



Christmas vandals strike in Milltown

VANDALISM: Milltown residents Dan Cronin and Liam Philpott with the remains of the town's Christmas Tree which was badly vandalised.

Community Christmas tree and lights 'hacked to pieces'

For the third year in succession, a Christmas tree erected in the main square in Milltown has fallen victim to what have been described as "mindless thugs" who vandalised the tree and its lights last week.

BY OWEN O'SHEA

In the early hours of last Tuesday morning, vandals took an axe to the tree which had been erected shortly before Christmas, stripping it of many of its branches and smashing a set of new lights which had been acquired for the festive centrepiece this year.

Local residents and business people are shocked and dismayed by the act, which has occurred for the third year in succession, but never before with such ferocity or extensive damage.

Local gardai have examined CCTV footage of the incident and their investigation is at an advanced stage.

HACKED

Milltown Community Council members were forced to cut down the tree and sweep up broken glass last week having raised money and gone to the trouble of putting up a tree like so many other towns and villages around Kerry.

"This wasn't a random act or a bit of messing, it looks like it was highly organised. The tree was hacked to pieces.

"An axe must have

been used to chop of several of the branches and all the lights were cut and smashed," said Community Council chairman, Dan Cronin.

"A lot of money had been raised, particularly by Langford's Bar and Alma's Takeaway, and we had discussed whether to put up a tree at all.

MINDLESS

"I'm pretty sure you will see no tree next year in Milltown because of the actions of mindless thugs like these," said Dan.

He said the gardai believe they have identified the culprits and anyone with information about the incident is being asked to come forward.

"It's just not good enough that a community effort has to put up with this. These people have nothing to offer us in this community and they are not welcome here as far as I am concerned," said Dan.

Gardai in Castlemaine and Killorglin are appealing for information about the incident.

Parents and toddlers group attracts new members



A recently-established mother and toddler group in North Kerry is inviting new participants to join in the fun and games at the local GAA clubhouse.

A group of parents got together last September with a view to forming a local mother and toddlers club and having secured the use of the local St Senan's GAA Hall, they now have up to ten parents and their children attending once a week.

The initiative has received some support

from North and East Kerry Development.

One of the instigators of the club, Aileen Trant, said that there was a demand for such a facility in the Mountcoal area.

"I have four kids myself and I often passed the centre going to the one in Lixnaw and I often thought that we should

MOUNTCOAL PARENTS & TODDLERS: New participants are invited to join the group which meets every Tuesday.

have our own mother and toddlers group in Mountcoal.

SOCIAL

"We started meeting the week after the Listowel Races and it has grown from there," said Aileen.

There are about ten parents involved and they meet every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm.

"It's a great social occa-

sion for the parents too and they rotate it between them every week if necessary.

"The GAA were very kind in giving us the use of the Hall and we got great support from North and East Kerry Development," said Aileen.

New members are always welcome and can drop in any Tuesday to get involved.



Honouring the heroes of '79

Milltown-Castlemaine celebrates novice win of 30 years ago

It was a night of reminiscing and re-living the battles on the field of play for the men of the Milltown-Castlemaine football team of 1979 when they gathered last week to mark the 30th anniversary of their County Novice success that year.

BY OWEN O'SHEA

The heroes of 1979 gathered at Killorglin Golf Club for a celebration which called to mind the memories of defeating Knocknagoshel by 4-07 to 1-06 in Austin Stack Park in October 1979.

Five sets of brothers played on the team,

including Connie and Tom Hayes, Willie and Johnnie Maher, Willie and James Mangan, Tommy and Jimmy Woods and John and Pdraig Burke.

Current club chairman, Brendan Twiss, said the officer board had been planning the event since last October and felt it was fitting to celebrate

the 30 year milestone, which coincides with Milltown-Castlemaine's success in the County League in 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

"It is hard to believe it is 30 years since Jeremiah Kerin led the men in green and white to glory in Austin Stack Park against Knocknagoshel.

"Having lost the 1978 final to Ballydonoghue, it was fitting that they returned the following year to capture that long-awaited title," said Brendan.

County secretary, Peter Twiss, was on hand to make presentations to the team of 1979 while a special souvenir programme featuring a press report on the match from the time was also produced for the occasion.

"Captained by Willie Mangan, the team brought the first novice success to the club and then they stepped up to junior the following year.

"The only player unable to attend our function was John Burke, who is a doctor in England," said Brendan.

Gone to their eternal reward are players Teddy O'Connor and Tommy Woods as well as the late

30 YEARS ON: The members of the 1979 Milltown-Castlemaine team which would the County Novice Title held a reunion at Killorglin Golf Club on Tuesday night last. Front l-r: Joe Flynn, Tom Hayes, Ted Kennedy, Mike Carroll. Middle row, l-r: Sean O'Sullivan, Johnny Maher, John P O'Sullivan, Willie Mangan, Jimmy Woods, Willie Maher, Connie Hayes, John Murrin. Back l-r: Christy Murphy, Derek O'Connor (representing Teddy O'Connor), Mike Colgan, Billy Kerins, Jim O'Connor, Willie Murphy, Pdraig Burke, James Mangan, Aeneas Daly, Jim Daly, John O'Shea.

Dermot 'Pudsey' Ryan, who was a selector along with Mike O'Shea and manager, Jeremiah Kerin.

"The celebrations rounded off what was a fantastic year, given our success in the County League, so it seems the club is going from strength to strength," Brendan added.