

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



December 2014

No. 330

EDITORIAL

2014 is a great year for Clongowes. Not alone is it the 200th anniversary of the College but within the same year the highly revered Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. was given a major impetus towards our recognition of his saintly qualities. What was widely recognized in Clane and beyond has now been recognized by the Vatican.

Not alone does Fr. John hold a very special place in the hearts of local people, but in many ways it reflects the good relationship, on a larger scale, which has long existed between his brother Jesuits and the local community.

When a special church was built for the boys (1907) the older church was retained for the use of the people. When needs arose the local churches could always depend upon the Jesuits for assistance with ministry. When churches needed painting or repairs we were welcome to Clongowes. The Fr. Bob Thompsons and Eric Cantillons, to mention but two) bent over backwards in their efforts to serve the local community as well as the Jesuit community.

When community facilities were in short supply we were made welcome to share whatever Clongowes might have had, - facilities like Drama, when we had no suitable local hall, - facilities like Tennis, until we could get established ourselves, - facilities like Golf, Juvenile Hurling, etc., etc. Then there were social and community involvements, on the part of the priests or the boys or both, in areas like Local History, Clane Community Council, Clane Local Development Company., Staplestown Athletic Club, volunteering in the Wheelchair Centre, visiting and helping the elderly, etc.

Fr. John's enhanced standing cements this relationship further and may it increase our commitment and bring out the best in us all.

A NEW SAINT FOR NORTH KILDARE



The long awaited announcement from the Vatican that Fr John Sullivan SJ is to be bestowed the status of Venerable was made on Friday, 7 November 2014 when the official decree was signed by Pope Francis. The well-known Jesuit priest from Clongowes Wood College who died in 1933 is best remembered as a saintly figure and for his healing powers.

John Sullivan was born in Dublin in 1861 and brought up in the Church of Ireland tradition of his father. He, was educated at Portora School in Enniskillen and at Trinity College, Dublin. Following graduation he was called to the English Bar in 1887.

In December 1896 he was received into the Catholic Church and some four years later he entered the Jesuit Order. Following his ordination in 1907 he was appointed to the staff of Clongowes Wood College, where he was to spend the greater part of his life with the exception a short period between 1919 and 1924 when he served as rector of the Jesuit house at Rathfarnham Castle.

His pastoral work in north Kildare and wider areas between 1907 and 1933 is well-known

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 29th December

To 142 Loughbolland please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

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and widely documented. During this period, many flocked to him in times of trouble and anxiety, confident of the power of his prayers. His reputation as a saintly person spread far and wide and that devotion has continued since his death in 1933. In 1947, the process for canonization began and in 1960 his remains were exhumed from the Jesuit cemetery at Clongowes and moved to St Francis Xavier's Church, Gardiner St. Church in Dublin. In recent years, the cause for his beatification received an added boost due to the success of an annual Mass' celebrated in Clongowes Wood which attracted substantial numbers.

The announcement was received with jubilation not only by the Clongowes community and the surrounding parishes of Clane / Rathcoffey and Staplestown / Cooleragh but also throughout the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

Fr Conor Harper SJ, Vice-Postulator for the cause of John Sullivan, welcomed the good news from Rome, adding that, 'this is a day so many have worked and prayed for over the years.' The news was also welcomed at John Sullivan's old school by the headmaster, Neill Morton, who said, 'Portora is proud of being the only Protestant school in Ireland that can boast of producing a Catholic saint'.

Cáit Cullen

CALENDAR

Monday 1st December

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

Sunday 7th December

Clane Project Centre Christmas Festival & Market in the Westgrove Hotel 1.30-3.30pm.

See p. 9

Sunday 7th September

Switching on of Clane Community Council's Christmas Tree and lights on Village Green in front of Abbey at 7pm with Clane Choir. Also unveiling of Claonadh Award 2014. Hot punch. All welcome.

Thursday 11th December

VLADIMIR's VIENNESE CHRISTMAS at 8pm in the Church of St. Patrick and St. Brigid, Clane. Tickets €25.

Saturday 20th December

An evening of Storytelling, Music, Song and Christmas fare with Rathcoffey History Group at Rathcoffey GAA Club, commencing 8.30pm. All welcome. **See p.8**

MAINHAM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The 25th Annual Mass was celebrated in the Cemetery on 2nd November last before a large congregation. The weather remained fine and quite mild for this time of the year.

The Committee would like to complement everyone who had the graves of their loved ones looking so neat and tidy.

The Committee would like to thank Fr. O'Boyle, Fr. Harrington, Deacon John Dunleavy, the Choir, Mongey Communications, the McCreery Family for the use of the field for parking and all the volunteers who help us out every year and without whom the solemn would not run so smoothly.

Since last November 33 people were laid to rest in the Cemetery. Among them was our founding member in 1986 Ted Coonan, who was Chairman from then until his passing. Ted was an inspirational Chairman who guided us through all those years. May they rest in peace.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who contributed towards the upkeep of the Cemetery. We are now in a position to have the machinery serviced and continue the work next year.

Since last November the following were laid to rest in the Cemetery:

CAROLINE DUNNE
MARTIN BENSON
EDWARD 'TED' COONAN
BETTY WALLACE
FR. JOSEPH TRAVERS
BILLY TRAVERS
PATRICIA NUGENT

MYLES DOYLE
 TOM DARBY
 NOLEEN OSBORNE
 BRIDGET PEARSE
 JACK SHARKEY
 TOM GROGAN
 NOEL KEEGAN
 BREDIA MOLONEY
 DESSIE GALVIN
 LIAM HANRAHAN
 EDWARD SHORTT
 WILLIAM O'SHEA
 BRENDAN REDMOND
 GERALDINE O'DONOVAN
 BABY JOSH O'DEA
 BRIDIE MCGING
 LIAM BURBRIDGE
 JANE O'NEILL
 MAY CARROLL
 DAVID FERGUSON
 CECIL HARMON
 HELEN MCGARVEY
 MARY BROWNE
 JOHN HEALY
 EILEEN CAMPBELL
 SEAMUS REILLY

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Thank you to a all the little boys and girls and their Mammies and Daddies and Gran-nies and Grand-dads who visited The Ab-bey, Clane on **Sunday 30th November** when Santa was the special guest at Clane Musical & Dramatic Society's Santa & Christmas Market. The market started at 10.30 and **Santa** arrived at **11.00. am**. Once again the Abbey last year was transformed into a wonderful winter wonderland. While the children visited Santa the older folk had the opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping at the many stalls in the main hall, or perhaps had a welcome hot snack in the Market Café. During the course of the day entertainment was provided by Prosperous Dance Academy,, Clane Church Choir, Deir-dre Browne Dance School, Scoil Mhuire Choir and Clane Musical & Dramatic Soci-ety. The Society are indebted to all who

helped to make the day a success and espe-cially Santa, who has promised to return again next year!

Rehearsals for our annual concert, **SING INTO SPRING**, continue in The Abbey each Wednesday at 8.00pm until the 10th December, when we will take a welcome rest for Christmas. Rehearsals for the concert, to be staged in The Westgrove Hotel, Clane, on Friday 27th February, will restart in January. New members are always wel-come.

The Society will make their annual appear-ance in Main Street, Clane, on Saturday 13th December at 2.30 when they will add to the Christmas spirit in the Village, entertaining with festive carols. They will also be wel-coming emigrants home from abroad when they sing carols at Terminal 2 in Dublin Air-port on Sunday 21st December.

The Society is fortunate to have obtained the rights to stage **Martin McDonagh's** play **The Cripple of Inishmaan**. The play will be staged in The Abbey in April 2015. Anyone interested in auditioning for the play after Christmas should email clanemusicalso-cieyt@gmail.com.

On behalf of CMDS may I wish all read-ers of Le Céile and the editorial staff and all who support us in any way a very hap-py and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Sadie O'Reilly (PRO)

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

Clane Toastmasters next meeting will be December 3rd at Clane GAA club @ 7.45pm. If you would like to improve you ability to speak in public in a friendly and encourag-ing environment just come along on Wednesday, we would be delighted to see you there.

For more information you can call Maureen on 0872258020 or Tomás on

PARISH HISTORY

'A History of Christianity in Clane and Rathcoffey' now on sale in the parish Shop. It includes chapters by various local historians including an article on Venerable John Sullivan by Fr Conor Harper SJ; a history of the Jesuits at Clongowes by Fr Bruce Bradley SJ and a chapter on churches in Clongowes Wood by Brendan Cullen.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

The Golfer of the Year competition finished on 22nd November & Michael Cuddihy was the deserved winner of the title of 'Best Golfer of the year for 2014', with 120 points & runner-up was Diarmuid Coonan with 109 points & Seamus Carew was third with 90 points. The results for the competitions since the last edition of Le Cheile are:

18 hole competitions:

22nd November for winners 18 hole competitions during the year:

- 1st Tim Moran 42 points (last 6).
- 2nd Jim Craughwell 42 points.
- 3rd John Carew 41 points.

9 Hole Turkey competitions:

31Oct/2nd November:

Class 1

- 1st Seamus Carew - 23 points (last 6).
- 2nd Aiden O'Neill- 23 points.

Class 2

- 1st Diarmuid F. Coonan -24 points.
- 2nd Ger Tyndall 23 points.

7/9th November

Class 1

- 1st James Malone 25 points.
- 2nd Anthony Dunne 23 points (last 6).

Class 2 18-21 h/c

- 1st Kevin Doyle 25 points.
- 2nd Tom Bryan 24 points.

14/16th November

Class 1

- 1st Pa Connolly 25 points.
- 2nd Brian Conlan 24 points.

Class 2

- 1st Jim Craughwell 28 points.
- 2nd Ted Murray 25 points.

Class 3 22 & over h/c/

- 1st James Brady 24 points.
- 2nd John Duffy 23 points.

21/23rd November

- 1st Eamonn Howlin 27 points.
- 2nd Sean Byrne 26 points.
- 3rd Michael Kelleher 25 points.

Turkey team leading teams (After week 8):

- 320** Michael Cuddihy, Joe Maher, Pat McNamee & Jim Craughwell
- 307** James Coonan, Mick Kelleher, Jim Mahony, John Duffy
- 306** Brian Conlan, Anthony Dunne, Declan Mahony (V.Capt.), James Brady.
- 306** Eamonn Howlin, Diarmuid Coonan, Joe Higgins, Kevin Doyle.
- 302** John Carew, William Lacey, Chris Brogan, John Kelly.

Forthcoming events:

The Annual AGM will be held on Monday 1st December at 8.00 p.m. sharp at The Village Inn. All new members interested in joining the Club, are most welcome at the AGM.

Eamonn Howlin

Father Mike Bracken's African Mission:

To all the people of Clane for your great support that you have given me through the years for my work in South Africa I would like to express my thanks & appreciation. You are always in my prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2015.

Father Mike Bracken OMI

CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2015

Preparations have begun for our 2015 Festival. Our theme is: CHILDHOOD GAMES. Get those thinking caps on and try to remember all the games you played when growing up!!! Our 2014 Christmas Cards are on sale now and can be purchased in Bob and Kate's Gift Shop, O'Brien's Sandwich Bar, The Parish Shop and McKennas of Clane. Cards are 1 euro each or 6 cards for 4 euro. Thanks to Anne McIntyre, Maura Keegan, Mary Cusack, Niamh Dunne and Paul Whelan for the art work and photos. Special thanks to The Westgrove Hotel and Conference Centre who very kindly sponsored our cards this year. Our Grand Marshal for 2015 has been chosen and the name will be announced very soon.

We are looking for volunteers to come on board to help with the planning of the Parade and on the day of the Parade. Please check us out and keep up to date with our plans on www.clanefestival.ie. You can contact us anytime by emailing clanefestival@kildare.ie

Mary Dunne
Chairperson

PARKVIEW RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Happy to announce that Parkview were winners again in the Kildare Pride of Place. This is 3 yrs in a row and 5 times overall. Our 40th year celebration night was a great success in the Corner house. The vacant house in the estate was re-allocated after 3 years and 6 months. Good luck to the new residents. Christmas is coming fast. Hopefully the weather wont be too severe. The committee would like to thank everyone for their help and contribution over the last year. So wishing all our residents a happy and holy

Christmas and looking forward to a good year for 2015.

Matt.

THE EVERGREENS

We are truly into Winter now and the festive season just around the corner. Advent is upon us -the loveliest season occurring during these hectic weeks when we are rushing making all sorts of preparations and there's a sense of excitement in the air. We really are longing for a Saviour and Advent tells us to look forward with hope to His coming. This refers to the celebration of Christ's birth, which gives meaning, purpose and hope to our lives.

We are grateful to Fr. Denis for celebrating holy Mass for deceased members of the Evergreens on Tuesday 4th November. May they all rest in the peace of Christ and enjoy the Beatific Vision. Thank you sincerely Fr. Denis.

First of all I would like on behalf of the Evergreens to welcome our newest member to our club -Berna Lee. I'm sure this lovely lady will enjoy all our club has to offer and make many new friends as well. Tá Fáilte croíuil romhat.

I would like to thank Clane Musical Society for their complementary tickets to their production of "Godspell". This was so enjoyable. The calibre of the acting and singing was par excellence in this wonderful show full of the most amazing music performed by multi-talented soloists and chorus, combined with exciting dance routines and side splitting comedy. This, of course as usual, was to packed audiences and rave reviews. So comhgháirdicas to these talented artists on their 32nd production (yes that's right)

December 3rd will see us shopping in Blanchardstown; so we hope to get the bulk of our Christmas shopping done and come home laden. We are grateful to P.J., who

will be taking us there and back in our mini bus.

Now that its Christmas time, on behalf of the Evergreens and myself I'd like to thank everyone who has helped us in any way throughout the year, both financially and otherwise. Your ongoing kindness is so much appreciated and of course not forgetting our lovely Fiona with her unique knowledge and expertise helping the budding artists in the club -resulting in some beautiful masterpieces; thank you Fiona.

A sincere thank you to the Red Cross for availing for us a most beautiful afternoon tea in Killashee Hotel. It was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Céad mile buíochas.

We wish you all a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas and may the Infant Jesus bless you all and may His light, love and peace reign in your hearts and homes. Nollaig fé shéan is fé mhaise dhibh go léir. Slán ar feadh tamall.

Maureen Spain (P.R.O.)

CLANE TENNIS CLUB

The A.G.M was held on Tuesday 25th. Nov. with a very big attendance and the following were elected for the coming year.

President: Peter Duffy

Chairperson: Liam Burke

Vice Chairperson: Sean Lavin

Secretary: Jo Patchel

Ass. Sec. Sarah Brennan

Treasurer: Ciaran Cullen

Ass. Treasurer: Niall O'Sullivan

Lady Captain: Lauren O'Grady

Men's Captain: Stephen Sherry

Committee: Mark Deane, Mary O'Connor, Chris L. Rogers, Paddy Behan, Sinead Dunne.

The club is at present drafting a five year

plan which will be completed in the new year . The Chairperson stressed to all that we must reach out to the Clane Community, especially the ever increasing youth population and young children and encourage them to join the club. Coaching will be provided to all.

Monday Men's Doubles will continue over the winter and all are welcome - comm. 8p.m.

Weekly Tuesday Social Tournament r comm. 7.30p.m.

Christmas Turkey Tournament Fri. 5th. Dec. 7.30p.m

Lady Captain (Jo Patchell) Prize: Winner: Cathy Walsh

Gabrielle Lee Tournament: Winner: Aine Woodhouse

All proceeds to Little Way Cancer Support Group.

Many thanks again to all who supported our "Strictly" with both Clubs raising €7,020 each which will go towards improving our facilities.

We ask all to support us in Supervalu Clane on Tuesday Dec. 23rd. as we will be providing Bag Packing Service. Many thanks to Alan Condron for his support to the club.

Finally , Christmas Gift Offer: Special Membership for 2015-16 only €150 Contact: 087 2745904.

LIAM BURKE

A Kildare Christmas With The Quiet Men

**Experience a celebration of story telling,
Song & Music, capturing the magical
Christmas experience of bygone days with
The Bard (Ray Dunne/Athy) & The Storyteller
(Steve Lally/Rathcoffey)**

Live at Rathcoffey GAA

Saturday 20th December 2014 @ 8.30 pm

Christmas fare and raffle Tickets €10

Contact Mairead Byrne 087 223 9410

Presented by 'Rathcoffey History Group'

Clane Project Centre Christmas Festival & Market



Following the success of last years

'Christmas Festival & Market'

Clane Project Centre will be running the event again this year

**On Sunday 7th December 2014
Westgrove Hotel, Clane
1.30 - 5.30pm**

Like last year we will have numerous stalls for seasonal fare
Complimented with Entertainment, Kids play area & 'Santa' will pop
in to say Hello!

Raffle in aid of 'Clane Youth Project'

Entry donation at the door €5.00 per family

Thank you for your support

Come along and enjoy the Festive Cheer

If you require any further information CPC Office on 045 861500

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McCRACKEN'S WOOLEN MILL

IN CLANE

There is a long tradition of mills and milling in Clane. The "Civil Survey" of 1654 states that "Upon ye foresaid lands of Clane there were two mills, one of which belonged unto William Sarsfield of Lucan (*Co. Dublin*) and ye other belonged unto Nicholas Wogan Esq. of Rathcoffie, both of which mills are now wast." ¹

Early copies of the Kildare Observer, eg. May 23rd 1885, carry advertisements for fabrics produced at McCracken's Woollen Mills at Clane. The advertisements proclaim that the woollen mills were at that time established for over fifty years. It is no surprise therefore that the site of these mills is marked on the map of 1838. Henry Joy McCracken, a leader of the United Irishmen and a friend of Wolfe Tone, owned a large textile business in Belfast. It is recorded that when Robert Brook's Cotton Mills collapsed at Prosperous, some of the workers found employment at the textile mills in Clane.

The map included is that of 1838 and it shows the location of the "Woollen Factory" to the left of Clane Bridge. The bridge referred to is not the present one (Alexandra Bridge) which was built in 1864 but a much older one built in 1391 at the same site. See photo below taken from a painting done prior to 1864 and now in the possession of Sr. Mary Dunn, a Loreto Sister, originally from Clane but now living for many years in Madrid. The painting was sold at an auction when Geoghan's Pub (presently The Corner House) closed over sixty years ago. The writer was ten at the time and bid half a crown but the painting was sold for 10 shillings. Sr. Mary Dunn left the painting for minding with a friend who lived in Clane. Her friend is now deceased but some years ago, with the permission of both, I was able to take the photo shown, as well as some others from the painting. A little of the old

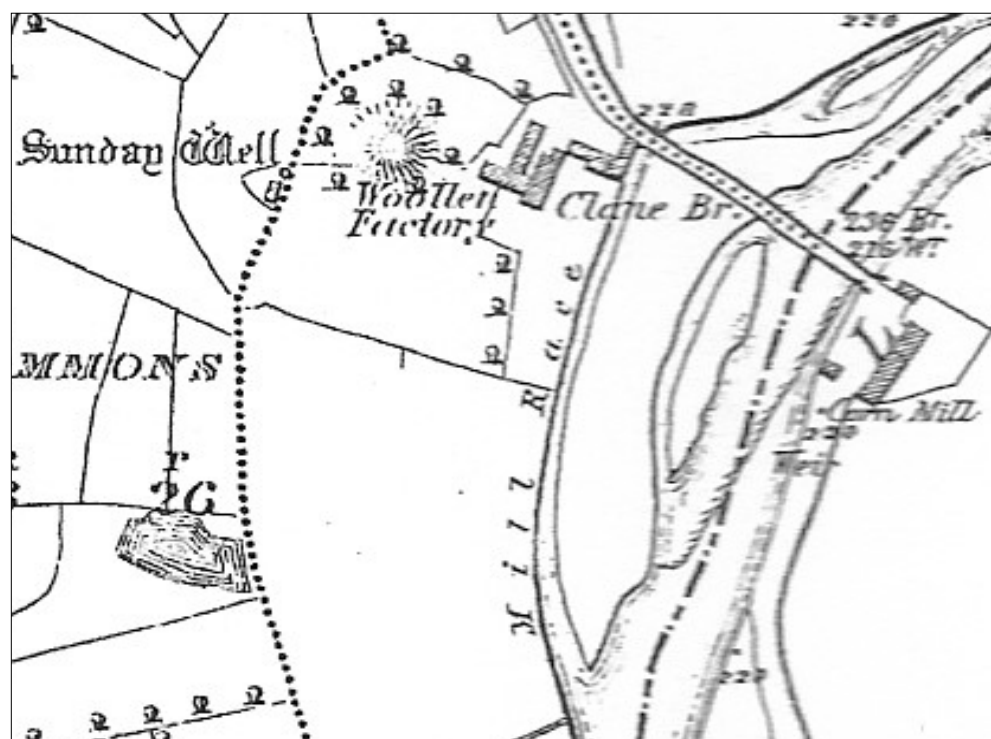
bridge can be seen to the right of the mill.

The old Woollen Mill was a large stone-built four storey building. It was not unlike the large mill complex beside the Liffey Bridge in Celbridge. The roofless ruin of the Clane structure could be viewed behind the old Miller's House, which is still there, though boarded up. The Mill walls were demolished around the late 1970s.

The McCrackens were a renowned milling family in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They took up residence in the Kildare area following the execution of Henry Joy McCracken in Belfast in July 1798. Henry Joy McCracken was a friend of Theobald Wolfe Tone of Blackhall. They were both involved in the establishment of the United Irishmen. Branches of the McCracken family continued the milling business in Dublin, Celbridge (the Temple Mills out the Ardclough Road) and Clane. The mill in Clane seemingly went out of business in the last decade of the 1800s and a number of the employees went on to find work in Celbridge.

In April '02 Denis P. McCracken, who lives in Staffordshire, England, contacted the chairman of Clane Local History Group concerning his uncles and aunts born in Clane.. He told him that his grandfather Andrew was, among other things, a founder member and first President of Clane G.A.A.

The aunts and uncles' names were Edwin, born 1874; Mabel, born 1876; Mervyn, born 1883; Ida, born 1885 and Irene, born 1889. His father's name was Alfred Paget McCracken, born 1875 and died in 1936. Part of the family emigrated to England and Denis was trying to establish the subsequent history and whereabouts of his uncles and aunts. He was aware that they lived at the Mill House beside the Liffey Bridge until 1874, and then moved to Millicent House, where they lived until the death of Denis' grandfather.²



The 2 storey building to the left of the 4 storey mill is the Miller's House

The following Mc Crackens are listed on deeds relating to property in the Clane area between 1825 and 1895:-

28/1/1825 John leases Clane Mills.
21/8/1841 Peter leases Clane Mills.
18/12/1867 Peter acquires Millicent House.
18/8/1870 Caroline acquires Clane Mills.
29/8/1871 Andrew leases 5 Acres in Moat Com
24/6/1874 Andrew leases lands in Millicent. S.
30/12/1889 Andrew leases lands in Betaghstown
4/1/1890 Andrew acquires Temple Mills Celb
25/11/93 Andrew mortgage T.Ms., Celbr.
27/2/1894 Andrew surrenders Moat C. lease.
10/4/1894 Andrew mortgages Clane Mills.
10/10/94 Andrew assigns T.Ms. on Trust.
25/11/1895 Andrew sells off Temple Mills, Celb

From the early 1890s on we can see that things were slipping under the management of Andrew. His leasing of lands at several locations around Clane was apparently to facilitate his interest in horses. He had very bad luck in this area and it resulted in his taking out mortgages contrary to the interest of the core business. He finally retired to England and is said to have died penniless in Manchester.

Andrew Mc Cracken earned long term credit for his part in setting up the G.A.A. in Clane. Officially the G.A.A. was set up on 1st No-

CLANE WOOLLEN MILLS

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

E. M'CRACKEN

RECEIVES

WOOL

**To be manufactured into Friezes, Tweeds,
Berger Blankets, Scarlet and White
Flannels, Horse Sheeting,**

**A.E. Begg to draw special attention to his
Blue Serges and Double Twisted Tweeds.**

**Price List and Patterns will be forwarded on
application. All Orders entrusted to his care
will receive prompt attention.**

vember 1884 at a national meeting held in Thurles. However on Thursday June 12th 1884 an afternoon of Pony Racing and Athletic Sports was organized under the laws of the Amateur Athletics Association and held in a 10 acre field, which is now the site of Oatfield Estate on the Ballinagappa Road. The Organizing Committee is listed in an add in the Kildare Observer on 23rd May 1884. It contains a list of the 13 members of the Organizing Committee for the Sports Day. Some of them were present in Thurles the following November. Heading the list of the 1884 Sports Day organizing committee is Andrew E. Mc Cracken, President. When the corresponding Sports Day was held the following year, in 1885, it was held under the auspices of the G.A.A. and heading the list again was Andrew E. Mc Cracken, President.

The advertisement we reproduce was contained in the Kildare Observer of May 23rd 1885.

¹ Corn milling was carried out on the opposite side of the river and older residents remember Slevin's Mill, then disused, when the local amateur drama group, under the direction of Fr. Fannon, C.C., staged plays there prior to the building of Clane Hall in 1925. It was also the venue for Irish classes run by the Gaelic League early in the century. Douglas Hyde has been mentioned as having taught there.

With regard to corn milling, it is interesting that the corn mill, the walls of which are still in existence between the Mill Stream and the Liffey Bridge, is not shown on the map of 1838. Though this, now roofless, building was actually used as a corn mill within the memory of older residents, it is traditionally referred to as the Dye House.

² The above query re the Mc Cracken family was published in Le Chéile in April 2002 in the hope that some locals might have some helpful memories of the family.