

Kickham welds culture and history - w/e Aug 3

In 1884 the GAA was founded in Hayes Hotel, Thurles. The following year, 1885, saw the first football and hurling club founded in Mullinahone.

By 1907 the GAA had expanded so well that it became necessary to divide up Tipperary into different playing areas and so the South Board was founded 100 years ago this year. Back before all that, Charles J. Kickham died in 1882. A hundred years later the centenary of Mr Kickham's death was celebrated with much pomp and ceremony in Mullinahone. More importantly it led to the establishment of an annual gathering in Mullinahone each August (the Kickham country weekend).

This year like the sun, moon and earth at the time of an eclipse, all these organisations are in conjunction. This August, the 25th annual Kickham Country Weekend will take place from August 10 to 12. It will have a huge GAA flavour.

The weekend will be officially opened on Friday night, August 10 at 7.30 by Nickey Brennan, president of the GAA, after a cheese and wine reception. A lecture will follow at 8.30pm called Maurice Davin of Carrick-on-Suir – 1st President of the GAA. The lecture will be delivered by Dr Paul Rouse, historian from UCD.

Saturday afternoon will see a guided bus tour to Cashel and a walking tour of the city of the kings. On a local note Cashel was the venue when Mullinahone won their first county hurling title in 1988.

That night in the Knocknagow Centre there will be another lecture. This will be delivered by Michéal O'Meara for 30 years secretary of South Tipp Board of the GAA and now uachtarán of that board. Michéal is also the presenter of the weekly Tipp FM programme Aon Gn"th Eile. His lecture will be entitled From Knocknagow to Croke Park – for the credit of the little village. This lecture is expected to focus on the link between the local area and the South Board over the last 100 years. It should cater for both the ordinary GAA supporter and the most erudite historian.

On Sunday the annual anniversary Mass for CJ Kickham and his first biographer, James Maher will take place. This will be followed by a graveside oration and the laying of wreaths by the patron of the GAA, Dr Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly.

The weekend concludes with a poetry reading session in the walled garden of Killaghy Castle (weather permitting). The guest poet here will be Gerry Moran.

A quick resume of the weekend programme: Friday, August 10: 7.30pm cheese and wine official opening; 8.30pm lecture.

Saturday August 11: 1.30pm guided bus tour (Cashel); 8.30pm lecture Michael O'Meara.

Minor football– Our footballers had a great win last Friday night in a game they had to win to have any chance of staying in the championship. Great credit is due to them for playing this long-awaited game and putting in a good performance, but results in other games on the night mean we don't qualify for the semi-finals. Well done lads for your commitment to football this year.

Under-21 Hurling – We played Carrick Davins last Sunday night in a 1st round loser's group play-off. This proved to be a great game between two very sporting teams on the night. Right through the team we had great performances, with players all over the field taking on leadership roles. With former Davins player AJ Cronin in our ranks, this was always going to be a difficult game.

Credit must go to Carrick Davins for their sporting behaviour on the night. This showed what great sports people they are. We now go on to play Killenaule next Friday night in the next round. Manager Séan O'Meara along with Jackie Bolger added John McCormack this year as a selector. John has proved a great success with the players and has brought over 30 years of playing experience to the set-up.

Senior hurlers – The long-awaited start to the hurling qualifiers will probably begin next weekend. It has been very difficult for our senior hurlers to keep focused and stay training. however your time has now arrived and we wish you all the very best for the remainder of the championship.

Good news – Mairéad Luttrell and her Tipperary senior camogie team have qualified for the semi-final of the All-Ireland championship. Best of luck.

Also, three local girls Shauna, Stacy and Sarah O'Brien from Poulacapple were part of the Tipperary under-14 ladies football team against Roscommon. This must be a record as the three girls in question are triplets. Well done girls. Mam and Dad, Tommy and Caroline O'Brien must be very proud. Well done also to our under-10 hurlers who had a great win over Clerihan last week.

Club meeting this Friday night 9.30 sharp.

Reflection – If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it.

Ruby anniversary – We congratulate Bridget and Joseph O'Gorman, Ballylanigan on celebrating their ruby (40th) wedding anniversary and also their 70th birthdays.

Local lotto – The local lotto jackpot was not won on Monday night, July 23. the numbers drawn were 3, 10, 24 and 26. There were 3 winners who shared the match-3 prize of e150. Congratulations to Eddie and Frances; Eamon Hennessy and James Brennan. Jackpot next week on Tuesday night due to bank holiday could be e7,250. Remember to win you must be in.

Gun club – Mullinahone Gun Club will hold a meeting on Saturday at 9pm in the Knocknagow Community Centre. Please note that membership fees are now due. these can be paid to Declan O'Shea (treasurer) or Paddy Hickey (secretary) without delay.

pilgrimage – The annual diocesan pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday. A bus will leave the car park opposite St Michael's Church. For more details contact Joe O'Gorman.

Good shot – Well done to Eoghan Pollard, Carrick Road . Eoghan is son of Joe and Ann Pollard. Recently Eoghan was 3rd in the All-Ireland under-23 clay pigeon shooting finals held in Tullamore. This was an outstanding achievement by Eoghan and many of those against whom Eoghan competed were far more experienced than he and they were also the owners or had available to them far more expensive guns. Meanwhile all foxes and vermin in the Carrick Road area be warned, your nemesis is at hand.

Happy Birthday – Her many friends in Mullinahone Co-op would like to wish Breda Gahan a happy birthday. Most would not have guessed her age but a party next weekend could provide a broad hint. Happy Birthday Breda even if you are still only 39.

Double winner – Well done to Ann Ryan of Ballydavid. On Thursday last on the Mooney Goes Wild programme Ann won €1,000 in Icelandic kroner in a phone-in quiz. On Friday in a draw between the five daily winners, Ann was again lucky and won a holiday to Iceland .

Six years ago – Over the last two weekends, our minor hurlers and footballers have been in action. The hurlers lost narrowly to Moyle Rovers but are still in with the chance of a place in the last four. The footballers played well to defeat Clonmel "g in their final league game in Carrick-on-Suir by 1-15 to 0-7. However results elsewhere conspired to knock them out of the championship. Our footballers had 16 available for service against Clonmel "g. just as well when Niall O'Brien was injured.

In 2001 the under-12s won the South Tipperary hurling and football double. The old team list threw up the following panelists Michael Lonergan, Mark McCann, Tom Collins, Ciaran O'Shea, Kevin Walzer, Brian Treacy, Andy Needham, Paul Ryan, Sean Quirke, Nigel O'Brien, Joseph O'Meara, Niall Cronin, Paul Gahan, Richie Morrissey, Shane Lawlor, Paul Carroll, Sean Curran, Danny Luttrell, Brian O'Halloran, Francis Walsh, Chris Delaney, Eoin Egan, Chris Horan, Dominic Crowe, Niall O'Brien, Danny Gallagher, Michael Cooper, Eoin Reilly, Andre Hicks.

To that 30 we have since added Alan Walsh and Eddie Phelan while David Carroll has transferred to St Pat's since going to live in Cloneen. Now that they are out of the football championship, our minors can now focus on winning a place in the hurling semi-finals. The under-21 side on Sunday night last contained seven of the minor team.