



HAPPY GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - Connie and Ned Coughlan, Kilcoole, pictured outside Kilquade Church where they were married 50 years ago. Also included are family members Maurice, Ronnie, Laurence, Michael and Mary.

Happy together

'A MARRIAGE made in September is the one you'll always remember' goes the old song and for three County Wicklow couples who celebrated their wedding anniversaries last weekend, the words couldn't be any truer.

For Connie and Ned Coughlan from Kilcoole, an old friend's pub provided the setting for their 50th wedding anniversary celebrations last Saturday. About 80 of their friends and relations packed Byrne's for the evening.

Among them was their son, Larry and his wife Mary who were waiting for the midnight hour to strike and signal their 18th anniversary.

Meanwhile in Greystones, Jane and Joe Fitzpatrick were waking up to a quiet Sunday which was to turn into a surprise gathering of clan and friends who had organised a celebration in Greystones Rugby Club to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Rugby club's giant draw has target of £100,000

THE BEST KNOWN sporting organisation in Greystones has set itself an ambitious £100,000 fund-raising target.

The money is needed not only to pay for ongoing development of facilities at Greystones Rugby Club, but also to pay off existing debts and commitments.

So in its most ambitious fund-raising venture ever, the club is launching a 2,000 member, £100 per ticket monthly draw over the next six months with a £100,000 prize fund including six brand new cars, exotic holidays and cash prizes.

In spite of initial doubts about the viability of such a draw, the club's governing committee has decided to go ahead with the series of six, the first of which will take place at the end of November.

According to Club President Mick Hennerty, the huge increase of population in Greystones and surrounding areas faced the club with a choice of either expanding its membership and facilities or else limiting membership. The club opted to expand.

But he says, the cost of developing extra pitches and associated additional dressing rooms 'has put severe strains on our bank balance. We urgently need to raise over £100,000 for these new facilities.'

According to club P.R.O. Richard Roche, Greystones

has like many other clubs around the country incurred debt providing new facilities, particularly as it now has the largest youth section in the country. But the financial position was much the same as in other clubs around the country.

He confirmed that at first there had been divided opinions within the club about the likely success of the draw, but these doubts had now been overcome and everyone was fully behind the idea.

Four sales team, each ten strong, had been organised to sell the tickets and already the club had been delighted by the very positive response to the draw.

'We are getting a very good response and I think that's a reflection of the excellent prizes which are on offer in the monthly draws,' he said.

The six cars awaiting lucky winners in the club draw over the coming months are a top of the range Volvo 940 TS Turbo, a VW Golf, A Ford Escort, a Peugeot 205 and a Nissan Micra. Second prize in the draws are holidays to locations such as Kenya, Brazil, Thailand, Goa, Tobago and Egypt. Various cash prizes will bring the total number of prizes each month up to ten.

Horizon merges with Easy 103

BRAY BASED Horizon Radio is to merge with Easy 103 from Wicklow town following the successful conclusion of four weeks talks between the two stations.

The move was due to be formally ratified by the Independent Television and Radio Commission (IRTC) at a meeting yesterday to be followed by an announcement to Horizon's listeners over the airwaves this Friday morning.

The new combined countywide station, which has yet to be named, will commence operating from Monday morning next, operating a common programme schedule catering for all parts of County Wicklow and Horizon's South Dublin listeners.

The merger was confirmed this week by the Bray Station's Chief Executive Dave Heffernan who said that under the new agreement, the bulk of the new service's programming would be broadcast from Horizon's Bray studios.

He explained that under the new combined structure, Horizon and Easy 103 would each have a 20% shareholding in the new company while the remaining 60% would be available for outside investors to buy into the stockholding.

By Jan Van Embden

According to Mr. Heffernan, there has been considerable interest in the new countywide radio service and a number of small and medium scale investors had already been lined up.

He also said that details of the new programming schedule were still being drawn up and no final decision had yet been taken on which elements of the two old services would be retained in the new set-up.

Similarly, no decision had yet been taken on revising advertising rates, but the figures were under review.

Agreement on a merger between Horizon and Easy 103 has been reached in a relatively short time, with formal talks having only commenced late last month.

Formerly Bray Local Broadcasting, Horizon Radio was established as the legally licensed broadcasting service for

North Wicklow two years ago after it won approval from the IRTC under Minister Ray Burke's broadcasting legislation. Easy 103 was licensed for east and south Wicklow under the same legislation, but took a year longer to get on the air after experiencing initial teething problems.

Like most local radio stations, Horizon and Easy 103 have both faced a tough time commercially since going on the air, but it's hoped that the combined strength which the merger will give them will improve their fortunes.

It is understood that the IRTC is in fact in favour of an amalgamation of the two.

The merger might not completely spell the end of a strictly Bray-orientated service. In confirming the move, Mr. Heffernan also indicated that planning is also going ahead for a new, localised Bray community service to be broadcast in tandem with the new county sound.

Bid to establish Bray Spanish society

A NEW GROUP is being set up in Bray with the aim of enhancing and developing the growing cultural and educational links between Bray and Spain.

With two major Spanish schools well established in the area and large numbers of students staying with local host families throughout the year, there is an ever increasing interest within the community in that country.

That's according to Pat Ralph of Seapoint Court, Bray, who is convening a public meeting on Tuesday next, September 17th in the Mayfair Hotel at 8 p.m. with a view to setting up a Bray-Spanish society.

According to Pat, the new group with aim to promote the

teaching and speaking of the Spanish language, encouraging cultural links between the two countries and provide a liaison agency between the community and the many Spanish visitors who now regularly reside in or come to Bray.

He has already been in touch about his plans with the Spanish Cultural Institute in Dublin and received enthusiastic support from the Director of the organisation, Senor Antonio Sierra who has given his organisation's blessing to the first meeting.

According to Pat, the growing commercial importance of Central and Latin America makes it very likely that that Spanish, along with English, will become one of the two

most widely spoken languages in the world over the next 20 years.

'Judging by the numbers of people attending Spanish classes in Bray, I also believe that there is a very healthy level of interest in Bray in Spain so I am hoping there will be strong support for a society here,' he adds.

He also believes that the new society could play a very important role in promoting better relations between the large numbers of Spanish students staying in the Bray area during the summer months and the local community.

For further details of Bray's growing links with Spain, see our special report in our centre pages this week.