

Beaumont News

Volume 1 Issue 7

PRICELESS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1997

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAUMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE PLANNING LAW FIASCO

By Tom Darby

FROM time to time we read in the national newspapers about organised protests in connection with the granting of planning permission, where such permission is given against the wishes of a local community. We probably don't pay enough attention to such issues until such time as they arrive in our own locality. We have on Beaumont Road a state of affairs that should not be tolerated where the builder of the houses on the Convalescent Home land seems to be able to do anything he likes. For instance people living close to the school entrance found themselves "imprisoned" for four weeks because of trenches being opened, filled in, and opened on several occasions right in front of their houses. One householder was told he would have to leave his car on the side of the road overnight where it could be vandalised. It transpires that concrete was laid and those who did it refused to put a steel sheet across to allow access and only when the householder stated that he would drive over the concrete then the steel sheet was laid. Where were Dublin Corporation, who claim to be the public protectors, while all this was going on? Both the front of some of the houses and their front gardens have been destroyed with dust and dirt from continuous drilling. Was there a word of remorse from the builder? Certainly not. It is my view that the householders so affected should be entitled to compensation for the upsets and the damage caused. Since then things have gotten worse. You cannot

use the footpath up to the school or hospital as the builder had declared it "out of bounds". Instead you will cross the Beaumont Road at temporary traffic lights erected by the builder, then travel on the opposite side until you come to the hospital and cross back again. No such information was ever made available to the local people by either the Corporation officials or the Public Representatives. Why? No consideration was ever given to the upsets that were to be caused to the community. The general impression by most of the people we speak to is that the "Brown envelope culture" is alive and well. There is of course another ritual where a cheap house is provided "for services rendered". While not stating that either of the above are factual what has happened in Beaumont would tend to deflate one's confidence in the planning procedures.

It was music to our ears to hear the comments of Judge Kelly in the High Court in relation to a Building Contractor with regard to Health and Safety on a building site. It would be interesting to hear the views of the Health and Safety Officer with regard to the mental and physical torture that local people on Beaumont Road have had to endure just to suit a profit driven builder where money is the prime concern.



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From the Priests of the Parish



Fr. Joe Mothersill

During the summer, the priests in the Parish were changed and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and say a little about where we came from.

Our Parish Priest, Fr. Paddy Staunton, is no stranger to Beaumont, having served here as Parish Priest from 1985-'88. Fr. Paddy is a native of County Mayo. After Ordination, he worked for a number of years in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia). On his return to Ireland, he worked in Knocklyon Parish and also Whitefriar Street before being appointed to Beaumont in July '85. His term here was cut short however when he was elected Prior Provincial of the Irish Province of Carmelites in 1988. After his term of office, Fr. Paddy was appointed Prior to Terenure College before being appointed to Beaumont Parish. Among his other duties, Fr. Paddy is Chairman of the Boards of Management of St. Fiachra's Junior and Senior Schools.

Fr. Tony McKinney, is also well known by the people of Beaumont, having served here from 1991-94. A Derry man, Fr. Tony has served as a teacher in both Terenure College and Carmelite College, Moate. He was then appointed Novice Director. At the time the Carmelite Noviciate was in Kinsale. Fr. Tony has also served as Hospital Chaplain in St. James's Hospital and as Prior of our friary in Kildare Town and later Gort Mhuire Conference Centre, Ballinteer. Among his other duties, Fr. Tony is chaplain to St. Fiachra's Senior School and Spiritual Director of the Lay Carmelites and the Eucharistic Ministers.

Fr. Donal Byrne is the third member of the team. A native of County Monaghan, this is his first time serving in Beaumont Parish. Fr. Donal worked for a number of years in England both in parish ministry and as a retreat director. He has also served in Knocktoper, County Kilkenny and in Whitefriar St. More recently Fr. Donal was Chaplain to Balally Community School. Fr. Donal is Chaplain to Mercy College Beaumont, and Spiritual Director to the Readers.

My own name is Fr. Joe Mothersill. I was ordained here in Beaumont in 1986. Since my ordination I have been involved in Parish Ministry in Whitefriar St. and Knocklyon Parish. I am Chaplain to St. Fiachra's Junior School and Spiritual Director to the St. Vincent de Paul Society here in Beaumont.

On behalf of all the priests, I want to thank the people of Beaumont for your very friendly welcome. We are delighted to be here with you and look forward to working with you for many years. We hope to visit as many of the homes in the parish as we can in time but in the meantime should you wish to contact us for any reason, our address is: **The Presbytery, Montrose Park, Beaumont, Dublin 5.** That's the building just beside the Church. Our phone numbers are 8477740/8476359. Finally, a word of thanks to the Beaumont News for space in their excellent publication.

Every Blessing,

Fr. Joe

THE WAN AND WAN

By Peter Boylan

IN the early 1900's Guiseppe Cervi set up the first mobile chipper in Ireland, thus giving Dubliners their first working class menu, which quickly became as traditional as coddle, tripe and onions or pigs cheek.

Guiseppe Cervi arrived in Dublin in 1880 a penniless Italian with scarcely a word of English, having disembarked from a ship at Cobh. He walked all the way to Dublin where he got a job in Bassis Monumental Sculptures and Stoneware Yard. He saved enough money to purchase a little push-cart complete with a coal-fired cooking apparatus and set up business on the piece of waste ground in Tara Street where the Fire Station is now. He began to sell fried chip potatoes to the pub crowd and late night passers-by.

As soon as he got sufficient money saved for the fare he sent back to Italy for his young wife whom he had been compelled to leave behind. After the young couple were again united, they rented a small shop in Great Brunswick Street (now Pearse Street). The young wife helped behind the counter in the shop and generally proceeded to serve the take-away orders by pointing at the selection of friend fish with the query "uno ali quisto" "uno ali quillo" (one of this, one of that). This was soon shortened to "uno e uno" then by the Dubs to "one and one". In less than no time Dubliners in general were ordering their portion of fish and chips, as "wan and wan".

"Oh John come along for a wan and wan",

"Down by the Liffeside",

"Salt and Vinegar, Sir?"

Alas plastic packaging, deep friers, beef burgers and fast food and Chinese outlets are pushing the humble "wan an wan" off the menu. But it will always be a part of Dublin in the rare ould times .

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO OFFICIAL SPEAK

These extracts were taken from a Corporation magazine "Quaynews" I think.

We are sorry but no money has been provided in this year's estimates for this work.

We think it is a bad idea and a waste of money.

There are no plans at present for this.

Over my dead body.

I will pass on your comments to the relevant person.

I haven't a clue who deals with this.

I will contact you again after a further investigation of the matter.

I am being transferred in two weeks time.

WHAT CHANCE HAVE WE GOT?

IF IT HAS TAKEN Finian McGrath Northside community activist six months to have potholes at the entrance to Charlemont Estate repaired what chance have us poor mortals of getting the Corporation to do anything for us. Do we have to wait for six months for our requests to be processed.

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THE HOLY NIGHT

Joseph and Mary (who was expecting a baby) travelled to Bethelhem to register their names. All the Inns were full. A kind Innkeeper let Mary and Joseph sleep in their stable. The baby Jesus was born in the stable that night An Angel appeared to shepherds minding their sheep in the hills and told them a King had been born in a stable.

They went to Bethelhem and saw the baby asleep in the manger. The three wise men followed the bright Star and went to the stable where they gave gifts of gold, frankincence and myrr to the baby because they knew he was the Son of God. Every year since this story has been told to little boys and girls all over the world. Since then it has been the custom to give one another gifts. Just as the three wise men gave gifts to the baby Jesus.

THANK YOU BEAUMONT

Hello there Beaumont,

My name is Chickie Maguire and I am writing to tell you all about what being from Beaumont means to me.

I grew up in Beaumont on Drom-na-nane Park with my parents, three brothers and a sister. I started school in Our Lady of Mercy College at the age of four years in 1969. At that time it was there for Junior and Senior pupils alike. At that time it was a private school and a fee of £36 was paid. My sister and I attended, she was 5 years ahead of me there.

At one stage there were boys there although I don't remember that. We didn't have a church there at the time so we all went to Whitehall or Donnycarney Church.

Later on we attended Mass in the Mercy School Hall for many years. The residents of Beaumont collected money every week for a building fund for a new church. A lot of people out there will remember the three priests we had of that era, Fr. Ryan, Fr. Colreany and Fr. Malone.

St. Fiachra's was built in the 70's and later in 1977 the Church of the Nativity followed. At that stage I was starting secondary school and the Mercy filtered out its Junior school until finally it became Secondary level only.

I remember the great sense of pride we all felt in being a new parish within an already established community. People like Stan Dempsey and the late Derry Breen organised the local youth club and pioneer club in which we all met at weekends. We had dances and activities to occupy our spare time. In the summer Elbeau emerged which brought together kids from Elm Mount and Beaumont.

I remember the sense of being proud of being from an area where everybody knew each other and had time to stop briefly and chat before going about their daily duties. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve especially being one special night that stands out in my mind. I loved that night. Another being New Year's Eve. Everyone came out at midnight and called out to each other from across the street. There was always a sense of friendship coupled with the good nature of people.

At 17 having left school I left for Spain and returned home seven years later with my two children, Salvador and Yolanda. Sadly my marriage broke up and I decided that there was no better place in Dublin to bring up my two children than the places I knew best and loved so well.

They now at this stage have attended St. Fiachra's for the last seven years and I have no regrets. I know that they have now, some kind of understanding of what they would fondly call, "their mothers ravings" about Beaumont and the craic that I had in my youth because they can identify with all that now.

Many friends of mine were adopted just like myself and over the years with the full support of my parents and family I have searched on and off for my birthmother. Only recently Have I reached the end of my search and finally met my birthmother 10 weeks ago. The story has a happy ending for everyone because my parents, kids and friends alike have met her and now other friends from the area have told me that they or their partners, on the tail of my success, have set the ball rolling and now are in search of their birthright too.

I wish them all the best of luck and hope that they are happy with the final result of their quest.

To finish off, the wheel has truly gone full circle for me. Because last year I started work in the Mercy College on a FAS Scheme. There are many teachers there that once taught me and the day that I started there I really felt like I had come home to stay all over again. I'm sure they thought that their past had come back to haunt them! So, I must say that being from an area like Beaumont fills me with fond memories. I have seen lots of changes in the past and right now as we speak its on the move and set for change once more. But like people an area needs nurturing in order to grow and mature at the same time.

I only hope that when my children reach my age that they will remember St. Fiachra's and Beaumont with happy hearts, like mine. Thank you Beaumont. -Chickie Maguire

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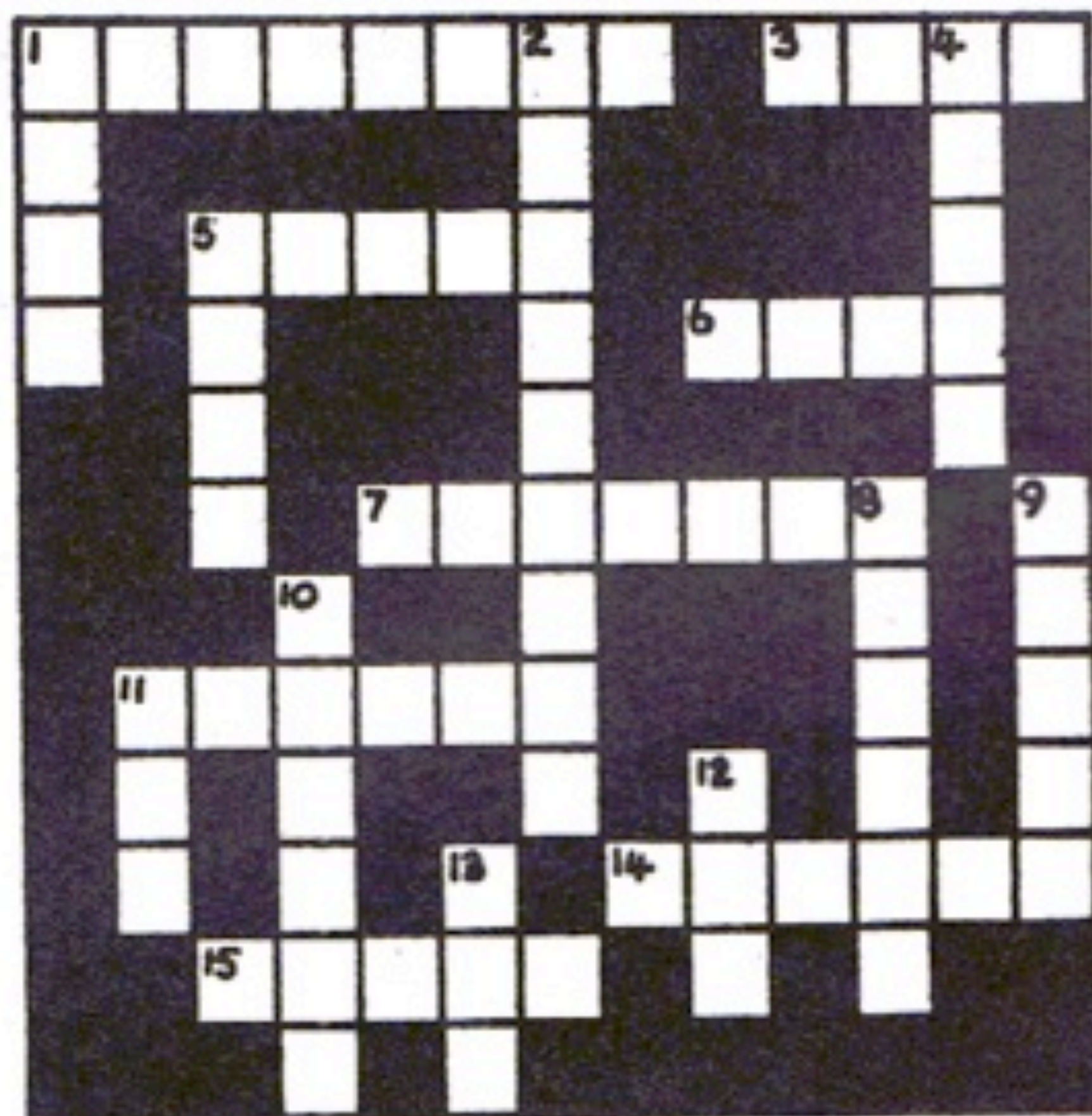
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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

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What particular kind of creature is each of the names below connected with?

Clues Across - Father Christmas. Little Red Riding Hood. Jonah. Leda. Grey Owl. Long John Silver. Elijah. Dick Turpin.

Clues Down - The Pied Piper. Toomai. Daniel. Romulus and Remus. Robert Bruce. Goldilocks. St. George. Tom the Piper's Son. Dick Whittington. Balaam.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Richard Phillips our regular Crossword compiler, who is unwell at the moment. We wish him a speedy recovery. We have held over his regular crossword until next issue.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across - 1 Moor. 3 Confirms. 9 Noted. 10 Jugular. 11 Lefty. 12 Tote. 14 Scheme. 16 Troops. 18 Owed. 19 Adviser. 22 Earnest. 23 Alien. 24 Industry. 25 Isle.

Down - 1 Mona Lisa. 2 Out of the world. 4 Object. 4 Fighter. 6 Relationships. 7 Serf. 8 Idly. 13 Estrange. 15 Maddens. 17 Easter. 20 Veal. 21 Yeti.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our Crossword winners from our last issue are:

John Dolan, Coolatree Park. Membership No. 1626.
S. Bolster, Beaumont Road, Membership No. 1136.
Derek Doyle, Coolrua Drive. Membership No. 1964.

Our Quiz winner for the last newsletter was Ann St. Ledger, 24 Coolatree Park who got 19 correct in the A.I.B. Quiz.

COMPETITIONS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ONLY

Name and address on a separate sheet of paper please with membership no.

CLOSING DATE JANUARY 11TH 1998

A.I.B. XMAS QUIZ

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- At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?
(a) Ivy (b) Yew (c) Holly (d) Mistletoe.
- Believe it or not, one Indiana town is called:
(a) Christmasville (b) Wenceslas (c) Noel (d) Santa Claus.
- When distributing gifts in Holland, St. Nicholas is accompanied by: His wife Lucy (b) His servant, Black Peter (c) Thirteen elves (d) St. Stephen
- Which name does NOT belong to one of Santa's reindeer? (a) Comet (b) Princer (c) Blitzen (d) Klaxon.
- Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:
(a) 1944 (b) 1895 (c) 1976 (d) 1492
- Who was the author of A Christmas Carol?
(a) Mark Twain (b) Charles Dickens (c) Hans Christian Andersen (d) Thomas M. Sawyer.
- Which popular Christmas song was actually first written for Thanksgiving? (a) Away in a Manger. (b) Frosty the Snowman. (c) Jingle Bells (d) Joy to the World.
- A favourite Christmas story is Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in . . . (a) Maryland (b) Boarding School (c) Wales (d) China.
- The first instrument on which the carol "Silent Night" was played was: (a) A harp (b) A pipe organ (c) A guitar (d) A kazoo.

ONLY SEVEN CORRECT ANSWERS NEEDED TO ENTER

A.I.B. QUIZ SOLUTION

1969 NAFM on the M. 1969 Neil Armstrong first man on the moon. The CW 90. The crack was 90.
The 2 G of V. The 2 Gentlemen of Verona. 3C on the DC of A. 3 Castles on the Dublin Coat of Arms.
N11 D to W. N11 Dublin to Wexford.
2 WDM a R. 2 Wrongs Don't Make a Right.
221 BBSSHH. 221 Basement Baker Street Sherlock Holme's House. B 7. Blakes Seven.
0890 IIK. 08/90 Iraq invades Kuwait. The 10C. The 10 Commandments. 1 F the R. 1 For the Road.
2 S to ES. Two Sides to Every Story.
21 S in 1 G. 21 Shillings in 1 Guinea.
1 FS. 1 For Sorrow. 2 FJ. 2 For Joy. 3 F a G. 3 For a Girl.
4 F a B. 4 For a Boy. 4 P in I. 4 Provinces in Ireland. The 7 P of W. The 7 Pearls of Wisdom.
The 7 Y I. The 7 Year Itch.

SOLUTION TO JUST FOR FUN QUIZ

Amiens Street was The Strand. Back Lane was Roshel Street. Camden Street was St. Kevin's Port. Dame Street was Tengmouth Street. Engine Alley was Indian Alley. Foley Street was Montgomery Street. Haddington Road was Cottage Terrace. Infirmary Road was Aberdeen Street. Little Green Street was Bradogue Lane. Lower Baggot Street was Gallows Road.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH by Gerry Hiney

Area Co-ordinator Neighbourhood Watch

AS you are aware the crimes of burglary in the neighbourhood are still evident. Crime prevention is your business too!

What you should know about burglaries.

Most day-times burglaries take place in unoccupied homes. Windows are the means of entry in most domestic cases. Many occur via unlocked doors and windows.

HOW TO PREVENT THEM.

Become Security conscious.

Secure all windows.

Secure all doors.

Use locks of recommended standards.

Leave lights on at night.

Secure sheds and garages.

Secure all tools and ladders.

Don't advertise your absence.

Don't let letters or milk build-up.

Don't leave lights on during the day.

Don't leave notes for delivery men.

Don't leave blinds down in the daytime.

Don't leave loose cash at home.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ACT

Ring your local Gardai (Santry, Public Office 842 7555, Clontarf 833 6182) if you see anything suspicious.

Note the description of any suspect, age, height, clothes, etc.

Note the registration number and particulars of any vehicles.

BUT REMEMBER IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999.

SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY CHECK LIST

(1) Lock all your doors and windows. Lock all your outside doors, locks must be strong and secure.

(2) Ask for identification

Never let a stranger in without checking for his-her identification.

Be careful not to be taken in by a uniform.

(3) Don't leave the thief a key.

A thief loves to find a key hidden under mats, flower pots, etc. Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbour.

(4) Close your curtains

Close your curtains at dusk so thieves can't see in.

(5) Don't leave money around.

Especially in obvious places.

(6) Friends and Neighbours

Good neighbours help each other.

Consider having an alarm fitted. Discounts are available for certain age groups.

The Garda patrols have been upped in the Beaumont area in the past months, but we as neighbours must do our part. You will help the Gardai, help yourself and make Beaumont a better and safer place for all of us to live.

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Garda Clancy Column



This month I conducted an interview with 'Tosh' Lavery, the Sgt. in charge of the Garda Underwater Unit based at Santry Garda Station, following the tragic events that led to the rescue of three persons and the recovery of two bodies from the sea at Belderrig, Co. Mayo on the 26/10/97. Tosh explains, "The Garda Underwater Unit works on a 24 hours call system channeled through the operations section at Garda Headquarters. Accordingly the units work is unpredictable and members must be prepared to move at a moments notice. The Unit has evolved from a private club into a sophisticated police unit equipped to deal with the demands of contemporary criminal activity. Tosh stresses that the primary test is not rescue but rather evidence and recovery. Given the hazardous nature of many of the units missions, rigorous safety protocols are imperative. Beyond the physical demands, the nature of the job places a psychological burden on members and they have to remain detached and immune to the realities of their search. There is absolutely no margin for error. Excellent equipment, training and leadership have earned the unit not only a perfect safety record, but also an unusually high mission success and for good reason - it is a unit that has it all - highly talented and dedicated members, up to date equipment and outstanding support at management level.

"In my twenty three years in the unit I have been involved in many famous operation and witnessed many dramatic changes in the operations equipment and training of the unit." I asked Tosh about the incident at Belderrig, Co. Mayo. "The highly publicised incident at Belderrig generated an enormous amount of goodwill. The recovery of the two bodies has allowed their families to put their suffering to rest. During the operation, the five members of my team displayed exceptional courage and heroism involving risk to their lives. This was not a daring operation but a rescue and recovery mission carried out in horrendous conditions. There was none prouder than I in the manner in which the unit handled this crisis situation." Tosh is reluctant to single out any of the members of the unit involved in rescue for praise as this was a "team effort".

I asked Tosh what it takes, to become a member of his team. "The single most important requirement in training and while on duty is a clean bill of health. Each member is obliged to maintain their personal fitness. Some operations involve searches of two to three weeks where a diver would be working in the water each day. You are living away from home with continuous dives until the completion of the operation. The selection process is very strict. Applicants must be volunteers, strong swimmers, have passed a recognised medical examination for divers and a designated divers aptitude test." Tosh is emphatic about maintaining fitness and is a competitive cyclist at national level himself. Tosh explains that the unit has expanded its services in response to the greater demands put on the Gardai over the last 30 years. "The unit performs extensive security operations which involve searches in connection with the safety of VIPs, the prevention of attacks on buildings or property and general searches. As such, members often find themselves patrolling underground sewerage networks to secure Government buildings during European or international assemblies."

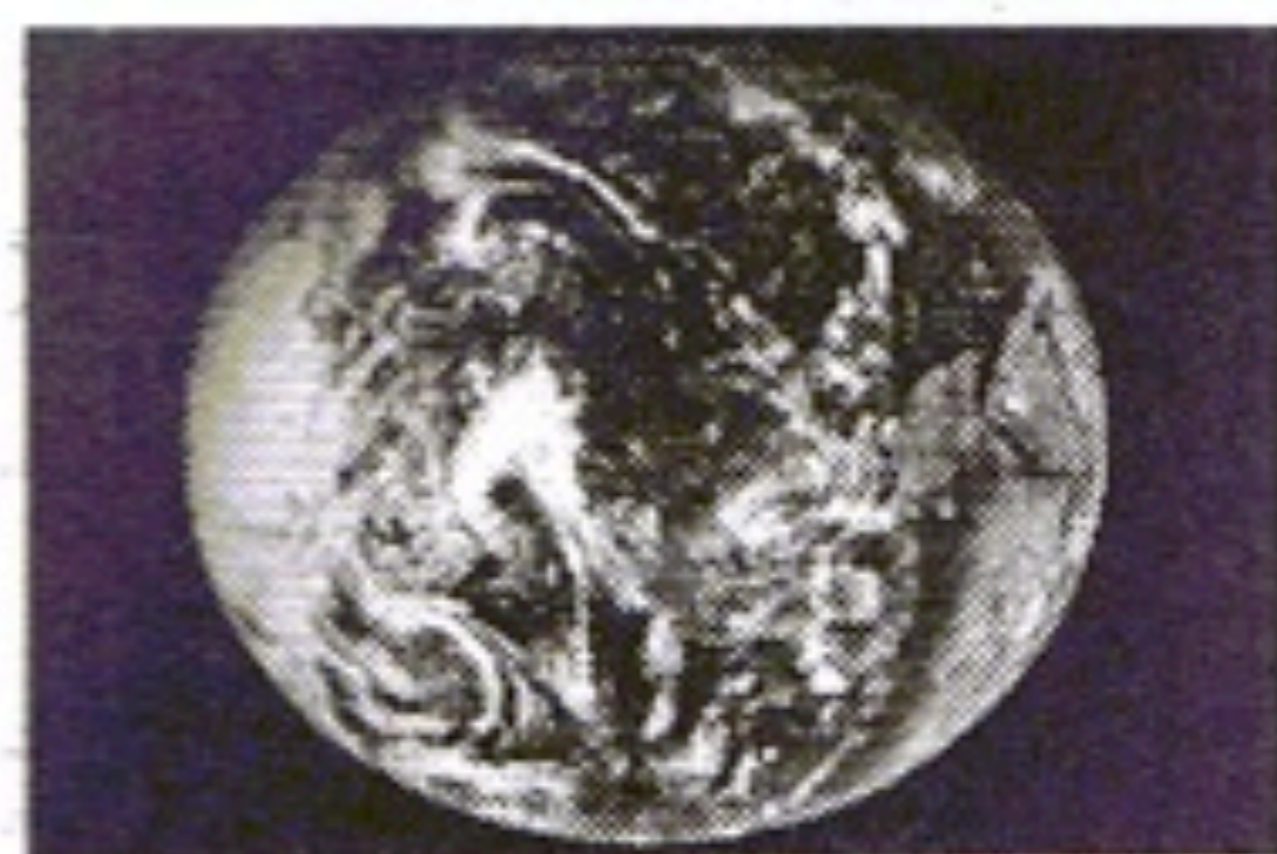
Tosh Lavery joined the Gardai in 1972 and has spent 23 of his 25 years with the underwater unit. Tosh reminisces "In 1977, the Dublin Bay was beautiful for diving, with clean waters, now it is desperate as sewerage has been pumped into the area destroying the visibility and killing natural vegetation. In comparison, the west coast of Ireland is wonderful. The conditions of our inland water routes vary. Despite the claim that the Liffey is filthy, the visability is clear when diving. The cleanest place would be under O'Connell Bridge. In my opinion, the Lees is the dirtiest river, the sewerage has ruined the water. The Suir in Waterford is the most difficult to search due to the silt and the muck."

Finally, Tosh reflects on the recovery of the body of the diver at Belderrig and another diver the previous July in Dublin Bay. "It is not an easy task as the unit had to bring fully-kitted divers up to the surface. It was very difficult for all divers involved having to recover a fellow diver from the seabed. - Until next month., Brendan.

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Letters to the Editor

Beaumont

Views

*To have a letter published
the Editor must have the
authors name, not
necessarily for publication*

DEAR SIR - Reading back over old issues of Beaumont News it strikes me that the Committee and Chairman appear to be engaging in quite a bit of letter writing to Mrs. Mary King and the old Beaumont Residents Association.

As a fully paid up member of the current Residents Association may I ask why this is? It appears to me that as a committee you are doing trojan work on behalf of the people of Beaumont so why do you appear to need the help or approval of Mrs. King etc.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Please see Views of the Chairman on back page .

Dear Sir - Congratulations to you and your colleagues for all the excellent work you are doing on our behalf, never before have there been so many threats to our quality of life, and without people like yourselves things would indeed be very black.

I have two areas of concern which I would like to mention to you. The first is the amount of aircraft routed our way, both take offs and landings, with the accompanying noise, perhaps a representation on our behalf could be made to Aer Rianta/Irish Aviation Authority, and the other is the amount of "rat running" on our streets.

In my humble opinion the more intractable of my two gripes is the aircraft situation, but I have some suggestions re the traffic.

1. No access to Coolgreena Road from Beaumont Road (I realise this is more than likely a non runner, but it is the watertight way of stopping the "rat runners")
2. No right turn from Beaumont Road to Coolgreena Road (perhaps the "Corpo" might countenance this, it would reduce the amount of "rat runners" by 50% at a stroke).
3. Ramp Coolatree Park, Coolrua Drive, Cooleen Avenue, with more ramps on Coolgreena Road.
4. All the first three mentioned would have to be done in tandem, as any street/streets which remained unramped, would be swamped with the rat runners who would avoid any street/streets that agreed to be ramped.

In finishing I would like to say that on occasions my street is the host to anything up to 30 "rat runners" an hour, so going on the theory that Coolatree Park and Cooleen Avenue have the same volume, something approaching 100 cars an hour must traverse Coolgreena Road, as this is both their entry and exit route. People on Coolgreena Road are subjected to an appalling level of traffic, and have my sympathy. I reckon it's getting to the stage where a peaceful and lawful picket would be in order!

NAME AND ADDRESS WITH EDITOR

P.S. - We in this area need to wise up to the increased number of aircraft overflying our homes, as it is potentially the most serious threat we face to the quality of life in our area.

EDITOR - Let your views be known. What do you think about these issues?

A GUIDE TO TOY SAFETY

When you buy a toy you want it to give joy and pleasure, and in recent years toys have had their safety considerably improved to everyone's benefit. The CE mark on a toy is an assurance that the toy is safe, bearing in mind the normal behaviour of children and, of course, that the toy is used as intended. This means, for instance, that a chemistry set suitable for a 10-year-old should not be put into the hands of a 3-year-old!

So when you got out to buy a toy, look out for the CE safety standard mark. All toys on sale (or given away free) from February 1990 (but not those already on sale before this date), must carry the CE mark. The mark is an assurance that the toy complies with the relevant Irish and European standards of safety in design. So if you're looking for a toy that's safe, look for the CE mark. Of course safety standards, however strict, can't guarantee the safe use of toys. That's where commonsense on the part of the buyer and the user comes into play. You can play your part by carefully examining each toy you give a child, and by bearing in mind that a gift given to an older child can sometimes prove lethal when in the hands of a small child. Where toys are not suitable for use by children under the age of 3 years, this may be stated on the toy or on the container in which it is sold. Where a 'minimum age' warning is given, it should be heeded. A 'plaything', which is not covered by the CE safety regulations, includes items such as sports equipment, metal pointed darts, 'toy' steam engines, fashion jewellery for children, slings and catapults, and other such specialised equipment. Where possible these 'playthings' should be used by children old enough to understand their inherent dangers and if possible supervised by an adult. If you come across a toy which seems unsafe and which you feel does not meet the Standard, don't buy it. Instead, let the Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs know about this toy. Ph.: 01-402 5555.

THE MIRACLE OF THE POINSETTIA

An ancient Mexican legend tells of a small peasant girl who wanted to take a gift to Jesus at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. She had no gift to take so angels appeared to her and told her to pick some weeds and take them into the church.

She entered the Church and was immediately laughed at by everyone inside. Suddenly the top leaves burst into a flame of Scarlet. The people fell to their knees while the little girl proudly offered her gift to the crib.

AWAY IN A MANGER

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The Little Lord Jesus laid down His Sweet Head,
The Stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The Little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,. Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is night.*

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Beaumont Noticeboard

CONGRATULATIONS to Fionnula O'Toole for winning 2nd Prize in the 14-17 year-old age group in the Donnycarney Credit Union Art Competition.

THE LORCAN/BEAUMONT ACTIVE AGE GROUP had a five day break in Killarney in October, a very enjoyable time was had by everyone and the weather was very good.

It really went great. Unfortunately one of our members, Joe Cantwell, collapsed and died on the third day of the break in Killarney. Joe really knew how to enjoy himself, and I think he died a very happy man. We all extend our deepest sympathy to Nuala and their family, we will miss Joe, we always enjoyed his company, he had a great sense of humour. May he Rest in Peace. - Jean Swan.

THE DEATH took place on November 14th, 1997 of retired Garda Sergeant Tom Callanan of Beaumont Crescent. Tom was presented with the Forces highest award for bravery, The Scott Gold Medal, for his intervention in an armed bank raid on the Swords Road in 1977. We the committee on behalf of the residents would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his family and relatives. Tom will be missed by one and all, not least the children of Beaumont Crescent, to whom he was not known as Mr. Callanan but as Tom.

ON THE 4th of November a coffee morning was held by Peggy Fallon. It raised over £1,000, this included the Active Retirement (Lorcan & Beaumont) club, who raised funds continually for St. Francis Hospice and the Heart Foundation.

APOLOGIES TO Mary and John Tuohy, Coolatree Park for error in last issue, it was a beautiful baby girl born and not a boy as stated.

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The Chairman's Column



CHRISTMAS MANIA is in full swing. Shopping queues, Santa queues, traffic jams and Christmas Parties are the order of the day (and night) all around the city. There are more and bigger shops doing more and more business. This can only be the result of people having and spending greater amounts of money. Its an exciting time, the 'Celtic Tiger' is roaring ahead at an incredible pace and long may it keep going.

I'm sure many of you have already experienced some Christmas Parties this year and probably a few more await you over the next few weeks. The Christmas 'Night-Out' from the workplace, Club, with neighbours, family etc., still holds its attractions year after year. Despite the usual few complainers making their perennial promise 'never to attend the party again' - the same individuals never fail to turn up year after year.

A big damper for most Christmas revelers is the 2 to 3 hour wait, late at night in the bitter cold and rain for the elusive Taxi home. The Taxi service in Dublin City is stuck in a 'time-warp' and the Corporation appears to be unable to drag the Taxi service into the real world, where 'demand' should govern the number of Taxi licences - not the licence holders. The shortage of Taxis, together with the almost non existent late night public transport, makes partying - less enjoyable and sometimes more hazardous that it would otherwise be.

MARY KING! Who is she? Why are you spending so much time and energy negotiating with her? These are the questions I was asked verbally and by letter over the last few weeks. A typical letter is published in this issue. Our 'Mission Statement' clearly states that we shall endeavour to achieve consensus in everything we do. I have gone to the end of the road with Mary King in search of consensus, peace and reconciliation.

Mary King and her associates (according to very well placed sources) should be in possession of more than £6,000, which rightfully belongs to the people of Beaumont. The questions posed by many residents are; Where is the money? Does the money still exist? And if so, what does Mary King intend doing with it? Why does Mary King behave in such a manner? Our Committee's invitation to Mary King and her associates to join our committee, is still open. In this season of 'good will' I hope and pray they will accept.

A SPECIAL MEETING was held (at our request) regarding the housing development, in the Artane/Beaumont Recreation Centre on October 29th last. All interested parties were invited. Beaumont residents were represented by Sean Dooley, Tom Darby, Noreen Maher, Peter Boylan and myself. The developers (Castlethorn Construction) were represented by Hugh O'Neill. The Gardai were represented by Brendan Clancy and public representatives Sean Haughey, T.D., Ivor Callely T.D. and Derek McDowell were also in attendance. Notable by their absence, were Dublin Corporation

representatives. We invited a representative from Planning/Building Control and Traffic Departments.

The following main points were agreed:

- i) A formal communications link be established between Beaumont Residents Association) B.R.A. and Castlethorn Construction. Castlethorn Construction to provide B.R.A. with a schedule/programme of works on a weekly basis - particularly where the works would impact directly on the residents.
- ii) Castlethorn Construction to communicate and liaise directly with residents whose houses are directly affected by the works.

The matter of compensation for the residents whose houses are damaged by dust, dirt and water was raised but not agreed. Castlethorn to consider our request in this regard.

The true intent and spirit of our agreement appears not to be taken on board by Castlethorn. The only action subsequent to our meeting was a single phone call to our Secretary Barry Doyle advising him that work along Beaumont Road would continue for a few weeks.

THE NON ATTENDANCE of Corporation representatives at our meeting is most disturbing. It typifies the Corporations attitude towards the residents of Beaumont over the recent past. These faceless officials will not raise their heads above the Corporation "Red Tape" and are quite content to wander around in their own mire of bureaucratic inertia. Observes who study closely these species, tell me that many are attracted to brown paperbags like a trout to mayflies.

I WELCOME Fr. Joe Mothersill as a new contributor to 'Beaumont News'. I expect he will keep us informed of religious developments in Beaumont

A NUMBER OF LETTERS and Phone calls from residents over the last few weeks, complain about the adverse effects the construction work is having on their children attending the Mercy College. It appears that the students have to endure almost constant noise from construction machines. This noise is upsetting - particularly for exam year students and is not conducive to getting the desired results next summer.

All of the communications had one common and ominous factor - they did not want their names revealed, for fear of their children being victimised. I am truly shocked, that parents have this fear - be it perceived or actual. In an case, it would appear that the school management needs to improve its communication with parents.

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL'S 10th Birthday Celebration was a great success. I had the pleasure of attending the Big Night in the 'Big Top' marquee erected in the grounds of the hospital. The plentiful supply of food, drinks, good music and dancing assured a great night was had by a capacity crowd. Many thanks to Sheila Maguire and her associates.

TWO MEETINGS were held over the last few weeks with the management of St. Paul's Special School regarding the access via Coolgreena Road.

Agreement has been reached in principle to convert the existing vehicular entrance to a controlled pedestrian entrance.

I WISH YOU all a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.