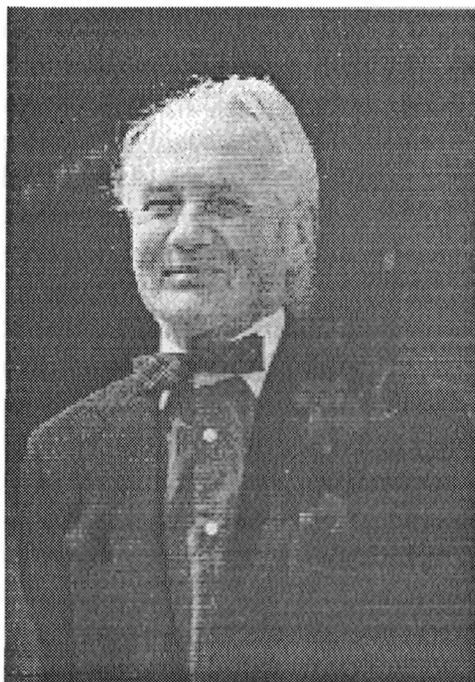


Jimmy Clulow an appreciation

1914 - 1995



Jimmy Clulow.

The membership of Poyntzpass and District Local History Society has included, over the years, several gifted and memorable men and women. Among that number our beloved Jimmy Clulow finds a place. During his years attending meetings and outings of the Society his characteristic appearance and interesting comments endeared him to a wide circle.

In early life, during World War II, eight members of the Clulow family, six brothers and two sisters, were engaged in active service. Jimmy himself joined the navy, was on the crew of both submarine and aircraft carrier, and in his own words, 'circumvented the globe on four occasions, but with too many painful memories.'

After such profound experiences world-wide, the rest of his life was a complete contrast. Much of it was spent on the isolated Forth Farm, Lissummon, where he and his wife, Emily Jane, stubbornly but contentedly wrought in an old fashioned way without electricity or tractor. In the early 1990s he was still to be seen spreading manure across a field with a graip from a wheelbarrow while an easterly March wind made his red cheeks glow. A visitor coming after dark would be greeted by Jimmy carrying a hurricane lamp, and then would be ushered inside where a Tilley lamp hissed forth light and heat.

This frugal and tranquil life must have given time for reading and reflection. Jimmy had a fine memory, uncluttered by modern ephemera, and he enjoyed sharing a yarn or piece of verse with his friends.

Some will remember him dressed up for one of our society outings, to Dromantine or Dublin Castle or Drumbanagher church. With tartan bow-tie, a rose in his button-hole and wearing a red shirt or pullover he brought colour and style to those special occasions.

Jimmy may not have had much formal education but, with his clear polished diction and innocent smile, he would hold an audience in rapt attention. In his 80th year he addressed the Society on 'Wills'. Fortunately this talk was recorded on videotape and so we have a permanent reminder of his expressive and graphic style. That evening ended with his own rendition of a version of 'By the bright silvery light of the moon.' What that had to do with 'Wills' no one knew or cared! Jimmy Clulow delighted us with his originality, his innocent sense of humour and his homespun wisdom. Long may his spirit remain to inspire and enchant us.

Ross Chapman