

# *Le Chêile*

*Community Magazine*



*April 2014*

*No. 324*

## EDITORIAL

2014 marks the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Liffey Bridge in Clane. Alexandra Bridge, as it is formally known, was built in 1864. It replaced at the time a very old bridge with seven arches, which had been built in 1391. Had it not been replaced the old bridge would have celebrated its 600th anniversary in 1992!

From the rolls we find that “on 14th March 1391 the King granted the Provost, Bailiffs (“Mayor and Corporation”) and Commonality of the town of Clane, that for seven years they may take custom of goods coming to the town to build anew a certain bridge of the said town over the waters of the Analiffey”. The wording strongly suggests that that there may in fact have been an even older bridge in existence prior to 1391.

A bridge of this antiquity strongly suggests that the Liffey at Clane was difficult if not impossible to cross in ancient times. This suspicion is strongly supported by the fact that the Millicent Road and the lane past Clane Providers continued for most of the way in a continuous direct line to Castlesize (see map of 1838) where there was a well established fording point.

Alexandra Bridge was named after Princess Alexandra of Denmark who married Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1863, who on the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, became King of England. The man who designed and built the bridge was John Yeats from Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo, who was a grand-uncle of the poet W.B. Yeats.

To honour the 150th Anniversary Clane Tidy Towns Committee chose as a special project to tidy up the area in front of the old Corn Mill on the near side of the Bridge with levelling and some planting. We are very grateful to Jim Wyse who made a very welcome contribution in using his skills to sheet over the old double doors which led to what has been for some time a derelict ruin.

## CALENDAR

### Friday 4th April

Clane Tennis Club is holding a Poker Night

from 8pm.-10.30pm. All members and friends are welcome. €10 to play. See p. 6.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Clane Local History Group launch the 3rd edition of their annual journal “Coiseanna” at 8pm in the G.A.A. Centre at 8pm. See p. 3

### Monday 28th April

Monthly meeting of Clane Community Council in the Abbey Community Centre at 8pm.

## CLANE COMHALTAS CEOILTOIRI EIREANN

Another great session was held at the end of Feb. Many thanks to all musicians who attended and many thanks to Clane GAA again. Next session will commence on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014, usual time usual place. all welcome again.

Classes going well and all students busy preparing for the up coming fleadh. Kildare Fleadh will commence in Leixlip from 7<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May when the competitions will be held. More details to follow.

Sean Nós dancing going well on Tuesday nights in Clane GAA commencing at 8:30pm to 9:30pm. More people welcome to come along and learn a few steps!

Caardlann Earraigh: upcoming Workshop commencing in Celbridge on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Workshop in various instruments with tutors from the best of Ireland. Concert performance by the tutors to be held in Glenroyal later that night.

Contact: Margaret Gannon (Chairperson)  
087-9136509

Web site: [www.clanecommunity.ie](http://www.clanecommunity.ie)

### EDITOR'S DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of material for the **May** issue of Le Chéile is

**Monday 28th April**

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: [margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net](mailto:margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net)

## PLAIN SPEAKERS

### Find Your Voice at Plain Speakers, Naas

Have you a story to tell? A wedding speech you are worried about? Or want to improve or enhance your employment skills? Plain Speakers is a new Toastmasters club in Naas, which meets in the Townhouse Hotel, on the first and third Monday of each month (including bank holidays) at 7.45 pm for an 8 pm sharp start.

Our members are aged from 18 upwards, and are drawn from all walks of life. The common thread is that each one wanted to overcome a fear of speaking in public. Our meetings are a safe space where members will receive encouragement and support to conquer their fears, and improve communication and leadership skills.

Visitors are welcome to attend our meetings, and enjoy the prepared speeches and impromptu speaking from our members. Visitors will not be asked to speak, unless they wish to do so. If you are recently retired, or want to tap into your creative side, why not come along? You will receive a very warm welcome and a cuppa!

Our April meetings are on Monday 7th & Monday 21st April. For further details see [www.facebook.com/plainspeakers](http://www.facebook.com/plainspeakers), [www.meetup.com/plainspeakers](http://www.meetup.com/plainspeakers) or contact Ger at [\(087\) 2523041](tel:0872523041).

### CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Launch of Historical Journal “Coiseanna”

Clane Local History Group will launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of their annual journal “Coiseanna” on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 8pm in the Clane G.A.A. Club, Prosperous Road, Clane. This year’s journal will be launched by Mr Des Marron, Mayor of Clane.

The journal contains a great variety of articles on well-known people, places and events in the long history of Clane. The bicentenary of Clongowes Wood College is marked by articles on the origin and development of the college from its foundation in 1814. There are articles on life in

Loughanure in the 1950s and correspondence with emigrants in America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, plus a sympathetic article on a notorious resident of the village with a heart of gold in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The lives and times of some noted past residents of Clane and its environs are recalled in articles on Rev. Brian Handy, Alice Curtayne, Charles Wogan, Thomas Cooke-Trench and Lt. John Wogan Browne. Local architectural and infrastructural heritage features in articles on Firmount House, Coolcarrigan Church and the Grand Canal.

“Coiseanna” costs only 5 euro per copy and would make an ideal present for Clane people who have had to emigrate in recent years.

Clane Local History Group would like to acknowledge the support of Clane Project Centre.

### CLANE ST. PATRICK’S DAY FESTIVAL, 2014

We really celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday in style this year. The Floats were just amazing and the effort put in was terrific. The weather was also in our favour for the Parade. Our judges on the day were: Billy Carey, Sally Purcell, Tommy Doran, Kitty Manzor, Andrea Rubio, Eoghan Corry and Edel Marron. We were honoured on the day to see our past Grand Marshals – Breda Cribbin (for Sean), Bernie Plunkett, Damien O’Neill (for Kevin), Tommy Carew, Del Weld, Ed Kiely and of course our 2014 Grand Marshal Leah Redmond. Lord Mayor Des Marron and Leah were driven down the main street in a beautiful Vintage car supplied by Christy Morrin.

An Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday night 20<sup>th</sup> March at The Westgrove Hotel, Clane. A Certificate of Participation was presented to each Float this year to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The individual winners are as follows:

#### Non Commercial

- 1<sup>st</sup> Clane Community Council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rathcoffey Camogie Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Kildare Scouts

## **Commercial**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vicky Barry's School of Dance  
2<sup>nd</sup> Clane Building Works  
3<sup>rd</sup> Showstoppers Stage School

## **Best Themed Float**

Enquiring Minds Childcare

## **Overall Float**

Enquiring Minds Childcare

## **Shop Window Display Winner**

Tangles Hair Design

## **Domino's Pizza Colouring Competition** –

Gift Voucher

Emma Kilbride 0 - 6 years  
Ella Hannaford 6 - 10 years  
Edward O'Toole 10 years up

Thanks to all our sponsors, stewards, Clane Red Cross, Civil Defence, the Gardai, Clane I.C.A. and everyone who helped to make this such a fantastic Parade and who contributed in any way to the success of the entire Weekend Festival. The Abbey looked wonderful throughout the Festival. Thanks to Clane Community Council for this.

**Sincere apologies re the web streaming of the event.** Unfortunately there were major technical issues on the day which affected both the streaming and recording of the event. The event was in fact recorded and you can watch the Parade highlights on [www.clanefestival.ie](http://www.clanefestival.ie).

Hopefully by now, you have all picked up a copy of our "WE ARE CLANE" 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book. If not, the Book is still available in the shops for 5 euro. A really nice keep-sake!!!

The Committee will soon be thinking ahead to 2015. Any ideas for the theme for next year?? Let us know. You can email us at: [clanefestival@kildare.ie](mailto:clanefestival@kildare.ie) or contact any Committee member.

**Mary Dunne (Chairperson)**

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

March diary continued on theme set in motion in February, with a very good attendance at lively, monthly meeting, on Thursday, 6th. There was genuine interest in all matters on agenda, and, proposals and projections for coming months were gladly accepted for consideration. Variety is the spice of life, so, with the injection of young blood and fresh challenging ideas with a light hearted approach, makes for pretty and practical productions, and some fun in the process. At the present time, there are necessary, important meetings to be held, to get new committees, etc., set up for coming year,.....Starting with our guild committee meeting Thursday, 27th., in preparation for monthly and A.G.M., on Thurs.,April,3rd. Kildare Federation A.G.M., April, 29th., and National A.G.M.,May,24th.,Mullingar, after, which, the overall map will be charted for another year.....Congratulations to Mary Dunne and her dedicated, hard working team, for their 10th. super St. Patrick's Day Parade, and complete festival. Long may their enthusiasm continue !!. Very best wishes for the future to all the girls and boys, who are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation over the coming weeks. For information on ICA activities, please contact...Hon.Sec...Ailish Sammon,..045.892842.....pro. M.O'Connor.

## **CLANE MENS' GOLF CLUB**

March was an action packed month for the club, starting with the Captain's (Aidan Donovan) Drive-in, our first golf outing for 2014 at St. Margaret's Golf Course & the culmination of the Spring League which ran from the beginning of January.

There was a great attendance at Captain Aidan's Drive-in, which was a real family event when Aidan's mother, Joan, & father, Chris who is a past captain & president of Clane Golf Club were able to attend & the

prize presentation followed at Manzor's Village in where food & refreshments were served. A three ball 'shambles' competition was held & the winning teams, each led by a Carew were:

1. John Carew, Dermot Coonan & Brendan Mahony. 50 points.
2. Seamus Carew, William Lacey & Jimmy Redmond. 49 points.( last 6)
3. Tommy Carew, Bernie Campbell & Joe Higgins. 49 points.

Following on from this, the Club had their first outing to a challenging St. Margaret's Golf Club, where John Carew took first prize with a very creditable 35 points, followed by William Lacey with 33 points (last 6) & our Captain- Aidan Donovan came third also with 33 points.

The Spring league consisted of 10 teams with 4 golfers on each & the two best scores to count, as well as an individual competition also being run. The competition was fierce for both the individual & team prizes & it really went 'down to the wire' & the results are:

#### **Individual prize winners:**

1. William Lacey- 30 points.
2. Joint second with 29 points, were Austin Daly & Pa Connolly.

#### **Team prize winners:**

Over the 3 months when this competition, there was great rivalry & the winning team showed tremendous form over the period, averaging 46.8 points per week, 45.9 was the average score for the second team & 45.4 for the third team, shows how close the result was. The prize winning teams are:

**First:** Michael Cuddihy, Pa Connolly, Tony O'Grady & Joe Higgins  
468 points.

**Second:** John McAndrew, Eamonn Howlin, Austin Daly & Jimmy Redmond  
459 points.

**Third:** Stephen Duffy, James Coonan, Anthony Dunne & Tom Bryan  
454 points.

Well done to everybody that participated & helping to make it a really close fought competition & congratulations to all the prize winners.

#### **Forthcoming events:**

- 29/30<sup>th</sup> March -18 hole Match Play Qualifier.
- Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> April - Outing to Grange Castle at 11.00 a.m.
- 19/20<sup>th</sup> April - 18 hole Spring Medal.

#### **Eamonn Howlin**

### **THE EVERGREENS**

Now that we are in the final month of Spring and are about to celebrate the most important feast of the Christian calendar, as we recall the death of Jesus on the Cross, and his rising to new life with God the Father, yes it's Easter. It is a renewed call to all of us to work with Jesus in being messengers of hope and love to all those we meet on our particular pilgrim journey through life. Easter fills us with hope and assures us that we too will rise again as Christ did.

What a lovely time of year this is with the long days and the beauty of nature all around us. As I stand on my door-step it's so uplifting to see the array of colours and all the flowers and shrubs blooming, variegated trees big and small, even the sky-blocking monsters -all help to give our spirits a lift.

Our pancake morning on Shrove Tuesday was the usual flipping success. Thanks to all who came along and supported it. The tenth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & festivities were a tremendous success as in the Parade every year. Great credit and thanks go to Mary Dunne and her committee

who work so hard for this every year. The festivities ended up in the G.A.A. where great entertainment takes place for young and old alike. Congratulations to all who so deservingly won prizes.

Am Cásca fé shéanis fé shonas dhibh go léir. I wish you all a blessed, joyful and happy Easter.

## **Maureen Spain (PRO)**

### **CLANE TENNIS CLUB**

The Summer days have arrived and Clane Tennis Club is seeing plenty of activity both on and off the courts.

The "Partnerless" Doubles was a great success with over fifty participating over the past 6 weeks and Winners were

Ladies: Edel Dwane  
Runner Up Breed Donnelly

Mens: Paul Hopkins  
Runner Up Ritchie Mahoney

Mens Doubles continue every Monday from 8p.m and Tuesday Social tennis every Tues. from 7.30p.m

New Members are very welcome to participate and see our great facilities. Call down any Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile we have two Tus Workers looking after the KARE and Tennis grounds and are making great improvements .

We are organising a Poker Night this Friday 4th. April - 8 - 10.30p.m. and all members and friends are very welcome. €10 to play - Winner will receive €100.  
Refreshments included

Coaching available. Contact the club any Tuesday evening or visit our website for all info and photo gallery . Tel 0872745904.

## **CLANE G.A.A.**

The Clane Senior Footballers *Fight Night* was held this month and was a great success. The G.A.A. and its footballers would like to extend a big thank you to everybody involved.

The Clane Minor Footballers continue their League campaign and have only lost one fixture from their first seven, with impressive wins over Moorefield, Athy and Celbridge amongst those victories.

The ladies Féile team won their county final in Hawkfield on Sunday 23rd March. They beat Naas in the final.

The Clane Senior Footballers lost out to Monasterevan in the first round of their League campaign on a score line of 1-12 to 0-9.

Keep an eye on Facebook for upcoming fixtures and events in the G.A.A. Clubhouse.

**Robbie Dunne.**

## **THANK YOU TO LOCAL QUIET HERO**

When I was ten, from time to time we had to bring our dog to Bobby Frayne, the local vet. I recall a small room, with a metal table, crowded shelves with boxes of strange looking medicine and a smell that was definitely not spring fresh. I recall Bobby arriving into the room and apologising for keeping us waiting. It was a sort of ritual, to sit in the waiting room, minding your dog or cat, and conversing with the other customers who each had a dog or cat. That was 1979.

We recently had a cat that found herself in extreme difficulty giving birth to kittens. I brought the cat to Bobby, first time in thirty five years. He operated on the cat, but she was very weak afterwards. Bobby told me he was not sure she would make it. To keep her warm, he brought her into his

kitchen and kept it near the range so that he could watch her. If memory serves me, I think he also said he had her on a drip for a while.

After about a week, we went to collect the cat, it was lashing rain and Bobby arrived in a little late, apologising for keeping us waiting. He was soaked from working outside in the rain. He told us that he had been helping a man with a horse. I suggested he go inside and change out of the wet clothes but he insisted that he did not want to keep the customers waiting any longer. We collected our cat and paid a small sum of money, which Bobby assured us would cover the removal of the stitches also.

The little room is the same as it was in 1979. He still has the same metal table, and the shelves and the smell are identical. As an adult with my ten year old daughter, I felt it was me with my father all over again.

When we were leaving, Caitlin, my daughter said "that man saved Squeaky's life". It struck me that she was correct, he did save the cats life. How many other children has he made happy by doing the same thing? It is not glamorous but I am sure he as given a lot of happiness to people from Clane in the last 35 years and this is my way of saying thanks to a local quiet hero.

**Mark Breen**

## **THE BOYS' OLD SCHOOL**

The Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Enquiry 1826, reports a parish school in Clane, taught by Stephen Hickey at the annual salary of about £10, contributed by the children. It was built by the parishioners at a cost of £35 and was thatched. It is shown on the Map of 1838 (surveyed in 1837) and is located right out by the road's edge in front of the Boys Old School. The latter was built in 1839 and is now the K.A.R.E. Centre. The Master's House is shown attached to the East gable-end of the

older thatched school. There was also a garden attached. In lieu of the house and garden the Master educated 22 children gratis. In attendance were 45 boys and 15 girls.

The Girls' Old National School in the Main Street, opened under the Presentation Sisters in 1839, had been built as an Orphanage School in 1818. In their 1835 Second Report the teacher named at the Dublin Road school was J. Deegan, who was educating 52 boys and 24 girls. Up to 1966 the enrolment remained at 75 (boys). By 1976 it had reached 215 with 6 teachers. The Boys' National School operated at these premises for 143 years from 1839 up until 1982 when it was transferred to Scoil Phádraig on the Prosperous Road.

The name plaque on the wall at the Boys Old School or K.A.R.E. Centre (unreadable for maybe 15 years) states:

Scoil Naoimh Senceil  
Scoil Náisiunta na mBuachaillí  
Togadh 1839, Athogadh 1920

Saint Senchell was the first Abbot of Clane. The Abbey in Clane was founded by Saint Ailbe, who was Abbot of Emily in Co. Tipperary. This is believed to have occurred before the coming of St. Patrick. The indications are that this plaque was not set up until 1920. Nothing would have been known locally about Senchell until Comerford published his "History of the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin" in 1883. He was sourcing the Annals of the Four Masters (1616).

## **CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL 1973-2013 [40 years]**

Clane Community Council was established in '73 following a public meeting which took place on Tue, 27<sup>th</sup> March. This was followed by elections in April, with the first meeting taking place on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in 2013. In the autumn of '68 a critical incident took place with long term implications for the setting up of C.C.C

A group of students were crossing the road at change of class outside the new two storey Secondary School, now the Parish Centre, in the Main Street, on their way to the Prefabs on the Prosperous Road, when a serious accident was only narrowly averted. The Prefabs were located in the Nuns' Field, which extended from the rear of the 'Corner House' pub to what was then Dr. Purcell's House, across the road and a little further on from what was later to become the entrance to Liffey Lawns. A two-way traffic of students took place hourly throughout the day. A public meeting was called by parents and teachers to discuss safety concerns around the Village. Clane was reputed to be the only village centre in Ireland without footpaths! There were blind corners behind high walls at Manzor's and at the Prosperous Road junction where O'Brien's is now located. Manzor's corner was eased for pedestrians and rounded off. The wall at the Prosperous Road junction was eventually lowered below eye level and is now set back. In particular there was an urgent need for pedestrian crossings. People were hyper in their concern and the old Hall on the College Road, now the Youth Club premises, was packed out for the meeting.

A group of volunteers was appointed, representing a wide range of local groups and organizations, which had regular meetings under the chairmanship of Garret Carton in one of the school prefabs. Garret, an architect, lived in Loughanure. He later became County Architect and Planner in Donegal. His wife was also an architect and it was she who had designed and supervised the building of the new school buildings in '67/'68. Such groups were popularly referred to as Development Associations. To give it a different emphasis it was decided to refer to the new group as the Clane Social Development Association (C.S.D.A.). October 1968 happened also to be the time when the application was made and permission was granted for the development of Loughbollard Estate. This was the first private estate granted outside of Dublin and it was controversial as it was opposed by the planners as overwhelm-

ing in relation to the size of the existing community and distantly separated from the centre. It was not received without local apprehensions and misgivings and it threatened to put huge pressure on already over crowded schools and community facilities. (Population then approx. 350; now 6,702) However, the dye was cast and it was appropriate for a community which was immanently set to undergo huge expansion to be organizing itself *to meet such challenges*.

Monthly meetings were held over the following five years but progress was generally slow and there was a good deal of political side swiping. It was finally seen to be getting nowhere and a few were looking elsewhere for more successful models. We were looking to places like Robertstown and Prosperous where Muintir na Tire Guilds were in existence and where great work had been done. We were aware that Muintir na Tire was now advocating a new type of structure, i.e. Community Councils. These incorporated a strong element of local democracy, each with its own constitution and established by local elections.

A public meeting was called for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March in Clane Hall. We quote from the minutes:

"Purpose of meeting

*To found a Community Council affiliated to Muintir na Tire.*

Attendance

*Chairman: Rev. W. Hughes, P.P.*

*Public: Approx 150.*

*Publicity Officers: Mrs. Daphne Siggins, and T. McEvoy.*

*Guests: Councillors Oliver Reilly, Terry Boylan.*

Development Officer

*of Muintir na Tire Pat Doyle*

*Secretary C.S.D.A. Bryan Sammon*

*Treasurer C.S.D.A. Pat O'Connor.*

Apologies:

*Garrett Carton, Chairman C.S.D.A., Ven. Archdeacon Handy."*

Daphne Siggins, who was Secretary of Clane I.C.A., and Tony McEvoy, who jointly called the public meeting and pro-

duced a working paper, were members of the C.S.D.A.

A working committee of 12 was set up to organize nominations and elections. They were as follows:

Michael Walsh, Tony McEvoy, Maurice Hannigan, Maurice Musgrave, Daphne Siggins, Jackie Ireland, Ted Coonan, Anne Smith, Fergal Lee, Ken Besson, Fr. Flood and Breffney McGrane.

A defined area was agreed upon, stretching from Bodinstown (Millicent Junction) to Boherhole Cross, from the Parish boundary west of Firmount Cross to Ovidsown Cross on the Dublin Road, out the Millicent Road to Digby Bridge and out the Ballingappa Road to the Kilmurry junction.

Nomination papers were distributed door to door throughout the area inviting anyone 18 years or over to nominate persons, including possibly themselves, and requesting the return of completed papers to a special box at Clane Post Office. All nominated persons had their consent confirmed and their names were listed on ballot papers covering five districts: Central, North East, Loughbollard, North West and South. The ballot papers were compiled and distributed door to door. Different areas had different numbers of candidates and voters were requested to select for example six of them and award them numbers 1 to 6 in accordance to their preference. The number of candidates in an area was determined by dividing the number of houses by 21. The voting was according to a points system; a vote of 1 in a six seat constituency merited 6 points while a vote of 2 merited 5 points and so on. The system was deemed to work well. Elections were for a two year period.

In its first term the members were as follows (26 elected plus 7 co-opted from local groups):- Fergal Lee (Chairman), Tony McEvoy (Secretary), Jackie Ireland (Treasurer), Ken Besson (P.R.O.), Mary Chatten, Archdeacon Handy, Ted Coonan, Maurice Hannigan, Tom McDonald, Joe

Bracken, Fr. Crowe, S.J., Charles O'Neill, Peter Gartside, Fr. Hughes, P.P., Fran Connolly, Daphne Siggins, Tony McKenna, Pat Lynch, Chris Musgrave, Martin McCormack, Christina Murphy, Elizabeth Holligan, Mick Conneff, Anne Smith, Mick Hennessy, Michael Walsh, Liam Bourke, Sr. Louise and Sean Cribbin. In researching this article these names were obtained from the minutes books and the community magazine (News Letter), the first of which was not published until 8 months later (Jan. 1974).

In our first issue of News Letter in January '74 we read:

*"Our first meeting was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Since then our achievements have been quite a few. Our membership is 33 (the above list accounts for only 29 of these) and we meet in the Convent School. Our aims are briefly the social, cultural and economic welfare of Clane, and to represent the community in dealings with statutory bodies and in seeking technical, financial and other assistance in the promotion of the common good.*

*A project was started at Woods' involving paving and landscaping. We have also had Council approval for two other projects in the village, namely building a low wall and footpath past the Fair Green, also kerbing and developing the triangle outside Dillon's (now The Corner House). A temporary repair job (involving 60 tons of gravel) on the Capdoo Road has just been completed. A library should be in operation this year, as work is almost completed on the building, which is on the Kilcock Road beside the old Hall. Our successful August Flag Day, September Auction and 250 Club provided much needed funds."* The Community Magazine, referred to above, was another achievement of our first twelve months and is now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year.

In the lead up to the second election in 1975 it was reported:

"Nominations closed on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The response was very good. Just under 200 nomination papers were returned, nominating 56 candidates in all. This averages two candi-

dates for every seat. Ballot papers have been printed and are being distributed this week. All persons 18 years or over are entitled to vote. Votes must be placed in the special box for the purpose in Clane Post Office by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April. It goes without saying that we should all make use of our vote to ensure the formation of an interested and active council. It is in such a council that our only hope lies of continuing to get those facilities for this area which it so badly needs. In our first elections two years ago up to 75% voted. It should be our aim to keep up or improve on this high standard. Counting of votes will begin on Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm. in the Convent Prefabs on the Prosperous Road. Counting will be in public and all are welcome to attend.”

The results of this second biannual election were published in the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of our original publication (“Newsletter”) on May 29<sup>th</sup> 1975:

ELECTION RESULTS

CENTRAL

F. Lee  
Fr. Hughes  
J. Bracken  
Mrs. Siggins  
D. Marron  
E. Behan  
P.J. Woods  
T. McKenna  
D. Flanagan  
NORTH EAST  
P. Lynch  
P. McCreery  
J. Mitchell  
J. Lyons

LOUGHBOLLARD

T. McEvoy  
M. Hennessy  
C. Musgrave  
M. Chatten  
T. Weadick  
O. Wims  
P. Bracken  
NORTH WEST  
T. Coonan  
M. Conneff  
T. Cummins  
SOUTH  
T. McDonald  
Rev. P. Seton Cardew  
K. Besson

EXECUTIVE

Chairman: Ted Coonan; Vice Chairman: Fergal Lee; Secretary: Joe Lyons; Assistant Secretary: Daphne Siggins; Treasurer: Mary Chatten; Assistant Treasurer: Christina Musgrave; P.R.O.: Tony McEvoy.”

There were a total of 20 elections to bring us up to our 40<sup>th</sup> year, in 2013. The Chairpersons over this period were as follows: Fergal

Lee (’73, ’74), Ted Coonan (’75, ’76), Fergal Lee (’77, ’78), Marie Coffey (’79), Peter Riordan (’80, ’81), Ted Murray (’82, ’83, ’84), Phil McCormack (’85), Ted Murray (’86, ’87), Mick Richardson (’88, ’89), Noel Corrigan (’90, ’91, ’92), Fr. Bob Thompson, S.J. (’93), Ted Murray (’94, ’95, ’96), Denis Collins (’97), Emmer Jackson (’98), Denis Collins (’99, ’00, ’01), Des Drumm (’02, ’03, ’04), Denis Collins (’05), Paul Carroll (’06, ’07, ’08), Nicholas Fitzgerald (’09, ’10, ’11), John Kennedy (’12, ’13, ’14). Since 1993 the total area has been treated as one overall constituency.

It is difficult now to imagine the degree of dereliction which existed on most of the six approaches to the village. There was a broken down and abandoned horsebox in the middle of the road where the triangle at the entrance to the Millicent Road is now located, with high weeds and grass growing up through it. There were stables in the paved area on the near side of the Stream. It is now of course part of the Stream Park and is surrounded by a low stone wall. A heap of horse manure came out to the road’s edge on the near side of the Millicent Road Bridge. The Village Green sloped out to the very edge of the road where the bus to Naas now stops. One of our earliest undertakings was to trim this area back to make room for the present footpath and to surround the Green with the present low stone wall at soil level. This work was undertaken in the spring of ’75 with the help of Johnny Connolly, who supplied a tradesman at cost. With the guidance of the Area Engineer, we inserted 70 odd kerbs and developed the Triangle with the help of Mick Maloney. The central raised bed was done in more recent years by Matt Hayes and the Tidy Towns Committee. It was only with the advent of the traffic lights that the slip road was closed off. Over the years the laying of kerbs and planting of lawns were undertaken in similar abandoned areas on the Ballinagappa Road –past the front of the Health Centre and out the left hand side to where the roadside bank and hedge begins. Also on the right hand side of the College Road, in front of the bungalows,

up the hill towards Byrne's garage. In the former case the grass was later overlaid by a footpath. In later years the lawned area extending out the Ballinagappa Road after the shops was likewise developed by the Community Council and involved the removal of stretches of old roadside hedge and a fallen stone wall. This was grant assisted by K.E.L.T. Sixty tons of crushed stone were applied by way of emergency repairs to that section of the Capdoo Lane which is accessed off the College Road. This was followed up by an application to the Department of the Environment for a Rural Improvement Scheme. This was granted, enabling the lane to be tarred and taken in charge by the County Council.

Archdeacon Handy, who was an elected member of our first committee, informed us in March '74 that the Bell Tower had been condemned by the C. of I. architect and that it would have to be demolished if urgent works were not undertaken. He informed us that the Church Body favoured handing over the old ruins, which had been roofless since 1883, to the community for a very nominal fee, if these works could be organized, rather than accept an alternative offer to lower the tower to roof level and convert the building into stables. The transfer was made in August '74. Scaffolding was erected and with assistance from the late John O'Connell, who supplied skilled tradesmen at cost, the work was completed on the tower within about a week. With this secured, the gate was securely locked to exclude intrusion of animals which had already damaged and flattened the majority of its headstones. It was to remain like this for the next decade or so until an AnCo Scheme was established and the necessary finance secured, which was to enable us to reconstruct the old ruins as a Community Centre. A notice was placed in the national papers signifying the intention to remove the fallen headstones to the peripheral wall. There were no objections. The graveyard had been officially closed in 1915 when that on the Sallins Road was opened.

Repeated applications were made for Clane to be provided with its first Public Library but to no avail as no suitable premises was available. A premises was proposed on the College Road adjacent to the old Hall and was ready for the agreed date of April '74. It was September before the Library Service was ready to move in. The concessionary rent was £7.50 per week. It was regarded as a great achievement locally. The library is still in Clane 40 years on, though in a different premises. Progress was being made on many fronts: In combination with Rathcoffey we made our first entry into Community Games in July '74, winning 3 gold, 7 silver and 1 bronze in Kildare. We entered the Tidy Towns Competition in '75. A number of the worst derelict areas had been sorted at this stage. Tree planting was carried out at a number of locations in March. Numerous dumping sites were cleaned up along country roads and a number of litter bins made from inverted metal barrels were located around the village. There were community clean-ups on Tuesday evenings and at 7.30 on Sunday mornings for 10 weeks in a row. The latter were led by Pat Larkin and Joe Lyons. On our first year we won Best New Entry in our population category of 501-1,500, coming 20<sup>th</sup> Nationally. We were awarded a Cert and a prize of £100. In Christmas week '75 Nancy's Lane was reopened, having been closed by dumping and totally overgrown for more than 20 years. The job cost £56 in lorry and machinery hire.

The December Meeting approved the purchase of  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre along the Stream at the Naas Road entrance to the village from the owner Jim Cash for £2,900. It had been proposed as a site for warehouses but our intervention secured it as a public park. (now the Children's Playground) In the Tidy Towns report for '76 we were complemented for our actions in acquiring the Stream Park and for the improved appearance of the Bell Tower. We were advanced to 9<sup>th</sup> place Nationally!

The village had grown a phenomenal 100% in just five years. In the autumn of '75 a survey was carried out to establish if there was interest in piped T.V. amongst the centrally located houses. 86% expressed an interest. We failed to gain the interest of any of the major players. Our Secretary Joe Lyons managed to persuade the Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs to waive the requirement of our having to get a contractor to erect a temporary aerial and perform a signal test at a fee of £300. As a small community close to Dublin we were given a licence. Rafferty in Naas was then approached and offered a site for an aerial on Paddy Woods' ground beside the Hall. The system was set up to general satisfaction. It was sold on at least twice since but continues to the present day.

In the February 1983 issue of Le Chéile the following 6 line article appears: ***“Restoration of old Abbey Church Last month we announced plans to restore the old Church ruins as a community facility, incorporating a small theatre. AnCo has approved the project as a 2 year training programme giving training and employment to about twenty local youth. It is at present being architecturally planned and costed.”***

At the A.G.M. in January 1991 Noel Corrigan ('90/'91/'92) reported that £11,942 had been made that year in the draw. In addition we had received an award of £1,000 sponsored by the Bank of Ireland and Farmers Journal and to top it all £5,000 in National Lottery funding. As a result our bank debt was reduced from £21,000 to £6,963. On other fronts we came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ireland to Malahide in our population category of 1,500 – 3,000. 100 poplar trees had been planted inside the roadside wall of the Nuns' Field leading out the Prosperous Road and across what is now the Aldi frontage. This had been done to mark our twinning with Bremont in France. Also the Riverside Park., which had been the site of the old Sewerage Plant beside the Liffey Bridge, was purchased from K.C.C. for a nominal £50.

At the A.G.M. in January 1996 it was reported that in 1995, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Famine an in-calf heifer at a cost of £150 was sponsored through Bothar for sending to Africa. The following year £1,500 was raised in a church gate collection for Bothar to send goats to Uganda. The same year we received a grant of £5,000 from Clane Local Development Ltd. (C.L.D.) towards development of the Riverside Park, where we had already spent £6,000 in blasting and removing the mass concrete Sewerage Plant. Also in 1995 Clane Community Council applied for and received a Rural Improvement Scheme from the Dept. of the Environment for £96,000, of which £18,000 had to be committed to by ourselves, to develop footpaths and parking areas on the west side of the Main Street. The footpath on the opposite side had been provided just a few years previously. There had previously been no footpaths on either side of the Street.

**Further updates in future editions.**