

NEWS

Trees past

100 YEARS

TREE AT THE TOWN HALL

ONE of the most interesting and highly enjoyable evenings that probably has ever been experienced by the little ones of the soldiers and sailors who are engaged in defending our country, was spent by them on Thursday evening at the Town Hall. It was the occasion of a Christmas Tree, organised for their amusement by the Soldiers and Sailors Committee, and to which two rooms on the ground floor were devoted. In one of those rooms, neatly arranged, were three tables, most luxuriantly laden with a variety of the most tempting luxuries for the little ones, including sweet cake and crackers, of which about 150 children heartily partook, with tea. In the second room was the great centre of attraction, The Tree, literally drooping with most appropriate Christmas toys.

To enliven the proceedings and to give additional amusement, a gramophone was provided, over which Miss Ballingall presided. There were some nice selections, amongst the most prominent was the now famous song, 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary', which at intervals many of the little ones, who seemed to possess a knowledge of the song, joined.

BELGIAN REFUGEES IN CLARE CASTLE

THERE are at present at Clare Castle eleven Belgian refugees. These are Charles Nissen, his wife, and three children; Jan Van de Velde, his wife and three children; and the old lady, Mrs. The wife of the artist Jan and are natives of Antwerp, where they were living last October, when that city was besieged by the Germans. They speak Flemish and rather broken French. An account (written in French) by one of them, telling of his experiences, may be interesting, and may help the people of Clare to realise something of the horrors through which the Belgian people have been passing. Up till last August these people lived in comfort. Today they are exiles, deprived of home, of property and of country - they are hardly yet able to realise that it is not all a dream!

HOME FROM THE FRONT

ONE of the Kilkree sailor and soldier lads from the North Sea and the front were home for a few days home. Amongst the number was a young man named Walsh, a Sergeant in the "Munsters," who was wounded in the head at the battle of Mons.

CLARE CASTLE MAN KILLED

AT the various Masses here yesterday prayers were asked from the congregations for the repose of the soul of Private Thomas Keane, Clare Castle, killed in action.

125 YEARS

KILLALOE BRIDGE IN DANGER

ANOTHER dam has been carried away at Killaloe, by the floods on the Shannon, and yet another dam is threatened. The consequences on the lower parts of the river are disastrous. The bridge at Killaloe also is reported in danger.

ENNIS POST OFFICE

A MEMORIAL signed by a large number of the merchants, traders and other business and professional men of the town, and presented to the Postmaster of the office to the selected situation, while better sites are believed to be available, has been sent to the Postmaster General.

HURLING - CLARE V DUBLIN

THE members of the Dublin Kickham Club have accepted a challenge from the County Clare Gaels, and before the end of January it is expected that both teams will again meet in Dublin. The match is to be played by a team selected from that city and county of Dublin against a team picked from the Clare clubs. The Dublin men have consented to pay all expenses in connection with the match and will award the winning team a silver set of medals. The Clare men are making the necessary arrangements to secure the co-operation of the clubs throughout the county. The match will, it is anticipated, be a very exciting one, as the Tallmen are now better prepared than when they met the Kickhams at Inchicore in September.

NEW FAIRS FOR KILDYSART

BILLS were exposed in the shop windows on Tuesday last, and arrangements have been made for three new fairs in Kildysart. The dates are the 15th June, 15th September and 10th November, so that fairs will for the future be held monthly.

150 YEARS

THREE AT A BIRTH

A POOR woman, named Mrs. Molony, a carpenter's wife residing in the parish of Clondagga, gave birth to three children - two daughters and a son - last week. The mother and children are as well as could be expected, under the circumstances. The occurrence has been reported to Her Majesty, Dr. O'Donnell, the skillful and humane dispensary medical officer of the district. It is expected that the queen, in accordance with the usual bounty she is graciously pleased to dispense on such interesting occasions, will forward the poor woman £3.

REJOICINGS AT BALTRAD

ON Friday evening, rejoicings on a most princely scale were carried out at Baltrad, to commemorate the marriage of Miss Singleton, daughter of J. Singleton, Esq., J.P., Quilleville, to Mr. Walsh, S.C. Tulla.

Dancing was kept up to a late hour. Bonfires blazing around the country, and the utmost hilarity prevailed during the ten days. The herds of their kind landlord, Mr. Singleton, and his amiable daughter and son-in-law, were toasted and responded to in really eloquent words by the obliging and generous host, Mr. Thomas O'Brien. Hearty cheers were given again and again for the 'happy couple' and the departed at 'dawn of day' praying blessings on the bride and bridegroom.

IRON MINES NEAR TOMGRANEY

THESE mines, the existence of which were almost comparatively unknown, have been rented by the princely firm of Messrs Malcomson Brothers, within the past few weeks from Mr. Moreland, J.P. Raheen Park, on whose property they are situated. We have been reported to the labouring population of the district as well as the shopkeepers of Tomgrane and Scarriff on their good fortune in thus having the means of increased employment procured for the former and the prospect of a more lucrative trade for the latter.



■ Graham Quilleville, Ruan, winner of the Christmas clear colours competition at Ennis Snehago and Pool Club.

Trump card

Cratloe Bridge Club

December 17: The competition was a Five Table Scrambled Mitchell Movement. 1. Emily Crimmins/Nora Reid; 2. Nuala Havas/Nicky Hawes; 3. Anne O'Malley/Marjorie Nolan.

Kilrush Bridge Club

December 17: 1. Michael Daly/Chris Walsh; 2. Teresa Lyons/Pauline Madigan; 3. Ann Young/Mary Walsh.

Kilkree Bridge Club

December 8: 1. Chris McInerney/Brenda Leyden; 2. Mary and Chris Walsh; Best Gross, Pauline Madigan/Teresa Lyons.

December 15: 1. Imelda Murray/Marion Haugh; 2. Kathleen Lynch/Chris Clancy; Best Gross, Michael Daly/Paddy McInerney. December 22: 1. Antonette Murphy/Ann Cooper; 2. Paddy McInerney/Michael Daly; 3. Mary and Chris Walsh.

Scariff Bridge Club

December 27 (vouchers): 1. Catherine Murphy/Danny Liddy; 2. Margaret McNamara/Muriel Liddy; 3. Anne Hart/Noreen Doyle. December 4 (bottles): Catherine Murphy/Danny Liddy; 2. Margaret Murphy/Danny Liddy; 3. Anne Hart/Noreen Doyle. December 11 (Christmas prizes): 1. Bridget Minogue/Sheila O'Dwyer; 2. Sheila Treacy/Margaret Mooney; Gross, Kitty Long/John Bridgale; 4. Frances McKenna/Mary Lynch. December 18: 1. Jim Gallagher/Bess Fennessey; 2. Bridget Minogue/Sheila O'Dwyer; Gross, John Bridgale/Danny Dillon. Excellent food and magnificent prizes ensured everyone enjoyed the closing night of 2014 at the club. Before presenting the prizes, president, Anne Hart thanked Mary McNamara for the excellent food and wished all a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Ennistymon Bridge Club

December 9: Turkey Winners, Oisín Barrett/Fr

Enda Glynn; Wine Winners, Bernard Vaughan/Tom Skerrett. December 11: Turkey winners, Mary Sheedy/Bernard Vaughan; Wine Winners, Nora Foley/Kay Vaughan. December 16: Turkey Winners, Oisín Barrett/Danny Liddy; Wine Winners, Angela Moroney/Kay Vaughan. December 16: Turkey Winners, Teresa O'Shea/Helene Lafferty; Wine Winners, Nora Foley/Kay Vaughan. Members should note the Bridge resumes on Tuesday, January 6.

Fergus Bridge Club

December 11: 1. Carmel O'Doherty/Bernie Barron; 2. Angela Galligan/Mary McMahon; 3. Maura Ryan/Trish Honan; Gross, Eileen McAndrew/Maureen Dolan.

Harmony Bridge Club

A new venture, a charity night during the Christmas season, proved to be a successful one as Kathleen Pyne, Harmony Club president and a hard-working committee, raised €700 for Clare Haven. Results: 1. Marie Dilleen/Ann Ryan/Ann Lough/Mary Cregan; 2. Mary Barry/Vernonica Fitzgerald/Tom Fitzgibbon/Danny Liddy; 3. Ann O'Loughlin/Kathleen Pyne/Irene McMahon/Mary Carolan/Carmel Cummins/Maura Ryan; 4. Anne Troy/Eileen Crowe/Joan Duggan/Sadie McInerney.

Upcoming events

Clare county president, Catherine Sweeney, invites representation from all clubs in the county for the 'Keefe Cup', which will be held in the Bridge Centre, Ennis at 7.30pm on January 9. This competition is for teams of four and is a qualifier for the Burke Trophy.

Moylan Cup

Draw for first round of the Moylan Cup will take place on January 16. Clubs intent on taking part should notify Danny on 087 2787514.

Ewe, ho, ho - complete and return your sheep census form

By Anthony O'Connor
Teagasc Adviser,
Galway/Clare Regional Unit

AVOID being left feeling 'baa-d' and counting the cost of returning a sheep census form late. Fill your form now and return it to the Department of Agriculture.

Census Date

The Census date was Sunday, December 14, 2014. Notwithstanding the obligation to return this form to DAFM before January 30, 2015, payments for the Single Payment Scheme, Disadvantaged Area Scheme, Sheep Technology Adoption Programme, REPS, AEOS and the Grassland Sheep Scheme are dependent on a completed form being returned. Information from the census forms is used to calculate stocking rate for the above schemes and so on.

Submission Date

The deadline for submission of the forms is January 30 and it's based on the number of sheep on the holding on Sunday, December 14, 2014. If a farmer has recently bought sheep for the first time or did not receive a census form in the past, then they must stand up and chose the other chair, and this would be deemed as an obvious example of confidence and viewed favourably by the businessman.

Alternatively, a candidate who stayed in the chair and wobbled their way through the interview would be deemed as potentially weak and lacking in self-belief. Phase two of this quirky interview process involved lunch. Again the candidate was unaware of the manner in which his or her actions were being interpreted. This was relayed to me as being the 'soup test'. The businessman would observe the candidate when the soup arrived. If he or she were to use salt or pepper without tasting the soup first, this was deemed as being impetuous and could mean the candidate was the type of person who would rush to judgement. These assessment examples

ring the DAFM in Portlaoise looking for the sheep census/ID section and quote the herd number and the DAFM will send them out a sheep census form. This is important for young entrants to farming, who have just established a herd number and go into sheep farming. The department normally carries out the annual sheep census each December and a census form, together with a pre-paid and pre-addressed return envelope, is posted to all keepers so that they can submit their sheep numbers. Before returning the census form, the number of sheep declared in the census form should also be re-

corded in the keeper's flock register and be present on their holding. Keepers who have no sheep at the time of the census but who are still engaged in sheep farming must submit a census by returning a form showing no sheep on the holding on the census date. Otherwise, the keeper's designator number may be made dormant, which will prevent them from ordering sheep tags and dispatch/mentoring books.

It is very important for all sheep keepers to submit an accurately completed sheep census form in advance of the deadline for receipt of forms. The designator number may be made dormant, which will prevent them from ordering sheep tags and dispatch/mentoring books.

Present will? Do you exude confidence in your own ability? Do you smile and make eye contact? Do you shake their hands when you walk into the room? Do you thank them for inviting you for interview? Do you sell yourself enough? Do you demonstrate that you are passionate about wanting the job? All these small elements count in the overall assessment that someone else makes on your interview performance. You're on trial from the moment you enter the building to the moment you walk, cycle or drive out the gate. Preparing along these lines will help your chances of success. The interview environment is a funny place at the best of times. We help you to be ready if we continue to think about our overall presentation. It's not just about questions. Avoid wobbly chairs, taste your

Garden Grow?

The winter garden(er)

WHILE some weather forecasters named a picture of a very cold November and December earlier in the year, those forecasts did not materialise and we actually had very mild months (with some horrible rain and wind however).

This relatively warm weather certainly buds up and spring bulbs sprouted, with even reports of snowdrops already being up just before Christmas. Generally speaking, however, these are quite dull weeks in the garden with cleaned-up beds and tidied up sheds giving us something to look upon proudly, but little for the eye to rest on and enjoy. There is a wonderful shrub that just keeps on giving in the winter - bring yellow flowers on bare stems appear when all else fades and keep flowering often through spring. Its winter flowers, which also the experts call *Jasminum nudiflorum*, a hardy deciduous shrub. Looking up a little detail on it, I found that what is called 'nudiflorum' meaning 'naked flower' as its flowers bloom before its leaves, which appear in the summer. Of course, this reminds me straight away of blackthorn, whose flowers open before the leaves, unlike Hawthorn with leaves opening first and then flowers, which I start thinking about all the growth that is really only weeks away from happening. My winter worries go away quite quickly and I seem to get more energy straight away.

So what to do now with all that energy? Of course if you haven't already done so, look for seed! This month's article is featuring the very knowledgeable and wonderful Jo Newton, who is Irish Seed Savers' Seed curator for many years. I have found that Irish Seed Savers has a lot of different varieties this year and we are ordering nearly 20 packs of seed ourselves from them.

The other thing you can be doing is planning your garden and garden-related trips - like visits to festivals next year. For example, I've been to the Ballinacorney Garden Festival in April, preparations are in full swing with over 20 stallholders already signed up, six expert speakers confirmed and a number of great announcements to follow soon. A selection of 2015 garden festivals are listed below. Other than festivals, there will be a lot going on in terms of gardening and garden organisations. For example, the Organic Centre in Leitrim is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which is some achievement. I've been to their event, yet, I highly recommend a visit.

Looking over into UK, I see that River Cottage are having an open day in May, which sounds well worth a visit! Coming back closer to home, there is a new Ideal Homes Exhibition in April in Galway, which will feature some gardening also and last but not least, groups and courses are popping up already again, with GYI Kinvara getting ready for soil preparation and winter gardening in late January and Grow in Leigh informing of courses in early February. In March, we will see another course with Jim Cronin in Ennis.

This garden column is a monthly feature. Anyone who contributes - let me know about upcoming events by contacting me at ce@carmenroscireo or 087 611 7538. Happy gardening.

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Selection of festivals 2015

Clare Garden Festival Sunday, April 26, www.claregardenfestival.com Facebook.com/claregardenfestival. North West Garden Show May 23 and 24, www.northwestgardenshow.ie. Bloom in the Park May 28 - June 1, http://bloominthepark.com. Malton Garden Festival July 5/6/7, www.exhibition-ireland.ie. Galway Garden Festival July 4-6, www.galwaygardenfestival.com. Blarney in Bloom Saturday, July 11, www.facebook.com/BlarneyinBloom. Midland Home and Garden Festival July 17/18/19, www.exhibitionsireland.ie. Ballinacorney Garden Festival August, date to be confirmed, www.ballymaolee.ie/events/ballymaolee-garden-festival

Winter jobs and quiet preparations

IRISH Seed Savers

I ALWAYS feel there is something wonderful about the winter garden, the bare bones of the world revealed. Here we are in the darkest part of winter, longest nights, shortest days, too little sunlight for any growth and yet one can find fat swelling buds already on hardy trees and the green shoots of spring bulbs pushing up through the soil. Happily, these freezing or wet days are far better spent warm indoors, checking up on your vision of the garden, making

plans of things you would like to create, plant or grow this year. Take time to peruse all the seed catalogues to choose the varieties that you'd like to try out and most especially to eat, or flowers to bring you joy.

One catalogue I hope you will be interested in is from the Irish Seed Savers Association here in Clare. A big difference between our seeds and others is that they have all been grown in Ireland, for the most part in Clare and are thus proven to perform well in the vagaries of our weather. Some are steeped with the heritage of the land, a living legacy like the Bun onion, bred by Irishman Bernie Crombie. He sent seeds of his onion variety to the Russian government in 1980 to ensure its survival before he passed away in 1980. The name goes back to old Irish for 'long life' and the onion was in storage for almost a year. We have been able to retrieve seed samples from Russia and grow this onion uniquely here in Clare. It has proven to be outstanding, even in the series of wet summers.

Then there is the Delaney cabbage which was grown in the cabbage that had been grown and saved by Charlie Hughes for over 70 years in County Mayo when Charlie was in his nineties, as he did not think he would be able for gardening for much longer! It is only by growing these varieties that we keep them alive for future generations.

Over the years, I have become a more patient gardener: I no longer rush to sow seeds as the new year turns. I find waiting until there is more light and warmth means that seedlings grow more readily and don't have to be cosseted to survive. If you want to get going though, old garden lorie would have that the best time to plant shallots is the shortest day or thereabouts. If you have a polytunnel, try some early potatoes - land leaguers, may queen, sharps express or epicure are a few of our popular earlies with a long tradition of cultivation here. Plant them deep (at least a spade depth) and cover the green tops over with more earth when they appear, to protect them from frost.

If you have fruit trees, pruning is a winter task for the dry days. The best advice I was given on the subject is to remember that you are harvesting sunlight, keep the centre of trees as open as possible so light can penetrate and be sure to cut back any diseased or broken branches. If you have a certain times, you'll be busy enough come Spring.

You never know what they're thinking

A STORY was relayed to me by a colleague who had, and still has, a close friendship with a highly-successful businessman. It concerned the manner in which this businessman would form opinions on the suitability of candidates during interviews. These candidates would be applying for senior executive positions within this man's organisation and would be paid the extravagant salaries. The stakes were high. A candidate would have had several rounds of interviews and screenings before getting to the point of sitting down in front of the 'main man' himself.

stood up and chose the other chair, and this would be deemed as an obvious example of confidence and viewed favourably by the businessman. Alternatively, a candidate who stayed in the chair and wobbled their way through the interview would be deemed as potentially weak and lacking in self-belief. Phase two of this quirky interview process involved lunch. Again the candidate was unaware of the manner in which his or her actions were being interpreted. This was relayed to me as being the 'soup test'. The businessman would observe the candidate when the soup arrived. If he or she were to use salt or pepper without tasting the soup first, this was deemed as being impetuous and could mean the candidate was the type of person who would rush to judgement. These assessment examples

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oup first and the best of luck. Sli Nua Careers (www.SliNuaCareers.com) have offices in Galway (Patricia Maloney, 091 528 985), Limerick (Deirdre May, 06 304785), Dublin, Athlone, Donegal, Tullamore and Mayo (Ballinroe). Their services include CV preparation, interview training and career direction. For more details, visit www.sliuacareers.com/limerick.

Sli Nua Careers
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Liann Moran
Award winning CV writer, Interview Coach, Employment Interview Specialist and HR Consultant

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