

**Youth Link
Knocknaheeny**

On Tuesday 8th July, in the presence of Chairperson Ms Patsy O'Brien of "We the People" and CCVEC CEO Ted Owens, Mr Tom Daly Education Officer and Councillor Tony Fitzgerald [087 6547142] we unveiled a memorial to the late Ms Virgie Fitzgerald in the heart of Learning Neighbourhood in Knocknaheeny.

We remember that she was a member of the group who proposed the putting in place of a local dedicated facility for "at risk young people" Her legacy is in the youth facilities in Knocknaheeny to-day. It was a delight to meet with her family friends and neighbours.

The Youth Link Complex is to cater for the very large youth population in the area and incorporates three projects.

1. VEC / Ogra Chorcaí Youth Project.
2. HSE Springboard and
3. Daughters of Charity Crèche and Preschool.

The complex is part of the massive regeneration and refurbishment project and the City of Cork Vocational Education Committee allowed the facility to be built on their site - thanks to the Community College's Principal Helen Ryan. Cork City Council Recreation and Amenities oversaw the building of the entire complex.

The Centre is Youth friendly and modern, adds

to the public realm at the heart of the community

It compliments existing services and voluntary organisations, sporting groups within the community.

It includes Community buildings, for We the People, NICHE and Citizens Information Centre in addition to a sub office for the Credit Union and Housing office.

The Service that the staff will provide will be crucial to the educational and personal growth in young people in an outreach setting within the complex.

Ogra Chorcaí under the leadership of Mr Declan O'Leary is an ideal organization to oversee the project. Their professionalism and experience in Youth affairs within the city is to be applauded.

I wish the service well including ancillary staff, and caretakers and hope the young people will grow in self esteem, benefit from the variety of programmes and enjoy themselves.

The great community spirit in Knocknaheeny Hollyhill was demonstrated again on this occasion.

Cork City Sports

This year the Cork City Sports meeting celebrated its 57th anniversary on Saturday 12th July 2008 at the University College Cork (UCC) Mardyke Arena.

I welcomed our international competitors and their families to the meeting and to Cork at receptions in Collins Barracks and UCC sports complex.

More than 30 Olympic and World-ranked athletes took part including, among others Cork's own World Champion, Derval O'Rourke and Paul Hession thrilling the spectators.

Being an Olympic year this was the final opportunity for many athletes to test themselves before Beijing.

This renowned sporting event is now recognised by the European Athletic Association as one of the leading athletics meetings in Europe and is in their permanent events calendar.

The status it enjoys is due in the main to the sterling work of the organising committee over the years in continuing to raise the standard and profile of the meeting internationally.

Thanks to Mr Tony O'Connell for his part in the development of Cork City Sports down to years.

Thanks also to the event sponsors FDC Group, SPAR and Mc Donald's and the event patrons Cork City

Council, the Defence Forces and UCC without whose assistance the meeting could not take place.

Further information is available from public relations officer Tony O'Connell at (021) 4276156

On July 9th the **Irish Defence Force** paid tribute to the work put in by the organisers of the Cork City Sports at the annual launch at Collins Barracks.

Present were the Cork County Deputy Mayor Noel Collins, Sean Kelly former GAA President and Chairman of the Institute of Sport and Lt Col. Mick Clancy representing Brig. General Pat Hayes and Cork City Sports committee President Frank Whalley and Chairman Dick Hodgins.

The Cork City Sports and the military have enjoyed a great relationship over the years.

The Echo reported "Speaking on behalf of the army, Barrack OC, Lieutenant Colonel Des Bergin, and Mess President Comdt. Larry Bracken, singled out the organisers for praise while highlighting the special bond that exists between the army and the Cork City Sports.

July 9th Met with Mr. Mike Callanan the General Secretary of the major **Electrical Trade Union** in the USA with Mr. Pat O'Callaghan FAS Director Training Services. We spoke on the state of economies worldwide and in the USA and Ireland.

Ms Chrissie O'Callaghan, (Chairperson) that great women of Togher invited Elma and I to **the Togher Wednesday Social Group** Annual *Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Cannon Michael Riordan P.P. Togher at Togher Community Centre on Wednesday 9th July 2008.*

Norah Clifford read the *Readings. The Prayers of the Faithful* were read by members of the group.

The *Soloist* was Kathleen Desmond. Kathleen Crowley, Kathleen Desmond and Chrissie O'Callaghan made the flower arrangements with blooms from their own gardens.

All of the members baked and made a variety of cookies, cakes and sandwiches for the Afternoon Tea which was enjoyed over the regular Wednesday Tea & Chat.

Caretakers at the Centre Tom O'Sullivan and Donal Desmond prepared the room and made the tea & Coffee – impressive cooperation by all was evident on the day.

Members of **the Togher Wednesday Social Group** present were: Gertie Kearney (Hon. Treasurer) Noreen Mathews, Mary Wise, Kathleen Desmond (Asstd. Hon. Treasurer) Norah Clifford, Evelyn Sheehan, Josie Walsh, Eileen Galvin, Joan Hayes, Kathleen Tobin, Valerie Devine, Gretta Goulding, Kit Lee, Marion Nelligan (whose family roots go back a long way in Togher) Mary Cummins, Kathleen Crowley (Hon. Sec.),

The age profile of the members is mid 50s to 92 years.

The Chairman of **the Togher Wednesday Social Group** (Chrissie O'Callaghan) thanked everyone who have supported the group over the years and paid special tribute to the Lord Mayor "who in his role as City Councillor has provided support to the group and in his VEC role arranged Tutor Hours so that TWSG are able to have a very varied activities"

She presented the Lady Mayoress with a bouquet of mixed flowers supplied locally by Flowers in Bloom Glasheen.

Also Present were Councillor Michael Ahern, his wife Eileen, Councillor John Buttimer and members of Togher Retired Men's Group.