



# Fantastic Fair had something for every taste

The Guinness Fair of Cahir 2000 was held over the bank holiday weekend and was a success with music, sport and colour. The glamour was provided by the twelve entrants in the Queen of the Fair competition.

All of the bands on the Square, including Big Generator, and Blooz Brothers, were sponsored by Guinness Group Sales, without whose financial support again the Fair could not have been held.

MC for the weekend, Gerry Duffy, welcomed the crowd, including many overseas visitors, on Friday night, to the Square. He called on Tipperary hurler John Leahy to officially open the Fair.

In a brief interview on stage, John said that Tipperary will be back next year and are determined to bring back the Liam McCarthy Cup to the Premier County once more.

The Fair committee wish to thank John for opening the Fair and for making himself available to the many hurling fans in Cahir, young and old, during the evening.

Gerry Duffy then introduced the twelve entrants for the Queen of the Fair to the crowd and wished them luck in the final on Sunday. All the girls were resplendent in their ballgowns.

Big Generator, sponsored by Guinness, came on stage to a tumultuous welcome and entertained the crowd for the night and kept the party going with their own brand of rock and excellent versions of many classic tunes.

The bartenders' race, sponsored by Pat O'Donovan, The Heritage, was won by Mary Fitzgerald, Hearnons Bar, who won £100 and silver salver. Second was Martin Fogarty, Cahir House Hotel, and third Hughie O'Donoghue, Shamrock Lounge.

On Saturday, local and upcoming band Widgit, featuring Seamus Lonergan, Michael Norris and Liam McLoughlin, played a lively set early in the evening and entertained the crowd with original material and good cover versions. They won the all-Ireland Slógadh competition this year, a great achievement for the Cahir lads. In fact U2 won this competi-

tion in 1975, so watch this band go.

Remix, sponsored by Irwin's, an exciting four-piece Boy Band, came onto the stage to a rapturous reception, particularly by the young girls of Cahir, and played for two hours, dancing and singing in their own inimitable style, using every inch of the stage in their routine.

The highlight for the young audience was when six local girls took to the stage and took part in a mini talent competition organised by the band.

Cathy O'Donoghue and Gemma Maguire danced and sang to entertain the crowd to share the honours. The band stayed on to sign autographs and pose with their many young fans for photos after the concert.

On Sunday the fine weather continued as crowds gathered for the parade. They were entertained by Clonmel traditional group The Quinlans, led by Dan Quinlan, ably supported by Michael Hearty flute / accordion, and Joe Farrell flute and banjo.

The parade was headed by Cahir majorettes, led by Sheena Mullally, and included St. Patrick's Brass Band from Cashel, and St. Mary's Marching Band from Maynooth, and featured crazy boats, stock cars, fancy dress, industrial machinery and the Queen of the Fair float.

Best float was Eurgene of Cahir, which won £200.

The entrants for the Queen were interviewed individually by MC Gerry Duffy, and gave some entertaining answers as to what they would look for in their ideal man.

This year's winner, representing Morrissey's Bar, Castle Street, Cahir, was Caroline Beary, who was presented with the tiara, perpetual cup and sash by Caoimhe O'Doherty, the 1999 Queen of the Fair.

The cheque for £150, sponsored by Sandra's Takeaway, was presented by Maria

Caplice-Taylor, chairperson of the Fair committee, who thanked all the entrants in the competition, and all the sponsors of the Fair.

Second place went to Isobel Moore, representing Clifford's at the Bell, sponsored by the Key Rite Tiles. Third place went to Sinead Finney, representing Crock of Gold, Cahir, sponsored by Kay's Coffee Shop.

Caroline is certainly a very worthy winner of this year's Queen. She is daughter of Pat and the late Stella Beary, Cahir, and her hobbies include training horses for show jumping, karate, basketball, hockey and tennis.

Caroline just completed her Leaving Certificate at Rockwell College and hopes to study earth sciences and archaeology.

Isobel Moore from Knockgraffon enjoys socialising and would like to be an air hostess. Sinead Feeney enjoys socialising, music, swimming and walking. She hopes to start her training for nursing in Cork.

The Cahir Princess was won by Elaine Devieux and runner-up was Eilish Meehan, both from Cahir.

The entertainment continued with music on the Square by Anthony and Ailbe and in the Inch Field with games and sideshows organised by Cahir GAA.

The committee wish to thank Cahir GAA for the family entertainment throughout Sunday afternoon.

The pub league final on Sunday afternoon was hotly contested with the Shamrock Lounge beating the Stop Inn 3-1. Hughie O'Donoghue won the goal of the tournament and Bob Reidy was the most entertaining player of the tournament.

The Blooz Brothers Band from Dublin, sponsored by Guinness Group Sales, brought the Fair to a hectic finale with Jake and Elwood singing and dancing to the sound of a six-piece backing group.

MC Gerry Duffy brought the Fair to a close, thanking all who helped make the Fair a success. He said it was a voluntary effort by all concerned and very worthwhile, and the small independent committee

should be congratulated on proceeding with the Fair when it might have been easier for them to cancel some weeks ago.

Music for all tastes was provided during the Fair, including pop, rock, blues, ballads and traditional Irish music, he added. Teenage and junior discos were also held during the Fair for the younger ones.

He complimented the entrants in the Queen of the Fair competition, saying that the standard was again particularly high this year and indeed all of the entrants were winners in his view and wished them well in the future and thanked Maggie Davis for organising the competition for the committee. Special thanks to Guinness for sponsoring all the bands on the Square.

Maria Caplice-Taylor wishes to thank all who had worked hard during the Fair with her small committee to ensure that there would be a Fair this year, and Gerry Duffy who kindly gave of his time to do MC throughout the weekend.

This year's Fair was organised by a small committee of dedicated workers, who must be congratulated. But if the Festival is to survive, more public support and financial support is needed.

## Queen of the Fair



Caroline Beary, Cahir, was chosen this year's Queen of the Fair at the Fair of Cahir. Caroline represented Morrissey's Pub.



Patrick and Michael Walsh, Pat Burke and Brendan Savage, representing Shine's Bus Hire, in the Crazy Boat Race, held during the Fair of Cahir recently.

### Statue taken from graveyard

At the annual Mass at the Old Graveyard in Old Church Street, a statue of Our Lady was removed from its glasscase.

Anyone with information as to the disappearance, please contact 052 62268.

It would be much appreciated by those who hold it dear if the statue is returned as soon as possible.



Enjoying the Crazy Boat Race in Cahir during the Fair were Reinhold and Annika Scheideler, on the Eurgene Boat.



Young politicians were out in force for the Fair of Cahir parade recently. Pictured, from left to right: Jason Duggan (John Bruton), Glen Walsh (Bertie Ahern), Shauna Walsh (Mary Harney), Mark Duggan (Michael Lowry). Back row, left to right: Dean Walsh (Charlie), Francis Doherty (Ray Burke).



Queen of the Fair contestants pictured with the judges John and Patricia Kelly, and organisers Maggie Davis and Gerry Duffy.

### Lifeboat appeal

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution Lifeboat Day will hold their church gate collection on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th August. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

### CDA meeting

Cahir Development Association monthly meeting will take place on Monday 14th August, at 8.15pm, in the Enterprise Centre, Cahir.

### Renewal plans on display

The Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal recently announced details of the designation for tax incentives under the town renewal scheme for Cahir and other towns in South Tipperary.

Details of the scheme are on public display during normal office hours in the local libraries in Cahir, and also at Aras An Chontae, Tipperary (SR) County Council, Emmet Street, Clonmel.

### New voices needed for junior choir

"If music be the food of love," sing on. Cantabile Junior Choir will begin rehearsals again on Wednesday 13th September. We meet at 7.30pm in Our Lady of Mercy Girls National School, Cahir, and any girls between the age of eight and fourteen is very welcome to come along and see if they would like to join our group.

We are affiliated to the Association of Choirs and have already given two public performances.

Next term will be exciting with recording and concert work, joining with our adult group "Find Your Voice," and we hope to enter the choir in some festivals.

Anyone wishing to join "Find Your Voice" can come along on Friday evenings to the Boys' National School, Cahir. We have had a very good term and now want to expand our repertoire to include more difficult harmony work, so please come along and help us achieve this goal.

This term has seen us conquer much varied work which included classical, jazz, Irish traditional and folk song, with some members teaming up to sing duets from modern shows.

If gospel is your love, then come along as we have just begun to tackle a beautiful arrangement of "Bridge Over Troubled Water," which we hope to record. It would be great to record this, with a large number of voices, so if you would enjoy this project, come along on Friday 18th August, at 8pm.

A fun evening can be guaranteed with a group that ranges from young ones to not so young, all having fun getting to grips with reading music for the first time and benefiting from those with a little more knowledge.

This is a group especially for those wanting to "have a go" and is open to anyone who enjoys music. If interested in either of the above groups, please contact Maggie on 052 42993, or 087 6491930.

### Melleray pilgrimage

Pilgrimage for Peace to Melleray Grotto will take place on Friday August 18th.

Bus leaves Thurles at 6.15pm, via Cahir and Clogheen.

For information, please ring 0504 23041.

Prayers conducted by Father Michael Fitzgerald.

### Coursing Club

Knockgraffon Open Coursing Club will hold their annual Mass at Poulmucka on Sunday 20th August, at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

The club will hold a general meeting on Wednesday August 16th, at 9.30pm, in Poulmucka. All members, please attend, as there are a number of issues to be discussed.