

# Remembering the Rising

■ GAA club retraces rebels' footsteps from Killeeneen to Clarinbridge village

"ALL my life I have waited for this day" cried old Michael Fleming of Clarinbridge when he was told that the Galway Rising would begin at 7am the next day in Killeeneen, the headquarters of Liam Mellows.

Easter Tuesday morning 1916 was a hive of activity at Walsh's house where 74 men and women from had gathered to do battle with the Crown forces.

Clarinbridge GAA club and Camogie club are inviting the public to join them in commemorating this courageous group this Sunday, by walking the steps that they took from Killeeneen to Clarinbridge village.

The walk will begin at 7am, and may be the last opportunity many will have to be part of the commemorations in this momentous year for Irish independence.

While the Galway Rising had no significant military successes, it did help re-ignite the desire be a sovereign nation.

In 1916, the Volunteers attacked the RIC Barracks in Clarinbridge and took control of a sizeable portion of Galway from Oranmore, to Athenry and southwards to Limepark in Peterswell.

The first walk taken by the Volunteers from Killeeneen to Clarinbridge was along a narrow, quiet road which winds its way westward towards the back entrance to Kilcornan estate.

Michelle Drysdale, the great grand-daughter of Thomas McDonagh, one of the seven signa-



The Monageer Commemoration Group, who travelled from Wexford to take part in the recent 1916 Commemoration in Clarinbridge, dressed as 1916 Volunteers. PHOTO: JOHN O'CONNOR.

tories to the 1916 Proclamation, will be taking part in the commemoration walk this Sunday. She will recite some of the poetry of her great grand-father, along the way as well as giving

the opening 'call to action'.

There will be brief talks on various points of interest along the three-mile route, including Killeeneen school, Roveagh Church, the Redington estate in

Kilcornan as well as identifying the locations of various skirmishes between the Volunteers and the RIC.

The walk will conclude in Clarinbridge GAA clubhouse at

about 9 am where there will be refreshments served, and participants will have an opportunity to examine displays by Clarinbridge and Killeeneen national schools on the Rising as well as

some artefacts used during the insurrection.

The walkers will be entertained with some Irish music and recitation and song led by John Forde. Transport will be available to bring walkers back to their cars.

This 1916 commemoration follows on from a range of successful events run by the Liam Mellows Group, including ceremonies in Killeeneen and Moyode and the unveiling of a plaque to Fr. Harry Feeney in Clarinbridge.

The events were all well attended and dramas based on the Rising by Clarinbridge Drama group and Sibín brought an artistic dimension to the commemoration. A commemoration Mass and a history lecture in Clarinbridge were part of a wide ranging and inclusive programme. Joe Murphy, one of the organisers, said that the events had captured the imagination of both young and old and that they had given an impetus to people to critically study Irish history.

Nollaig O Cuinn, chairman of Clarinbridge GAA club said that it was a great honour for the club to have this opportunity to honour those men and women who sacrificed so much for a better Ireland.

He said that the GAA must always remember that its central aim was not only to promote our native games but also the Irish culture, its language and music and to bring people together to form stronger communities.