

The Pearl

It started when they noticed one another travelling on the bus. Little did they know it was the start of a romance. The transport for the 'Inter' would stop at Derryfubble then in Benburb but the whole journey's length there wasn't a word.

It wasn't until a Sunday, up in the Priory, that Pat got the courage to ask Deirdre 'how was she?' If he was expecting her to smile and bat her lashes he was to be sorely disappointed with her reaction.

'So you do know my name then?' The lady did say. For ignoring her to this point he wouldn't get away. But he had a great plan that he'd set into motion. There was a dance at 'The Chestnut' and he would be askin'.

But Deirdre wasn't going to make life easy for him. She'd play hard to get and not go on a whim. Elaine worked in the kitchen so she stayed there to the end and they had plenty of callers in the shape of Pat's friends.

She gave in eventually and they started to go out. She made the right decision not to hang about. They were six years together when they finally got wed. Thirty six years later and they're glad they went ahead!

They had to get the timing of that June day '93 just right - as the groom had to be the exact same age as the bride! She didn't want a toy boy on her wedding day! The scandal would have been awful - what would people have said?

As it turned out they were saying they were warm - it was the hottest day in history to have had a wedding frock on! 29 degrees in the sweltering heat. It was enough to bring the guests at The Drumsill to their knees.

After that memorable day it was time to honeymoon on a cruise. To Egypt and Israel they went to explore and peruse. It was just a shame that the sleeping arrangements weren't to plan. Bunk beds weren't supposed to feature and they kissed the dry land!

After all the excitement was over they were glad to get home to a life where they were no longer alone. Four years later their eldest, Patrick, was born in '97. Teaching is what he does for a living.

Ryan followed after in 1999. He's an engineer by trade and the middle child. Then came their girl in 2002. Lovely Shauna is the baby, at university, and is both loyal and true.

They built a home in Drummond near the Daly homestead. It's a stone's throw from home and just down the lane. It's a house filled with memories and laughter and fun. It's hard to believe they've achieved all that they've done.

He's a farmer and a joiner and a sales rep for doors. She looks after little ones and is a wonder at what she does. She's a childminder and her reputation is second to none. The friends she has made show how well she gets the job done.

So here's to them both as they celebrate 30 years. It's been a time of contentment and laughter and tears. They have shared many moments both stolen and not. There will be many more to come as, through life, they plan and plot.

Happy Pearl Anniversary to wonderful neighbours and friends. To have had them so close all these years we have been blessed. They are like the family we never had and for their company at parties and functions we're always glad.

We raise a glass to them both and ask that all their dreams and wishes come true. We're celebrating that glorious day when Pat and Deirdre became husband and wife and said 'I do'.

By Fionnuala Cassidy

