



The Pure Drop

by
Tommy Fegan

A WEEKLY
ROUND UP OF
TRADITIONAL
IRISH MUSIC

WAKE AT THE LAKE FOR JAKE

Some 7,827 mourners filed into Carrickeruppen Club last Friday night to pay respect to Big Jake "Rough Diamond" Reghan, the famous Australian Diamond miner whose last wishes were to be buried in Camlough.

Jake's request to be waked in Camloch arose because he suspected he had a "love child" born after an encounter with a local lassie near Camlough Foresters many years ago.

The raw emotion, sadness and grief of the wretched mourners was given light relief by a wake of outstanding entertainment in the old style.

Performances included musicians, Paddy Burns, Clare O'Callaghan, Ellen Matthews and Briege Rice. Neill Cromie did a traditional Brush Dance to honour the Aussie who had won the hearts of so many people in Camlough, whilst a tribute from Newry came in the guise of the Nolan Irish Dancers.

Jake's old friend and renowned piper P J Boyle piped his remains into the club, accompanied by Elvis, Banjo Bannon, Fr Jack and other luminaries.

In all seriousness, it was a well-planned, thought-out night of great entertainment in which traditional music clearly is deeply enjoyed and appreciated. Des Murphy, Pat McGinn and many more behind the scenes are to be congratulated for a very innovative night's entertainment. So far, 7,804 people have emerged from the wake, giving rise to fears of a protracted Lough-Inn. Senator George Mitchell, Colin Powell and other international negotiators have been briefed and are thought to be on standby to intercede this weekend.

Q. What's the definition of a chord?

A. Three flute players sounding A

Mullaghbawn were given a great welcome in St Enda's on last Friday and will be assembling many more artists for the home leg at Saturday's fundraiser for the All Ireland - everyone is welcome.

Q. What is the difference between a Machine Gun and an accordion?

A. The Machine Gun stops after 20 rounds.

Comhaltas v Clontarf

The Clontarf branch of Comhaltas "rejects outright the version of events/statement issued on March 28 by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. The statement is as mischievous as it is inaccurate and represents one more attempt by Comhaltas HQ to muddy the waters to cover up their own improper actions in dissolving the Branch and in taking over our CLASAC centre project." The Cluain Tairbh, imbued by the success of their recent Fundraising event in Dublin, refutes the HQ allegations in detail. Both statements are on their respective sites. Messages of support continue to flood into the Cluain Tairbh group, whose recently opened site is at www.cluaintairbh.net

'Reely Jiggin' it

Folk band, Reely Jiggin, will be playing in St Bronagh's GAA club,

Rostrevor on Friday April 18.

The band comprises Gerry Farrell from Rostrevor, Madonna Jones from

Warrenpoint, Peter Murray from Ballygowan and Cormac Duffin from Toomebridge.

To see more of where we've been and what we've done check out

www.myspace.com/reelyjiggin

Email: tommyfegan@nsec.info if you would like to contribute in any way to the Pure Drop. Visit www.ceolcamloch for details of local sessions, events, and past issues of The Pure Drop.

Mullabawn Scór v St Enda's, Omagh

Anyone who can't make the All Ireland Scór Final on April 26 will get a rare chance to see three of the finalists take part in Cu Chulainn GAA club Mullaghbawn on Saturday April 19 from 8.30pm.

St Enda's Omagh are coming on a return visit with their Ceili Dancers, Ballad Group and former All Ireland champion solo singer Caoilean Ni Conchoille. A group of singers, storytellers, dancers and musicians from



John Shields, Marion McCauley and Michael Wright pictured during a