

**Tribute to Jack Kyle's
christian values by
fellow Lion**

**Volunteers scale highest peak to reinstate cross of
Carrauntoohil**



Rising slowly...Mike O'Shea, Irish Rope Access, watching progress as the Landmark Cross on Carrauntoohil, MacGillycuddy's Reeks, Killarney is reinstated.

Irish Independent - It was done without fuss and quietly but a group of dedicated local people have reinstated the steel cross at the summit of Carrauntoohil.

A total of 34 volunteers started their ascent at 5.30am, climbing the 1,039 metres to the summit of the country's tallest mountain lugging with them a generator that weighed 70kg to power the welders and other equipment they brought with them to complete the feat.

Among them was Piaras Kelly of Kerry Climbing, one of the first people to have come across the damaged cross last weekend.

Local people had vowed it would be replaced sooner rather than later and decided in the end that it had to be done before Christmas.

Mr Kelly said they deliberately kept it quiet to do the job without any fuss.

“It wasn’t too difficult. There was plenty of help and we got it done quietly.”

Overseeing the operation was Mike O’Shea, whose great-grandfather James Cahill had put up the original wooden cross in 1951 ahead of the 1954 Marian Year.

Tribute to Jack Kyle’s christian values by fellow Lion

News Letter - A former playing colleague of rugby legend and Belfast man Jack Kyle has described him as “an exciting player and a remarkable character”.



Former Ulster, Ireland and British Lions player David Hewitt was speaking of Jack Kyle, one of Ireland’s all-time rugby greats and a star who “transcended generations”.

Dr Kyle, 88, a former Ulster, Ireland and British and Irish Lions fly-half, passed away on Thursday night.

“Jack died peacefully in his sleep at home last night, surrounded by close family members,” his family said in a statement.

Belfast-born Dr Kyle won 46 caps for Ireland and six for the Lions, and guided his national side to their first Five Nations Grand Slam in 1948.

He later spent over 30 years working as a medical doctor in Zambia. In 2002 he was voted Ireland’s greatest ever player, underlining his standing



David Hewitt

alongside the likes of Brian O’Driscoll and Willie John McBride as the country’s most celebrated rugby stars.

Belfast man David Hewitt, whose own international career spanned 1958 to 1965, played up to 10 matches alongside Dr Kyle.

“I was a schoolboy at Inst when I was chosen to play for Ulster for the first time,” Mr Hewitt told the News Letter.

“I knew of Jack Kyle of course.

But then he rang me up on the Monday before my first game, on the Wednesday, and he said: ‘This is Jack Kyle. I hear you have been chosen to play with Ulster. Would you like to have a run out?’

“So I had to get permission to get out of school at lunch time and we went running up and down the pitch doing some passing with Noel Henderson. It really did settle my nerves.

“But Jack was much more than just a rugby player – he was very personable colleague and very helpful to youngsters. Later in 1958 I was chosen to play for Ireland against Australia.

“Again, Jack was out half and I was playing centre.”

The young Mr Hewitt went out to face a packed stadium at Lansdowne Road in Dublin for his first international match.

“Jack passed me the ball early on and I dropped it. But he just came up to me afterwards and said: ‘I’m really sorry for that pass. I will try and do better the next time’.

“But of course he wasn’t at fault at all. I was that nervous that I dropped the ball. He was a remarkable character to treat me that way.”

Mr Hewitt summed Dr Kyle the rugby player up as “an exciting and thoughtful player who knew the ball would go exactly where he wanted to kick it to. He was very speedy from a standing start.”

Mr Hewitt also recalled another theme in life that the two Belfast men shared.

“We were both members of the Crusaders boys Bible clubs. Jack was a member of the north Belfast group and I was in the Malone area.

“We also had that interest in common. I believe it was that which determined the nature of the man.”

School of Wilde and Beckett to be closed

Irish News -A grammar school whose past pupils include Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett is to be shut down.

Portora Royal and the all girls' Collegiate Grammar in Enniskillen are to be 'discontinued' and replaced by a new 900-pupil, co-ed grammar school.

At present, they are the two smallest grammar schools in the north, with enrolments of about 500 each.

The plan to bring pupils together has divided opinion.

Portora's governors said they unanimously supported the plan, while a petition to save the Collegiate was delivered to Stormont in the summer.

Collegiate principal Elizabeth Armstrong yesterday claimed the fight to save her school was far from over saying all possible options to overturn the decision would be explored.

The decision to move to consultation on the proposals was made by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) at a meeting in May.

The WELB confirmed that "unanimous agreement" was reached by the board, whose members include unionist and nationalist councillors.

The DUP's Arlene Foster, a past pupil of Collegiate Grammar, said she was dismayed.

"[John O'Dowd] has chosen to disregard the strength of community feeling and agreed to the closure of two high-performing schools. In particular he has completely ignored the wishes of the parents, teachers and pupils of the Collegiate," she said.

"It is perhaps not surprising, however, that a Sinn Féin minister has chosen to close two grammar schools. The decision does not create any certainty for the future, however, as huge questions still remain for the future."

While two grammar schools will be closing, the minister's decision means a new grammar school will be opening in their place.

Approving the re-organisation yesterday, Mr O'Dowd said the proposal had generated a significant public response, both for and against.

"We must maintain a network of sustainable schools, capable of providing quality education across a broad and balanced curriculum. They must be financially viable as well as educationally sound and make the best use of the public money entrusted to us while also providing the environment to support pupils' personal development," he said.

"I recognise that the establishment of a new school will mean that two long-established schools will discontinue. However these proposals put the needs of the pupils first in determining the future of post-primary school provision in Fermanagh, rather than the needs of individual institutions."

CNI note - the C of I has had strong links with both schools. The Archbishop of Dublin and several bishops were past-pupils including Empty, Poyntz and Moore. The Bishop of Clogher is chairman of the Board of Governors.

Giving Tree Helps Local Children

Lord Mayor
Launches 15th
Year of SVP &
BCM Christmas
Charity
Partnership

Belfast's Lord
Mayor Councillor
Nichola Mallon
was in Marks &
Spencer (M&S)
Belfast to launch
the 15th year of
the 'Giving Tree',
a cross-
community
initiative run by Belfast Central Mission (BCM) and the Society of St Vincent
de Paul (SVP).



Mia Kane receives a gift for The Giving Tree from Councillor Nichola Mallon, Lord Mayor of Belfast.

The 'Giving Tree' gives members of the public an opportunity to donate a toy

or gift for local children with the gifts being divided equally between SVP and BCM before being distributed to families in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Shoppers choose a tag from the 'Giving Tree' to whom they would like to donate a gift – for example, a boy or girl and the age of the recipient.

Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Nichola Mallon, said she was delighted to support the Giving Tree and encouraged others to donate gifts too.

“This is such a worthwhile project and encompasses the true meaning of Christmas – helping others and reaching out to those who are struggling in these often difficult times”, she added. “At this time of year it is especially poignant to think of others and offer friendship and support wherever we can.”

The two charities have been involved in giving toy and food parcels to local disadvantaged children, families and older people for many years. Fifteen years ago they joined together to approach Marks & Spencer with the idea of having a 'Giving Tree' in the store. M&S agreed to support it and continue to do so today. This initiative has grown each year and now many schools, offices and churches have their own 'Giving Tree'.

The busyness of the Christmas season can mask the reality of the difficulties faced daily by many people; the lonely, the forgotten, the vulnerable and, especially this year, those who are facing severe financial difficulties.

Pauline Brown, Regional Manager of SVP, comments: “Each year more and more families approach us for support, especially over the festive period when budgets are stretched to capacity. It is becoming increasingly difficult for many families to heat their homes, clothe their children and put food on the tables – add the stress of finding money for gifts and the situation soon becomes overwhelming.

“The 'Giving Tree' is a great way for people to provide a gift that could bring a smile to a child in their local community whose family may be facing financial difficulties this Christmas.”

Rev Richard Johnston, BCM Superintendent said: “As a charity, BCM has been supporting people across Northern Ireland for 125 years and will continue to do so, particularly those most vulnerable in society. The support from Marks and Spencer for the Giving Tree has been invaluable and the members of the public have been so generous over the years.”



African Childrens' Choir concert in Belfast

The African Childrens' Choir will sing with schoolchildren from across the province on this special evening in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

When: Thursday 11 December 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets may be purchased from

www.waterfront.co.uk

Tel: 028 9033 4455

Email: boxoffice@waterfront.co.uk

The choir will also sing with all the school choirs from Ballycastle on Thursday 18

December 2014 at 7.30 pm in St Patrick's and St Brigid's Church.

(At the Ballycastle event there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the work of the African Children's Choir).

www.africanchildrenschoir.org.uk

Methodist Church Christmas Story Competition Results

The results of the Christmas Story Competition were announced by judge Sheena Wilkinson at a special event in Edgehill Theological College.

First place: 'Come to the Manger' by Michael Limmer

Second place: 'He took my place' by David McFarland

Joint third place:

'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' by Gloria Kearney

'The second best Christmas ever' by Christine Ractliffe

Highly commended:

'The Homecoming' by Anna Elder

'Imagining' by Janet Killeen

'The Blankets' by Ester Mackey

'Drivin' Home for Christmas' by Moira Thom

'What's so special about a baby anyway?' by Claire Griffith

The nine prizewinning and highly commended stories have been published in a booklet 'Come to the Manger and other stories' that will be distributed free

of charge with the December magazine to all Methodist Newsletter subscribers.

The Christmas Story competition was run by the Methodist Newsletter in partnership with Edgehill Christian Writers' group

C of I online Boer War and World War 1 images

For December, the RCB Library's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War continues with the online presentation of lantern slides relating to "The Great European War" and related items from the earlier Boer War which originated (before their transfer to the RCB Library) in St Patrick's Cathedral Deanery, Dublin, where they may have been used to inform contemporary audiences about these conflicts.

A selection of these slides formed part of the cathedral's "Lives Remembered" exhibition (see this link <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/Lives-Remembered.aspx>) which explores the Cathedral's connections to that War and the cathedral's solemn tradition of remembering lives lost or affected by war and conflict ever since through its annual Remembrance Services. This is first time however that all 54 slides have been featured online together for a worldwide audience.

The "Great European War" and related Boer War slides collectively form part of a bigger collection of lantern slides that were transferred from the Deanery (where successive deans of the cathedral have lived) into the library during the past 18 months. As regular followers of Archive of the Month will know, this is not the first collection of lantern slides to come to light recently in a Church of Ireland deanery. In 2012, the library took custody of almost 300 slides from Killaloe deanery in county Clare, which cover a wide range of topics including the Church's mission in Chota Nagpur India, available here <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/135> and of a tour in Palestine, available here <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/136> as well as rare shots of the Industrial Exhibition held in Dublin in 1907 and other varied snapshots around Ireland over 100 years ago <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/174> - all of which are digitally re-mastered and displayed online at the links above.

Like the Killaloe collection, the St Patrick's collection reveals the important role that the church and church personnel played in disseminating visual materials in times past when photography was a relatively privileged and rare occupation. Since its acquisition by the library it has been arranged, catalogued and listed into five main groups, of which the War images are one component.

The online slide show speculates how such a collection might have ended up at St Patrick's and demonstrates how they were used as contemporary educative tools to inform people what was going on in an otherwise limited visual era. In church halls, churches and cathedrals, audiences would gather to be brought up to date with on the realities of warfare, and specifically the progress of the Allied advance on mainland Europe between 1914 and 1918 and related events.

The lantern slide show is available at this link
<www.archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org>.

The Church of Ireland's short commemorative film about the Great War and ten letter writers from the trenches, *The Boys From East Belfast*, continues at this permanent link <www.ireland.anglican.org/about/196>.

Pope visits Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Turkey



His head bowed and hands clasped in front of him, Pope Francis stood on Saturday for two minutes of silent prayer facing east inside one of Istanbul's most important mosques, as he shifted gears toward more religious affairs on the second leg of his three-day visit to mainly Muslim Turkey.

Following in the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI who visited Turkey in 2006, Francis prayed alongside the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran, who had

his palms turned toward the sky in a Muslim prayer, inside the 17th-century Sultan Ahmet mosque.

“May God accept it,” Yaran told the pope at the conclusion of a poignant moment of Christian-Muslim understanding.

The Vatican spokesman, Rev Federico Lombardi called it a moment of “silent adoration”. Lombardi, who was standing behind the pope, said Francis told the mufti twice that we must “adore” God and not just praise and glorify him.

It was a remarkably different atmosphere from Francis’ first day in Turkey, when the simple and frugal pope was visibly uncomfortable with the pomp and protocol required of him for the state visit part of his trip.

With president Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s mega-palace, honour guard and horse escort now behind him, Francis got down to the business of being pope, showing respect to Muslim leaders, greeting Istanbul’s tiny Catholic community and later meeting the spiritual leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians.