

Tragic death of family man, w/e 16th Feb

THE parish was recently shocked when news began to break of the tragic death in a work accident of popular local man Thomas (Tom) Treacy of Poulacapple. Tom as he was best known in the area was only approaching his late 40s. The accident took place shortly after Tom clocking in to work.

Tom who was born in Poulacapple in 1959 was universally popular in the area. He was essentially a "home bird" and liked nothing better than to be at home with his family. He was always interested in agriculture and the machinery connected with farming. Tom was also interested in cars and had recently moved into the hackney business and planned to make it an even more full-time occupation.

As mentioned previously Tom was happiest in the company of his family and he was especially delighted with the arrival of his first grandchild Aaron.

Tom's remains were removed to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny and then reposed at the family home in Poulacapple before being brought to St Michael's Church for his funeral Mass. Because of the location of the family home great work was done by members of the Civil Defence in the directing of traffic and by the Clonmel Scouts during the reposal. Tom's funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr John McGrath PP Mullinahone assisted by Fr Tony Lambe PP Drangan. The readers were Siobhan Clancy (niece) and Claire Cooney (sister-in-law). Prayers of the faithful were recited by Robbie Sinnot (family friend), Emer Mackey (niece), Katie Ann Byrne (niece), Ian Lonergan (nephew), Maggie Byrne (sister-in-law) and David Walsh (nephew). The offertory gifts were presented by PJ Nealis (son-in-law), Stasia Clancy (sister), Rosie O'Halloran-Treacy (sister-in-law) and Kate Mackey (sister-in-law).

After Mass which was attended by an overflow congregation, Tom was interred in the family plot behind St Michael's church. He is survived by his wife Joan who is a native of Cashel, son James, daughter Catriona, son-in-law PJ Nealis and grandchild Aaron as well as his sister Stasia and brother Pat and other extended family members. All will miss Tom and regret his passing as will his many friends, workmates and neighbours.

Tom's most untimely passing from the local community to which he was greatly attached is a huge wrench for all. His quiet and droll sense of humour will be missed and the passing of this family man will be greatly regretted. To his family we tender our deepest sympathy as we remember the Tom Treacy who many years ago went on a school tour to Tramore and returned home to report that Tramore was "a big field full of water". Even then Tom had his own quiet way of looking at life. May his soul rest in peace.

VALENTINE'S DAY – Today February 14 as we know is St Valentine's Day. St Valentine was a Roman priest and martyr. His relics can be viewed in Whitefriar Street, Dublin.

According to tradition birds begin to pair off on St Valentine's Day.

ST MICHAEL'S WIN COUNTY TITLE AGAIN – Wednesday last was a great day in the sports annals of St Michaels NS. In a biting cold Dr Morris Park the local village school football team battled furiously to narrowly overcome Gaelscoil Durlas in the Roinn D County Schools final. The final score was Mullinahone 2-4, Durlas 2-2.

Mullinahone's final point came with virtually the last kick of the game. While Mullinahone deserved to win this was a game that they could easily have lost as Durlas were very good on the break-away especially in the second half when playing against the wind.

This win is a great tribute to school principal James Cahill who looked after the team and to Sgt

Sean Walzer who trained and coached it.

St Michael's record in schools football competition during the last three years has been excellent. Wednesday's game was the 2006 final which was delayed from about last Halloween because of inclement weather. St Michaels also won the 2005 final by defeating Clonoulty and they were beaten in the county final of 2004 by Powerstown. It looks as if you must lose one to win two. Well done to Sean and James. It should not be forgotten that St Michaels also won the 2006 schools hurling title in Semple Stadium last summer as well. The boost that underage games has got in Mullinahone during the last ten years from the village school has been enormous.

Wednesday's final was a thrilling affair. In the first half Mullinahone played against a strong icy wind. Mullinahone attacked first but it was Durlas who pointed to take the lead. A goal from Robert Reilly put Mullinahone back on top and they added a point to lead at half time 1-1 to 0-1. The second half with the aid of the strong wind looked easy but it was anything but. Mullinahone were on top but couldn't put Durlas away. The Durlas side drew level with a goal but Luke Mullally put Mullinahone back in front with another goal.

Durlas came again and eventually drew level until Mullinahone edged in front with points as the final whistle approached. They were however never safe, but Jack McCarthy in goal and his full backs Conor Vaughan and Richard Walsh stood firm. Further out Sean Walzer and especially Killian Skorcka got in some great clearances with the aid of the wind.

Midfield was the scene of a titanic battle with Niall Walsh, Luke Mullally and Jack Shelly all playing their hearts out and getting good support from David Walzer in the half forward line. The only lady on the team Ciara Walsh supported Robert Reilly well in the full forward line and Liam Hicks also did his bit when called upon. Others on the St Michael's panel were Tyler Hicks, Aaron Hayden, Eoghan Brett, Pat O'Halloran, Joe Hogan, Kerrie Lawlor, Teresa Dunne, Eiren Connolly, Colum Fullbrook and Kevin McGrath.

After their great win the team and subs were entertained to a celebration meal in Hayes Hotel, the foundation place of the GAA in 1884.

COUNSELLING SERVICE – The South Tipperary Substance Misuse Service HSE in conjunction with the South Tipperary Local Drugs Task Force are pleased to announce the opening of a new free substance misuse counselling service in Mullinahone Health Centre. The service was opened on February 2.

This service is the latest development of satellite substance misuse clinics operated in Clonmel. The service in Mullinahone was the first satellite clinic to be established in a rural area in the county.

The service will be available every Friday from 2-5pm for anyone who needs advice, help or information, counselling and/or assistance with any issue concerning alcohol and/or substance misuse for themselves, their friends or family members while be provided.

The service will be augmented every second week with the provision of a drug outreach worker on site on the Friday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Anyone wishing to avail of these services or seeking further information can contact the secretary at 052 77900.

LOCAL LOTTO – The local lotto jackpot was not won on February 5. The four magic numbers drawn were 5, 15, 18 and 28. We did however have four winners who shared a match 3 prize of e160.

Congratulations to Liam Tobin, Ettie Croke, Tricia O'Brien and Paddy Morrissey. Next jackpot draw should be on Monday when the jackpot could be e3,650. Remember to win you must first be in.

ONE FLEW OVER – The Fionn MacCumhaill Players having completed a very successful production of One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest in Cloneen over the weekend now move on to conquer "fresh fields and pastures new" this week. Tomorrow (Thursday) night the group will take to the stage in the wonderful new Source Arts Centre in Thurles to produce the Dale Wasserman adaptation of the Ken Kesey book of the same name. Best of luck to the group and an opportunity for those who didn't see the show in Cloneen to view it in a superbly modern setting.

Perhaps when the annals of the players come to be written the chapter of this production could well be called "Fionn MacCumhaill goes to Durlas Eile"

On the home front in Mullinahone people are beginning to ask "what are the Anner Players doing this Spring?" answer next week.

GAA – The harsh relatives of "A" minor football were brought home to Mullinahone minors on Saturday afternoon when they went down to the St Patricks/Kilsheelan amalgamation in the county football league. Still I am sure the parish team will bounce back and be all the better later in the season.

At All Ireland intermediate hurling semi final Robert Emmets of London had a one point win over Clooney-Quin in the All Ireland club semi final in Limerick on Sunday. Is Eddie Carey poised to become a club All Ireland medal winner?

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CREDIT UNION QUIZ – The local round of the national primary schools credit union quiz was held recently. The quiz was held in two sections under-13 and under-11. The winners of each section will represent Mullinahone credit union at the chapter finals in Kilkenny in a couple of weeks.

The winners of the under-13 section were Poulacapple NS. Their team in Kilkenny will be Colin Byrne, Sahar Zur, Brid Lyons and Jedd Bates. Runners up in Mullinahone were St Michaels NS. Their four were Jack McCarthy, Teresa Dunne, Pat O'Halloran and Luke Mullally.

The under-11 section was won by St Michael's and their four who will represent us in Kilkenny are Tom Sawyer, Edward Dunne, Fiona Fennelly and Edward Fennelly.

PARISH NEWS – Anniversary Masses next weekend will be as follows: Saturday 8pm Connie and Paddy Condon, The Square; Sunday 9.30am Tommy Healy, Ballyduggan; Sunday 11.30am Dick Neary, Modeshill.

SUAS – (Suicide Understanding and Support) A confidential listening service for those bereaved. Phone 0504-26366.

SPRING – One of the joys of Spring is to be able to get out and about walking the roads out of the village. While walking it is sad to notice the amount of rubbish deposited along the sides of the roads.

Such things as plastic cartons, cigarette packs, paper or plastic bags, bottles, even newspapers as well as plastic wrappers are to be seen in abundance. In general these items are ejected from cars and do destroy the approach roads to the village.

Far more serious of course is the dumping of household rubbish in the dykes along the

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roadside. Anybody guilty of this type of dumping does not deserve a chance and should be reported. It is your village too. Scoil Ruain team which went down to Tipperary in the Munster Vocational Schools final by a point recently. Our local referees Victor Direen and John McCormack are anxious to increase the size of their teams of umpires for the coming season. Can anyone help out?