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Who is responsible for the revival of the Cork village of Churchtown?

CHURCHTOWN, in north-west Co. Cork, not far from Charleville, was a rundown spot for decades until financier Gerry Murphy revived its fortunes.

Murphy had been born and brought up on a farm near Churchtown before going off to Dublin to make his fortune with the Bank of Ireland and the old First National Building Society.

The village was built on land owned by the Earl of Egmont in the mid-19th century. But it had fallen into rack and ruin around 1982 when its creamery, the main source of employment in the village, closed.

Local hero Murphy stepped in to revitalise the area, starting by commemorating his grandfather with the opening of a pub and hostel called Murphy's House.

Work was also done to improve the century-old St Nicholas Church in the heart of the village while new housing was built in nearby Liscarroll to lure new settlers into the area.

Although Gerry Murphy can claim the credit for Churchtown's revival, he is not the village's most famous son.

Vincent O'Brien was born in Churchtown and started training

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Compiled by Charles Legge

horses there before moving to Cashel in Co. Tipperary.

And Oliver Reed, the hell-raising actor, was so taken by this corner of Cork that he set up home and lived there for several years before his death in 1999.

Churchtown remains proud of its heritage which is recorded in the Annals of Churchtown, which runs to 800 pages.

But, inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of one of its own, Gerry Murphy, it also now looks to the future with a sports hall and other ventures planned for this year.

*Tom Bellamy,
Dublin.*

QUESTION!

Does the name of the rock band Joy Division have Nazi connotations?

FURTHER to the earlier answer, due to their name and image, Joy Division were often accused of being neo-Nazis.

The singer Ian Curtis famously appeared on the cover of the NME in an iconic photograph, wearing a