

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



January 2015

No. 331

EDITORIAL

Clane Community Council was established following a public meeting which took place in Clane Hall, now the Youth Club premises on the College Road, on March 27th 1973 and at which it was decided to set up a Community Council of the Muintir na Tíre model. Muintir na Tíre is a national organization for community development, which was established in 1937 by Canon Hayes, then a curate in Tipperary. Its core principle is the promotion of community development through local community initiatives and co-operation. Muintir na Tíre has promoted and supported the concept of active community participation and championed the idea of community development in both Ireland and Europe. Today it has 1,220 active branches across Ireland. While party politics emphasizes division, Community Councils aim to unite across all fronts political and religious.

The achievements of the Community Council over its first 41 years have been very numerous: -the ruins of the old Church of Ireland premises on the Village Green, which had been roofless since 1883, were acquired in 1974 and the old Bell Tower, which the C. of I. architects had condemned as unsafe and recommended for immediate reconstruction or demolition were acquired and made safe with the help of the late John O'Connell, -in the surrounding Grave Yard the old grave stones, the majority of which had been knocked in every direction by grazing animals, were placed around the peripheral wall, following the placement of a notice in a national paper, -the Village Green was surrounded with a low stone wall with help from Johnny Connolly and a footpath was provided past its front, where the Naas bus now stops, -the kerbed and planted triangle at the entrance to the Millicent Road was developed with help from Billy Maloney, -the Stream Park (now the site of the much valued Children's Playground) was acquired in two parts for a total of £10,000, -the old church ruins were re-roofed as the Abbey Community Centre in 1983, -footpaths were provided for the first

time in the Main Street under a Rural Improvement Scheme costing £100,000, of which the Dept. paid £90,000, -the Community Magazine was started in January 1974 (It has been available on the Community Council Web-site for the last 12 months).

Community Games were conducted annually, as were Tidy Towns and in more recent years the Abbey Cemetery Committee was established to continue the maintenance of this cemetery and the safe conservation of the Franciscan Friary of 1258. In this regard permission has now been obtained to remove the old safety barriers which had been a requirement for many years.

The above is only a partial list of the works undertaken by the Community Council over the past 41 years. The Liffey Park and Nature Walk, the Abbey Memorial Garden, the landscaping out the Ballinagappa Road, College Road, Dublin Road, Naas, and Millicent Roads (where the Parkview Residents Association have made a huge input) should also be mentioned, as should numerous other undertakings.

It is extraordinary that, despite the extent of community development and the provision of facilities by numerous sporting groups, that we have such an antisocial problem with graffiti. Vast areas of the walls of the Hotel and SuperValu as well as the Village Centre and the roof of the Girls' Old School have being daubed and desecrated. All the evidence is that very few individuals

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 26th January

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

are involved. Although 4 or 5 signatures are being used there are indications that as few as possibly only one individual is involved. We must all be on the watch out for any evidence of this type of activity and be prepared to pass on the information.



A message from the Chairman

As this year draws to a close, Clane Community Council would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have contributed in any way to our community in 2014.

With your help much has been achieved. From a Community Council and Tidy Towns point of view we held a thorough spring clean, progressed long term preservation works on our Friary, commissioned wonderful new heritage signage now going up around the village, completed a successful Community Games campaign and invested in our Abbey Community Centre. We hosted our first Culture Night - with a free concert by County Kildare Orchestra - and the Clane Parish Choir enthralled us with their carol singing at our Abbey Christmas Light switch on. Frida Lowry was presented with the Claonadh Award for her tremendous work in the community. We have three hard workers participating in the Tus Scheme. And perhaps our biggest success this year: Clane being awarded the Bronze medal in the National Tidy Towns Championships - our first medal in over 40 years of participation...a credit to all the businesses,

residents' associations, community groups and individuals who have worked with Clane Tidy Towns over the years.

There was much else besides achieved by the other groups, societies, clubs and organisations in our community. You can get a sense of these from the Groups section of ClaneCommunity.ie

Clane Community Council would like to wish you and yours a safe and restful and a Happy Christmas, and all the very best for 2015.

Clane Community Council
ClaneCommunity.ie.

PS if you have any thoughts or suggestions for the Community Council, or would just like to learn a little more about it, please come along to our upcoming AGM. January 19th, 8pm in the Abbey. All are welcome.

CALENDAR

Wednesday 7th January

Next meeting of Clane Toastmasters will be held in Clane G.A.A. at 7.45pm. All welcome. See p. 5.

Monday 19th January

The A.G.M. of Clane Community Council will take place in the Evergreen's Room of the Abbey Community Centre at 8pm. Members of the community generally are welcome to attend. (See above)

Wednesday 21st January

Clane Local History Group present a talk by Adrian Mulleney on "The Curragh Past, Present and Future" in Clane G.A.A. Centre at 8pm. All welcome. See p. 7.

THE EVERGREENS

Well another Christmas has gone once more and here we are at the start of another year –new beginnings and challenges– may it be a safe and happy one for us.

Have we made our new year resolutions? I expect we have but how many of us can keep them all? Anyway 1st January, as we all know, is the feast of the Mother of God and is a reminder to us that we can invoke her to help and guide us through the year and indeed on our journey through life.

It is with profound sadness that we Evergreens announce the death of Mary Lafferty, R.I.P. She was in our club for quite a while and joined in all our activities and outings. She was such a kind, gentle and caring woman, she will be sadly missed and we offer her family our deepest and heartfelt sympathy. Beidh sí beo go deó in ár gcroí agus leaba i measc na naomh dtí comh maith agus suaimhneas síorraí dá ainm uasal dílis. I lionta Dé go gcastar sinn.

Well we are quite busy in our club, lots of activities going on and plenty to do and see. Our annual dinner and night's entertainment was held once again in the Westgrove Hotel and our thanks to Anne and Pat Fadden for having us each year. Here we had a superb meal and great fun and enjoyment for all. We had great music and danced the night away. Sure we are only recycled teenagers and old age really is only a privilege denied to many! We had some lovely renditions of song from Betty Duffy. The night of course wouldn't be complete without Santa. This role was so well acted by P.J., who donned his Santa outfit and had practised in advance under the watchful eye of Sally.

He cheerfully distributed each one of us with a gift and was a real Father Christmas. Yes there were great spot prizes too and thanks to the kind-hearted people who donated them. Céad míle buíochas. A heartfelt thank you too to all who bought cards and lines for the raffle. The lucky prize winners were thus:-

1st Prize - Dympna Brilly

2nd Prize - Dan Doolan

3rd Prize - Jack Ryan

Anyway we all finished this great night with exchanging Christmas wishes and went home in great spirits and in a very happy mood.

Thanks go to the I.C.A. for providing their annual Christmas Party for the senior citizens of Clane. This is so well done and such a great success and has such hard work put into it every year. You are a great bunch of ladies.

So blain nua fé shéan is fé mhaise dhíbh go léir. May it be a safe and happy one for us all.

Maureen Spain (P.R.O.)

CLONGOWES CEMETERY

Where in Clane would you find buried together a Frenchman and a Pole? The answer is 'at the cemetery in Clongowes'. The remains of the early Fathers at Clongowes were transferred from the graveyard of Mainham to the Jesuit plot in 1866 and are marked by a handsome Celtic cross at the head of the main path. They include Fr. Claudius

Gautard, S.J., a Frenchman, and Fr. Caisimir Hlasko, S.J., a Pole. Fr. Gautard came to Ireland before the restoration of the Order. Between 1798 and 1800 he officiated as chaplain to the religious of George's Hill Convent in Dublin. He lived for some time at Clongowes Wood following its establishment in 1814 and died there on 25th October 1821. Fr. Hlasko, born in Poland in 1782, was a professor of natural philosophy and dogmatic theology, and reached Dublin in 1820. He taught in Clongowes, where he died on 27th January 1831, aged 49. In the best cosmopolitan tradition of the Order, the national culture stood only to benefit by exposure to the best of Europe. What might seem more of a surprise in its own way, is that the parish of Clane was well represented in this cultural milieu, in that no less than two very eminent Jesuit Fathers in the Clongowes community of the time were members of local families, a fact which may go a long way towards explaining the Jesuits' choice of Clane for the establishment of their first college in Ireland. Fr. Charles Aylmer was born in Painstown on August 29th, 1786. He distinguished himself in many publications, and in 1814, assisted at the formal reestablishment of the Order by Pope Pius VII in Rome with four of his Irish brethren, including Fr. Bartholomew Esmond, also a native of Clane. Later that year, Fr. Esmond and others under the direction of Fr. Peter Kenny S.J. the newly appointed Irish

Sub-Provincial and recently Vice-President of Maynooth, established Clongowes Wood College. Fr. Aylmer was himself appointed Provincial in 1817 for five years, and died in Gardiner Street on 4th July 1849, aged 63 years. Fr. Bartholomew Esmond, S.J. was a son of Colonel John Esmond, United Irishman, medical doctor at Clane and leader of the insurgents at Clane and Prosperous on the first night of hostilities, May 23', 1798. John Esmond was hanged at Sackville Bridge in Dublin on June 14th, 1798. Dr. Bartholomew Esmond, S.J. was an eminent theologian and a confidant and adviser to J.K.L., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

(From Le Chéile Feb 1980.)

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

If one of your new years resolutions is to overcome your fear of speaking in public, Clane Toastmasters can help. Our next meeting will be held in Clane GAA club @7.45 on Wednesday January 7th

So 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

OF TRAMPS, JOURNEYMEN AND THE GOPAN

The folklore of Clane is unusual in that it abounds with stories and anecdotes about tramps and men of the road. Since I was a boy in the primary school I have listened with interest to these quaint stories as told by the older men, but there is a documented story in the "Life of J.K.L." which I feel puts all the others in perspective. When Bishop Doyle visited Clane for Confirmation in May 1823 he was aware that no Bishop had been in the district for at least 100 years before him. He was high in his praises of the Parish Priest, the Rev. Malachy McMahon, whom he had sent to the parish only two years previously to put down Ribbonism. This was a group which were identified by wearing a special ribbon and which showed their disapproval of landlords by severing the tendons in cattle belonging to them. He was very happy with the good influence Fr. McMahon had on the local people in so short a time. These he described as having been "rude, wild and intractable". After the Confirmation, however, he set out to visit Clongowes, and a short distance outside the village he came across two grown men, stripped to the waist, and flaking lumps off each other with big sticks. You must remember that this was not uncommon in the days of faction fighting. He decided to reprimand Fr. McMahon with the fact when he returned to eat dinner with him later that

evening. The P.P.'s reply was more than he bargained for. "Your Lordship" he replied, "these men are two tailors up from Carlow. They come here from all over the country just before Clongowes breaks up for the holidays, in order to measure the boys for suits. They only stay in Clane for a few days. Your Lordship has them for the rest of the year and if you cannot exert a civilizing influence on them in that time what chance do you think would I have?" Far from taking offence it appears the Bishop loved the story and told it widely.

From the time of the establishment of Clongowes in 1814 Clane had been visited by many of the national figures and prominent gentlemen and ladies of society, for the education of whose sons the college was originally founded. Visits by such worthies as Daniel O'Connell are well documented in press clippings from the time. To a man like O'Connell, who as a boy, accompanied by his younger brother, had to seek his education in France, the value of Clongowes was clear. On the other end of the social scale, were the mendicant poor, the unfortunate tramps and alcoholics, old soldiers, victims of famine and cripples of war. The laissez faire social and economic doctrine, far from providing any type of social welfare, left these classes to fend for themselves and to stay out of the workhouse for as long as they could. Not alone e was there no social welfare in those times but soldiers of the lower ranks did not have the benefit of a pension. Word spread among

them of the charity which was available to anyone who called at the kitchen door at Clongowes. The fame of the "Gopan" spread far and wide, for this is what the food handout came to be known as, and the influx of tramps and journeymen became a feature of life around Clane, which was to continue well into this century, to the late fifties in fact. A number of local families, now sadly gone, also collected it, as their ancestors had done before them. There were a few genuinely needy cases but it was often an abuse of charity and more a matter of tradition, indeed pigs were often kept and fattened on the gopan. I remember a tramp opening his bag and trying to sell it to my mother to feed hens. "It's bad bread ma'am" he said, "baked above in the college." If you Google the word "gopan" you will find it is the Japanese word for "rice bread". I very much doubt that this has any connection with the word "gopan" as it was understood in Clane.

This brings me back to the tramps. There were actually two boarding houses for tramps in Clane and by all accounts they did a roaring trade. These select establishments were run by Aggy Weir, who had a large house on the Green, and Mrs. Walsh who had a pair of old two storey houses with an interconnected door, situated on the Naas Road, where Dr. Rynne's surgery now stands, or at least in front of it [now O'Shea's]. Together the two "hotels" accommodated up to

40 tramps in one night and the residents of both establishments rubbed shoulders in Geoghan's pub across the road. Aggy herself also took a jar and smoked a pipe. My oldest memories of it only go back to the late forties. At that stage both Aggy and Mrs. Walsh had already died. Walsh's still remained but was falling apart. There were two or three steps missing from the stairs, but if you surmounted these you could still view the mattresses which covered the bare floorboards upstairs.

The story goes that lodgings cost two pence a night or one penny if you lay on your side. I won't go into the menu. Three former lodgers are buried in three simple unmarked graves, just behind the wall in the old cemetery above the green, three little mounds of earth, side by side mark their graves. The late Phil Purcell once told me that the three tramps in question each played the fiddle and on warm summer evenings they had been accustomed for years to sit and play on the green just outside the wall. When they died the locals took care of their burial without being too official about it.

Patsy Armet was an old bachelor who lived in a little thatched house on Moat Commons - only the foundations remain. It was a great house for late card games. One morning, the story goes, an all night game was disturbed by a knock on the door. It was a travelling tailor - a Jewman - with a new suit

for Patsy from measurements he had taken some weeks before. Patsy stepped into the room to fit it on and came out to model it for the tailor and the lads around the table. He edged over to the pig's pot standing on the floor in front of the fireplace, hooked his toe into the handle and landed in the soft potatoes. To the horror of the tailor he had to roll over in his struggle to get back on his feet. The suit was ruined. The tailor wrung his hands and whinged about his grand suit. "What will I do, What will I do?" he asked. "I don't know" said Patsy, taking it off, "but it's no good to me". They settled for a few shillings. When he had gone the lads asked Patsy what he had done that for and he replied that there was nothing wrong with the suit that a little soap and water would not put right. It just goes to show, perhaps, that not all tramps were on the road.

Then there is the story about the stranger who came into a local pub one morning and got around to telling the few that were there how he had come out of Mountjoy and what sort of hard grind that was. A tramp who was sitting quietly in the corner lost all patience with the fellow and bawled him off. "Mountjoy", said he "that's not a prison, that's a hotel; I've been in prisons, army prisons where you had to mark time while you were shaving."

Finally, I share a common predicament with the tramp that had been drinking all day in Whelan's, now Jones'. Stepping out on to the street he

looked in one direction and saw his view blocked by the old post office (now Connelly's) [later Clane Travel and now Grogan Solicitors]. Looking in the other direction and saw the opposite end walled off, as he thought, by a line-out of old houses (since demolished) across the Green where Campbell Tyres is now located and which included Aggy Weir's. He could see no way out. The poor man probably panicked at the recollection of square bashing with the British Army, for the story goes that he let off a few blinders and stalked back into the pub to inquire, "How the so and so do you get out of this place?" I think with that I better be off myself.

(Broadcast on Community Radio. [1983?])

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group's first talk of 2015 will take place on Wednesday 21st January in the GAA Centre, Prosperous Road, Clane at 8pm. The talk is about the history and geography of the Curragh and is entitled, "The Curragh Past, Present and Future". The speaker Adrian Mullowney, is a renowned expert on the Curragh and is a member of the Kildare Historical Society. Admission is free and all are welcome

Brendan Cullen.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

Clane Golf Club:

Newly elected Club Officers & Committee for 2015:

President: Daire O’Broin

Captain: Declan Mahony

Hon. Secretary: Eamonn Howlin

Committee: Sean Byrne, Bernard Campbell, Jim Craughwell, Kevin Doyle, Brendan Mahony, Paul Morrissey, Ger Nevin.

December Results:

9 Hole Turkey competitions:

5/7th December:

Class 1

1st Niall Bryan - 22 points.

2nd James Coonan- 21 points.

Class 2

1st Paul Morrissey- 24 points. (last 6)

2nd Anthony Dunne- 24 points.

Class 3

1st Ted Brennan- 25 points. (last 3)

2nd William Lacey- 25 points.

12/14th December

Class 1

1st Aidan Donovan- 26 points.

2nd Tommy Carew- 22 points .

Class 2

1st Pat McNamee- 30 points.

2nd Pat Keenan- 25 points.

Class 3

1st Jim O’Donnell - 26 points.

2nd Daire O’Broin - 23 points.

Turkey teams Results:

1st 465 pts. **Michael Cuddihy, Joe Maher, Pat McNamee & Jim Craughwell**

2nd 443 pts. James Coonan, Mick Kelleher, Jim Mahony, John Duffy

3rd 438 pts. Brian Conlan, Anthony Dunne, Declan Mahony (V.Capt.), James Brady.

Spring league team event: Entry sheet on notice board for all interested members. This year’s Spring League will run for 10 weeks only, starting on week-end of 9th January.

Forthcoming Events: Incoming Captain has organised an outing in Naas G.C. on Saturday 14th March & outing to the K Club Ryder Cup Course on Sunday 26th April.

New Members: We welcome any new members & details of subscription can be obtained from Hon. Secretary-Eamonn Howlin, phone no: 087 1215 396. Junior & Juvenile applications are particularly welcome.

Declan, Daire and all the Committee wish all our members a happy New Year & a good year of golf.

Eamonn Howlin

PARKVIEW RESIDENTS

Well all the hustle and bustle of Christmas is behind us once again. I hope everyone had a good break over the

period. So out with the old and in with the new, as they say. Lets hope 2015 brings new hope for recovery on this Island of ours. A new beginning for families who have been struggling in their daily lives. A new hope for our young people. Jobs that will keep them in their own country and an end to the thousands of our loved ones emigrating to find work in far away lands. The strain on these families is enormous seeing their children move abroad tearing the hearts out of their family home. So lets all look forward to the new year with renewed energy. Parkview had great success again in 2014, winning the Clane Tidy Estates award and the Kildare Pride of Place award, thanks to all the assistance received from our residents. We also celebrated 40 years in existence in a get together in the Corner House which was most enjoyable. On a sad note we lost four of our residents in 2014. Bidy Moore Pierser, Georgina Blake McGarr, Breda Moloney and Paddy Mallen, -all part of our Estate. All were treasured and loved by the residents of Parkview and are sadly missed by all. May they rest in peace with the Lord.

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

At time of going to press we are currently going through the process of booking the pool for the C. & R. Community Games Swimming Competitions. We are requesting the evening of Saturday 28th February. We will confirm the date provided in the February issue of Le Chéile.

CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2015

Preparations are well underway now 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!!! We have great plans for 2015.

Application Form 2015 is now available to download on www.clanefestival.ie. You can also pick up a form in Mckennas Hardware Shop, Bob and Kates Gift Shop or Clane Photo Shop. Thanks to all for buying our 2014 Christmas Cards. Thanks to Anne McIntyre, Maura Keegan, Mary Cusask, Niamh Dunne and Paul Whelan for the artwork and photos. Special thanks to The Westgrove Hotel and Conference Centre who very kindly sponsored our cards this year.

Our Grand Marshal for 2015 is Jenny Casey. There is a wonderful response to Jenny being chosen this year. 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

CLANE TENNIS NEWS

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

Weekly Tuesday social Doubles Tournament comm. 7.30p.m. All welcome. Floodlight cards are now available in Centra (Fuel Shop) and Heavenly. €20 with used card.

We are drawing up a five year plan for the club and hope to have it completed by end Jan. Events for the year are being prepared with plenty of tournaments and participating in Dublin Leagues and of course a coaching programme for all grades.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Bag Packing in Supervalu which raised over €1,100. and we wish to express our gratitude to Alan Condron for his support to the club. Special New Year Membership Offer for 2015-16 only €150 Contact: 087 2745904.

Liam Burke

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

We can't welcome the New Year in without first remembering the wonderful month of December – we started the month by celebrating the success of our second Christmas Market. Then on the 9th December Vivian Coates (AIMS Ad-

judicator) review of Godspell arrived and it was like an early Christmas present – well done again to all involved in what was one of the most memorable shows produced in The Abbey – the cast deserve to be proud and it was wonderful to see their performances acclaimed by an experienced professional.

Carol singing in Clane was indicative of the loss of footfall in the village, due to the closure of Manzor's Gift Shop – gladly the shop will be opening again under new management in February, and while we wish Tommy the best of luck we also say a huge thank you to Kitty and Seamus for their support over the last thirty one years and especially for the lovely hot port and lemonade to chill the bones while we sang the yuletide carols.

December 21st was once again a magical and wonderful experience, as a large number of CMDS members, friends and their children sang their hearts out and in some cases cried their eyes out, as we entertained the waiting throngs as they waited to welcome home loved ones from faraway lands. You need to be there to fully understand the wonder of it – I for one will certainly be looking forward to being there in December 2015!

And so we embark on a new year..... Rehearsals for **Sing into Spring** resume on Wednesday 7th January. If the chorus numbers rehearsed before Christmas are an indica-

tion of the overall show content then SIS III will be a fantastic night's entertainment. The concert will be staged in The Westgrove on Friday 27th February – tickets will go on sale early in February.

CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

The next reading of The Cripple of Inishmaan is at 8.00.p.m. in the back room of Manzor's pub on Tuesday 13th January. All are welcome to come along to the reading. Auditions will be held on Tuesday 20th January in The Abbey at 8.00.

The cast is as follows:-

(The ages stated in the script will be used as guidelines only, to mark difference in age between older and younger members of cast).

Kate and Eileen Osborne – script says they are in mid 60s

Johnnypateenmike – mid 60s

Billy – 17/18

Bartley – 16/17

Helen – 17/18 - Pretty

Babbybobby – early 30s – handsome, muscular

Doctor – Early 40s

Mammy – Johnnypateenmike's mother

The play's language is wonderfully descriptive and evocative and is quite strong in parts! Every character has a depth of personality that is reminiscent of Keane but even deeper – it's a joy to read and a wonderful road for the cast to travel between now and the 8th April, when the play opens and runs until the 11th April. Do come along to the reading – even if you only want to listen – I guarantee that you will enjoy the night!

May 2015 bring all our friends and supporters happiness, peace and most importantly, good health to enjoy their life and loves! Happy New Year.

Sadie O'Reilly, P.R.O.

PRO – Clane Musical & Dramatic Society