

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL RECORD

1985-6

EDITOR: Joan Delany

Assisted by Rob Goodbody

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RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL RECORD

1985

Secretary's Report for 1985

To be presented to the AGM in January 1986

I am afraid that this year we I must start my report on a sad note. As you all know, in July Kathleen Turner, our founder, President for many years, and our friend, died. Our Society will miss her greatly, her local knowledge was always being called upon, but this will not be entirely lost to us as, fortunately, she recorded a lot of it in her book *If You Seek Monuments* which is a fitting memorial to her.

We had some most interesting winter lectures on varying subjects starting with *Vanishing Houses in South County Dublin* by Peter Pearson, *The Motor Car in Ireland* by Finbarr Corry, to *Dolmens to Doorways* presented by Rob Goodbody and Kathleen Turner.

In April Damian MacGarry ran a most successful weekend outing to South Tipperary. We saw many historical sites, though at times it was quite a fight against the weather, but the members battled on and were well rewarded.

In May we had a new venture - A social evening at Aravon School by kind invitation of the Governors and Headmaster. This was very well supported and even the weather was kind to us that evening. We hope to repeat this again in 1986.

Our summer outings included visits to Meath, the Casino at Marino, Wicklow and Rathfarnham, which were all most enjoyable in different ways.

Once again Joan Delany ran the Summer School in July and August in Field Archaeology and kindly invited our members to the evening lectures.

During Local History Week we put on an exhibition and some lectures on local history, especially for younger people. I think Rob Goodbody should be congratulated on his noble effort of giving 7 lectures in one day.

In November we were fortunate to have a lecture by Miss Gillespie on *Irish watercolours* as this was arranged at very short notice.

In December we had a fund-raising event in the Burton Hall of Rathmichael School, when the Rathmichael Parish Dramatic Society kindly put on some entertainment for us. The proceeds of this were given to the Field Group.

W.G.

23rd January 1985

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS' SLIDES

A most peculiar situation arose at our Annual General Meeting this year. The weather was filthy and kept all but the most dedicated in their homes and so we failed to attract the twenty members necessary for a quorum. After some anxious deliberation an unusual course of action was proposed, that the meeting should go ahead as if a quorum was present and that the outcome would be put to a later meeting, to be held before a lecture and notified beforehand, to ask if the meeting would ratify the decisions taken. This technique worked admirably, the proceedings being unanimously adopted without further discussion at a fully-quoted meeting of the society, and the whole circumstances must reflect well on the Society's flexibility!

It was suggested, first of all, that the number of members required to make up a quorum should be reduced in future. [In fact the committee decided not to pursue this as the membership was increasing and effectively reducing the proportion of members required for a quorum].

The Secretary read her report which was duly adopted. The Treasurer was ill and not able to be present to report on the accounts. However, the accounts were presented by the President who informed the meeting that a new account had been opened to hold the funds from the sales of *If You Seek Monuments*. Betty O'Brien presented the accounts from the Summer School which showed that there was £635 in hand, though Betty informed the meeting that this would not be sufficient to cover the expenses for the publication of the report on the excavation at Ballyman. She suggested that we should run some fund raising functions to increase this balance.

Other issues raised included the level of subscriptions, and no change was proposed as these had been increased only a year ago. The President asked if we could afford to produce the *Rathmichael Historical Record* in its present form in future. There was also some discussion about the publicising of our Society's events.

The following were elected to the Committee and offices of the Society:

	Proposed	Proposer	Secunder
President	Joan Delany	G. Slevin	D. Pilkington
Secretary	Wendy Guilford	G. Slevin	D. Pilkington
Treasurer	Howell Evans	B. O' Brien	D. MacGarry
Committee	Damian MacGarry	D. Pilkington	B. O'Brien
	Tanya O'Sullivan	D. Pilkington	B. O'Brien
	Albert Mason	D. Pilkington	B. O'Brien
	Rob Goodbody	G. Slevin	H. Evans

Following the elections we had a most enjoyable showing of members' slides of historical interest.

27th February 1985

THE VANISHING HOUSES OF SOUTH COUNTY DUBLIN

Peter Pearson

Our speaker is well known to the Society as an expert on the buildings of the south Dublin area. In his talk he gave us a fascinating, if sometimes depressing, overview of some of the fine houses in the district that have disappeared in recent years or which are under threat of disappearance.

The range of periods included was widespread, as was the distribution of the houses we were shown. At the southern end of the district we saw Galtrim House in the heart of Bray while nearer to Dublin there was Beaufield at Stillorgan with a painted ceiling in the hallway. This house is vacant and under threat. Nearby was Knockrabo on Taney Road, a highly unusual house with a belvedere on the roof, now totally gone.

At Shankill, Dorney Court was an interesting house which has just been demolished. This house dated from the 1820's and had very fine inlaid floors and interesting plaster on the walls and ceilings.

Often we do not realise what is special about buildings until it is too late and they are gone. The message in tonight's talk was that if we want to ensure that the finer buildings do not all disappear we need to be more alert to the quality of what remains.

March 1985

THE MOTOR CAR IN IRELAND

Finbarr Corry

It was indeed a pleasure to be introduced to a chapter in the history of Ireland which is unknown to most of us. But in the present day every one is sensitively aware of the lecturer's subject - the motor car. Our minds were opened to the fact that Ireland has a surprising number of rare and most interesting motor cars from veteran, vintage and post-vintage times. Most of us will have heard of that important event in Irish motoring history, the Gordon Bennett Trophy race, but may be taken back to learn that it was as long ago as 1903. Mr Corry is the author of a truly delightful book, *The Automobile Treasury of Ireland*

13th/14th April 1985

ANNUAL WEEKEND OUTING : SOUTH TIPPERARY AREA

This outing was organised by Edie and Damian MacGarry. We met at Urlingford on the main Dublin to Cork road and, after a break, the group moved on to Liathmore churches, a small church and a larger church with a nave and chancel with Romanesque carvings.

Our next stop was one of the highlights of the weekend - Athassel Abbey. This was in a magnificent setting beside a stream. The main building is a 13th century Augustinian abbey and we spent some time there admiring the building and taking photographs.

Ardane was the next site on our itinerary, an early Christian burial ground with a wall containing fragments of crosses and incised slabs alongside a pilgrims' walk. We later visited a graveyard and ruined church at Knockgraffon, and ended the day at Ardmoyle, a disused church built on to a round tower.

The weather had deteriorated and we were very glad to arrive at our accommodation at Cappamurra House and a welcome dinner. Members of the group had coped valiantly with the heavy rain.

The next morning the weather had improved and we went to Fethard which is a most interesting town with a lovely church and surrounding old walls with a tower house.

The Augustinian friary was our next call. This had a shiela-na-gig carved on one wall. This took most of the morning and after lunch we drove to Clonmel for a walking tour of the town on the banks of the river Suir. This concluded a most enjoyable and successful weekend outing.

W.G.

16th May 1985

FROM DOLMENS TO DOORWAYS

Kathleen Turner and Rob Goodbody

We held an evening meeting on 16th May, to mark Dublin County Council Arts Festival Week, though this is not a month in which we normally have talks. The evening was entitled *Dolmens to Doorways: A slide show of local history* and consisted of a double act with Rob Goodbody and Kathleen Turner presenting a potted history of the district, based on slides of the principal monuments and buildings. Rob started with the prehistory of the area, showing slides of portal tombs and later monuments including wedge tombs, early Christian churches with their crosses and grave slabs and through the medieval period with its castles and tower houses.

As his introduction reached the eighteenth century Rob handed over to Mrs Turner who showed us slides of some magnificent houses in the district, giving a tremendous short history of each and showing its main architectural features. This ranged from a beautiful farm house at Mullinastill to the unexpectedly elaborate entrance and staircase at Jubilee Hall and included houses now lost such as Beech Grove at Loughlinstown

Saturday 18th May 1985

SOCIAL EVENING AT ARAVON SCHOOL

For Dublin County Council's second Arts Festival from 12th to 19th May and to raise funds for the excavation at Ballyman, the Society was fortunate to have been offered the use of Aravon School - recently moved to Old Conna - for an exhibition of photographs of National Monuments and other pictures and a display of finds from the Ballyman excavation. Wine and cheese were served during the evening which was a great social success. It was also an opportunity to see this interesting house and its gardens in such a magnificent location. We are very grateful to Mr Basil Nulty and to the Headmaster of Aravon, Mr Terence O'Malley, for making available this beautiful venue.

23rd June 1985

OUTING TO FORE ABBEY AND TULLYNALLY CASTLE

We met up in the morning at Kells to proceed to the ancient site of Fore in County Westmeath. Here, nestling in a valley, stand the remains of an abbey which was founded in the 7th century by St Feichin. An early stone church survives here with a cross carved on the face of the lintol over the west door. Around the church are the substantial remains of a monastery which was established here in about the year 1200 and which was run by the Benedictines. The monastery had various buildings added to it over the years, including fortified towers and surrounding walls, added in the 15th century. The monastery was suppressed in the 16th century.

From Fore we travelled on to Tullynally Castle, a stately home near Mullingar which is the seat of the Pakenham family, whose best known members have been the Earls of Longford. The house is basically an 18th century mansion that was remodelled early in the 19th century to the designs of Francis Johnson, who turned it into a

castellated Gothic edifice. The house has since been considerably enlarged by various architects, including Sir Richard Morrison around 1840. We were shown around the house by a tour guide and it was not just the house that fascinated us but the great collection of contents including a cannon shot that had killed one of the Pakenham family. There was also an enigmatic wooden device like a puzzle and which Joan Delany identified for them as a wooden door lock. The old kitchens include a superb collection of old kitchen implements and equipment.

We finished the day with a walk around the extensive gardens of Tullynally Castle, a relaxing finish to a day that was certainly worth the long drive.

Monday July 1st to Friday July 5th 1985

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY COURSE

Organised by Joan Delany

This course was offered again this year and, as usual, was recognised by the Department of Education for attendance by primary school teachers.

As with other years this course was a balance of lectures and outdoor work and featured some well known names in the field of archaeology. The lectures included sessions by John Bradley on *An Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*; Ragnall O Floinn on *Medieval Metalwork*; David Newman Johnson on *Irish Castles* and Leo Swan on *The Study of Local History*.

There was also field work at a local early graveyard when the participants were shown how to record headstones, while other outings included visits to local sites and to Dublin Castle.

27th July 1985

OUTING TO WICKLOW

The Rector of Wicklow, Rev S Pettigrew kindly agreed to conduct members of the Society on an outing to Wicklow. This visit started at the Church of Ireland parish church at Wicklow which probably dates from the seventeenth or eighteenth century. This church was built on the site of an earlier church and part of a Romanesque doorway which survives in the porch shows evidence for a twelfth century church building. Close to the church lie the ruins of the thirteenth century Franciscan Friary. This was established in 1265 and while it was out of use by the early seventeenth century, the friars returned and occupied the premises on and off until early in the eighteenth century. Finally, we visited the remains of the Black Castle. The first castle on this site was built as early as 1178 and it became a royal castle in the fourteenth century. Not much of the castle survives intact, but it is placed on a very strategic site on the edge of the sea cliff and with a deep moat surrounding the other two sides.

11th RATHMICHAEL SUMMER SCHOOL, 1985

Our Summer School took place again this year and incorporated two *Field Courses in Archaeology*, an archaeological excavation at Ballyman and the evening lecture series in archaeology. All went off with great success, thanks to the organising ability of Joan Delany and her team of assistants. The Director of the Summer School, Leo Swan, managed his functions of giving lectures, practical tuition and master of ceremonies with his usual infectious enthusiasm. Betty O'Brien, Director of Excavations, continued her work on the excavation, managing to keep the requirements of a professional excavation and the teaching of students from conflicting with each other.

Part of a 7th Century penanular brooch found on the Ballyman excavation (actual size)

SUMMER SCHOOL LECTURE SERIES

Monday 19th August 1985

EXCAVATIONS AT BALLYMAN

Elizabeth O'Brien

Betty O'Brien is the Director of the Society's own excavations at Ballyman which started with two weeks in 1979 and now continues each year for the month of August. Ballyman is the site of an Early Christian church, founded in the late 7th century. The present ruined church dates from the 13th century when the Knights Templar had the site. The excavated area was associated with the church but is outside its enclosure. In 1979, attention was drawn to a blackened area of the field when it was ploughed for the first time in living memory and the initial search was for a Fulacht Fiadh. So far, this has not been found, but the site has otherwise been fruitful. The oldest find to date is a corn drying kiln which dated from some time around the early 5th century. This was a keyhole-shape hollowed out of the ground on which corn was laid on a wicker screen and dried with hot air from a fire. Burned hazel twigs and barley grains were found in the bottom. Some bronze objects were found on the site and dated to about the 7th century. A large proportion of the site consists of a cobbled area, throughout which is found slag and furnace bottom material. A wide variety of iron objects have been found in this area, including blades, spikes, a stick pin and a jew's harp. Two large stones seem to have been used as anvils and the area may have been for smithing as well as smelting. The iron working dates from the Medieval period, around the 13th and 14th centuries.

20th August 1985

**THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ITS ROLE IN
IRISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

Dr Anne Lynch

Dr Lynch gave us a brief history of the Office of Public Works from its inception in 1831. Its involvement with monuments started with the Irish Church Act in 1869 and has progressed to the two National Monuments Acts in force today. A new act has been promised for years and is needed to deal with new problems such as metal detectors and underwater sites. Harold Leask was the OPW's first full-time Inspector of National Monuments in 1930 and the first archaeologist appointed was Henry Wheeler in 1953.

The OPW has the responsibility to declare monuments to be National Monuments where it sees fit. Its options for the protection of monuments include listing, preservation orders, guardianship and ownership. Of the 20,000 monuments in the state only about 700 are in full state care and their conservation is carried out by a staff of four architects and two archaeologists. It is now policy to choose key sites for restoration to promote public awareness and tourism. The OPW gives advice to outside agencies, but does not have the staff for rescue archaeology - this is contracted out.

A National Archaeological Survey has been under way since 1963, cataloguing all monuments earlier than 1700 AD. The Sites and Monuments Record has been published for some counties but is not on sale to the public. An inventory will be produced for each county and will be on sale. The OPW is also responsible for granting excavation licences, and liaises with the Farm Development Service, Forestry and Wildlife Service and Planning Authorities.

21st August 1985

TARA

Dr Seamus Caulfield

The excavation of Tara was started in 1952 by Sean Ó Ríordáin who had spent fifteen years at Lough Gur and saw Tara as a fifteen to twenty year project. Unfortunately, he fell ill in 1955 and died in 1957 having excavated only the Rath of the Synods and started the excavation of the Mound of the Hostages. That excavation was completed by Professor De Valera and the remainder of Tara has not yet been investigated. Dr. Caulfield described the history of Tara as far as is known from those excavations and from other sources. An earlier excavation had taken place in the last years of the last century when the British Israelites spent three years digging in the Rath of the Synods in a search for the Ark of the Covenant. No archaeologist was present.

Many ages are represented at Tara. The Mound of the Hostages was a Neolithic passage tomb with burials taking place again in the Bronze Age. The Rath of the Synods was a triple banked ring fort with a rock-cut central rath. Rath na Rí seems to date from the Iron Age and Ó Ríordáin considered that it was earlier than the Rath of the Synods. The Rath of the Synods contained post-holes, palisade fences and burials and, most significantly, a substantial quantity of Roman artefacts. It appears that the connection with the Roman world was through trading rather than looting. Ó Ríordáin's archaeology proved that Tara was of international importance in a little-known period in Irish pre-history, with possible peaceful links with the Roman world.

The following day, those taking the course in Field Archaeology were privileged to be taken on a tour of Tara, guided by Dr Caulfield, along with Leo Swan and Betty O'Brien.

22nd August 1985

THE WORK OF THE ANTIQUITIES DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Dr Michael Ryan

The Antiquities Division of the National Museum has five basic collections: a small Greek and Roman collection; a small Egyptian collection; a small collection of other foreign material; an extremely important ethnographic collection containing some 15,000 specimens; and, finally, an enormous collection of Irish antiquities which is one of the largest collections in Western Europe. In addition, the Irish Division maintains an archive of files relating to archaeological investigations and National Monuments and these are available for inspection by appointment. There is also a large collection of photographs containing about 6 to 8,000 modern colour slides and a similar number of black and white photographs, all of which are well catalogued.

The Museum's collection is based on that of the Royal Irish Academy which started in the 1830's and gained momentum in the 1840's and 1850's. In 1861, the Treasure Trove Regulations designated the Academy as keepers of treasure trove. In the 1880's the government started actively buying antiquities for its new National Museum which opened in 1888. The Irish Antiquities Division was created in 1903 with George Coffey as its Keeper. Until the 1950's the Museum was the only state organisation to employ archaeologists. Now, however, archaeological field work is only carried out when required by the collection, such as in excavating find spots. The basic work of the Division involves a modest programme for conservation; exhibition of artefacts in Dublin museums and in outside exhibitions around Ireland and abroad, and the very important and quite intricate task of recording the collection.

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23rd August 1985

SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN EARLY IRON AGE IRELAND

Professor Etienne Rynne

In the course of a most interesting lecture, Professor Rynne detailed the various distinctions between two quite separate influxes of Iron Age influence in Ireland. The La Tène culture seems to have arrived in Connaught from Brittany and later in the north east from Britain. The non-La Tène was probably earlier and more enduring and originated largely in Spain. Its existence may be seen in the south and west and seems to have first arrived around 600 BC. Enduring remains of the non-La Tène include the Irish language, ring forts and disc querns. Other features include the cheveux-de-frise at forts like Ballykinvarga in the Burren and carved heads with a hole in the mouth that have close parallels on the continent. Remains associated with the La Tène culture include beehive querns and stones with similarities to stones in Brittany, including the Turoe stone in Co Galway and the Liath Fáil at Tara. The coexistence of these two cultures is suggested in the Táin Bó Cuailnge which tells of the people of Ulster fighting with those of Connaught who had the same culture, but who may have been of different origins. It is possible that the non-La Tène arrived gradually in small groups which merged with the existing inhabitants and thereby provided a continuity with the late Bronze Age. The La Tène, on the other hand, may have arrived as warrior bands and not as families and communities, and while they settled with the native peoples, their language did not survive and their influence was little more than a passing phase.

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31st August 1985

OUTING TO RATHFARNHAM CASTLE

Led by Damian MacGarry

The Jesuit Order has been in occupation at Rathfarnham Castle since 1913 but has now moved out, leaving just one of their number as caretaker. We are very grateful to the Jesuits for permitting us to have a look at the castle while it is still in their ownership.

There has been a castle at Rathfarnham since about the year 1200, but the present building dates from the late 16th century when Archbishop Loftus built it to the latest designs with angled corner towers to deflect attack by firearms. In the middle and late 18th century the castle was substantially remodelled by the family of Speaker Conolly using well known architects of the day and creating a fine 18th century mansion from the earlier castle.

We toured the ground and first floors of the castle admiring the magnificent plasterwork and the proportions of the rooms which are remarkably in keeping with the later remodelling rather than the earlier castle. On the first floor there is a very large room which has been used as a chapel and which has stained glass windows by Harry Clarke. A larger collection of his work is to be seen in the undercroft of the castle which is beneath a modern dormitory wing but which may date from the medieval period. These stained glass windows were installed by the Jesuits and are likely to be removed when the Order leaves the building.

This building is unique in county Dublin, and probably in the country as a whole and it is to be hoped that its future can somehow be secured once its sale is completed.

September 1985

OUTING TO THE CASINO AT MARINO

For our September outing we went to see the Casino at Marino, that delightful Georgian masterpiece built by the Earl of Charlemont to the designs of Sir William Chambers. The Casino was in poor condition for many years, and was even facing a bleak future in the late 1920's when the government stepped in by drafting what was to become the National Monuments Act, 1930 which included the powers for the Office of Public Works to maintain the building while not actually owning it. A full scale restoration has now been carried out and the Casino is now open to the public for the first time.

The standard of the restoration is impressive, with the original colour schemes carefully researched and inlaid floors, plasterwork and so forth repaired to an exceptionally high standard. The building warrants this treatment, though, as it ranks amongst the most important buildings in the country architecturally and it is good to see that the care of our fine Georgian buildings is at last getting the attention that they deserve.

WINTER LECTURES

16th October 1985

LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

To mark Local History Week, Rob Goodbody spent the day giving talks on behalf of the Society. This started in the morning with a talk to about a hundred pupils in Queen of Angels School, Balally when Rob managed to forget to bring his slides and had to improvise. Luckily, this was very successful, and demonstrated how much the children already knew and understood about local history. This was followed by a similar presentation to pupils at Rathmichael School, this time with slides! After lunch, Rob gave a talk at the Shankill Old Folks' Day Centre on the history of the Shankill area. Understandably, the audience was able to contribute as much information as they received! In the early evening the talk was to the Rathmichael Cub Scouts and as there was a fair proportion of the audience that had been to the talk in the school a few hours before the presentation had to be varied as much as possible.

In the evening, Rob was the speaker at a special lecture to the Rathmichael Historical Society in memory of Mrs Kathleen Turner. This took the form of a précis of the history of the area as seen through the slides in Mrs Turner's collection which had been presented to the Society. This included some 68 slides grouped into two categories. The first ranged from the Portal tombs such as Ballybrack and Brenanstown, through Bronze Age Wedge Tombs, Early Christian Churches, Rathdown slabs and crosses, round towers, to the medieval tower houses and castles. The second category included the later structures such as houses, Martello towers and other 19th century buildings, finishing with a slide of a painting of Scotsman's Bay by Mrs Turner.

Alongside the lecture there was an exhibition of local history displayed in the hall.

It was appropriate that this date should be chosen to commemorate our founder member and former President as it was the opening session of the winter season immediately following her death, and it was also the same week as the memorial service in Rathmichael Parish Church. The attendance at the evening meeting was very good and reflected the esteem in which Mrs Turner was held and the sense of loss felt by members of the Society.

November 1985

IRISH WATERCOLOURS

Frances Gillespie

Our programmed speaker for this month's meeting had to cancel at relatively short notice and we were lucky to have been able to get Frances Gillespie from the National Gallery of Ireland to stand in. In a delightful and well-illustrated talk we were introduced to the subject of Irish watercolours, with particular emphasis on examples from the collection of the National Gallery. Considering how little time there was to adapt the talk to the occasion there was plenty of examples included of views in the south-east Dublin and north-east Wicklow area, such as the *View of the Countryside near Bray, County Wicklow, Looking towards the sea* by Thomas Sautell Roberts dating from 1793 and recently acquired by the National Gallery of Ireland.

11th December 1985
FUND RAISING EVENT

Rathmichael Parish Dramatic Society

In December members of the Rathmichael Parish Dramatic Society very kindly participated in a fund raising effort for the Rathmichael Historical Society. The event was organized by Gerard Slevin who produced many plays for the Dramatic Society. The programme included some Shakespeare at his strongest, some lighter moments from Oscar Wilde, some Percy French, and some humorous home-made playlets. Leo Swan was a courteous and competent compère.

KATHLEEN TURNER - AN APPRECIATION

Kathleen Turner - the founder of the Rathmichael Historical Society - was born Mary Kathleen Wilson in the year 1900, and after a long, eventful and interesting life, died at her home Llanmawr, Shankill, in 1985.

The Wilson family was well-to-do, having substantial investments in land. This background gave Mrs Turner the security of income that allowed her to pursue her interests, and there was no shortage of these, all of which she undertook with dedication to achieve a high standard of accomplishment, including skiing, flying, sailing, music and languages. She also graduated in modern literature from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1923.

Kathleen Wilson married Charles Turner in 1939 and was widowed about six months later when her husband was killed on minesweeping duties off the south coast of England. She returned to Shankill and looked after her father until his death in 1950. Not content with her impressive list of skills already mastered, Mrs Turner became a keen gardener, turning the garden at Llanmawr into a horticultural delight. In the early 1950's she took up painting, studying under Yann Goulet. Finally, Mrs Turner developed an interest in the history of the Shankill area and from this developed a deep and thorough understanding of the entire barony of Rathdown, stretching from Rathfarnham to Delgany.

Mrs Turner's local history notes reflect a meticulous gleaning of information, ensuring that a wide range of sources contributed to her writings. She contacted families of people who had lived in the area, spoke with older inhabitants, and even roped others in to ferret out local traditions. Her close involvement with Rathmichael Church led her to start on a history of the parish, but while she wrote a complete text early on, probably by the late 1960's, she did not publish it, but repeatedly went back to it with amendments, corrections and improvements. It is a pity that this insistence on perfection meant that it was not published during her lifetime.

Her involvement in the Rathmichael Historical Society began when she called a meeting of like minded people in her conservatory at Llanmawr in April 1972, from which the Society was founded. Over the years that followed she was a central force in the Society, serving as President until 1979 and afterwards on the Committee. Although she led a number of outings, she only contributed twice to the lecture programme, both times on local houses, about which she had an outstanding knowledge. Her imagination always included the practical, and the project to re-erect the Kiltuck Cross at St Anne's Church, Shankill, stemmed from Mrs Turner's idea and determination.

Although Kathleen Turner did not leave a long list of published works, her contribution was nevertheless important. For many years she edited the *Rathmichael Historical Record*, leaving a permanent record of the activities of the Society. Her paper *Rathmichael - A Parish in the Pale*, published in the Dublin Historical Record, remains an essential reference for the history of the district. For the Rathmichael Historical Society the enduring publication is her most excellent reference book and guide book *If You Seek Monuments*. This book reflects the breadth and depth of her knowledge and the thorough nature of her researches, and its value is measured by the frequency from which it is quoted as a reference. The first edition sold out rapidly and the second is still in demand. The title comes from Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph in St Paul's Cathedral and perhaps it should be adapted again on the title page of any third edition that might emerge: "If you seek her monument, read on..."

MISCELLANEA

Navan Fort

Navan Fort from the air

Navan Fort, the most important archaeological site in Ulster, was threatened by an application for planning permission by a local quarry company to extend their working. This would involve cutting a hole eighty feet deep between the main fort and the lake of Lough-na-shade where finds of Bronze Age trumpets in the last century showed its ritual importance. This Society was asked to support the "Friends of Navan" in their opposition to the granting of this permission by collecting signatures. This was done.