

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



November 2014

No. 329

EDITORIAL

The annual presentation of Clane's prizes for Tidy Estates and Best Presented Premises took place in Manzor's Village Inn on Friday evening 17th October. See the report on results and prize giving in this issue. It was a great event, thanks to our hosts Seamus and Kitty Manzor. Thanks also to our main sponsors Clane Project Centre and all the estates which participate and support our Tidy Towns effort each year. Thanks also to the many businesses around the town, like Supervalu and Garden Direct, which sponsor roundabout maintenance, and those premises in the Street which present floral displays, help tidy-up, host window displays, etc.

Thanks also to supporters like the schools for their work with us and to all residents of all ages for using the bins and taking a pride in their community. It is great to see new members coming on our Committee and turning out for the work parties on Tuesday evenings over the summer, as well as the occasional Saturday morning. We welcome all.

The Tidy Towns results were published last month (See October Le Chéile) 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). 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. (5,000-10,000). That having been said, if we never won anything a tidy environment is a reward in itself.

Adverse comment was made with regard to graffiti. This is a problem which causes us a lot of expense, hard work and the loss of time which might otherwise be more usefully spent. The indications are that it may involve as few as one or two people who change their scrawl. He is very tall and possibly into his 20s. Confidential information would be very welcome.

CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd November

- Prayers and blessing of the graves in the Abbey Cemetery at 12.30pm.

- Mass in Mainham Cemetery at 3pm.

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. 3

Wednesday 5th November

Clane Toastmasters meet Clane GAA Club @ 7.45pm. [Also Wednesday 19th -we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month] All welcome. See p. 3.

Monday 10th November

November 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 1.30-5.30pm

CLANE TIDY TOWNS

Tidy Estates & Best Presented Premises

The annual evening to celebrate local co-operation in the Tidy Towns effort was held in Manzor's on Friday 17th October. There was a capacity attendance. The following winners were announced and prizes were presented.

Winners 2014

Large Estates:

First prize: Central Park & Churchfield

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 24th November

To 142 Loughbolland please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

Second prize: Abbey Park
Third prize: Joint winners
Alexandra Walk and Park and Brooklands
Medium Sized Estates:
First prize Park View
Second prize: Otomy Estate
Small Estates:
First Prize: College Grove
Second Prize: Mainham Wood.
Best Presented Premises:
The KARE Centre

Congratulations to all our well deserving winners and many thanks to Clane Project Centre for their generous and continuing sponsorship.

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

Clane Toastmasters next meeting will be November 5th at Clane GAA club @ 7.45pm

If you would like to improve your ability to speak in public in a friendly and encouraging environment just come along on Wednesday, we would be delighted to see you there.

For more information you can call Maureen on [0872258020](tel:0872258020) or Tomás on [0863064474](tel:0863064474) www.clanet toastmasters.com

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY – TICKETS FOR “GODSPELL”

It’s SHOWTIME! GODSPELL opens this Monday the 3rd November in The Abbey. The cast and production team have worked so hard to bring this fantastic fast moving and fun show up to Clane Musical & Dramatic Society’s usual high standards. The show, full of wise-cracks, slapstick and zany comedy is ably directed by Arthur McGauran. Combined with the music and fabulous lyrics directed by Mick Fay and choreography that spans several genres – you’re going to be surprised! – it is an exciting show like no other seen in The Abbey in Clane – it is certainly not one to miss! You will definitely be heading home humming and happy. **Tick-**

ets for “Godspell”, are on sale from Mar-
ron’s Pharmacy, Main Street or from **Hughes Pharmacy**, Prosperous Road or can be booked by phoning Anne at 087 6897376 . Running 3rd to 8th November tickets for the first three nights are – Adults €15 with €10 concessions for children under 16 and senior citizens. The three final nights are priced at €18 for adults with concessions for senior citizens of €15. **Don’t be disappointed – book your tickets now – this show will give you a real lift! Phone 087 7916989 if you have any queries.**

The Society doesn’t believe in sitting still for long – rehearsals for our next production Sing into Spring 2015 start in The Abbey on Wednesday 19th November at 8.00 pm. Interested? Then phone Sadie at 087 7916989 or email clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com or come along on the 19th to check us out!

Following the success of Santa & Children’s Christmas Market last year, Santa has agreed to travel back to The Abbey on Sunday 30th November. The Market will open at 10.30 with Santa arriving at 11.00 am. With varied and interesting stalls you’re bound to find some interesting Christmas gifts and you can have a refreshing cuppa and mince pie or maybe a bowl of soup and sandwich in our cosy café. With face painting and other attractions for the kiddies, not to mention Santa himself, it’s bound to be a wonderful day out – come along and join in the fun.

Sadie O’Reilly (PRO)

PARKVIEW ESTATE

Following on our success in the Clane Tidy Estates competition, in which we came first making it 5 in a row, to mark our continued success in this competition and in conjunction with the 40th year celebrations of our Estate we held a Party night in the Corner house on Saturday 25th. We had a great attendance on the night and everyone was buzzing. The music by Dave Dunne was tops and the floor was full all night. Guest singers Garry and Mick Lawlor kept the crowd sing-

ing and dancing late into the night. A big thanks to Natalie and her staff for providing the food and keeping the customers happy. Have to say a big thanks to all the residents, Past residents and all folk associated with Parkview for their attendance and all our friends and neighbours who joined us on the night. Lastly congratulations to Otomy Estate who were second in our category.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

As we have only one 18 hole competition left this year, the Golfer of the Year competition is also reaching its climax. For so much of the year, the leader, Michael Cuddihy & Diarmuid Coonan have been battling it out & with an 11 point lead, Michael must feel that the prize is at least half on his mantel piece, but we have to see if Diarmuid can draw on all of his reserves to see if he can make a grand finale to win this most prestigious competition & prize to claim 'Best Golfer of the Year' competition which decides the best golf in the club for 2014.

The results for the competitions since the last edition of Le Cheile are:

18 hole competitions:

28/29th September- Home Outing:

- 1st Declan Mahony (21) 43 points.
- 2nd Tony O'Grady (20) 42 points (last 3).
- 3rd Niall O'Brien (8) 42 points.
- 4th James Redmond (24) 45 points (1st year)
- 5th Paul Morrissey (20) 43 points m/ship)
- 6th Kevin Doyle (24) 41 points.

25/26th October- 18 hole Stableford:

- 1st Tim Moran (24) 42 points
- 2nd Seamus Carew (9) 41 points
- Gross: Seamus Carew (9) 72.

9 Hole Turkey competitions: 3/5th October

- 1st Joe Higgins 24 points (last 6)
- 2nd Jim Mahony 24 points (last 6)
- 3rd Aiden O'Neill 24 points

10/12th October

- 1st James Malone 24 points (last 6)

- 2nd Aidan Donovan (Capt.) 24 points (last 2)
- 3rd Eamonn Howlin 24 points.

17/19th October **Class 1** Up to 17 h/c

- 1st John Carew 25 points.

2nd Tommy Carew 22 points (last 6)

Class 2 18-21 h/c

- 1st Lorcan Wyer 23 points (last 6)

2nd Anthony Dunne 23 points.

Class 3 22 & over h/c

- 1st Tim Moran 22 points (last 6)

2nd Tony O'Grady 22 points

24/26th October **Class 1** Up to 16 h/c

- 1st Padraic Rooney 25 points

2nd Michael Cuddihy 23 points

Class 2 17-21 h/c

- 1st Sean Brilly 21 points (last 6)

2nd John McAndrew 21 points

Class 3 22 & over h/c

- 1st James Brady 24 points

2nd John Duffy 23 points

Turkey team leading teams:

176 James Coonan, Mick Kelleher, Jim Mahony, John Duffy.

175 Brian Conlan, Anthony Dunne, Declan Mahony (V.Capt.), James Brady.

172 John Carew, William Lacey, Chris Brogan, John Kelly.

Forthcoming events:

The last 18 hole competition, which is The Champions Competition (18 hole prize winners during 2014), will be held on Sunday 2nd November. Students return that evening.

The Annual AGM will be held on Monday

1st December at 8.00 p.m. sharp at The Village Inn. Any motions for the AGM must be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary Sean McCann not later than 17th November 2014. It is important to note that all such motions must be signed by the proposer & a seconder.

**All new members interested in joining the Club, are most welcome at the AGM.
Eamonn Howlin**

THE EVERGREENS

Well its goodbye to awesome Autumn and we're now unfortunately into Winter. Oh! The long dreary days, but never mind "can Spring be far behind" when life and nature will emerge once more. I barely remember a poem of my young days, 'Ode to Autumn, which ended with the line "And gathering swallows twitter in the skies". Its their preparation to return to warmer climates.

As we all know November is set aside for remembrance of the holy souls. Praying for our dead during this month is an expression of faith in the resurrection. We remember our faithful departed, in particular those poor souls who have no one to pray for them. We commend all souls to God's loving care -may they all share Christ's victory over death and enjoy eternal peace and happiness. It is within our power to alleviate their suffering with our prayers and mortifications and of course we know that the Mass is the greatest form of prayer to help them. O Sacred Heart grant them a place of peace and joy in your Kingdom where there is no more suffering and no more grief.

In last month's Le Chéile (October) I forgot to mention our annual collection. Thanks to all who contributed and your usual ongoing generosity is very much appreciated I assure you. Céad míle buíochas.

Two of our members -Margaret Walsh and Dymrna Brilly are ill at the moment. We want to assure them of our prayers and best wishes and hope that they will be back among us very shortly. We wish ye both slán ar feadh tamall beag agus Rath Dé oraibh go léir.

Maureen Spain (P.R.O.)

YOUR DOG DIDN'T DO THIS

About 10 weeks ago I decided to do something about the amount of dog dirt on the streets of Clane. I erected temporary bins for disposal of dog poo, 1 at the Liffey walk and 3 on the bypass route. This proved to be very successful for 4 or 5 weeks. However to my bitter disappointment 2 bins were vandalised. I replaced them immediately but found them broken once again. A lot of good minded people were using these bins and there was a remarkable improvement on the footpaths. I personally emptied them twice weekly. My own assumption is that someone has taken exception to the bins being there and that it was not done by youth in that area, I would like if someone could put me wise on this. If that is the case then I would ask them to make contact with me so we can discuss the matter. I have left my phone now with the editor for that reason.

I would ask people to continue cleaning up after their dogs and make the footpaths in Clane a safer cleaner place to walk.

Matt Hayes.

CLANE G.A.A. NOTES

Hard luck to the Ladies football team who were defeated by Dee Rangers of Meath in the Leinster Final on Sunday the 26th. The ladies have gone above and beyond the call of duty for their club this year and have energised the club with their enthusiasm on and off the field.

The under 21 footballers will play the winners of Naas and Celbridge in the first round of the championship and are being managed by Danny Egan aided by Robbie Eyres, Noel Haverty and Peter Aherne.

Jigs and Reels will take place on the November 8th for a one night only extravaganza of craic, ceól and top quality dancing!

The X-Factor competition which you may have seen posters for and posts for on our Facebook starts on the 15th November!

There will be cash prizes for winners on the final night.

There is a new coffee machine down in the club and we encourage everyone to join us for a cup along with our free wifi, you can now plan your coffee meetings with us at Clane GAA.

The annual club mass for deceased members and friends will take place on the 14th of November.

The AGM will take place on November 28th and all members are asked to attend for the betterment of the club as a whole.

Robbie Dunne

CLANE TENNIS CLUB

While the last month has been very active in the "Strictly Come Dancing" camp, 3 teams have been competing in Dublin leagues and all are performing very well.

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

Tuesday Social Tournament resumes next Tues. 4th.comm. 7.30p.m.

We are all looking forward to the Strictly dancers taking up our Free Membership offer and Ritchie Mahony has kindly offered to arrange coaching. AGM takes place on Tues. 25th. Nov. in Clubhouse at 8p.m.

We wish to thank everyone for their great support in "Strictly Come Dancing" - especially all who placed adv. in programme and sponsored the dancers. It was a huge success and hopefully everyone enjoyed the event. Congratulations to winners Ritchie Mahony (our Club Captain and Coach) and Leonie Wilson. Well done also to all our dancers and many thanks for all their fantastic effort in fundraising for both Clubs.

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

CLANE'S -"STRICTLY COME DANCING"

Clane Tennis Club and Clane United FC wish to sincerely thank everyone for their great support on the staging of Strictly Come Dancing. It was a huge success and apologies to those who were unable to purchase tickets as our limit was 500. Our thanks to Seamus and Kitty Manzor for sponsoring the prizes and our two Florists Richard Delmer and Country Blossoms, to everyone who donated Raffle prizes and advertising in the programme. Thanks to committees of Clane Parish Hall, Schoil Bride and Clane Rugby Club for offering their premises, also. our M.C. the ever reliable Ger Nevin and our four brilliant judges Edel Marron, Jacqui Munro, Peter O'Neill and Packie Gaffney.

Congratulations to Winners:
Leonie Wilson and Ritchie Mahony who just piped Nellie Travers and Dermot Maguire.

Kevin Dunne & Michelle McCormack - Most Improved Winners

Eric Collins & Sarah McCabe - People's Choice Winners

Well done to all our other couples for their magnificent performances:

Sarah Brennan & Peter Moore

Sinead Carew & Paul Hinch

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.

An article by Liam Kenny in the Leinster Leader of 2nd August 2007 from his regular feature, 'Nothing New Under the Sun,' on the Jesuit priest, Fr. John Sullivan of Clongowes Wood. Our thanks to Liam.

“This year (2007) marks the centenary of the ordination to the priesthood of a Clongowes based priest who holds a great place in the affections of many in the Clane and north Kildare environs. Fr. John Sullivan (1861-1933), was ordained on the 28 July 1907 as a member of the Society of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits. Most of his priestly life was spent in Clongowes Wood College where as well as his collegial duties he also spent time visiting the homes of the people in localities such as Mainham, Clane, Rathcoffey, and Staplestown. On some occasions his habit was simply to call to the house of a lonely or ill person and console them with his reservoirs of prayerfulness and humanity; on other occasions he brought some little necessity while in a number of remarkable cases his presence and prayer seems to have brought an exceptional transformation in terms of relieving the pain of those in the advanced stages of illness.

A fellow Jesuit of a somewhat later generation, Fr. Fergal McGrath, SJ, published a book on Fr. Sullivan’s life in 1945 and summed up his service to the people of the Clane area as follows: ‘The apostolate of the poor, the suffering, and the afflicted never flagged during thirty years. Father Sullivan was a great walker, and his figure was a familiar one on the roads around

Among the cures attributed to Fr. Sullivan in the McGrath book is an account of the cure of a Michael Collins, three year old nephew of the famous Michael Collins, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Collins who were then living in Celbridge. One night in October 1928 young Michael woke the household shouting in distress. Dr. Charles O’Connor of Celbridge was sent for and diagnosed a condition of severe infantile paralysis. This diagnosis was confirmed the following day by an eminent Dublin surgeon who advised sending the boy to the Mater Hospital but held out little hope for his recovery. While this was happening some Celbridge locals who knew of Fr. Sullivan’s repute for cures suggested to the Collins parents that they might make contact with Clongowes and ask for his prayers. Mrs. Collins herself drove to Clongowes to see the holy Jesuit. He promised to say Mass for the child. In fact he did much more than that. Later in the week he cycled all the way to Dublin (Fr. Sullivan was sixty-six at the time) and said a prayer at young Michael’s bedside. Within hours of Fr. Sullivan’s departure the young lad – who had been deemed incurable by the consultants – showed an improvement and the ward sister noted his limbs beginning to move with normality. He went on to make a full recovery and indeed became a champion school swimmer.

Another cure attributed to Fr. Sullivan was that of Miss Kitty Garry who was ten and lived at Kingsfurze near Naas. She took weak in school one day and was diag-

nosed as having TB, a common and deadly affliction in the Ireland of the 1920s. Her parents brought her over to Fr. Sullivan who blessed her and, according to Fr. McGrath's account clapped his hands and said 'Don't worry; she'll grow up a great big strong girl.' A month later her family doctor confirmed recovery from the TB diagnosis.

Of course much of Fr. Sullivan's work in the district around Clongowes was centred on more low key works of prayer and charity. His memory is still treasured by the people of the Clane and Rathcoffey areas and a fine modern memorial to him can be viewed in the cemetery impeccably maintained by the Mainham Graveyard Association. The process for his eventual recognition by the Vatican is underway. Although beatification is a tortuous process his Jesuit successors can take heart from the example of Fr. Charles, the Passionist priest of Mount Argus, Dublin, who was canonised by Pope Benedict earlier this summer."

THE FR. JOHN SULLIVAN MEMORIAL GARDEN ON THE VILLAGE GREEN IN CLANE

In his article of 2007 Liam Kenny refers to the memorial to Fr. John in the New Graveyard at Mainham. Many of our newer residents would be unaware of the background to the Memorial Garden on the Green in Clane. This was designed by Anthony Linden at the request of the Community Council. It was dedicated on the 16th October 1999 when it received an ecumenical blessing by Bishop Laurence Ryan and Rev. David Frazer.

A previous Memorial Garden had been located opposite Manzor's Car Park along the frontage of what is now the Woods Centre. The wall and footpath were not there at the time. It was triangular in shape, extending from the junction of the College Road with the Dublin Road, where it was at its widest, to the exit from the Woods Centre, where it narrowed to a point opposite the Bus Stop. It was originally a green space with a flower bed and was maintained and mowed by the Tidy Towns Committee. It had been kindly donated by Paddy Woods.

Thirty years ago, in 1974, a committee led by Nicholas Keary approached the Community Council with a proposal to build a fountain at the College Road end. The committee had obtained assistance with the design, the carving of the memorial stones, the raising of funds, etc. It was stone built in the shape of a pyramid and surrounded by a low wall to retain the water.

It was built under an AnCo scheme sponsored by Clane Community Council during the 1980s depression. It was greatly admired both locally and in the wider area and lasted twenty five years until the Woods Centre was built around '99. Its establishment on the Village Green was funded by Sean Reilly. 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 now approved the project as a training programme over two years giving training and employment to about twenty

local youth. It is at present being architecturally planned and costed.”

The old Church of St. Michael had been roofless for 100 years since the new Church of St. Michael and All Angels was consecrated in Millicent in 1883.

So successful was this AnCo scheme that it was extended to include the construction of the Fountain in front of the old Woods’ Garage site. (Also the walling of the Stream through the Stream Park -now the Children’s Playground.) The March 1984 Le Chéile had an article complementing the work of the organizing committee on the design and construction of the fountain in the then John Sullivan Memorial Garden.

The new location on the Village Green, where the Linden designed monument was moved in 1999 is generally considered ideal in being centrally located and closely associated with Fr John’s C. of I. roots.

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

PR0: 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 clanemusicalsocie-

ty@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 production 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

John the Baptist/Jeffrey

Judas

Lamar

Robin

Joanne

Peggy

Sonia

Gilmer

Downey

Sean Mahon

Dominic Reid

Philip Emmett

Peter Fay

Lorraine Doherty

Helen Mahon

Elaine Moore O’Donohoe

Fiona White

Dearbhail

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 clane-cal@gmail.com

Sadie O'Reilly (PRO)

KNOW YOUR TOWNSLAND: MOORTOWN

By Seamus Cullen

Moortown is a townslan 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 townslan 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 bog-land instead it became an area of moorland extending from between the southern slopes of Rathcoffey Hill to Boherhole and Hodgestown. The townslan 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 townslan 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 townslan. 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 townslan-
d. They rented small holdings ranging
from two acres to 19 acres and paid one shil-
ling per acre rent to the Lord of the Manor.

The townslan-
d passed from the
Wogans to the Eustace family following a
partition of Wogan property in the 1460 peri-
od. The entire Manor of Mainham which
included the townslan-
d 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 in-
clude a wide area from the south of
Rathcoffey, through Moortown and eventual-
ly extending to Hodgestown a neighbouring
townslan-
d. The eastern portion of the townslan-
d which was an area close to Rathcoffey
Hill was marked as arable land. It represent-
ed the portion of Moortown that had already
been drained and had featured in the Wogan
document of 1417.

Stephen Browne drainage

The townslan-
d passed from the ownership of
the Eustace family following the Confederate
Wars of the 1640s. The entire estate of
Clongowes with included the townslan-
d of Moortown passed to Richard Reynell who in
1667 sold his interest to the Browne family
of Jigginstown. In the following century Ste-
phen Browne made improvements to

Moortown and a record survives indicating
that he was responsible for draining the last
section of the townslan-
d in the 1720s. A
stream extending from Loughtown Wood
provided for much of the drainage of
Moortown at this time. Stephen Browne's
heirs the Wogan-Brownes held the freehold
of the townslan-
d until the land acts of the
late 19th century.

New Road 1780s

With the drainage of Moortown fully com-
plete, a new road was built through the
townslan-
d in the 1780 period. It extended in
a north east direction and linked Maynooth
the seat of the Duke of Leinster the premier
peer in the country with Prosperous the new-
est settlement in the county. Prosperous for a
time in the early 1780s had become the larg-
est urban area in Kildare. The section of this
road that extends through Moortown is
known as 'The Long Road'. It was given this
name due to the long straight appearance of
the road between Moortown junction and
Boherhole cross.

Following the drainage of the area
and the construction of the new road, the
townslan-
d underwent an extensive sub-
division by the freeholder into several small
tenancies. This resulted in the emergence of
at least 35 tenancies in which only a handful
were of medium sized farms.

Fr Kearney

In the early 19th century one of the larger
holdings in the townslan-
d was let by the
Wogan Browne family to Fr Maurice
Kearney who served as Parish Priest of
Clane between 1824 and 1842. Fr Kearney

took up residence in the farmhouse on the land which became his parochial house. It was a two story thatched dwelling and was referred to on different occasions as 'Snipe Lodge' and 'Clauber Hall'. In addition to carrying out his parochial duties he engaged in cattle dealing which boosted his income and provided him with additional cash for parochial projects. The original entrance into this residence was from the Kilcock to Clane road. When the 'Long Road' was built across the avenue, a new entrance was established. However, it was not until Fr. Kearney's residency that new gate piers at the entrance were built. According to local tradition this was to facilitate a visitation by the bishop. The gate piers remained in existence until the mid 20th century and were known locally as 'The Bishops Piers'. Fr. Kearney died in his residence at Moortown in 1842. During his lifetime he had amassed substantial wealth that amounted to almost £10,000 and shortly before he died with his health deteriorating he made his last will and testament. This will became one of the most important wills of a Catholic clergyman in the 19th century with practically the entire estate bequeathed to ecclesiastical use and local charities.

Conclusion

Although, Moortown is a relatively small townland, with an area of 382 acres it was one of the most densely populated districts in the 19th century. In 1901 it was one of the few rural town lands in county Kildare with an area of less than 400 acres that had a population exceeding 100 inhabitants. Today it is also densely populated with most of the two roads in the townland now part of the built up area that comprises a portion of

Rathcoffey Village. The local GAA community centre and much of the Glenbia complex is in the townland together with Moortown Drive housing estate. The only intact dwelling surviving from the 19th century period is the thatched residence which once served as a local shop successively run by the Higgins; Keefe and O'Neill families