le Chéile

Community Magazine

February 2015 No. 332

EDITORIAL

The 1st February marks the beginning of Spring in the Celtic calendar as traditionally followed in Ireland. In the international calendar it does not begin until the 21st March or the equinox, when the length of the day equals that of the night. The word spring can refer to the season, to the source of a stream, to an object which changes shape when subjected to a stress and which returns to its original shape when that stress is removed or to a jump or sudden spontaneous movement. In all cases, including 'the Spring of the year', the beginnings of movement is the common thread. The word is said to come from the Indo-European base *sprengh*– and exists in various forms in every European language. In Irish we have, for example, 'spreag sé amach', he jumped out. Curiously, in regard to the season, the word spring was only introduced in the 16th century, replacing the previous term Lent. That of course also ties in with the concept of movement, the lengthening of the days.

In the Celtic year there were four festivals which marked the divisions of the farming year. Each was marked by ritual fires. There was Samhain, at Halloween, which became Christianised as All Hallows. Next we had Imbolg, dedicated to Brigid the pagan goddess of fertility. This was Christianised as the feast of St. Brigid. It celebrated the arrival of the lambs and other signs of new life. Then we had Bealtine, or the fire of Baal, which celebrated the arrival of summer on the 1st May. The fire of Lugnasad was lit on 1st August and honoured Lug, the god of the grain harvest. The ancient Irish were Pastoral Celts, or sheep farmers, rather than grain growers (Cereal Celts). In the Mediterranean area, where grain growing was originally pioneered by the Cereal Celts, they still dress in traditional costume and play their traditional music to mark the occasion. This was moved to 15th August, however, and has now been Christianised as the feast of the Assumption.

So, with all that in mind it behoves us now to get a spring in our step, never mind the snow, or the depression, and gear up in a positive sense for better times ahead.

"If winter comes can Spring be far behind?"

CALENDAR

Wednesday 4th February
Next meeting of Clane Toastmasters in Clane GAA Club at 7.45pm. See p. 7

Tuesday 10th February
Wednesday 11th February
Thursday 12th February
Enrolment of Junior Infants for 2015/2016. Note: the **times are different** in each school. For full details and requirements: in both Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Phádraig See p. 5

Monday 23rd February
Monthly Meeting of Clane Community Council in the Abbey Community Centre at 8pm. See p. 11

Friday 27th February
Clane Musical & Dramatic Society present Sing into Spring in the Westgrove Hotel. See p. 6

Saturday 28th February
Rathcoffey N.S. presents Strictly Come Dancing in the K Club at 8pm. See p. 12

CLANE COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI EIREANN
See notice p. 5/6

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 23th February

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: **margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net**

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

SITES ASSOCIATED WITH SAINT BRIGID IN CLANE

There are a few sites associated with St. Brigid around Clane. One such site is that of St. Brigid's Well. It was originally in a field by the Dublin Road, which formed part of the farm attached to Abbeylands House. The field was accessed in those days by a style to one side of a round stone pier, a pair of which formed a gateway. which was opposite the point where the Capdoo Lane joined the Dublin Road at McKenna's old shop. It was located alongside a ditch or small stream which now borders the site of Abbey Wood Apartments to the east. Alternatively it may be described as lying to the rear or west of the Oaks. There were steps down to the well, which was about fifty yards in from the Dublin Road. The water had a slow steady outflow and was of high quality. The style and steps indicate that the well was regularly visited, most likely as a source of water and probably also on account of its association with St. Brigid. There may even have been pattern days associated with it, perhaps the 1st February. It is no surprise therefore that it has long been a protected site, officially listed in the National Record of Protected Sites and Monuments.

At this stage, before you make up your mind to go and see it for yourself, I have to share the sad news that it is no more. It has been closed in and covered over, along with the ditch with which it was associated. An important part of our heritage is no more! This is a fate which, unfortunately, it shares with a number of similar sites and structures in and around Clane and, sadly, throughout the country generally. They might have been there for thousands of years, protected and held in high regard by our forefathers, but alas it is now gone.

Other examples include St. Brigid's Table, Chair and Thimble, which were the popular names for a group of ancient stones which formed a cromlech in the townsland of Carrigeen, which in fact gets its name from these stones. According to the late Mona Noonan and members of the Harrington family, they were known to local children as "the carraigíns", with the correct Irish pronunciation. The Table was a large altar-like stone which lay horizontally on the ground and was covered in moss. It was said to bear the imprints of Brigid's feet. Local girls used sit on Brigid's Chair and pretend they were sewing. The feature stood on a low hill beside a long-disused quarry beside a short cul-de-sac lane which branches off the Moat Commons to the right as it leads from the Millicent Road back towards the Naas Road, where it joins it at the present roundabout. The cul-de-sac heads straight for the weir which is located a little upstream from the Liffey Bridge. It has been speculated that the weir marks the location of the ancient ford by which the river was crossed before the first bridge was built. The map of 1839 offers evidence that this cul-de-sac originally extended to the bank of the Liffey. It now stands back from the Liffey by the width of one field. There are indications that it might have been part of the road which led southwards from Tara to Naas, connecting the two royal seats.

The bad news is that St. Brigid's Table, Chair and Thimble, along with a second St. Brigid's Well which was located almost immediately beside them, have also been obliterated. The people already mentioned believe they were bulldozed in the sixties by Kildare County Council when using the old quarry as the first County Dump! However, Canon Sherlock, writing in Volume I, No.1 of the Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society (JCKAS) in 1891, claimed that the damage had already been done. He was writing under the title "Notes on the Parish of Clane". The reference was by way of a short paragraph on p. 27 as follows:-

"There are few ancient remains in this district. Some forty or fifty years ago there existed what was called St. Brigid's chair and thimble beside a stone said to bear the imprints of her feet, a little way above the head of the millrace at Clane, where there is now a disused quarry; but the stones were quarried a generation ago. I imagine from the

description that it may have been an old cromlech. The well which sprung beside the chair, and was known as St. Brigid's well, still sends a tiny flow to the river."

The February 2014 issue of Le Chéile, which may be accessed on the clanecommunity.ie web site, examines the issue in detail.

Nearby is the old Norman Motte from which Moat Commons gets its name. Intervention had to be made to save it in the '80s when a JCB was used to remove the surrounding ditch and embankment and trim the sides of the Motte itself! The developer of the Cois Abhann Apartments, in recent years, replaced soil around its base restoring its slope to ground level. This will probably help to prevent future erosion but it had the unfortunate effect of covering over and obliterating Sunday's Well, an ancient site of pattern. It happens also to have been a recorded thermal spring, of which there are only about ten in Ireland. It would be a worthwhile project to have both St. Brigid's and Sunday's Well reopened. See Le Chéile 2014 March on the web site clanecommunity.ie for an article on the Motte.

Below: O.S. Map of 1838 (expanded)
The Cromlech site is represented by the large circle in the bottom-left of the red box. St Brigid's Well is represented by the small circle in the top-right of the red box.

A cromlech or dolmen is a type of single-chamber megalithic tomb, usually consisting of three or more upright stones supporting a large flat but tilted capstone (table). Most date from the early Neolithic period (4000 - 3000 BC).

Sherlock, writing in 1891, makes no reference to the O.S. Map of 1838. It is also on Taylor's Map of 1783! The O.S. Maps from 1871 on excluded it. Did he ever see it?

The Bothar Bríde and the Butterstream Bullán Stone.
The Down Survey Map of 1641 gives an older name for Nancy's Lane (once the road to Edenderry) which runs up to and behind the Scouts' Den and on to Butterstream. This name was Bóthar Bríde or Brigid's Road. [The name Butterstream is believed to mean the Road by the Stream. Butter is common in Irish place names and always means road or bóthar.] There is a strong possibility that

Brad in this case refers to the goddess rather than the saint and that the Stream was dedicated to her, as streams and rivers were generally dedicated to Celtic goddesses in pagan times. Possible evidence to substantiate this lies in the fact that there were two Bullán Stones along the bank of the Stream in our area, one on the Naas Road opposite the entrance to Abbeylands and the other on the bank of the Stream at Butterstream. The latter was removed by JCB some decades ago. These basin like stones were used to offer sacrifices to the goddess concerned -human blood and the like. Brigit was the goddess of fertility and it was important to have her on your side in the lambing season.

The names of rivers and streams in Irish are always feminine nouns, giving rise to expressions like Bóthar na Bóine, Bóthar na Life or Bóthar Bríde, in this case (all Celtic goddesses). If the name of the pagan goddess were dropped and the English word Stream bere substituted it would become Bóthar Stream or Butterstream. We can give our imaginations a rest with that!

Scoil Phádraig Enrolment for Junior Infants, 2015/2016

Dates: Tuesday, February 10th, Wednesday, February 11th, Thursday, February 12th

Times: 9.30a.m. – 12noon and 2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.

Location: Entrance Lobby

Parents should bring along a copy of the Child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate (if Baptised outside of the Parish of Clane), PPS Number and copy of a recent Utility Bill.

Scoil Bhríde Enrolment for Junior Infants, 2015/2016

Dates: Tuesday, February 10th, Wednesday, February 11th, Thursday, February 12th [Note: Same as Scoil Phádraig]

Times: 9.30a.m. – 1pm. and 3.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. [**Note: Time difference**]

Parents should bring along a copy of the Child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate (if Baptised outside of the Parish of Clane), PPS Number and copy of a recent Utility Bill.

CLANE COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI EIREANN

"SEAN NOS DANCING CLASSES"

Recommencing in Prosperous Parish Hall (Beside Moran's Butchers)

Starting Tuesday 20th January 2015

8:30pm to 9:30pm

All welcome

Admission: 7.00 Euro
Children 5.00 Euro
"A GREAT NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENT AND AN ENJOYABLE WORKOUT GUARANTEED"!

Contact Nos. *Catherine: 087-2660509*
Mairead : 087-9311249
Margaret: 087-9136509

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

SPRING IS TRULY IN THE AIR! Rehearsals for **Sing into Spring** resumed on the 7th January and each week the excitement has been mounting. The chorus has been working away with MD Margaret Hayes and this week were joined by Soloists and Trios. Production for the concert is well in hand and we are grateful to The Westgrove Hotel for their wonderful facilities, which allow us showcase our annual concert to the best possible advantage. In addition to the CMDS chorus and members we are delighted to welcome back several past members, including Lorraine Murphy, Louise Moore and Keelin Kilduff, Des and Edel Marron and a special appearance by Arthur McGauran, amongst others. The chorus will be singing several medleys – a Webb & Williams 60's medley including **"Moon River"** and **"Aquarius"** a war time medley including **"In the Mood" "Don't Sit under the Apple Tree" "We'll meet again"** and more. Songs will be performed from several musicals including **"A Chorus Line" "Les Cage Aux Folles", "South Pacific"** and **"Into the Woods"** "**Nunsense",** and **"Tangled"** among others. The concert will be staged in The Westgrove Hotel on Friday 27th February – tickets (All adults €15 – children under 16 €10) will go on sale on the 6th February. **Family tickets (Two adults and two children €45) available only on the door. Tickets can be pre-booked by phoning Anne at 087 6897376.**

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

Auditions for The Cripple of Inishmaan were held recently and Clane Musical & Dramatic Society is delighted to announce the cast who will perform this outstanding play.

Kate Osborne -Michelle Flannery
Eileen Osborne – Elaine Moore O'Donohoe
Johnnypateenmike – Andy Kelly
Billy – Robert Gallagher
Bartley – Evan McGarr
Helen – Sarah Houlihan
Babbybobby – Conor Burnell
Doctor – Val Brennan
Mammy – Aine Grace

The play's language is wonderfully descriptive and evocative and is very strong in parts! It is not a play for children. Every character has a depth of personality that is reminiscent of John B. 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.

Sadie O'Reilly
PRO – Clane Musical & Dramatic Society

CLANE TOAST MASTERS

"If one of your new years resolutions if 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 4th February
So if you would like to improve you 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 or Thomás on 0863064474. www.clanetoastmasters.com

CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2015

Friday 13th March - Tuesday 17th March

THEME - CHILDHOOD GAMES

Preparations are well underway for our 2015 Festival. Application Form 2015 is now available to download on www.clanefestival.ie. You can also pick up a form in Mckennas Hardware Shop, The

Westgrove Hotel, Clane G.A.A., Bob and Kates Gift Shop or Clane Photo Shop.

Our Grand Marshal 2015 Jenny Casey sent us this message:

"I am truly honoured and excited to be Grand Marshal in the St. Patrick's Festival in Clane. I would like to thank the Festival Committee for this honour. I hope I'm up to the job at hand. I always enjoy the fun and games over the St. Patrick's day Parade as I know how much work goes into the building and creating floats for it and the logistics for clubs and associations to get the young people to take part. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Parade on St. Patrick's Day and over the Festival weekend". Jenny xxx

Our programme of events for this year's Festival includes:
Table Quiz in Manzor's of Clane,
Bosco and Cinderella Puppet Show at The Westgrove Hotel, Newbridge Gospel Choir, Mother's Day Celebration with dancing to the Dermot Whelan Band and special Guest Mary Byrne, Musical Tots and story telling in Clane G.A.A., and of course the Parade.

Our Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday 20th March in The Westgrove Hotel.

All shops are invited to take part in our Shop Window Display Competition. No fee to enter this.

We are looking for volunteers to come on board to help 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

THE EVERGREENS

Well here we are into Spring once more, leaving the dreary days of Winter behind us. How lovely and uplifting it is to feel the bright long days unfold and life and nature emerging once more bringing new hope that will gladden our hearts. Very soon we will be seeing in our gardens and by our hedgerows carpets of golden daffodils, primroses and cyclamen all about us.

Now we are almost into the holy season of Lent -the most important feast of the Christian calendar as we recall the death of Jesus and then his rising to new life. Maybe it's time too to remember reflection and repentance associated with Lent.

We Evergreens are all refreshed after our winter break and we start back fully 3rd February, when we hope to look forward to all our activities once more and hope to welcome some new comers and a céad míle failte will await you.

Rehearsals for the C.M.S. annual concert " Sing into Spring" will continue in the Abbey each Wed. at 8pm. Until their annual programme in the Westgrove on Feb. 27th. This promises as usual to be a wonderful night by these talented artistes.

We would like to wish the inimitable Mary and her hard-working St. Patrick's Day team all the best for the 11th annual Parade Day. This is a Day of Days for young and old alike, with entertainment for everybody. What with ceol, caint, craic, comhra and what have you -so don't miss out on the fun- be there on this lá specíalta!

So for now Slán agus Beannacht ar feadh tamall agus fé bhrat Mhuire dhíbh.

Maureen Spain (PRO)

CLANE G.A.A.

Lotto

The club Lotto is currently at €7,650– tickets can be bought in the bar after 4pm or through the usual sellers. Tickets cost €2 or 3 for €5. As we are trying to expand the Lotto, if anybody is willing to sell a few tickets on a weekly basis please contact us.

3rd Jan 2015: JACKPOT €7,200

Numbers were 2, 5, 14, 26

No Winner. €25 winners were Kathleen O'Neill; M & M Casey; Shay Brady and Paddy White

10th Jan 2015: JACKPOT €7,350

Numbers were 15, 18, 23, 26

No Winner€25 winners were. Peter Redmond; Joe Conboy; Shane O'Donovan and Packie O'Neill

17th Jan 2015: JACKPOT €7,500

Numbers were 2, 9, 10, 23

No Winner. €25 winners were Anthony O'Dea; Peter Redmond; Sarah Gunning and Mick Gill

24th Jan 2015, JACKPOT €7,650

Numbers were 4, 20, 25, 26

No Winner. €25 winners were Margaret McDonald; Lilly Moore; Mary Mc Cormack and Delaneys

The dinner dance held on January 17th was a massive hit – a great night was had by all as they danced until the early hours of the morning. Special thanks to Ash O'Donovan, Gwen Travers, Yvonne Rourke and all the helped out to ensure it was a great night.

All people that have tickets for the National Draw are reminded that we are now approaching the deadline and all ticket sales will have to be returned by the end of next week.

Our Games Development committee are currently working with Croke Park and their company to get our new website up and running. It is hoped that the website will contain all the current news, fixtures, results, pitch timetables, training programmes etc. all available at the click of a mouse. With this in mind, we are looking for members members, to help us design and populate the site. We are particularly looking for members who either work or are studying courses that require them to create or populate a website. We need people that are interested and committed and who have some or all of the following skills: Web design, Graphics, Computer programming, Social Media, Journalism & Online Marketing. This could be a wonderful opportunity for you to showcase your skills and to reference the website as a part of a college project or in a future job interview. Contact Mick Hallissy for further details mhallissy@h2.ie / (086) 207 5494.

Our Bingo is continuing to grow every Tuesday night at 8:30pm in the hall – many top cash prizes each week – all welcome to participate. If anyone would like to help out with the Bingo, please contact Dave Cahill and you will be more than welcome

Our Clubhouse Café seems to be going down a treat with the locals at the minute – the girls are serving teas, coffees and scones from 8:45am to 4pm. There is a kiddies corner with safety play mats so that the little ones can also enjoy the experience. All welcome!

Kildare GAA are hosting a 5k / 5 mile Curragh Challenge on Sun 8th Feb in Curragh Racecourse. Entry is €20 for adult & €5 for juvenile. Further details can be found on the Kildare GAA website.

Leinster GAA are running a few seminars over the next month or so in Maynooth University from 9:45 to 1:30. The seminars remaining are Technical Proficiency tomorrow with Ed Coughlan, Playing Facts with Professor Mike Hughes on 7th Feb, Psychological Focus on 7th March by Dr Aine MacNamara and on 14th March Tactical Prowess / Team Play by Cian O'Neill – if anyone is interested in taking part please reg on http://leinstergaacoaching.eventbrite.ie as places are limited.

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.
January Results:
Christmas holiday competitions:
2 best nine competition
1. John McAndrew 47 points.

2. Tommy Carew 43 points.

3. Diarmuid Conan 41 points.

4. John Slevin 41 points.

- 14 hole competition
1. Michael Gateley 32 points.

2. Padraic Rooney 31 points.

3. James Malone 31 points.

9 Hole Spring League competitions:
9/11th January : Class 1
1st John McAndrew - 24 points.

2nd Pa Connolly - 21 points.
Class 2
1st Jim Craughwell - 24 points

2nd Sean Byrne - 22 points.

16/18th January : Class 1
1st Aiden O'Neill - 24 points.

2nd John Carew - 23 points .
Class 2
1st Joe Higgins - 23 points.

2nd Jim Mahony - 22 points.
23/25th January : Class 1
1st Michael Cuddihy - 26 points.

2nd Diarmuid Coonan - 24 points.
Class 2
1st Ted Murray - 25 points

Spring League points after 3 competitions::

1st 130 pts. John Carew, Lar Blanchfield, Tom Bryan, Jim Craughwell.
2nd 129 pts. Tom Carew, Ger Nevin, Jim Malone, Joe Higgins.
3rd 129 pts. Micael Cuddihy, Joe Maher, Dec Mahony (Capt.), Paddy O'Grady.

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.

Eamonn Howlin

I.C.A.

We are back in action since September -under "new management" The out-going officers did Trojan work during their (extended) term -above and beyond the call of duty, and richly deserve their "Busman's holiday". The new team are continuing in the same vein, with great enthusiasm. During October and November we had much enjoyment creating colourful handmade Christmas Cards, while busily preparing for the annual Christmas party for Senior Citizens. A sincere "thank you" to the local community for their generous support of the Church-Gate Collection and Christmas Draw -as all proceeds go towards funding this party, -and of course C.L.D. who "come up trumps" every year. The Draw was held on Thursday Dec. 4th. Congratulations to the lucky winners -Pauline McIntyre, Noeline McCreery, Matthew Way, Mary Kelly and Peggy Walsh.

Many willing volunteers gave our group great assistance in making this event a great success. They are too numerous to mention but you know who you are. Remember your help and kindness is deeply appreciated. A special "Go raibh míle maith agat" goes to each of the eight Transition Year Students from Scoil Mhuire. They worked so hard with politeness and good humour, adding a lovely dimension to the day. They are certainly a credit to their school and to their parents. On Sunday December 7th it was a real pleasure to welcome more than one hundred happy guests to share in the festivities at Clane G.A.A. Centre.

We are now getting settled into a New Year and wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy 2015. We hold our social and activity evenings on Thursdays at 8pm. In the KARE Centre, Dublin Road. Hon. Sec. Yvonne Winters 086 0308779.

Maureen O'Connor, P.R.O.

CLANE TENNIS CLUB

The club is in full Tennis swing at present with 3 teams competing in Dublin Leagues 2 Ladies and 1 Men and will continue over the next 6 weeks. Men's Doubles every Monday from 8p.m. Social Doubles every Tuesday 7.30p.m. Ladies Coaching every Wed. 8p.m. Mixed Doubles every Thurs. 8p.m. Junior coaching every sat morning 10a.m.

Special offer for new members - join now and get 3 months Free membership. Come along any evening and everyone is most welcome.

Liam Burke

CLANE AND RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

The Naas Pool (Kildare Leisure) has been booked for Saturday 28th February from 5.30pm. to 6.30 pm. For our annual Community Games Swimming competition. Entry forms will be distributed to the 5 schools in our area about a week in advance of this date. Extra forms for those living in this area but attending schools outside may be obtained in Clane Parish Office or by phoning 045 868474. Time to get practicing!

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

'The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Clane Helpline Number is 085 7454858.'

The 41st A.G.M. of Clane Community Council took place in the Abbey Community Centre on Monday 19th January last.

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming twelve months:-

Chairman:	Des Drumm
Vice Chairman:	John Kennedy
Secretary:	Nick Fitzgerald
Assistant Secretary:	Padraig McEvoy
Treasurer:	Paul Carroll
Assistant Treasurer:	John Power
P.R.O.:	Marion Doolan
Assistant P.R.O.:	Tony McEvoy

Outgoing Secretary's Report (N.F.)
The AGM was held on Monday 27th January 2014 in the Abbey at 8pm and was well attended. John Kennedy was nominated and seconded on the night and selected as Chairman for a 3rd year and a new council execu-

tive was formed.

Throughout the course of 2014 the community council held 9 other monthly meetings as well as 3 executive meetings and numerous sub-committee meeting

February - 2014 commenced with our community magazine 'Le Cheile' going on line for the very first time together with a mailing list being commenced. Le Cheile is available to down load from our website; www.clanecommunity.ie.

March - In the St. Patrick's Day Parade Clane Community Council and Clane Tidy Towns Celebration 'Birthday Cake' float was awarded 1st Place in the non-Commercial float in the parade this year.

September - For the first time in its 40 years of participation, Clane was awarded a Bronze Medal in the national Tidy Towns competition 2014.

December - A very enjoyable evening was held on 7th December to announce the Claonadh Award winner & 'Switch-On' Christmas Lights.

Tidy Towns:
Another busy & very successful year culminated in Clane being awarded 291 points out of a possible 450 to win for the first time in its 40 years of participation a Bronze Medal in the national Tidy Towns competition. With a maximum score being 450 points, for our size of village Clane was just 9 points behind Silver medallists Buncrana and Youghal and 23 away from a Gold which was earned by Westport, Skerries and Carrickmacross.

The Tidy Towns held yet another successful awards night with prizes for best estate and best presented business.

Local clean up projects were tackled throughout the year and this hard working sub-committee deserves much credit for keeping Clane looking well and completing a very successful year.

Community Games:
The local games were postponed due to very poor weather and held on 31st May. The community games continue to be successful with the boys U/10 football team winning the county & Leinster finals and represented Clane/ Rathcoffey at the All Ireland competition held in Longford.

2 gold medals were won in the swimming competition at the county finals.

No medals were won at the National competition held in Athlone however Clane/ Rathcoffey had a good number of participants.

A bag pack was held to raise funds in Supervalu on 30th May '14.
A church gate collection was held 3rd/ 4th May and this raised €350.

Heritage Sub-Committee:
Congratulations to John Daly and the Heritage sub-committee for their success in applying for and getting a grant from KCC for the heritage signage project. This funding together with generous local donations has resulted in the signage project being physically progressed and the recent erection of the Clane Information sign on the main street is testament to this.

This sign together with the finger point signage will be a great addition to the main street and Clane overall.

Friary & Abbey Graveyard:
Congratulations to Des Drumm and the Friary & Abbey graveyard committee for success in applying for and getting a grant for the Friary stabilization works. These works were commenced and carried out in 2014 and resulted in the unsightly 'Heras' fencing being able to be removed after many years.

The annual Cemetery Mass was held 12th June.

Finance:
Considerable expenditure planned during 2014 by the community council and the various sub-committees required the council to look at new and existing methods of raising funds.

Once again the main fund raising activity was the annual golf classic held 15th August. Thank you to Des Drumm and the golf sub-

committee for a very successful event. This would not be possible without the hard work of Des and his team, the wider friends of CCC and of course to the local business of Clane and to Larchfield Park Nursing Home particularly who sponsored the prizes. Thank you to all involved.

Other revenue sources, fund raising & grant application carried out, made & received by the council continued as indicated;

- The Intel matching grant in March.
- The Sunday Business Post newspaper initiative.
- Tidy Towns grant awards.
- KCC grant awards in relation to the Heritage and Friary & Abbey graveyard
- A general church gate collection was held in March.
- A new rental income source came on stream in 2014 with the Clane Boxing Club renting the Abbey Hall.

However considerable expenditure on various maintenance & refurbishment projects within the Abbey were significant during 2014.

Abbey Hall:

We continue to benefit from having the Tus workers employed not just in the Abbey but on the many other tasks that they carry out in the Remembrance Garden and around the village overall maintaining the landscaping, cutting grass etc.

Projects carried out in 2014 in the Abbey Hall are as follows;

- New roof constructed to the tool shed.
- Replacement attic water storage tanks over CMS store.
- Insulation installed to attic space over CMS store.
- New front and rear doors installed to the Abbey.
- New external signage erected.

Claonadh Award 2014:

The 2014 CCC Claonadh Award ceremony was held in the Abbey on 7th December and the recipient was Frida Lowry for her tremendous work in the community with KARE, The Hang-Out Club and Access Group.

RATHCOFFEY N.S. PRESENTS

Strictly Come Dancing
With Celebrity Hosts and Judges

The Legacy Suite
Smurfit Clubhouse
The K Club

Sat. 28th February at 8pm.

Tickets €25 each available from Clane Parish Shop, Rathcoffey N.S., Amber Byrne 087 8092486, Tom Dowd 087 9280903.

Doors open at 7pm.. Unreserved seating. Followed by Disco. Over 18s.