

# Cúirt sa Cistin - 27th February - Gerry Kennedy

## Heritage Inchicronan

Our next "Cúirt sa Cistin" in our Spring Programme is on Wednesday the 27th February, 2008 at 8.15pm in the Community Centre Crusheen. We invite you to join us for one of our informal talks and we look forward to seeing all our old friends and welcoming some new ones. Our speaker and guest is local historian and genealogist Gerry Kennedy. The topic for the night is "Moymolane - the lost townland". Gerry says to expect 'Murder, Mystery and even Romance.' A cup of tea/coffee and a chat guaranteed. Contact Anne @ 065 6827172 heritageinchicronan@gmail.com

Hi all,

We continued our Cúirt sa Cistin series of talks last Wednesday night 13th February, 2008 in the Community centre with Noel Crowley the former county Librarian entertaining us all with his Cork wit and funny anecdotal comments.

He told us all about his appointment to Clare as County Librarian in a time when there as almost no money available to implement any changes. Updating or renovating was out of the question.

However, having no money didn't mean they didn't have dreams and eventually they were able to build or renovate existing buildings into libraries in areas all over Clare with more than 1,000 residents: run a mobile Library service and buy and renovate the existing Ennis Library acquiring the "Manse"(an old protestant clergy house) along the way.

The introduction of people-friendly and child-friendly services and most importantly the opening up of much of the local history papers etc. which were stored in the old Library were prioritised and achieved.

Noel was blessed with the staff he worked with during his time in Clare and couldn't praise them highly enough for being so open to change and so innovative.

When IT became part of our ever changing lives they were to the forefront in introducing it to the staff and set up the website which as become an awarding winning one, getting over 2.000,000 hits.

The website address is: <http://www.clarelibrary.ie/>

No Cork man can talk for any length of time without mentioning the GAA and Noel is no different, and says there were days when it was hard to be a Cork man in Clare especially in 1993, when Clare won their first Munster Title in 63 years and again in 1997.

Other than that he settled in to his life in Clare very easily, he married and reared a family and is now retired and really enjoying the freedom of being able to travel, especially to Italy where he greatly admires their ability to keep their village identity from changing too much and their community spirit alive and well,

Anne

I enclose a piece written about Heritage Inchicronan's "Cúirt sa Cistin" as it appeared in **The Clare County Express**.

### **The Positive side of Life.**

Is there any better form of advertising than word of mouth? No, if the reaction to Des Mulkere and his friends' session in Heritage Inchicronan's winter lecture series last month was anything to judge by. So successful was that outing that those same musicians were persuaded to do a follow-up 'night' in the Highway by those who missed the first entertainment. And that second one was equally riveting. In fact, those who came - and they were many - were treated to the kind of night that was once the very stuff of parish social life but which is nowadays (much to the loss of everyone, but especially the younger generation) all too rarely experienced. There was music, dancing, stories and, better again, members of the audience were required to participate, to do their various party-pieces. And no one refused, either. How could they.

The whole thing brought out the best in all those who were there. It was both informative and entertaining. May there be more nights like it.

A far quieter, though not in essence much different, experience in the same lecture series towards the end of the month was Kevin O'Brien's account of life in Drumbanniff and Cappafean over a century and more. The uninformed or incurious passer-by might think that such country places are faceless, without character, but nothing could be further from the truth, as that talk proved.

Most impressive in its own quiet way.

*from* **Inchicronan Miscellany, The Clare County Express**