

# Newsletter

June 2025

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE AND PROMOTIONS



At the Empowering Women in Agriculture event at Darrara Community Centre: L-R; Louise Kelly (Carbery) Eleanor Hayes (Lisavaird Co-op) Amanda Cussen (Barryroe Co-op) Vanessa Kiely O'Connor (Bandon Co-op Board) Maeve Murphy (Lisavaird Co-op) and Caroline O'Donovan (Barryroe Co-op Board)

## TAMS 3 grant of 60% for agricultural solar PV

The Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS 3) in Ireland offers substantial support for farmers aiming to adopt solar photovoltaic (PV) systems through its Solar Capital Investment Scheme (SCIS). This initiative is designed to enhance farm sustainability, reduce energy costs, and promote renewable energy use.

### Key Benefits of the TAMS 3 Solar Grant

- **Generous Grant Aid:** Eligible farmers can receive up to 60% grant aid for solar PV installations, with a dedicated investment ceiling of €90,000. This funding is separate from other TAMS grants, allowing for additional investments in other areas without affecting solar grant eligibility.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The grant encompasses various components, including solar panels, inverters, battery storage systems (limited to 50% of the panel capacity), mounting structures, wiring, and associated installation costs.
- **Energy Cost Reduction:** By generating their own electricity, farmers can significantly lower their energy bills and reduce dependence on the national grid.
- **Environmental Impact:** Adopting solar energy contributes to lowering carbon emissions, aligning with Ireland's

environmental sustainability goals.

- **Energy Independence:** Producing on-site renewable energy offers farmers greater control over their energy supply and shields them from fluctuating energy prices.
- **Long-Term Investment:** Solar PV systems are durable, require minimal maintenance, and can provide reliable energy for decades, enhancing the farm's value and sustainability credentials.

**Eligibility Criteria:** To qualify for the TAMS 3 solar grant, farmers must:

- Possess an active herd number registered with the Department of Agriculture.
- Demonstrate active farming operations.
- Ensure the solar PV system is installed by a registered installer.
- Comply with all relevant planning and safety regulations.
- Complete and submit an 'On-Farm Solar PV Survey' to confirm that the electricity produced will be consumed on the farm.

If you need further assistance or have specific questions about the TAMS 3 solar grant, feel free to ask Hugh Holland or David Walsh.

## NEWS WATCH

### MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

May milk supply amounted to 12,697,180 litres which was a 2% increase on May 2024. Due to dairy market conditions, the Co-op reduced its base price by 1c/L to 49.65 c/L. Barryroe is paying €8.6457 per kg of protein and €5.7638 per kg of butterfat. Our average constituents for the month are 3.43% protein 3.98% butterfat and our average price paid is 53.08 c/L, including 0.5 c/L SCC bonus and VAT @5.1%.

### NAVIGATING FARM RENEWAL AND SUCCESSION

- Thinking about farm succession?
- Have a successor but they don't want to farm just yet?
- Looking to slow down or reduce workload but don't want to stop farming?
- Options to do this and maintain an adequate income.
- Weighing up your options for the future?
- Do you know all the options that you could consider?

Teagasc Farm Management Team are offering a one-day bespoke session where all these areas will be addressed on Thursday the 10th of July from 10am - 3pm at The Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway. Come and meet with the team and to see what your options are. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by contacting **Hugh Holland on 0876774336**. Interested family members are welcome to attend.

# Gurteen Farm Share Farming and Succession Event

A large crowd attended this event at Gurteen Farm, part of Shinagh Estates, which spans just over 37 hectares. Originally a greenfield site used for rearing replacement heifers and silage production for Shinagh Dairy Farm, it was transformed into a modern dairy unit in 2015 following a significant investment. Since then, it has been operated under a share farming model. Kerry Desmond is the third share farmer on the site, following Pdraig Cunnane and John Sexton.

**What is Share Farming?** Share farming is a system in which two separate businesses operate on the same land: the landowner and the share farmer. Both parties manage their own finances independently. In this model:

- **The landowner** covers costs related to infrastructure—such as liming, fertiliser build-up, hedge cutting, and insurance.
- **The share farmer** provides the livestock and covers breeding and animal health expenses.
- Remaining costs and milk revenue are split 60:40, with the share farmer (Kerry) receiving the larger share.
- Kerry retains income from calf and cull cow sales, as he owns the stock.
- Shinagh Estates retains all direct payments (BISS, ECO, and CRIS) as landowners.

This arrangement has consistently delivered strong income for both parties.

**Herd Management and Performance:** Gurteen Farm runs a crossbred, spring-calving herd, selected for high fat and protein percentages, strong EBI, and robust fertility traits. Kerry purchased

all cows at the outset to optimise milk solids output and simplify herd management. No heifers are retained; replacements are bought as cows to maximise land for milk production.

In 2024, the herd averaged:

- 467 kg milk solids per cow
- 4.79% fat
- 3.88% protein
- Milk price: 57c/litre (7c/litre above the co-op average)

This performance generated an extra €35,000 over the average supplier and placed the herd in the top 2% nationally for fat, protein, and milk price.

**Landowner Returns:** From the landowner's perspective, share farming has proven more profitable than conventional land leasing. Continuous investment in land and infrastructure has underpinned consistent performance.

**Landowner Financial Returns (Share farmer returns not included):**

Year	BISS	Depreciation	Profit
2022	€21,894	€46,357	€72,399
2023	€14,158	€26,357	€57,212
2024	€14,444	€16,880	€62,157

**A Model for the Future:** The Gurteen Farm model offers a practical, profitable route for landowners considering stepping back while giving aspiring dairy farmers a foothold in the industry. By aligning goals and sharing both costs and rewards, share farming provides a win-win solution for sustainable dairy production.

## AGRI OFFERS



SAVE  
€25

Eprinex 5Ltr



10%  
OFF

Conc water tanks



€10  
OFF

Maxol Super/Ultra Farm 20Ltr



10%  
OFF

HYD Pipe



20%  
OFF

Philmac Water Joiners



AD Blue 20Ltr  
BUY 2 FOR €49



Deosan Teatfoam 200Ltr  
+ 20LTR FREE

# Summary of kale and rape species

**Kale:** Kale is a well proven fodder crop providing high yields of green fodder with a flexible utilization period that can stretch from August right through to March. It is a biennial so in the first year only leafy material will be grown.

## Varieties:

- **Keeper:** A high yielding winter hardy, high leaf stemmed variety with good nutritional value
- **Caledonian:** Good yield from a short, winter hardy variety. High leaf to stem ratio.



**Fodder Rape:** Fodder rape is a popular forage crop with many livestock farmers due to its' ease of production, the flexibility of its sowing date and its palatability at feeding time. Not as winter hardy as kale.

## Varieties:

- **Gorilla:** Hybrid variety with very good regrowth potential. High yield with good leaf to stem ratio. Quite good resistance to clubroot.
- **Fontan:** High yielding medium/tall variety with good leaf to stem ratio.



**Red Start:** Redstart is a cross between Kale and Forage Rape. This hybrid Rape/Kale brassica can be mature in 90 days from sowing and be utilised from October onwards as a high energy protein crop for out-wintering cattle or sheep. The Forage Rape genes allow the crop to grow quickly, while the Kale genes deliver excellent winter hardiness.



Species	Kale	Fodder Rape	Red Start
<b>Sowing Period</b>	April - Mid July	May - Mid September	May - Mid August
<b>Utilisation Period</b>	August to November/December depending upon sowing time	August to December/January depending upon sowing time	August to January - February depending upon sowing time
<b>Sowing rate Broadcast</b>	5.5 – 8 kg/ha	11 kg/ha	4 – 5 kg/ha
<b>Sowing Rate Direct Drill</b>	4 kg/ha	6 kg/ha	3 - 4 kg/ha
<b>Pests</b>	Flea Beetles and Slugs	Flea Beetles and Slugs	Flea Beetles and Slugs
<b>Weed Control</b>	Butisan S preemergence	Butisan S preemergence	Butisan S preemergence
<b>Disease</b>	Club root and Downy Mildew	Club root and Downy Mildew	Club root and Downy Mildew
<b>Fertiliser</b>			
<b>N</b>	125 kg/ha	125 kg/ha	125 kg/ha
<b>P</b>	50 kg/ha	50 kg/ha	50 kg/ha
<b>K</b>	100 kg/ha	50 kg/ha	50 kg/ha
<b>Other</b>	Solubor 5kg/ha if deficient in Boron		
<b>Feed Analysis</b>			
<b>DM Yield</b>	6 - 9 t/ha	3.5 - 5 t/ha	6 - 8 t/ha
<b>Fresh Yield</b>	40 - 60 t/Ha	25 - 36 t/ha	35 - 45 t/ha
<b>DM %</b>	14 - 16%	12 - 13%	12 - 14%
<b>Crude Protein</b>	15 - 17%	18 - 20%	18 - 20%

# Barryroe

CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

EUROSPAR

Supermarket



ONLY  
HALF PRICE  
€2.85

Hellmann's Real/Light Mayonnaise  
600g €4.75 per kg



ONLY  
€2.50

+25c Deposit

Mi Wadi Squash Range  
1 lt €2.50 per lt



ONLY  
€7

Inishella Fresh Whole Irish Chicken  
(Pre Pack) 2kg €3.50 per kg



ONLY  
€4.99

Kellogg's Rice Krispies  
660g €7.56 per kg



ONLY  
€2 EACH

Baker Street Hot Dog Rolls 4 Pack  
Burger Buns Plain/Seeded 6 Pack  
See in store for details



ONLY  
€4.50

Aveeno Baby Daily Care Hair and Body  
Wash 250ml €18 per lt



ONLY  
€6.25

Kenco Millicano Tin  
100g €62.50 per kg



ONLY  
€1.50

Roma Pasta Range  
500g €3 per kg



ONLY  
€4.25

Heinz Tomato Ketchup  
650g €6.54 per kg



ONLY  
€3.50

Koka Oriental Instant Noodles  
Chicken/Curry 4 Pack 340g  
€10.29 per kg



ONLY  
€1.19

SPAR Cornflakes  
500g €2.38 per kg



ONLY  
€3.99

Heinz Beanz Multi Pack  
4 Pack 4x415g €2.40 per kg



ONLY  
€2

Ben's Original Ready To Heat  
Rice Range 220g €9.09 per kg



ONLY  
€3.50

Müller Corner Multipack Range  
6 Pack See in store for details



ONLY  
€3.99

Kellogg's Coco Pops 420g  
€9.50 per kg/Crunchy Nut  
460g €8.67 per kg

## PICNIC SANDWICH FILLERS



Dubliner Mature White/Red Block 200g | Sliced 180g |  
Three Cheese Grated Blend 200g See in store for details



ONLY  
€2.75 EACH



ONLY  
€5.50

Dairygold Original Spread  
908g €6.06 per kg



SAVE  
20%

Ballyfree Roast Turkey Slices  
From the Deli Counter €19.99 per kg



ONLY  
€4.50

+60c Deposit

Red Bull Energy Drink Multi Pack  
4 Pack 4x250ml €4.50 per lt



ONLY €2.75

Sanex Shower Gel Range  
450ml €6.11 per lt



ONLY €2.99

Dove Anti-Perspirant Range  
150ml €19.93 per lt



ONLY €3

Gillette Series Sensitive Skin  
Shaving Foam 250ml €12 per lt



ONLY €1.25

Colgate Max White Toothbrush  
Medium 1 Pack See in store for details



ONLY €2

Dove Liquid Handwash Range  
250ml €8 per lt



ONLY €11

Finish Quantum Original/Lemon  
44 Pack See in store for details



ONLY €3

Cushelle White Toilet Tissue  
4 Rolls 75c per roll



ONLY €3.50

Regina House Hold Towel XXL  
2 Roll €1.75 per roll



ONLY €1.50

Duck 5 in 1 Pine/Marine  
750ml €2 per lt



ONLY €11.99 EACH

Ariel All-in-1 Pods Original | Fairy Non Bio Pods for Sensitive Skin | Bold All-in-1 Pods  
Lavender & Camomile/Spring Awakening 51 Wash See in store for details



ONLY €5.75

Sensodyne Pronamel Daily  
Protection 75ml €76.67 per lt



ONLY €1.50

Fairy Hand Dish Wash Lemon/  
Original  
320ml €4.69 per lt



ONLY €15

12 PACKS

Pampers Baby Wipes Sensitive  
12 Pack 12x52's See in store for details



ONLY €5

Dylon Detergent Colour/Dark Caps  
18 Wash See in store for details



ONLY €7.99

Santa Helena Varietal Wines Range  
750ml €7.99 per 75cl



ONLY €11.99

Marlborough Springs Sauvignon Blanc  
750ml €11.99 per 75cl



ONLY €22.99

Smirnoff Vodka  
700ml €22.99 per 70cl



ONLY €16.99

Aperol Aperitivo  
700ml €16.99 per 70cl

## PET CARE



ONLY €4

Listerine Mouthwash Range  
500ml €8 per lt



ONLY €2.75

Pedigree DentaStix Large 4  
Pack/Medium 5 Pack/Small 7  
Pack See in store for details



ONLY €5

Bakers Dry Dog Food Range  
1.1kg/1kg See in store for details



ONLY €6.50

Felix As Good As It Feels Pouch  
Range 12x85g €6.37 per kg



ONLY €1.99

Whiskas Temptations  
Salmon/Chicken & Cheese  
60g €33.17 per kg

Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 19th June to 9th July 2025, unless otherwise stated.  
Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.

# CENTENARY FEATURE: Kilbrittain Branch opens against a backdrop of tension between private operators and co-operative societies

For some years, there was tension between the long-established and privately owned Cork & Kerry Creamery Company (C&K) and co-operative societies in west Cork. C&K was owned by a consortium of Cork merchants. Its main operations were based in BallinacCarthy and Skibbereen, but it also operated twelve auxiliary separating stations, including ones in Timoleague and Kilbrittain. The west Cork Co-ops believed that C&K was hindering the much-needed modernisation of the local dairy industry.

**The Dairy Disposal Company (DDC)** was set up by the government in 1927, a semi-state body, to acquire private creameries and transfer them to co-operative societies. The DDC had initially made a move to purchase the C&K group in 1929, but all efforts to do so failed. The idea was that the DDC would purchase the Cork & Kerry group and distribute its milk pool to co-ops in the area.

One of the C&K creameries was in Kilbrittain. Barryroe Co-op had made several attempts to open a separating station in the area, but all efforts had been frustrated. From as early as March 1938, representations were made by farmers in the Kilbrittain area to have a branch creamery erected in Kilbrittain. A series of meetings between Barryroe and farmers in the area were held and in May 1939, Barryroe received a licence from the Department to erect a creamery.

Initially, the plan was to build the creamery in Kilbrittain village on a site adjacent to what was later the parish hall. However, after objections from local merchants and business people, Barryroe abandoned its plans to build in the village and purchased a site at Ardacrow, about one mile south of Kilbrittain village. The new site was purchased from Jim Daly for £19.

**The controversy was raised in the Dail:** The opening of Barryroe Co-op's creamery in Kilbrittain caused quite a controversy and was raised in the Dail on a number of occasions. In a statement in the Dail on 21 June 1939, Minister for Agriculture Dr James Ryan TD said that he was aware that there was an existing creamery in Kilbrittain.

## Fire destroys Cork & Kerry creamery buildings in 1937

The original Cork & Kerry Creamery Company creamery was built on the site of what is now the store owned by Barryroe Co-op. That building was completely destroyed by fire on the night of Saturday 18 September 1937. C&K built a new creamery adjacent to the original one. That is the now derelict building that still stands to the right of the present Barryroe Co-op shop as you look at it from the front.



**Photograph at Kilbrittain branch:** On the left is Teddy Crowley, Butlerstown, who provided carpentry services to the co-op for many years. Center is Kilbrittain branch manager, Derry Madden, and on the right is Teddy Crowley, Timoleague, who worked with the Co-op from 1983 to 2002. Over the years, Kilbrittain had some excellent branch managers, including the following:

- James O'Sullivan, 1943 to 1986
- Derry Madden, 1986 to 1998
- Kieran Whelton, 1998 to 2000
- Marie O'Mahony 2000 to 2019
- Tim Kingston 2019 to 2021
- Timmy Anglin 2021 to present

Investigations were carried out by inspectors, under the Dairy Produce Act, who were familiar with all the circumstances. After considering their reports and the representations made for and against the establishment of a new creamery, the Minister concluded that it would be in the best interests of the dairy farmers in the district that a co-operative creamery should be made available to which they could send their milk if they so wished.

As Minister, James Ryan would have received many representations over the years and would have been well informed on the strife between the co-ops and C&K in west Cork. That milk war was detrimental to the industry and the Minister had been petitioned many times by the co-ops to introduce legislation to compel the proprietary companies to sell

at a reasonable price to co-op societies in their neighbourhood.

It must be assumed that his granting of licences to Barryroe and other co-operatives to open branches within a few metres of existing C&K branches was the Department's way of bringing closure to what had been for many years an intractable situation. The decision allowed co-ops to compete directly in areas that had been controlled by C&K and essentially forced the hand of the DDC to take over the proprietary concern.

### Early Morning Outbreak

About 3 a.m. on Sunday the Kilbrittain branch of the Cork and Kerry Creamery Co. Ltd., was observed to be on fire and though assistance was quickly at hand, nothing could be done to save the building as the flames had got a good hold, and the place was completely gutted. When the manager, Mr. John Cleary, locked up the premises on Saturday night, everything was in order. The discovery was made by a man named Jeremiah Lordan who was returning from a threshing. The building, which was of stone with a slated roof, contained a good deal of machinery and store goods, all of which were destroyed. The loss runs into four figures, it is stated. Milk supplies from the area are, for the present, being received at the Timoleague branch of the company.

Southern Star, September 1937

## In Kilbrittain, two creameries competed for suppliers from 1940 to 1945

Following the receipt of a licence from the Department to erect a creamery, the building of the creamery in Kilbrittain was completed in an extraordinarily short time. Work started on May 3rd 1940 and the branch opened for milk intake on June 5th. The creamery was just metres away from the C&K branch, with just the width of a ditch separating them.

In the first few weeks, only 13 suppliers transferred their supply from the C&K creamery, and it took some time to build up its base. Local legend has it that some farmers delivered churns full of water to Barryroe to give the impression that the branch was busier than it actually was.

The situation with the two creameries operating side by side continued until 1945 when Barryroe was eventually allowed to purchase the C&K creameries in Kilbrittain and Timoleague. Negotiations with the DDC had been going on for some time before agreement was finally reached for the purchase of the two properties for a total of £4,038, payable in cash to the DDC.



Kilbrittain branch photo, courtesy of Gearóid Holland

## Cork & Kerry Creamery Company saga finally resolved in 1945

In February 1945, it was announced that 16 creamery stations, including Timoleague, Kilbrittain, were by order of the Minister for Agriculture, to be sold to the Dairy Disposal Company (DCC). The DDC would take over these creameries and redistribute their milk pools among the existing co-ops.

This announcement was the beginning of the end of a process that had frustrated co-ops in west Cork for many years. The DDC had initially made a move to purchase the Cork & Kerry Creamery group in 1929 and, finally, 16 years later, what the Co-op Societies saw

as a discriminatory anomaly in the market, would be ended.

In March 1945, Barryroe entered negotiations with the DDC for the purchase of C&K creameries at Kilbrittain and Timoleague. The negotiations were completed quickly and within months Barryroe acquired the creamery buildings and plant and machinery, the goodwill of the two premises, and the milk supply attached to the two. Although the deal was completed in the Spring of 1945, the sum to complete the purchase, £4,038 10s 0d, was paid in 1948.

The transfer of the business in Kilbrittain was seamless as Barryroe already had its own separating station adjacent to the C&K creamery and there were no issues about taking in the increased milk supply. The branch prospered after that.

Separating milk ceased in Kilbrittain in 1972 at a point when the industry changed dramatically. Churns were replaced by refrigerated bulk tanks. Co-op milk trucks collected from the farmyard and delivered directly to the Carbery milk processing plant in Ballineen.



**Michael McCarthy**, creamery manager, Kilbrittain receiving a presentation from Denis Hallissey, Co-op committee (left), on his retirement in 1979: Michael initially trained to be creamery manager in the Dairy Science Programme at Albert College in Dublin. In 1944, he was appointed manager in Kilbrittain and worked with the Co-op for 35 years. As well as managing the Kilbrittain creamery, Michael often substituted for Michael Collins, general manager of Barryroe, when he was on holidays.



**John and Julia Ahern**, both worked for Barryroe Co-op. John began working at the Kilbrittain branch in 1954. When separating ceased in Kilbrittain in 1972, John drove a lorry for the Co-op for a further 15 years, up to his retirement in 1992. Julia worked in the grocery/drapery department at Barryroe Central from 1961 to 1966. For many years John and Julia ran a B&B at Harbour View. The couple's granddaughter, Amanda Ahern, later worked for two years in the supermarket in Barryroe.



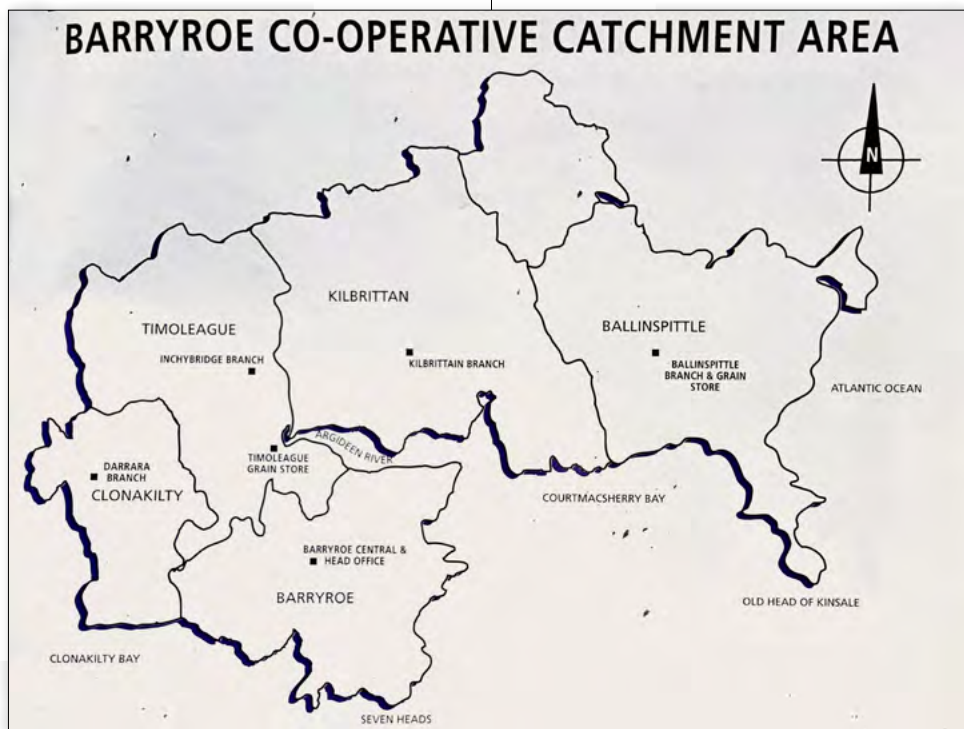
**Con Twohig** started work in Kilbrittain branch in June 1952. Originally, he helped in the collection of milk and in giving out skim milk to the farmers, before moving to work in the store at the branch. Con retired in 1983.

# Securing branches in Kilbrittain and Inchybridge was vital in linking the Barryroe/Darrara territory with the eastern Ballinspittle area

Barryroe Co-op was founded in Lislevane in 1925. The new Co-op quickly extended its boundaries, adding Darrara branch in 1926, which adjoined its central area forming a significant western block. A year later, in 1927, it added the Ballinspittle branch which provided a substantial block to the east.

For the next decade, the Co-op focused on securing the territory in between, with a view to linking these two blocks and consolidating its catchment area. Its other options for expansion were limited, with the Atlantic Ocean to the south, Lisavaid Co-op to its west and Bandon Co-op to its north and east.

This area that the co-op wished to secure already had separating stations run by the Cork & Kerry Creamery Company (C&K). This was a private company owned by a consortium of Cork merchants. Its main operations were based in Ballinascarthy and Skibbereen, but it also operated twelve auxiliary separating stations, including the ones in Timoleague and Kilbrittain.



While the new free state government policy appeared to favour the Co-operative option over private companies, C&K were able to exert sufficient political influence to delay Barryroe obtaining licences to operate and compete in these areas.

From 1929 onwards, the Co-op tried to establish a branch in the Clogagh/Inchybridge area, but its application was rejected, until permission was eventually granted in 1937. The Co-op also made several attempts to open a separating station in Kilbrittain, but all efforts were again frustrated, until 1939 when it received a licence from the Department to erect a creamery there.



## Plans to close the Timoleague branch were met with resistance

In February 1945, it was announced that the Cork & Kerry (C&K) creamery stations in Timoleague and Kilbrittain were to be sold. Barryroe entered negotiations and acquired the creamery buildings and plant and machinery, the goodwill of the two premises, and the milk supply attached to the two.

While Kilbrittain had a strong supplier base and the Co-op wished to expand its operations there, it held a very different view of Timoleague. At that time, only 11 shareholders were supplying milk to Timoleague, and the Co-op felt that this milk could be catered for at Lislevane, Darrara, or Inchybridge branches.

The Society decided at their March meeting to close the Timoleague branch entirely. A deputation of suppliers from the Timoleague area attended the monthly meeting of the Society in April 1945 to plead for the retention of the branch. Following lengthy discussions, a decision was taken to rescind the decision to close the branch and instead to operate the creamery until 31 December 1945.

A final decision on the future of the branch would be taken at a special meeting in



Photo from the early 1970s showing the removal of the chimney stack from Timoleague creamery. It is taken from the bottom of the creamery yard, the building on the right is the Courthouse, then Harringtons and the creamery itself. On the scaffolding are the late Tommy O'Rourke and Steve O'Mahony. Photo courtesy of Gearóid Holland

December. The creamery reopened for milk intake on 1 July. In February 1946 it was decided to keep the creamery open for another trial period ending 31 December 1946.

Even though the creamery's future was uncertain, in September 1947 the Society appointed Denis Mehigan as

creamery manager and flax mill manager in Timoleague. Mr Mehigan had been manager of the Drinagh Flax Mill before his appointment in Timoleague. It was 1972 when the Timoleague branch finally closed.