

# THE BEAUMONT NEWS

## Official Newsletter of the Beaumont Residents Association

Delivered Free to All Homes, Schools, Hospitals and  
Commercial Premises in the greater Beaumont Area

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JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2007

### Master Barrett Bids Farewell to Fiachra's

Thomas Barrett steps down as Principal of St. Fiachra's Senior School and departs the teaching profession at the end of this summer. After 29 years in St. Fiachra's in various roles; 11 years as 'Deputy Principal', 8 years 'Acting Principal' and the last 10 years as Principal. In at the start and from small humble beginnings - just 5 staff, Mr Barrett nurtured, guided and managed the school's development through unprecedented growth and demographic change, to the dizzy heights of where it stands today; 32 teaching staff, 4 classroom assistants, 3 cleaners, 1 caretaker 1 secretary and 658 students. The school has 4 streams from 3rd class to 6th class and it is now the biggest school of its kind in the city, on a par with Knocklyon in the south side. All of this under the guiding hand, watchful eye and astute mind of Master Barrett.

The Senior and Junior schools were built originally as 16-Teacher schools so when the senior school opened in 1978, two years after the junior school, it was already half full with pupils from the junior school. The junior school started life in Hill Street in the city and moved to Beaumont in 1976. Pupil numbers grew rapidly and much faster than had been planned for - to a stage where two classes had to be accommodated in St John of God's school, Kilmore Road. The original five Teachers were: Jim Kilty, Brid Gleeson, Tom Carey, Maura Tansy and Thomas Barrett - three of whom still remain on the staff.

In 1981 a two storey extension was added and 10 prefabs were added in 1984 and had to be replaced about five years ago.

**Are you ok for space now:** Two new classrooms are going up this summer. There are no real buildings anymore, this is a new system and everything is rented now. I get a quotation from three accommodation suppliers for the provision of a classroom for as long as I want it. The Department of Education will pay 90% of the rent



Thomas Barrett

*..... I won't miss this building -but I'll miss the kids - that's the biggest thing. I'll miss the kids' big-time because I mean that's my life.....*

and we pay 10%. It's very different to the old system. We have a 7.5 acre site here -including the Church grounds but it's covered in buildings.

Thomas Barrett is an unlikely Teacher for his era. Son of a Shopkeeper and Farmer in Mountbellew, Co Galway, there was no history or background of Teaching in his family. Educated at the local Primary and Secondary Schools. He has 3 brothers and 3 sisters, 5 of whom are Teachers which is truly remarkable. He started Teacher Training in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra in 1972 and took up his first Teaching post in Scoil Fhursa, Kilmore West in 1974 where he stayed for 4 years. He obviously took a liking to the 'Northside Dubs' moving only a short distance to St Fiachra's in 1978 -the year the school opened, accepting a promotion to the role of 'Deputy Principal' under Jim Kilty the Principal. He feels a great

affinity with the Artane Beaumont area having resided in Ardmore for a number of years at the start and sang with the Beaumont Choir for the Pope in the Phoenix Park in 1979. Of the original five staff, three remains on in St. Fiachra's -a fact Mr Barrett is very proud to stress and sees as a very positive feature of the school and an endorsement of his regime. He also points out that almost all of the Teachers who start in St Fiachra's stay with the school long term.

An unapologetic 'dyed in the wool' GAA fanatic, Tom Barrett boasts of playing football in three Counties in his younger years and played Junior Football in Dublin for more than ten years. It's no accident then that GAA is the first religion in St Fiachra's school and that's the way Master Barrett likes it. He is very quick to list off the many GAA successes the school has had over the years and he also wants it to be known that the standard of football and hurling in the school today continues at an all-time high. Four Teachers; Cathal Ruane, Tom Ryan, Liam O'Connor and his brother Gerry Barrett are very much involved in coaching the kids and this work is highly regarded and commended by the Principal.

His Father had a profound influence on him. Working in the shop from an early age with his brothers and sisters, young Tom Barrett learned the skills, art and nuances of 'customer service' and 'customer care' long before it became a recognised skill and before it became fashionable, profitable or PC. We learned so much about life while working in the shop; understanding the customers and their needs, how people lived and how people didn't live. My father believed that education is a great thing and said 'you can go to college all you want but if you cannot talk and communicate with people you are going no place.

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**Sizzling  
Summer Prizes  
To Be Won  
Inside  
This Issue  
.....  
1 FREE  
Quiz Competition  
5 Smashing  
Prizes!**

**KID'S SPORTS & FUN  
SUMMER FEST**

**Saturday, 23rd June 2007 @ 2.00 pm**  
In Coolgreena Close Park

Members Children Only, Aged 0 - 12 years  
VARIOUS DISTANCE RACES TO SUIT ALL AGES

**Egg & Spoon Race • Penalty Shoot-Out  
Bar-B-Q • Wheel of Fortune • Bouncy Castle  
Slide • Face Painting • Garda Patrol Jeep  
• Garda Cavalry • Fire Tender • Disco  
Go-Cart Racing • Free Sweets & Drinks  
Discount Shop**

**NEW! Bonny Baby Competitions for Babies:**  
0 - 12 months and 13 - 36 months.  
(€200 for winning babies)

**GREAT PRIZES, MEDALS  
and TROPHIES  
TO BE WON.**

**COME ALONG AND MAKE THIS  
A GREAT DAY FOR THE CHILDREN!**



## Our Changing Times

By Fr. Frank O'Gara

Two Conferences which took place in the last month highlighted the problems facing the Church in future years. Many people including priests are less than fully aware of the seriousness of the situation. One conference was organised for the Carmelites and the other for the Dublin Dioceses. The theme in both was the problem posed for the church because of the newly experienced shortage of priests. Before addressing the problem I would like to set it in the changing Ireland we are all living in.



There are many changes affecting our society some wonderful and others dubious. Take for example the employment situation. On my day off I usually end up walking the pier at Howth. On a fine day recently Howth was packed with day trippers and I would say the majority were from Eastern Europe. There has been an enormous ingress of foreign workers in recent times. The many new jobs being created annually have attracted them. They seem to like what they find here. I believe they have been warmly welcomed.



Another change is that we are all better off than say fifteen years ago. People have fine homes and transport and a standard of living that could not have been imagined in the past. We seem at the same time to have lost some qualities which other nations envied in the past namely our warm and charitable nature. People's attitudes and religious beliefs are changing. The numbers attending Sunday mass seem to be falling steadily. While our economic growth is unquestionable we have paid a heavy price for such progress. Our faith is steadily being undermined. This knowledge should inspire us to some form of action.

From the church's perspective the decline in vocations to the priesthood and religious life has begun to show dramatically. For twenty years it has been evident that vocations were in serious decline. The short fall is now showing dramatically. It is increasingly difficult to find replacements for priests who are ill, aged or retiring. Parishes that used to have four priests are reduced to one. In rural areas parishes have been amalgamated and one priest serves all. To have a priest in your parish is the greatest of blessings and looks like becoming much rarer in the not so distant future.

The Dublin Diocesan Priests conference in May was organised to highlight these common problems. Society has changed and the changes hugely influence people. Priests are under pressure to try and supply the type of service they always have performed. The Conference in City West was successful in drawing attention to this so as to encourage an approach to facing this reality.

Religious communities have the very same problems. The Carmelites in Ireland met in April to address them. We discussed and teased out the direction we would hope to take. The Conference was well attended and fully informed us of the need to plan. A Process was decided upon which will take some three years to fully implement. A start has been made and hopefully will be successful.

The Lord did say that he would be with his church always. We can depend on Him in all our needs. The future is without doubt based on the priest and the people working together in close union. There are priests and people in every parish working away quietly to try and find a way forward. Parishes now have their own pastoral councils where dialogue takes place with the above intention. If you would like to be involved in the work of a pastoral council then talk to any active member or the PP. I do hope this article is helpful and does not scare yet we all need to pray and act together in these difficult days for the Church we all so love.

## BONNY BABY COMPETITION!

Part of the Kid's Sports & Fun Summer Fest

Saturday 23rd June 2007

Category 1:

Babies ages 12 months and under @ 3.00 pm

Category 2:

Babies aged 13 – 36 months @ 3.30 pm

Register at check-in desk from 2.00 pm

€200 winning prize for each category.

Competition generously sponsored by:  
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# Donnycarney / Beaumont Credit Union

## Your Credit Union

by Anne Phelan



Anne Phelan (Chairperson), Margaret Carberry (Office Supervisor) and Anne O'Sullivan (Staff Officer)

### OUR HISTORY:

In September 1968 Donnycarney Beaumont Credit Union was founded by a group of Donnycarney residents in the Parochial Hall on Collins Avenue East. In 1972 the credit union moved premises to 113 Malahide Road where it still exists today. Such was the demand for credit union services in the locality that a sub office of the credit union was opened in 1972, situated in St Fiachra's School, and later in 1977 in the Church of the Nativity grounds, this office would service the people of Beaumont. The growth and popularity of this credit union meant that larger premises were needed and in 1999 the sub-office branch in Artaine Castle was opened for its members. The ethos behind the establishment of the credit union was that it would benefit those in the locality where members could pool their resources, save regularly and take out loans when necessary. It encouraged financial prudence amongst members and it functioned as a not for profit cooperative – "owned by the members, run for the members". This same ethos continues to exist today.

### HOW WE'VE GROWN & OUR SERVICES:

Just to think that back in 1968 our credit union had 81 members, £7 savings and £20 out on loan. Our credit union has shown phenomenal growth and success over the years, today our credit union asset size stands at €51 million, we have over 11,000 members our shares stand at €43.4 million and our loan book is out at €27.6 million. Over the years our credit union has responded to members requests for additional value added services such as free loan protection/ life savings insurance (LPLS) bill pay, phone top up, travel insurance, foreign exchange, VHI group discount schemes, personal retirement savings accounts (PRSA's), & will making services. We also provide a members' Car and Cash Prize Draw which costs €35 per annum where up to 8 cars are raffled to members. At the end of 2006 our credit union launched its new website, [www.dbcu.com](http://www.dbcu.com), where members can access their accounts online and read about other credit union news and services.

### OUR LOANS & WHY WE DIFFER FROM THE BANK:

We provide members with low cost loans ranging from 5.65% apr to 9.8% apr. At our credit union you can borrow for whatever you want. From cars to holidays to home improvements and house deposits you won't go wrong if you're on the right track with us. Members can even borrow against their SSIA at the low rate of 5.65% apr. Let's take a scenario where a person borrows €22,000 to buy a car which is repayable monthly over a 5 year period. The total cost of the loan with another financial provider in the Irish market would be €5,303.06 (9% apr). The same loan with our credit union will cost you €4,449.80 (7.76% apr). That's a

saving of €853.26 with our credit union! We also provide Credit Card Clearance Loans which allows you to save up to 40% on your credit card bill.

We differ from the banks because we do not have any fees, charges or penalties on any of our accounts. Our Credit Union operates on a not for profit, cooperative basis. Any "profit" made is given back to members in the form of a yearly dividend. Most importantly our members own their credit union and as such each member has a say in its running. As your credit union we have your best interest at heart, we encourage financial prudence and we aim to warn you of the dangers of using door to door Moneylenders. You should steer clear of these moneylenders who charge up to 150% interest on loans. If you or someone you know has been approached by moneylenders, talk to us in confidence at the credit union and we'll put you on the right track.

### How to join us:

If you are interested in joining Donnycarney Beaumont Credit Union you must either live or work in our district. You can drop into either office in Artaine Castle or 113 Malahide Road and bring with you proof of address (Utility bill, government letter), photographic id (passport, drivers licence) If you are a non EU national you will need a Garda National Immigration Bureau Card (GNIB Card). Our credit union is active in the local school community, St Fiachras, Our lady of Consolation, Scoil Chiarain and membership is free to all student or minor members. Joining our credit union at an early age allows members to save small amounts regularly, and when the time comes to avail of that first low rate student loan, special car or holiday loan If you have any queries or you would like to talk to one of our staff directly you can call the Donnycarney Branch on 8319441 or the Beaumont office on 8328360.

## FREE QUIZ COMPETITION

### 5 FANTASTIC PRIZES!!

#### PRIZES

1. Dine out with a difference!!  
You and a friend will dine in Dublin's unique rooftop Restaurant; CLOUDS at the 4 star Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport, has one of the finest menus in the city. Enjoy spectacular views over the Airport runway and over Dublin city. Experience genuine 4 star service. Enjoy an array of pre and post dinner drinks in the restaurant or in the bar. Don't worry about getting home – you're already there! Just take a stroll down the hall to your deluxe, lavishly equipped double bedroom. Sleep the night away until you wake up to the aroma of a full Irish breakfast being served to you in your room.
2. Two tickets to "Celtic Storm –the Show + Dinner" 57 Middle Abbey St on 21st July
3. Four tickets to "Annie -the Musical" in the Olympia on 13th July.
4. Two tickets to "Riverdance" in the Gaiety on 14th July
5. Two tickets to "Des Bishop" in the Iveagh Theatre on 29th July

1st prize is a choice of any of the five prizes.  
2nd prize is a choice of remaining 4 prizes.  
3rd prize, etc, etc.

#### QUIZ Competition.

1. What date is the BRA Kids Sports Fest held
2. Who was born in Mountbellew
3. Who likes walking the pier at Howth
4. Who's phone No is: 8371008
5. What has 11,000 members
6. Who was born in Castlegregory
7. What competition is judged through June, July and August
8. Who's phone No is: 8040404
9. Who won an amazing double in Parnell Park on 21st and 22nd May
10. Who's phone No is: 8369016

Answers, together with your Name, Address and Phone No to:  
The BRA Post Box in the Shell Shop  
or in the Post Office.

Closing date: 3rd July 2007.  
(Answers can be found in this Newsletter)  
Competition for BRA Members.

One entry per Member household.



He views pupils and their parents as 'customers', he believes his role as Principal is that of a facilitator –and he is passionate about his job. He believes that everything in the school should be for and about pupils. Not a man to stand on ceremony, he prefers early intervention and informal approach to resolving issues. His experiences over the years has taught him that a few informal words with parents very early on, prevents little issues developing into big intractable issues.

His colleagues don't always understand or agree with him or his management style. They sometimes question the need for him to be out in the car park -so visible among the kids and parents or directing traffic in the mornings. His answer is; these are my customers and I must see and speak with them everyday –it's like being in the shop.

**What prompted your decision at this time:** *This is a huge big job, people don't realise the size of this place. It's a huge big job and I think right now it could be a job for a younger person. I must say it has been a very enjoyable time for me. The huge changes that have taken place in society, children and everything; I think it's a job for a younger person. I could go on doing it for another 10 years, I have other interests I'd like to pursue and I won't be sitting at home that's for sure.*

**Will you miss the place:** *I won't miss this building –but I'll miss the kids -that's the biggest thing. I'll miss the kids' big-time because I mean that's my life. I'll also miss the company of my wonderful colleagues and the friendly people of Beaumont.*

*He relates a funny comment a mother said to him in the yard one day; "you're never sixty? And I was looking at you and you're not sick either" He replied; "you don't have to be sixty and you don't have to be sick to retire" and he laughs! It's great to be able to go off, do other things you enjoy –before you become either of these.*

**Do you have many problems with parents or kids:** *Every single day there is something. There were times he says his back was to the wall and he recalls an occasion when he had two parents in his office who were intent on suing each other. He spent many hours speaking and listening to them and he admits to losing sleep over it but in the end reason prevailed and the matter was sorted without recourse to Solicitors. That's a long time ago and I was much younger then. As I now prepare to leave St. Fiachras I am quite happy in the knowledge that I have never had an angry exchange with either a parent or colleague –and that's a great feeling to walk away with.*

*The development of a playing field in Beaumont Hospital grounds, for use by St. Fiachra's pupils, he views as a significant landmark. He unselfishly attributes the idea to a Teaching colleague; Liam O'Connor and says with some glee and pride; the initiative came from a Teacher not a Politician. The concept was floated at a staff meeting about 10 years ago and even though Mr Barrett had little hope of the proposition succeeding, he put it to the then CEO of Beaumont Hospital, Pat Lyons who liked the idea and was happy to support it. Colmcille GAA Club and Beaumont Hospital Sports & Leisure Club supported the venture and took an interest in it. St. Fiachra's pupils are now the sole beneficiaries.*

*The Coastguard uses the ground for landing Helicopters from time to time. The Authorities at the outset were concerned about the effects noise might have on the school and the safety fears of kids, their parents and local residents. Thomas Barrett showed his personality and considerable astuteness by suggesting that they hold an event and let the kids see and go into the Helicopter. This the Authorities did, a great day was had by all and no issues have arisen in respect to the Helicopter traffic.*

**Where do you see this school over the next 10 years:** *It will stay pretty much at the same size. There will be smaller classes.*

His office is very basic, small, cluttered and untidy. It resembles a cross between a teenager's bedroom and a builders hut. He sits and chats with me outside his desk so that we are both on the same side –very significant and unusual but at the same time in character. His office is not a place he likes to spend most of his time and it's not his 'comfort zone', he much prefers being out there in the yard listening to the kids, talking with parents or maybe directing traffic. My idol here was Aine Boyle, we were great friends and I missed her awfully when she went, pointing to her photograph hanging on the wall (RIP) but sure Delores McGuire and I were classmates in St. Pat's and she's made the Junior School her own now. Thomas Barrett puts paid to the saying; 'a cluttered desk reflects a cluttered mind' because even though there is a mountain of documents and files strewn across his desk, he can quickly lay his hand on relevant documents. He grabs a pile of official looking papers from the far corner of his desk; these are costings and contracts for our two new classrooms coming this summer! Then he rummages through more piles of papers on the near side of his desk and quickly retrieves a card he had just received from a parent. He urgently directs me to a few lines in the card which praises the school's GAA Teams and requests him to continue to cheer the team on, wherever he may be in the future. That says it all, that's magic stuff!

**What about you're Successor:** *I have no idea who it will be.*

**Does the 'Deputy Principal' get the job:** *It does not follow that the Deputy Principal automatically gets the job. It was said to that I've spoiled it for the next person taking the job, as the next person may not want to be so visible and 'out there'. My replacement will be decided by 'open competition' however, I would like to see a Teacher from here getting the job.*

**What's does the future hold for you:** *I'm taking up a management role in a different field. An opportunity came my way and it's all about timing.*

## ARE YOU FULL OF BEANS????????

By: Susie Boland

Do you feel tired, unmotivated, no energy???? Do you eat a lot of red meat and feel bloated a after your meal? Are your good intentions to go for a walk in the evening in order to shed a few pounds or just to get healthier but you feel worn out?

Well it's time you added beans to your diet!!!!!!!

You may argue, they're boring, no taste, dry, and uneventful.

Well I have news for you, ANYONE who is serious about managing their weight or even just care about their health ARE EATING BEANS! Many people associate beans with flatulence, this is true, beans contain a protein lectin which cannot be digested by our enzymes. Instead the bacteria that live in our large intestine digest it and this produces gas.

Many countries in the world rely on beans as their main source of protein and they have no digestive problems!

According to top nutritionists the most complete meal is Beans and Rice!!

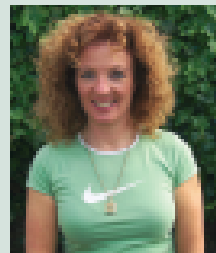
Beans are full of protein, feeding every cell in the body; remember you're made up of billions of cells and water. Beans are full of complex carbohydrates for both energy and cleansing. Because beans are so high in fiber they cleanse the liver and rid the body of excess fluid which can contribute to weight loss.

The Soya bean contains phytoestrogen which helps to balance our hormones which can effect both premenstrual and menopausal problems plus anti-cancer problems for both men and woman.

Beans contain Vitamin B complex which helps the nervous system.

Have I convinced you yet? Use beans as an alternative to meat (I'm not saying to cut meat out of the diet). This is a great way to manage your weight and have a healthy life.

For more details on beans and how to incorporate those into diet call Susie on 01-831 8001.



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# The Beaumont News INTERVIEW

By: Des Maguire

Kitty Smith has a wide smile and great welcome for me when I enter her comfortable cosy living room on very cold unseasonal May evening. The temperature is well up in the room and Kitty is relaxing in her armchair after having her tea. "You'll have a cup of tea" she insists and I agree. She busily instructs her daughter Anne to get me the tea. Kitty tells me she is hard in hearing and points to her left ear; "I'm eighty six you know" to which I nodded in acceptance and agreed that it was a big age –though I'm not sure if this age is correct. "I'm a bit deaf you know and I'm killed with Arthritis" Kitty fixes herself in her armchair beside a hot electric radiator; her wheelchair parked on the other side of the room. Anne arrives back in with the tea and we all settle down and chat about Kitty's life. Kitty's poor hearing quality results in Anne repeating most of my questions to Kitty and also prompting with some answers.



**Where were you born:** I was born Catherine O'Connor, on a farm in Cloonbeg, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry, a great ould spot. I did all sorts of work - everything on the farm. We kept lots of animals; Cows, Calves, Pigs, Hens and a Horse. Oh yes we had Geese too –a bit of everything. I worked on the farm, milking the cows, feeding the calves and the other animals. I also cut and footed the turf and brought it home from the bog with a horse and cart. I saved hay in the summer time and put it into a reek as they called it, in the back garden –I worked hard but I enjoyed it. I went to Primary School, that time there was no secondary school.

I left home when I was about 16 to get a few shillings and I got odd jobs here and there in Kerry for a few years before I came to Dublin. I used go to the dances that time, waltz's and sets were the dances. When I came to Dublin first I lived in Rathmines at first and got different jobs in Hospitals –I can't remember the names of the hospitals now. I met my husband Paddy at a dance –I forget really the name of the place, I think it was the National Ballroom, Paddy was from Drumcondra. We got married –oh I can't remember the year; it's a long time ago now. Drink your drop of tea before it gets cold, Kitty says to me and gestures with her hand. Anne is close by and interjects with helpful assistance from time to time.

My sister older sister Hannah went to America when she was 15 or 16. She got married over there in New York and she is 97 now. She came home for the first time about 20 years ago and home again about 5 years ago. We went to New York to visit her a few years ago and I also went to the Holy Land, we did a bit of traveling.

**Did you drink much in your younger days:** Oh no, I never drank; the sermons during Lent that time used give out about the drink and the smoking. Paddy never drank either, he was very good, a very good man. Paddy worked as a Barman in the 'Autobhan' and in the Rendezvous for Paddy Belton.

**What made you decide to come to Beaumont:** It suited us kind of. Paddy was from Drumcondra.

**How did you get to be a Shop Keeper:** Paddy leased the "Casket" shop from Paddy Belton in the late 1960s and I worked in it. Anne and my other daughter Jacinta also worked in the shop. It was a small shop selling groceries and sweets. For me it was very different to milking the cows. When Belton went out of the business we bought the "Casket"

**Did you make loads of money in the shop:** No we didn't, there were very little profits but we lived. We worked hard, long hours from 8 am to 10 pm, we never complained, we were young and hardy that time.

**When did Paddy die:** Paddy got sick and died in 1981, 26 years ago RIP.

**When did you retire:** I sold the shop in 1997. Dermot Carew came in one day and said he wanted to buy the shop. I was over 70 then, I sold it and that was that.

**Do you go back to Kerry:** The family is all gone; no one in the farm and it would only make me lonesome. It was a good old spot.

**Where is your daughter Jennifer:** She lives in Kilkenny and I have two grand children; John aged 20 and Patricia aged 16. We go down regularly to see them.

**Does Anne look after you well:** Poor Anne has to wheel me around in the wheelchair. She is very good so she is. Anne takes me to Mass four times a week. I read a lot.

**Have you noticed many changes in Beaumont:** Sure God it's all built up, when I came here it was all fields and then they started building the houses and I got number 1 (she laughs loudly) we live in number 1. I remember Skellys Lane, fields on both sides. There was no traffic then, a car was great. I used cycle into town and everywhere, no bother to me. Anne interjects to say Kitty was cycling up to about 25 years ago when she would cycle daily to Whitehall Church. I couldn't go on a bike now, the change, I got my own Chauffer now Anne, she is very good to me.

**What will you do for the next 20 years:** Ha ha ha ha! What am I going to do? Live, I might be gone up to heaven, I'm old you know, it's the end for everyone isn't it. I had a good life and I enjoyed it.

# The Night the State of our Health Service Hit Home

Like a lot of other people, while I follow the news and current affairs, its only when something impacts on my personal life that I really sit up and take notice.

I have listened to endless debates about the running of our hospitals, the cleanliness of our hospitals, whether nurses deserve more money and a shorter working week and while I could look at all sides of the debates impartially I forgot one very important fact. When you are in need of the hospital system you look at the whole set up with a totally different view. I always assumed that the endless waits and delays in Accident and Emergency units were down to sheer volume of people in need of attention and that there were a small army of medical personnel frantically running from patient to patient doing what they could to relieve pain and to get people moved to a ward or home to their own beds so the next batch could be moved in from the waiting room conveyer style.

The night I was there however, showed a totally different picture altogether. Before I tell you about my experience I must stress that the one fact that stood out was the dedication and kindness of all staff in the Accident & Emergency unit, from the reception staff to the cleaners, security staff, nurses and doctors. Without exception each and every one of them did what ever they could to help the people there. The faults in the system are totally down to mismanagement and poor staffing levels on the part of the hospitals and the HSE.

I arrived there at 1.00 am with a person who had taken a fall and had cut their hand quite badly. When we got there, there were 4 or 5 people ahead of us. After registering the patient was seen fairly quickly by the Triange Nurse for assessment and then the wait began. We sat there until approx 5.00 am before we were seen by a Doctor. In all that time two of the five people ahead of me left to go home. One was an American man who could not understand why the Receptionist could not give him some idea how long it would take to see a Doctor even though he had been there 4 hours at that stage. One person came in after us and was obviously very ill and was taken straight through and rightly so. Obviously injuries have to be prioritised but there should be adequate staff on to treat all patients in a reasonable time. We sat and watched the floor show that is A&E develop as the night went on. There was a homeless guy there who spent the night sneaking in to sleep in the toilet cubicle and the Security guys kept taking him back out and lo and behold a few minutes later he would appear again and the whole farce would be repeated. There was a guy who looked as if he might be a down and out wino. He had successfully been allocated a trolley in the A& E unit but kept coming out to the waiting room every 15 minutes or so to bum cigarettes from the waiting people and go outside to have a smoke. When he was finished he would come back in, ask the receptionist to buzz him back in to his trolley and then 15 minutes later would repeat the process. That surely begs the question if he could come in and out like that why was he on a trolley and why was the receptionist almost like his own personal porter buzzing him in and out all night long?. At one stage there were three administration people behind the reception desk having a chat. I am not exaggerating when I say they chatted for over an hour without any interruptions from anyone and with no work whatsoever getting done. And who can blame them. Nobody supervising them and obviously no backlog to be cleared. Isn't that what they say is one of the main flaws in the HSE. Too many administration staff and not enough medical staff. If I could work that out why can't the powers that be do the same. Finally we saw a Doctor at about 5.30 am who said that because of the damage my companion had sustained he needed to go home and come back at 9am to see a Surgeon. We left at 6.15 am and returned at 9.00 am to wait and wait again. Finally we were told an operation was needed and guess what? No bed was available and because we were heading in to a Bank Holiday weekend it would be 4 days before this operation could be performed. They could not or would not tell me if there would be long term damage because of the delay in operating so I can only pray there wont be. We left the hospital at 4pm totally shattered and exhausted. One Ward Sister had spent the previous two hours doing everything in her power to get us a bed but to no avail. She told me that's what she spends most of her day doing. I may not be a high paid politician or senior executive but I do know that any successful business or service has to be run on a supply and demand basis and this is clearly not happening in our joke of a Health Service. One common thread I noticed was that if I questioned the delay or why there would be no bed, I was always told there were other people much sicker than my companion.. I fully understand that but it does not take away from the fact that in this lovely little rich country of ours we are all entitled to treatment whether we have cut our hand or had a heart attack. We all pay our taxes and are all entitled to service when we need it. Shame on our politicians and senior executives. They should all be made spend a day or night in the real world the rest of us have to live in and then just maybe they will make the changes needed to give us the service we have earned and are entitled to.

BRA Member. Name with Editor.

# My Trip to Calcutta

By Mairead Butler

This February 13 pupils, including myself, from transition year took a trip to Calcutta, the most impoverished city in India. No one really knew what to expect, and we were all frightened at the thought of entering a different world, thousands of miles away from everything we had known.

We stopped in Heathrow and Dubai on our flights and this resulted in total journey duration of around 36 hours.

When we got off the plane in Calcutta airport, we were instantly harassed by men trying to put our bags on trolleys. If we had have accepted their offer our bags would have been whisked away and would only be returned in exchange for a large payment. When we stepped outside the airport doors hundreds of male faces greeted us.

This is the first thing you notice about Calcutta. It is a male dominated society. The women are rarely seen as they are forced to perform the domestic duties such as looking after the family or begging in the streets.

The heat was overwhelming as we made our way to the bus. It was only a short journey to the vehicle but in that time, we were bombarded with people pleading for money. They were extremely persistent and would stand in front off you begging until you felt the guilt clawing at you. However, we were told never to give them money, as they would probably be killed by people fighting to get it.

The journey to the place we were staying left us all in awe. The city is just swarming with people, men of course, milling around the streets. It is like stepping back a hundred years in time. People live in huts made from plastic sheets or tin. Thin cattle ploughed through the streets pulling loads. Children were breaking stones in an area less than five minutes outside the airport and women were forced to carry heavy loads on their heads. All daily activity is carried out on the side of the street, shaving, washing, cleaning and cooking. All of this is done as the world passes by.

In the next few days we were to see things that none of us would ever be able to erase from our minds. We visited orphanages and homes for children who had been abandoned or whose parents simply could not afford to keep them. One child we saw had a crushed hand but would not speak to us about how it had happened.

One of the most remarkable places we visited was a home for children who had become addicted to drugs or solvents. They went to this home, run by a Cork man who had lost his wife, to detoxify themselves. In a cruel reality where children cannot find any solace or love, they turn to drugs for comfort. We met a boy in there who was missing an arm and a leg. We enquired about what had happened to him. We were told that his previous occupation had been jumping onto moving trains to retrieve anything that had been left behind that could be resold. One day the boy slipped. The train ran over his right arm and leg. Not one person stopped to help him; he was left to die. Had workers from the Hope Foundation not observed this tragedy the boy would most definitely have perished. This is yet another clear example of how the Hope Foundation and other NGO'S like it are often the only source of light at the end of the tunnel.

As we travelled from each home to the next, the things we saw out of our windows appalled us. On one occasion, I glimpsed a young boy

wandering around on the streets with a mat under his arm. The sun was setting and he stopped suddenly and placed his mat on the ground. This was his home for the night. The constant harassment from beggars was relentless. A one-armed man banged on the window of the bus for about fifteen minutes. We were all very unsettled when we saw an old woman sitting in

the middle of the road. She was dressed in bare rags and her face was withered and scarred. She had fallen in the centre of the road but was so weak and injured she could not lift herself to the other side.

The slums were by far my favourite part of the trip. It gave me an insight into the real life of Calcutta. As we disembarked from the bus, the smell and heat hit us immediately. None of us could believe the size or quality of any of the houses that the people were forced to live in. The hair of the children was crawling with insects and mothers hid in the shadows of their doorways cradling sickly thin children. We entered into some of the homes where the children were educated. The room was only a few feet in length and breadth yet they looked upon it as though it was the most extravagant place in the world. The smallest gesture means so much to them and they appreciate everything they possess. The sun was beating down and the humidity of the place suffocated us. As we walked through the slums, the people stopped and stared and a few adventurous children broke the barrier and ran up to us excitedly. They hugged and kissed us and shouted 'Aunty, Aunty'. We showed how delighted we were to meet them by giving them presents we brought from Ireland.

My tip to Calcutta was one of the most unbelievable things I have ever experienced. In a city of dirty, poverty and disease lie a hidden people who are inspiring to all mankind. Despite the hardships they are forced to endure, the people of Calcutta are struggling against all odds to overcome their circumstances. You will never hear them complain or ask for a better life. You will never see them steal from you even though your money may be the difference between living and dying. These children accept their situation with dignity and pride and live their life with enthusiasm and love. If ever you are given the chance, a trip to Calcutta will change your life.

Mairead Butler, is Granddaughter of Connie Butler, Coolatree Park. Mairead attends Loreto High School, Beaufort.

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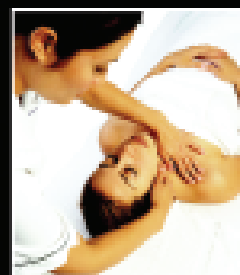
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# Buion Clothra - Beaumont Guides 75th Anniversary Celebration & Reunion



April Fools Day 1932 was the day it all began!! But it was no joke, Guiding in Dublin was underway. The first ever Buion Clothra Girl Guides walked into St Mary's in the Pro Cathedral!!

1977 saw Buion Clothra pack her bags and move out to the relatively new parish of Beaumont. 30 years later, Buion Clothra celebrated both her 75th Anniversary and 30 years in the parish. The unit has now grown to include Cygnets, Brigins, Guides and Rangers and we cater for over 140 girls.

The 75th celebrations began with mass celebrated by the new parish priest, Fr McCay, con celebrated with Fr Staunton, Fr O'Gara and blasts from the past, our old Chaplains, Fr Keogh and Fr Joe.

After Mass the guides, their families and their guests, who included past members, including some of the original guides from the Pro Cathedral headed to St Fiachra's School for food and entertainment which included a fashion show of 75 years of guiding!!! Were brown pinafore's ever in fashion??

Memorabilia from the 75 years including the company flag which dates from 1941, company log books giving accounts of guiding during the 'WWII emergency', and photographs were on display providing a nostalgic and enjoyable day for all.

Many thanks to all those leaders who gave their time and dedication over the years, without you we would not still be here today. Not many groups in the parish can say they have been here continuously since the beginning, but we didn't do it alone, to the

people of the parish and surrounding areas who have supported us in 30 years of voluntary community work and fundraising, Thank You.

Finally, to the several thousand girls who have passed through our doors over the last 75 years we hope you enjoyed your time with Buion Clothra and to the future leaders of the company we wish you good luck.

Would you like to join Beaumont Guides ?

The sections will be winding down soon for the summer break, however if you are interested in finding out about becoming a member or a leader, we will be glad to talk to you about enrolling for September.

You can contact one of the leaders on the following numbers:

Cygnets (5-6): Catherine O'Connor - 8328525  
Brigins (7-10/11): Lorraine Kirwan - 086 3281828  
Guides (10 - 17): Yvonne Nulty - 087 9565339  
Rangers (14 - 19): Yvonne Nulty - 087 9565339

## Photocall



Michelle Noone, Coolgreena Road celebrated her 21st Birthday in June



Paul Maguire and David Noone, Coolgreena Road celebrating their Graduation from Ard Scoil Rís



Congratulations to Neringa and Lloyd O'Driscoll, parents of Tia Mígle, who was Christened in Beaumont Church recently. (Granddaughter of Frank O'Driscoll, Dromawling Road)



Tanya Noonan, Cooleen Avenue celebrated her 21st Birthday in April

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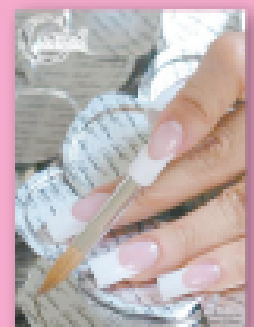
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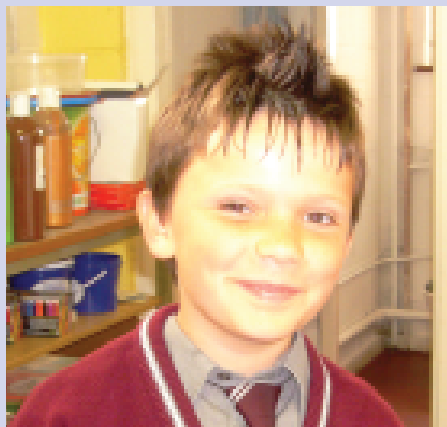
# St. Fiachra's Junior School Essay Competition



1st Prize

## **My Communion Day** **By Ellen Mannion**

On Saturday I made my first Holy Communion. I was very excited that morning. I put on my dress, tiara and veil. I felt like a princess. I put my rosary beads and prayer book in my bag. My aunties, uncles and cousins came. We were in church early. We were in the front seat. There was a huge crowd. I had to bring up flowers for the altar. The choir sang beautifully. I liked the Holy Communion. We took photographs afterwards. Then we went to the Marine Hotel in Sutton. We had a lovely meal. Afterwards we played around the hotel. We played games. I got lots of gifts and money from everybody. I felt so special. We stayed up late that night I was tired but it was one of the best days of my life. I will never forget it.



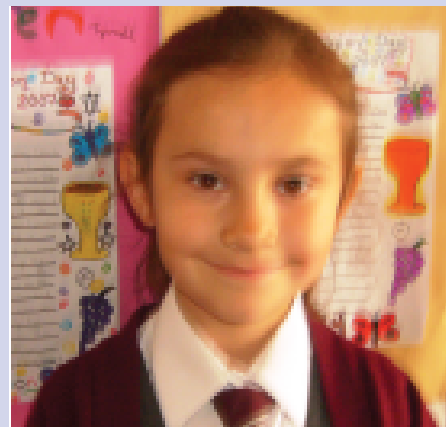
2nd Prize

## **My Communion Day** **By Eoin Farrell**

On Saturday morning 19th May 2007, it was my first holy communion. Everybody had to get up early. I got dressed and into my car. When we got there my Dad was taking photos of me. Then the Mass started. Later on, I received Holy Jesus.

After the Mass I went to a restaurant in Howth called Aqua. When we finished the Mass I played football with my brother and my cousin.

Then I went back to my house and everybody was giving me presents. Then next I got my photo taken. It was a great day.



3rd Prize

## **My Communion Day** **By Beth Langton**

My communion Mass started at 11 o'clock. I was in row 6. My Mam and Dad and my Nana were at the church. I tasted the Holy Bread. We all went up to the altar to sing. My Mam took lots of photographs of me and my friends. After the Holy Communion, I went to Dinner in Springfield Hotel. I visited my Nana's friend Martha. I enjoyed my Holy Communion on 12th May 2007.

## **Tidy Districts** **2007**

*By: Tony King*

Hi Neighbours and Friends

On behalf of Beaumont Residents Association I wish to remind you that the Tidy District Competition for 2007 has begun and it is our intention to build on last years performance.

As you well know 'Beaumont House' was a winner on its first attempt last year. Also Des Maguire's efforts on Coolgreena Road, Frank O' Driscoll's work on Drumawling Road and my own efforts on Coolatree Park all received awards.

Thanks to all who assisted by controlling litter, maintaining grass verges, planting flowers or watering flowers planted by others.

All efforts are appreciated. A little help from all adds up and we all benefit.

This year we would like to invite any new residents to come on board.

We need new blood and fresh ideas. Don't feel left out. We need volunteers to maintain the standards we have set.

Ideally a group of people on each road/area to organise a work party to do the tasks that are too much for one person on their own, so ask around, find like minded people, it can be fun in a group but it can be lonesome on your own.

I would like to invite the Mercy College Beaumont to get involved this year in the schools category.

Judging takes place through June, July and August. The awards ceremony will take place in September 2007.

**Good luck to all and happy tidying.**  
**From Tony King**



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# Noreen's News



**JUNE  
2007**

I recently met Hitha on my annual collection of the subs for the B.R.A.

Hitha is a bright happy 17-year-old girl from South India who has come to live in Beaumont. She is living with her Mum at Coolgreena Close who is nursing at Beaumont Hospital. She fines life very quite here in Ireland. She hopes to be accepted at Trinity College for a degree course in Engineering / Architecture around August sometime. She loves drawing cartoons and hopes to go along to the sports and fun day on 23rd June where she is willing to draw cartoons for the local children. She hopes to meet lots of the Beaumont Residents and get to know some of the local Irish.

Best wishes to the Beaumont Girl Guides who celebrate their 70th Anniversary this year.

Congratulations to our three winners from St. Fiachras Junior School.

Thanks to the Teachers and Mrs. Maguire for all their help and support in encouraging the children from the first communion classes to write a little essay entitled My First Communion Day. 1st prize goes to Ellen Mannion Room 20,

2nd prize Eoin Farrelly and 3rd prize Beth Langton room 18.

**A Day Trip to Carlingford Lough:** We wish to thank Sergeant Jim Murphy for organising a wonderful days trip to Carlingford Lough. The day was sunny as the coach set out with 25 seniors from Beaumont along with another 25 or so from Coolock. The coach stopped on the way at the Four Seasons Hotel for tea /coffee. After spending two hours shopping at Carlingford Lough and a little delay in looking for some lost souls, the coach made its way to The Glenside Hotel, Drogheda where they were treated to a beautiful four course meal and wine. The Entertainment was great with dancing and music provided by a band. Some folk even got up to sing. We wish to thank Gardai Stephanie and Jimmy also for all their kindness and help. Everyone had a very good day.

Sincere sympathy to Nuala Cantwell's family on her recent death. May she Rest In Peace. I was shocked when I heard the news as I did not realise that Nuala was sick. We offer our sincere sympathy to all our Residents in Beaumont who have suffered bereavement recently.

Baptisms are held at the Church of the Nativity Beaumont on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Our usual bi-monthly meeting took place on 19th April 2007 at the Pastrol Central. It was very well attended. A lively discussion took place. Burglaries are down but anti-social behaviour has its ups and downs in some areas. The H District stretches from Richmond Road taking in the west side of it all the way to the Airport. So it's a vast area for the Gardai from Santry to cover. Most daytime burglaries take place in unoccupied homes. Windows and unlocked patio doors are the most common means of entry.

**How to help prevent the Burglar gaining access to your home.**

- Secure all windows and doors.
- Use locks of a good security standard.
- Burglar alarms are obviously recommended - these should be fitted and maintained by qualified reputable persons.
- Secure sheds and garages.

- Mark all property.
- Keep photographic records where necessary.
- Do not leave loose cash at home.
- Keep cheque books and credit cards in a safe place.
- Exterior lighting (pir activated) can often discourage burglars.

If you see anything suspicious please phone the emergency no 999 or 112. The Garda Confidential ph No. 1800 666 111 can also be used to give information.

**The National Age Card shows:**

- Your name
- Your Date of Birth (must be 18years)
- Your Photograph
- Relevant Security Features
- The application form is only available from a Garda Station and it costs €10.
- You will need to bring your Birth Cert.
- One other form of ID
- Two Passport Photos.
- It will take about 6 weeks or more to receive your card.

**Renovations at Doherty's Pharmacy:** Jason and Niamh Doherty and the staff wish to sincerely thank you for putting up with the total mess due to the revamping and extension of their premises. They look forward to a new look, extended pharmacy where you will have a better variety of cosmetics and a wider range of toiletries etc. in a few weeks time. Business as usual in the meantime, with normal opening hours Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm and Saturday 9am – 6pm.

**Lough Derg:** A small island in a lake called Lough Derg is one of the most famous of Ireland's places of pilgrimage. It is situated in Donegal near the North West coast. About 35,000 pilgrims come to it each year, intent on doing penance for their sins or seeking divine intervention in their lives: relief from sickness, passing exams, meeting a life partner or the gratification of participation in an ancient form of worship of the Supreme Being. One Day Trips started last Saturday 26th May. Please enquire at any local Church for further details.

**The Retirement of the Principal of St. Fiachras:** I wish Thomas Barrett all the very best on his retirement in a few weeks time. I have personally known Mr. Barrett for approximately 26 years. I have always found him to be so helpful, approachable and accommodating. We'll all miss him.

**Alone:** Seeks volunteers; visit older people in their own homes, hospitals and nursing homes. Should you like to know more information you can contact them at ALONE, 1 Willie Bermingham Place, Kilmainham Lane, Dublin 8 Ph. 679 1032.

**The Sanctuary:** Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy established the Sanctuary in 1998. Sr. Stan saw the need for a place for people who work in the caring area where they could find peace and quiet and be nurtured. I have visited the Sanctuary myself and indeed it's a place of peace and tranquillity. There are several rooms and also lovely gardens. Sr. Stan received the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the Meteor Awards for her many years of service to society. She is the founder of Focus Ireland, one of the biggest Homeless Initiatives in Ireland and has set up Social Innovations Ireland and lots more. Here they run several courses and anyone can visit or book a course. After a hardworking week in Dublin, it really is the perfect Sanctuary, a small relaxing haven for Dubliners to enjoy. Address: The Sanctuary, Stanhope Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 6705419

**Passport for Leisure:** An exciting new discount initiative scheme for older

persons in Dublin City. Get your card by logging onto [www.passportforleisure.ie](http://www.passportforleisure.ie) or call 01 845 0090. Cultural events. Swimming. Eating out. Golf/ Pitch and Putt. Sports Hall / Gymnasiums. Shopping. Hair and Beauty. Travel.

**Children's Sports and Family Fun Fest:** Looking forward to seeing a very big turn out for the up and coming event of the summer, which will be held on the 23rd June at the Coolgreena Close Park. The Children Sports and Fun Day is an annual event for the whole family. This year we have a Bonny Baby competition. We will also have all the usual events and activities. Let's hope the weather is good.

**Life coaching** is a practice of assisting clients to determine and achieve personal goals, focusing on effecting change in a client's current and future behaviour.

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Your Coach knows that you and every human being has the potential to be, do or have whatever they want in life. They can show you how to enjoy reaching your full potential. Create a Personal and Professional Life You Love! Develop strategic actions to help you move forward.

**Best wishes** to all the students in the area sitting examinations at this time, particularly those sitting the Junior and Leaving Certificate. We hope they will achieve their goals and not get too stressed in the process. Our thoughts are also with their parents who are also under exam pressure at this time. You will be remembered in our prayers.

**A big welcome** to the many 'non nationals' and 'non homeowners' who have joined our Association this year. You are very welcome! We will be delighted to assist you in whatever way we can. Please let us know if you have any problems or issues that you feel the Association can assist with. Contact myself or any Committee Member, contact details in this Newsletter.

**BRA Membership Cards** for 2007 /2008 will be delivered to all members within the next few weeks. Current cards are valid until end of June 2007.

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# Letters to the Editor

### The end of an era!

Last month I attended a Parent/Teacher meeting for my child who is sitting Leaving Cert this summer. While sitting in one of the seemingly endless queues I started to work out some figures in my head and I realised I have attended 24 Primary School Parent/Teacher meetings and 16 Secondary School meetings. (That doesn't of course include communion or confirmation meetings, speech and drama shows, debating, parents council meetings etc etc). I will never forget the worry when I went to my very first parent/teacher meeting when my eldest was in Junior Infants and a very eager young teacher told me my child was not keeping up with others in the class because she could not keep her crayon colouring inside the lines!!!! I thought I was such a bad Mother and my child would never amount to anything. When I look at the intelligent well rounded happy adult this child has grown up to be I can laugh -but it wasn't funny at the time. Over the years I came away from some meetings as proud and happy as any parent could be and came away from others in despair wondering was the next stop; a reform school or Mountjoy. Thankfully though all the hard work by the teachers, all the worrying and sitting over them by myself and my husband to ensure homework was completed seems to have paid off and they are now well on the way to adulthood and the set of responsibilities that will bring to them. If you are still in the throes of parent/teacher meetings don't despair. They will eventually be finished with and in the meantime you will pick up valuable insights and advice from dedicated, hardworking teachers, who no matter what your children will tell you, do have their best interests at heart. So let me now say a big 'Thank You' to all the teachers in primary and secondary schools who guided my children through the maze that is school life and who gave me the strength to keep at it, even when the going got tough.

BRA Member. Name with Editor.

### BULLYING NOT ACCEPTABLE

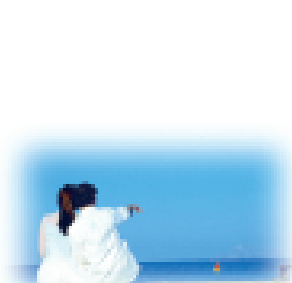
It was with great sadness and even anger that I read The Beaumont News Interview with Sheelan Youssefzadeh in the last newsletter. Here we have a bright articulate intelligent girl who is trying to get an education and a better life for herself in our country. And what is she up against? Bullying, racism and harassment. What is it about Irish people that makes us think we are superior in every way to people from anywhere outside this tiny little Island of ours. What makes young girls go out of their way to mistreat another young person? Surely they should be able to see that Sheelan is just like them, she has hopes, dreams and ambitions like they do and is as entitled as they are to live her life in a happy and caring environment. God knows life is tough enough without having to wake up every morning and face what this poor girl must be facing when she goes to school. Do these people who are doing the bullying get enjoyment from it? do they feel threatened by her intelligence and her beauty? or are they just so ignorant they have to hurt someone they perceive as being different. Surely difference is what makes the world a better place. Bullying is never acceptable as is frightening, degrading and humiliating for anyone -young or old, to be subjected to it. Furthermore, Bullying is now an offence and carries severe penalties for those found responsible for it. I would be interested to hear how the management of Mercy College tackle bullying and what policies they have in place to deal with such behaviour in their school. BRA Member. Name with Editor

### NO BULLIES IN BEAUMONT!

When I read the interview in the March issue of The Beaumont News with a Student of Mercy College, I thought for a moment I had accidentally opened a tabloid newspaper. In my opinion the interview was led by the person conducting the interview. Leading questions were asked and a spin to cause controversy was put on the answers. All children can be cruel and hurtful to one another at times and it is a sad but real part of growing up. The interview chose to have us believe that the reason this girl is being treated like this is because she is not from this country. Surely if the behaviour of the other students was as bad as this girl says it was, she would have approached her Teacher or School Principal about it. I also think that in publishing the article without a response from the Mercy College being published, a great disservice was done. I can't believe that Beaumont is the racist ghetto the article portrayed it to be. Perhaps you would consider giving some balance to the story by affording the school management an opportunity to respond -and publishing their response. BRA Member. Name with Editor

### NO RAMPS PLEASE

Regarding the letter from a concerned resident of Cooleen Avenue about 40% of residents on Cooleen Avenue not being in favour of ramps, those 40% are perfectly entitled to say they don't want ramps if that is their wish. Not everyone wants big ugly lumps of concrete all down their lovely tree lined avenue. If small children were not out unsupervised they would not be in any danger from cars going up and down Cooleen or any other road in the neighbourhood. Cooleen Avenue is an extremely narrow road and with the amount of cars parked on it there is very little chance of people speeding up and down it. I also suspect that if the Corporation came knocking tomorrow a huge number of the 60% who say they are in favour would not want the ramp placed directly outside their front door. So leave Cooleen Avenue the way it is. We have been fine the way we are for the last 50 years -we don't need ramps. BRA Member. Name with Editor



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# Whitehall Colmcille's GAA Club

By Noel Ellis

This is a very busy time of the year in the juvenile section.

Our under 14 boys' Gaelic football and hurling teams and the girls' camogie team participated recently in the Feile Na nOg tournaments.

The girls travelled out to Lucan where they acquitted themselves well, winning one of their three matches.

The footballers were based in Fingallians where they qualified for the semi-final only to lose out to our neighbours St. Vincents.

The club hosted the hurling Feile in Ellenfield and only a last minute goal by Faughs deprived Whitehall of a semi final place.

The Annual P.J. Troy Competition will be held on Saturday 30th May. This hurling competition for under 13 boys was set up to honour the memory of P.J. who was taken from us tragically at a young age. The tournament is firmly established as one of the highlights of the Juvenile GAA calendar in Dublin and the club will play host to one of the divisions.

Our under 14 hurlers will be travelling to Scotland on the weekend of 8/9/10 June where they will play a number of matches under shinty /hurling compromise rules.

Great work is taking place at taking nursery level and a feature of the past few years is the number of new volunteers who have come on board to help out with coaching. The under 8s will be travelling to Carlow on the 9th of June where they will be hosted by Eire Og and Carlow Town Hurling Club. The under 9s recently visited Cork.



Mid to late June also sees the running off of our increasingly popular and successful mini-leagues. Details will be available shortly.

At Adult level too, the club is going from strength to strength. The Ladies football team has attracted new members and the adult camogie team was re-established after a long hiatus. Great Credit is due to Ciaran and Anne Hoban for this achievement.

The senior footballers are still in the championship under the new management team led by Kevin Walter. The Adult hurlers are now back up at intermediate level and are competing well at that standard.

Recent victories for the Junior As and Bs in the championship augurs well for a successful season.

Many of our under 16's minors and adult players are busy studying for exams at the moment. Best

wishes from all the mentors and officials at the stressful time.

Congratulations to Ciaran O'Connor and Darren Kavanagh who were presented with hurlers and footballer of the year awards at a recent ceremony in St. Aidans, Secondary School.

Aidans won the Dublin Colleges U-18sB championship for the first time in November, with half the squad coming from Whitehall.

Finally the Junior and Senior Hurlers from St. Fiachras pulled off an amazing double in Parnell Park on 21st/22nd May by capturing the Division one hurling titles at Senior and Junior level for the first time. This is a fantastic achievement and caps a great season for the school as they had won the Senior Football Division One title before Christmas. All of these teams were backed by Whitehall players and backed up by some players from St. Vincents and Scoil Uí Chonail. Great credit is due to the coaching being done in the school by the teachers Cathal Ruane, Tom Ryan, Liam O'Connor, Gerry Barrett and also by Cillian O'Driscoll our GPO and Anne Hoban who looked after the camogie team.

Best wishes to Tommy Barrett who recently announced his retirement as Principal of St. Fiachra's Senior School. Tommy has always facilitated Whitehall Colmcille and the club reciprocated in any way we could.

New members of all ages are welcome to join the club at any stage. Contact details are available in the club on Collin Ave.

## Beaumont House

*Lounge/Restaurant/Off-Licence*

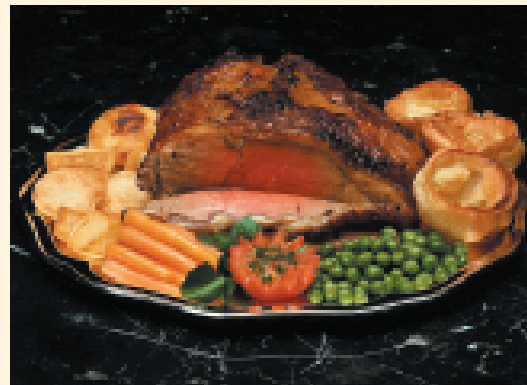
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