

THE ARMS OF BRAY



As is customary in the case of Municipal Armorial Bearings, the arms of Bray are devised to suggest topographical features and to commemorate local history.

In the shield, the chevron "rompu" - the central piece dividing the field in two - represents the bridge over the Dargle river which separates Little Bray from Bray. On one side above the chevron is a bell, which represents the ruined church of considerable antiquity known as Raheenacuig, at Bray Head. On the other side is a lion, taken from the arms of the O'Tooles, a family which had a castle at Powerscourt and which has been prominent in the Bray district since early times. On the centre of the chevron is a martlet, or heraldic raven, which signifies the long and close association of the family of Brabazon, Earls of Meath, with the civic life of Bray. In the lower part of the shield is a mermaid, derived from the arms of O'Byrne, another family which is closely associated with Bray and which took a very active part in the wars of the sixteenth century.

The motto "Féile agus Fáilte" means "Hospitality and Welcome".

IRIS
CUMANN
STAIRÉ
BRÍ CUALANN



JOURNAL
of the
BRAY CUALANN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**JOURNAL OF
THE BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2001

Celebrating 25 years of promoting Local History

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The work of local historians is often undervalued. Here, however, in the rich and varied contributions to this Journal the readers will find much that seizes upon the imagination. Above all they will become aware of that deep love of place which so marks our literature and history. Ray Cranley's "Memoirs of Ballywaltrim" is, among others, a splendid example of this. We salute all the writers for telling us more about our beloved Bray.

Local history has a special importance in our town where so much of our heritage is being destroyed. All may yet be well — a new sense of our history, of the importance of quality of life is moving people. W. B. Yeats knew well the value of the local thing:

"The history of a people lies not in parliaments or battlefields but in what the people say on high days and low days and how they farm and quarrel and go on pilgrimage".

Every care has been taken to render this volume accurate and trustworthy. But it is the lot of all human beings — even of editors of journals, who, of all men, should be most careful — to err. In this busy age, too, changes take place, in both town and country, with marvellous rapidity, and thwart at times the efforts of the most painstaking writers. Should any of our readers discover errors, either of omission or commission, they should promptly inform our Society, such communications will be thankfully acknowledged and the inaccuracies rectified.

Our thanks are due to Cllr. Noel Keyes, Chairman, Bray Heritage Centre, Helita Typeset Ltd. (Des & Ita McGarry), The Central Press (Aidan Flynn), and to all our members and friends who contributed articles and photographs. A special thanks to Vincent and Marka O'Rourke for the splendid cover picture of Bray Promenade 1999.

Material for future publication is most welcome and should be addressed to the Secretary, Bray Cualann Historical Society, Bray.

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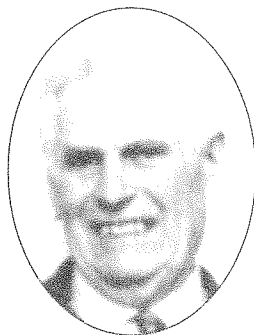
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Christy Brien



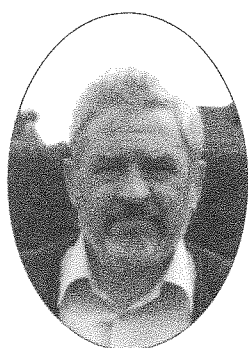
Tom Sutton



Joe Loughman



Bob Smyth



Peter Tynan O'Mahony

FROM WHENCE WE CAME

25 YEARS ON . .

COLM MacCORMACK – *Chairperson Bray Cualann Historical Society*

THE foundation of the Cualann Historical Society 25 years ago brought together a variety of people from Bray, and its surroundings, who shared a common interest in the history of Bray, North Wicklow, its people, and customs. The Society was born at a public meeting in the Mellifont Hotel, which was called to try and stop the closure of St. Paul's Church as a place of worship, and its planned use as an industrial workshop. Whilst it was not possible to reverse the decision by the Church of Ireland authorities, it did however create an awareness, and understanding, by the community at large, of the historic nature of this church, and that such places could be put at risk, by decisions made externally without any interest in the town, or history.

It was clear at this meeting, that there were many people in the town who had a great desire to learn local history, and there were others who had a great deal of knowledge to impart. The enthusiasm of the gathering was both exciting, and stimulating, for those who had so long espoused the concept of local history with community involvement. The proposal to form a society to promote this was unanimous; and so the Cualann Historical Society was established.

To organise, run, and maintain a society such as this, required enthusiasm, dedication, and leadership. Such qualities were graciously, and freely, provided by quite a number of people, some of whom have now sadly passed on. We are all indebted to them, and the people of Bray should remember them for their dedication, and application, to the cause of recording, and remembering the past. This was either provided directly by research, or exploration, or else by providing the support necessary to enable such work to be done. Remembering some of these deceased friends and colleagues brings to mind many of the highlights of the Society's activities with which they were associated.

Prior to the foundation of the Cualann Historical Society, the cause, recording, and popularising of local history in Bray, was primarily in the hands of Christy Brien. In this he was ably supported and assisted by Joe Loughman. These two men entirely on their own, gathered information on local history and folklore, collected memorabilia, and then generously gave their time to share it all, with groups or interested individuals, around the town, and the countryside.

With the foundation of the Society, both men formed the nucleus around which the Society grew. Christy had a vast knowledge of Bray's local history, and his research was unending, all of which he was always enthusiastic in sharing with others. He became our first chairman, and did so much to give the new Society the direction, focus, and foundation in local history which it required. The Society under both his and Joe Loughman's guidance, quickly launched into a programme involving a series of lectures each month through the winter, with educational and familiarisation walks, and visits, to places of historic interest in the summer.

Joe not only knew his history, but also knew the location of every historic site in Wicklow. When combined with the fact that he also seemed to know every man woman and child in North Wicklow, he was instrumental in opening gates, records, and minds, to gain access to a fund of local history in all its various forms. He was everyone's friend.

Joe was also a collector, and loved to produce an object of historical interest at a meeting, to talk about what it was, where it was found, and how it fitted in with the past. He was instrumental, in creating the idea of a museum / heritage centre for the town. His ambition was to hold and display such objects for both the old to remember, and the young to understand and learn.

When the Council Chamber of the town Hall became vacant, Joe persuaded the councillors, and officials, of the value to the culture of the town, that a heritage centre in the Council Chamber would be; and so the original Heritage Centre was born. Joe motivated both Bray U.D.C. and the Society in setting this up, and the Heritage Centre became a place to visit, and an important part of the cultural and educational scene in the town.

The setting up of the Heritage Centre involved a lot of hard work and commitment by many people, not only in creating, and setting up the displays, but also in giving time to voluntarily man the door, and mind the show. Tom Sutton who was one of the founding committee, and later chairman of the society, did enormous work in the physical setting up of the exhibition areas and displays. His skills and craftsmanship were of enormous benefit to the whole project, apart from doing the simpler jobs like manning the door in his free time. Tom at committee meetings was always the rock of sense, who helped guide the committee with his fundamental, and practical, views on all matters.

The special exhibitions which were put on from time to time, and the research into various items in the permanent display, owed a great deal to Peter Tynan O'Mahony. His enthusiasm, knowledge, and precise thinking were of enormous benefit in getting things right. His dedication, and his generosity in the time he gave to the Heritage Centre as honorary curator, were invaluable to the Centre, and the Society. Peter was also the supervisor of the Genealogical Project which the Society carried out in conjunction with F.A.S.. This project operated by a group of young people, involved the

translation of church records (up to the year 1900) onto a card index system. This index system was intended to facilitate genealogical traces in relation to people from the town of Bray. All the churches in the town co-operated with the Society on this project, and their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Another person, who gave invaluable help to the Society was Bob Smyth. Bob died tragically doing what he loved best while giving a talk to the Society on the LDF. He had been an active member of the committee for many years, and had always been involved in the developing, helping, and organising arrangements and events.

May their memory live on, and may their commitment and generosity in sharing, and imparting, their knowledge of the past to their fellow townspeople in this mortal life, earn them the joy and eternal peace, to which they are entitled in the next.

CUSTOMER'S BILL FROM THE PAST — 1960

CUSTOMER'S BILL	
ROYAL HOTEL BRAY	
IRELAND	
6 whiskey	13/6
3 Stouts	3/6
1 gin Tonic	3/0
1 Lager	1/9
1 Ale	1/8
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE 14/3/5	
076282	WAITER.....
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IMAGES OF BRAY

K. MARY DAVIES

Certain pictures of Bray, W.H. Bartlett's view of Bray Bridge in 1842, for instance (Figure 1), or the photographs from the Lawrence collection, have been reproduced many times over the years and are very well-known. There are other much less familiar views, though, that have much to tell us about how Bray looked at different times in its long history. Here are a series of little known views, spanning a hundred and thirty years from the 1730s to the 1860s — a period during which Bray changed out of all recognition from a small one-street market town to a bustling seaside resort.

One of the earliest views of Bray — probably, indeed, the earliest — is a watercolour 'View of the village of Bray' painted by Letitia Bushe in 1736 (Figure 2). This is taken from a view point along Seapoint Road, close to Bartlett's view point a hundred years later. Like Bartlett's view it shows Bray Bridge, the Church of Ireland Church (later named St Paul's), the corn mill, houses on both banks of the river and the hills of south county Dublin in the distance. The bridge is not the same one as the bridge in Bartlett's view, although with its four arches it looks very similar. Letitia Bushe's bridge is the original one, the first ever bridge across the Dargle, built in the 1660s — having a bridge on this site, where it replaced a dangerous ford, was crucial to travel between Bray and Dublin. This first bridge collapsed in a storm in 1741 and was subsequently rebuilt. Like the later one, it sloped up steeply towards Bray from the low-lying flood plain of the river, and was probably just as difficult for horse-drawn carts.

Bushe shows a few houses on the Little Bray side, together with a high wall with its impressive pillared gateway reached through a neatly arranged circle of ornamental trees. A small one-horse vehicle is approaching the entrance, which looks as though it leads to a large house. Which house it might be is unclear; the entrance is not identifiable on John Rocque's map of County Dublin in 1760 and the earliest reference to nearby Bolton Hill (now Ravenswell Convent) is 1770. The lands were already called Bolton's Park, however, and there may well be a connection with the wall and gate. There are cattle grazing on the common land by the river and the man on horseback leading another horse was probably watering his animals — much later there was a recognised watering place at this side of the bridge.

Bray in the 1730s was still a very small place, not much more than a village,

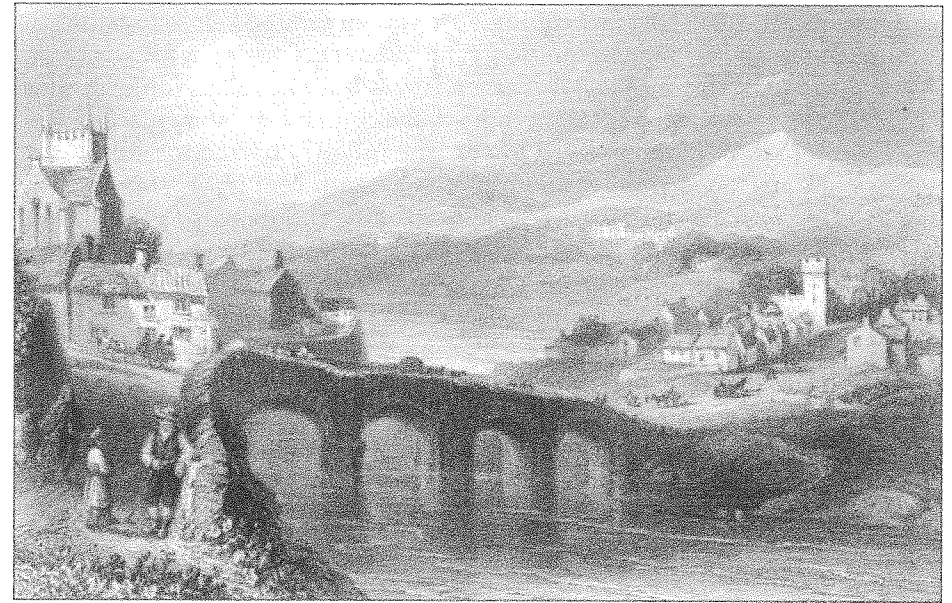


Figure 1 W.H. Bartlett's view of Bray Bridge, 1842

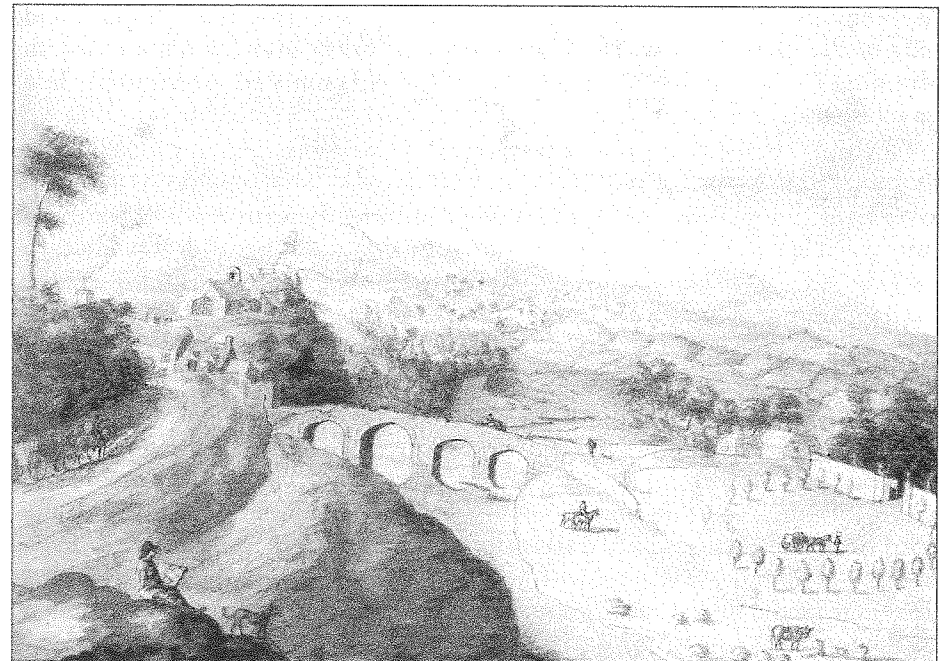


Figure 2 Letitia Bushe's watercolour of Bray in 1736

and the three most important buildings are shown grouped close together. St Paul's Church is a rectangular building with a small bell tower at the west end; it may have looked much as it did when it was built in 1609. Not long after Letitia Bushe's painting, a spire was added; the church was later enlarged and the spire replaced by the present tower. The infantry barracks, built in the 1690s and garrisoned right through the eighteenth century, is shown with smoke rising from its chimney. At the bottom of the cliff there is a glimpse of a building at the corn mill; from its appearance it may be the miller's house.

The mill is the subject of another little-known painting — a dramatic pen and wash view of 1807 by Jean Claude Nattes (Figure 3). Nattes prepared many illustrations for travel books, although this view was apparently never published. He had already painted two other small views of Bray in 1801. A large mill wheel occupies the centre of the picture, with a flat-bottomed boat above the weir in the foreground. The corn mill dates back to Anglo-Norman times and the site of the mill wheel remained the same at least from the mid eighteenth century — probably from much earlier — until the end of the nineteenth century. Extensive mill buildings are shown lying alongside the river.

This view provides evidence, as do mid eighteenth-century maps, that the course of the Dargle river lay closer to the cliffs on the south side at that time than it does now. Much of the present area of flood plain on which The Maltings is built seems to have been created soon after this date. The left-hand side of the picture shows the Dargle flowing away into the distance, with shipping in the estuary. Strangely, Bray Bridge is omitted, presumably in a case of artistic licence!

The mill complex features again on a pen and ink drawing of 'Bray nr Dublin, 1825', made by William Cowen (Figure 4). His view point is on the river bank below Seapoint Road, and by this time the course of the Dargle is much as it is today, with extensive Bray Brewery buildings added to the corn mill on the bank. These buildings, comprising the brewery itself and a large malt house, are recognisable as those shown on the first large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1838. The church, by now extended and with a spire replacing the bell tower at its west end, has an imposing presence at the left, and the barracks, closed in 1818 and in use as a fever hospital, is just visible behind.

All this left-hand half of the drawing is carefully detailed and convincing, but matters are different for Little Bray. Here the background hills seem correctly drawn, but obviously Cowen failed to complete the view and the road from the bridge simply trails off to the margin. One nice point, however, is that Bray Bridge is shown with what looks like a small pillar at its centre. This may be the milestone marking ten (Irish) miles from Dublin, mentioned by the *Freeman's Journal* of 7 February 1805.

The most unique view we have of Bray in its years before the development of the area between Main Street and the sea is Andrew Nicholl's pencil

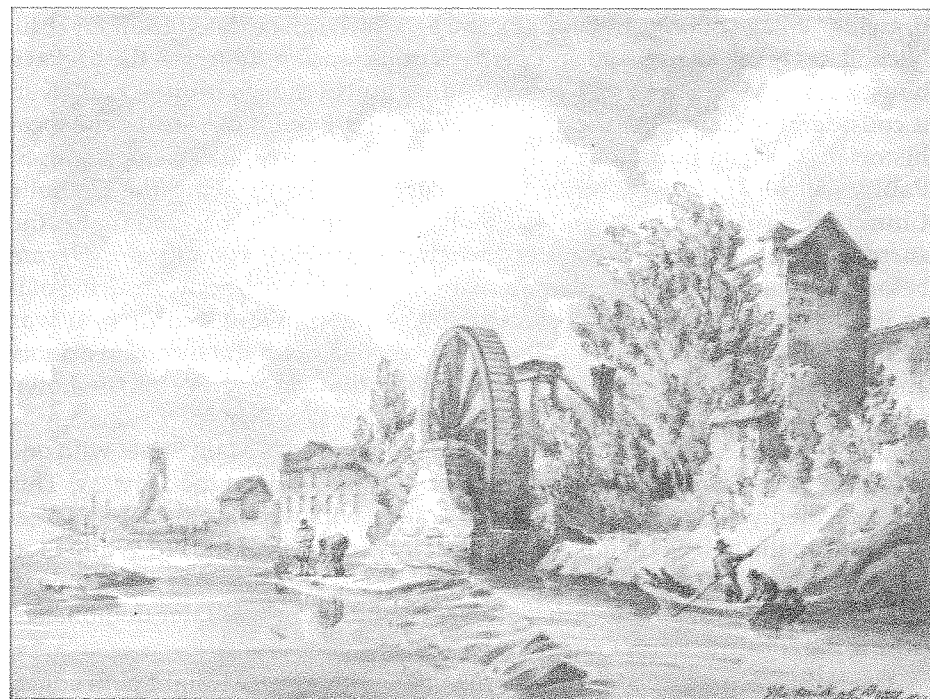


Figure 3 Bray corn mill as it was in 1807 by Jean Claude Nattes

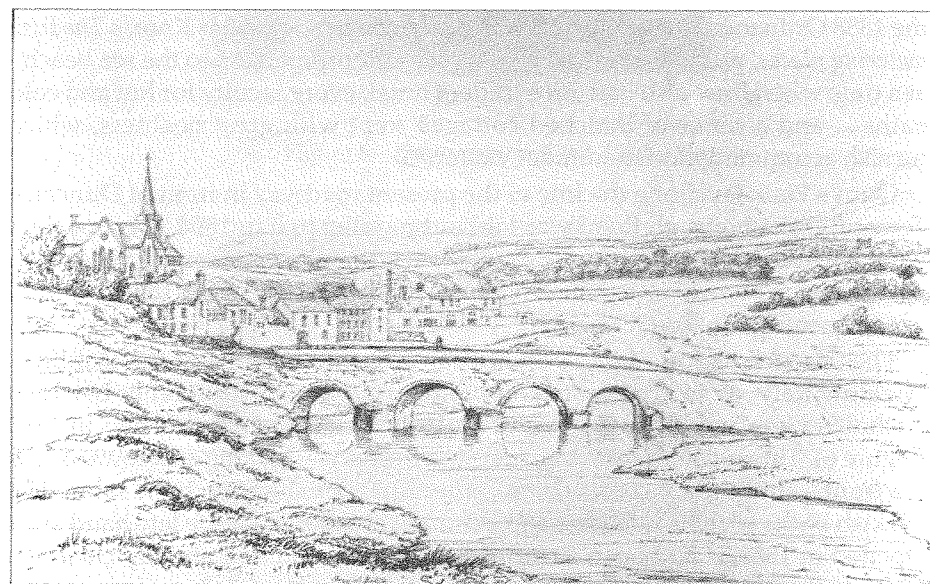


Figure 4 Bray in 1825 by William Cowen

drawing 'Village of Bray, Ireland' (Figure 5), which can be dated to about 1840. Nicholl has taken an unusual and perhaps unpromising subject — the backs of houses along Main Street seen from the direction of the sea front — and given it considerable charm. At the same time, from the point of view of the local historian, this is a particularly fascinating picture. At the extreme right, St Paul's still has its tower, while in the centre of the drawing the Catholic Church, forerunner of the present Holy Redeemer Church, dominates the surrounding buildings. This latter church had been rebuilt only a few years before and was extended shortly afterwards; this may be the only drawing of it as it stood between about 1830 and 1850. A plain oblong building, it was described as having side walls over thirty feet high, with three entrance doors and windows above — these last are visible in the drawing. A cross is shown surmounting the east end.

There is a mixture of houses and cottages along Bray's Main Street with one intriguing three-storey building near the right-hand side of the drawing. This has a decidedly eighteenth-century appearance, with what seems to be an oriel window on the first floor. It is almost certainly the back of the old White Lion or Turk's Head, a very old inn rebuilt in the 1760s and closed at some time in the first years of the nineteenth century. The building was later demolished during the construction of Quinsborough Road.

The right foreground of the picture is filled with a long straight path edged on both sides with posts and chains. Again, this is a unique representation of a once notable feature — Quin's Walk. This walkway, laid out by the Quin family of the famous Quin's Hotel (now the Royal Hotel), is clearly shown on the 1838 Ordnance Survey map. It was described in Alexander Knox's *The Irish watering places*, published in 1845, as 'a pleasant promenade to the sea beach', at a time when Bray also had 'an excellent hotel, every facility for hot and cold baths ... and a series of thatched cottages, kept with great neatness, which furnish accommodation to summer visitors'.

Quin's Walk lay along the line of the present roadway in front of Duncairn Terrace; Quinsborough Road was laid out parallel to it in 1854. It is not clear what Nicholl, a skilful painter of wildflowers, intended to show as vegetation on either side of the walk; as sketched it resembles rushes rather than any kind of ornamental plantings.

The transformation of this part of Bray after the opening of the Dublin & Wicklow Railway in 1854 is strikingly illustrated by the difference between Nicholl's view and an engraving of Quinsborough Road published in 1865 (Figure 6). This is taken from the opposite direction — looking east towards the sea front — but the area it covers is, rather unbelievably, much the same. The Turkish Baths with its minarets and chimney tower rises at the left-hand side. Opened in 1859, it had been a commercial failure and had already closed; it was converted to assembly rooms, a venue for concerts and dances, soon after this drawing was made. Beyond is Dargan (Duncairn) Terrace. The line of Quin's Walk lay between the buildings and railings on this side of the street.

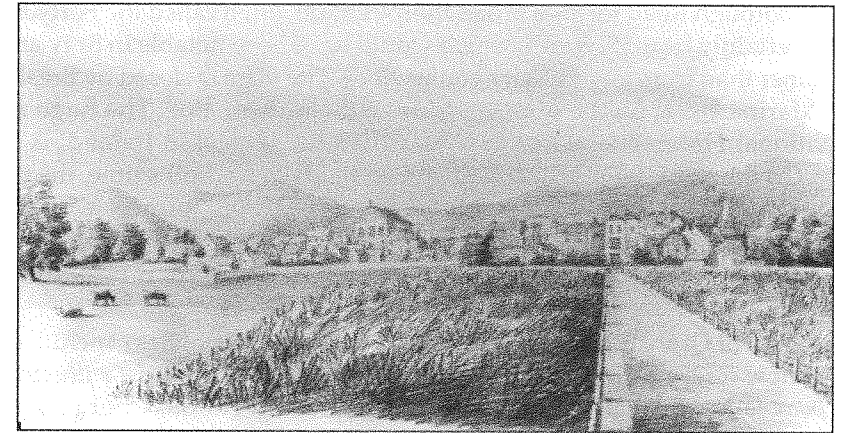


Figure 5 Andrew Nicholl's drawing of the back of Bray Main Street in about 1840



Figure 6 Quinsborough Road, 1865



Figure 7 Breslin's Royal Marine Hotel, 1865

Quinsborough Road forms a broad thoroughfare, often called the Forty Foot (almost certainly from its width, which would have been notable in Bray at the time, rather than from any military connection). The vista is closed by Breslin's Royal Marine Hotel on the opposite side of the railway line. The huge new International Hotel, opened in 1862 and then the largest in Ireland, is just visible. On the right, where there were green fields in Nicholl's time, the road is framed by the elegant Goldsmith and Prince of Wales Terraces with their gently smoking chimneys, and the Presbyterian Church (now St Andrew's). The whole effect is grand and imposing, as befits Bray in its new resort role as the 'Brighton of Ireland'.

This view of Quinsborough Road is one of three views of Bray included in what is now a rare little guide book, J.S. Wiseheart's *The tourist's illustrated guide book to Dublin, Kingstown, Bray, and the County Wicklow*, published in Dublin in 1865. There is also a fine view of Breslin's Royal Marine Hotel (Figure 7), built in 1855 and, as the first big new hotel on the Esplanade, already promising to be such a success that a new wing had been added within five years. At the time of this view it had 90 bedrooms and 12 sitting rooms. Breslin was William Dargan's associate, and a prominent figure in Bray — he served as a Bray Town Commissioner for forty years, nearly half of that time as chairman, before his death in 1897. The hotel went on fire accidentally in 1916, and the top two floors were destroyed; the lower floors were later converted into the railway buffet. The curve of the hotel's seaward-facing terrace on Strand Road as seen in the 1865 view is still echoed in the single-storey front portion of the present building.

A more unusual viewpoint is taken in the engraving of the International Hotel (Figure 8). This is taken from across the railway, from a position above Royal Marine Terrace. A small steam engine with a dozen or so passenger carriages is travelling towards Dublin in the foreground and the railway station is at the extreme left. The International Hotel with its 212 bedrooms rears its imposing bulk in the centre of the picture. Again the artist has given life to the buildings by showing chimneys emitting smoke; those of the hotel and of Prince of Wales Terrace echo the fumes from the tall funnel of the train. Great Sugar Loaf and Little Sugar Loaf rise picturesquely behind. There is a wall around what was then grandly titled the Carlisle Cricket and Archery Grounds, opened in 1862, but no sign of the entertainments, including flower shows and fêtes, that drew the crowds long before Bray Wanderers found a home there.

These three engravings show all the fine detail of Bray's townscapes and buildings to an almost photographic extent. Within thirty years or so, of course, photography — and good maps — would take over, and we can compare the town of 1900 with that of today without too much difficulty. But we must be grateful to the artists, known and unknown, who still evoke for us a more distant Bray, in some ways recognisable, in others quite unfamiliar.

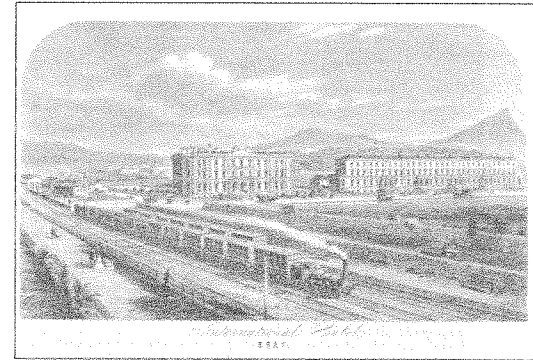


Figure 8 International Hotel seen from the railway, 1865

NOTES

THE ARTISTS

Letitia Bushe (c. 1710–1757) was born in Co. Kilkenny, youngest daughter of Arthur Bushe, secretary of the commissioners of revenue. It is possible that she was related to John Bushe, Church of Ireland rector of Bray from 1730 until his death in 1746, which would explain her interest in Bray. She painted in both oils and watercolours, and also painted miniatures. Letitia Bushe's painting is reproduced courtesy National Gallery of Ireland.

Jean Claude Nattes (c. 1765–1822) spent some time in Ireland — he may have been Irish-born — and was a founder member of the Old Watercolour Society. He was a draughtsman, drawing master and art dealer. Many of his works were pen and ink drawings, with or without wash. His view of the mill, together with 'View of Bray, 1801' and 'View of Bray from the Dargle, 1801', all three in pen and grey wash, were listed in the Cynthia O'Connor Gallery catalogue, May 1982; Nattes's view is reproduced courtesy of the Gallery.

William Cowen (1797–1861) was a landscape artist who travelled extensively on the continent and exhibited mainly in London. Various of his topographical views were published. Drawing reproduced courtesy of Mr Patrick Early.

Andrew Nicholl (1804–1886), the Belfast-born watercolour artist and landscape painter, lived in Dublin in the 1830s. Best remembered for his distinctive landscapes with wildflowers in the foreground, he provided a large number of illustrations for Mr and Mrs S.C. Hall, *Ireland: its scenery, character, etc.* (London, 1841), including fifteen Wicklow sketches. His view of Bray from Quin's Walk shows that he was familiar with Quin's Hotel, then at the peak of its success. The sketch can be dated by the inclusion of the spire on St Paul's Church, extant in 1837 but demolished by 1842; Nicholl had in any case left Dublin for London by 1840. Drawing reproduced courtesy of Mr Patrick Early.

In Wiseheart's *Guide* the names of the artist or artists are not given. Thanks are due to the Neptune Gallery, Dublin, for providing access to a copy of the guide, and for allowing reproduction of the three views.

Information on the artists discussed here is taken from various sources, but particular thanks are due to Patricia Butler for her assistance. Sources for Bray dates and other background information are listed in K.M. Davies, *Irish historic towns atlas no. 9, Bray* (Dublin, 1998).

WILLIAM DARGAN

(1799-1867) A PRACTICAL PATRIOT

KATHLEEN KINSELLA

WILLIAM DARGAN was born in February 1799, the son of a tenant farmer on the estate of the Earl of Portarlington. After finishing school in Carlow, he assisted on his father's farm and then entered the office of a surveyor in that town to train as an engineer.

When trained the first important employment he obtained was under Telford in the construction of the Holyhead to London road. This experience enabled him to obtain work in both England and Ireland and he became the contractor of the first railway in Ireland, the Dublin to Kingstown line, which opened in 1834.

Other great rail works followed in rapid succession; - The Dublin and Drogheda, The Great Western, The Midland Great Western. In the 1840s Dargan had contracts for more than 800 miles of railway, as well as canals and other projects. These all amounted to a value of over one million pounds, a vast sum in those days.

In Ulster Dargan was responsible for the widening of the Lagan in Belfast in order to facilitate shipping. With earth dredged from the river he created an island in the Lagan, which is still there. It was originally called after him but was subsequently renamed Queen's Island. Among other works in which Dargan was involved were the building of the reservoir at Solitude on the Antrim Road, the Banbridge bridge over the river Bann and the Newry canal, which stretched from Carlingford Lough to Lough Neagh. In Ulster too he set up the railway network from Belfast to Antrim, the Belfast and Ballymena railway and the County Down railway to Holywood. All the above were built in the period from 1830-1845.

In 1845 the terrible famine devastated the country but Dargan continued to plan and build in order to give employment and alleviate in some way the distress and poverty of that time. It is said that when he employed a worker, he paid the first week's wages in advance but that he did not expect any work until the man had got some nourishment and his strength back.

In 1853 Dargan organised and financed the Great Dublin International Exhibition to promote and advance Irish industry and enterprise. In addition



WILLIAM DARGAN
(1799-1867) A PRACTICAL PATRIOT

to showcasing, modern design and technological innovation, the exhibition also included a Fine Arts Hall where Old Master paintings by artists including Rembrandt, Poussin and Canaletto evoked an enthusiastic public response. In recognition of Dargan's generosity a testimonial was formed in July 1853 to organise a fitting memorial in his name and this led to the establishment of what we now know as the National Gallery in Merrion Square. A site for the building of the gallery was obtained on Leinster lawn. The first stone was laid by the then Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Eglinton and Winton on the 29th January 1859 and the building was formally opened on 30th January 1864. The public were admitted in the following March. The Dargan Fund contributed £5,000 but as is usual in these cases the expenses eventually were much higher and parliament agreed to make further grants available amounting to £22,483. This meant that the total cost amounted to about £30,000. In handing over the sum of £5,000 the committee of the Dargan Fund at first insisted that the building should be styled "The Dargan Institute" but they afterwards agreed to the title of "The National Gallery of Ireland" on condition that a memorial tablet commemorating Dargan's "eminent services and munificent liberality" should be placed on the building, that his portrait be hung in the gallery and that a statue of him should be erected in a prominent position in the grounds "the man with the hand always in his pocket". Look out for it when next you visit this magnificent institution.

Queen Victoria was so impressed with the Great Dublin International Exhibition that she and her consort Prince Albert actually paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Dargan at their home in Mount Anville, where she offered him a baronetcy, which he refused. One can only hazard a guess why; perhaps it was

his way of protesting against the indifference of the English establishment to Ireland, as his overwhelming desire was to develop his country and establish world markets for its products so that it could take its rightful place in the world.

After the Great Exhibition Dargan devoted himself chiefly to the extension of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford railway. He started by extending the Dublin- Kingstown railway with plans to eventually open a line to Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford. Because of financial difficulties with some of the other directors, Dargan had to take over the full cost of the scheme and in 1854 the railway was opened as far as Bray.

Dargan also acquired house property in the town and in Shankill, investing funds in Quin's (now the Royal) Hotel and in Galtrim House. He constructed a road from the railway station to the main street, calling it after the owners of the hotel - Quinsborough. Just as saunas are the fashion now, "Turkish Baths" were the "in thing" in mid Victorian times and so Dargan built the impressive and exotic baths (alas no more) for his friend Doctor Barter, who had already managed a similar project in Blarney. Dargan also built a very handsome terrace of houses, which he named after himself (a very rare gesture of pride on his part). This was renamed Duncairn Terrace later on. Other influential and professional people, such as Sir William Wilde, father of Oscar, became involved in the expansion of the town so that in 1857 a corporate body was formed. This body was known as the Town Commissioners and Dargan became a member in 1860. It was principally due to his efforts that a lease of a portion of the sea shore was obtained from the Earl of Meath. Dargan converted this into a grassy esplanade, which he agreed to keep in repair during his lifetime. He also constructed the Ravenswell Road on the north side of the Dargle, together with a bridge under the railway for access to the seashore on the Dublin side.

In 1867 William Dargan died, having exhausted his own fortune and never having fully recovered from two falls from his horse during the previous year. He was given a full page obituary in the Illustrated London News, which described his funeral as being a public one, at the Roman Catholic cemetery at Glasnevin. This obituary indicated how deeply and universally Dargan was respected (in fact it is said that the numbers of people who turned out rivalled the vast crowds at Daniel O'Connell's funeral twenty years earlier). All his life had been unselfishly spent in improving the lot of his fellow countrymen and women. Ireland and Bray in particular, owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to him.

ÁR SINSIR FADÓ

DIARMUID BREATHNACH

AR 25 Aibreán 1963 fuairas litir ó Joe Kenny. Shroich sé aois 86 bliana an tseachtain sin agus bhí rud ag déanamh tinnis dó: theastaigh uaidh cúig himleabhair de mhiontuairiscí chraobh Bhré de Chonradh na Gaeilge a chur i dtaisce. Bhíos-sa im' leabharlannaí i mBré ag an am agus ghlacas leo go fonnmhar. Bhíodh baint agam féin leis an gConradh anois agus arís le 14 bliana roimhe sin. Chaithféa dul siar go dtí tús an chéid, beagnach, le tagairtí do Joe in annála an Chonartha a aimsiú. Táim féin anois 70 bliain d'aois. Le scór bliain anuas táim ag stracadh leis na céadta scéal ar Chonraitheoirí a mhair idir 1882 agus 1982 a scríobh. Ní thig liom a rá gur bhain níos mó ná triúr díobh le Bré. Is mó baile beag sa tír a bhí níos tábhachtaí go mór ná sinne maidir le cúrsaí na teanga. Ni fhágann sin, áfach, nach bhfuil scéal insuime le hinsint fúinn.

Nuair a bhí lubhaile Órga an Chonartha á chomóradh i 1943 chuir Pilib Breathnach, iriseoir a chaith blianta fada ag saothrú don Wicklow People agus don Irish Independent, agus ina eaganthóir ar an leabhrán Cuala. Dúradh ann gur thug Pádraig Ó Murchú sa tSeanchill cuireadh don Chonradh in 1896 craobh a bhunú i mBré. Bheadh baint ag Pádraig le cúis na teanga anseo ar feadh a shaoil; is é, measaim, an t-aon chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle an Bhaile a bhfuil a ainm i nGaeilge sa liosta atá ar crochadh i sean-Áras an Bhaile. Ar aon nós, Pádraig Mac Piarais agus Dubhghlas de hÍde a tháinig chun an gnó a dhéanamh. Deirtear sa chuntas seo gurbh i scoil phríobháideach ar Bhóthar Rinn na Mara a bhí an cruinniú. Ceart go leor, bhí scoil náisiúnta na gcailíní ann go fóill ach níor airíos-sa riamh go raibh scoil phríobháideach ann. Is dóigh liom go rabh meánscoil phríobháideach á reachtáil ag an Dr Terence Clarke ar Bhóthar Saomair (Seymour). Ba é príomhoide Scoil Náisiúnta na mBuachaillí é ag an am; bheadh sé ina ardrúnaí ar Chumann na Múinteoirí (INTO) ar ball. Níl amhras ach go raibh baint aige leis an gConradh anseo; ba é a bhí ina chathaoirleach ag cruinniú na craobhe 17 Feabhra 1900.

In An Claidheamh Soluis 10 Meitheamh 1899 tá tuairisc ar chruinniú sna scoileanna náisiúnta. Aithneofar cuid de bhaill an choiste: Johnny Grennan, Bill Forde agus Bill Burke go háirithe. Ba é Forde seanuncail Kathleen Kinsella agus ba é ceannasaí Bhráithreachas na Poblachta (IRB) sa cheantar é; Fíniúeach ba ea Grennan freisin agus bhí sé ina bheatha go fóill i 1935 agus cónaí air, silim, in Ardán Alexandra; ba é an Búrcach an chéad leabharlannai polblí i mBré. Bhí Burke agus Grennan ar bhunaitheoirí Chlub Emmet. Ba é an tAthair

Lorcán Ó Beirn (O'Byrne) a bhí ina chathaoirleach; ba dheartháir é le Pádraig Ó Beirn (1857-1927) duine den triúr file Gaeilge ba mhó iomrá ag an am. Cainteoirí dúchais as Málainn Bhig i nDún na nGall ba ea iad. Dá bhfágtaí an sagart sin i mBré cá bhfios nach mbeadh rath níos mó ar obair an Chonartha anseo ach ceapadh é ina shagart paróiste ar Abhóca an bhliain dár gcionn. Dúradh faoin gCraobh sa tuairisc sin go ralbh trí scór ag freastal ar ranganna a bhí á reachtáil ag an Dr Magan agus fear ar sloinne Keane. Níor luadh fiú is bean amháin a bheith ag an gCruinnú. An tseachtain dár gcionn luadh gur fhreastail trí dhuine déag mar ionadaithe ó Bhré ag an Oireachtas.

As sin go ceann trí scór bliain is mó sin ionad a gCruinníodh na baill le chéile ann. Bhí teach acu i Sráid Maitland in 1899-1900 agus ansin thóg siad teach in Ardán an Teampaill ar cíos ó Chomhairle an Bhaile; b'fhéidir gur sheomraí sa seanmhuileann a bhí i gceist. Thagaidís le chéile i Halla na gCoillteoirí (an foirgneamh ar le EBS anois é) agus sa Halla ar Bhóthar Florence (mar a raibh Crazy Prices) agus sa Cheardscoil.

I rith na tréimhse 1901-1905 bhí an Athair Richard Fleming ina leasuachtarán ar Chraobh Bhré agus tá seisean ar dhuine den triúr ar luaigh mé cáil náisiúnta leo. Cé gur i Sasana a rugadh is a tógadh é d'éirigh leis a bheith ina scoláire cumasach Gaeilge; bhí sé ina eagarthóir ar An Sioladóir agus ina ardmháistir ar an 'Dublin School of Irish'. Ag am a bháis i 1927 bhí sé ina shagart paróiste i Ráth Maoinis. Tuairiscíodh i gCuntais 1905-6 gur thug sé féin agus an tAthair Colahan £1 an duine don chraobh; b'ionann sin agus £100, b'fhéidir, in airgead an lae inniu. Luadh sna cúntais chéanna go ralbh teacht isteach de bhreis agus £11 ó cheolchoirm a cuireadh ar siúl, airgead nár shuarach. I mbliain 1910 feicim gur tugadh táille ceithre scilling is réal do James Whiteside, 'The Bard of Bray', ar cheol a sheinm le haghaidh rince na bpáistí. Múinteoir ba ea é i Scoil na mBuachaillí agus í mbliain 1913 scríobh an Captaen Francis O'Neill cuntas fade sciúil air in Irish Minstrels and Musicians.

Is gnách craobhacha den Conradh ag titim is ag éirí. Is deimhin go ralbh Craobh Bhré an-láidir i rith na tréimhse 1918-25. Gan amhras bhí curtha go mór leis an meanma náisiúnta ag an am. Ach rud a chuir leis an rath a bhí ar an gCraobh go raibh an tAthair Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh ina chathaoirleach. Bhí seisean ina shéiplíneach airm ar feadh an Chogaidh Mhóir. Aon duine atá ar aon aois liomsa beidh cuimhne mhaith aige/aici air. Bhí sé ina shagart paróiste i gCrois Araitl ag am a bháis. Bhí Joe Kenny mar rúnaí acu agus ar an gcoiste bhí Nora Carroll, ball de Chumann na mBan, Áine Nic Cana, Cathal Mac Réamoinn agus Johnny McCaull, a bhí, b'fhéidir, ar an gcléireach baile ba cháiliúla riamh i mBré. Baill eile ba ea Micheál Ó hÓnáin agus Micheál Mac an Bhaire ('Cocky' Ward), múinteoirí i Scoil na mBuachaillí. Tá buíochas gafa leis an Ónanach ag Pádraig Ó Duinnín i ngeall ar liosta d'fhocail ón gClár a chur chuige. Ba é Pádraig Ó Murchú a bhí ina ionadaí ag an gCraobh ag Ardfeis 1920. Ó 1920 ar feadh trí mbliana bhí scoil samhraidh á reachtáil sa mbaile agus bhí naoi rang Gaeilge in aghaidh na seachtaine ar bun ag Coiste Ceantair Bhré.

Ní foláir nó bhí tuismitheoirí Chearbhaill Uí Dhálaigh, Richard Daly agus Úna Thornton, ina mbaill den chraobh go dtí go bhfuair Richard bás. Roinnt rudaí ar luí mo shúil orthu sna miontuairiscí: gur ligeadh do bhuaichailí as 'ceantair bhochta an bhaile' freastal ar na ranganna ar phingin an duine in aghaidh na seachtaine; gur eagraíodh rás asal ar Cheann Bhré mar chuid den aeríocht ar 20 Lúnasa 1919, gur deich scilling an duals a tugadh do bhuaiteoirí agus gur leathchoróin a tugadh do gach úinéir asail a ghlac páirt; gur oscail Sinéad de Valera an fheis mór ar 12 Iúil 1921, lá i ndiaidh an tSosa Cogaidh, agus lán leoraí de shaighdiúirí Shasana sa láthair.

Thug Éamon de Buitléar agus Seán de Barra léas nua ar an saol don gConradh i 1934. Cheapfaí an Buitléarach ina aide-de-camp do Dhubhghlas de hÍde, Uachtarán na hÉireann, i 1938 agus tá a shliocht sa bhaile go fóill, bail ó Dhia orthu. Máistir poist i mBré ba ea an Barrach agus bhí cáil na cráifeachta air. Dúradh, más fíor, lena bhean go raibh sí pósta ar naomh. 'Sea', ar sise, 'agus má tá is mairtíreach mise dá réir!' Bunaíodh gasra láidir den Fháinne sa bhaile i 1934 freisin. Gan amhras ba mór an cúnamh don Conradh ó 1932 amach an Coiste Gairmoideachais; ba é dúnaras na craolbhe ar feadh i bhfad an Cheardscoil.

Chuir tréimhse Chogadh 1939-45 le rabharta tírghrá. Nuair a bhí lubhaile an Chonartha á chomóradh i mBré bhí an tAthair Aindrias Ó Muircheartaigh, fear grámhar, ina uachtarán ar an gCraobh. Cé gurbh i gCo. Chill Mhantáin a saolaíodh é féin, ba chainteoirí dúchais Gaeilge ó Dhoire Fhionáin i gCiarraí a thuismitheoirí. Bhí sé ina bhall de Choiste Gnóthaí an Chonartha i 1909-10 nuair a bhí an eagraíocht i mbarr a nirt. Ba é Micheal O Dochartaigh, cigire scoileanna a bhí ina chónaí in Ardán Alexandra, a bhí ina chathaoirleach; b'in é athair Bhriain, an té a scríobh an t-úrscéal a ainmníodh do dhuais mór idirnáisiúnta tamaillin ó shin, The Deposit of Father McGreevy. Ar an gcoiste bhí Murchadh Breathnach, a bheadh ina ollamh i gColáiste Íosagáin, Baile Bhuirne, ar ball; Piaras Kenny, mac Joe, atá thall i nGlaschú; Seámus Ó Meachair, príomhoifigeach an Choiste Gairmoideachais; an Ceannphort Ó Cróinín ó cheantar Mhala agus a oileadh mar mhúinteoir sula ndeachaigh sé sa Gharda Síochána; Joe Dutton, tuairisceoir agus snámhaí tréan; David Sayers, comhairleoir baile; H.J. Byrne, ceantálaí a throid sa Chogadh Mór; Eibhlís Nic Neans a d'fhoghlaim a cuid Gaeilge i Sasana; bean Sheáin de Barra; Éamon de Buitléar; E.J. Little, iarghiúistís, dearthair le Paddy, Aire Poist agus Telegrafa na hairnsire sin. B'iad Pádraig dílis Ó Riordáin agus Pilib Breathnach na rúnaithe.

B'fhéidir gurbh í an Chraobh a bhunaigh Anraí Ó Liatháin, scríbhneoir, an t-é a bhí ina uachtarán ar an gConradh tamall ina dhiaidh sin, tuairim 1949-52, an chraobh ab iontaí riamh sa mhéid gurbh ar éigean má bhí aon duine os cionn 24 bliain d'aois bainteach lets; déarfainn gur fiche bliain meánaois na mball. Ba mhinic 150 ag freastal ar ghnáthchruinnithe ach b'fhéidir gur chun go mbuailfeadh buachaillí agus cailíní le chéile a bhí a bhformhór ann! Tá cuid mhaith de na daoine a rinne a ndícheall an t-am sin ina seanrith go fóill: Brian Breathnach, Cáit Bhreathnach, Éamon óg de Buitléar, Rita Ní Dhúshláine, Jim



*Bean de Valera makes a presentation at a Feis in Bray in the 1940s,
(Fathers Maguire and Brady in the background)*

Douglas, Diarmuid Breathnach, Eibhlín Ní Chonchubhair, Mairéad Nic Dhomhnaill.... Tá cuid eile ar shlí na firinne agus cuimhním go háirithe ar Maeisheachleinn Ó Briain, Eoghan Ó Domhnaill, Breanda Nic Róibín, agus Peadar Mercier. Rinneadh iarrachtaí láidre arís sna caogaidí agus na seascaidí agus ní miste Pádraig Ó Fearáil, Seán O Briain, Luan agus Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Louis Ó Ruairc, Breandán O hAnnaidh, Eibhlín Ní Dhonnchadha, Ciarán O Culachain, Hedley Wright . . . a lua.

Rinneadh céad bliain an Chonartha a chomóradh 31 Iúil 1993 i gColáiste Ráithín. Ba í an duine ba dhearsnaithí dá raibh sa láthair Áine Bean Mhic Eochaidh a rugadh in 1894 agus a fuair bonn ón bPiarsach i mbliain 1911.

Is fada anois ó bhí craobh den Chonradh i mBré. Ach tá dhá Ghaelscoil againn agus meánscoil lánGhaelach. Bíonn aifreann i nGaeilge againn gach Domhnach. Ta siopa leabhar Gaeilge againn (Cupla Focal). Tá cónaí ar scoláirí agus scríbhneoirí Gaeilge sa cheantar: daoine mar Thomás Mac Anna, Diarmuid Ó Gráinne, Dáithí O hÓgáin, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Máire Ní Mhurchú, Séamus Ó Saothraí, Bo Almqvist . . . Nach ar na seanChonraitheoirí sin a bhí beo i dtús an chéid a bheadh idir áthas agus ionadh - agus dioma - da dtagaidis thar n-ais inar measc. Díomá? Bhel, is ribheag den Ghaeilge a chloisfidís á labhairt sa tsráid, faraoir.

TERRY DOYLE REMEMBERS

TERENCE (always known as Terry) Doyle was born in 1912 in Purcell's Terrace, just off the Main Street in Bray. He lived there until the family moved to a bigger house in nearby St. Kevin's Terrace.

After his marriage to Tina in 1942, he moved to O'Byrne Road and then to Roselawn Park in the Vevay, where he still resides. Terry and Tina have five sons and three daughters, of whom all but one, who emigrated to Australia, are still living in the Bray area. His father Patrick Doyle was the water inspector with B.U.D.C.

Terry was one of the dedicated group in the Cualann Historical Society, who along with people like Tom and Eva Sutton, Colm McCormack, Joe Loughman, Robbie and Gladys Irvine, Nancy and Paddy Mahony, Myra Leeson, Jim Lynch, Fay Rowe, Clair and Bobby Crowther, Brian White, Ray Cranley, Kathleen Kinsella, Willie Flood, Pat Sherry and Peter Tynan-O'Mahony and Christy Brien, campaigned for a museum/heritage centre in the town. When permission for this was given, sited in the council chamber of the town hall, he donated and collected artefacts, made display cabinets, mounted special exhibitions and did duty when the centre was open to the public. Terry has remarkable memories of the town in the nineteen twenties, thirties and forties and here are some of them.

BRAY EMMETS played in the G.A.A. County Dublin Championships from 1885 to 1928, when they came under the auspices of the County Wicklow Board. Up until 1928 their hurling and football teams had no permanent grounds in Bray but father Kevin Brady, their chairman who was passionately interested in Gaelic games acquired Emmet Park for the Club. He and two other priests, Fathers Fahy and Troy, got together and purchased a silver cup, which was played for by teams from Bray, Arklow, and Wicklow. This cup is still played for today. William O'Brien, a builder, got the contract to build railings, seats around the sidelines and also a pavilion. Terry remembers Mr. O'Brien getting the young lads from the club to dig the holes for the paling posts, for which he rewarded them the grand sum of three pence. The club was very hard-up and so the grounds were leased for other activities such as band concerts, Irish dancing competitions and of course, the yearly circus. Bray Emmets hold an honour that no other club holds; they represented Dublin in the All Ireland Senior Finals in 1902 and their junior team in 1936 represented Wicklow.



Stuart's Shop, Main Street, Bray

FLORENCE HALL was situated where Smyths, the toy store, is now. Again it was Father Brady and Father Gleeson, who were the motivating people behind it.

The hall had approx. 15,289 square feet of floor space, including a stage of about 1,560 square feet. It had dressing rooms, toilet facilities and a small projection room for the odd film show. Other activities included operettas, concerts, Irish dancing competitions, badminton, gymnastic displays, whist drives, flower shows, talent competitions and of course, the annual production at Easter time of Father Gleeson's Passion play. In the 1930s, when the Boys' National School moved from its premises beside the Holy Redeemer Church to St. Cronan's on the Vevay Hill, it was decided to sell the Florence Hall and transfer all these activities to the renamed Little Flower Hall.

Florence hall was sold to Mr. Jack Flynn, who ran a printing works - The Monument Press. The premises was sold again in the early nineteen sixties and rebuilt by Powers Supermarket, then it was Quinnsworth, Crazy Prices and finally Smyth's Super Toy Store.

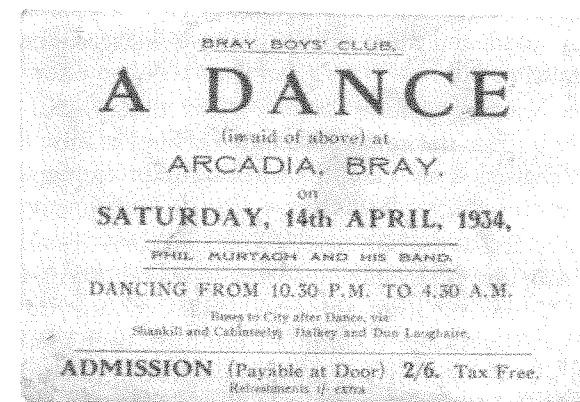
Some of the artistes who performed in the Florence Hall were Jay Ryan, Myles Seery, the two Charlies - Russell and Miller, James Birney, Jane Gaughran, Maisie McIntyre and the Old St. Kevin's Pipe Band.

THE MAIN STREET* shops in the early part of the last century were practically all family owned with the family usually living over the shop. One such business was the shop of John Stuart and Son established in 1879, extending with a yard on to Novara Avenue. It is now Budget Travel and the

yard has been replaced by a mortgage store and a pharmacy. Stuarts was one of the busiest traders in the town and catered for nearly all the farmers from as far as Delgany, Roundwood and surrounding areas. They used the barter system with the farmers bringing in fresh produce such as fowl, butter, eggs and exchanging these for other necessary items. The firm had six assistants in the shop and a Miss Gibson, who acted as a clerk and accountant. They also had a yardsman and two delivery men, who delivered goods to customers in two horse drawn covered vans. Stuarts had a huge range of groceries such as molasses, loose vinegar, Canadian bacon (known as the Lad) pig cheeks, cheeses and broken biscuits. John Stuart mixed his own tea from Ceylonese, Indian, Chinese and packed the tea in bags bearing his own label. Every customer got a Christmas present each year - mostly cakes - those were the days!

TERRY says the following are some of the things he misses most from the old days: -

- Bray Regatta
- The Sonas Fete on the Sea front
- Bray Swimming Club's firework display organised by Eddie McDonald - nickname Captain Van Dyke
- Bray Cove Regatta
- Motorboat trips around the head
- Concert parties on the band stand
- Sandcastle building competitions
- The roller skating rink opposite where Katie Gallaghers now is
- The little coal boats coming from Wales for Wallaces, Heitons and Colliers. and of course
- Arcadia Ballroom (The Ballroom of Romance)



* See Footnote 1 Page 25

Footnote 1 See the article "The Changing Face of Bray" by Brian P. White page 62

BALLYWALTRIM IN THE 1950s

RAY CRANLEY



MOST of Ballywaltrim as it existed in the '50s has vanished, buried beneath the relentless tide of concrete and tarmac that now laps at the very slopes of Little Sugarloaf and threatens that beautiful mountain itself.

In 1946 fifteen of the Kilbride Cottages were completed, with a further ten cottages added three years later, and as far as the youngsters of the '50s were concerned, Ballywaltrim consisted of these twenty five houses because most of the grown-ups referred to them as Ballywaltrim Cottages

They were built on land that had belonged to Darley's* of Violet Hill adjoining Killarney Road, and the residents of these cottages were the pioneers of modern Ballywaltrim.

There were no housing estates between the cottages and Bray until Avondale Park was built in the early '50s, and at school in Bray the children of the cottages were regarded as 'culchies from out beyond the Bog', the Bog being Boghall.

The streetlights ended at the Killarney Lane / Soldiers' Road junction and Killarney Road was a lonely mysterious route to travel after dark, especially the Fairy Hill area. If walking home alone on a dark evening you waited under the last light until a car was heard coming from Bray, then made a mad dash ahead of it up Fairy Hill, making the most of its headlights until it vanished into the blackness ahead of you, leaving you praying breathlessly that another car would come soon. Across the lane from the cottages was Butler's Field

* See Footnote Page 30

where the ratchety call of the corncrake was often the only sound to disturb the stillness of a summer's day, or Hide and Seek was played among the thousands of tall dog-daisies. Later in the season when the grass was cut, haycocks were demolished by kids playing King of the Castle, until the none-too-pleased farmer winched them onto the haybogy and took them away, leaving the field clear for games of rounders or Queenie-I-0, who has the ball?

Nearby in the field next to the back (Herbert) road was Darley's pond which had its families of waterhens and their chicks. Now and then a heron would be seen standing in the shallow end of the pond, no doubt feeding on the minnows we would catch in jamjars under the Silver Bridge and release into the pond on our way home. The concrete of Clover Hill put an end to Darley's pond.

On the lane, skipping ropes turned by chanting girls threw up puffs of dust from the unmetalled surface as the young ladies stood in line awaiting their turn to jump in.

'All in together girls

This fine weather girls...'

The lane, like Darby's Lane (Kilbride Lane) and Wallis's Lane (Ballywaltrim Lane) didn't boast tarmac at the beginning of the '50s. Two of the four local woods have disappeared completely. The Little Wood was a narrow stretch of woodland which bordered Killarney Road between Boghall Corner and Ballymorris Lodge. Homecoming school kids would climb into the wood over an old wooden gate and walk the path between the trees in preference to the road. Wylies lived in Ballymorris Lodge and Weirs in Ballymorris House. Across the road in Kilbride Lodge lived the Simpsons. We knew it as the Yellow House. Its walls have been through a wide range of colours over the years but it has now come full circle and is the Yellow House once more. Ballymorris estate stands on the site of the demolished Ballymorris House.

The Little Wood fell to 'progress' in the mid '70s and St. Fergal's Church and the Bray School Project now occupy the site.

Darley's wood bordered the back gardens of the cottages. It was felled to make way for the building of Richmond Hill.

Going for sticks after school was an important task and Hodson's Wood was the favoured one for this chore as it was a veritable playground for adventurous youngsters. Access was gained over the stone wall in the dip at Hollybrook. Inside the wall a path ran along the top of a steep wooded bank, and going down from this path was a series of 'slides' on which many a pair of pants saw the end of its useful life. Great skill at ducking and weaving was necessary in order to avoid decapitation by low-growing laurel boughs as kids came skidding down at a terrific rate in a cloud of dust. When a gang was on the slides the wood sounded like a funfair.

On a winter's afternoon there might be seen an assortment of old prams and home-made handcarts lined up at the roadside outside the wood waiting to be

piled high with 'rotteners'. Sometimes the sticks were tied with a rope into a brassna and carried home on your back, and as you struggled up the lane laden down like a beast of burden some wit leaning lazily on a gate would shout 'Hey, where are yeh goin' with the effin' bird's nest?'

Behind the wood was the Hilly Field, a wide grassy slope running down to the stream where a sturdy plank acted as a footbridge, with a wooden pole as a handrail. At the far side a crooked path disappeared upwards into dense woodland.

Wild raspberries grew here in summer which, for reasons that could probably be explained by an agricultural expert, remained white in colour even when fully ripe. There was a charming fairy tale quality about the place. The children rolled and tumbled down the hill and their cries of delight gladdened the air of this tiny piece of paradise. The Hilly Field is no more; it lies buried beneath thousands of tons of rubble at the Hollybrook end of the Southern Cross Route. An old couple called Connolly lived in Giltspur Lodge. This picturesque olde-worlde cottage was once home to the grandparents of Gay Byrne. After the Connollys died it was used for some years as a hostel for boy scouts, but the fact that it was vacant for long periods did not escape the kindly attention of vandals and it was repeatedly ransacked in the '70s and finally burned down, erasing this delightful feature from the landscape.

In the field below Giltspur Lodge was a little pool where cattle came to drink and tadpoles could be caught. If you were to linger at this spot today your life would be in danger as you would be standing in the middle of the new road.

Willie Griffin, a teacher at Bray Technical School, lived at Hollybrook Gate Lodge, and the Ryan family at Hollybrook Back Lodge on Giltspur Lane. Sadly, the centuries of tree-shaded peace that Giltspur Lane had enjoyed were brought to an end when the Southern Cross Route introduced the never-ending roar of traffic.

The old Ballywaltrim well was set into the stone wall close to the gates of Ballywaltrim Grove, home of the Switzer family. This well was bulldozed out of existence recently in spite of requests to re-instate it in the new wall. Where will the old ghosts meet now? The same fate overtook the little fountain near the hairpin bend on the Herbert Road some years ago.

On Killarney Road, a few hundred yards on the Bray side of Kilbride Lane, there stood a milestone which told the distance to Dublin was eleven miles. This was, of course, in Irish miles, which indicated the antiquity of the stone, the English equivalent being fourteen miles. In the '80s this relic of times long gone also fell foul of the bulldozer and was left lying by the roadside from where it disappeared shortly afterwards. It would be good to see this little bit of Ballywaltrim history restored to its once useful position.

Westmoreland House was believed by the local children to be haunted after it was vacated by its last occupants, the Murphy family. It was finally

demolished and Elgin Wood is built on the site. Lawlors lived in the gate lodge and the remains of the entrance can be seen beside Springfield cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Buckley lived in the gate lodge of Ballywaltrim Grove and they would sell a can of delicious buttermilk for tuppence from the dairy in the basement of the big house. This lodge has also vanished.

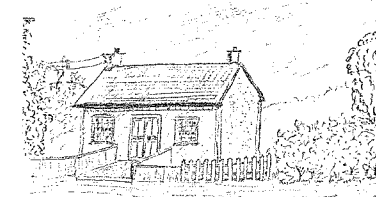
Another popular haunt of the children was Andy Fitzsimon's shop which was housed in the tiny building that still stands empty beside the entrance to Elgin Heights. Andy made his own ice lollies in egg cups and had to twist them this way and that to free them for young customers. The place had in earlier years been a small pub, and the story was told by the late Sammy Valentine of how a young female member of the Fitzsimon family would be left on watch outside the door whenever thirsty customers were indulging in a little after-hours refreshment. She would spot the guard coming from Bray on his bike as he pedalled past Massey Cottage and give the imbibers ample warning to disappear into the fields behind the shop before he puffed his way up to the door.

It was an arrangement that worked admirably until one day the clandestine porter-swiggers were caught with froth on their moustaches when the first squad car in the area roared to a halt outside. Andy's closed permanently in 1957, and from then on the kids went down through the fields and short-cuts to Harris's of Kilcrouney, later Foster's. The leafy paths down through Pembroke Wood were regularly walked by adults and children alike as a short-cut to the Silver Bridge on Dargle Road, but its greatest attraction for youngsters was the presence of many strong vines that hung from the trees. When the ends of the vines were cut loose the young Tarzans and Nyokas of the cottages would go swinging through the 'jungle' for hours on end.

Fitzgeralds lived at the two-storied thatched Massey Cottage from 1948, and when they moved in an old local man whom they employed to carry out renovations promised to tell them of some strange happenings at the house during its long and varied history. Unfortunately he passed away suddenly before getting around to doing so, leaving us to our own tantalising speculations as to what secrets Massey Cottage holds under its thatch. When renewal of the thatch became necessary the job was done by well-known Kildare thatcher, Pat Molloy of Nurney, who also looked after houses at Windgates and Delgany, usually lodging in the house he worked on for the duration of the task.

Rynnville was destroyed by fire in the '50s, providing considerable excitement for the local children, with not a thought for the unfortunate owners. It was later rebuilt to its present state.

Vartry Cottage stood a few yards from the original Dargle Road entrance to



Vartry Cottage

Ballywaltrim Lane. It was an old coaching house from the days of the horse, one of many along the way, and was demolished when the road was realigned about 1970.

Sir Edmund Hodson of Hollybrook was a familiar sight on the road in his little Triumph TR2 sports car. The Hodsons were descendants of Robin Adair, founder of Hollybrook and the man about whom the old ballad of that name was written. The ancient harp and drinking vessels of Robin Adair were preserved at Hollybrook. The present house, built by George Hodson in 1834, was designed by William Morrison who also designed Killruddery.



Hodson's tower stands hidden in the woods high above the house and bears a plaque inscribed 'GH 1834'.

'Pax et Amor' is the charming motto of the Hodson family.

This has been just a glimpse of the Ballywaltrim of half a century ago, when the bread was still delivered door to door by Pat Shortt on a horse-drawn van, and Dinny Byrne from Seapoint Road brought the groceries from Caulfields of Main Street in a tarpaulin-covered dray, also one-horse powered; when the most common 'crime' was cycling without a bicycle lamp, and you could safely leave your hall door key under the geranium pot on the windowsill; when you carried a tin can down the lane to White's farm for the milk, and the thrill of the week was 'Journey into Space' on the wireless every Monday night.

The little cottages are surrounded and dwarfed now by sprawling housing estates as more and more of the old haunts and open fields that swept so gracefully to the slopes of Little Sugarloaf are engulfed by an ever-growing Bray.

Nowhere now for the little waterhen and her chicks, or for the gangly heron to feed. Butler's field lies beneath the concrete of Glenthorn and Ballywaltrim Heights, and the corncrake has gone from Ballywaltrim forever.

The fabulous slides in Hodson's Wood have survived so far, though abandoned and forgotten since the arrival of television, and there on the trunk of a great beech can still be seen the carved initials of the children of the '50s whose laughter rang among the trees and seems to echo down through the years in the happy sound of the gurgling Hollybrook stream.

Footnote See article – "Bray Mill and Brewery – Bray's Oldest Commercial Site" by Dr. Aedin McLoughlan

THE MEDICAL HALL

DR. JOHN FLEETWOOD

Many older readers will remember Raverty's Medical Hall at 110 Main Street on the junction with Herbert Road. The site is now occupied by the E.S.B. The Raverty family connection with general medical practice is a long and distinguished one. The first Dr. Raverty founded the dynasty in 1813. His son and grandson were to follow in his footsteps, the latter dying in 1965 after more than half a century of practice in the Medical Hall and as Dispensary Medical Officer for the town.

The title 'Medical Hall' is peculiar to Ireland. Visitors often ask about it and to understand its significance we have to go back over two hundred and fifty years into Irish medical history. In those days medicine was not taught or practised as we know it today. Within the profession there was disunity. Physicians regarded themselves as an elite group who would not dream of consulting with surgeons whom they looked down on as mere craftsmen and it is easy to understand why for surgeons were lumped together in one guild with barbers, wig-makers and apothecaries. It is the last with whom we are primarily concerned in this article. In theory the College of Physicians supervised them but in practise this control was of little help to the public, in particular to the poor to whom the local apothecary often acted as a family doctor, though his work was supposed to be confined to the dispensing of medicines prescribed by one of the lowly physicians. Not all apothecaries were highly regarded, for on the occasion of a session of the Dublin Guilds a ribald versifier wrote:-

See where the proud Apothecaries thrive
Who most by frauds and impositions thrive
Whose monstrous bills immoderate wealth procure
For drugs that kill as many as they cure
Well are they placed the last of all the rout
For they're the men we most can do without.

Even amongst themselves the apothecaries could not always agree on their role. Those who were anxious to be recognised as doctors were opposed by other members of the Guild who felt that they should remain as dispensing pharmacists and work to improve their status and expertise in that field exclusively. Unfortunately there were black sheep in their ranks whose ethics were flawed and whose main aim was to grab the money and run.

The man who spent his professional life trying to clear up the mess and to

whom we owe the concept of the Medical Hall was Charles Lucas (1713 — 1771). He was born in County Clare into a family whose modest wealth had been frittered away. They moved to Dublin where Charles eventually became an apothecary. Very early in his career he spoke out forcefully about abuses he had noted. Though this made him unpopular with his colleagues, they elected him as their representative on the City Council where he was soon recognised as a stormy petrel involving himself in many efforts to correct abuses, not just in medical matters, so as to help the underdog. Copies of many of the pamphlets he published and of his opponents' replies are preserved in the National Library. The language is so forceful that nowadays both sides would probably have been prosecuted for libel and incitement to hatred.

In 1745 the joint Guild of Apothecaries and Surgeons disintegrated. The apothecaries who heavily outnumbered the surgeons were granted by George the Second a separate Charter incorporating them into the Guild of Saint Luke. The governing body of the Guild consisted of a Master, two Wardens and thirteen assistants to be elected annually. Lucas is not mentioned by name in this Charter but he was certainly very active in his profession at this time. His great objective was the establishment of an Apothecaries Hall as a central depot for the supply of medical services throughout the country. At the time, with few exceptions, lunatic asylums, fever hospitals and gaols were the only institutions to which the sick poor might be admitted. Not that admission to these would do much good for skilled attention was almost non-existent. Lucas' plan was to qualify doctors for a very small fee and by securing them a monopoly of the sale of drugs enable them to live in the small Irish towns of limited and poor population. His work in Dublin had rendered him fully alive to the meagre medical attention available to the city poor, and no doubt memories of life in County Clare assured him that the situation of the rural poor was many times worse.

His hard work and agitation eventually bore fruit and in 1792 the Apothecaries' Hall was opened in Mary Street. Control of the professional was now greatly improved. Regulations for the storage and sale of poisons were introduced. Apprenticeship and examinations were regularised and there are records in the minutes of the Hall of action being taken against apothecaries who failed to comply with its rules. There is also one rather amusing entry about a dispute with the Excise authorities who objected to apothecaries preparing distilled water on the grounds that the apparatus could be used for making poteen. But the most important advance was that Lucas' plan for a nationwide medical service became a reality though not as effective a one as he had hoped. Associations of Apothecaries were established in provincial cities and even in quite small towns Medical Halls developed in which the owner worked as both a doctor and a pharmacist. Some of these are still in existence with their original titles still over the shop front.

The story of further developments is a long, complex and sometimes tedious one which has been the subject of several publications. Suffice it to say

that about the middle of last century two separate professions developed when the Pharmacy Act of 1870 was passed. This enabled 'persons who although they do not desire to practise the art and mystery of an apothecary, desire and are qualified to open shop for the retailing, dispensing and compounding poisons and medical prescriptions, to keep open shop for the purposes aforesaid.' This and the amending Act of 1890 largely govern the practice of pharmacy in Ireland to this day with relatively minor alterations to cover situations never envisaged one hundred and more years ago.

The status of Licentiates of the Apothecaries' Hall was at last clear. They were qualified medical practitioners entitled also to keep open shop, the Medical Hall, where they could dispense both their own and other doctors' prescriptions. The Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall is still a registrable qualification but no new licences have been issued since 1971.

At one time passing the 'Pott's Hall' examination was felt to be an easy option, even a side door way of becoming a qualified doctor, but possession of an L.A.H. could be an advantage when applying for certain posts. Some hospitals found it desirable to have a staff member with this pharmaceutical licence and in a few cases the hospital's charter positively required such an appointment to be made.

The first Doctor Raverty started practice in Bray in 1813 and the Medical Hall was opened in 1832. I know of no records relevant to this period and the Medical Directory of 1862 lists four doctors, none of them a Raverty, working in Bray but in 1898 — 1899 James Raverty presumably Henry's father was elected Governor of the Apothecaries' Hall. The last Raverty to practise in Bray was Henry Joseph who qualified in 1907 and like his father became an apothecary in 1911. Though his son Stephen who died at a tragically early age qualified in medicine he did not take up practice in Bray and when his father died in 1965 a one hundred and fifty two year tradition of service in the town came to an end.

I had remembered Raverty's Medical Hall and its distinctive chemical smell since I was a small boy in Presentation College. I little thought then that one day I would be working there and that the mysterious names on the rows of neatly ranged bottles would become quite familiar to me. Of the several pharmacists who came and went during my time, two have remained in my memory, Eileen Clarke whom I was to care for in her last illness many years later, and George Walshe, a talented baritone still in great demand at Irish functions in many parts of Britain. Many of the drugs which were their stock-in-trade have become obsolete and instead of carefully dispensing doctors' prescriptions the modern pharmacist has almost everything available in pre-packed form. Maybe it's more convenient and very 'scientific' but a lot of the mystique has gone out of the job, and while the old drugs were less effective, they had fewer side effects too. Still, looking back, like every senior doctor I can recollect young lives that would have been saved with a few shots of a



RAVERTY'S
MEDICAL HALL
at 110 Main Street
on the junction with
Herbert Road

modern antibiotic. It would be lovely if we could make advances without always destroying the old ways totally, not just in medicine but in almost every department of human living.

BRAY AS A HEALTH RESORT

To the Editor of the Irish Times

Sir — At this time of year many people are on the look-out for a suitable seaside holiday resort, and they are naturally desirous to find one free from infectious disease on account of their children. A few facts in relation to the health of Bray during the last twelve months will, therefore, be of interest to your readers. No case of enteric or typhoid fever has been reported as having arisen from local causes since 13th June 1899. I am happy to say that at present there is not a single case of infectious disease under treatment in the district. Only four cases of typhoid were treated within the year, and the causes of three of these (visitors) were traced to other and distant localities. The sanitary arrangements of the district are carefully and well looked after, the dairies being all registered and duly inspected by a qualified inspector. New sewerage arrangements have been constructed during the year, and every means have been adopted to perfect the sanitation of the town. Hoping you will kindly publish this letter, which at the present time is of special interest.

Yours, etc.,

James Raverty, Med. Sup.

Officer of Health, Bray, May 20, 1900

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BRAY MILL AND BREWERY — BRAY'S OLDEST COMMERCIAL SITE

DR. AEDÍN McLOUGHLIN

OUR story starts at the end of the 12th century when a wooden castle was built by Walter de Riddlesford on a hill roughly on the site of St. Paul's Church. Its purpose was to defend Bray ford, where the bridge now stands, from attack by native tribesmen.

Under the protection of this castle grew the village of Bray with all the essential industries supplying the inhabitants of the castle and the native population. The most important was the corn mill which was located on the same site as the present-day Old Mill building. No signs of the original mill remain as it was probably made of wood. It is also likely that the mill-race that survived until very recently was constructed along the same course as the original.

The original castle was destroyed by the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes on 16th April 1316, according to Lewis' Topographical Dictionary. At the same time the natives were defeated by Edmond de Boteler. A replacement castle was built of stone and survived until the 18th century. Maps of the time also show the corn mill, which would also have been constructed of stone. The only remaining clue to the structure of this "Tudor" mill was a curved archway that allowed the millrace to run under the mill but had a different and older construction to the rest of the buildings. This archway survived until very recently, when the millrace was filled in.

In 1625, the castle, bawn and mill were owned by the first Earl of Meath¹, who were not dispossessed after the Confederate Wars and the Cromwellian campaign. After the Restoration, the Brabazons or Earls of Meath retained their lands and title and in 1666, "Muche Bray" was divided between Edward, 2nd Earl of Meath, who retained the castle and mill and Oliver, Earl of Tyrconnel. The castle was subsequently destroyed.

The "Modern" Buildings

The next significant event in the history of the mill was an indenture dated

Footnote 1 Kilruddery is the residence of the Earls of Meath and still occupied by them. Situated approximately 0.5 km south of Bray on the Greystones Road, it is a building well worth a visit, with extensive grounds and formal gardens.

1st July 1794 between Thomas Southern and the Earl of Meath in which Thomas Southern was leased the "Corn Mill" commonly called Bray Mill and six acres, lately in possession of Daniel Miller, including all ways, waters, water course, mill races, appurtenances and premises appertaining to the land lying in Great Bray, County Wicklow." Rent was set at £40 sterling to be paid "half on 29th Sept. and half on 25th March."

For £200, improvements to the site were to be carried out between 1794 and 1796. This included "repairing the mill, mill stones, shaft and wheel and building and keeping in repair the water course and the walls with stones and lime and sand mortar and enclosing the premises with stone walls"

Other interesting conditions of the indenture were that "Thomas Southern will grind any Corn, Malt and other grist of any kind for the private use of the Earl of Meath and any other resident of Kilruddery", in the mill, without receiving any fees. Failure to do so will result in liability to pay 5 shillings per Barrel at the same time as the annual rent."

"Thomas Southern will give Earl Meath in Kilruddery four Salmon Trout and one Salmon per week between the fifteenth of May and fifteenth of August. If this duty is not fulfilled . . . it will be lawful for William Earl of Meath to enter the premises and seize any goods or chattel he sees fit to satisfy the arrears."

In return, "William Earl of Meath covenants and agrees that on receipt of all rent and execution of all duties, Thomas Southern, his heirs and assigns may occupy the premises forever without eviction, ejection, hindrance or molestation."

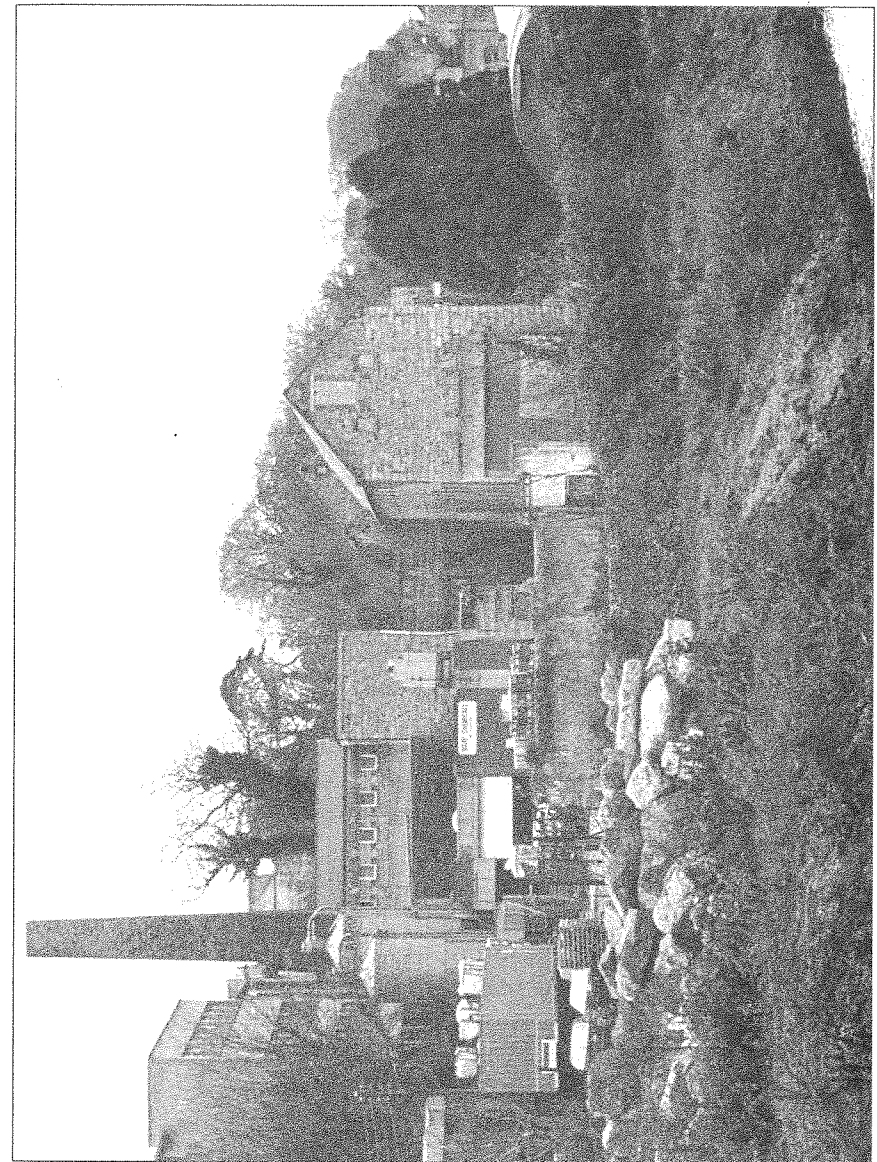
It is from this time that the present buildings and stone walls date. The buildings included the Corn Mill, Maltings buildings and kiln, Malter's House, Stables, Haybarns, Dreyman's houses, Brewery, Storehouses, and Offices. On the land was an ornamental garden with an original Victorian outdoor privy (with direct access to the millrace!), vegetable garden, herb garden, and hayfields. All of these could be identified until recently.

The next interesting reference to the brewery was in a contemporary report in the Freeman's Journal of 1798 which gives an account of the elopement of seventeen brewery workers to join the 1798 rebellion. One of the rebels left a note for his employer stating his reason for going away "which he said was in consequence of a notice from his officer (a Rebel) ordering him to join his ranks directly."

Captured 1798 rebels were imprisoned in the old barracks at the top of the bank until brought to trial.

The 19th Century Brewery

Whether because of that or for other reasons, the Southern family only retained the brewery until 1810, when it was auctioned on 1st November (Freeman's Journal of 27th October 1810). The advertisement in the Freeman's



Old Mill Area

Journal gives extensive detail of layout and capacity. It included a "neat Dwelling House and Garden and an abundant supply of water. The Malthouse is equal to the production of 3,000 Barrels of Malt per Year."

Subsequent owners were Messrs. Christie and Redmond, according to a reference in the Freeman's Journal of February 1818, which concerns the collection of an illegal toll on their barrels at Ballsbridge which the brewers sought to recover.

In 1839, the brewery was bought by a Mr. Watkins and became Watkins and Darley Brewery. It remained in business until the 1920's after which the malthouse was used for storage purposes. Contemporary accounts by the family of one of the dreyemen give an insight into the way of life of the brewery employees and their families at the turn of the century. The dreyemen's duties included collecting barley at Bray station from Enniscorthy and looking after the horses and tack. According to these accounts, nobody went hungry although everyone had to work hard.

Recent History of the Brewery Buildings

In 1930, a Mr. Purcell bought the premises and leased it to Mr. Coxon who had a wallpaper factory there until 1975, when a fire destroyed some of the buildings. The remaining Brewery buildings, other than the Maltings, underwent extensive flooding at the time of Hurricane Charlie in 1986 and have now been declared unfit for restoration.

In 1990, the site of the Old Brewery (now called the Maltings) was bought by Rathvendon Estates and a plan was put forward for development under the Urban Renewal Scheme². This development included light industry and residential units and proposed the conservation of the Maltings building with conversion to modern-day uses such as a restaurant and pub. Local opposition to the plan on environmental grounds resulted in referral of the plan to An Bord Pleanála, who granted planning permission with conditions that did not substantially alter the plans.

Subsequently, an altered plan was submitted to Bray U.D.C. which did not include industrial use. This plan was passed.

The Electricity Works and subsequently The Old Mill remained in use as a Mill until the late 1800s. It was then taken over by the Bray Electric Light Company which started the provision of Electric power to Bray in 1892. Electricity was provided by two turbines which were located in the Mill Race and provided much of Bray with power at 100 volts and pumped water to the trains at Quinsboro Road. In 1895, Bray Urban District Council purchased the Company and became the first Municipal Authority to own its own Electricity Generating Plant. For 36 years, the Bray Electricity Works illuminated the town until in 1928 the E.S.B. took over.

Bray Electrical Works is famous for its accident which happened on 10th July 1912. A diesel engine drove the alternator in the works and was started by compressed air. Unfortunately, the electrical engineer, Mr. Souter and his foreman, Mr. Coates used an oxygen cylinder by mistake. In the resulting explosion, Coates was killed and Souter lost both his legs. He, however, remained in charge and in the Council's employ until 1927. This accident was the first fatal accident recorded in the generation of electricity in this country. Mr. Coates' gravestone is still to be seen as you go into St. Peter's Cemetery - the first gravestone on the left.

The Woodlands

One of the most obvious features of the site as you look over the bridge is the bank covered by deciduous woodland. This wood is centuries old and is obviously worthy of conservation, both from an environmental and ecological point of view and from a structural point of view - the woodland is vital in the prevention of erosion of the bank and subsequent undermining of the land above.

Two studies have been carried out on this wood - one by a group from Trinity College, Dublin who incorporated the area in their study on the Swan River. The other is more recent - a survey has been completed in 1992 on the Dargle Valley by a post-graduate student from the Department of Agriculture in U.C.D.

Both groups emphasise the importance of conservation of the woodlands along the Dargle Valley and recommend an active approach to conservation. The woods are considered to be an important part of the natural heritage of Bray which is almost unique in the extent of its woodlands in an otherwise intensely urban character. Among the wildlife that abound in the woods and along the river are badgers, foxes, herons, coots and ducks.

The trees are presently showing signs of neglect and require urgent attention. Development plans for the area include conditions on management of the woodlands and it is hoped that with careful management, the woodlands will be restored and regenerate.

Footnote 2 The "Maltings" was developed as part of an Urban Renewal Act 1986 (Designated Areas) (Bray) Order 1994 Reg. No. 2

THE OLD COURTHOUSE

— REFLECTIONS —

JOE DUTTON

THE old Courthouse, now the Heritage Centre was built in 1841. In the early 1950's I was a journalist with the then 'Wicklow People' newspaper, whose head office was in Wexford, and I was also correspondent for the 'Irish Independent' and 'Irish Press'. In such capacity I was obliged to attend sittings of Bray District Court, mainly held from 10.30 on Friday mornings and running usually up to 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the evening. The then District Justice was Mr. Liam Price,¹ who bore a reputation for unyielding application of the strict terms of the law. Behind the grim and foreboding appearance, however, he conducted his Court fairly and impartially. The Court Clerk during those years was a Mr. Diarmuid O'Broin, a kindly and considerate and highly intelligent official. Indeed he was also a qualified Civil Engineer and the only Court Clerk of the period enjoying extra remuneration from the Department of Justice because of his ability to conduct Court business through the native language, should such circumstances arise. During my time as a reporter the Summons Servers, as they were known then, were Edmund O'Brien and Christopher O'Brien. The former, whose widow and family still reside in the town, discharged the onerous duties of his position with a quiet efficiency and in a dignified manner, despite the often unpleasant facets of his task. He was succeeded by a man whom I got to know closely over a lengthy period and who was to become one of the town's most famous chroniclers, Christy Brien, long since deceased, as is his wife. The family still reside in and around the area. Christy made a forceful impact on the life of the town. Indeed, it is not for me to write a history on the amount of research he engaged in or the diligence he displayed in unearthing so much local information on the history of his town. His epitaph is written in the minds and hearts of the many, many people in Bray who have enjoyed reading the numerous articles from the pen of Bray's best-loved historian. I treasured his friendship and memories. If the walls of the old Courthouse could unfold

Footnote 1 Justice Liam Price, author of *The Place Names of Co. Wicklow* (7 vols.)

some of the happenings within its precincts it would yield a litany of sorrow and sadness interspersed very, very rarely with sighs of relief — sadness and sorrow at the imposition of prison sentences for breaches of the criminal law and the resultant trauma suffered by the family of those incarcerated

The sorrow was reflected in the faces of those arraigned and convicted and sentenced for criminal offences.

Criminal trials were generally prosecuted by a Superintendent of the Garda Siochana or Inspector and during my time as a reporter the prosecutions in Bray were conducted by Superintendent James Hynes, then resident on the Putland Road, a fearless and efficient, but fair, prosecutor. Sometimes Prosecutions would be conducted by an Inspector Kelly, who resided on the Meath Road, a former athlete who had distinguished himself in running competitions throughout the country, a diligent and conscientious member of An Garda Siochana. Both men are long since gone to their eternal reward (R.I.P.).

Bray Court was also the venue where people in default of payments to the Local Authority (Bray U.D.C.) for rent and rates or other charges, and for people who failed to discharge lawful debts due to various firms were arraigned and suffered the due penalty the law prescribed, generally directed to pay the outstanding debt plus legal costs, with threat of detention in prison a powerful factor in ensuring payment.

The old Courthouse occupied a prominent position in the town, as is plainly evident now as you stand in the Heritage Centre. Traffic passing by, motorised and pedestrian, could not fail but be attracted to the increase in the number of Gardai assembled around the entrance to the old Courthouse and the fairly large number of people, spectators, wrongdoers or criminals, preparatory to their entry to the Court. The old Courthouse, thus, by virtue of its prominent position in the town, brought into sharp focus at each sittings of the Court, the assembled people, the upholders of the law and the less fortunate wrong doers. But the vicissitudes of time now sees the District Courthouse situated off the Boghall Road while the old building erected over a century and a half ago now serves as a sort of museum, a storehouse of memories where the passing parade, through its portals, of legal eagles, witnesses, spectators, criminals and petty wrong-doers has faded into oblivion. Business as usual, increased business, unhappily, is now carried on in the Courthouse at Boghall Road, presided over by District Justice F. Johnston.

CIVIL DEFENCE IN BRAY

1958 TO 1990 (OR THEREABOUTS)

LOUIS O'ROURKE

I have in front of me two letters and one old diary. One letter is dated 9th June 1958 and is from Bray Urban District Council and is signed by D. F. McCarthy, Town Clerk and is in remarkably good condition considering its age. The second letter is dated 20th December 2000 and is signed by Séamus Brennan T.D. the Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Dept. of Defence.

I found the 1958 letter when rooting through a box of old letters looking for something else entirely. It told me that it "has been decided to go ahead with the development of Civil Defence in Bray". It invited me to attend for training on June 18th 1958.

The second letter was sent recently to all members of Civil Defence in the country to mark the Golden Jubilee of Civil Defence which started nationally in 1950. The letter thanked everyone who had served in the organisation at any time during this period.

These documents got me thinking back over all the years that I have served in Civil Defence since that first meeting in 1958 forty-three years ago.

I cannot remember why it took eight years to get things moving in Bray. Certainly the Civil Defence School had to be set up in Ratra House in the Phoenix Park, its staff had to be appointed and trained in Britain and they in turn had to train the first batch of new Instructors among whom was the late Jim Brophy.

So Civil Defence in Bray started in 1958 when a meeting was held in the Town Hall where it was explained to the assembled audience that a new organisation was to be established in the town.

It was being established because of the growing threat of another world conflict between the major powers and the threat that this entailed to the civilian population.

Citizens from all over the town and from all walks of life attended that meeting. Amongst them were a group of members of the local Red Cross Unit including Dermot Cranny, Paddy O'Reilly, Tom Costello, Jack and Nancy Cullen and Winnie Byrne. They signed up to a man (and women) and formed a solid kernel of people in the new organisation.

Once the basic training was completed the formation of six Services started. They comprised:

A Headquarters Service	A Warden Service	An Auxiliary Fire Service
A Rescue Service	A Welfare Service	A Casualty Service

The names of these Services more or less explains their function except for the Warden and Welfare Services.

The Warden Service was very much a controlling Service and had a very tight structure reaching into every townland and street when properly organised. Its purpose was to give advice and guidance to the public in the event of an emergency and to guide and direct the other Services to wherever they might be needed.

The Welfare Service was to provide emergency advice, accommodation, clothing and food to people who might have to be evacuated.

The Fire Service was my first love and I was delighted when a Unit was established in Bray. At first we trained under the late Paddy Doyle who was the Station Officer in Bray. Paddy was very patient with this gang of very enthusiastic young men who wanted to get their hands on every piece of equipment available and hang on to high pressure hoses whenever they could.

A campaign was mounted by the members to get a pump of our own to use and we were eventually given a large portable pump.

It was very temperamental and would lift water from an open source whenever the humour was on it. At that time the Fire Station was located at the back of the Town Hall and we had open access to it. This lasted until one day when two members got the key from the late Jack Harpur, filled an inspection pit with water, ran a hose through the Station and pointed their branch across the Pound. To their surprise and the confusion of traffic the pump suddenly lifted and a powerful jet of water shot across the Killarney Road!

Then in 1962 we were equipped with a Green Goddess which was a four-wheel drive Fire Appliance with a very powerful pump and the Service started to expand and develop.

In those years the other Services were expanding and developing as well. The Rescue Service was originally trained by Tommy Duffy from Arklow. This role was subsequently taken over by Bill Sheridan, Matt Byrne, and the late Bill Clarke.

The Welfare Service was led and trained by the late Betty Walsh and by Sheila Meagher as well.

The Warden Service was trained initially by Paddy O'Reilly who was the District Warden as well. Paddy held this position until he emigrated to Canada with his family. The late Bill Elliott took over this role and served in this capacity for many years. Bob Crowther transferred from the A.F.S. and took over this job until he retired in 1990.

The members of the Red Cross Unit manned the Casualty Service and they wore Civil Defence uniform when on duty with CD. This situation lasted for some years until it was decided that they would wear their own uniform at all times and receive a financial allowance from CD for doing so. Members of the

Order of Malta also became members of the Casualty Service in the late 60s and gave excellent service as well.

The first Civil Defence Officer appointed in Wicklow was the late Rex Sharpe who was the County Fire Officer at the time. He was arbitrarily appointed to this (then unpaid) position by the then County Manager, Michael Flannery. Rex did not last too long in this job as he refused to do anything and was eventually fired by the County Manager. Rex was very proud of this and had his dismissal framed and hanging on his wall.

He was followed by an Arklow man, Tadhg O'Mahoney. I don't remember much about him as he also did not last too long. The position was then taken over by the late Jim Brophy and he was the longest serving CDO in Wicklow holding the position until he died in 1992. The current incumbent is William Downes of Bray.

The Dept. of Defence appointed a team of Army Officers with the rank of Commandant to act as Regional Civil Defence Officers in 1961. The Country was then divided into eight Regions and it was the job of these officers to co-ordinate the development and planning in their areas of responsibility. Wicklow was a member of Region No. 7 which was made up of Counties Kildare, Meath and Dublin as well as Wicklow.

Comdt. Frank Hyland was the first RCDO we had and he was a most capable officer and his hard work helped a great deal with the development of the organisation. He was succeeded by Comdts. O'Shea, Monaghan, Swan, Studdard and Comdt. (now General) John Vize. This role was eventually stood down with the appointment of full time Civil Defence Officers throughout the country.

Jim Brophy was an ideal choice for the position of CDO. He was already an Instructor and knew the organisation very well. He was what was called at the time a Home Assistance Officer with Wicklow County Council and was heavily involved with the G.A.A. With all his contacts he was very well known throughout the county and his hard work played a large part in the establishment of Units in practically every town and village in the county.

In the early 60s a full time job became available in the organisation. I decided to take on this job even though it was paying about half of what I was earning as a compositor with the Irish Times and so I turned into a Clerk/Storekeeper. My intention was to do the job for a year or so and then go back to printing but that was not the way it worked out. I ended up doing the job for almost ten years ending up as Assistant Civil Defence Officer to Jim Brophy.

With a full-time man in the organisation it was now possible to put in a lot more time and work to the development of the various Services throughout the County.

One priority that was set for us by the Dept. was the expansion of the Warden Service through every town, village and townland. The reason for this was that it was felt that the biggest threat to the population in the dreadful event of another war was that of radioactive fallout. A network of Wardens

throughout the county would help to advise and direct people should this happen. Thank God this was never to be put to the test.

This was a tremendous task and meant many long hours on the road trying to recruit suitable people. I ended up seeing parts of Wicklow that I did not know existed and gained a great knowledge of the county in this way.

The development of the Warden Service in Bray was not as difficult as it was in the more thinly populated parts of Wicklow and was helped a great deal by the hard work of men like Bill Elliott, Jim O'Leary, Stephen Byrne, Jim Lyons and many others.

The education of the public in these matters was also stressed and in an effort to do this a film was made called "Dangerous Dust". A lot of it was made locally here in Wicklow. It would be very interesting to look at this film now after all these years.

In the 1960s the first uniforms were issued amid great excitement. They were not very elegant being made of the same bullswool material as the army uniforms of the time only they were black. It was almost impossible to keep a crease in the pants and many and varied were the methods used to try to do this. While the uniform was supplied free each member had to supply his or her own white shirt and black tie.

Over the years the uniform was redesigned and a much neater version issued. I well remember the first time we saw a prototype of the new uniform. We were on our annual camp in Coolmoney Camp in the Glen of Imaal and the CDO Jim Brophy appeared one evening in this lovely uniform complete with frock coat and gold buttons. We could not wait to get our hands on them.

This led to an April's Fool joke that caught a lot of members. At the time I ran a weekly radio programme called "at Your Service" on Bray Local Broadcasting on a Sunday evening. It happened that this particular Sunday was April 1st so we put out a story that the new uniforms were to be issued only to those members who were in the Warden Service. Bob Crowther who was the District Warden at the time was very convincing and a lot of members in the other Services jammed the phone lines protesting about this injustice!

During these years it was the policy within CD to become involved in all local emergencies whenever our assistance was needed. It was felt, correctly I believe, that it is frustrating for people to attain a high degree of skill in training and never have the chance to put it into practice in reality. At that time the emergency services were not as well equipped or organised as they are now and were glad to avail of our help.

Civil Defence was involved very much, as a consequence, in such diverse emergencies as road traffic accidents, snow relief, searches, mountain and hill rescues, fire fighting etc. As a result members became highly proficient and capable and many of them subsequently took up full-time employment in the



The late Jim Brophy C.D.O., Louis O'Rourke with his son Shane — in the early 70s

various emergency services both in Wicklow and in Dublin.

Many successful rescues were carried out in places like Powerscourt Waterfall, Glenmacnass, Luggalaw and on the cliffs at Bray Head to name but some of them even though the equipment available at the time was quite basic.

In the early 70s everyone involved in Civil Defence, and many who were not, were heavily involved in looking after some of the thousands of refugees who streamed over the border during the marching season in the north.

These were worrying times for everyone. I still remember Paddy Dempsey who was the Area Commandant for the Red Cross at the time telling me that his sources in the north had told him that things were going to get a whole lot worse and that we would be inundated with refugees. At the time we were fully stretched dealing with what we had and I had no idea where we would put any more. Luckily Paddy's sources got it wrong and we were able to cope with what we got.

They were billeted in Fatima Hall in Bray, Newcastle Hospital and in Kiltegan in the seminary there. Fatima Hall was the most popular because it was so handy to the Seafront and the cinemas etc and people did not want to go home even when things had quietened down there. The only way we could manage this was to move people to the less popular billets as places became available in them.

Looking back over the pages of the 1968 diary I found that all our training throughout the county was suspended until February because of the threat of Foot and Mouth disease.

At the time I was paid fortnightly and Jim Brophy had to enter in my diary how much I was to be paid including any overtime done. The entry for Thursday, March 7th showed that I worked 57 hours for that week and was paid £32.12s.31/2d as well as £3.12s.2d for 8 hours overtime in the week of February 29th and £5.8s.3d for 12 hours overtime in the week of March 7th! A highly paid job indeed.

The diary also shows that life was very busy that year with members taking part in the Military Parade in Dublin on Easter Sunday, dinner dances all over the place from Carnew to Bray to Wicklow and Kiltegan in the west as well as weekly training sessions all over the county. The Wicklow dance ran from 8pm to 2am and tickets were £1.7s.6d.

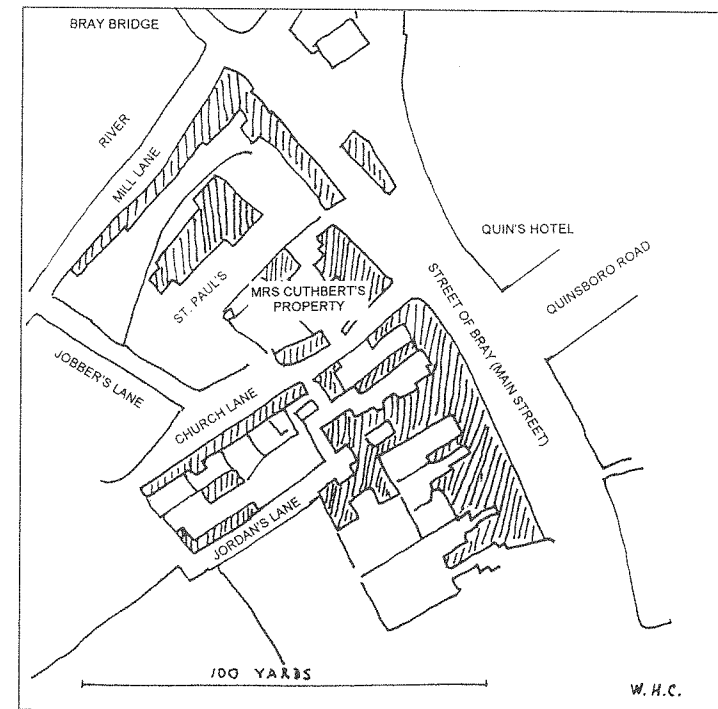
Competitions were a part of activities then too to a very large extent and we were involved in tests at County, Regional and All-Ireland levels. A great relationship built up between the Wicklow Units and those from Cork and many happy and enjoyable weekends were spent at each other's camps over many years.

The story of Civil Defence in Bray can only be told in outline in a short account like this one. Major events such as the flooding of the Dargle in 1965 and again Hurricane Charley in 1986, the involvement with the refugees in the 70s and the work done on many of the major films made in Ardmore Studios would make a basis for articles in their own right. When I retire I may get time to research them properly and write some more. I hope so.

AN ABORTIVE URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME - BRAY 1858

LIAM CLARE

Following the completion of the rail link between Dublin and Bray in 1854, a short but intensive period of boom resulted in the construction of new residential areas and much tourist accommodation. Nearly all the best residential terraces in the town, Westbourne, Goldsmith, Prince of Wales, Dargan (now Duncairn), Florence (part), Brennan's, Brighton, Alexandra and Martello Terraces, and Sydenham Villas date from about 1858 to 1863, while three of the four big hotels, the International, Breslin's Royal Marine and the Bray Head were completed within seven or eight years of the arrival of the railway.



Map 1 - St. Paul's Area in 1858

The rapidly increasing resident and seasonal population resulted in a demand for new facilities of all kinds, and Christ Church, St. Andrew's and the Methodist church, all built during the same few years, responded to the need for new church buildings.

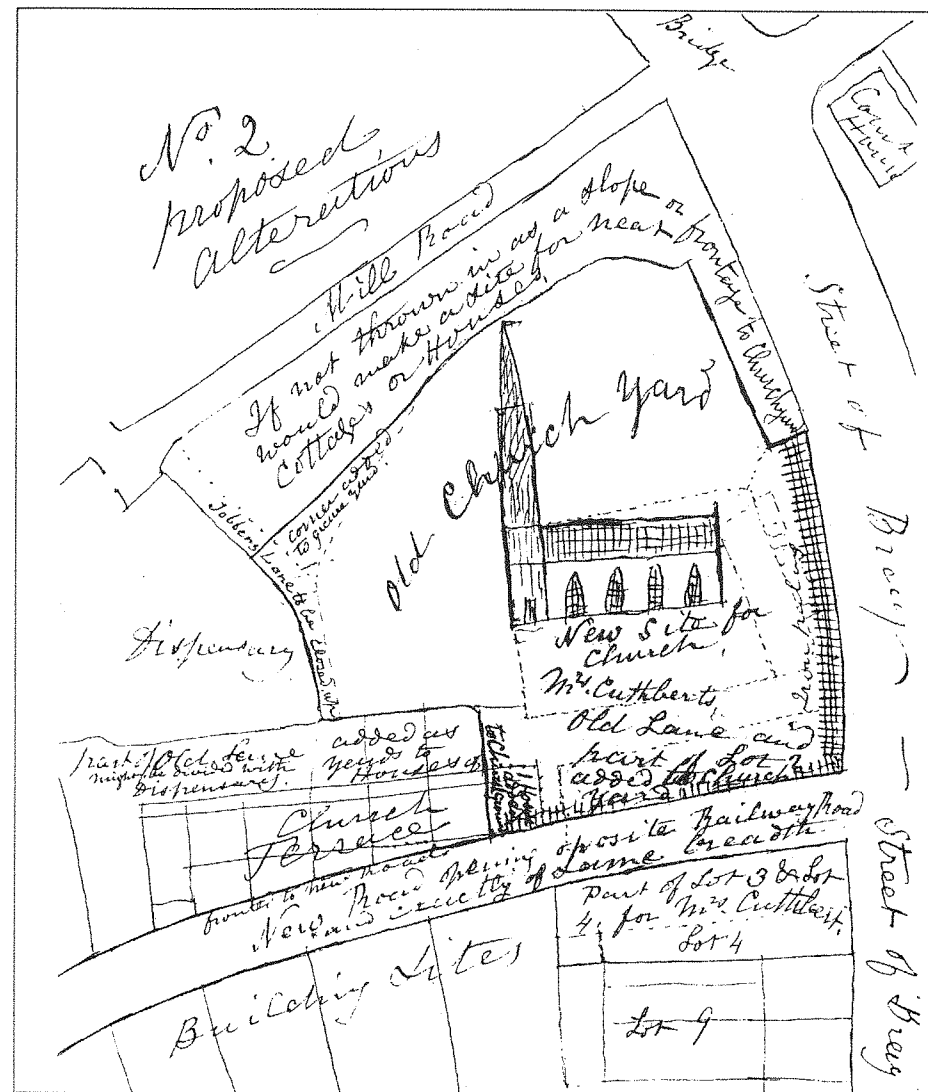
In the years around 1860, there was considerable discussion within the Church of Ireland in Bray, firstly as to whether to extend or rebuild the existing Bray Parish Church, not yet called St. Paul's, or to build a new church - and subsequently whether this new church should be sited at Novara Avenue, on Lord Meath's land, or on Sidney Herbert's property - firstly at the pound, where the town hall now is, and later on its present site.

One particularly imaginative proposal was made in 1858, by John Kynerston Edwards to John Vernon, the agent of Sydney Herbert, owner of the land in the vicinity of St. Paul's. It was that the grounds of the existing church should be extended to what is now the corner of Herbert Road and the Main Street, and a new church built on the extended site. He argued that if it were built there, this particular part of the town 'would be improved beyond anything [that] can be imagined, and the opening to the new road [Herbert Road] would be very handsome, and if some vigorous and comprehensive plan of the kind be not adopted, that the new church will be carried off to Novara Avenue, leaving one of the most commanding positions [which] it would be possible to find.'

Map 1 shows the then existing situation, with the church almost hidden by a row of houses facing the lower end of the Street of Bray (Main Street), with a row of houses on the Main Street facing the entrance to the new Quinsboro Road (referred to as Railway Road), where the Herbert Road entrance is now, and with a jumble of lanes serving the various buildings.

The proposal shown in Map 2 envisaged the creation of the Herbert Road, the tidying up of the slope overlooking the river then occupied by run-down property, and the creating for the church of a street frontage to the Main Street, a short distance up the new road. The houses on Church Terrace would be turned to face onto the new road, and would get new back yards to replace those taken for the road. Redundant laneways would be closed. Some of the residents like Dr. Raverty who would lose their properties would be relocated. Particularly Mrs. Cuthbert, occupier of a strategic large property sited where 112-114 Main Street (Macari's to the former O'Carroll's) are now, and from which she operated a coal merchant's business, would get a new premises, close to her present [premises] and in an equally good position, because 'without some such arrangement ... it would be very difficult to deal with her'.

In the event, the move to build a new church on a greenfield site became unstoppable and pre-empted the implementation of the proposal around St. Paul's. Though Herbert Road was built, the church yard was never extended.



Map 2 - Manuscript map, 1858, setting out proposals by John Kynerston Edwards

However the houses between the church and the street were later removed in a widening of the Main Street. Church Terrace houses lost their yards to make way for the new road but got no replacements. Church Lane and other passageways were left open. Mrs Cuthbert stayed where she was. The

Raverty family, whose premises had been on the site of the new road, were relocated on the new Herbert Road / Main Street corner, where they remained for over a hundred years.

Why did the scheme prove abortive? It appears that the strength of the lobby to build the new church in the newer part of the town was so overwhelming as to make this proposal non-viable; perhaps Mrs. Cuthbert dug in her heels; perhaps the legal obstacles to extinguishing the rights over the laneways were deemed to be insurmountable. In any event no more was heard of the proposal.

Had the scheme gone ahead, St. Paul's church would have become the most prominent building on the skyline dominating the approach to the town, and the churchyard would have afforded an open aspect to the centre of town. In addition, the enlarged church would have provided an imposing architectural focal point to the town centre. It was an opportunity missed.

Main sources:

- Liam Clare, *Victorian Bray*, (Dublin 1998), p 33.
- National Library of Ireland, Riall Papers, PC 260 & 261, File 78.
- National Archives, Pembroke Papers, 1011/2/15.
- Irish Historic Towns Atlas No. 9, Bray, (Dublin, 1998).

OPENING OF ROYAL CINEMA BRAY

LIAM CLARE

It was St. Stephen's Day 1935, and a full capacity of 1,000 patrons, with a platform party of urban councillors and prominent citizens awaited the formal opening by Dr. J. Ryan, Minister for Agriculture.

The cinema, had been designed by architect Vincent Kelly and constructed "on the neo-Egyptian method" by Mc Nally's of East Wall, in the grounds of the Royal Hotel.

Dr. Ryan, a non-cinema-goer, referred to fears of the corrupting influence of the cinema, but expressed confidence that the Royal Cinema would not screen anything offensive to the morals of the people or their sense of nationality. He received a cheque representing the first evening's takings, plus £50 - the cost of a planned reception which was foregone - to be used for relief of poverty in Bray.

After the formalities, the audience enjoyed a programme of a newsreel, a clever cartoon, three short comedies and the principal picture "Gold Diggers of Broadway".

SOME WRITERS OF NORTH-EAST WICKLOW

JIM REES

It is common with most counties in Ireland, Wicklow has produced a wealth of literary talent, and many of these writers were either born in or settled in the Bray-Enniskerry-Delgany area.

What follows is a brief outline of the lives of seven of them. As with all selections, many readers will find fault with my choices, wondering why so and so was included while someone else was not. It is the old problem identified by Samuel Johnson in the preface to his *A Dictionary of the English Language* in which he bemoans the fact that the best a lexicographer can hope for is a nod of heavily qualified approval, but is more likely to be castigated for the apparent lack of logic in his selection. It is the same for all compilers and all I can say in my defence is: These are the ones who grabbed my attention, take 'em or leave 'em. No doubt the editor would welcome other articles based on other north Wicklow writers.

BOYLAN, DOM EUGENE (1904-1964)

Not many monks established an international reputation as writers, but then not many monks were atomic physicists before they entered the religious life. Eugene Boylan was a most gifted man with a phenomenal capacity for knowledge in a remarkably wide range of subjects.

He was born in Bray 1904, but was educated at Derry CBS, O'Connell School, Dublin, and UCD. He went to study atomic physics at Vienna University and was awarded a Rockefeller scholarship in 1928. But this was no frail bookworm. He balanced his academic achievements with the robust activities of a sportsman, representing Ireland in the first Tailteann Games. He seemed to have the world at his feet, yet there was something missing from his life. His intellectual and physical capabilities could not address his spiritual needs, so in 1933 he entered the Cistercian order at Roscrea and was professed five years later. He taught philosophy as well as moral and dogmatic theology to the community and the students. He spoke at least five languages, two of which - French and German - he taught in Roscrea College. Even that was not

enough for the remarkable Eugene Boylan.

He became known as a confessor and wrote several books on spiritual life, among them *This Tremendous Lover* (1946), which had a world-wide sale. In the words of his publisher, John Feehan of Mercier Press, 'in a very short time [it] found more than a million readers'. Other publications were *Difficulties in Mental Prayer* (1943), *The Spiritual Life of the Priest* (1949), and *The Priest's Way to God* (1962). Readers might be forgiven for thinking that here was a man who, despite his undoubted talents, could never succeed in the "real" world. Wrong. During the 1950s he was appointed temporary superior at the Dominicans' Caldey Island priory with the task of putting the community on a sound economic footing. He did so by developing the production of perfume. He died in January 1964 and perhaps the best way to sum him up is to refer again to John Feehan who described him as a 'man of immense force of character and transparent sincerity of purpose . . . his writing mirrored most perfectly the truth of his own nature'.

CAMPBELL, FLANN (1919-1994)

One of the traps we seem to fall into all too easily in Ireland is pigeon-holing people. For example, if we consider that Flann Campbell was the son of a Belfast Protestant; was educated at Sandford Park School, TCD and the London School of Economics; and was a senior lecturer in education at Middlesex polytechnic before returning to Ireland in his retirement, we might well form the opinion that here was a middle class, conservative with more than likely Unionist leanings. And that is exactly the sort of stereotyping which Flann Campbell tried to combat in his writings.

Born in Glencree in 1919, he grew up in a household imbued with Nationalist and Socialist leanings, as can be seen from the entry on his father below. During his time in England, he was an active member of the British Labour Party, but also kept a close eye on political developments at home, editing the monthly paper of the Connolly Association, *Irish Democrat*, in 1946 and 1947. He also wrote widely on British education policies, including *Eleven Plus and All That: The London Grammar School and the Orange Card*, a short study of Orangeism.

Perhaps his most important work was *The Dissenting Voice*, which was published in 1991 when he was in his 72nd year. This was a study of Protestant radical thought in Ulster from the first plantation to partition. It was designed to remind the general public that lazy generalisations about "Northern Protestants" do not only distort the truth but also deny the contributions made by the many democratic, anti-sectarian and republican elements in Northern Protestantism. His major literary achievement has been to remind us that the simple equation of Catholic-equals-Irish and Protestant-equals-British is erroneous simplification at its worst.

Flann Campbell died suddenly in Dublin on March 6, 1994 at the age of 74.

CAMPBELL, JOSEPH (1879-1944)

When the Ulster Literary Theatre was founded in 1904, Belfast born poet Joseph Campbell became one of its editors. He also worked with a young composer, Herbert Hayes, to produce a collection of traditional airs and lyrics which they called *Songs of Úladh*, and he published several volumes of his own poetry before going to London where he spent several years as secretary of the Irish National Literary Society. On his return to Ireland he settled on a small farm at Glencree, where he continued to work on his poetry, producing a collection called *Earth of Cualann*.

A strong Nationalist, he became a member of Sinn Féin, winning a seat on Wicklow County Council in the 1919 election. It was a Sinn Féin-Labour landslide and at the first meeting of the Council on June 18th, 1920, Robert Barton was unanimously elected chairman. Barton was unable to take his seat as he was in jail, his election as chairman being a protest against his incarceration by the British. Campbell, as vice-chairman, deputised for him in 1920 and 1921, his first action in the chair was to unfold a tricolour which he placed on the table to the vociferous approval of the members.

Things quickly turned sour between Campbell and his council colleagues, however. At the AGM in 1921, Barton, although still in jail, was re-elected chairman, but Campbell was replaced by C.M.Byrne. Campbell accused the councillors of corruption and engineering his removal and in June 1921 he resigned his seat. Thirteen months later, Campbell was one of several republican sympathisers arrested in the Glencree area by the Free State army. He was imprisoned in Mountjoy Jail, and then interned in the Curragh.

Disillusioned that erstwhile comrades should treat him as the British had treated Barton, on his release he emigrated to New York where he established a school of Irish Studies. It was a short-lived venture and he became a lecturer in Anglo-Irish literature at Fordham University. After twelve years in America he returned to Glencree in 1935 and died there nine years later. *Poems of Joseph Campbell*, his collected works, was published in Dublin in 1963.

CULLEN, LUKE (1859)

Born in Bray in the immediate aftermath of the 1798 Rebellion Luke Cullen became conscious of the fact that history is written by the victors. At the time he was growing up, several accounts of the Rebellion were published. Most, if not all, had been written from a loyalist perspective and there was little attempt to produce a balanced picture. Cullen realised that many of the ordinary people who had rebelled against the oppressive injustices of the Ascendancy regime would never be able to respond to the one-sided accounts then being printed. In 1815 he set out on a task that would absorb him for the rest of his life. For over forty years, until his death in 1859, he recorded the personal accounts of those who had taken part in or had witnessed the horrific events of '98 and subsequent years. In the words of historian Ruán Ó Donnell,

the strength of these reminiscences lies in the fact that they were 'largely uncontaminated by misremembered and invented folklore ...', and they '... are arguably the single most useful source for insurgent Wicklow 1797-1803'. The collected transcripts of these interviews are now held jointly in the National Library of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, and the National Archives.

Perhaps it can be argued that Luke Cullen should not be included in this essay as he was not a "true writer" - whatever that may mean. He merely wrote down what others dictated and the onus on him not to interpret, embellish or distort the stories was the very antithesis of the work of a "writer". But Cullen was an instinctive writer, he recognised the power of the written word. He knew that oral records die with their speakers, or at best become distorted with each telling by people who were not there. By committing the memories of the participants to paper, Cullen legitimised those memories, giving the unlettered vanquished the power to communicate across the generations, just as their victors were doing.

MARSDEN, WILLIAM (1754-1836)

Born 16 November 1754 at Verval, County Wicklow, son of a wealthy ship owner and banker. In common with many young men of 'respectable aims and talent', he joined the East India Company at Beencoolen in Sumatra. He was just sixteen and he remained there for eight years, studying not only the business in which he was engaged but also the culture of the country in which he found himself.

He sailed back to Europe in 1785, and with his brother John, who had also served in Sumatra, he founded an East India agency business in Gower Street, London. His organisational prowess was recognised in 1795 when he was persuaded to accept the post of second secretary to the Admiralty, and in 1804 was promoted to be first secretary at a salary of £4,000 a year. After giving able service, he resigned in 1807 and received a pension for life of £1,500 a year, which he voluntarily relinquished to the nation in 1831.

But it was his literary output which concerns us here. From the time he first arrived in Sumatra, he had been captivated by the strangeness of its culture and he immersed himself in it. When still only 29 he published a *History of Sumatra* (1783). The fascination stayed with him for life and thirty years later he published *A Dictionary and Grammar of the Malayan Language* (1812). His *Numismata Orientalia* (1823-1825) established his fame as a numismatist of importance. It describes his collection of oriental coins, some 3,447 in all, which he presented to the British Museum in 1834. Highly regarded by those who knew him, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1783, and was an original member the Royal Irish Academy. He died at his house in Aldenham, Hertfordshire, 6 October 1836.

WELD, ISAAC (1774-1856)

Although born in Fleet Street, Dublin, on 15 March 1774, Isaac Weld lived the latter part of his life at Ravenswell near Bray. At first glance, he doesn't seem to have travelled very far in such a long life, but as we shall see he took a few detours along the way. For example, in 1795 he sailed to Philadelphia from Dublin and spent two years travelling on foot, on horseback, and by canoe in America and Canada, sometimes using Indian guides through vast forests and along great rivers. He loved the topography, but had grave reservations about the people, particularly some of the leading figures. He took a serious dislike to George Washington, whom he visited at Mount Vernon, incensed by the conditions in which Washington's slaves were kept. Overall, he did not like America and he returned in 1797 'without entertaining the slightest wish to revisit the American continent'. As a result of his experiences, in 1799 he published *Travels through the States of North America and the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada during the years 1795, 1796, and 1797*, which quickly went into three editions and was translated into French, German, and Dutch. It was illustrated with his own original sketches.

Emigration across the Atlantic was already a feature of Irish life at this time, and there was growing concern in the British cabinet at the level of preference for the newly independent United States as a destination rather than British North America (Canada). Many of the leading United Irishmen had settled in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia and there was a growing resentment there towards Britain. Political relations between the two countries were also worsening as the British navy boarded U.S. ships and press-ganged sailors and passengers of British (and, of course, Irish) birth. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Hardwicke requested Weld to draft a paper, based on his travels, which would encourage emigrants to opt for life in the Canadas. Weld obliged and was well rewarded.

His next book of travels was closer to home. He visited Killarney, navigated the lakes in a boat he made from compressed brown paper, and published *Scenery of Killarney and Surrounding Countryside* (1807), again illustrated with his own drawings. He also compiled *Statistical Survey of Roscommon* (1838) for the Royal Dublin Society, of which he was honorary secretary. Weld enjoyed a long life, dying at his home, Ravenswell, near Bray, 4 August 1856 at the age of 82. He was buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, where the RDS, in recognition to his services to the advancement of knowledge, raised a monument to him.

WINGFIELD, LEWIS STRANGE (1842-1891)

Lewis Wingfield was the son of the 6th Viscount Powerscourt. Educated at Eton and Bonn, he was expected to pursue a military career, but his mother was anxious about his delicate state of health. She persuaded her husband that such a life would be too arduous for their son, so on completion of his studies he travelled widely in Europe and the Far East. He also visited North Africa,

and published *Under the Palms in Algeria and Tunis* (1868), an account of his experiences there.

Despite his perceived lack of robustness, and his mother's over-protection, he delighted in being in turbulent situations and whenever he detected trouble brewing he offered his services to London newspapers as a correspondent. He was in Paris during the siege of 1870, sending back reports to the *Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, and an assortment of other publications. But he wanted to be more than a mere observer, without taking sides in the conflict. He opted for attending to the wounded, which he did with such enthusiasm and skill that, according to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, he qualified as a surgeon. He also covered Gordon's campaign in the Sudan.

His most distinguishing characteristic was his restlessness. He sought the challenge of new things, but as soon as he became competent in them, their appeal waned and he would be looking for new peaks to climb. Between 1869 and 1875 he took to painting and exhibited at the Royal Academy four times. He was also a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. He turned to acting and played in several London theatres in roles opposite some of the leading actors of the day. He also designed theatre costumes for the Lyceum. His interest here faded too, and he turned his attention to criticism, becoming the drama critic for *The Globe*, using the pen-name Whyte Tighe. Outside of the literary and dramatic arts his only job would seem to have been an attendant in a lunatic asylum.

The only occupation to hold his interest throughout his life was writing, and he was prolific. His many novels include *Slippery Ground* (1876), *Lady Grizzle: an Impression of a Momentous Epoch* (1878), *My Lords of Strogue: a Chronicle of Ireland from the Convention to the Union* (1879), *For Good or Evil* (1880) and many more until his last book *The Maid of Honour* which was published the year of his death, 1891. He died in London.

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BRAY'S 1943 "STEP TOGETHER WEEK"

JAMES SCANNELL

At times we are inclined to think that the annual Bray Seaside Festival is a relatively new phenomenon but some readers will recall one held in 1968 or the special one held in the 1950's to mark An Tostal before the current annual Seaside Festival was revived in the 1980's. But one of the best remembered ones is the Bray Step Together Week held in July 1943 in which all the voluntary service organisations in the town came together and used it for collective fund raising.

1943 was a difficult time for the people of Bray and the rest of the country. The 'Emergency' was in its 4th year and austerity and rationing was the order of the day as the Government received only the minimum quantity of essential supplies from the Allies in order for Ireland to maintain its official stance of neutrality, which post World War II research has shown to be Pro-Allied in implementation. Lacking a deep sea fleet, the Government had established Irish Shipping Ltd and used these ships in an attempt to import vitally needed foodstuffs and other items from Portugal and other neutral countries all the time exposed to the possibility of sinking from belligerents. Cargo space on all ships operating out of Irish ports was controlled by the Department of Supplies which decided the type of cargo these ships could carry and allocated the amount of shipping space for specific items. Private motoring was a memory of the past as all fuels were rationed, and everyone was being encouraged to grow more food. Domestic gas was only available at certain times during the day and the 'glimmer man' had his work trying to catch householders engaged in illicit cooking outside of permitted hours. Electricity too was rationed with householders having to ensure that they did not exceed their permitted allocation as otherwise they faced disconnection. Drugs and medicines were either non-existent or in very short supply along with a whole range of other items. Peoples lives were regulated by Government rules and regulations especially the Emergency Power Orders which fixed retail prices as well as covering a wide array of other matters.

The major national event was the 22 June General Election of which saw Fianna Fail returned to power with a reduced majority of 67 seats (77); Fine Gael 32 (45); Labour 17 (9); Clann na Talmhan 10; Farmers 5; Independents & Others 7. (7). (1938 position in brackets).

Voluntary organisations active in Bray at this time were the Local Defence

Force (LDF), the Local Security Force (LSF), the Air Raid Precautions Service (ARP), the Irish Red Cross Society, the Maritime Inscription Corps and the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade, all of which regularly sought new members. At a time when the Defence spending was running at £8.5M annually, a considerable sum at that time, many of these organisations were short of welfare items which were not part of official issues with the result that these organisations had to fund raise to obtain the necessary funds to purchase these for their members.

Luckily in Bray, there was a co-ordinating council consisting of representatives of the voluntary services which met regularly to resolve problems between the organisations and to prepare joint plans and this was a very successful operation.

Running in tandem with the Bray Step Together Week which ran from July 11th to July 18th 1943 was a 'Belfast Week' which was aimed at workers in Northern Ireland, particularly in the Belfast area where industry was working flat out for the British war effort and this promotion was very successful and drew an large influx of Northerners to Bray to this week of special events.

The Step Together Week began on Sunday 11 July with the voluntary organisations forming up on the Killarney Road before parading through the town via the Main Street, Quinsboro Road, Adelaide Road, Albert Avenue and on to Strand Road to the bandstand on the Seafront where the formal opening took place. Organisations which took part in that parade were the Bray, Greystones and Shankill Coys of the Local Defence Force under District Leader J.J.Hyland, Bray, Greystones and Shankill units of the Local Security Force under Mr.A.Acton; the Men's and Women's Divisions of the Irish Red Cross Society under Mr. T.J.O'Neill, ARP Wardens, ARP Control Centre and AFS under Chief Warden Mr.Edgar Anderson, the Maritime Inscription Corps with music provided by the Shankill LDF Pipe Band and the Greystones Fife and Drum Band.

At the bandstand, the parade participants formed a hollow square and were addressed Major A.J.Lawlor, Military Director of the A.R.P. who said "that until the last round is fired and the final peace declared, the danger has not passed and that there was room for every man and woman in the services". He then went on to state "that if war comes, and it could come with little warning, let us step together in the cause of national defence".

With the Allies just landing in Sicily, the Germans still in action on the Eastern Front against the U.S.S.R. even though they had lost the tank battle of Kursk, they still held most of Europe in their grip while on the other side of the globe, the Americans were landing on the Solomon Islands as they began their assault against the might of the Japanese in the Pacific.

But these events were far from the minds of those in Bray watching this week of events taking place which commenced with a swimming gala organised by the Bray Swimming Club. One of these events was a 1200 yard

long distance swim from Bray Head to the Baths which was won by Charles 'Chuck' Richardson from the Victoria Swimming Club, Belfast, in a time 25 mins 14 secs. A remarkable achievement when one considers that he was swimming against currents which flow in a north/south direction along the Sea Front. Judge for the competition was Jack Scannell. Both these men subsequently became life long friends. In 1965 Charles Richardson, a past president of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Amateur Swimming Association, was elected president of the Irish Water Polo Association.

Swimming Competition results were -

Inter Services Squadron Race

1st - Army - T.Corbett, D.O'Neill, Lt. Page and D. Corbett; 2nd - Local Defence Forces; 3rd - Maritime Inscription Corps .

50 Yards Ladies Handicap

1st - J. Thompson; 2nd - R. McGinn; 3rd - M. Nolan.

50 Yards Men's Handicap

1st - L. Hughes; 2nd - J. Honan; 3rd - F. Hollis

30 Yards Juvenile Race

1st - Miss E. Toft; 2nd - Master B. Moran, 3rd - Miss M. Graham.

Later that evening, finalists for the beauty competition were selected at Toff's Amusements between 8 and 10 p.m.

On Tuesday 14th July, some of the streets were closed to traffic to accommodate a 'Round the Houses' bicycle race in which 30 cyclists representing 5 teams drawn from the voluntary services took part. Bray District Adjutant R. J. Smyth was Starter assisted by Section Leader T.James Timekeeper.

Individual winners were -

1st - J. O'Toole, Maritime Inscription Corps; 2nd - Sgt. M. Gilvary, Bray L.D.F.; 3rd - M. Fisher, Maritime Inscription Corps

The winning team which came from the L.D.F. was made of: Sgt. M. Gilvary, Cpl.J. L. Byrne, Vo. H. Clifton, Vol. S. Raverty .

Down on the Seafront on the bandstand, 12 teams took part in the preliminary rounds of Question Time while later at a Midnight Matinee in the Royal Cinema, the 12 finalists for the Beauty Contest were selected .

On Wednesday afternoon there was community singing and dancing on the bandstand at which the Whelan School of Dancing performed various routines with music provided by the Cuala Ceidhle Band. One of the 'star turns' were the Misses K. Hannon and V. Kelly who came forward from the audience and sang a number of songs .

In Boat Racing on a course stretching from the Baths to Bray Head, 6 boats took part in the competition for the O'Toole Cup for 4-oared skiffs. Teams taking place were drawn from Bray LDF, Red Cross, Bray LSF, Maritime Inscription Corps, A.R.P. and Greystones LSF.

Results were -

1st - Greystones LSF; 2nd - Maritime Inscription Corps, 3rd - Bray LSF

In the Pair Oared Race, the results were: 1st - Maritime Inscription Corps; 2nd - Red Cross.

Supt. Quinn presented the winners with their prizes

Later that evening at a Midnight Matinee in the Picture House, the final of Question Time took place compered by Mr. J. F. Meagher assisted by W. McCann who acted as scorekeeper .

On Thursday afternoon there was an open air Whist Drive in the Carlisle Grounds at 8 p.m. with a top prize of £15 and this was followed by another Midnight Matinee, this time in the Casino at which 2 plays and a variety show were presented by the Cuala Dramatic Society.

Highpoint of the week was the 'Step Together Dance' held in the Woodbrook Opera Hall which attracted upwards of 700 people. One of the evening's highlights was a visit from (Sir) Laurence Olivier who took a break from the making of Henry V which he starred in and also directed and was filming 'The Battle of Agincourt' action battles scenes in Powerscourt using local members of the LDF who had signed up as extras Olivier drew the winning tickets for a special raffle that had been promoted throughout the week and this was followed by the crowning of 'Miss Bray 1943', a Miss Eileen Gillen, 1 Ormeau Road, Sandymount, Dublin, who was escorted into the dance by Mr. L. Kavanagh of 'Perfumerie Chalet'. Runner-up was Miss Betty Fallow, Brentwood, Greystones, with 3rd place going to Miss Helen Jackson, Upper Dargle Road, Bray.

On Saturday, long queues stretched down the Albert Walk as Northern visitors waited for trains to return for home but for locals there was a Bridge Tournament in the GSR Buffet Room from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - refreshments were served during the afternoon session.

The final event of the week took place on Sunday afternoon in the Carlisle Grounds when a Horse Driving and Jumping Competition took place. Results of some of the events were -

Open Driving — 1st - 'Brown Jack' ridden by Miss S. Meyers, owned by Miss Grattan Bellew; 2nd - 'Timmy', ridden by Mr. B O'Neill, owned by Miss Jill Bradbury; 3rd - 'Goblet', ridden by Miss Helen Dudgeon, owned by Lt. Col. J. H. Dudgeon

High Jump — 1st - 'Timmy', ridden by B. O'Neill; 2nd - 'Goblet', ridden by Miss Helen Dudgeon; 3rd - 'Robin', ridden by Miss Iris Kellet, owned by Mr. J. Woods.

Children's — 1st - 'Snowstorm' ridden by Master Robert Hayes; 2nd - 'Timmy', ridden by Miss Jill Bradbury; 3rd - 'South Tipp', ridden by Miss E. Quirke.

Consolation — 1st - 'Playboy', ridden by Miss Iris Kellet, also owner; 2nd - 'Tallboy' ridden by B.O'Neill, owned by Mr. J. McGrath; 3rd - 'Sea Spray',

ridden by Miss Hume Dudgeon, owned by Lt. Col. J. H. Dudgeon.

Riding - Best Turn Out (Horse or Cob in gig) — 1st - 'Josie', owned by Mr. I. Plunkett; 2nd - 'Deale', owned by Mr. Cooper; 3rd - 'Sea Spray', owned by Senator Quirke

Class 2 - Horse or Cob in Trap — 1st - 'Jerry', owned by Mr.H.Goldberg; 2nd - 'Josie', owned by Mr. I. Plunkett; 3rd - 'Little Sparklet', owned by Miss Iris Kellet.

Class 3 - Best Trade Turn Out — 1st - Mr. I. Plunkett's 'Josie', (Messrs McDonagh & Co., Dublin); 2nd - Mr. Kevin Byrne's 'Monarch', (Messrs Edward Byrne & Co, Dublin); 3rd - W. Cassell's 'Big House' (Brighton Dairy, Bray).

Judges for this event were Professor M.J.Byrne and Mr.J.O'Brien with music being provided by the No 1 Army Band .

Nearly 60 years later, it interesting to how similar that week was to our annual Bray Seaside Festival of recent years. The staging of that week was a remarkable achievement given the restrictions in public and private transport and the scarcity and shortages of many items. The 'Step Together Week' had been suggested in the Autumn of the previous year and initially February 1943 was the proposed date but with hindsight, staging it in July was a much better decision. Months afterwards when the funds raised has been distributed to the local voluntary service organisations, how to utilise them to best effect was the topic of many a staff or committee meeting but these extra funds enabled the voluntary organisations to purchase essential welfare items not on issue to members and helped ease the burden of their duties which were demanding and onerous on the volunteers of these service organisations.

Sources

M. A. Epstein (Ed.), The Annual Register 1943, (London 1944)

Brigadier Peter Young, The World Almanac of World War 2, (London 1987).

The Belfast Telegraph

The Wicklow People

THE CHANGING FACE OF BRAY

1942-1962

BRIAN P. WHITE

FROM 1666 when a bridge was constructed over the River Dargle, Bray had a small number of traders serving the Castle, Mill and about 300 inhabitants. The town had weekly markets and twice yearly fairs held on 1st May and 20th September on the site of the Heritage Centre (Old Court house). It appears that the markets were very popular by 1836 they were held every Tuesday and Saturday.

Castle Street was laid out as thoroughfare in 1802, when Mr Donnelan of Little Bray donated the land for the street. The next major change of Castle Street came in the 1930's when the Castle was demolished. Over the next three decades some of the old professions and trades in this part of the town were to disappear. Coach building, tin works, farrier's, boot makers, and, probably the best known premises in the town of Bray, that of Robert Foley, Saddler and Harness maker of Castle Street.

In 1973 the talk was of a new development of a one million pound shopping centre and supermarket in Castle street. Merrion Securities purchased the site of the Record Press, Murphy's Garage and the right of way at Emmet Road. A car park was developed when it purchased and rehoused five households. The main work was carried out by Me'ssrs A McDonald and commenced in October 1975. The shopping centre was opened on 14th April 1976, ten years after the first shopping centre was opened in Ireland at Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

Our ancestors would claim they lived a more healthy life style. They would have obeyed religious practice in relation to the consumption of food more rigidly. Fish on Fridays and fasting on Sunday before religious services. The phrase waste not, want not, springs to mine. The word "Pantry" is fast disappearing from our vocabulary. The word Pantry conjures up freshly made cakes, bread and jams all made from wholesome ingredients.

Old photographs of Bray traders show Poultry, Game and Meat hanging on "S" hooks outside their shops. Inside a grocers shop one could see large sacks of corn, grain, wholemeal, potatoes, and other vegetables, and a large scales for weighing out the required amount. Butter and Cheese in large blocks cut with a wire cutter. Biscuits displayed in large tins with glass lids.

The following table show the list of traders of Bray Main, Street for 1942, 1952 and 1962 taken from Thom's Directory.

No.	1942	1952	1962
1	W & A Gibney Wine merchant	W & A Gibney Wine and Spirit Merchant	Watson Ltd Wine and Spirit Merchant
2	J. Caulfield Grocer & Vintner	J. Caulfield Grocer & Vintner	Duggans Drapers
2a		J. Martin	Shane P. O'Neill Bar & Lounge
3	Ledwidge Bros The Radio Shop	Ledwidge Bros The Radio Shop	Ledwidge Bros The Radio Shop
4	Miss Gaffney Draper	Miss Gaffney Draper	Miss Gaffney Draper
5	Dan Clarkson Victualler's H.J. Byrne ¹ Auctioneer Griffin Day Electrical contractor	Dan Clarkson Victualler's H.J. Byrne Auctioneer Griffin Day Electrical contractor	Redmond's Victuallers H.J. Byrne Auctioneer Vacant
6	G. Caprani Pork Butcher	G. Caprani Pork Butcher	G. Caprani Pork Butcher
6a	Bray Printing Co Printers	Bray Printing Co Printers	Bray Printing Co Printers
7	Prescott's Ltd Dyers & Cleaners	Prescott's Ltd Dyers & Cleaners	Prescott's Ltd Dyers & Cleaners
7a	Gilvary Confectioners	Miss McCarthy's Confectioners	McCarthy's Confectioners
8	Alex Findlater & Co Tea, wine & spirit Merchant	Alex Findlater & Co Tea, wine & spirit Merchant	Alex Findlater & Co Tea wine & spirit Merchant
8a	Joseph Tyrell Solicitor	Vacant	Vacant
9	Swastika Laundry Co Dry cleaners	Swastika Laundry Co Dry cleaners M.J. McDonnell Ladies Hairdresser	Bell & Swastika Laundry Co Dry cleaners M.J. McDonnell Ladies Hairdresser
10	Miss Byrne Draper	Miss Byrne Draper	F & W Woolworths ² Fancy Goods
11	Bray Printing Co Printers	Vacant	F & W Woolworths Fancy Goods
12	James Brehony Vintner	J.P. Donovan Vintner	O'Loughlin's The Dublin Bar

Footnote: 1 H. J. Byrne, Established 1857

2 F. & W. Woolworths began trading in Bray in 1953 and ceased trading on 6th of October 1984.

FLORENCE ROAD INTERSECTION

No	George Wilde	K. Wilde	K. Wilde
	Tobacconist & Stationer	Tobacconist & Stationer	Tobacconist & Stationer
Lower Main Street from the Holy Redeemer Church to the Bridge			
Holy Redeemer Church			
No	1942	1952	1962
99	Miss Hill Confectioner	Vacant	Central Cafe Cafe
100	Deignan Bros Draper	Deignan Bros Draper	W. Allen & Co Draper
100a		D.T. Osborne Solicitor	
101	J. Carberry Florist	C. Lochner & Son Ltd Pork Butcher	C. Lochner & Son Ltd Pork Butcher
102	C. Lochner & Son Ltd Pork Butcher	Bray Pharmacy Ltd Chemist	P MacArtain Chemist
103	Mullen Bros Vintners	Mullen Bros Vintners	Mullen Bros Vintners
104	J.J. Reilly Grocer & Confectioner	J.J. Reilly Grocer & Confectioner	M. Napier Hair dresser
105	M Scraggs Garage	Scraggs Bros Undertakers & Motor Coaches	T.D. Scraggs & Sons Motor Coaches
106	Miss. Scraggs Tobacconist	Miss. Scraggs Tobacconist	Miss. Scraggs Tobacconist
107	Royal Bank of Ireland Bank	Royal Bank of Ireland Bank	Royal Bank of Ireland Bank
108	Peter Mooney Draper & Boot merchant	Peter Mooney Draper & Boot merchant	Peter Mooney Draper & Boot merchant
109	Alliance & Dublin Gas Co. Gas Appliances	Alliance & Dublin Gas Co. Gas Appliances	Alliance & Dublin Gas Co. Gas Appliances
110	James Raverty Apothecary	James Raverty Medical Hall	James Raverty Medical Hall
111	Hibernian Bank Bank	Hibernian Bank Bank	Hibernian Bank Bank
112	Byrne Bros Victuallers	Byrne Bros Victuallers	Byrne Bros Victuallers
113	Vacant	H.B. Hipwell Auctioneer, House Agent Insurance Broker	H.B. Hipwell Auctioneer, House Agent Insurance Broker
114	G.J. O'Carroll Boot & Clothing Merchant	G.J. O'Carroll Boot & Clothing Merchant	G.J. O'Carroll Boot & Clothing Merchant
115	Vacant Greengrocer	The Punnet Greengrocer	The Punnet
115a	Miss Lane Grocer	Miss Lane Grocer	Miss Lane Grocer
116	T. Delahunty "Anchor Tavern" Vintner	M. McGarrigle "Bridge" House Vintner	Neptune Bar "Neptune Bar" Vintner

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

meets on the 3rd Thursday Monthly (except June, July, August and December)
in the Chamber of Commerce House, Quinsboro' Road, Bray at 8pm

Outings to Places of Historical Interest (May to September)

All meetings and outings are open to our members and the public.

Enquiries – 286 0987, 286 2539 and 287 7033