

# Le Chêile

*Community Magazine*



*December 2018*

*No. 370*

## EDITORIAL

On the evening of Thursday 1st November Clane Tidy Towns Committee were invited to Maynooth College, where a massive assembly of other Tidy Towns winners as well as Tidy Estates were presented with medals, financial rewards and Certificates by Kildare County Council to mark progress made in 2018. This is now an annual practice and is followed by a much appreciated feast of tasty sandwiches and other treats. Clane received our 4th successive Bronze Medal and with it €400. We gained 7 points, bringing us up to 313 from last year's 306. We are again County leaders in Category E (5,000-10,000), ahead of Athy (285), Kilcock (279) and Kildare (277).

We are now 13th nationally in the Large Towns Category (E). There are 4 more Bronzes (€400) ahead of us, 3 Silvers (€700), and 6 Golds (€900). To make Ireland' Tidiest Large Town would mean €5,000 and there are many other additional prizes. That having been said, if we never won anything a tidy environment is a reward in itself. In this regard, the awarding of a Certificate of Merit recognizes the work being done by the Tidy Towns Team throughout the general area and throughout the year.

Progress in Tidy Towns is very much dependant on the excellent work being done by Residents' Groups in our many Estates. Without this we would be at nothing. In this regard Parkview are truly remarkable and have now laid down a marker in the County by winning Pride of Place for the 4th year in succession. Congratulations!

## CALENDAR

**Sunday 2nd December** Switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights on the Village, Green following the presentation of the Clonadh Award in the Abbey.

### **Monday 3rd December**

Monthly Meeting of Clane Community Co. in the Abbey at 8pm.

### **Wednesday 5th December**

Rathcoffer History Group Christmas Talk in Rathcoffey G.A.A. at 8pm. 'Clongowes, the Early Years 1814-1840: First Pupils and Parents' by Brendan Cullen. All welcome. P. 6

### **Thursday 6th-Sunday 9th December**

C.M.D.S. Panto -Robin Hood & His Merry Men in the Abbey, Clane. [Thurs., Fri. & Sat. at 7.30 + Matinees on Sat. and Sun. at 3pm]

### **Sunday 9th December**

Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party presented by Clane I.C.A. in Clane G.A.A. Hall. Entry on Invitation. RSVP by 3rd Dec.

## **MAINHAM CEMETERY MASS 2018**

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, on a bracing afternoon, the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Mass was celebrated at Mainham cemetery attended by a large congregation. The celebrant was Fr Paul O'Boyle, P.P., accompanied by Fr Denis Harrington and Deacon John Dunleavy.

The cemetery was in pristine condition. –thanks to the work of the Cemetery Committee volunteers throughout the year.

### **EDITOR'S DEADLINE**

The deadline for receipt of material for the January issue of Le Chéile is

### **Thursday 27th December**

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: [mcevoyclane@gmail.com](mailto:mcevoyclane@gmail.com)

Get Le Chéile on [www.clanecommunity.ie](http://www.clanecommunity.ie)

The Committee thanks all who helped in the celebration of the Mass and especially the Clergy, the Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist, the Choir, Mongey Communications, the McCreery family for the parking field, the Gardaí, the umbrella holders, the traffic and collection stewards, and all of the other volunteers whose help on the day typified the community spirit of the occasion.

Finally, we thank with gratitude all who contributed to our collection on the day. We are now in a position to have our maintenance machinery serviced and ready for operation next year.

In memory of those interred in Mainham cemetery in the twelve months from November 2017: Michael Conneff; Peter Gartside; Hilda Dunne; Claire MacDonald; Maria Costello; Whelan baby twins; John Curran; Vincent Carr; Del Weld; Sally Sheridan; Tommy Casey; William Dunne; Michael McAndrew; Keith Corrigan; Donie McCormack; Philomena Cribbin; Peter Mullaney; Roisin Mullaney; Heshmat Djazani; Mary Burke; Baby Tadgh Keane; Patrick Given; Elizabeth Lee; Sean F Greally; Joseph Duffy; Agnieszka Ziemska; Aine Mulligan; John Kelly; Annie Miskell and Thomas Buckley. May they rest in peace.

**North Kildare WW1  
Commemorative Event at  
The Range crossroads, Donadea,  
11th November 2018**

The event was organised by Padraig McEvoy, Seamus Cullen and Morna Hosey of the 'Aylmer Commemoration Committee' who have organised several heritage events in Donadea in recent years.

The ceremony was held at the Range crossroads Donadea at 4pm sundown on Sunday 11th November 2018. In choosing a location for a North Kildare commemorative event the Range was an ideal site due to its central location between Kilcock and Clane-Prosperous and due to the involvement from the estate. Of the ten terraced houses in the Range, seven residents and former residents participated in WW1, two did not return and are buried in Flanders.

Two nephews of fatalities laid wreaths:- Bernie Campbell from Rathcoffey who is a native of Swinford County Mayo. His uncle Michael Campbell emigrated from Mayo and following the outbreak of war enlisted in Doncaster, England. Speaking at the event Bernie indicated that his uncle returned to the family home on two occasions in uniform during the war. The first occasion was prior to Bernie's birth but the second occasion was after Bernie's birth. He was killed in action in Flanders on 25th April 1917. Bernie actually celebrated his 103rd birthday later in the month. (Monday 26th December).

Josh Rose from Donadea. His family were originally from Dangan (formerly Phillipstown). Two of his uncles Joshua and James Rose enlisted. Joshua survived the war but James was killed during the Battle of the Somme on 27 July 1916.

A candle was lit and placed between the two wreaths by Peadar Grogan and his son Colm. Peadar's grandfather Peter Grogan was born in Donadea and lived briefly in the Range before moving to Swords where he enlisted. He was killed in action, in Flanders on 19 May 1917.

A brief account given was given by Seamus Cullen on why the Range crossroads was chosen as the site to commemorate locally the WW1 armistice. Two of the families in the Range the Coffey's and the Greer's between them supplied six recruits to the army at the beginning of the war, brothers Barney, Jack and Jim Coffey together with their neighbours the Greer brothers, Bob, Jim and Bill.

There are many tragic stories from the area. Two in particular were pinpointed.

The first is of Bill Greer, from the Range. He fought in the Boer War and was decorated for bravery in the conflict. Enlisting again in 1914 when WW1 broke out, together with his two brothers Bob and Jim as well as his neighbors the three Coffey brothers. Bill Greer was injured and sent home to recuperate and following recovery he returned to the trenches. However, he was reported as missing in action. His Mother Essie refused to believe he was dead and despite her advanced age travelled to the war zone in Flanders in an attempt to find him. It is likely she was assisted financially to undertake the trip by Caroline Aylmer owner of Donadea Castle. Miss Aylmer had encouraged the workers on the estate to enlist for war service. They were assured that their families would be cared for in their absence and it is well-known that this promise was honourably kept. However, despite viewing numerous casualties in various hospitals in Flanders, Essie Greer failed to locate her missing son and she died shortly after returning home. Today her son is numbered among the substantial number of fatalities whose remains have never been recovered.

Another heart-breaking story concerns Harry de Courcy from Painstown. Enlisting at the age of 19, Lieutenant De Courcy was gassed in the trenches in 1916 and in similar circumstances to Bill Greer was sent home to recuperate. Having recovered and as the time approached when he would have to return to Flanders, he visited his close friend and neighbour Paddy Frayne who was of a similar age. While bidding farewell he informed both Paddy and his father that it was goodbye for good as he would not be returning. His platoon were due to be sent to the front firing line. He left for the front on Christmas Eve 1916 and died in action on 18 January some three weeks later. The dreaded telegram to his parents came on 20 January. Harry received fatal wounds while carrying a wounded colleague to safety.

William Halligan from Duncreevan Kilcock enlisted for Nationalist reasons. He was a member of the Kilcock Nationalist Volunteers in which his older brother Dan was the Company Captain. William was to pay a high price for his principals, he died in action on 16 August 1917 in Flanders.

We should always remember the sad stories of the men who did not return the Mi-

chael Campbells, the James Roses, the Peter Grogans, the Jack Farringtons and the William Halligans, their stories should never be forgotten.

Morna Hosey led the gathering in a short prayer. Mention was also made that John Hillis, Church of Ireland Deacon from Coolcarrigan who was to begin the ceremony with a short prayer was unable to attend due to illness and it was hoped that he would have would have a speedy recovery.

**The finale.** While a tape of the Furey Brothers, *The Green fields of France* was played a quiet procession of relatives of WW1 veterans approached the wreaths and placed as tributes flowers or greenery. Some of the greenery were from the residence of WW1 servicemen while some were plucked from shrubs at the site.

The following that placed tributes on the shrine included:

Phyllis Burke who also brought along WW1 medals that belonged to two uncles of her late husband Dominick Burke. Details are with the photographer. (Phyllis's contact 086-8460326)

Danny Halligan, grand-nephew of William Halligan who died in action in 1917 still lives in the same farmhouse as his relative.

Liam Holton was likewise born in the same house as his grand-uncle Jack Farrington from Cloonagh who died in action in 1916.

Morna and Dermot Hosey also placed a tribute remembering their grandfather Jim Coffey and his two brothers Barney and Jack.

## **RATHCOFFEY HISTORY GROUP**

Rathcoffey History Group-Christmas Talk-  
'Clongowes, the Early Years

1814-1840: First Pupils and Parents'

by Brendan Cullen.

Venue: Rathcoffey GAA

Date: Wednesday 5th December

Time: 8 pm

All welcome

**Clane Golf Club notes- December**

**A very Happy Christmas to all !**

**Results:**

**Turkey Competition**

**W/E 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Class 1: First- John Carew- h/c 15  
23 pts.

(-17) Second: Michael Gately- h/c 15  
21 pts.

Class 2: First- Martin Meaney- h/c 22, 22  
pts.

(18 to 22) Second- Padraic Rooney- h/c 18  
22 pts.

Class 3 : First – Sean Lavin -h/c 29  
29 pts.

(23+) Second: Tom Bryan – h/c 23  
23 pts.

**W/E 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Class 1

(-17) First: Ger Nevin- h/c 15  
22 pts.

42 Second: Brian Conlon- h/c  
22 pts.

Class 2

(17 to 23) First: Pa Connolly- h/c 23  
27 pts.

26 pts.  
Second : Sean Byrne- h/c 22

Class 3

(24+) First: Sean McCann- h/c 24  
23 pts.

23 Second: Felix McKenna- h/c  
23 pts.

**W/E 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Class 1

(-16) First: Padraic Rooney- h/c 16  
24 pts.

22 pts.  
Second: Diarmuid Coonan- h/c 16

Class 2

(17-22) First: Martin Meaney – h/c 17  
26 pts.

25 pts.  
Second: Sean Byrne - h/c 24

Class 3

(23+) First: James Malone- h/c 27  
27 pts.

25 pts.  
Second: Michael Kelleher- h/c 24

**Leading 5 in Turkey Competition:**

First: Sean Byrne 35 pts.

Second: Tom Bryan 25 pts.

Third: James Malone 19 pts.

Fourth: Eamonn Howlin 18 pts.

Felix McKenna 18 pts.

Fifth: Fintan Connolly 17 pts.

Michael Kelleher 17 pts.

Martin Meaney 17 pts.

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**See our website: [www.clanegolfclub.ie](http://www.clanegolfclub.ie) See video of an aerial view of the golf course.**

**Forthcoming events:**

**AGM will be held in the Village Inn on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8.00 p.m.**

**There are a few places available for new members & we particularly encourage younger members to join & annual subscription is very attractively low.**

**Play golf when you want- you don't have to put your name on a time sheet. Enjoy your golf without pre-booking or waiting!**

Eamonn Howlin  
Club Secretary  
Phone: 087 1215 396.

### **I.C.A.**

The busy Thursday evenings are going very well for the past few months. Our creative and crafty members continue to produce works of art from quite simple materials. The colourful, completed items will brighten up the dining tables for the Senior Citizens' Party on December 9th. We took a break from "needles and pins" on October 11th when we travelled to K Bowl at Toughers. This certainly was a departure from the usual and we all enjoyed a couple of sporty happy hours, having a different challenge. There were also tasty refreshments to help keep the energy topped-up. On Saturday November 3rd there was a hive of activity in the G.A.A. function room. More than one hundred members from around the county assembled for Kildare Federation Craft Day -such a variety of talent and keen interest was shown by 'teacher' and 'pupil' alike. Everyone so helpful and co-operative. At our table, we were delighted to meet some very pleasant and obliging ladies from Derrinturn Guild -a wet miserable Saturday well spent! Congratulations and well done to the organizers and their assistants!

We thank all who have supported the Annual Draw (which takes place on Dec. 6th) -proceeds help fund the Senior Citizens' Party, which is on December 9th at 1pm in the G.A.A. Club. We look forward to meeting friends, old and new. Mustn't forget to congratulate the young folk, namely the under 20's football team, on their historic win a few weeks ago. May they go from strength.

Wishing everyone a truly happy and peace-filled Christmas. For information on

I.C.A. matters please contact Hon. Sec. Eileen O'Brien (086 3447803)  
(P.R.O. M. O'Connor)

### **THE EVERGREENS**

As we approach the end of another year -and what a year it has been- what with Pope Francis coming on a visit, was truly amazing and wonderful for us all. The season of Advent is here -a time of new beginning and a time of expectation and waiting. This refers to the celebration of Christ's birth, which gives meaning, purpose and hope to our lives, and finally to his second coming at the end of time. We welcome Him with great joy.

So the festive season is really only around the corner and a time for family and friends alike. We have to remember the lonely too and pay them a visit. I'm sure you all have the decorations up and the tree 'finished'. It's a time too for parties and festivals and we Evergreens are looking forward to our Christmas one at the Westgrove on Thursday 13th Dec., where we will be entertained to dinner, dancing, singing and a visit from Santa -so don't forget to get those shoes shined up for the occasion. There will be holy Mass celebrated Tues. 11th Dec. at 4 o'clock in the Evergreen Room for deceased members of the Evergreen Club.

On behalf of the Evergreens and myself we would like to congratulate all those young people from Clane who are recipients of Pope John Paul Awards. They are a credit to their families and the community and doing good for everybody. We are proud of them and gear having them with us.

As its Christmastime we would like to thank so much anyone who has helped us in any way, both financially and otherwise, throughout the year. There are many to thank. We mustn't forget the boys and staff of Clongoweswood College for all their help and great kindness throughout the year. The Committee too in our Club, who are all so caring and helpful, and not forgetting our artist supreme -lovely Fiona, who freely imparts her great knowledge and expertise every week to our budding artists.

We Evergreens wish each and everyone a holy, happy and safe Christmas and may the Infant Jesus bless you all. Nollaig fé shéan is fé mhaise dhíbh go léir agus ath-bhliain fé shonas.

**Maureen Spain (PRO)**

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ABBEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

The official re-opening after 100 years of the old restored Church, now the Abbey Community Centre, took place on the afternoon of Sunday 31st March 1985. Mr. Joe Bermingham, Minister of State at the Office of Public Works, was the principal speaker. The Minister paid special tribute to Fr. Thompson, Andy Fitzgerald (foreman), John Connolly, Clane Community Council, AnCo, and the Church of Ireland. He expressed disbelief at the quality and extent of the work which includes the restoration of the old church building, which had been roofless and in ruin for 100 years, the development of the derelict graveyard as a very pleasant and elevated park commanding a fine view and of the continuing development of the adjoining Day Centre. The work had in a sense commenced 11 years ago [1974] when the Community Council had undertaken the conservation of the Bell Tower, then in a threatened condition (with the help of John O'Connell) The premises came into the possession of the community in 1974 when it was passed on to us for the nominal sum of £10 by the Church of Ireland. Of course it cost £1300 to conserve and restore the Tower which had been condemned.

AnCo's involvement began in June 1983. Originally the project was scheduled to take two years with a completion date of June 1985 but progress was good and it was completed two months ahead of schedule.

But most heartening of all was the amount of employment that was generated because of the project (With the main Abbey project and the environmental schemes in the park and elsewhere in the village, 54 youth were employed youth were employed at one time in mid 1984) 220 trainees, 75% of them under 25 years of age, took part in the Abbey project and received valuable training in the

process. That training extended over a very wide range of areas and incorporated Construction Skills such as bricklaying, plastering, plumbing and heating, carpentry and joinery, electrical work, scaffolding, site surveying and levelling, reading of drawings, planning, scheduling and estimating and safety also featured as subjects. As with all AnCo courses, particular emphasis was placed on Job-seeking skills, skill assessment, career development and life and social skills. If you consider this list of skills, one thing is clear. Many of them are transferable in that they can be adapted for use in a number of career areas. This is extremely important in these times of rapidly changing employment patterns. AnCo is training people not for one job but for "families of jobs". Eighty per cent of the young people involved in the Clane Abbey project have either gained full time employment or have gone on to further training or education programmes.

As a result of this project and the sterling work it entailed, the people of Clane now have a Community Centre to be proud of with facilities for meetings, games and drama. But that is not all. I am very pleased to be able to announce that Phase II of the project has now been approved and work will commence very shortly. The second phase of the project, which will provide many more young people with valuable training will involve further development of Clane Abbey to provide the Senior Citizens of the area with their own facility -the Evergreen Club. The materials for this project were paid for by Clane Community Council and it was greatly helped by many of our local voluntary organizations. The Council thank them for this support. This building will be available to all who wish to use it for recreational purposes. The windows have been supplied by Michael Behan and his specialist team and they are designed in keeping with the highest degree of craftsmanship desirable. The floor is of maple.

Mr. Frank Donnelly, manager of the AnCo Training Centre at Ballyfermot expressed his organization's satisfaction with their involve-

ment and complemented Peter Riordan, Ted Murray, Dan Doolan and Hart Dorsch for their technical assistance, the production of drawings, etc.

At the opening ceremony the foreman Andy Fitzgerald, and Joe Carroll the AnCo Supervisor, each received a community award of cut glass. The hall was blessed by Canon Empey, Rector and Rev. R. Thompson, S.J. Speakers also included Very Rev. R. Kelly, P.P. and Fr. Hanley, S.J. Speakers were introduced by C.C.C. Chairman, Phil McCormack.

## **CLANE TENNIS CLUB**

2018 has been one of the most successful in the history of the club Winning Men's Dublin League Class 4 and Kildare Mixed League Class 6. Richie Mahony had the honour of Captaining a Dublin League Team against Northern Ireland and winning his matches to claim winners. A record junior membership of over 180 and a very successful Summer Camp with coaching and tournaments throughout the year. We held a 24 hr. Tennisathon in July with all proceeds of e4,150 to Barretstown House. Our AGM was held on Mon. 26th. Nov. with a huge attendance and the following officers elected: President: Peter O'Neill Chairperson: Liam Burke Treasurer: Lisa Ryan Vice Chair: Peter Duffy. Lady Captain: Jo Patchell Men's Captain: Barry Kiely. Committee: Sean Lavin, Mick Hennessy, Paddy Behan, Tommy McAndrew, Paula Warner, Claire Dalton and Dave Ferguson Membership is now open to end March 2020 and all welcome. We hope to commence improvements to our facilities as soon as possible and have all completed by end of May 2019 which includes 2 Midi Courts catering for 6 – 8 yrs. Resurfacing 3 courts and extension to clubhouse which will have for 2 Table Tennis tables and also upgrade showers etc. The club is also participating with Town and Village Renewal and wants to play our part in improving facilities with landscaping etc. Look us up on Facebook for all information