



JIMMY SAVILE: Rumours about the TV presenter were widespread. Photo: Jim O'Kelly

There were two Jimmy Saviles, says charity boss

MORE than 40 women and one man have so far made sex abuse allegations against Jimmy Savile, the flamboyant broadcaster who was annual visitor to Abbeville to take tea with Charlie Haughey and was greeted with fan hysteria on his many trips to Ireland to help raise money for the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC). Even shortly before his death in October last year he was provisionally booked to appear as a guest on the *Late Late Show* before time schedule difficulties scotched the interview with Ryan Tubridy. Savile was best known in Ireland for his charity work with the CRC co-founded by Lady Valerie Goulding with the aim of providing care for disabled people. At the time the clinic was desperate for funds and the

One, the intelligent broadcaster who took tea with Haughey, the other a 'sex predator', writes **Jerome Reilly**



involvement of Savile on charity walks in Dublin provided a financial lifeline for the centre as well as being one of the Republic's most high-profile and eagerly anticipated annual events, attracting other celebrities like Dickie Rock who also gave his time to a cause close to his heart. Savile came to Ireland to lead the walks for 15 years in a row. Hamilton Goulding, the son of Lady Valerie who succeeded her as chair of the now State-funded facility, issued a heartfelt tribute to the knight-

ed British DJ and former miner at the time of his death describing him as a "very astute and clever man whose generosity was astounding". But after he watched the deeply disturbing and ultimately damning ITV expose of Savile's sordid double life as a sex predator, Mr Goulding spoke of his profound disappointment and sadness. And he stressed that in terms of charity events in Ireland, Savile was never allowed private access to hundreds of young fans or CRC patients who came out to see him. Savile, despite his over-the-top persona, was highly intelligent and a member of Mensa, the high IQ society. "Wherever he went in Ireland in relation to the CRC there was always a great crowd around him and he was never left unattended so, as far as I could see, there was never any opportunity for him to do anything bad here," Mr Goulding said. Speaking to the *Sunday Independent*, Mr Goulding said: "It's as if there are now two Jimmy Saviles. Disappointment is the overriding emotion. The man who we thought was, if not flawless, now seems to be involved in something which was deeply bad, evil in fact. "I was hesitant about condemning him until I watched the programme. What struck me was there were a number of different accounts from women, memories from different times, but what was remarkable was how similar their independent stories were. It was very convincing. There was a consistency in the evidence. "His most successful shows were with children and it's hard not to reach the conclusion that he was scheming all the time to find ways to be in

the presence of children." Mr Goulding said one of the strangest aspects of the programme was the footage from the TV show *Clunk Click* — a forerunner of *Jim'll Fix It* — which showed Savile and Seventies pop star Gary Glitter, who was later convicted of child sex crimes, sitting among the audience with their arms around young girls. Mr Goulding recalled Savile's visits to Ireland. "He played the fool and acted the mick all the time in the role of an eejit but every now and then he would let his guard down and you knew he was no fool and knew everything that was happening around him." During his visits to Dublin, Savile often visited Abbeville to meet Charlie Haughey at his Gandon-designed mansion. The DJ and TV presenter, accompanied by Lady Valerie Goulding made the trip to Kinsealy an annual event. "The CRC was largely funded by contributions. In those days when Charlie was kind of disgraced in the post-Arms Trial period it may have been a political move on his part to re-establish himself by getting involved in the fundraising effort. He and my mother went to the US to raise money." Years later Savile told Des Peelo that Charlie Haughey was the most intelligent person he had ever met. Mr Goulding said there were many parallels between what happened in Ireland in terms of clerical child sex abuse and in the case of Savile where his celebrity stopped people coming forward to voice allegations when he was alive. "Celebrity is also a form of power just in the same way the church had power, so people were fearful of standing up to that." But he also remembers that Savile's visits to Ireland did generate vital funds when the charity badly needed help. Dickie Rock was also shocked at the allegations. "He raised millions when it was badly needed. It was great but it is all for nothing if this is the way it turned out," he told Joe Duffy.