

Cullohill

20<sup>th</sup> Oct '16

Hello, Mary, Hope you enjoyed your trip abroad.

In response to your request, and I am relying on memory, I have no evidence of an R.I.A.

branch in Laois before 1990.

This is difficult to envisage as there were great I.N.T.O. stalwarts within the Co., men + women, Joe McCabe, Clonad, Tim Brennan,

Crill and Killenard, Bill Hassett, Durnow.

Annie Dooley, Aghaloe, Falk Phelan, Cullohill.

Hilda Thompson (nee Carter), Rathdowney and many others.

Denis Desmond contacted me to organise a County Branch. The first meeting was

held in the Regency Hotel, Portlaoise in

November 1990, Seamus Ó Reachtagain was appointed Hon. Sec. - about twenty people attended. At subsequent meetings we

invited guest speakers from Gárdaí, a medical Doctor, and Denis Desmond, of course.

Memories of 26 years ago are rather vague. In the nineties Tomás Ó Floinn,

(from Ummellick area, I think) became

Hon. Sec. and the Branch thrived under his stewardship. The few chairpersons I remember were Sean Connolly, Joan O'Riordan (nee Campion), Mary Hennessy, and the late Eua Bergin succeeded Tomás O'Flouin.

After that, Mary, it's a blank.

Hope you can make something out of this.

Le gach dea-mhēin duit

Tom Rhatigan