

KNOW YOUR TOWNSLAND: MOORTOWN

By Seamus Cullen

Moortown is a townland adjoining Rathcoffey and was once part of a pre-historic lake that formed a substantial area of the local landscape. The shoreline of the lake is easily recognisable in certain areas of the perimeter of the townland and old place names in the locality also point to the existence of the lake.

Drummin Rd

The Drummin road is an ancient name for the northern area of Moortown. It extends from Moortown junction close to the Old Rathcoffey Hall to Painstown Cross-roads. The name comes from the Irish Druimín or Dromainn which means a small ridge. The road extends across two small hillocks, which are not easily identifiable in the landscape. The two hills were formed naturally on the shore of the ancient lake in the northern portion of Moortown. In the early medieval period this ridge began to be used as a route-way, and eventually a road was constructed along the route that linked Rathcoffey with Donadea. It is noticeable that the land drops off sharply on either side of the road. The road is therefore elevated and at various points is approximately two to three meters above the surround landscape.

The Place-name

Many of the pre-historic lakes that dotted the landscape in ancient Ireland had disappeared by the Early Christian period and were replaced usually by bogs and moorland. The lake at Moortown never developed into bogland instead it became an area of moorland extending from between the southern slopes of Rathcoffey Hill to Boherhole and Hodgestown. The townland obtained its name from this source. Many areas of moorland were drained in the period before the 'Black Death of 1348' and it is likely an early attempt at drainage in Moortown dates from this time. In 1494 the Pale was constructed

in the vicinity of Clongowes Wood Castle and an area north of Rathcoffey. Its purpose was to act a defensive boundary. Moortown lies between the two sections of the Pale, however, no portion of the boundary was built through Moortown as the townland at the time consisted of moorland which acted as a natural boundary.

Wogan Ownership

The first mention of Moortown in documentary records dates from 1417 and relates to a legal document concerning the Wogan family who owned the townland. It showed that at the time a considerable area of Moortown had been drained and was arable land. Three individuals John Wisse, John Cam and Philip Orewy were listed as tenants in the townland. They rented small holdings ranging from two acres to 19 acres and paid one shilling per acre rent to the Lord of the Manor.

The townland passed from the Wogans to the Eustace family following a partition of Wogan property in the 1460 period. The entire Manor of Mainham which included the townland Moortown passed to Anne Wogan who had married a member of the Eustace family. She in turn transferred the property to her son Edward Eustace who established his seat at Clongowes Wood.

Civil Survey

The Down survey map from 1654 clearly shows a substantial area of moorland where much of Moortown situated is today. The area of moorland extended westwards to include a wide area from the south of Rathcoffey, through Moortown and eventually extending to Hodgestown a neighbouring townland. The eastern portion of the townland which was an area close to Rathcoffey Hill was marked as arable land. It represented the portion of Moortown that had already been drained and had featured in the Wogan document of 1417.

Article to be continued in November

Le Chéile

Community Magazine



October 2014

No. 328

EDITORIAL

As is usual in our October issue we bring you the Tidy Towns Report on Clane (see pages 3—6). The inspection, we are told was carried out on 13th June, which was a Friday. The judge's comments are generally positive and we advanced 10 points from last year's 281 to 291. With this mark we are again County leaders in Category E (5,000-10,000), ahead of Athy (272), Kilcock (253) and Kildare (247). As usual we are encouraged to maintain the effort into the coming year.

The biggest surprise was to be told that we were being awarded a Bronze Medal and with it €400. We are now joint 10th nationally in the Large Towns Category E. This could indicate that at some time in the future Clane could be in contention for a national award. The Large Towns Category includes 42 in Category E (5,000-10,000) and 18 in Category F (10,000-15,000), a total of 60. Between both sections there are 20 towns with marks equal to or ahead of us. In our own immediate Category (E) there is potential for 4 more Bronzes (€400) ahead of us, 2 Silvers (€700), and 3 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.

Adverse comment was made with regard to litter and graffiti where, despite our best efforts, we still have a problem. It is a disadvantage in this regard to be inspected on a Friday as experience shows that our litter problem is directly related to cash flow. The place could be completely litter free but from 9am onwards on Friday mornings it erupts. The weekends are the dirtiest period. For the rest of the week the cash flow is down and so is the litter.

Sincere thanks to our many supporters and to all who use the bins and clean their own areas.

CALENDAR

Monday 6th October

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

Wednesday 15th October

At 8pm in Clane G.A.A. Club: Brian McCabe (Kill History Group) Will give a talk about "The History of Palmerstown House and its Occupants". All welcome.

Friday 17th October

Clane Tidy Towns Awards Night in Manzor's Village Inn at 8.30pm.

Sunday 26th October (Bank Holiday)

"Strictly Come Dancing" in The Westgrove Hotel" See p. 10.

Sunday 2nd November

- Prayers and blessing of the graves in the Abbey Cemetery at 12.30pm.
- Mass in Mainham Cemetery at 3pm. See p. 7.

Monday 3rd-Saturday 8th November

Clane Musical & Dramatic Society present- Godspel in the Abbey, Clane. Tickets can be booked by phoning Anne at 087 6897376. See p. 10.

Sunday 7th December

Clane Project Centre - Christmas Festival & Market in the Westgrove Hotel 1.30-5.30pm See p. 11.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 27th October

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

Clane Project Centre

Christmas Festival & Market

Calling all local artists, craftspeople, businesses, designers.

Would you like to take a stall and be part of our

Community Christmas Festival and Market

On Sunday December 7th in the Westgrove Hotel 1.30pm - 5.30pm

Proceeds : Clane Youth Project

For more information please contact

Clane Project Centre 045 861500

Dancers are as follows

- Kevin Dunne & Michelle McCormack
- Harriet Ormonde & Peter Moore (Postman)
- Eric Collins & Sarah McCabe
- Sinead Carew & Paul Hinch
- Ritchie Mahony & Leonie Ward Wilson
- Nellie Travers & Dermot McGuire
- Andrew Duff & Jessica McKenna
- Lisa O'Connor & Darin Ryan
- Vinny Fitsimons & Cathy Dalton
- Gervaise Casey & Niall Conroy
- Brendan Corbett & Sandra Crowley
- Cliona Connolly & Andy Stallord.

Tickets available at Parish Shop, Marrons Pharmacy, Manzors Shop, Q & M or tel. 0872745904 €20 per ticket.

Over 300 tickets sold to date so it's advised to purchase early. **Liam Burke**

CLANE G.A.A.

Congratulations to the Senior Ladies Tea who won the Championship by beating Carbury in the Final and will compete in the Leinster Championship against Louth Champions on Sunday 28th.

The Junior C's also proudly represented the club in a County Final and won by beating Castlemitchell by 4 points.

There is a Jigs and Reels Night on 8th November in honour of the late George Manzor and X-Factor is starting the Sunday after on 17th.

We would also like to thank everyone involved in the successful fundraising cycle. It was a huge success and a massive congratulations to the organizers and thanks to all who participated is extended from Clane G.A.A.. **Robbie Dunne**

O'Broin 4 up
 19th September- The Friday 1- Toddy Brogan 43 points.
 20/21st September First -Diarmuid Coonan 43 points
 Lacey 42 points (last 9)
 Second -William
 Third- Paul Connolly
 42 points

Forthcoming events:
 Home Outing Sunday 28th September – see time sheet.
 Turkey competitions start on the following weekend. Sheet on noticeboard for golfers wishing to participate in teams for the turkey season.

Eamonn Howlin

CMDS

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY
 Founded in 1983 -Affiliated to A.I.M.S.

Chairperson: Andy Kelly 087-2210595
Vice-Chair.: Mel McGarr 086-7913630
Secretary Elaine Moore
 O'Donohoe 087-2366585
Treasurer Anne Noonan 087-6897376
PRO: Sadie O'Reilly 087-7916989
Committee Members: Sarah Flynn, Catherine Gallagher, Grainne Jones, Eric Nolan, Orla Reidy.

Contact us at any of the above numbers or by email to clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com

You can also follow Clane Musical & Dramatic Society on **Facebook** or on **Twitter@ClaneMS**.

GODSPELL

FUN!! FUN!! FUN!! THAT'S THE KEY WORD AT REHERSALS FOR Clane Musical & Dramatic Society's show and if rehearsals are anything to go by then the show is going to be a merry go round of amazing singing (wait 'till you hear the front line – WOW!) hilarious comedy and all in all a fantastic blend of principals, chorus and pro-

duction team. With six weeks to go (at time of writing) we have had our first block booking of 30 seats for our Friday night performance -there's enthusiasm for you. The word is out -this is a FUN!! show and one which will have the audience going home smiling and humming the popular numbers (and they are all popular) from the show. Just to remind you -the multi-talented front line guys and gals in Godspell are

Jesus	Sean Mahon
John the Baptist/Jeffrey	Dominic Reid
Judas	Philip Emmett
Lamar	Peter Fay
Robin	Lorraine Doherty
Joanne	Helen Mahon
Peggy	Elaine Moore O'Donohoe
Sonia	Fiona White
Gilmer	Dearbhail Downey

PLUS AN AMAZING CHORUS!

The show is directed by Arthur McGauran. MD is Mick Fay and Choreographer is Deirdre Browne.

Godspel will run from 3rd to 8th November in the Abbey, Clane and tickets can be booked by phoning Anne at 087 6897376.

Any queries? Please email us at clanemusical@gmail.com

Sadie O'Reilly (PRO)

CLANE'S -"STRICTLY COME DANCING"

The event of the year - Strictly Come Dancing takes place on Sunday 26th. Oct. in Westgrove Hotel and the 12 local couples age 21 - 60 are rehearsing twice weekly to ensure the audience will get great entertainment on the night. Dances include - Jive, Cha Cha, Tango and Waltz and they are also very busy looking for votes with their sponsorship cards. All proceeds to Clane Tennis Club and Clane United F.C.

Tidy Towns Competition 2014 Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane**
 County: **Kildare**
 Category: **E**

Ref: **368**
 Mark: **291**
 Date(s): **13/06/2014** [Friday]

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
(1) Community Involvement & Planning	60	53
(2) Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
(3) Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43
(4) Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32
(5) Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13
(6) Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
(7) Residential Streets and Housing Areas	50	33
(8) Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	291

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and congratulations on 40 years of participation. Further congratulations on gaining 4 additional members to your committee which now has 18 members and we note that you have a school liaison officer as well as a project officer. It appears that your meetings are held at times that relate to project management to plan and direct the works programme and your activities on the ground are more frequent as per the demands of the work in hand. It is great that you have TUS workers available to help with the programme. You receive support from Kildare County Council for civil works and for advice on best practice. We note the best kept estates and premises competitions which are a great way of encouraging people to play their part for the community. You make good use of local media such as KFM, The Leinster Leader and The Liffey Champion to promote your work and you also avail of Clane Community Council's website for highlighting activities. The promotion of Tidy Towns activities on St. Patrick's Day is a good initiative as well as the table quiz. Many thanks for attaching good map of the area with the project locations clearly marked. However, the map was too small to read and the project numbers so cluttered that they covered parts of the map. It would be worthwhile preparing a much better map for next year and we advise that perhaps an A3 size folded into A4 would be more suitable. This would be very helpful for the adjudicator who most likely is unfamiliar with your town. The Clane Tidy Towns Plan 2012-2014 is an impressive document so well done on its production and we note that it is an update. For future years please consider listing the various projects on one sheet with a comment on their stage of completion.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The town of Clane is a very busy place with constant traffic passing through from all directions during our visit. It is good to see the town centre being vibrant and no doubt the existence of the Clane Relief Road has helped to reduce the volume of traffic on the Main Street. We noted some trees on the street but they make little impact and perhaps as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, it would be a good idea to explore having more trees planted there in association with some traffic calming measures. The playground in the town centre is a major

attraction both visually and functionally as evidenced by the large number of children and parents in this area. We also admired the specimens of trees such as Cedars and Beech in this small open space. Some buildings opposite dominate with strong colours and excessive signage. The Westgrove Manor Hotel and Supermarket is a fine complex. The buildings, car park and surrounding area looks very well and helps to show off the old Abbey ruins. Jaz Manzor, the Village Inn was very impressive on the corner and the Lawn Tennis Club building was in good condition. The view to Tesco Metro is quite open; some trees planted along the boundary would enhance this area and help to soften the impact of the car park. J.P. McKenna, the DIY/Garden Centre is clean and tidy and the plants on display provide added interest. At Autolink, the fence needs painting and the excessive signage takes from the view. The Maxol service station on the Kilcock Road looked very well. Clane Garden Sheds at the entrance to the industrial estate set off this estate which appears in very good condition. On the Celbridge Road, Lidl is fine, the landscaping here is still young and it will take some time longer for the plants to make an impact. The adjacent empty site is awaiting development and meanwhile it looks quite clean. It is a pity to see some buildings not in use in the town, especially commercial properties; the apartment/shopping complex on the Prosperous Road being one example. We noted that the trees and shrubs in the raised plant containers here are established and provide some softening. Sports grounds are well maintained; the GAA grounds were fine as were the grounds of the two schools on the road to prosperous. Clane Hospital was clean and well maintained and we admired the fine specimens of trees in the grounds. The same comment applies to Hazel Hall Nun's Home. We note your actions plans under this heading to improve the site near Alexandra Bridge and the plans to stabilise the Friary ruins. The Village Green is very impressive with the large cross being a focal point.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have many good examples in Clane. We were very impressed with the standard of tree planting in residential estates and we liked the established line of trees on the new ring road. They provide an interesting avenue effect and the mature trees near the playground are an important feature in the town. As mentioned above, there may be scope to enhance Main Street with additional trees in association with traffic calming measures. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and also flower beds to ensure early establishment. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. Opposite the College Wood estate the young boundary hedge is almost overcome with weeds. It is important to reduce the competition for moisture and nutrients to enable the young plants to establish quickly. Yew Tree Square has some nice trees. The boundary of Scoil Phadraig is well finished with established trees and a strong hedge. We admired the circular beds in Scoil Mhuire planted with flowers for summer colour and also noted the two Green Flags. Well done on the continued maintenance of the Holly and Cotoneaster planting along the relief road and the roundabouts at both ends of the road provide interest with floral planting. Sometimes communities focus too much on the use of plant containers for seasonal bedding plants which are costly and time consuming to maintain. A guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible so be careful not to provide too many plant containers. It is better to have fewer well planted containers than a large number in which the quality of plants is inferior. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming.

season when trees, shrubs, hedges, etc. suddenly go under transformation of variegated colours, shades and hues of reds, orange, russet and gold - nature's way of bidding the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness a joyous farewell before shedding their leaves and descending into hibernation for the dreary winter.

October, as we all know, is the month of the holy Rosary -feast day 7th Oct.- so we all will be busy with our beads.

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of Jenny Darby, who was a loyal and faithful member of our club for quite some time. She loved everything in connection with the Evergreens. What fun and laughter she used give us at Halloween as she used dress up for the occasion. Yes she was a most kind caring and helpful lady -the beauty of the latter would be hard to find. May her truly gentle soul rest in the presence of Christ. Leaba imeasc na naomh uile dti and may she enjoy the beatific vision.

We Evergreens get places. On 24th June we had really had a wonderful day's outing to Wicklow and experienced the most spectacular and awesome scenery. We visited Kilquade Garden Centre -such an array of beautiful flowers, shrubs, etc., etc. -a haven for the garden enthusiast if ever there was one, so naturally those of us with green fingers came away with rosy prospects. After our leisurely stay there we came along to Greystones, a delightful seaside resort, before returning to the "Avon Ri" hotel in Blessington for a welcome dinner, which was delicious, after which we enjoyed some fun and entertainment before returning home. On the 17th-21st Aug. those of us Evergreens who went on this holiday to Rosses Point, Sligo, had a fantastic time enjoying the awe-inspiring scenery, mountains and beautiful countryside. The hotel too, accommodation and food were all superb. The weather too added to the enjoyment of the trip.

Now if there's anyone out there who would like to join us, you would be very welcome. We meet every Tues. 2.30-4pm. and you would all enjoy the activities and especially the Art with tuition from lovely Fiona -our Artist Supreme- who imparts her great knowledge of this each week. Beidh céad míle Fáilte romhat.

Slán tamall agus fé choimirce Mhuire dhíbh.
Maureen Spain, P.R.O.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

As we enter what our American friends call "The Fall", we have had a brilliant summer that was ideal for golf & the Golfer of the Year competition is really reaching a very exciting stage with only a few competitions left, Michael Cuddihy is holding a slender lead over Diarmuid Coonan, but the closeness reflects the fact that Michael & Diarmuid have been displaying excellent form throughout the year for this very prestigious competition which decided the best golf in the club for 2014.

The results for the competitions since the last edition of Le Cheile are:
29th August- The Friday 18- Anthony Dunne 41 points.
30/31st August First- Declan Mahony 41 points (last 9)
Second- Pat McDonnell 41 points
Third- Brian Conlan 40 points.
5th September- The Friday 18 - Antony Dunne 39 points.
6/7th September First -Padraic Rooney 43 points
Second- Diarmuid Coonan 41 points (last 9)
Third - Sean Brilly 41 points
12th September- The Friday 18- Lorcan Wyer 41 points
13/14 September First - Michael Cuddihy 6 up

valuables exposed. We thank all motorists in anticipation of their co-operation. Please come early; let us hope that the day turns out fine.

**Mainham Cemetery Committee
Autumn 2014**

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

Clane Toastmasters is having an open day on Wednesday 1st October at 7.45pm, all are welcome.

Our meetings are held in Clane GAA club on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and we openly encourage new members.

If you would like to improve your speaking and leadership skills in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere, then take the first step and come along to see for yourself. You can also ring Maureen [087-2258020](tel:087-2258020) or Tomás [086-3064474](tel:086-3064474) for more information.

Fran Byrne, P.R.O.

CLANE TENNIS CLUB

The Club has had a very active month with the very successful Club Championships which was run over 3 weeks and finals held on Fri. and Sat. Sept. 12th. and 13th. The weather was terrific and big crowds turned up each evening to watch and enjoy some great tennis with over 2000 games played.

Results: Ladies Singles

Winner - Shirley O'Dea R/U. Fiona Stapleton

Men's Singles

Winner: Ritchie Mahony R/U. Stephen Sherry

Ladies Doubles: Winners - Cathy Walshe/Claire Dalton

R/U. Mary Keena/Judie Coldhurst

Mens Doubles: Stephen Sherry/Darryl Skelly

R/U Mark & Terry Warner

Mixed Doubles: Margaret & Ritchie Mahony

R/U Lorraine O'Grady & Stephen Sherry.

Many thanks to our Lady Captain - Jo Patchell, for the endless hours of organisation and to all who assisted with presentation function.

The club is at present preparing a "5 year plan" as three courts have to be resurfaced and Children's court to be installed. We also plan to improve clubhouse to cater for the future generation.

The big talk of the Clane Community is the upcoming staging of "Strictly Come Dancing" on Bank Holiday Sunday Oct. 26th.in Westgrove Hotel. The 12 couples (see Posters) are very busy practising the Tango, Jive, ChaCha and Waltz with rehearsals taking place twice per week over eight weeks and we guarantee a great night's entertainment.

Tickets are selling very fast and available at Parish Shop, Marrons Pharmacy, Manzor's Gift Shop and Q&M. Clane Tennis Club, tel. 087 2745904 €20 per ticket. Huge Raffle on night. The Abbey Players will also be staging a short comedy version of "Ballroom of Romance" All details on Clane Strictly Come Dancing facebook.

Finally , we have a special membership offer for only €80 per adult up to end March 2015. Contact club any evening from 7.30p.m.

THE EVERGREENS

Well we're back again after our long summer break, feeling very much refreshed and anxious to restart all our activities as there's so much going for us now we are in the last month of awesome autumn what beautiful delightful weather we are experiencing - I would say the best in living memory -an Indian Summer which is going to shorten the winter for us. Autumn no doubt is a beautiful

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

We note your actions under this heading for the promotion of wildlife interest in your community by continuing the nest box scheme, installing bee hives, local bat boxes and the removal of Himalyan Balsam (Impatiens). Well done on these initiatives. You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is great to note that you have a high level of awareness of this need. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. We note that you have surveyed Clane for birds and found 50 species and other wildlife surveys were conducted since 2007. The "Wild About Clane" initiative started in 2008 and its follow up in 2009 is a very appropriate action. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. The provision of a native tree by the local priest at every baptism is a novel idea and we note your proposal to plant 40 native trees this coming winter to celebrate 40 years of Clane Community Council.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. Many thanks for providing the tonnage information on glass and cans recycled for an 8 year period in Clane. It is interesting to see the dip in cans compared with the larger volumes of glass being recycled. The spring clean rubbish is being segregated. Do you have information on the volumes collected and recycled? It is good to see the green waste being used by a local landowner and it is interesting to note that mulch from Christmas Trees in Kildare is used by your community. The Scrap Saturday initiative with the support of the GAA is another useful exercise. Do you have information on tonnages collected? We look forward to an update on the green homes initiative when it is available. There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your many actions listed under this heading as previous accomplishments, recent initiatives and ongoing efforts are numerous and too many to list here. Some of note includes removal of tie-wraps following the recent election, we didn't see any so well done. Also, no kerbside weeds were in evidence. A derelict house near the unnamed apartments on the Sallins Road was noted. Some graffiti was noted on a sign near the sports grounds and on a traffic light sign and some litter was noted there as well. Some small amounts of litter were noted at some

recycling bins near Westgrove. Opposite Aldi weeds in the gutter of buildings look untidy.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The unnamed apartments on the Sallins Road look well and the landscape maintenance is to a high standard. An Crocán housing estate with the open space at the end was admired. College Wood Manor estate has houses and open spaces in good condition. There are plenty of trees here but some supporting stakes need attention before they damage the tree stem. The Scout's Den looked well and we were pleased to see no weeds or litter in the area. Meadow Court estate also looked well; we admired the significant hedge of Escallonia which was in flower during our visit. The Birch trees in "The Lawns" also caught our attention. The grass was well cut at Hillview a dead tree at the entrance needs to be replaced but the other trees here were fine. A pole needs cleaning. Hillview Heights and Loughbollard estates also looked well as did Mainham Wood estate where we noted the housing design is quite different from most other estates. We admired the garden railings here and the planting is well cared for. Other estates visited were Bellview Heights, The Elms and College Grove where appropriately enough there is a lovely grove of trees at the entrance. The Oaks, The Cloisters and Abbey Park estates were also visited. It is important to check the tree stakes in Abbey Park where we observed that some tree stems are in danger of being damaged. The large timber plant containers are an unnecessary distraction from what is a well maintained open space with nice trees. If there is a desire to add shrubs and flowers it would be best to place them into the soils where they can establish more successfully and be less trouble to maintain. Abbeylands Manor has a nice wall and railing. No doubt you are anxious to have the vacant "Lodge" building restored and to have a new use. Butterstream Lawns estate was very good. It is evident that the "Best Kept Estates" competition is a great success in your community. We note that you have more plans in store for future improvement within these estates.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

We were impressed with the various approaches to Clane and note from your application that your success can be attributed to past achievements in tackling signage issues, identifying black spots for action in clean-ups including laneways, removal of poles that are no longer needed, tackling graffiti, cleaning streams ditches and several other actions. On the Sallins Road, the Livestock Mart looks clean. However, the evergreen boundary hedge here is failing and it is time to plan for its replacement. A more suitable hedge would be beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) which is doing very well on the opposite side of the road. On the Kilcock Road, the Tourist route sign is almost concealed.

3pm.

PLAIN SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS

Have you ever had the perfect answer for your boss, when you were driving home? At Plain Speakers Toastmasters you will learn to think quickly on your feet, perfect work and college presentations and be more confident when speaking in public, in work or socially. Toastmasters is also excellent preparation for job interviews, improving English language skills, particularly as a second language, and for developing self confidence and self esteem. Plain Speakers offers a safe and encouraging space to practice your communication and leadership skills, with positive and helpful feedback from members.

Each new member is assigned a mentor to assist them with speeches or meeting roles, if required. Plain Speakers meets on the first and third Monday of each month, in Naas GAA, Sallins Road, Naas, at 7.45pm for an 8pm start. It is the only club in Kildare which meets all year round.

The next meetings are on Monday 6th and Monday 30th October. Visitors are very welcome to attend and under no obligation to speak unless they wish to do so. Just sit back and enjoy four prepared speeches of varying levels, impromptu speaking and much more.

For more details contact Plain Speakers president, Ger Dooley (087) 2523041 or see <http://www.plainspeakers.com/>, www.facebook.com/plainspeakers or register to attend a meeting at www.meetup.com/plainspeakers.

MAINHAM CEMETRY COMMITTEE

The 35th Annual Mass will be celebrated in the Cemetery on Sunday 2nd November at

To date the Committee have mowed the entire cemetery on eighteen occasions as well as clipping hedges, spraying weeds and disposing of several lorry loads of surplus clay. In last winter's gales a fallen bough damaged the Altar roof and gutter which we have repaired as well as painting the entire structure with preservative. We painted all the gates, external and internal, with Triflow as well as the car park barrier. We clipped about forty percent off the tops of four trees surrounding the Altar and we removed about ten old trees at the entrance to the kerbed area. We reinstated that area with topsoil and grass seed. We bought tarmacadam and filled it into the potholes from the road into the cemetery and from the Altar back to the gate. We plastered and dashed the west wall of the kerbed area. We tidied up ten old grave sites and dressed some with new stone chippings and some with topsoil and grass seed. These were the graves of people who have no descendants remaining in the area.

Since last November and to-date twenty-nine people have been laid to rest in Mainham. Among them was our founding member-in 1986, Ted Coonan, who was our Chairman from then until his passing. Ted was an inspirational chairman who guided us through all those years and especially at the time of the building of the Altar and the Fr Sullivan memorial. Until the altar was built in 1994 it was in Ted's family holiday tent that the Mass was celebrated each year. May he rest in peace.

Similar to last year we request that only cars carrying the elderly, invalids, sick and young children drive into the cemetery. All other cars coming from the Clane direction are asked to turn right at the former Royal Oak and into McCreery's field and park at the hedge adjoining the Cemetery. All other cars coming from the Rathcoffey direction will drive into McCreery's field opposite Cribbin's as usual. Irrespective of where you park please ensure that you lock your car and do not leave handbags or other