

Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

COUNTY ROSCOMMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Rev Isaac Mitchell

The Rev Isaac Mitchell, Rector of St Peter's and Athlone was President of Kiltoom Co-Operative Agricultural Society from its foundation in 1899 until his death in 1910. In their first year they considered setting up a bank, buying a bull, selling eggs as well as trading in manure. The objectives of the Co-Op Movement in Ireland were to encourage farmers to pool their resources and to sell their own produce. The bulk purchase of artificial fertilizer for Co-Op members became a feature of the Kiltoom Society reducing the cost to members, helped as well by the availability of loans arranged through the Co-Op. Storage and compounding of fertilizer was an ongoing difficulty for the Kiltoom Society as it did not have its own premises and depended on members for vacant buildings. In one year at least, 1904, fertilizer was compounded in Rev. Mitchell's coach-house. He was known as Parson Mitchell by many local Catholics and frequently funded the train fare for those studying for the priesthood at Maynooth Seminary. He is buried in St Peter's Church of Ireland Graveyard, Kiltoom, Athlone Co Roscommon

This graveyard, having been derelict and vandalised for a number of years, is undergoing a major restoration funded by family donations and a grant from Roscommon County Council. Manpower is from Roscommon Leader Partnership under the TUS scheme. It is located between Roscommon and Athlone on the N61 and is opposite the Kiltoom Stores.

Richard Collins