



KNOCKLYON

PAST AND PRESENT

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*An award winning journey
through the foothills
of the
Dublin mountains*

© Irish Countrywomen's Association 1992

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*A History
of
Knocklyon*



KNOCKLYON

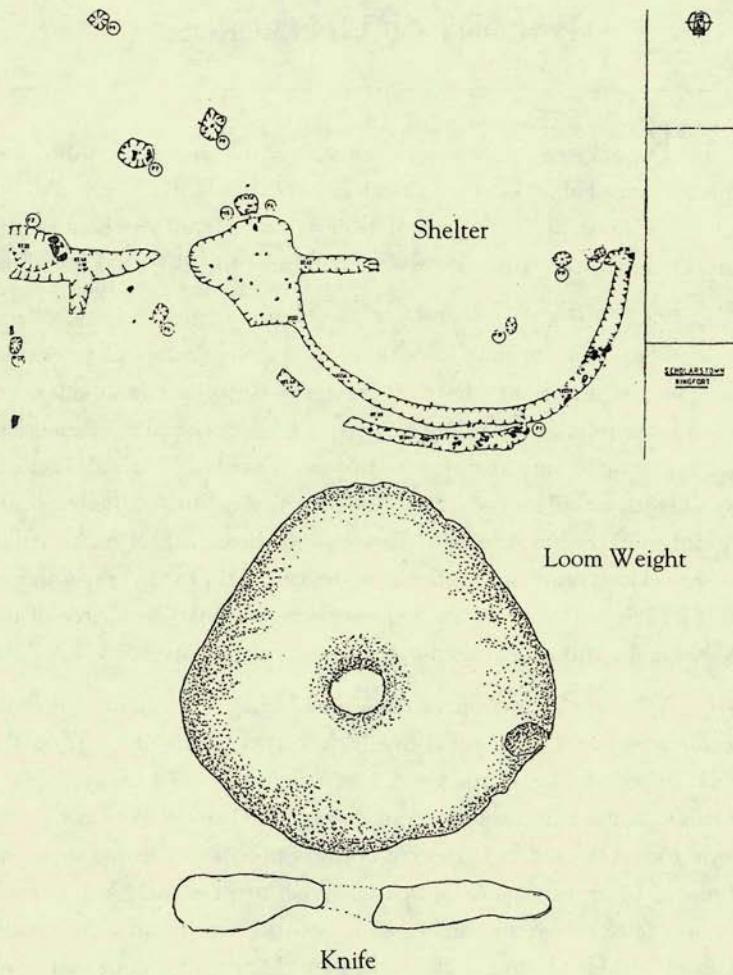
IN THE
BARONY OF UPPERCROSS

Knocklyon is an Anglicised version of any of the following: Cnoclaighen - Hill of Leinster, Cnocluin - O'Liun's Hill or O'Flynn's Hill, or Cnociomhna - Hill of the Pool, believed to be a hill and pool behind Knocklyon Castle. It has also been written as Knocklyun, Knockline, Knocklyn and Knoclyan.

Today, the Parish of Knocklyon occupies a narrow valley South of Templeogue and South East of Tallaght, between the Dodder and Owendoher rivers. The valley supports a large population in suburban housing estates, and is composed of the townlands of Ballycullen, Knocklyon, Scholarstown and Woodtown. An Sligh Chualainn, an ancient south-bound road from Tara, passed through the Dodder Valley and Knocklyon on its way to the court-bruigne (Dá Derga), one of the six great houses of hospitality in Ireland which was near the source of the Dodder and is still remembered in the name of Bohernabreena.

There is a large Cromlech at Mount Venus. The cap stone is about twenty feet by ten feet and is five inches thick. One side rests on the ground where the supporting stones have fallen. There is a coloured sketch of this Cromlech in a collection of drawings by Gabriel Beranger in the Royal Irish Academy. Beranger was of the opinion that the roof stone was displaced by an earthquake which occurred in the seventeenth century and was felt severely in Dublin. However, Borlace, in his work on the Dolmens of Ireland came to the conclusion that the roof stone had never been lifted completely onto its pillars.

Fig. 1



A ring fort in Knocklyon was excavated in 1985 on behalf of Dublin County Council by Archaeologist Valerie Keeley. Miss Keeley reported:

The site of the "Fairy Fort" in Scholarstown townland, Co. Dublin was subjected to archaeological excavation during an eight week period in 1985.

A total of 1,281 square metres was excavated thus exposing a substantial area of the interior of the monument. Prior to excavation the site appeared as a truncated circular area, with traces of the fosse and bank, still visible. Excavation revealed a univallate ringfort, with internal fosse. The interior of the monument yielded features including a D-shaped house or shelter, a hearth and a series of postholes. The shelter (see Fig. 1) was composed of two wall trenches. The main trench was 8m in length and 35 - 40cm in maximum width, while the second trench lay at the back of this and obviously served as a support wall for the structure. Packing stones were used along the base of the trench and one of these was actually a loom weight which had been incorporated during construction. It is suggested that the shelter represents a seasonal occupation of the site, and the presence of the hearth outside also substantiates this theory. The results of radio carbon C14 dating analysis give a date of 970 +/- 60BP. This gives a calibrated date between c. 980 - 1160AD.

William Domville Handcock in his *History and Antiquities of Tallaght* writes that the ring fort was partly levelled by a farmer named Dunne "who of course died within the year".

Earl Richard, better known as Strongbow, granted Walter de Ridelford the lands of Knocklyon and adjoining lands. In the Charter, Knocklyon is spelt Cnocklin and later Charters use the form Cnockflyn. In the thirteenth century these lands were in the possession of Christiana de Merisco who surrendered them to the Crown. In F Erlington Ball's *History of Dublin* there are listed as subsequent owners "the Burnells of Balgriffin, the Bathes of Drumcondra, the Nugents of Westmeath, the Talbots of Belgard, Anthony Deering and Sir Dudley Loftus of

Rathfarnham". John D'Alton in *The History of County Dublin* writes, "In 1547 Patrick Barnwall had a lease for thirty one years of a messuage and one hundred acres of arable land in demesne, appertaining to the rectory or chapel of Killnasantan, together with the tithes of Templeogue, Knocklyn, Ballycreughyn, the hill of Rowanstown, Glasnamucky, Old Court, Tagony, Balmalyse and the land called the "Friars Land", at the annual rent of £4. 13s. 4d., over and above the curate's stipend and repair of the chancel."

In 1723, Philip Duke of Wharton, who acquired the Loftus Estate through marriage, sold Rathfarnham Castle, Knocklyon, Tymon, Old Court, Ballyroan, Ballycreagh and Woodtown to the Right Honourable William Conolly for £62,000.



Harvest Time

In the census of 1659, the population of Knocklyon was nine English and ten Irish, occupying seven houses. Stone breaking, road making and farming were the main occupations of the residents and water was the main source of power. The River Dodder supplied the power for the local paper mills as well as the woollen and flour mills nearby.

The Dodder is formed by the confluence of Maureen's Brook and Alison's Brook which rise on the upper slopes of Kippure and is joined lower down by the Cot and Slade Brooks. The swiftly flowing river drops about 350 feet over the first few miles of its course, cutting deeper and deeper with the passing of time. The Dodder is subject to severe flooding after spells of heavy rainfall. After a journey of less than twelve miles, it flows into the Liffey at Ringsend.

In 1244, the sheriff of the City of Dublin was mandated to improve water supplies. The result was an agreement with the Priory of Saint Thomas whereby water from its weir at Balrothery was diverted to the River Poddle via a two-mile long man-made canal popularly called *The City Watercourse*.

There are numerous references in the records of the City concerning the upkeep of these works and in relation to litigation and grants of water supplies to individuals.

One of the earliest is a request from King Henry III, in 1245, for a supply of water to the King's Hall. The lead pipe which carried the supply, was uncovered in Castle Street in 1787. In 1534, supporters of Silken Thomas, according to *Hollinshed's Chronicles*, "cut the pipes of the conduits whereby (the City) should be destitute of fresh water".

Henry Barry, the fourth Baron Santry, was brought to trial before his peers in 1739 for the murder of one of his servants in the Palmerstown Inn. It is said he aspired to membership of the Hell Fire Club and to prove

his fitness for selection he murdered his servant. He was sentenced to death and, when all appeals to change the verdict failed, his uncle, Sir Compton Domville, declared that he would cut off the water supply to the City if the sentence was carried out. Sir Compton Domville lived in Templeogue House and the City water supply passed through his land. Lord Santry's life was spared but he was banished from Ireland and after some years of wandering about Europe he died in Nottingham in 1751. His uncle succeeded him to the Santry Estate. About 1800, the Domville line died out and the estate passed to their Scottish cousins, the Pocklings, who changed their name to Domville.

The Balrothery weir was reconstructed by Andrew Coffey in the early years of the last century. The present sluice gates and by-pass channels date from then. In 1984, Dublin County Council relocated part of the connecting canal to make way for a new road. Valerie Keeley the Archaeologist in charge of this project gives us this report :

Victorian Sluice Gates on Medieval Watercourse at Balrothery, Co. Dublin.

During a ten week period in 1984 the complex at Balrothery was subjected to investigation. It consisted of a series of stone wall settings lining the medieval watercourse and supporting two teak sluice gates. This complex was relocated some 15m to clear the way for road construction. The project involved the recording of the features which was then followed by a full survey of the walls and gates.

Each course of the stone walls was allocated a colour and number code so that, after dismantling, the walls could be reconstructed as closely as possible to the original structures. The teak gates were cleaned and the wood was treated and repaired where necessary. The walls were planned and photographed in detail. The archaeological team carried out the dismantling and numbering of the

stones. The reconstruction phase of the project was supervised by the writer to ensure that the relocated complex would be successfully reproduced.

It is planned to have this historic structure completely restored as a feature of the Dodder Linear Park. Part of *The City Watercourse* as far as Spawell will also be featured. Because of its fast flow, the Dodder was always a great source of power for mills. Just below the Balrothery Weir were the mills referred to in the Act of 1719 as *Ashworth's new Paper Mills* which in 1733 was granted £500. In 1840, Joseph McDonnell owned the mills and he spent large amounts of money experimenting on machinery. McDonnell lived in what is now known as *Bella Vista*. The ruins of the mills are nearby.



Balrothery Weir

The Dodder Water Supply Scheme consists of reservoirs at Bohernabreena, water purification works and a service reservoir at Stocking Lane. Parts of Dublin still obtain their water supply from the Dodder. This Scheme was built under the Rathmines and Rathgar Water Act, 1880 and was acquired by Dublin Corporation in 1930.

The river is dammed at Bohernabreena creating two reservoirs - the upper for water supply, the lower for compensation water. Cast iron pipes were used to transport the water from the reservoir to Stocking Lane where it was filtered using slow sand filters, later replaced by a rapid gravity filtration system which is presently in use. By judicious planting of ten thousand trees, the Corporation has successfully managed to preserve the ambience of the surroundings at its Stocking Lane installation. Meanwhile the Dodder flows on.

Gentlemen coming to their country seats in Knocklyon crossed the Dodder by the Old Ford near Spawell House. Mr Bermingham, who was an Alderman of the City and lived in Delaford House, built Templeogue Bridge, in 1801, to make travelling to and from the city easier. The bridge was too narrow for modern traffic loads and was replaced in 1984 by Austin Clarke Bridge.

The census of 1901 shows Knocklyon as having nine dwelling houses and forty-six people. The rich pasture lands of Knocklyon were recognised by the dairymen of Dublin. Cattle, housed in the city during winter and fed on hops from the breweries, were taken to rented pastures in Knocklyon, from 1st April to the last day of September. Local herdsmen milked the cows twice daily and sold their produce in Terenure, Rathgar and also supplied many city dairies and hotels. The "dairy boys" made full use of the twenty-four hour licence in the Knocklyon Inn. The Delany family have been proprietors of the Inn since 1842. As well as being an inn, it was also the local grocery store with meat, bread, flour, sugar, butter and clay pipes on offer.



Delany's 1912. Photograph courtesy of Rosemary Delany



Delany's 1992.

In the 1930's, a committee was formed to raise funds for a sewage scheme in the area. Fund raising went very well, but the sewage scheme was shelved and a workers' hall erected instead. The hall was situated near the weir at Balrothery and was known by the locals as "Moscow".

This poem was written by "Flash" Kavanagh of Ballycullen and was given to us by Mr Jack Carroll of Balrothery, who is its custodian.

MOSCOW

They started a scheme in Firhouse
the neighbours one and all,
And they gave their little subscriptions
in aid of the Workers' Hall.

They bought the hall in Dollymount
the one that was on the strand,
And Hurler's lorry drew it home
and Hanlons gave a hand.

The roar of Hanlon's lorry
was like the mail train
In the drawing of the timber
to the end of Reilly's lane.

Now the neighbours got together
and they tried to make it stand
And Willie Reilly rented them
a little piece of land.

The inside of it was powerful,
but the outside of it was gas,
Advertisements in the windows
where there should be panes of glass.

The first night there was a dance in it
they tried to rise a row,
And who comes tumbling down the lane
only Little Joe and Scou.

Between mossy banks and metal planks
and the Dodder flowing near,
And the bottler's house on the other side
it brought the place some cheer.

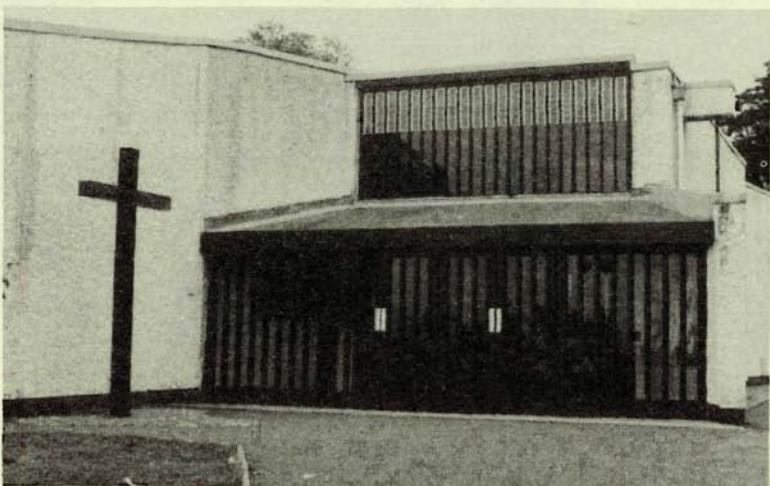
So if ever you go to "Moscow"
be sure to bring your dame,
For they dance all night till broad daylight
in the hall in Reilly's lane.

And beware, boys, beware,
the Garda are behind the wall,
Waiting for the gurriers that
burned down the hall.



During the Second World War, Knocklyon was put under compulsory tillage and the first tractor was introduced to the area on Delaford farm. The summers of 1946 and 1947 were so wet that machines could not be used and civil servants were given leave to help save the crops. 1954 saw the completion of the electrification of Knocklyon. Stocking Lane had electricity from 1932.

The parish of Knocklyon was constituted on the 1st October 1974. At the invitation of the Most Reverend Dermot Ryan, Archbishop of Dublin, the Carmelite Fathers accepted responsibility for the new parish. Fr Patrick Staunton was appointed Parish Priest and Fr Seán Dunne, Curate. The parish was placed under the patronage of St Colmcille because of his association with the well on Ballycullen Road.



Knocklyon Parish Church

The following is a description of the boundaries of the new parish of Knocklyon:

At the point where a stream flows under Scholarstown Road just east of the house "Maryfield," south along the line of the stream to the boundary of the Reservoir (the avenue to Green Acres Golf Club) to Stocking Lane, but then going south behind the houses on Stocking Lane (to leave them in Ballyboden) to the intersection with Oldcourt Road; along the centre of Oldcourt Road to its intersection with Ballycullen Road; north along the centre of Ballycullen Road

and at the end of Ballycullen Road crossing Firhouse Road to the Dodder (including the houses opposite the end of Ballycullen Road in Knocklyon); along the River Dodder to a point opposite immediately west of Woodbrook Park on Firhouse Road, along the back of the houses on Woodbrook Park (to include both sides of Woodbrook Park in Ballyroan); then to the end of Knocklyon Drive (including it in Ballyroan) and thence along the townland boundary to the perimeter of Ballyroan House to include Ballyroan House in Ballyroan; then along the outer boundary ditch one field from the Ballyroan Convent School Buildings for three fields; then the boundary goes across the fields south-west to the point where the stream flows under Scholarstown Road just east of the house "Maryfield".

A Parish Council was elected at a meeting in Terenure College, on 4th November, 1974. As there were no facilities for saying Mass, Ballyroan was designated as our Parish Church and the 10.30 am Sunday Mass was celebrated by either priest from Knocklyon. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory. It was felt that the parish had no real identity until arrangements could be made to celebrate Sunday Mass in the area. The long term policy was that a Mass centre would be provided in the future school. The committee investigated possibilities for a temporary church - conversion of Idrone House, Greenacres on Stocking Lane and Saint Enda's G.A.A. Hall on Firhouse Road. For various reasons, none of these were suitable. Finally the canteen at McInerney's site office was willingly made available.

History was made in Knocklyon on Sunday 15th December, 1974, with the celebration of Mass in the canteen. This was the most significant single step in the forming of our parish. The canteen had to be scrubbed out every Saturday, priests and laity were seen with mops and scrubbing brushes. (Rumour had it that McInerney's employees never knew until then that there was lino on the floor of their canteen!). As the months passed the numbers increased. On the 18th March, 1975, members of the Parish Council met with the Diocesan Finance Committee to request permission for the building of a temporary church. A local resident

donated £10,000, and this generous gesture meant there was little difficulty in obtaining permission.

Luckily, the summer of 1975 was a "scorcher" and it was possible to celebrate Mass in the open air for thirteen consecutive Sundays. However, on Sunday, 10th August, 1975, the first Mass was celebrated in the pre-fabricated building that was both Church and Community Centre.



Knocklyon Community Centre

On 25th July, 1977, official permission was given for a permanent church in Knocklyon. Mr Richard Hurley, of Messrs Tyndall Hogan Hurley, was appointed architect. The building contractors were John Sisk & Son Limited. Construction began on 21st March, 1979. The foundation stone was blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in Maynooth on 1st October, 1979.

On Sunday, 13th April, 1980, Saint Colmcille's Church was blessed and dedicated by the Most Reverend Dermot Ryan, Archbishop of Dublin. The church, which was an award winner in the Dublin Diocesan design competition, seats eight hundred and also incorporates a parish meeting-room.

A stark timber cross is located at the entrance to the church. The timber altar, ambo, baptismal font and seating were designed by the architect. The choir is accommodated to the side of the sanctuary. The sanctuary furniture is in ash. The tabernacle, which is red enamel copper, the tabernacle lamp and Pascal candlestick are by sculptor, Seán Adamson. The Stations of the Cross are by Bernadette Madden and the tapestry of the Madonna and Child and the altar panels are also her work. The copper enamelled holy water stoops and the baptismal font copper bowl are by Paddy McElroy. Part of the pre-fabricated building was retained as a Parish Centre. In March 1984, the Knocklyon Guild ICA held its inaugural meeting in the Centre.

Today, Knocklyon has a great deal to offer its residents in leisure time activities, most of which take place in the Community Centre which was built in January 1989. These activities, which are both indoor and outdoor, cater for all age groups.

SAINT COLMCILLE'S SCHOOL

A seven acre site on Idrone Avenue was purchased by the Priests of Ballyroan Parish at a cost of £36,000 for a school in the Knocklyon area. There were long delays in getting formal approval for the government grant but approval was finally received in April 1975. Mr John Scannell was architect for the project. The sixteen classroom school was completed in July 1976. Saint Colmcille's, Knocklyon was officially opened on 31st March, 1977, by Mr Liam Cosgrave and was blessed by Archbishop Dermot Ryan. The first roll-book was forty seven pupils and, by official opening day, this had risen to fifty-four. The Principal was Mr Patrick Kelly. The population increase in Knocklyon has been so great that, in 1982, a second school was built. The original school became the junior school with Mr Paul Dalton as Principal and Mr Patrick Kelly as Principal of the senior school.

Due to the increasing number of pupils, a pre-fabricated building with six classrooms was added in 1985. Further increases in numbers necessitated the addition of six more in 1989.

Demand is still on the increase and two additional classrooms are planned in the very near future.

Last year, two hundred and five children from the school were confirmed, compared with five in 1978.

Saint Colmcille's schools now have a teaching staff of fifty two and one thousand, six hundred pupils. Both Junior and Senior school pupils have achieved recognition in many areas.

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

In 1932, there was an isolated country house in Ballyroan, owned by the McCabe sisters. They wished to sell their home but, failing to get a satisfactory price, decided to make a gift of the property to the Sisters of Mercy because another sister was a member of that order. The news of the gift created great excitement in the Mercy Community in Carysfort. How could they best use their newly acquired property? It was decided to turn it into a holiday home for business girls who came for Easter and for summer holidays. Saint Mary's Convent, as it was then known, was blessed and opened on 26th July, 1932. Sister Mercy of the Sacred Heart (McCabe) was lighter of the sanctuary lamps at the momentous opening Mass.

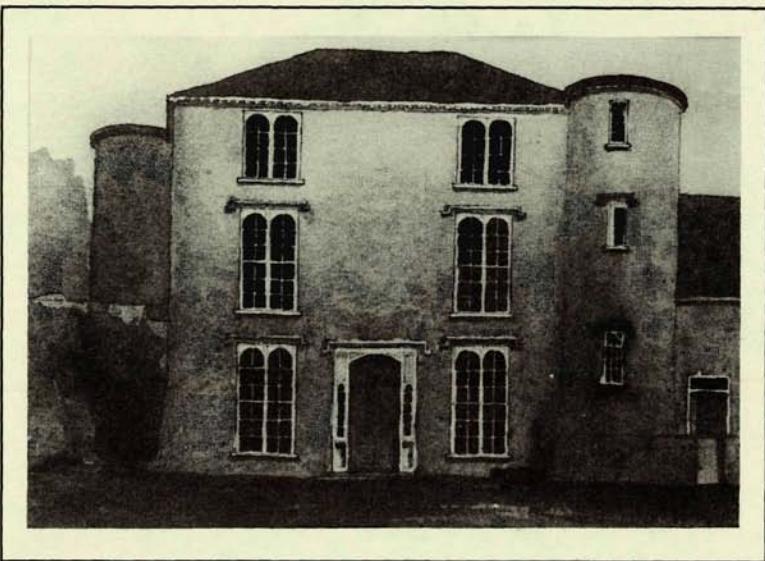
When, in 1942, the Red Cross Society was looking for a suitable place in which to treat children in the early stages of tuberculosis or children whose mothers were suffering from the disease, His Grace, Archbishop McQuaid approached the Superior of Carysfort and Saint Mary's became a preventorium. This work of mercy lasted from September 1943 to 1959. The preventorium was self sufficient with the garden full of fruit and vegetables. A gardener lived in a lodge at the entrance to the Convent and a steward was housed on the farm and looked after the cows. Milk was an important part of the children's diet. In 1960, a number of housing estates were built in Ballyroan and the need for a school arose. Once again, Dr McQuaid contacted the Mercy Order and on 8th September, 1960, Sancta Maria College was opened. It was a boarding, senior day and junior private school. There were twenty-three boarders and twelve day pupils in the senior school and thirty five children in the junior school, where both boys and girls attended. There was a staff of four in the senior school - three Sisters and one lay teacher and, in the junior school, three Sisters.

As the years passed, the numbers of pupils and staff increased. The boarding school was phased out and priority was given to the day school. Increasing numbers necessitated expansion. In 1966, a primary school was opened and is still thriving. In 1980, a new school was added and the old one reconstructed. Extensions are still being added.

In September 1992, there were nine hundred and twelve pupils attending Sancta Maria College.

The achievements of the school in so many areas of endeavour have been most impressive.

Special Features



Photograph courtesy of Ann Shouldice



KNOCKLYON CASTLE

This castle is situated on Ballycullen Road, about a quarter of a mile south of the River Dodder, and two miles north of the Dublin mountains. The house is three storeyed, with rounded towers on opposite corners (to the east and west) and rounded external corners. The walls, which are immensely thick at ground level, appear to have been built without foundations and are of uncoursed rubble with a slight batter. There is a course of decorative brick at eaves level. Attractive features are the round headed, mullioned windows on the front elevation. Of the gateway, which is attached to the house, only one pier remains. The original castle was built about the fifteenth century, at which time the Dodder formed the boundary to the Pale. The castle would have been in the hinterland between the Pale and the mountain strongholds of the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles. This area was known as the Marches or Marchlands, a place of frequent guerrilla raids and skirmishes, sometimes referred to, in old records, as the "lands of war". The conditions of life closely resembled those existing on the Scottish border.

The size of the building (approximately twenty-eight feet by eighteen feet internally) and its geographical position (beside the Pale) would suggest that it was built as a result of the £10 subsidy which was given in the ten years following 1429. The subsidy was for embattled or fortified castles and towers which were intended as defences for the Pale counties. The statute of Henry VI stated explicitly "*It is agreed and asserted that every liege-man of Our Lord the King of the said counties who chooses to build a castle or tower sufficiently embattled or fortified within the next ten years to wit twenty feet in length, sixteen feet in width and forty feet in height or more, that the Commons of the said counties shall pay to the said person to build the said castle or tower ten pounds by way of subsidy.*" Following the Reformation, the castle was held by John Burnell until 1575. It appears the tenancy was next granted to John Bathe of Drumcondra, on 24th October, 1577. He built Drumcondra Castle in 1560, where his distinguished son, Father William Bathe, S J, was born on 25th April, 1564. John Bathe was Attorney General and was promoted to Chancellor of the Exchequer in May, 1579, a position he held until his death on 18th July, 1586.

In 1584, Mr Justice Bathe gave up the lease of Knocklyon Castle, and it was then granted to Captain Anthony Deering on 14th January, 1585. The castle was described then as "ruinous" and its condition was not changed during the short tenancy of Deering. He found the land unprofitable and, of course, did not live in the ruined castle. Between 1588 - 91, he was preoccupied with trying to secure a pension from Queen Elizabeth I in lieu of money he had spent on behalf of Her Majesty. At last, in August 1591, he was granted six shillings a day !

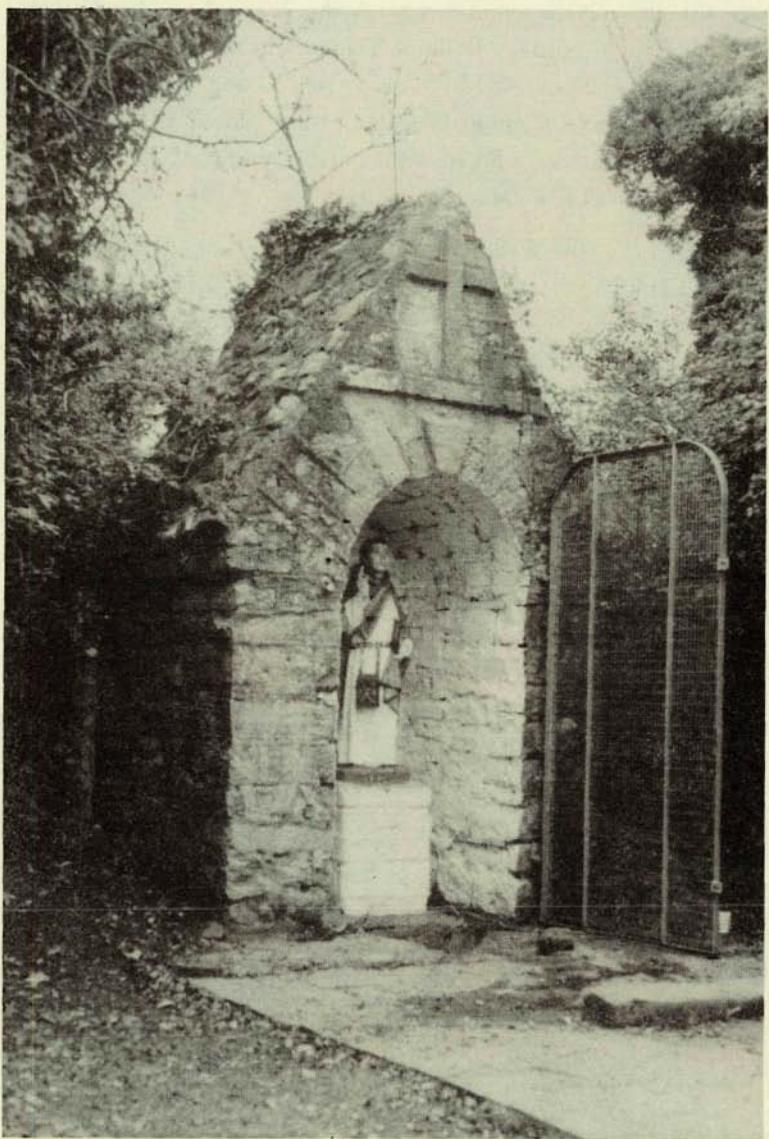
In 1619, when Sir Adam Loftus acquired the castle, town and lands of Rathfarnham, he also obtained Oldcourt, Tymon and the "ploughland of Knocklyn", in capit^e, by Knight service, at fifteen shillings for ever. In 1620, Loftus leased Knocklyon to Pierse Archbold, who rebuilt

the castle. He was the son of Richard Archbold of Kilmacud and married the daughter of Barnaby Relly of Tymon and their son was Gerald Archbold of Jobstown. Archbold was a Catholic and, to ensure that his children received a Catholic education, he employed, in the words of Archbishop Bulkeley, "a Popish schoolmaster" on his estate. He died in 1644 and was buried in Taney (Dundrum).

In 1723, Sir William Conolly bought the Loftus lands. The Ledwich family, who were Quakers, became the tenants in 1780 and, during their stay, the house was extended by a two-storey addition, containing kitchen, loft and storeroom. In 1798, Austin Ledwich joined Lord Ely's constabulary, but changed his allegiance, became a Fenian and, unfortunately, lost his life during the Rising.

In 1826, the McGrane family acquired the property and they lived and farmed there for over one hundred years. In 1964, they sold the house and farm to developers. In 1966, the O'Clery family bought the house and orchard and, in 1974, it became the property of Ann (née O'Clery) and Chris Shouldice. Housing estates were built on the land. Knocklyon Castle is included in List 1 Draft Development Plan 1991 for County Dublin.





SAINT COLMCILLE'S WELL

Saint Colmcille's Well is situated off Ballycullen Road, about two hundred yards from the entrance to Orlagh College. Tradition has it that Saint Colmcille rested here, and blessed the well on his way to or from Glendalough. Nothing is known of its early history, but it is said that Red Hugh O'Donnell and his companions, after their escape from Dublin Castle, passed the well on their way to Fiach McHugh's stronghold at Glenmalure.

During penal times, a special law was enacted forbidding all assembly and religious practices at the "so called holy wells of Ireland." Therefore, Saint Colmcille's Well was neglected and possibly abandoned, although, at some stage, trees and hedges were planted beside it. Eventually, the well disappeared into the undergrowth. About 1914, the local postman, Jim Murray, from the Rathfarnham area, on his delivery rounds, regularly crossed the fields near the well and decided to help renew interest in it. He put a crucifix on one of the trees, as well as a board with the inscription "Saint Colmcille, Pray for us." He encouraged Fr Malachy Hughes, Fr Phil Doyle, Br Columba Cullen - all of the Augustinian Order in Orlagh and Denny Brennan, in the work of restoration. They cleared away all the briars and overgrowth and drained off the surface water into a nearby stream. Local people became interested and devotion was revived at Saint Colmcille's Well. The numbers of visitors increased. Patrick Pearse, when headmaster of Saint Enda's, visited the well on a number of occasions.

A statue of the Saint was erected on a pedestal, overlooking the well, with help from some County Council workers. It was made by Deghini Brothers of Lower Exchange Street, Dublin. The only way of getting to the shrine from the road was by climbing over an iron gate, which was seldom unlocked. Mr Charlie Dunne, who owned the field,

gave his consent for an entrance to be made further up the road, and for a pathway leading to the stream. Wooden beams, for the construction of a bridge across the stream, were obtained from James MacNeill (Woodtown Park). The well was enclosed. With the co-operation of the priests and brothers from Orlagh, restoration was carried out by the local County Council men and helpers from Firhouse.



Saint Colmcille's Well 1920.

Photograph courtesy of Columba Murray

The unveiling of the statue and the inauguration of the Shrine took place on the Sunday following the Saints feast-day, 9th June, 1920. Crowds of joyful people came from the city, the villages and the hillsides, including the Saint Colmcille's fife-and-drum band from Firhouse, preceded by someone carrying a banner of the Saint made specially by the Sisters of Mount Carmel, Firhouse. Among those present on the joyous occasion were Dr John A Heavey, O S A, Vicar-Apostolic of Cookstown, Australia, the community of Orlagh College, the Carmelite Fathers of Terenure College, the priests from John's Lane, the priests and brothers from Saint Mary's, Tallaght, Fr Doyle, C C, Bohernabreena and Eoin

MacNeill, who made a speech in Irish. Since the "modern beginning" of devotion at the well, thousands of people have visited it. Each year, on the Sunday nearest the feast, 9th June, devotions in honour of the Saint take place. In 1968, the Derry Association in Dublin planted an oak tree (a gift from the Northern Ireland Forestry Department) beside the well. Numerous cures have been attributed to the use of the waters, especially for eye and ear complaints. The well is also known as Tobar na gCluas. During the Great War, a pilgrimage was organised to beg the Saint's intercession to avert conscription in Ireland.

In recent years, the well has been vandalised on a great number of occasions. Br Columba Higgins O S A, from Orlagh, has the difficult task of looking after it. It is said that, when Saint Colmcille rested there, he knelt on a granite stone, which was in front of the well, and left the imprint of his knee on it. Unfortunately, this stone "walked." Repairs have been made to the head and hands of the Saint's image, on two occasions and, to help protect the statue, a grill was placed on the shrine. A crucifix, which stood beside the shrine, was damaged and, eventually, removed.

A new banner was presented to Br Columba at the annual celebration of the Saint's feast-day in June 1992 - a gift from the Knocklyon Guild I C A.

SAINT COLMCILLE'S WELL

As I went out from Dublin
To climb Mount Pelier Hill
To Killakee and Feather-bed
An' up the mountain still,

My thoughts were scarce a penny-worth,
Until I chanced to see
The name of dear Saint Colmcille
Bright lettered on a tree.

A rugged stile, a rustic bridge
Soon added to the spell;
They led me to a lovely shrine
Beside a Holy Well.

A statue of the saint is there;
He looks so young and sweet,
In robe of white, with scrip and staff
And sandals on his feet.

In olden time, in golden time,
I hear the water say:
Saint Colmcille from Tolka side
Came wandering up this way.

O bless the Lord, bright noon-day sun,
Fair land and shining sea,
Clear springing water, happy stream,
Come, praise his name with me.

And so the memory that we keep,
The story that we tell:
The Saint, the blessing and the prayer
Beside this Holy Well.

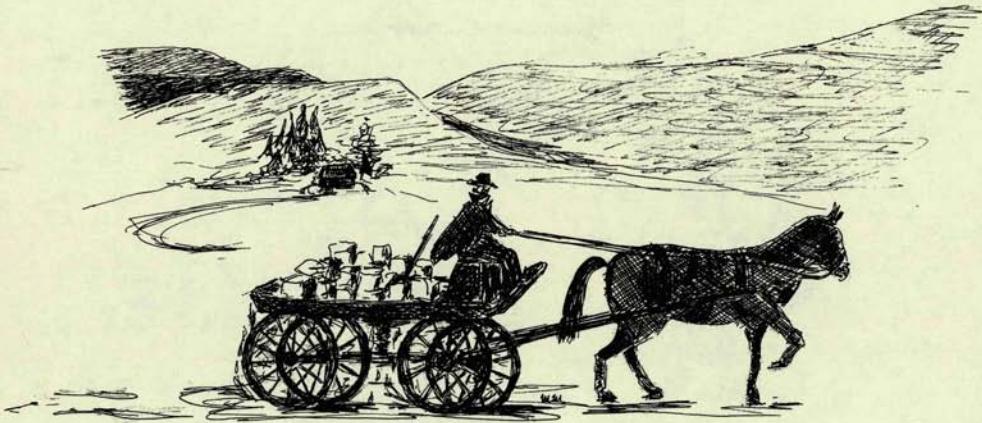
And we will come from Dublin
When June is with us still,
To keep the feast and all be blessed
By dear Saint Colmcille.



THE ICE HOUSES

One of the sources of employment in the latter part of the nineteenth century were the ice houses. These were located high in the surrounding hills of the Dodder Valley. They were curious buildings consisting of deep rectangular excavations lined with masonry and surrounded by a low bank. This underground chamber would then be covered by a strong wooden building with a thatched roof to keep in the cold temperature. Around the ice houses was a shallow pool on which the ice formed. It is said that local men were employed at the rate of 3s. 6d. per day (17.5p) to rake off the ice and store it in the ice houses. These structures were well insulated and the ice could remain stored in them for a considerable time. The ice was loaded on to carts and brought to the city where it was sold to wealthy families and hoteliers.

It is reported that the remains of one of these ice houses can still be seen in the area of Mount Pelier.



ORLAGH COLLEGE

Orlagh College, a tree-encircled building, is situated on the northern slope of Mount Pelier, below the ruin of the Hellfire Club. The entrance to the College is at the junction of Ballycullen Road and Old Court Road.



The house, formerly known as "Footmount," was built, about 1790, by Lundy Foot, a member of the well known snuff manufacturing family of Westmoreland Street and Essex Gate, Dublin. Lundy Foot was a barrister, but, being very wealthy, he did not need to practice law. Later, however, he became an active magistrate, and, as such, was instrumental in procuring the conviction of the Kearneys, a father and his two sons, for the murder of a land steward, Kinlan, at Friarstown, Bohernabreena, in 1816. The three Kearneys, after their conviction, were brought in a cart from Kilmainham Jail to a place on the banks of the Dodder, near Old Bawn, where they were hanged.

During Foot's period of occupation, the name was changed to Orlagh. He also had a portion of Ballycullen Road constructed. It is said the job was completed overnight. He planted many fine trees around the house, including some tulip trees. The last of these rare specimens had to be cut down in the Autumn of 1990.

Foot moved to Rosbercon Castle, New Ross, on the Kilkenny side of the River Barrow. His son's father-in-law, Nathaniel Callwell, a Director of the Bank of Ireland, succeeded him to the tenure of Orlagh. On January 2nd, 1835, at the age of seventy one years, Foot, whilst out walking, was battered to death. A man, named James Murphy, was tried and convicted at a Court held in Kilkenny and, according to local tradition, was hanged from a gallows erected near the gate of Rosbercon Castle. Lundy Foot was first buried in the Rower Churchyard, Co Kilkenny. His body was removed finally to the family burial place adjoining Saint Mathew's Church, Irishtown, Dublin.

In 1836, Carew O'Dwyer purchased Orlagh. O'Dwyer was M P for Drogheda and a Justice of the Peace. He was very wealthy and enhanced the appearance and value of the place enormously by adding extensions to the building and making elaborate improvements to the grounds. To the east of the house, he added a small Gothic chapel. In this, he displayed rare specimens of glass dating from the fifteenth or sixteenth century. The great preacher, Fr Tom Burke, O P, is reputed to have celebrated Mass there on many occasions. To the west flank of the house, was added a wing, with basement and ample quarters for the servants. The larger of the two rooms was the dining-room, in which hung a tapestry from Marie Antoinette's rooms at the Tuilleries, Paris. The drawing-room ceiling was the work of César, the last of the artificers in hand plaster then living. Two of the particularly fine portraits, which hung in this room, were of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Thomas Moore. Many outdoor improvements were made, with the addition of new stables, glass houses, gardens with shrubberies and spacious walks. One of the additions of particular attraction was a large oval pool, fed by a mountain stream, with sparkling water cascading over rocks like a miniature waterfall. This pond was restored when Fr Alipius Conway was Prior, and, since then, it has served as the novice's swimming pool. Daniel O'Connell was a regular visitor to

Orlagh. O'Dwyer was an ardent patriot and no one was made more welcome than the Liberator.



When Carew O'Dwyer decided to reside in England, he rented Orlagh to a Scottish family named Brodie. When Mr Brodie died, O'Dwyer sold the house and lands to the Augustinian Fathers on 16th July, 1872. Orlagh succeeded Ghent as the Novitiate of the Irish Province. The first Prior was Fr Hutchenson, who was later consecrated Bishop and became Vicar Apostolic of Cookstown, Australia. Conversion of the building into a Novitiate began by adding top storeys with cells in 1872 - 73. During 1887 - 88, the east wing was added, which contains the present chapel with its impressive choir stalls and overhead corridor. In 1985 - 86, a complete renovation of the building was carried out.

HELL FIRE CLUB

The Hell Fire Club, also known as *The Nook*, *The Kennel*, and at a later stage, *The Haunted House*, was built as a hunting lodge on Mount Pelier Hill by Speaker Conolly, about 1723. William Handcock tells us "It was said that he built it as a point of view from Castletown, where his mansion was. When built, it could only be seen from thence when the sun shone on it, as the hills behind overshadowed it."

The building contained two large apartments and a central hall on the upper floor, and a kitchen with a wide pillared fireplace, a servants' hall and two small rooms on the ground floor. There was a flight of granite steps leading up to the hall door. It is said that these steps and most of the other cut stone work were removed later and used in the building of the Earl of Ely's lodge, "Dollymount", and Tower Hall, now Killakee House, both situated lower down the hill. There had been a large cairn on Mount Pelier Hill and it was believed that Conolly used the stones from the cairn in building the house, so, when the slated roof blew off in a storm shortly after the lodge was completed, it was considered due retribution for desecrating the ancient burial place. However, he had an arched roof rebuilt, by keying stones together, as in a bridge. This roof lasted until 1849 when, during the visit of Queen Victoria to Dublin, barrels of tar were lit on it to make a bonfire, resulting in many of the stones splitting.

The only indication that the house was ever occupied is an announcement of the death, in July 1751, of Charles Cobbe, the elder son of the then Archbishop of Dublin. He lived in the lodge, for about two years, but suffered continuous ill-health from the time he made it his home.

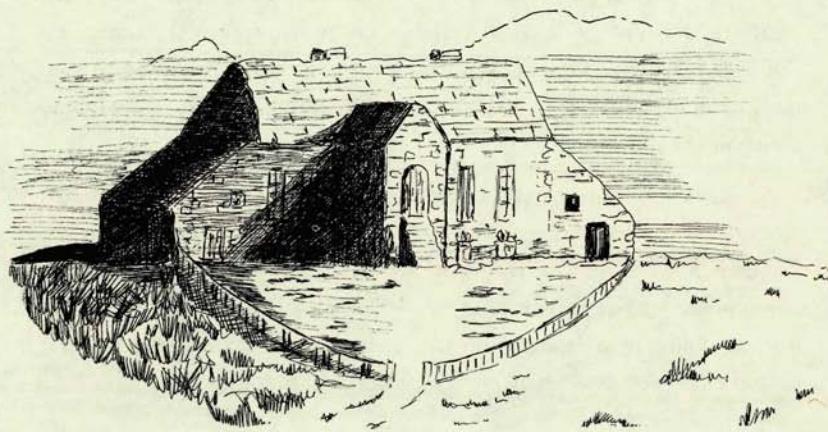
It is widely believed that meetings of the Hell Fire Club were held there during the eighteenth century, hence the name.

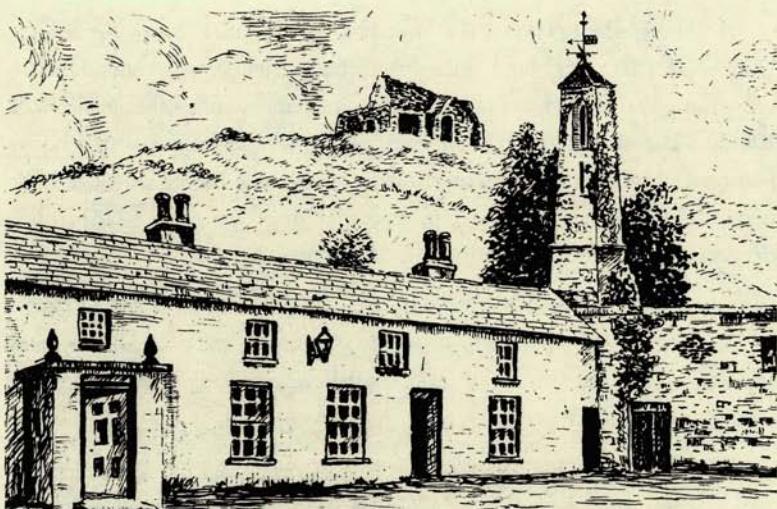
The Hell Fire Club was founded in England, in 1720, by Sir Francis Dashwood. Due to its blasphemous rites, the movement was banned by the Government. In 1735, a branch started in Dublin under the auspices of Richard Parsons, first Earl of Rosse, James Worsdale, the well known painter and others. Meetings were held at the Eagle Tavern on Cork Hill, near Dublin Castle and later moved to Conolly's lodge. Unbridled drinking and immorality was the rule for membership.

"Pluto, I am thine, I, by thy efficacious mighty self, do swear by all that is called good by silly priest-rid fools entirely to abandon, and to let nothing share the least part of my favour but what is solely urged by my most vicious and libidinous desires." Thus the devil worshippers enrolled.

Most of the members were aristocratic and wealthy, some of them cultured and intelligent, but, apparently, all followed the strange satanic cults which were popular at that time. Local residents, especially those living in cottages on the mountainside, were often terrified by wild shrieks of the bucks and their ladies and, when the hill was wrapped in darkness, no one dared to venture out. The uniform of the Club was a red jacket and white stockings.

Hell-Fire Club 1723





KILLAKEE HOUSE

Killakee House, formerly Tower Hall, was built as the dower house of the Massy family in 1765.

In the early part of the twentieth century, Tower Hall was visited regularly by George Russell (AE), George Moore, W B Yeats and Katherine Tynan. Countess Markievicz recommended the house to men on the run from British forces, because its unexpected stairways, leading to convenient exits, made it an ideal hide-away.

In 1968, it was purchased by Mrs Margaret O'Brien, who wanted a centre in which Irish artists and sculptors could work and exhibit their art. Tradesmen, who went to live in the house to carry out extensive repairs, complained of sleepless nights caused by unaccountable noises, of a freezing atmosphere around the stone hall and of a door that would not remain closed, even when an eight inch bolt was shot into place.

One night, a carpenter saw the door opening to admit an enormous black cat which glared fixedly at him and then disappeared. No one believed the story and, even when others saw the cat, the matter was treated as a joke.

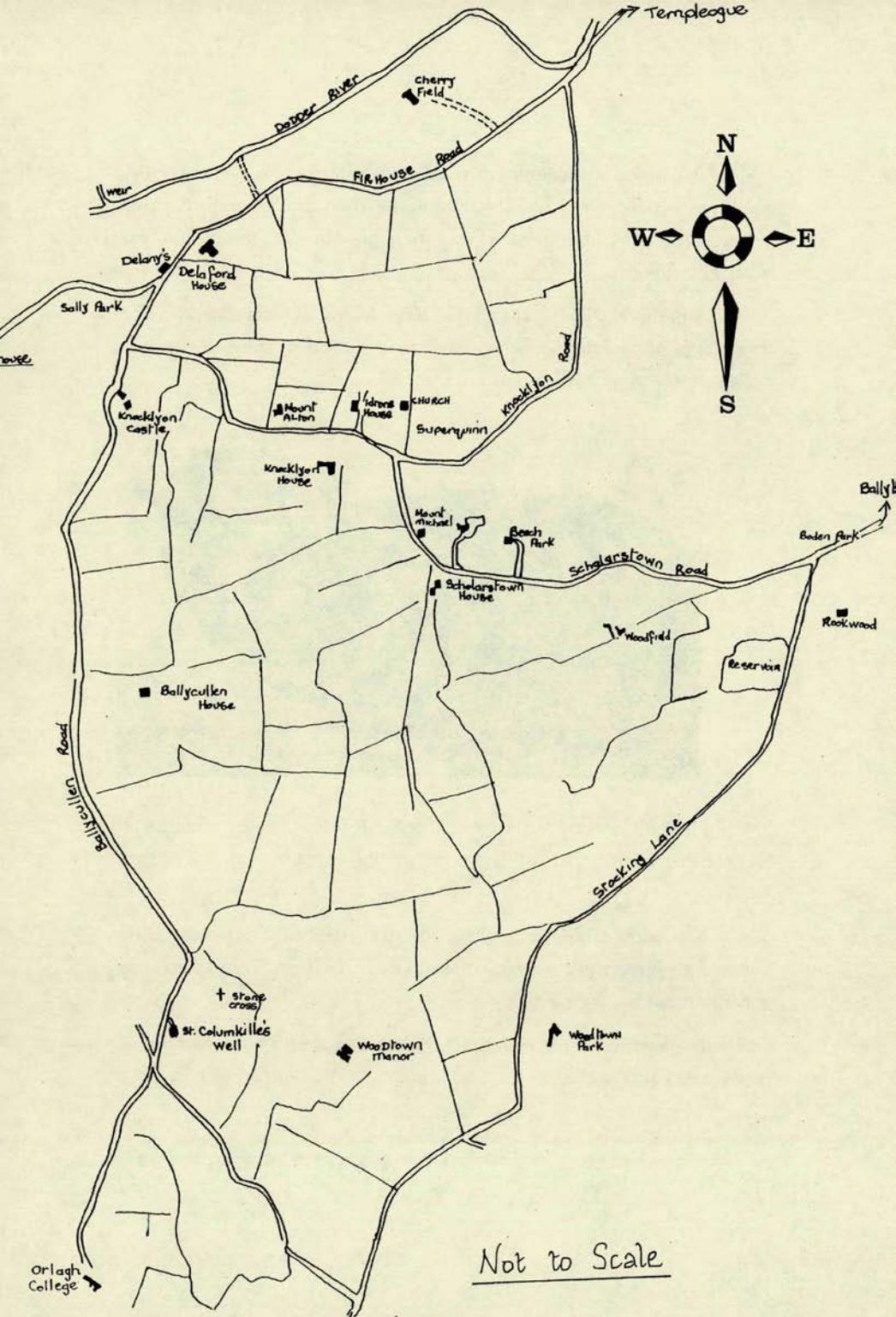
Some weeks later, when artist Tom Massy was helping with the final stages of decorating, he saw the cat crouched in the hall, its red-flecked amber eyes fixed on him.



He went directly to his room and painted the animal exactly as he had seen it. The picture still hangs in the hall in mute evidence of that vision.

When the noises at night made sleep impossible, it was finally decided to have the house exorcised (early 1970s). Since then, the apparition has not appeared.

In recent years the Killakee Art Centre became a restaurant and is now called Killakee House.

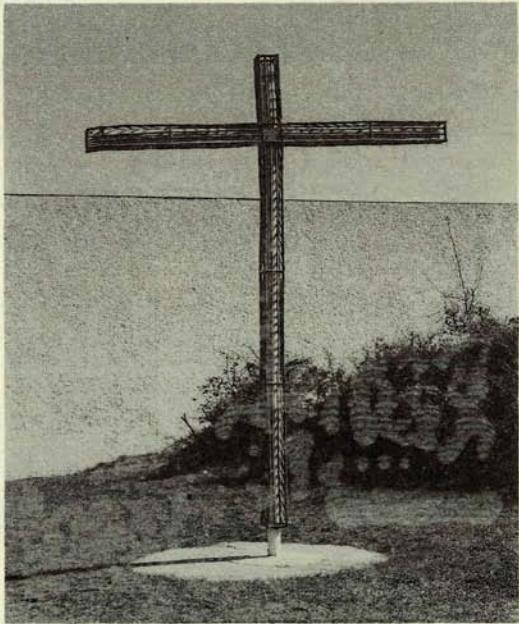


*A Walk
around the
Parish*

THE WALK could begin at the Knocklyon Shopping Centre, which consists of Superquinn and twelve shop units including a post office.



At the entrance to the car park is a stylised cross, the work of the late Oisín Kelly, which stands near the church and beside a majestic horse chestnut.

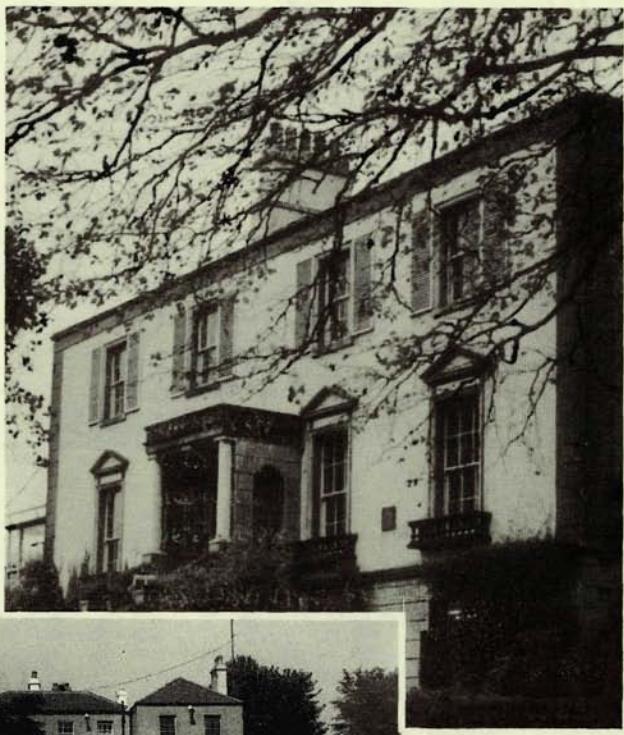


Opposite the Superquinn shopping centre is Idron House, home of the Gallaher family. The previous owner was Ashley Powell, Barrister, who took up residence there on his return from Egypt. Originally from Union Hall, Co. Cork, he was the son of a clergyman. He named the fields in the estate, including one Corrig Bán, where Saint Colmcille's Church now stands.

Idrone House



On leaving the shopping centre, you turn right onto Knocklyon Road and, about fifty yards further along on your left, is the Rutland Centre, a centre for the treatment of addictions. It was formerly Knocklyon House, an eighteenth century Georgian neoclassical building with stucco facade. The house had been owned by the Farren family for many years. In 1951, it became the property of J H (Joe) Griffin. He built an extension to the house which included a ballroom, conservatory and terrace. Captain Spencer Freeman, Director of the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes, lived there from 1957 until his death in 1982.



*The Rutland Centre,
front and rear*

*Photographs courtesy
of Michael Duggan*

Continue down Knocklyon Road, past the railinged play area, until you come to a new housing estate, Knockfield Manor, on your left, once the site of Castlefield, which was originally a moated castle. It was the home of Colonel Newman, a member of the Racing Board. Before being demolished a few years ago, it was occupied by a religious group, the Hare



Castlefield
and Knocklyon Road
before Beverly

Photographs courtesy
of Patricia O'Reilly



Krishna. Immediately after Knockfield is what now remains of Prospect Lane where the Scouts have their den. Originally, this was the entrance to Prospect House.

PROSPECT HOUSE

Prospect House was originally a small house on the side of the high road to New Bawn (Knockaire) and Templeogue. In 1800, Mr Hore and Mr Bermingham acquired it. They also owned Delaford House, then called Springfield. They had a new road made, dividing their lands, which may possibly be part of Knocklyon Road. Later, Dr McDonnell, Provost of Trinity College, lived there. He extended the house and made improvements to the grounds with plantations and ponds. In the latter

Line drawing courtesy
Ann Shouldice



part of the nineteenth century, it was held by the representatives of the late Captain Roberts, of the Ballast Office.

In the 1930's, when Mr E J Gwynn, Provost of Trinity College, bought the property from Captain Lanejoyst, it was a large Georgian style house with about twenty rooms, a yard with an old coach house, stables and sheds.

The land attached to the house consisted of three fields lined by mature trees of elm, beech, chestnut, lime, oak, cherry holly, scots pine, willow and hawthorn. There was an acre of walled garden, a rose garden, conservatories, mature shrubberies and a lake with ducks which had a tree-lined path leading to it. A stream ran close to the paddock. Access to the house could be from either Knocklyon Road or Ballycullen Road, with a gate lodge at each entrance. The house at the Knocklyon entrance still stands and is now a private dwelling.

When Oisín Kelly married Olive Ruth Gwynn, he went to live in Prospect House. As well as the Kelly family, there was Grandmother Gwynn, her friend Miss Townsend and their housekeeper Miss Proctor. Oisín had his workshop in the yard and he had regular callers in connection with his work. The old ladies had many visitors, a most frequent one being Miss Lucy Franks, President of the ICA 1942 - 52.

There was a one hundred year lease on the house and, in 1982, Farmleigh Estates repossessed the land (three acres) and avenue. Part was

sold to developers and the remainder to Dublin County Council. The Kelly family retained the house and walled garden and, in 1986, sold them to the County Council. The house has since been demolished to make way for the Southern Cross Route.

Passing Prospect Lane, you traverse a stretch of Knocklyon Road which was called "the clump", because of the overhanging canopy of branches. At the end of "the clump" is the junction of Knocklyon Road and Ballycullen Road and opposite is what was, at one time, the entrance to "Sally Park". The stone spheres, which stand on the piers of the gateway, were bought by William Domville Handcock from Mr Carty in 1880. They had been on the piers to "Dollymount" (later Carty's Castle). Sally Park was purchased by Mathew Hancock from the Earl of Clanwilliam in 1796. He extended the house and made improvements to the grounds and planted over seven thousand trees of various species, including a large number of beech. Some of these still remain, a mute reminder of bygone days. Many years ago, the Knox Family lived there. Major Knox was a founder Member of the Irish Times. "Sally Park" is now a private nursing home.

"The Clump"



Turn right and a short distance along on the left is "Homeville", which was originally a staging post for horse-drawn trams operating between Dublin and Blessington. It was renovated to a two-storey mews style structure which now comprises three residences.

Further along is "*The Knocklyon Inn*". The Delany family have been proprietors there since 1842. In 1990, an extension was built and a complete refurbishment carried out, but the traditional atmosphere remains.

DELAFORD HOUSE

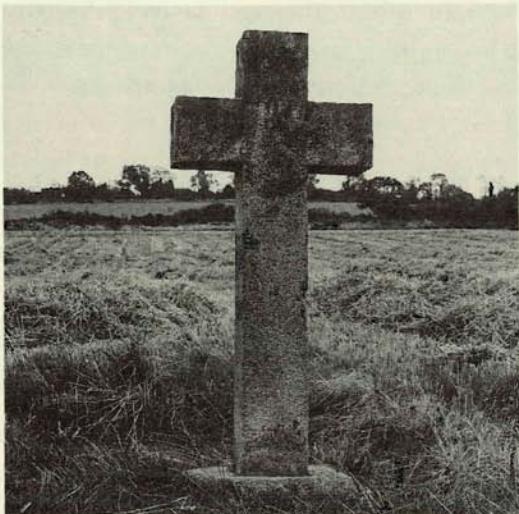
Across the road, opposite Delany's, was Delaford House, originally known as Clandarrig, which was a coachman's inn, on the roadside. In 1800, Mr Birmingham, who lived there, changed the house from an inn to a gentleman's residence. To facilitate the inclusion of lawns and a driveway, the road was repositioned. He had a one storey extension added to the front of the house which consisted of a hall and two rooms. Mr Birmingham also came to an agreement with a neighbour to make a new road, to divide their lands. He had fish ponds made and trees planted and the grounds were generally improved. The name was changed to "Springfield".

Delaford House



In 1820, Mr B T Ottley, Commissioner of Public Works, occupied the house. He built a further extension to the rear of the house and

changed the name to "Delaford". It was subsequently owned by Dr Swan, Orthopaedic Surgeon, who used the house as a convalescent home. Dr Swan was a pioneer in the treatment of tuberculosis. Later, Delaford was purchased by Mr Murphy, an ex-member of Dublin Metropolitan Police. The last owner of the property was Mrs McKenna. The grounds are now the site for Delaford Estate and soccer pitches.



As you cross Firhouse Road at the rear of "*The Knocklyon Inn*", you will see, in a field opposite, a large granite cross. A plague of pleuro-pneumonia (others say black leg) decimated the dairy herds of County Dublin and the scarcity of milk caused great distress. The Archbishop ordered that the fields be blessed and, as a memorial, a number of crosses were erected in 1867. There is also one at Saint Colmcille's Well. A short distance down the road, past the row of houses, there is a small entrance to what is part of the Dodder Linear Park. The remains of old stone walls can be seen here and also appear intermittently through the Park. These walls seem to have lined the route of what later became known as the Firhouse

Road and led to the "Old Ford". From here it continued along the north bank of the Dodder. The old road, as far as the south bank, was called Purcell's Lane. In the lane was a cottage, the home of the Purcell family from the early 1920s to 1989. Mr Purcell, in his latter days was groundsman to the Maids of the Mountains Hockey team. Their grounds were situated at the rear of Saint Enda's G A A Club. Mrs Purcell died in 1949 and Mr Purcell in 1970. They were survived by their daughter, who continued to live in the cottage until recently. Miss Purcell had many talents, being a native speaker, pianist, violinist and a great exponent of Irish dancing. She taught dancing to children from Templeogue and the surrounding areas of Terenure, Rathgar, Rathmines and Ballyboden.

SPA WELL HOUSE

On the north side of the river is "Spawell House", distinguished by its irregular 'Dutch Style' roof, numerous windows and its high chimneys. The grounds of this house were the site of the famous 'Spa of Templeogue'. Many of Dublin's wealthy men and women frequented the spa, about 1731. In its heyday, it was so popular among the gentry that there was a weekly newspaper, the *Templeogue Intelligencer*, devoted to the activities of the spa drinkers. A couple of editions of this curious newspaper are to be found in the Halliday Pamphlets in the Royal Irish Academy. In those days, visitors entered the Spa opposite the old Church of Templeogue, and a long avenue of stately elms led up to the house. The entrance is now by a gate on the Tallaght Road. The Dodder did not flow so close to the house then, a long bend in its course having been straightened by the Drainage Commissioners in 1846. The site of the Spa was marked by a semi-circular amphi-theatre where there was formerly a large whitethorn tree which has gone the way of its companions, the elms, but a circular stone seat which surrounded it would be a most recent landmark. The old road, already referred to, would have passed between Spawell House and Cherryfield House on the right.

CHERRYFIELD HOUSE

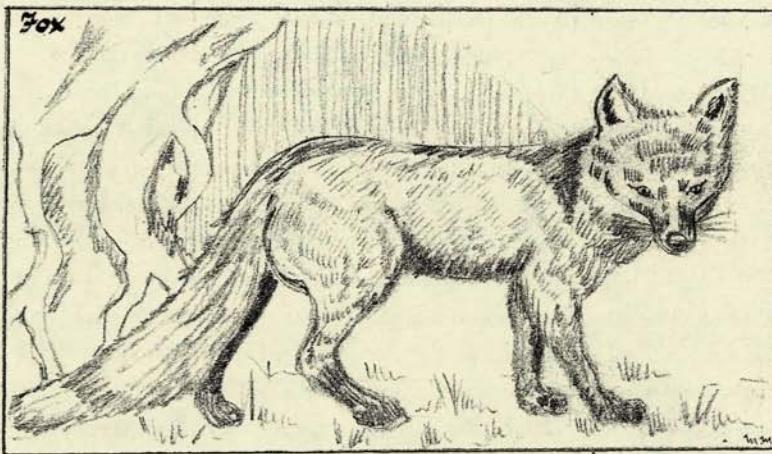
Cherryfield House replaced an older house called "Cherrytree", where the *Templeogue Ballad* was printed in 1730. Mr Fowler extended the house and reclaimed part of the river bank. During 1888 and 1889, the Sunday Literary Society met in Cherryfield. Among the attendants were Katherine Tynan, Maud Gonne and Douglas Hyde. The Harrington family lived there from 1909 - 1940. Mr Harrington was an auctioneer. The Dock Milling Co., purchased the property in 1940. From 1942 - 1950, John Tynan O'Mahony, editor of the Irish Times, and his family resided in Cherryfield. His son, Peter, followed in his father's footsteps in journalism to become sub-editor of the same paper. Another son is better known as Dave Allen, the humourist and satirist. A valuable experience for the Tynan O'Mahony children was visiting Bridge House, the home of Austin Clarke. The west room was lined with books which the children were allowed to read on condition that they replaced them correctly. These books are now housed by Poetry Ireland in Dublin. Subsequently, the

Delaney family lived there. Cherryfield was used to house a number of enterprise projects during the 1970s. Later demolished, its grounds are part of the Dodder Linear Park. It is from here that the roadway would have continued down to the 'Old Ford'. Before 1801, when Templeogue Bridge was built, all vehicles going to and from the neighbourhood of Firhouse crossed the river at this point which, at this time, was much wider.



Today, the river cannot be crossed at the ford though you can continue along the bank which, in spring and summer, is bedecked with a great variety of wild flowers. Cowslips, which are becoming extinct in many urban areas, abound here. There is strong

evidence of the presence of badger here, attested to by the upturned clods of earth where they hide their food and the multi-storeyed sets which can be seen among the trees and thickets. Foxes and rabbits have been sighted in this area late in the evening. Because of its low-lying aspect the sound of traffic fades completely to make this a pleasant and peaceful place.



Passing back through the ruins of Cherryfield, you can see opposite, "Charleville", owned by the Doody family. This was a beautiful part of Firhouse Road, where the trees formed a natural canopy. You can exit by the old driveway of Cherryfield House.

Turn left and continue towards the junction of Firhouse and Knocklyon Roads, passing a large red bricked house, Saint Brendan's, which once was the home of the well known actor and radio personality, Ronnie Walsh. Beside it is Pussy's Leap, a stretch of the Dodder that was a popular spot with swimmers in the 1940s and 50s.

Across the river stands Kilvare.

KILVARE

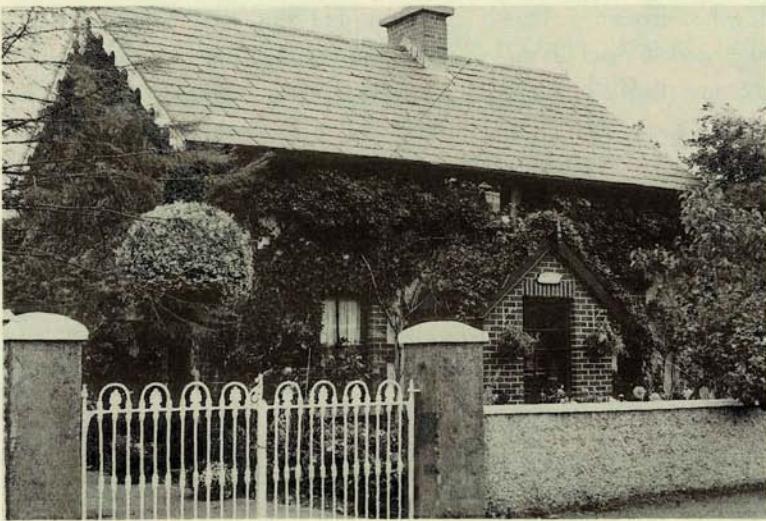
In 1812, it was the home of Geoffrey Foot, brother of Lundy Foot (Orlagh). About 1829, Archbishop William Magee moved there when the old palace at Tallaght was demolished, transferring some curious objects to his new abode. William Magee was born in Enniskillen in 1766, the only one of the four sons of John Magee and his wife Jane Glasgow, a wealthy Scottish Presbyterian, to reach maturity. His father, because of the loss of a limb, was forced to sell his estate and he became a linen yarn merchant. Through unfortunate dealings, he lost his money and was reduced to poverty. His creditors allowed him £100 per year. However, William received a good education. He entered Trinity College on 30th June, 1781 and graduated with a B.A. degree (gold medalist) in October, 1785. On 25th May, 1790, he was ordained a deacon at Saint Kevin's Church. In 1793, he married Elizabeth Moulson (died 20th September 1825). They had sixteen children. Three sons and nine daughters survived to adulthood. One of his sons was Archdeacon Magee, the celebrated Parson of Saint Thomas's Church, Dublin who lived in a house near Kilvare. In 1819, he was consecrated Bishop of Raphoe and, in 1822, became Archbishop of Dublin. He died on the 18th August, 1831, in Stillorgan.

Subsequently, John Sealy Townshend, Master in Chancery, lived in Kilvare. He had the reputation of being mean and, according to Handcock, “He sometimes gave dinner-parties, and would pretend to fall asleep when he thought the wine had sufficiently circulated. On one such occasion, B T Ottley, of Delaford, who was a guest, and who was well aware of the Master’s peculiarity, seeing the manoeuvre, said ‘Now, boys, as the Master’s asleep, I must take his place’. He pushed around the wine merrily, to the great amusement of the rest of the party, and disgust of Master T, who soon woke up. Ottley did not dine there again.”

Towards the end of the 19th century, Mr Roche occupied the house. In the 1930s, the name was changed to Cheeverstown House

because the orphanage which had been at Cheeverstown, between Tallaght and Clondalkin, moved there. Today, it is a centre for the mentally handicapped.

Turn right onto Knocklyon Road (formerly called the Yellow Lane, because of the laburnum trees which lined both sides). Lansdowne Rugby Football Club had their playing fields on the right. It is now a housing estate. Continuing along Knocklyon Road, on the left, you reach a two-story house, "Ballyroan", surrounded by flowering shrubs and creepers, the home for generations of the Brennan family. It was built in 1750 with eighteen inch thick walls of stone and brick and originally had a thatched roof. Adjoining is Comans, built, in 1954, by Landys, as a bakery to supply their shops in Rathfarnham. A little further along on the right is "Saint James", the home of the former owner of Ballycullen Farm.



"Ballyroan"

On the same side, further on, are eight County Council cottages built in 1909. As you approach the bend on the left is Dargle Cottage, the home of the O'Brien family who, up until recently, ran a pig farm. The next main junction, on the left, is Scholarstown Road (the shopping centre will be on your right).



"Dargle Cottage"

Proceeding up Scholarstown Road, the first building to note is "Mount Michael" on the left. The older section at the rear was built in the early part of the seventeenth century. At that time, a coach road ran past the front door. The newer section, which is now the main entrance, was added about two hundred years later and appears to be the work of an Italian architect. A feature of the house is a little spire on the roof. It has been the home of the Harrison family for over thirty years.



"Mount Michael"

Opposite is a modern house called "Inisfree", built on a site where a brick factory once stood. A little further, on the right, is Scholarstown House.

SCHOLARSTOWN HOUSE

Scholarstown townland formed part of the Manor of Rathfarnham purchased, about 1589, by Adam Loftus. The earliest recorded tenant of Scholarstown House is Henry Jones who fell victim to the rebels during a sustained siege of Rathfarnham in 1641. The records of 1659 show a David Gibson in residence. Following the death of Sir Adam Loftus at the Siege of Limerick (1691), the property passed to his only daughter and, through her, to the Wharton family who dissipated their inheritance. About 1723, Speaker William Conolly acquired most of the land in the area including Scholarstown House. To this day, a part of one of the fields is known as "Conolly's freehold".

In 1789, Scholarstown and probably Woodtown Manor were leased to the Somervell or Somerville family. However, during the first half of the nineteenth century, the immediate lessor of most of the townland was the La Touche Banking Company, to whom the property was probably mortgaged.

Scholarstown House



The residents of Scholarstown House were, for the most part, tenant farmers. The house, out-offices and kitchen garden are clearly shown on the four sheet edition of John Rocque's map of Co. Dublin (1757). The house and farm formed a ninety two acre unit which can be traced in nineteenth century transactions. In 1836, it was leased by John David La Touche (of Marlay) to one Patrick Dunne. In 1850, Griffith's Valuation lists the occupant as Mrs Dunne. However, between 1845 and 1847, it was occupied by Reverend Matthew Flanagan, parish priest of Francis Street

John Rocque Map 1760



Church and secretary to the Board of Maynooth College. Dunne's interest appears to have been subsequently acquired by Richard Duncan King. The parliamentary return of land owners in Ireland (1876) lists Michael Walsh of Scholarstown as holding one acre, three rods and ten perches with the house at a rateable valuation of £2. 10s. Od. Walsh acquired King's lease on the ninety two acre holding on 21st June, 1876, subsequently mortgaging the property to the Munster and Leinster Bank. It was alleged he tried to burn the house down, possibly in the early 1890s, with the intention of making a claim against his insurance company. Unfortunately for him, he was caught, tried and sent to Mountjoy jail, where he died, on 17th May, 1899. The property was inherited by his niece Ellen Tierney of Killeen, Birr, Co. Offaly. The next occupiers were the Jolly family (1901) who had a dairy yard there and a shop in Rathfarnham village. They rebuilt, where necessary, and refurbished the house.

The O'Brien family, who presently live in Scholarstown House, bought the property from the Jollies and have lived there since the spring of 1928. Opposite is Ros Mór.

ROS MOR



This house, formerly Beechpark, was known as "Sabine Fields" in the first half of the nineteenth century. An attorney, named Moran, lived there. In 1821, he rode his pony to the Curragh at the head of King George IV's procession. As the pony lay dying from exhaustion, he had its portrait painted. At an auction, Moran bought a group of figures representing the Rape of the Sabines. The group included four life-size figures cast in metal - a Roman soldier with a female figure in his arms and two other models. He put the figures on a pedestal on his lawn but they fell into disrepair and the metal was stolen about 1848. There were also two marble figures, representing Nero and Caligula, on the gate piers but these also disappeared. After Moran, the house was occupied by a sect of White Quakers who established an Agapemone there. The men and women dressed in long white robes and had equal rights. For example, all monies were put in a wooden bowl and could be withdrawn by whoever

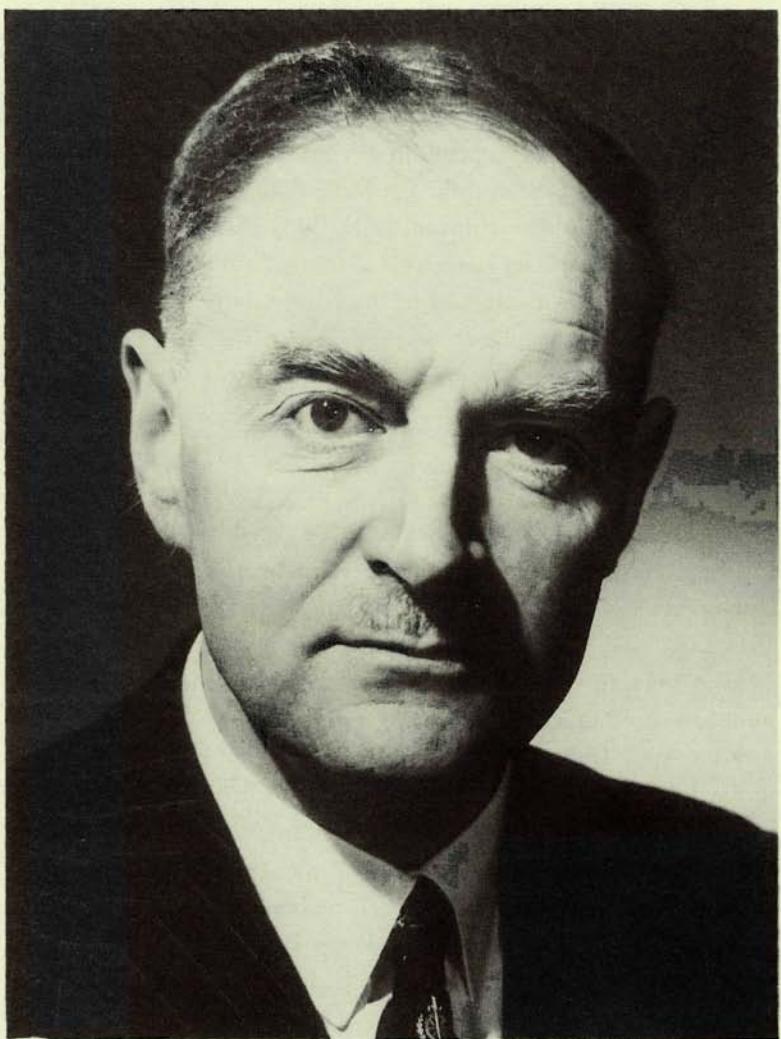
needed it. However, this blissful living did not last long and lawyers had some pickings from the bowl when the establishment was disbanded.

In 1914, Judge Lloyd, a retired Civil Servant, who had returned from India, bought the property. In 1919, Mr and Mrs W T Cosgrave became the owners of Beechpark. The house was burned down, except for a portion at the rear, by the Irregulars, in 1923, during the Civil War. It was rebuilt in 1924. Liam Cosgrave and family lived there from 1960 to 1969. In that year, it was sold to the Foley family. The Cosgraves, however, took the name, Beechpark, with them to their new home nearby and the former home was renamed Ros Mór.

LIAM COSGRAVE

Liam Cosgrave was born on 13th April, 1920, son of W T Cosgrave. He was educated at Synge Street Christian Brothers' School, Castleknock College and later at King's Inns. He was called to the Bar in 1943 and to the Inner Bar in 1958. He served in the Armed Forces from 1940 to 1943, first as a Private and, later, in a commissioned rank. He went into politics against his father's wishes. He was an outstanding constituency TD throughout his career and was Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach and Minister for Industry and Commerce from 1948 to 1951. He was Minister for External Affairs from 1954 to 1957, during which time he led the first Irish delegation to the United Nations. As Leader of Fine Gael from 1965 to 1977, he became Taoiseach of a Fine Gael / Labour Coalition Government, during this period.

On his retirement from politics in 1981, he was succeeded in his Dunlaoghaire Rathdown constituency by his son Liam Cosgrave Junior.



Liam Cosgrave

A feature of the house is a stained glass window with two panels designed and executed by An Túr Gloine. The artist was Ethel Rhind. An Túr Gloine (The Tower of Glass) was a purpose-built stained glass workshop founded in 1903 at Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin, by Edward Martin and Sarah Purser.

Scholarstown Estate is to your left, built on a site once known as the "Brick Field", so called because of the quality of its clay. Continue the walk along Scholarstown Road to the junction with Stocking Lane. A right turn takes you up Stocking Lane, passing the Reservoir on your right. Further on the left, near the entrance to Rathfarnham Golf Club, is Woodtown Park.

WOODTOWN PARK (HOUSE)

In the early part of the 19th century, George Grierson, who was King's Printer throughout the last decade of Grattan's Parliament and the early 1800s, turned his attention to farming and cattle breeding at Woodtown House, later known as Woodtown Park, on the slopes of Mount Venus. This venture may have caused Grierson financial ruin. The house was later owned by the Right Honourable Henry Joy, one time Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer. Following his death, the estate was offered for sale in the Landed Estates Courts in April 1861. In 1896, the Reverend Walter A Hill, a former staff member of Saint Columba's College started a preparatory school at Woodtown Park with the intention that the boys should go on to Saint Columba's. It lasted some years and was the first boarding school in Ireland which kept boys only up to the age of thirteen.

In 1915, the house was acquired by James McNeill, brother of Eoin, who was Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers. Approximately twenty years later, the house was in the occupation of Arnold Marsh, historian, and his wife Hilda Roberts, who was a painter and sculptor. The next turn right is Old Court Road, taking you past the Jewish Cemetery.

JEWISH CEMETRY

The Jewish Cemetery, the property of the Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation, is situated on the Old Court Road, not far from the entrance to Orlagh College. Among those interred there are the painter Estelle Starkey, Seamus O'Sullivan, poet and Bethel Solomons, Master of the Rotunda Hospital and member of the Irish International Rugby Team.



The next right turn takes you down Ballycullen Road, passing on your right Saint Colmcille's Well, Ballycullen Farm and Knocklyon Castle, ending the journey at Delany's Knocklyon Inn. You have now traversed the perimeter of the Parish of Knocklyon.



SNIPE
Gallinago gallinago
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "



Poppy

*Knocklyon
Personalities - Past*

WILLIAM CONOLLY (1662 - 1729)

William Conolly, son of a publican, was born in 1662, in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. He became an attorney and was appointed solicitor to the Duke of Ormond. He was returned to Parliament as a Member for the Borough of Donegal. In 1694, he married Catherine Conyngham, and, on the accession of Queen Anne (1702), Conolly was knighted. In December 1709, he was appointed a Revenue Commissioner but was removed from office the following September. At the time, Swift said he paid Lord Wharton, the Lord Lieutenant, £3,000 for the appointment and added "*So Conolly has made one ill bargain in his life.*" On November 12th, 1715, Conolly was unanimously elected Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, succeeding Broderick, a position which he held until his death. He was also reinstated as Revenue Commissioner. In 1716, he was appointed one of the two Lords Justices. He was known as the *Great Man of the North*.

In 1722, work commenced on Castletown but unfortunately, Conolly died before the house was completed. He also had the Hell Fire Club built on Mount Pelier Hill as a hunting lodge. He died on 30th October, 1729, at his home in Capel Street. At his funeral on 4th November, a large crowd followed the magnificent procession to Celbridge, where he was buried. In the proceedings to the funeral mourners were told: "*For the Public Benefit of the Kingdom, all scarves will be of Irish Linen*", resulting in Irish Linen becoming more fashionable than silk. Conolly had endeared himself to the Irish people because of his patriotic ideas. The following are the first few lines of a poem written in his honour :

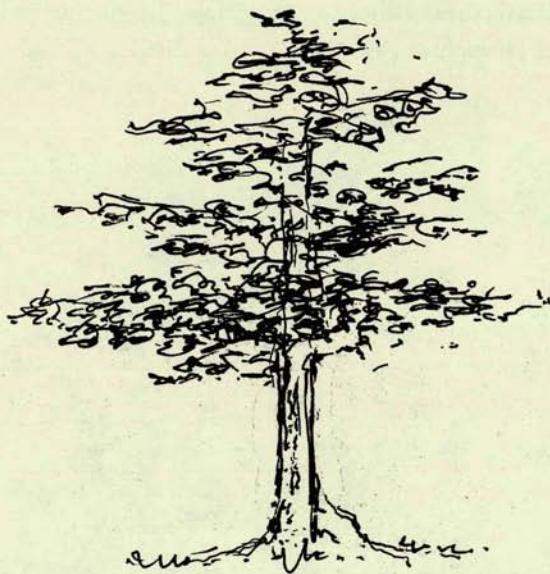
Tis done! - and Fate has giv'n the Final Blow !-
Behold! - The solemn Lethargy of Woe !
Hark! - the dire Toll! - O! Pomp of gen'ral
Grief !-
A sinking Nation dares not hope Relief !
Awful the sad Procession moves along !
What Consternation strikes the silent Throng !
Their Eyes forget to weep; and wildly gaze !
Sorrow seems lost in terrible Amaze !
Now ! Grave, they Conquest boast ! - Now ! Death, thy Sting !
Triumphant o'er a CONOLLY and *KING !

* Late Archbishop of Dublin



MATHEW HANDCOCK (1758 - 1824)

Mathew Handcock was the first of the Handcock family to live in Sally Park. He was grandfather to William Domville Handcock. In 1772, Mathew was appointed Deputy Muster Master General to his Majesty's Forces in Ireland, a post he held for fifty years. His office in the lower yard of Dublin Castle was broken into in 1794 and debentures to the value of £1,790 and £550 in cash were stolen. Handcock personally lost over £1,000 in the robbery. During an investigation, in 1795, into a robbery at Cyprus Grove House, the thief, identified from sword cuts received during the robbery, confessed to both crimes and led to the recovery of some of the debentures. Mathew Handcock was appointed Church Warden in Tallaght in 1797.



WILLIAM DOMVILLE HANDCOCK (1830 - 1887)

William Handcock was born on 2nd September, 1830 and lived in Sally Park. He was the eldest son of William Elias Handcock who was descended from a William Handcock who came to Ireland with Cromwells army and settled in Twyford, Co. Westmeath. He was educated at Nutgrove School, Rathfarnham and at Trinity College, Dublin, to his degree in 1852. He studied law for some years and was admitted a solicitor. Later, he stopped practising law and became Dublin agent of the Scottish Union Life Insurance Company and the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, and the Foreign Passport Office at 52, Dame Street. On the 5th June, 1862, he married Ellen Olivier, eldest daughter of Major Thomas Slator Rooke of the 12th Madras Light Infantry. As a magistrate for County Dublin, Mr Handcock constantly presided on the Tallaght Petty Sessions bench, of which he was a much valued member. He was, also, a guardian of the South Dublin Union and frequently attended meetings of that board.

William Domville Handcock is the author of *The History and Antiquities of Tallaght*, first published in 1876. Mary Butler White, his niece, who also lived in Sally Park, revised and republished his work in 1899. Mr Handcock died on the 5th June, 1887. There is a memorial to him in Saint Maelruan's Church in Tallaght.

WILLIAM T COSGRAVE (1880 - 1965)

William T Cosgrave was born on 6th June, 1880, at 174 James's Street, Dublin. He was educated at the local Christian Brothers' school. He was a member of Dublin Corporation from 1909 - 1922 and joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913.

During the 1916 Rising, he fought at the South Dublin Union, was sentenced to death, and was interned at Frongoch in Wales but was released in the general amnesty of 1917. He was elected a Sinn Fein M P for Kilkenny in a by-election and re-elected in 1918, a Member of the First Dáil Éireann. When Arthur Griffith died on 12th August, 1922, W T became Acting Chairman. Ten days later, Michael Collins died and Cosgrave found himself in charge. After the enactment of the Constitution in 1922, he was appointed President of the Executive Council. He was made a Knight of the Grand Order of Pius IX and received Honorary Degrees from universities in Ireland, England and the USA. His Government did much to bring order and prosperity to the country following the Civil War. The achievements under his leadership include better marketing of agricultural products, the Consolidating Land Act of 1923, the establishment of the sugar beet industry, the setting up of the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the vast undertaking of the Shannon Scheme.

In 1932, Mr Cosgrave and his Fine Gael Party were defeated in a general election, but he continued as party leader until his retirement from public life in 1944. He was appointed Chairman of the Racing Board in 1945.

He died on 16th November, 1965, and is buried in Goldenbridge Cemetery, Inchicore, Dublin.



EOIN MACNEILL (1867 - 1954)

Eoin MacNeill was born in Glenarin, Co. Antrim and worked as a Civil Servant in the Four Courts. Through his friendship with Eoghan O'Growney, he learned the Irish language. In 1908, his reputation as a scholar brought him appointment as Professor of Early and Medieval Irish history at University College Dublin.

In 1893, with Dr Douglas Hyde, he founded the Gaelic League and was Editor of the Gaelic Journal its official paper. In 1913, he was a co-founder of the Irish Volunteers, becoming their chief of staff. It was on Good Friday, 1916, at Woodtown Park, the home of his brother James, that he learned of the rebellion planned for Easter Sunday. He placed an advertisement in the Sunday Independent signed by himself which read: "*Volunteers deceived. All Orders for special action are hereby cancelled and on no account will action be taken.*" The result was confusion among the Irish Volunteers. Pearse, Connolly and other leaders issued orders that the planned "manoeuvres" would take place, on the following day, Easter Monday. Eoin MacNeill was given refuge and slept in Orlagh College for the first few days of the Rising. He was later imprisoned but was released in early 1917.

Later MacNeill was elected a Member of Parliament for the National University of Ireland and supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1921. He became Minister for Education in the first Government of the Free State, but resigned from the Ministry in 1925 and lost his seat in 1927. He was chairman of the Irish Manuscripts Commission. His major works were *Phases of Irish History* (1919) and *Celtic Ireland* (1921). His writings include studies on Ogham writing and Saint Patrick. He died in Dublin on the 15th October, 1954.

AUSTIN CLARKE (1896 - 1973)

Austin Clarke was born in 1896, one of twelve children of Ellen Patten Browne and Augustine Clarke. Austin and three sisters survived childhood. He was educated at Belvedere College and at University College Dublin. He studied the violin - practising for six hours daily. Clarke studied Irish under Douglas Hyde and, after graduating, he succeeded Thomas McDonagh in the English Department at the University as assistant Professor of English. He lectured there for four years until 1921. From 1942 to 1955, Austin Clarke broadcast a weekly programme on Radio Eireann. He was conferred with an Honorary Degree in Literature from Dublin University as an outstanding literary figure in modern Ireland.

Many awards were bestowed on Austin Clarke in recognition of his literary work. In 1968, he was awarded the Gregory Medal by the Council for the Irish Academy of Letters, the Academy's highest award for distinction in literature.

Austin Clarke died in Dublin in 1973, aged seventy seven. The new bridge at Templeogue is now called Austin Clarke Bridge.

THE LAST DITCH

*Was it an engineer
Busy over a plan
To bring the city nearer,
Who tore up aquatic plants
With fountain pen, would not let
Inches of rivulet run
Where spring has set a sill
Of flowerets ? I could name
Among those little neighbours
Of mine only a few
Of what our County Council
Considers to be refuse;
Mare's tail that must have pined
A million years to be pine
Or spruce, young reed and flag
That helped me when spirit flagged.
Duckweed, sagittaria,
Might have spread there by road-tar.
They would have been known to Wordsworth
But what are my words worth now ?
I jingle while men pipe down
Delight and look at the mist in
The southwest, think of the missing.
Beyond the pneumatic drill,
Small things uncurl a damp tendril,
Up there at Piperstown.*

Austin Clarke

Permission granted by R. Dardis Clarke, 21 Pleasants Street, Dublin 8

ON A BRIGHT MORNING

A blackbird sat on a sun spot
Warming his wings. Down by the bridge,
Flying from our elm, fat pigeon
Had slowly got
Himself into hot
Water. Along the garden walk
The scattered crumbs still lay,
Up in a pine, magpie was talking
Too much. I whistled in vain for the sparrows,
After a dust bath under the rosebuds,
Had gone on a holiday
To the river bend. I saw them play
A game of "shall we ?"
"Yes lets," beside the swallows Then feather the drops to spray.

Austin Clarke

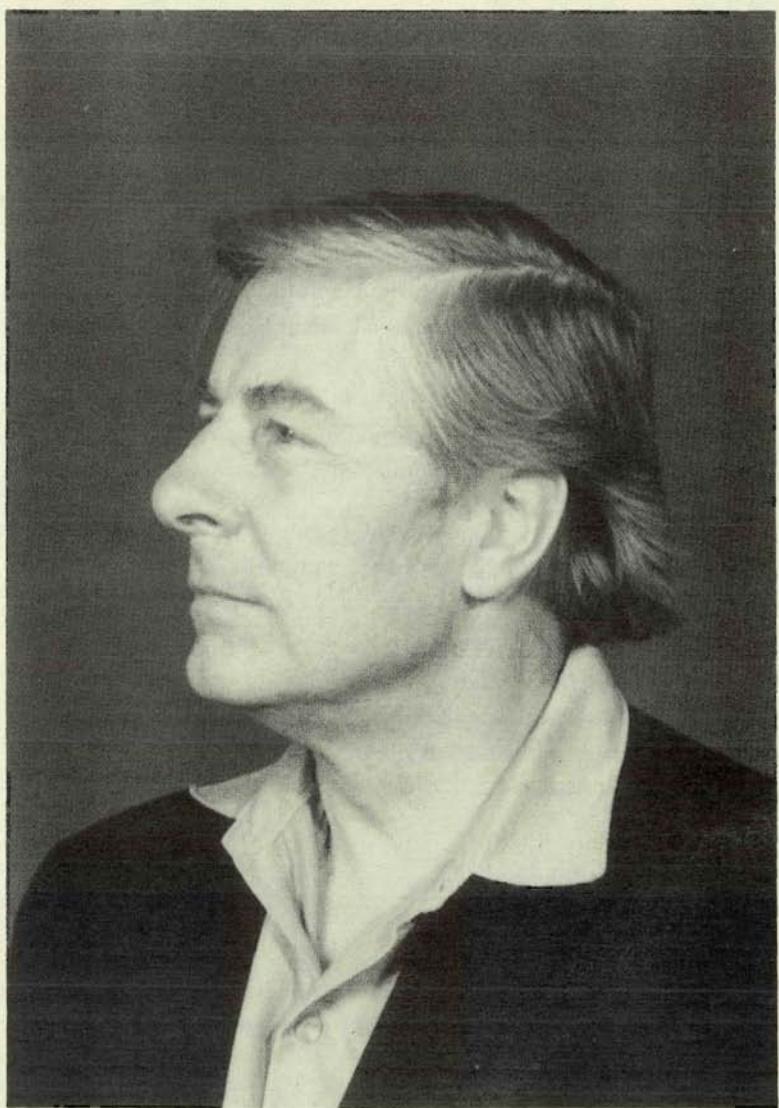


EDDIE GOLDEN **(1912 - 1983)**

Eddie Golden, actor and director, star of stage, screen, radio and television, was born in Cork in 1912. He spent a number of his early boyhood years in Australia before returning with his family to Cork. At the age of twelve, Eddie came under the wing of the legendary Father O'Flynn, founder of the "Loft" - a school of drama with premises in a room above an old sweet factory in the Shandon area of Cork. "The Priest" was the man behind the Cork Shakespearian Company and Eddie soon became a member. At sixteen he entranced his audience, playing the lead role in "Hamlet". He graduated from UCC with a BA degree but decided to follow a career in acting.

In 1942, he married Elda O'Sullivan in the Honan Chapel, UCC (modelled on Cormac's Chapel, Cashel). They had three children, two boys and a girl. Eddie moved to Dublin, became a member of the Gate Theatre and toured Europe, USA and Canada, performing in the West End and on Broadway. While playing on Broadway, he turned down an offer of a seven year Hollywood contract. In 1949, he joined the Abbey Theatre and remained a member for the rest of his life.

In the fifties, Eddie gave speech lessons to the Carmelite students of Gort Muire, the Augustinian students of Orlagh and the pupils of Terenure College. He was President of the Irish Actors' Equity for ten years. Due to his efforts and those of Dermot Doolin, Equity won their case at the Labour Court for an equitable minimum rate for actors. He lived in "Homeville", Ballycullen Road from 1949 until his death, in 1983.



Photograph courtesy of Elda Golden

J H GRIFFIN (1916 -1992)

Joseph Harold (Joe) Griffin was born in Dublin in 1916. From 1951-1956 he lived in Knocklyon House (now the Rutland Centre). He was a colourful businessman known affectionately as "Mincemeat Joe" from the commodity that had gained him his fortune. Following World War II food shortages persisted in England for a number of years. Joe decided to supply them with the most important ingredient for mince pies. He bought a shipload of dried fruit from the Greek Government and set up the Red Breast Preserving Company to produce mincemeat for export to Britain. His company was on the crest of the wave for a time, turning over up to £2 million a year in exports.

During these years, he acquired a string of racehorses. He owned two Aintree Grand National winners: "Early Mist" (1953) and "Royal Tan" (1954), both trained by Vincent O'Brien and ridden by Bryan Marshall. The Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool had never seen anything like the victory parties that Joe Griffin threw, following his Aintree triumphs. These celebrations continued back home in Knocklyon. Locals still recall balloons hanging from the trees along Knocklyon Road to guide the party-goers to his home.

Unfortunately, all too soon, his company crashed and he went through the nightmare of a two-year legal battle in the bankruptcy courts. It must have been humiliating for the man who had known the glory of seeing his horse, "Early Mist", accorded a civic reception in Dublin, following his 1953 Grand National victory. All his horses were impounded and sold at the RDS, Ballsbridge. "Royal Tan" was bought on behalf of the late Prince Aly Khan.

Joe moved to England but never made it back to the big time. He died in London on January 11th, 1992. He was aged seventy five.

It is interesting to note that, in 1951, when "Royal Tan" finished second to "Nickel Coin" in the National, he was owned by Mrs M H (Moya) Keogh. (Joe Griffin purchased him in November of that year). In the 1960s, Mrs Keogh lived in Knocklyon at "Greenacres", Firhouse Road. She owned the triple Cheltenham Champion Hurdle hero "Hatton's Grace" (1948 - 50) and "Knock Hard", winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1953. Both horses were also trained by Vincent O'Brien.



OISIN KELLY (1915 - 1981)

Austin Ernest (Oisín) Kelly was born in Dublin on 17th May, 1915. He was educated in Saint James' National School; Mountjoy School, Trinity College, Dublin and at the Goëthe University, Frankfurt. He attended the National College of Art as a schoolboy and studied intermittently there for thirty years. He also spent a year studying under Henry Moore, at Chelsea Polytechnic, London. For many years, he taught English, Irish, French and Art, but, on joining the Kilkenny Design Workshop, a new career was opened to him as a sculptor. Among his best known works are the "Children of Lir" in the Garden of Remembrance, the statues of Jim Larkin in O'Connell Street, Dublin and of the two men looking skyward in front of County Hall, Cork (believed to be modelled on two men from Knocklyon).

In 1942, Oisín married Olive Ruth Gwynn and they had seven children. Tragically, in 1961, one of their sons, at the age of fifteen, was knocked from his bicycle and killed by a bus outside the Old Abbey Theatre.

On October 12th, 1981, Oisín Kelly died at his home, Prospect House, and is buried in Saint Melruan's Churchyard, Tallaght.



In loving memory of
AUSTIN ERNEST (OISÍN) KELLY
17 May 1915 - 12 October 1981
and of his wife
OLIVE RUTH KELLY (née GWYNN)
7 May 1915 - 13 June 1981
of Prospect House, Templeogue



*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

BOTTLER A LOCAL CHARACTER

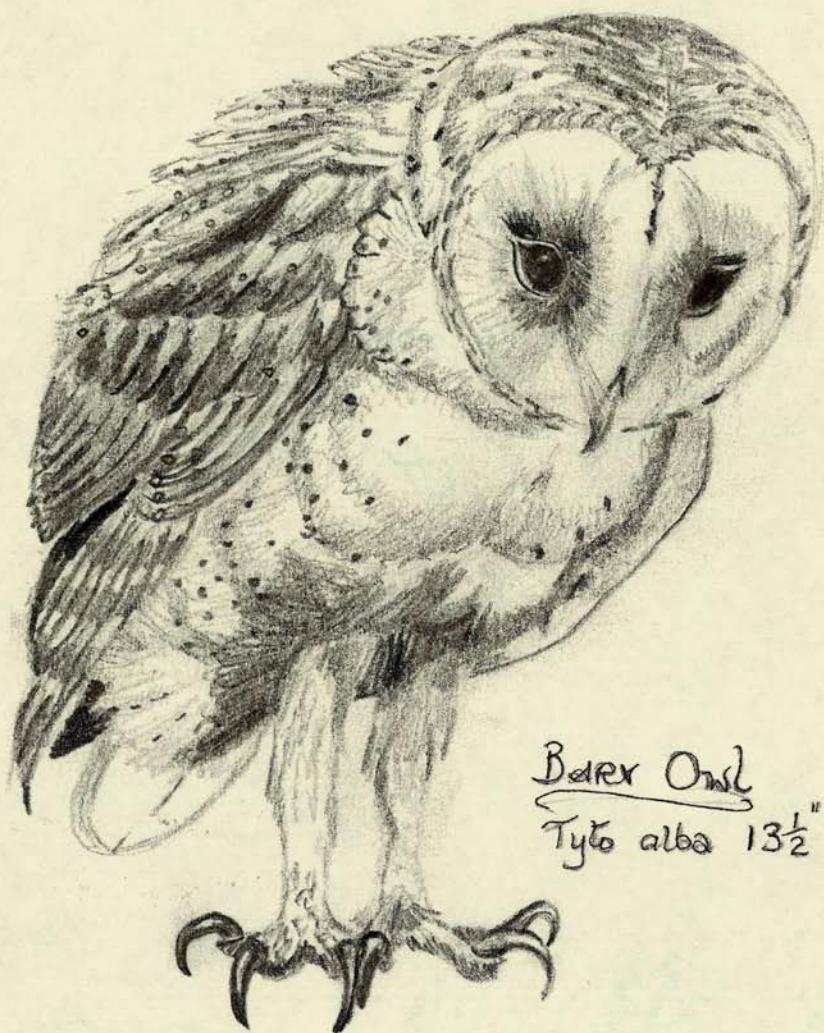
One of the most colourful, humorous and witty characters in the locality was Patrick O'Beirne, better known as *Bottler*. He acquired this nick-name because, for over twenty years, he helped with bottling the stout at Delany's Pub. He lived in a house on the banks of the Dodder and knew every fisherman who fished the river. He caught minnow which he supplied to them for bait and stocked the "Big Houses" with trout. He loved music and was a keen exponent of the spoons.

Sadly, Bottler died quite young, in his early forties. He is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Flora

&

Fauna



Barn Owl
Tyto alba $13\frac{1}{2}$ "

JOHN D'ALTON describes the geology of the area as being "of greenstone and greenstone porphyry, graduating to schistose rock at the Brakes of Ballynasorney."

The land was fertile farmland and supported a large variety of native plant and animal life.

Though recent development for building has decimated much wildlife in the area, there still remains a rich variety of species along the verges of Knocklyon Road, Ballycullen Road, Old Court Road, Daletree Road, Stocking Lane and Scholarstown Road, as well as along the banks of the Dodder.

The Ballycullen Road, which has not yet been developed, is the most fertile hunting ground for those interested in the fauna of the area. The hedges are still much as they were thirty or forty years ago and include:



Blackberries	Briar	Honeysuckle (Lonicera)
Blackthorn	Dog Rose	Sloes
Bramble	Elders	Whitethorn
	Elderberries	



Blackberry

The original meadow land supported a wide range of delicate and colourful flowering plants, many of which are now becoming threatened species, because of developments in agriculture which are based on selective cultivation of particular grasses, to the detriment of many broad-leaved plants. However, there are still a few fields and hedges in the area where the original wild flowers are to be found.



Fox Gloves

Bindweed
Bugle
Cinquefoil
Clover
Coltsfoot
Cow Parsley
Cowslips
Creeping Buttercup
Daisies
Dandelion
Foxglove
Herb Robert

Knapweed
Lesser Celandine
Nettle
Plantain - Greater
Plantain - Ribwort
Primroses
Purple Vetch
Poppy
Silverweed
Soapwort
Violets
Yarrow



Primrose.



Soapwort

The hedgerows and farmland provided a home for a variety of wild birds. Many of these have adapted to suburban living and continue in the area of Knocklyon. However, some migratory birds, which return annually to the same breeding grounds, have been unable to adapt to rapid change and are becoming rare. The corncrake being just one example.

Migratory

Cuckoo	Martin	Swallow	Swift
--------	--------	---------	-------

Native

Blackbird	Goldfinch	House Sparrow	Starling
Blue Tit	Great Tit	Jackdaw	Wagtail
Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Magpie	Wren
Crow	Heron	Robin	





Robin
Erythacus rubecula 5½"



Starling
Sturnus vulgaris 8½"

Wild animals which inhabit the area include:

Badger	Fox	Rabbit
Brown Rat	Hare	Vole
Fieldmouse	Hedgehog	Water Rat
	House Mouse	



Less colourful and equally just as important, ecologically, are the many species of insect, snail, worm and others of the creepy crawley family. Traditional farming, which did not use fertilisers or pesticides to the extent that they are used today, accommodated a wide variety of wildlife, which maintained an ecological balance.

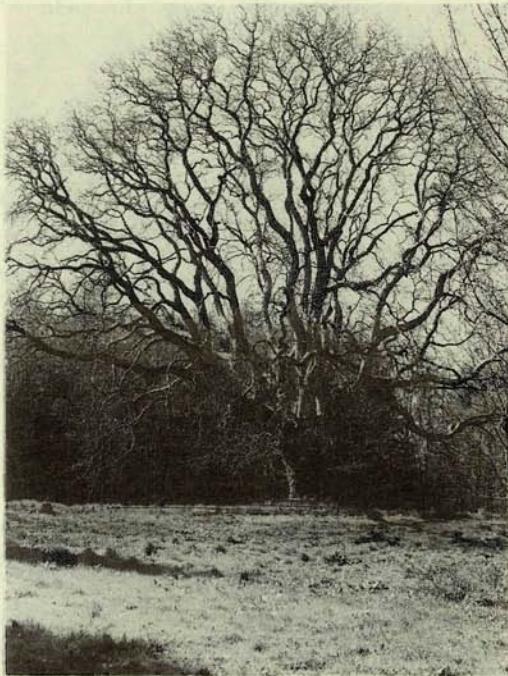
Ants	Daddy-Long-Legs	Midges
Aphids	Earthworm	Slugs
Bees	Flies	Snails
Butterflies	Ladybirds	Woodlice

A number of mature trees have been sacrificed to progress in the area. In the *History and Antiquities of Tallaght*, we are told that Mathew Hancock planted several hundred beech trees around his residence at Sally Park. A large colony of crows established itself in these trees in later years. Storm damage and, more recently, building development and road widening, has left us today with a few survivors at the rear of Homeville and near the entrance to Sally Park.

The horse chestnut is another magnificent tree to be seen locally. The most dramatic specimen stands beside Saint Colmcille's Church, Knocklyon.



There are a few larches on Knocklyon Road, across from Ashton; one at the junction of Ballycullen Road and Old Court Road and a few at the top of Firhouse Road, before the junction with Knocklyon Road. Some specimens of the common ash can be seen along the Knocklyon Road. There are a few examples of scots pine which have survived from the groves and plantings of the big houses of yesteryear. These trees are around two hundred years old and now have the protection of a County Council preservation order. Oak trees stand at Prospect Lane and Knocklyon Road.



In the grounds of Rookwood House, there is a three hundred and fifty year old walnut tree, which is protected by a County Council preservation order. Throughout the parish, scyamore and common spindle abound.

Folklore



Hellfire Club Members in Uniform
(James Worsdale c. 1795)

*Photograph reproduced with kind permission of
The National Gallery of Ireland*

HELL FIRE CLUB

There are numerous tales told about the Hell Fire Club. The following is just one of them.

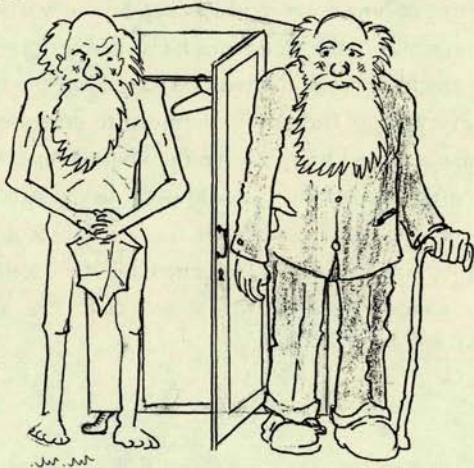
According to legend, an intrepid young visitor to a local farmhouse insisted on going to investigate the hunting lodge. He was found dead next day, lying face down in a mountain stream. His host, convinced that the boy was murdered, persuaded a clergyman to accompany him to the Hell Fire Club. Darkness was falling as the courageous pair arrived at the house. They knocked on the door and were admitted by a tall black-cloaked man. Immediately, they were grabbed from behind and hustled into the diningroom, where a banquet was about to begin. They were pushed, unceremoniously, onto chairs as a majestic looking black cat stalked into the room and took his place at the head of the table. The priest noticed that the ears of the cat were not erect, but lying like horns at either side of the fierce looking head. The wide, deep eyes glared hatred at the clergyman, who rose to his feet, intending to leave the devilish assembly. He was seized and pushed back in his chair. Realising that he had a small bottle of holy water in his pocket, he threw it with all possible force at the cat, while, at the same time, he recited the prayer of exorcism. In the mêlée which followed, the terrified screams of the farmer could be heard above everything. The priest continued to pray until the smell of sulphur and smoke forced him to leave the house. Outside, he found the farmer lying on the ground, his face and neck deeply scratched by strong claws. The poor man never completely recovered. According to legend, the next morning, the burned out Hell Fire Club stood a stark ruin on the hill-top, as it does to-day.

THE FAGAN TWINS

The Fagan twins, who were known locally as the "Twinny Fagan," lived near Billy's Bridge in Ballyboden. They were alike, even down to their white hair and long beards.

Not much is known of the "Twinny Fagan," though fact has been replaced by fiction in many of the anecdotes about them. It is believed, for instance, that they attended Mass on alternate Sundays, as they shared one suit of clothes. They could have been founding members of the Green Party ! Being conservationists at heart, they did not squander our natural resources. Most people who buy coal burn it - but not the Twinny Fagan. In winter, they would buy a single bag of coal and keep themselves warm by taking turns running round their field with the coal on their shoulders.

It is said that in their field was a rick of hay which stood untouched for many years. After the death of the brothers, the rick was torn down and was found to contain a substantial sum of money. Some of it was in jam pots and stacks of coin were encased in wax to camouflage them as candles.



HOST

In the early part of the twentieth century, a local man, Andy Wade, nick-named "Garibaldi", was tried and convicted of murder. He owned a big black dog and it is believed that the ghost of the dog roams the area at night.

Many people tell of having been accompanied by the ghost along the Firhouse Road from Cherryfield to Purcell's Lane.

One person who claims to have had the "pleasure" was the late Eddie Golden, when returning, late at night, from the Abbey Theatre.

In the early 50s, Eddie used to travel by bus to Terenure and cycle the remainder to his house on Ballycullen Road. Once he reached Cherryfield, he could hear the dog panting along behind him until Purcell's Lane where it would turn off, obviously returning to the little house, on the banks of the Dodder, where his master once lived.



BILLY'S BRIDGE

The bridge, which spans the Owendoher River at Ballyboden, is said to be named after one Billy Martin.

Billy lived in a hut in a nearby field, and, being of easy-going rustic temperament, spent much of his time leaning over the bridge listening to, and contemplating the river as it passed under the bridge.

He lived to be a very old man and his figure leaning over the bridge was so embedded in local minds that many claim to have seen his ghost in the same position.

*Place Names,
Family Names,*

*Unusual
Names*

PLACE NAMES

Ballycragh	Formerly known as Ballycra and Ballycruagh, was mentioned in Sir Adam Loftus's Patent of 1619. Ballycragh House was owned by Hal Smith who served in the yeomanry in 1798. This house was completely ruined by the end of the 18th Century.
Ballycullen	Derived from the family name Cullen, Ballycullen Cottages date from 1910.
Dodder	Has been known as Dother, Doney River, Donney Brook, Rathfarnham Water.
Firhouse	Derived either from the surname Fieragh, a family of timber merchants who lived in the area in the 18th century, or from an inn which had a sign with a fir tree.
Killinanny	A Celtic Monastic settlement founded by the daughters of Míchiar, Dairinnioll, Darlinog, Caelog and Caemgealiog. It has also been suggested that this settlement was founded by the five daughters of Lenin and was associated with Saint Brigid.
Old Court	William Domville Handcock tells us " <i>that here in old times were a village and chapel; hardly a trace of these now remain. Mr J Magrane had an extensive farm and very comfortable house here.</i> " Today, there are twenty four cottages in Old Court, built in 1935.
Orlagh	Hill of gold. Another translation is an inch.
Scholarstown	Known as Schoolers Town, Schollarstonne and Scholardstown, is said to derive from the family name Schollard.

Stocking Lane	Stocking Lane was built in 1798, as part of the Military Road, to take troops into Wicklow to quell the rebellion. Tradition has it that there was a military store on the road where troops stocked up before penetrating the mountains, hence the name, Stocking Lane.
Tymon South	Part of the lands of Tymon Castle south of the Dodder, Tymon comes from "land of the O'Mothens" Tir Mohen.
Woodtown	Baile na Coille or town of the Wood.

FAMILY NAMES

Brennan	McGrane
Casey	Moran
Delany	Nolan
Ennis	O'Brien

UNUSUAL NAMES

Jolly	Reville
Prosser	Shouldice

SPONSORS

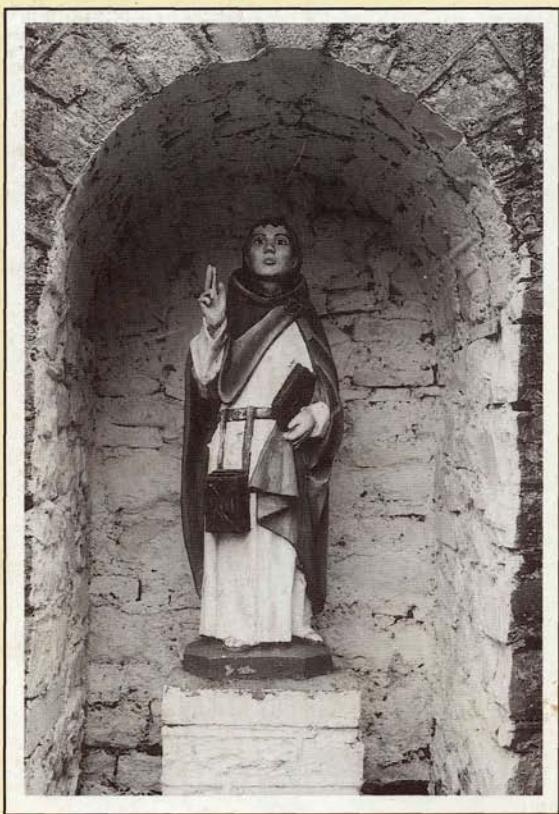
- Superquinn, Knocklyon
A I B Bank, Templeogue
Irish Life, Lower Abbey Street
Dublin County Council
Mr Bugler, Ballyboden House, Ballyboden
Mrs Bridie Maher, Kilakee
Cutting Company, Orlagh Grove
Londis Supermarket, Ballyroan
Bates Pharmacy, Knocklyon
B C S Car Services, Ballyboden
Cllr John Hannon
Hallmark Cards, Rathfarnham
McKenna Engineering, Firhouse Road
School Supply, Firhouse Road
Old Orchard, Rathfarnham
Pat Carolan Motors, Knocklyon Road
Classic Casting, Knocklyon Road
Concrete Treatment Services Limited, Firhouse Road
Mr and Mrs Delany, Knocklyon Inn
Paul A Glynn Limited, Firhouse Road
King's School of Motoring, Knocklyon Road
McCarthy Auctioneers Limited, Rathfarnham
-

Cllr Mary Muldoon
Maurice Mulvey Motors, Knocklyon Road
Pat and Kevin Riney, Orchard Auctioneers
Primeway Limited, Knocklyon Road
Irish Permanent Building Society, Rathfarnham
W McAllister, Knocklyon
Blue Haven, Ballyroan Road
C Hennebry, Knocklyon
Angela O'Byrne, Bancroft, Tallaght
Get Fresh, Ballyroan
Sean Hegarty Earthworks Limited, Rathfarnham

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- The National Archives
- Folklore Section, U C D
- Contributor - V J Keeley M A

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Saint Colmcille's Well