



1929

The Paddy O'Keefe Memorial Collection

Churchtown GAA was founded in 1890 and the Club's first major success came 39 years later in 1929 when the Club's hurling team won the North Cork Junior A title. In the semi-final at Buttevant on 2nd September 1929 Churchtown defeated a strongly fancied Ballyhea side by 5-0 to 0-1. The team went on to defeat Killavullen by 5-3 to 3-1 in the final at the Deerpark, Charleville, on 3rd November 1929. The officials connected with the Club's success included Thomas Wall, NT (Chairman), Tom Treacy (Vice-Chairman) and Jack O'Mahony (Secretary).

The 1929 and the other two medals displayed here were won by Paddy O'Keefe (1899-1986) and were presented to the Club by Paddy's daughter Mary O'Keefe to celebrate Heritage Week 2016 on 25th August 2016. Paddy was married to Mary Kate Dunlea of Walshestown and they ran a Public House at George's Street which Paddy inherited from his mother Margaret Cullinan-O'Keefe who married John Murphy of Leap some years after her husband William O'Keefe had died. Paddy remained committed to Churchtown GAA Club even after he sold the pub in the early 1950s and moved to Dublin. In his playing career Paddy also played with Dromina and Buttevant. Paddy is buried in St Brigid's Cemetery which lies halfway between Churchtown and Buttevant.



The 1929 winning team: Churchtown GAA 1929 North Cork Junior A Hurling Champions. Back Row L-to-R: Tom Treacy (Vice Chairman), Michael Gaffney, Frank O'Brien, Nat Simcox, Frank Flannery, Thomas Wall NT (Chairman), Paddy O'Keefe, Dave Manning, John Flannery, Mick O'Keefe, Jack O'Mahony (Secretary). Middle Row L-to-R: Pat O'Keefe, Tom O'Keefe, Maurice O'Mahony, Tim (Trady) Buckley (Captain), Bill Reihan, Dick Galligan, Jim Kearney, Front Row L-to-R: Bill Fitzpatrick, Dan Reihan, Jim Cahalan, Pad Reihan, missing from photograph Tim Hedigan (injured).



The 1929 match whistle was presented to CLG Brough Thorne by Willie Reihan whose father Dan and uncle Pad and Bill played on the winning team. The whistle was originally preserved by Denis Egan who gave it to Willie's brother Denis who passed it to Willie.



Left: The North Cork Junior A Hurling Championship medal Paddy O'Keefe won playing for Churchtown in 1929.
Centre: The North Cork Junior A Hurling Championship medal Paddy O'Keefe won playing for Dromina in 1927.
Right: The runners up Cork Intermediate Hurling Championship medal Paddy O'Keefe won playing for Buttevant in 1932.



Paddy O'Keefe outside his Public House on George's Street in Churchtown in 1939. Also pictured is the local postman Patrick 'Condy' O'Mahony and Paddy's children Eileen and Willie.

This Hurley (below) belonged to Paddy O'Keefe and was presented at the home of his daughter Eileen O'Keefe Dillon and presented to Churchtown GAA by Arthur and Anne Dillon, Gageboro, Horseleap, Co Westmeath in memory of the late Eileen and Val Dillon.



This display was presented as part of Heritage Week 2016 in association with Churchtown Heritage Society