



Obituary / Published 11th November 2018 / by Denis J Hickey

Kevin Costelloe

1925 - 2018

Kevin Costelloe, probably the oldest of Churchtown's many exiles, passed to his eternal reward last week at his Elephant & Castle, London, home. Born in 1925, Kevin was educated locally at St. Mary's National School and with his elder brother, Sam, was among those selected by Headmaster Thomas Wall to contribute to the invaluable *Scéim na Scoile* scheme in 1937.

On his 80th Birthday, Churchtown Heritage Society presented an emotional Kevin with a copy of his handwritten submissions to the scheme. Kevin was undoubtedly one of the 'characters' of Churchtown life in the 1940's. Possessing a wicked sense of humour he was always up for a bit of 'devilment'. He loved 'Pitch and Toss' and when darkness fell in the then unlit village streets players repaired to Costelloe's backyard. Here, lit by a few flash-lamps play continued. After an hour or so Kevin was wont to kick over the illuminations, scoop up the coins and run. Of course, he always returned the stakes the following night and play re-commenced without rancour.

It is as an actor and singer with Churchtown Dramatic Society we best remember Kevin. His renderings of 'Are You There Moriarity', 'Are You Right There Michael, Are You Right?', 'Coortin' In The Kitchen' and 'I'm off to Philadelphia', reverberate through the decades.

Kevin became a trainee-baker with P & J Ryan's of Ardnageehy prior to emigrating to London in 1949. Two years later he married Ann Quirke (RIP 2016) from Garryvoe. The couple had three daughters: Frances, Kathy and Trish.

Kevin never lost his love of Churchtown however as was evidenced by an interview I had with him at Margaret McAuliffe's Rath home some fifteen years ago. Indeed, when the Churchtown Heritage Society wanted photo-recognition, or a local item verified, we invariably made contact with Kevin through his brother Denis; he rarely failed us.

Kevin, before whom the Big Secret has now unfolded had, according to Denis, a peaceful last passage. Surrounded by his loving family he seamlessly passed to that other dimension. Sincere sympathy is offered to his Daughters; Frances, Kathy and Trish, his Grandson, Wills, Brother, Denis Pat, Nieces, Lisa Brimson, Liz Deane, Maureen, Marilyn McDonald, Birdie Murphy and Eileen Roche. Thanks for the countless memories with which you have blessed us. May you sleep in Eternal Peace. Slán leat Kevin!

D.J.H.