better development and promotion of tourist potential

We wish the towns' Traders every success in their Bonanza Week. We would encourage our readers to shop locally and support their own town, especially during Bonanza time.

Poetry Corner

CARNAREE

The interesting place I like to see
is the one and only Carnaree.
It's situated on the Sligo road
where many a car has carried its load.

There's a lot of other roads as well
that take us from the place we dwell.
People know each other all around,
and in every place a friend is found.

Carnaree has got its name
from royal kings of long ago,
and there's local history all about
as everyone should know.

There are many musicians known to all,
and one has his name on a Carnaree wall.
The Community Centre is run very well.
I think living in Carnaree is really very swell.

by Mary Gallagher
(aged 13)

Mary Gallagher is our first young contributor,
and we welcome her into print. We hope that more
young people will follow her lead. Poems, short
stories, original material of any kind will be
considered for publication. Later we may have
competitions with prizes. So put on your thinking
caps and see what you can produce.

REFLECTIONS

Now in the twilight of the fleeting years,
Come thoughts of childhood
its mysteries and its fears.
On wings of fantasy
I re-visit those bowers
Where as children we played
for unrendering hours.
Abide with me now you long-lost days
Mother nature and her tarnished ways.

Ah, sweet haven of peace
With your countless thrills,
The babbling brook with swirling rills,
And wild, wild flowers and humming bees,
Enrapture my heart like a symphony of keys,
And at the close of life's eventide
May God's pure raptures as in nature abide.

by Stan Casey

PERRYS MACE

CHRISTMAS BONANZA SPECIALS

CHEF BEETROOT 350gr. 45p	PAN STUFFED 32p
1 kg. SUGAR 59p	CHEF SAUCE 200gr 36p
DREAM TOPPING Family 37p	BIRDS EYE PEAS 1 lb 69p
BIRDS CUSTARD Family 56p	SHOULDERS BACON Min weight 10 lbs. 75p lb.
CC SIX PACKS £1.89	CHEF BRANSON PICKLE 65p
CHIVERS MINCEMEAT 69p	1½ lbs. MINERALS 69p
2 ltr. ORANGE £1.39	BACHELORS Marrowfat 42p
DELMATE PEACHES 49p	4 lb. CHICKENS £2.99
5 lb. CHIPS £1.39	JUST ROLL PUFF PASTRY 66p
SASUAGES 1 lb. 89p	TWIN TOILET ROLLS 16p
1½ lb. CASKET MILK TRAY £5.99	JOHN WEST PINK Salmon 213gr £1.05
1 lb. BUTTER 99p	CHIVERS JELLY 24p
BIRDS TRIFLE 79p	POTATO CROQUETTES 56p
DELMATE PEARS 52p	EGGS 1 dozen 69p

½ TINS ASSORTED
BISCUITS £2.99
LARGE BROWN OR
WHITE LOAFS ... 56p

ORDER NOW:
FRESH OR FROZEN
TURKEYS & ¼ OR
FULL HAMS

FREE DRAW

20 OVEN READY TURKEYS
TO BE WON IN THIS STORE
Draw to be held Friday
December 19th

PERRY'S MACE

Christmas
Greetings
to all our
CUSTOMERS

DARK HOURS

Oh glorious light that once I knew
Thou hast not forsook me
But hast brought anew
Bright hopes of happy days
Guided and loved
By God's own kindly ways.

By Stan Casey

IRISH NIGHT AT THE CASTLE

One of the most enjoyable, informative and memorable celebrations ever of our Irish heritage of song and dance took place in the Castle Hotel on November 15th. It consisted of a talk on Irish song followed by a session of Irish music.

The talk was given by Professor Brendan O'Madagain of the Irish Department of University College, Galway. The great breadth of his scholarship, the long hours and days of research into his theme, and above all his great feeling for and love of his subject, all came across so clearly on that night. And his own personal rendering in song of the various compositions he discussed was really the icing on a truly marvellous cake.

We parted a curtain of time for us and let us look back through the delightful medium of song on an Ireland that has only just moved on, only just, but rapidly being forgotten. Indeed some aspects of it still remain, such as the continuing dangerous encounter of the fisherman with the sea.

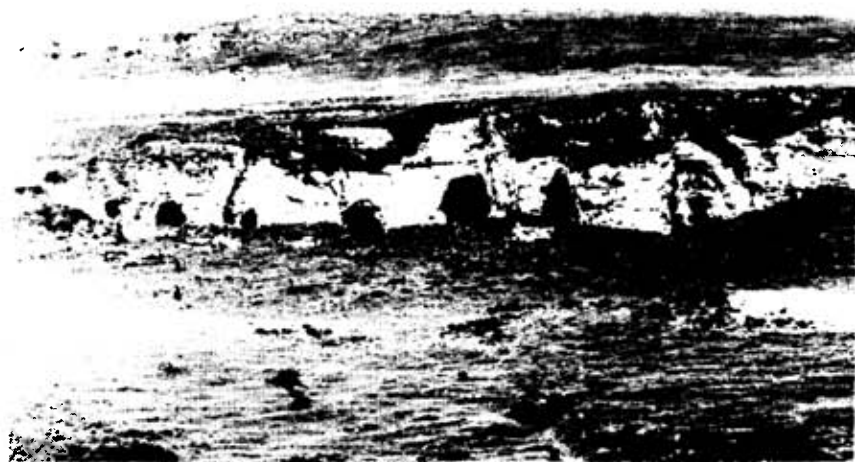
After the talk there was an enjoyable session of traditional Irish music provided by a large number of local musicians. This went on to the "wee hours" and was very worthwhile. It is very encouraging to see so many young people loving the traditional music.

The night was organised by the Ballymote Heritage Group in conjunction with the Sligo Branch of Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann and the Extra-Mural Department of University College, Galway.

NEWSFLASH PERRY'S/MACE

Mrs. Francis Brennan
Marren Park,
Ballymote

Winner of Creda Microwave
Oven Value £350.00



continued from Page 2

hill, when viewed from a distance was responsible for its placename.

Yet another theory suggests that the name "Ceis" refers to a bridging-place or watershed between the Arrow and Owenmore rivers. It would seem most likely that the placename of the parish is derived from its unique caves. There thirteen openings of varying size and depth on the face of the hill, each of which has generated significant archaeological interest over the years. To-day they are a considerable, if as yet under-developed, tourist attraction. The predominant rock-type in the area is limestone. Geological opinion suggests that the caves were formed over many centuries initially by atmospheric weathering on the summit of the hill, which created fissures in the rock strata.

Water seeping into the fissures worked its way to the interior and emerged through the hill-face and by a combination of weather and erosion gradually enlarged the openings. The trickling water from the carboniferous limestone appears to have encouraged stalactitic development although there is little evidence of stalactites in the caves to-day. Some geologists believe that the movement of ice towards the end of the Ice Age played a major role in determining the size and shape of the caves.

HISTORIC CAVES OF KEASH

Photograph courtesy of J. Freehill

Archaeological explorations were carried out in the caves at the begining of this century by members of the Royal Irish Academy. During their stay they were hosted by Mr. Luke Hannon in his residence at the foot of the historic hill, now owned by the Freehill family.

The excavations in the caves uncovered numerous remains of animals now extinct in Ireland, such as the bear, Irish elk and arctic lemming. Evidence discovered in the caves indicated that early man occasionally used the caves as his habitat and more recent impliments, items of food and articles of personal adornment, showed that the caves were inhabited regularly from the begining of the Viking era.

On the summit of the hill stands a cairn, one of many in the South-Sligo region. It commands a splended view of the surrounding countryside. Given proper weather conditions it is possible to see features in at least five counties from the summit. It is not surprising, therefore that the ancient Barony of Corran takes its name from a majestic hill renowned in song and story since the dawn of history.



Ulster Bank

BALLYMOTE



Ulster Bank
the friendly bank

Manager B. Dempsey

Asst. Manager E. Sweeney

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bonanza Prizegiving Night
in Loftus Hall on Friday 20th. Dec.

Music by Canadian Express

WINNING TICKETS DRAWN BY

MONSIGNOR HORAN

AT 11 p.m. SHARP

KANES V.G
FOODMARKET
BALLYMOTE

For all your

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

BONANZA SPECIAL
Whole Green Ham 89p lb.

LARGE SELECTION OF TINS OF BISCUITS
BOXES OF CHOCOLATES CHRISTMAS CAKES
PLUM PUDDINGS All at Keenest Prices.....

Wishing all our Customers a Happy & Holy Xmas.

FISHING AROUND BALLYMOTE by Brendan Friel

The wealth of rivers and lakes around Ballymote makes the area a veritable fishing paradise. Did you know that it is possible to catch 19 species of freshwater fish within a short distance of the town? The sea is only a short journey from Ballymote and this greatly increases the potential of the area. Very few places in Ireland could in justice make such a boast. And apparently fishing is nothing new around here because a bronze age fishing hook was found in Carrownanty.

RIVERS AND LAKES

The main river of the area is the Owenmore and into it flow all the lakes and streams around. The river passes within one mile of the town on its way from Gurteen to Ballisodare Bay. There is tremendous diversity in the size and depth of the various waters and this gives great variety in the fishing available. There are so many lakes and streams that are never fished that one could assume the air of an explorer when first working them. Tales abound of monster pike that lurk in each lake and deep stretch of the river. Francie Coleman and Paddy Brennan had numerous encounters with such a fish at Carnaree a number of years ago. Perhaps that fish is still there if he has not judged it more prudent to move to safer waters. I wonder what that pike thought of Edmond Shaw's turfboat as it ferried its loads from Derreen bog in the 1940's? Should you ever catch this fish, please return the 100 yards of line that he took from Tony Heaver of Carrickbanagher.

TEMPLEHOUSE LAKE

This is the only lake directly on the river. It enjoys a worldwide reputation for its pike fishing. Stories are legion about the huge pike that have

continued on Page 14

BALLINAGLOUGH ABBEY

continued from Page 4

The wide and marshy Owenmore would be a barrier between it and the Abbey at Ballymote established a little earlier, a house of the Franciscans. Ballinagrough Abbey is about half-way between the two, but it is, and must always have been in Bunninadden Parish.

In the green pasture field where the ruined Abbey stands there are three other features, two of which must have been part of the life and activity of which the Abbey was the centre. The third of these, somewhat nearer to the river than the Abbey is a round well-shaped mound referred to on the O.S. map as a tumulus. One has to be careful in identifying objects of archaeological interest as sometimes geological tricks are played and this shapely mound may be just a hill of sand. If it is a tumulus it contains a grave or graves of the ancient, stone-built passage-grave or cist variety. These graves would contain skeletons or cremated remains with almost certainly food urns. If it is a tumulus it would be older than the Abbey and its connection with it would be extremely doubtful.

The other two, a Columbarium or pigeon-house and a "fish-pond" are fascinating aspects of the Ballinagrough complex. Each of these suggests a means of providing or storing food and would indicate that the Abbey had a residential association. The pigeon-house is a well-constructed small two-storey building. The upper storey is supported by a similar arch to the one that supported the gallery in the Abbey and it is flattened on top to become the upper floor. This upper room can be entered only by a ladder from the outside to a small doorway and inside the four walls contain rows of

little alcoves or recesses into each of which a pigeon's nest would fit. In one wall there is an opening through which pigeons could enter or leave. This opening has a ledge underneath it on the outside on which pigeons could rest. The room underneath is entered by a small doorway and has no other opening. It would have been quite a cold compartment at all times and as such would have advantages for the storage of food, a refrigerator of the time!

Columbariums are not a common feature of domestic development, but there are sufficient of them to compare their construction and function. The fish-pond is a circular depression in the field comparable in size to a circus ring. It is contained in a strong stone and earthen wall through which water could not escape. A stream from a nearby well entered the pond from the higher ground above it and the overflow left the pond by a stream to the river down from it. It could be regarded as having a head-race and a tail-race. No water now enters the pond as it flows direct from the well to the river. Today the same system of water supply is used in fish farming. Was this a fish-farm where fish were taken from the river and kept until needed for the table, or were fish reared to be stocked in the river? Had it some other function entirely!

Ballinagrough has many question marks, perhaps in some old uncovered record or even in the recess of some local memory there is information that would remove some of them. Any information would be much appreciated. The local landowners in Ballinagrough have always allowed access to the Abbey and for this we thank them. Visitors should remember to always secure gates and respect property.

THE CRAFTS ASSOCIATION

by Una Preston

This new Association the brainchild of two local ladies, has opened our eyes to the wealth of talent we have in our midst. The knowledge that we have a ready market in the U.S.A. for whatever we can produce in quality craftwork, and that we are already exporting there, should inspire teachers, parents, pupils and others to look to sources other than the academic for profitable employment for the young generation.

The ladies at present producing craft goods are busy housewives with only limited time to devote to this work. A viable craft industry aimed at the very profitable luxury market would need fulltime workers. The opening appears to be there. We should think about it.

The recent local groups exhibition in the Loftus Hall, organised by the Crafts Association, was very successful. 12 groups took part. It was a revelation to see the commitment and expertise that went into the setting up of the various stands. The interested observer could learn a great deal that day about what is going on in and around Ballymote. The organisers are to be congratulated.

BALLINACARROW N.S. SALE OF WORK AND RAFFLE

The parents and teachers wish to thank everyone for their very generous support.

1st. Prize

Maura Regan, Ballymote

2nd Prize

Keith Anderson, Ballinacarrow

3rd Prize

Lisa O'Grady, Ballinacarrow

4th Prize

Ms. M. McGuinn, Ballinacarrow

BALLYMOTE TRADITIONAL CLUB

The Ballymote area has long been renowned as the home of traditional music. It therefore seemed a pity that in recent times music-lovers had to travel to adjoining towns and villages in order to hear a good "session". This situation was altered in November 1984 when Tim Kelly, Joe Cullen and Gerard Killoran decided to organise a regular session in Ballymote. Perry/Hayden's was chosen as the venue and in a small room off the bar the fortnightly session got under way.

At first the audience was small in number because advertising was by word of mouth only, but the crowd of musicians who came to take part increased in number every week. Such noted musicians as Tommy Flynn from Lough Arrow, Harry McGowan and Andy Davey, Fred Finn and Peter Horan, James Murray, Mick Mick Loftus and Jimmy Murphy, Joe Cullen, Dan Healey and Laura Irwin, were to be heard almost every week.


By February 1985 the crowds had increased greatly and it became obvious that larger accommodation was needed. Accordingly the venue was changed to Sylvester Kerins' Lounge and the session became known as "Ballymote Traditional Club".

During the summer months the Club became the focal point for visiting musicians and holidaymakers alike. Sessions were held weekly. Regular supporters were the young musicians from the Ballyrush/Castlebaldwin area, namely the Brehony, O'Carroll and Reynolds families, pupils of Paddy Ryan who has himself played at some of the sessions and who now holds a class in Ballymote.

There were also regular and very welcome visits from Joe and Shiela O'Dowd, and their son Seamas, also from Joe Fallon, Sonny McDonagh and


PATRICK ROGERS LTD.

O'CONNELL ST. BALLYMOTE



MICHAEL & CARMEL
Wish all their Customers & Friends
A Very Happy Christmas to all.....

Thank you for your support over the years, and we look forward to serving you in the year ahead.....



BUILDING SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Cement • Lime • Timber • Slabs • ———
Galvanised Iron • Plumbing Materials Etc.
————— • Chain Saws

Special Discounts
on all stock up to Christmas

FREE BONANZA DRAW
For gift up to £300

☎ (071) 83451/83318 ———

Christmas Greetings

TO ALL MY CUSTOMERS

PATRICK A. BANKS

FOR ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE

Silver Jubilee ——— Est. 1960

Ned Scanlon, and every Thursday night the audience was enchanted by the reels and jigs, and the beautiful songs, of Harry McGowan and John Hannon as well as Thomas and John Henry.

A highlight of the summer was a visit from the legendary Martin Wynne. He was accompanied on this occasion by Mark Ryan and a host of local musicians. Recent sessions were attended by Josie McDermott,

Bernie Flaherty from Boyle, P.J. Hernon who needs no introduction, Rory Summers, John McHugh, and Mary McCrudden (formerly Mary Finn of Marlowe). It is very encouraging to see Ballymote Traditional Club receive such good support both from the audiences and from such talented traditional musicians.

by Mary B. Duddy

Agricultural Education in Ballymote by A.C.O.T.

On July 20th 1984 the new ACOT Training Centre at Carrownanty, Ballymote was officially opened by Minister of State Mr. Ted Nealon T.D. The Centre is the headquarters of the Farm Advisory Service for the new District of Ballymote. Prior to this the whole county was one unit but following the setting up of ACOT nationally, the country was divided into Districts. In the case of County Sligo there are two districts i.e. Sligo and Ballymote. The new Ballymote District is more or less all of the county south of a line from Aclare through Cloonacool, Coolaney, Collooney, Castlebaldwin to Ballinafad.

Prior to the setting up of ACOT, any young man who was interested in following farming as a career had to go to one of the Agricultural Colleges in order to get some training or he could attend the short courses run by the Committee of Agriculture. However the Agricultural Colleges were the main training centres for intending young farmers.

Certificate in Farming

While the Agricultural Colleges continue to operate, there are many young people who wish to enter farming but who for many reasons are unable to attend at an Agricultural College. The Certificate in Farming course is a new education and training programme for young entrants to farming offered by ACOT with assistance from the Farm Apprenticeship Board and with financial support from the Y.E.A. There are two options open to young people who wish to get this Certificate of proficiency:

OPTION 1

Attend at an Agricultural College for 1 year, work under the supervision of the local ACOT Officer on the home

farm, spend at least 3 months on a recognised Host Farm

and attend a special course on Farm Management at the local ACOT Centre or at an Agricultural College. The time scale for Option 1 is three years.

OPTION 2

This programme is tailored to meet the needs of those who cannot attend at the Agricultural College. The whole programme is carried out under the supervision and direction of the ACOT District Education Officer Mr. Dominick Murray. There are 20 young farmers at present attending this course at the new ACOT Centre in Ballymote. The course started in October last year (1984) and will run to February 1987. The basic principles of scientific farming are taught and indoor instruction is complemented by visits to outside farmers in order to integrate the teaching-learning process with farm practise. The centre is well equipped with video, experimental equipment and some laboratory facilities. Those participating attend the ACOT Centre two days each week from October to Christmas each year for 3 years, carry out practical projects on the home farm, go to work in another (Host) farm for at least 3 months and attend the

Farm Management Course where they are joined by Option 1 trainees after 3 years. The time scale for Option 2 is 3½ years.

It is hoped that special privileges will accrue to the young farmers of the future who will have completed the Certificate Course. It is envisaged that this Certificate will in the near future become the basic requirement of eligibility for special low interest loans, land leasing and special farm grants.

OTHER COURSES

After Christmas there will be a day course of 100 hours at the Centre. This course is designed for farmers who are about to assume ownership of the land and those who attend will get an exemption from stamp duty if the land is transferred before July 6th next.

If there are individual farmers or groups of farmers in the Ballymote District who have ideas about courses or meetings that they feel should be catered for, then they should contact Dominick Murray and he will facilitate them because as he says "the primary purpose of Education is to help people understand the meaning of their lives, become more sensitive to the meaning of other peoples' lives and relate with them more fully".

JOHNSON Furniture Ballymote

Wishing all our Customers
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

FOR THE KEENEST PRICES IN
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
WE ARE THE BEST IN THE WEST

Phone (071) 83326

been caught there, and even more about the ones that got away. Patrick Begley, Portinch, once caught a pike so big that there was no way of weighing it as the weighbridge at the Market House had not been installed.

German anglers in particular enjoy fishing its waters and rarely a year goes by without a fish in excess of 30 lbs finding its way to a German city.

The excellent stocks of bream and rudd are often overlooked because of the reputation the lake has for pike.

CLOONACLEIGHA LAKE

This could be described as the sister lake of Templehouse, being right beside it. Its reputation for pike is almost as good as that of Templehouse. It was stocked with tench years ago as an experiment by the Inland Fisheries Trust. This was forgotten by everyone until an unsuspecting visiting angler discovered them to his delight.

LOUGH ARROW

This lake is renowned the world over for its brown trout. Each May anglers eagerly await the cry "the fly is up". Once the mayfly appears the lake becomes a hive of activity. Trout fishing on Arrow is not limited to this period but may be enjoyed throughout the season. The attraction of Arrow is its good fishing; its magic lies in its peace and tranquility.

FAMOUS FISHERMEN OF THE PAST

The town and surrounds has produced many great fishermen over the years. Paddy and Jimmy Donegan must surely have been the most dedicated to the sport. They loved the Owenmore and could be found on its banks any day of the year, even on Christmas Day itself.

Johnny McLoughlin, Cloonkeevy, was an excellent boatman who spent all his

spare time on Templehouse Lake. It was said he feared nothing, but that was not true at least on one occasion and that was when he hooked the 37lbs. pike on the lake. He would not bring it aboard but instead towed it all the way to Carrowreagh Bridge where administered the last rites.

Batty Costelloe also fished Templehouse and it was either him or Tim Healy, Teeling Street, that caught the 41lbs. pike that adorned the Loftus Hall for many years.

SHAMROCK Dry Cleaners

EMMET St. BALLYMOTE

10% DISCOUNT
During Shopping Bonanza

FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE

OPENING HOURS :



Mon - Fri 9.30 to 6.00

Sat 9.30 to 7.00



We would like to take this opportunity
To wish all our Customers a very very
HAPPY CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

Tom & Joan Scott.

VIDEO SERVICES

LORD EDWARD St, BALLYMOTE

PH. (071)83155

- * No Lights
- * Unique Sound
- * Weddings
- * Concerts
- * Plays
- * Sporting Events
- * Tele-Cine Transfer

Official Video for

MARY FROM DUNGLOE

WESTERN ROSE

(open 7 days)

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

I often had the pleasure of fishing alongside Paddy Rogers, O'Connell Street, on Lough Arrow. Paddy loved Arrow and could be found fishing around "The Thumbs" or "The Black Banks". No one could cast a fly more delicately than he.

I am sure that all these fine sportsmen realised that the joy of angling came not from the catch but from being in tune with nature. No doubt they now fish the shores and streams of Heaven with ever greater and greater success.

BALLYMOTE BOYS National School

This is a continuation of the last editions article

by Neal Farry

Mr. John A. Barnes succeeded Mr. Durkan as principal in 1924. He had previously served in the school as an assistant at a time when he played Gaelic football for the Ballymote Round Towers team that won the Sligo Senior Championship in 1914. After his appointment in 1924, Mr. Barnes took up the Irish language revived with enthusiasm and he energetically set to work to re-establish the Ballymote Branch of the Gaelic League. He organised Irish language classes and he co-operated magnificently with Canon T. Quinn P.P. to achieve great local popularity for the Irish language revival.

In 1938 the Ballymote Gaelic League Branch established Coiste na bPaisti. Each year this committee sent ten pupils from the parish of Ballymote to the Gaeltacht where they were in the care of Mr. Barnes who looked after their welfare during their stay. Mr. Michael Cassidy and Mr. Tom McGettrick, both of whom taught in the Boys' N.S., were also deeply involved in this commendable work.

Mr. Barnes was also a recipient of the prestigious Carisle and Blake premium, which is ample proof that his reputation for being a great teacher was well earned. He was also very interested in G.A.A. affairs, becoming Vice-Chairman of Sligo County Board in 1929 and from 1931 until 1934.

Mr. Michael Cassidy succeeded Mr. Barnes as principal in 1952. Mr. Cassidy was particularly skilled at preparing boys for scholarship examinations and many of his students were awarded scholarships to Multyfarnham College, Gormanston College, De La Salle College, Waterford and the local Secondary School.

Mr. Cassidy retired in 1959 when Captain Gates, a reserve army officer, was appointed as temporary principal for some months.

Mr. Chris Reid was appointed principal in July 1959 and he continued in that position until 1969. In that year Carnaree school was amalgamated with the town schools. Mr. Val Henry became principal of the Boys' N.S. with Miss Mary Alice Coleman and Mr. Neal Farry as his assistants. Miss Coleman was chairperson of Ballymote I.N.T.O. branch and she was deeply involved in the work of

the Legion of Mary. Mr. Henry made a great contribution to handball and Gaelic football in Carnaree and he was known nationally as a celebrated magician.

In 1974 Carrigans school was amalgamated with the town schools and Mr. Tom McGettrick joined the staff of the Boys' N.S. During his working life Mr. McGettrick was a keen G.A.A. administrator and footballer, a first-class amateur actor, a committed trade-unionist and a most valuable member of the community. Since his retirement in 1975 he gained a well-earned reputation as a local historian.

Mr. Val Henry retired in 1976 and Mr. McGettrick served as temporary principal prior to the appointment of Mr. N. Farry as principal in February 1977. At the present time Mrs. E. Tansey is vice-principal Miss Mary Kennedy is the assistant.

Other teachers who have taught in the school were Mr. Frank McGee, Mr. Patrick Duffy, Miss Una McNamara, Mrs. M.J. McCarrick, Mrs. M. Mullen, Mr. John Cawley, Miss Shiela Chambers, Mr. Loftus, Mr. Maye, Mr. McCormack, and Miss Teresa O'Dowd. Mrs. Mullen and Miss Chambers both served as organist and choir-mistress in the church.

Among the schools most distinguished past pupils are Chris McDonagh, (1907 -1960), the historian and genealogist, Eamonn Barnes, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Dr. Hubert McDermott, Dept. of English U.C.G., Dr. Joe Sreenan, the research scientist and director of the Dept. of Agriculture's twin clays project, the well loved Dr. Frank O'Hart and District Justice P. Keenan Johnson.

While I confess that the nomination of a mere half-dozen individuals is somewhat invidious, I am aware that a much greater number of our past pupils have made equally outstanding contributions to the social, professional and business life of the this country and of many others. However, to attempt to name them all would involve even greater risks since it would be virtually impossible to call a halt.

The following priests of recent decades were also past pupils: Fr. Jim O'Reilly, Fr. Donal Cassidy, Fr. Michael Cassidy, Fr. Liam Cawley, Fr. Liam McDermott, Fr. Val Rogers P.P., Fr. Pat Rogers, Fr. Bernie O'Connor, Fr. Peter McDonagh, Monsignor Fachtna Collins, Fr. Tom McGovern, Fr. Kevin Brehony, and Fr. Dermot Meehan. John Hannon is an Irish Christian Brother.

According to the registers that are in the school, 1,490 pupils were enrolled between June 22nd, 1908 and September 3rd 1985. The first pupils on the existing registers are Thomas Brennan, Grattan Street, Betty Colligan, Enlaghfad and Pat O'Connell, Newtown (enrolled June 22nd 1908) The most recent boy to be registered was Mark Scott, Emmet St., (Sept. 3rd 1985) Accordingly, the average intake of pupils over the seventy-seven year period was 19 - 35 per year. There is no trace of any register prior to 1908.

Now that an enthusiastic and hard working band of parents, friends and teachers have embarked on a reasonably successful fund-raising campaign to extend the school, it seems likely that the next generation of Ballymote Boys will enjoy facilities that will be a far cry from Andrew Dunlevy's "clusive, mud-wall" hedgeschool. The passing of time will test whether or not the comfortable, cossetted pupils of the future, with their vast array of libraries, general purpose rooms, audio-visual aids and computer technology will emulate and surpass the achievements of the boys of the last three hundred years, who received their schooling in conditions that were, in the past primitive and are, indeed to this very day spartan in the extreme.



THE CORRAN HERALD
PUBLISHED IN BALLYMOTE
A HERITAGE GROUP PRODUCTION
EDITOR JAMES FLANAGAN
DESIGN, TYPESETTING
AND PRINTING BY
"FASTPRINT"
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
GERRY GILHOOBY

cont. from page 1

Mr. Nealon in his speech referred to the long history of Ballymote, from the legendary Cormac Airt through the times of St. Comcille at Emlafad, the Franciscans writing the Book of Ballymote, the building of the great Castle and its subsequent place in Irish history. Far too much of our past doings have gone unrecorded and so have been lost to posterity forever. This need no longer happen. The Ballymote Heritage Group are making sure it would not happen in this area. He congratulated the Group most warmly for assembling such a wealth of information on the history and archaeology of Ballymote and setting it down in a detached, objective manner in the pages of the Corran Herald.

The Minister referred also to the restoration work being carried out on the Castle, and to the work being undertaken under the Social Employment Scheme at the Old Cemetery. He also mentioned the recent offshore discovery of the Spanish Armada shipwrecks at Streedagh. Events such as these, he said can raise local and national awareness of our heritage and provided unlimited scope for such societies as the Ballymote Heritage Group.

Mr. Paddy Brady, speaking on behalf of the Ballymote and District Community Council, welcomed the new publication. He stressed the power of the media and the importance of communication, communication by different groups within a community with one another, and communication between that community and the outside world. To have a publication which would be freely available, and completely open, to all local groups was a most worthwhile thing.

FASTPRINT

BALLYMOTE ~ (071) 83388

**Wishes Everybody
A HAPPY & HOLY XMAS**

IN THE NEW YEAR CONTACT US
FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS

Invoice Books, Letter Heads, Posters
Dance Tickets, Raffle Tickets, Etc..

We also Design Typeset & Print
Books, Programmes, Catalogues.

ALEX GILLMOR LTD.



THE GARAGE
BALLYMOTE Co.SLIGO



**FOR ALL YOUR SUPPLIES
of**

**MOTOR FUELS & OILS
Tractor & Car Servicing**

**Best English
Pre Packed Coal Available
Ph. (071) 83343**

Mr. John Perry, Chairman of the Ballymote Traders' Association, praised the voluntary commitment of the Heritage Group in producing the new paper, and praised the Traders, the Banks and N.C.F. for their great support of the venture by means of sponsor-

ship, advertisements and contributions.

There followed a wine reception and everybody was invited to partake of a beautifully presented and deliciously appetizing selection of light foods prepared by the ladies of the Heritage Group.