

Stradbally Tourism and Enterprise Group

We would like to thank Waterford County Council, management, staff, local councillors, contractors and landowners, for their cooperation in the work carried out in Ballyvoile and Ballykerogue over the last few weeks. These areas were black spots for pedestrians and drivers. The old fences have been removed and replaced with new fencing in record time. Thanks to all and safe motoring.

Stradbally na Deise

Most copies of 'Stradbally na Deise' are sold at this stage and the remaining few are in MI Power's and Readers Digest in Dungarvan.

AGM

We held our AGM last Monday night in the Barron Hall. Chairman Tomás Power opened the meeting and read the minutes of the previous AGM. The annual report was read by the Secretary Tom Hickey and it covered proposed developments in the area with no sewage or water infrastructure in place.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of our publication 'Stradbally na Deise.' Kevin O'Morchoe who was treasurer since the committee was formed 10 years ago retired and is replaced by Ronan Grant, Nunnery Lane. In his address to the meeting Chairman Tomás Power thanked Kevin for his voluntary work and the excellent records kept as our treasurer. Tomás also spoke of the challenges ahead, the need for a child play area, broadband, a Garda presence in the local Garda station, first aid and a defibrillator in the village.

Celebration Night

Stradbally GAA chairman Pat Fennell, understands that members of the Munster Council, Waterford county board officers, Waterford hurling team management and players will be in attendance as part of the celebration in the club on Saturday night, December 22 to say thank-u to Michael Walsh and Ger Power. Kieran O Connor of Glanbia and WLR will MC for the

night. Pat has also invited all other organisations in the community to be part of the occasion, and everybody is more than welcome on the night. Refreshments will be served.

Carol Singing

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in Stradbally. On Saturday last the teachers, parents and children from St. James Church of Ireland school in Stradbally went along to the Dungarvan Shopping Centre to raise funds for their school by carol singing. During the interval the tempo was raised when Nicky Power on flute, Ismay Crowley-Drohan on accordion and Georgina Crowley on tin whistle played some lively jigs and reels. The crowds that came out to shop appreciated the entertainment and there was a festive atmosphere in the shopping centre and town with the annual switching on of the Christmas lights.

Inter-Church Carol Service

Holy Cross Church Stradbally was packed to capacity on Sunday 9th December with pupils from the three primary schools in Stradbally, their parents and teachers, the church choir and the clergy from both St. James Church of Ireland and Holy Cross. The carol service was led by Parish Priest Fr. Jerry Condon assisted by former Parish Priest Fr. Michael Enright and Rev. Isobel Jackson Rector St. James parish. The proceedings opened with Scoil na Croise Naofa (boys school) with their principal Ms. Connie De Fusco accompanying them on the organ and teacher Orla Costin conducting their beautiful singing. The girls from Our Lady of Mercy School followed with well known carols. The readers were Mrs. M. Gough, Rev. Isobel Jackson, Winston Boyle, Rev. J. Condon and Marie Galvin. Fr. Michael Enright led the prayers of the faithful. The parish choir accompanied by Mary Dunphy on the organ sang the 'Adeste and other well loved carols joined by the congregation. The pupils from St. James Church of Ireland primary school led by teacher Ann Henneberry gave a season rendition of 'The Little Drummer Boy' accompanied themselves with drums and cymbals. There was a wonderful atmosphere at the service of a community coming together in the spirit of Christmas. Teas and goodies were provided by the ladies committee to whom we say a big thank you. The children got their crisps and drinks although Fr. Condon was seen breaking the speed limit down to the local shop for extra crisps when he miscalculated the amount of children attending. A collection was taken up following the service for the preservation of the historic ruins at St. James Church. There was a very interesting information brochure with pictures and diagrams launched after the service for visitors and locals alike on the medieval church at St. James. The Stradbally Church Ruins Committee hope to be able to open up the ruins to visitors in the not too distant future giving some indication of Stradbally's medieval past.