

# The Carolan Memorial, Mohill (10th Aug., 1986)

In 1977, the Carolan Memorial Committee was set up for the purpose of erecting a permanent monument to Turlough Carolan, the 18th century Irish harper, poet and composer. Mohill was chosen as the site for the memorial monument, as it was here that Carolan had his only permanent home. The Committee under the chairmanship of Rev. Eugene Cox (P.P., Dromard) collected £1,700 locally in 1978. While an appeal letter, circulating in the Mohill area, yielded more funds, an artistic sub-committee, an artistic advisory sub-committee in Dublin was researching a suitable Irish sculptor for the project. Oisín Kelly was commissioned to undertake the work once sufficient funds had been collected.

With work under way on the memorial in Dublin, the fund-raising drive continued in Mohill with concerts by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Bothy Band, the Furey Brothers, Fr. Michael Cleary, the Holy Show and others.

The Memorial was nearing completion. The hands of the sculptor had yet to be finished and the entire work bronzed when the man commissioned to do the work, Oisín Kelly, died in 1985. The work to date had cost £13,000. Assistant sculptress Lorna Skrine completed the hands of the piece and the piece was moved to the Art Foundry to be bronzed.

In order to complete the work, and to arrange for it to be released from the foundry and moved to its site in Mohill, further funds were required. Sizeable grant-aid was received from the Dept. of the Environment, and with assistance from the County Council, the Carolan Memorial arrived at its beautifully prepared permanent site in July of this year. Lettercutter and sculptor, Tom Glendon, provided the inscription for the monument, and on August 10th, the Carolan Memorial, Oisín Kelly's last and best work, was unveiled by the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery.



*President Hillery plants a tree on behalf of Co. Leitrim I.C.A. on the occasion of the unveiling of the Carolan Monument. Pictured with the President are John Ellis (Chairman of Leitrim County Council), Rev. Eugene Cox (Chairman of the Carolan Committee) and Mrs. Mossie Whelan (Leitrim I.C.A. Federation President).*

*Pictured below are the Carolan Choir which sung the Seán O Riada Mass in Mohill on the occasion of the unveiling of the Carolan Monument. Fr. Hubert Fee, P.P., Mohill, officiated at the Mass. The organist was Michael Dunleavy. Lessons were read by Patricia Reilly and Gerard Canning. Offertory gifts were carried by Annie Cox and Joe Conway. The singers from Mohill included: John Dolan, Olga O'Malley, Annette Kevlehan, Dolly Reynolds, Mary McIntyre, Kathy Canning, Melda Donnelly, June McDonald, Máirín Lynch, Claire McLoughlin, Bríd Gallagher, Teresa Leogue, Mary Leogue, Carmel Fitzpatrick, Máire Canning and Deirdre Brady. The choir was conducted by Máiréad Whelan, Aughavas. Singers from Aughavas included Danny Mulligan, Austin Cooney, Jim Kearney, Tommy Gallogley, Neil Moran, Dolores McIntyre, Mossie Whelan, Mary Lyons. Instrumentalists were Michael, Brian, Raymond and Ciarán McNamara from Aughavas.*

