

Templemore Athletic Club

Mary Shelley (R.I.P.) – An Appreciation



Templemore Athletic Club were deeply shocked at the death of its beloved treasurer of twenty-seven years, Mary Shelley on 27th January. Mary had become a committee member in 1980, along with her late husband, Tony.

In her early days with the Club, she worked tirelessly to launch and develop a Ladies Keep Fit class in St. Colmcille's Boys Primary School, and teamed up with Sr. Mary Flanagan to organise the Clubs '500' weekly Draws in 1982, '83 and '84 to provide finance for our Dolomite Athletic Track in 1983. These were pre-National Lottery days, when it was much more difficult to obtain National Funding. Mary worked with others to establish our Annual Church Gate Collection in 1981 and each year since until we had to interrupt it in 2020 due to Covid 19 pandemic.

She broadened our range of Funding methods throughout the 1990's as we developed plans for our current synthetic Athletic Track. Mary will always be associated, along with Tony (R.I.P.); Mick Connell, Maura Kearney (RIP – assistant treasurer); Martin Leyden and many more stalwarts for developing our Bag Packing ventures, Discos, Athletic Track signage etc...

In more recent years she was joined by her Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Josie Ryan, both ladies worked as a team and maintained us on the straight and narrow in difficult times. Mary, like her husband Tony used every one of their political contacts to secure Sports Capital Grants for Templemore Athletic Club.

But it was their son Anthony who was their star attraction in Templemore Athletic Club. Anthony was renowned at sprinting, long jump and triple jump at the County, Munster and All Ireland level winning countless gold, silver and bronze medals in his day.

Mary drove us all forward to achieve the Club dreams. It now falls on those of us who remain to continue to fulfil her principles and dreams.

To her daughter Kathleen, Bridget, Patricia and son Anthony, grandchildren and great grandchildren and extended family and friends we extend our deepest sympathies. Mary your memory will always be in our hearts, just as you and Tony always welcomed us in your home. Both are gone from this earth but their memories will live on with those who know them. Mary & Tony (M.L.).