Le Chéile

Community Magazine

November 2015 No. 339

EDITORIAL

Clane Community Council was founded in 1973 and this year will complete 21 terms, each of two years, or a total of 42. The nomination process, which will take the Community Council forward for another two year term, will take us up to 2017. Nomination Papers will be available in Clane Post Office, by kind permission. This issue of Le Chéile also carries a Nomination Paper on pages 6 and 7. If you live within the area indicated by the map on page 6 you could print out a Nomination Paper by selecting "pages 6-7". We urge everyone, 18 years or over to nominate someone to carry forward the good work, how about yourself?

You will find a brief summary of the works undertaken by the Community Council in the past 42 years on page 3. This is a short list of what has been achieved and is an indication of what might be further undertaken by working together. We in Clane should continue to value what we have and to work for its improvement. It is a case of men and women working with and for the community. The community needs your ideas, your talents and skills. There are as many ways to contribute as there are different personalities and talents. It is not just a matter of keeping what we have going, full stop. There are always new issues to be looked at and considered. Needs change with time and circumstances.

There is a saying in Irish. "Níl neart gan chur le chéile" (We have no strength until we combine our efforts). Working together means also working with other community groups -in the Sports area, in the cultural area, with Residents Associations, with the Parade Committee, with the Wheelchair Association, etc. It means working with the authorities, such as the County Council, the Gardaí, the Schools and the various providers of grant funding.. There is nothing achieved in isolation, so let's all row in together.

Look around you and you will become aware of people in your own area who you think could contribute. Indeed, how about nominating yourself? A meeting once a month, with a break in July and August is something most people could manage and think of the benefits to the community -and to you in terms of satisfaction as a volunteer in your own community.

Nil neart gan chur le chéile!

CALENDAR (Continued on p. 10)

Sunday, 1st November

•Annual Prayers and Blessing of Graves in the Abbey Cemetery at 12.30pm.

•Annual Mass will be celebrated in Mainham Cemetery at 3pm. See p. 5.

Monday 2nd November

Monthly Meeting of Clane Community Council in the Abbey Community Centre.

Friday 6th November

Annual Childline Breakfast will be taking place on the weekend of 6th - 9th November. All proceeds to Childline. Breakfast will be held in Enquiring Minds Childcare, Clane on Friday 6th November. See p. 8.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 23rd November

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

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

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

INVITATION TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR 2016-2017

Nomination Papers will be available at Clane P.O. Please nominate someone. How about yourself? It is important to keep up the voluntary community input of the past 42 yrs.

Some of our achievements:-

- Community Games commenced in 1974.
- Clane's first Public Library built in 1974.
- Church ruin (roofless since 1883), acquired in 1974, and demolition of Tower averted
- Le Chéile community magazine started in January 1974. Now on clanecommunity.ie
- Village Green walled &Triangle built 1975.
- Tidy Towns commenced in 1975.
- Piped TV first organized in 1975.
- Stream Park (Playground) purchased 1975.
- Abbey Community Centre built 1983-85.
- The 2 year Funding Scheme was extended a further 2 years to build the Evergreen Centre, to stone wall the banks of the Stream and to pave and wall the Park.
- The purchase of old stables, which had been on the near side of the Stream, brought the total purchase price for the Stream Park to £10,000.
- In 1992 the old Sewage Plant at the Bridge was acquired for £50. (It was blasted and cleared to create the Riverside Park and Nature Walk in 1996.)
- In 1992 Clane Local Development was set up after a successful application for funds.
- The Green by the footpaths up the Ballinagappa Road was developed in the 90s removing old hedges and fallen walls.
- Extensive trees were planted in 80s/90s.
- In 1995 CCC, on subscribing £18,000, received £96,000 to develop footpaths and parking in the Main Street.
- In1999 the Fr. John Sullivan Monument (designed by Anthony Linden) was built.
- In 2006 the Garden of Remembrance was developed in the Abbey Grounds.
- In 2013 the Abbey Tower was flood lit and a plaque was unveiled on the Green to mark the 40 Anniversary of CCC.
- In 2008 the Abbey Cemetery Committee erected signage to mark the Friary's 750 years. Other works include new gates, a canopy to protect the altar, repairs to boundary walls and ruins conservation.
- Tidy Towns won Bronze Medal in 14/'15
- Heritage Signs were erected in 2015.

A copy of the nomination paper is included on pages 6-7. It may be printed out specifying "pages 6-7" and used to nominate someone in the area, including yourself.

CLANE Community Council

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Rehearsals for Cinderella are coming along nicely. Arthur McGauran (Director) Grainne Jones (Choreographer) and Sarah Flynn (Music co-ordinator) are delighted with the response from everyone involved, from the tiny tots to the adult cast – it's a big undertaking but everyone is having great fun getting into panto mode! The principal parts have been cast as follows:-

Cinderella:

Cinderella	-Ava Blythe –Duggan
Prince Charming	-Robert Gallagher
Manzorini	-Conor Burnell
Baron Marron	-Eric Nolan
Horidina Marron	-Leonore Maleady
Delira	-Peter Fay
Exira	-Martin Fahy
Phineas	-Áine Grace
Ferb	-Elaine Moore O'Donoghue
Jill	-Ellie Casey
Buttons	-Ciaran Lalor
Fairy Godmother	-Olive Mitchell Lee

Well done to everyone who read and congratulations to the Principals already cast. There will be further soloists and cameo roles etc. from the Chorus, giving everyone a chance to shine in this, our first pantomime. This is going to be such a fun show to perform and to see – tickets will sell like hot cakess so make sure you book yours in good time – the dates are (December) - Friday 11th 7.30pm Saturday 12th (matinee 2.30pm and evening performance 7.30pm) and Sunday 13th 2.00pm. Tickets will be €12 for adults and €10 for children.

Kiss me, Kate:

Congratulations are due to the six successful members who have been cast in Kiss me, Kate:

Lilli Vanessi (Katherine)	-Edel Marron O'Flaherty
Fred Graham (Petruchio)	-Seamus O'Sullivan
Lois Lane (Bianca)	-Michelle Flannery
Gangsters	-Peter Fay -Eric Nolan
Hattie	-Elaine Moore O'Donohoe

There will be a second round of auditions shortly to fill the outstanding parts – watch out for an updated email or check out CMDS's Facebook page or phone Orla at 085 1494550 if you would like to have the audition pieces/music sent to you to prepare.

Plans are well in place for our third Santa & Children's Christmas Market to be held in The Abbey on Sunday 29th November. Any-one interested in hosting a stall on the day please phone Catherine at 085 7132265 or download a booking form from the CMDS Facebook page. A stall costs €50.

If you have any queries in relation to CMDS please phone 087 7916989.or email clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com

Sadie O'Reilly
PRO – Clane Musical & Dramatic Society

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group will present a talk entitled "Clane Main Street, Past and Present by John Noonan on Wednesday 18th November in the GAA Centre, Prosperous Road, Clane at 8pm.

John has unearthed many old photo-graphs of the old shop fronts of the Main Street and will use them to illustrate his talk. This is an ideal opportunity for old and new residents of Clane to become familiar with the history of the Main Street of the Village. All are welcome and admission is free.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

We are approaching the end of the 18 hole competitions & the results for October are:

2nd October –The Friday 18 -

Declan Mahony (Captain) 39 points.

3/4th October- 18 hole Stableford- First: Sean McCann 43 points.
Second: Ger Nevin 41 points.
Gross : Niall Bryan 76.

9th October- The Friday 18 -
Seamus Carew 40 points.

10/11th October – 18 hole Stableford-
First: Padraig Rooney 44 points.
Second: John Carew 43 points.

16th October – The Friday 18 -
Seamus Carew 33 points.

17/18th October- 18 hole Stableford-
First: Brendan Bean 41 points.
Second: Michael Connolly 38 points.
Gross: John Carew 78.

23rd October- The Friday 18-
Lorcan Wyer 36 points.

With the approaching festive time of Christmas, Turkey competitions have started & we are now 3 weeks into this competition series. Because winners have their handicaps reduced by 6 shots for winning & 3 shots for coming second and non-winners have their handicaps increased by one shot, everybody playing in these competitions have a great chance of winning a turkey, but most of all there is a great competitive effort by teams of 4 to win the hamper competition.

The Golfer of the Year looks like going down to the wire, with Lorcan Wyer & John Carew separated by a few points with one competition to go, so watch this space to see the overall winner next month. The results to date are as follows after 3 weeks:

2/4th October- Class 1-
First- Ger Nevin 24 points.
Second- Dermot Coonan 22 points.
Class 2 – First- Sean McCann 23 points.
Second- Jim O'Donnell 21 points.

9/11th October-
Class 1- First- Padraig Rooney 23 points.
Second- Michael Cuddihy 23 points.
Class 2- First- James Brady 23 points.
Second- James Malone 22 points.

16/18th October-
Class 1- First- Anthony Dunne 24 points.
Second- Aiden O'Neill 24 points.
Class 2- First- Brendan Bean 24 points.
Second-Declan Mahony 23 points.

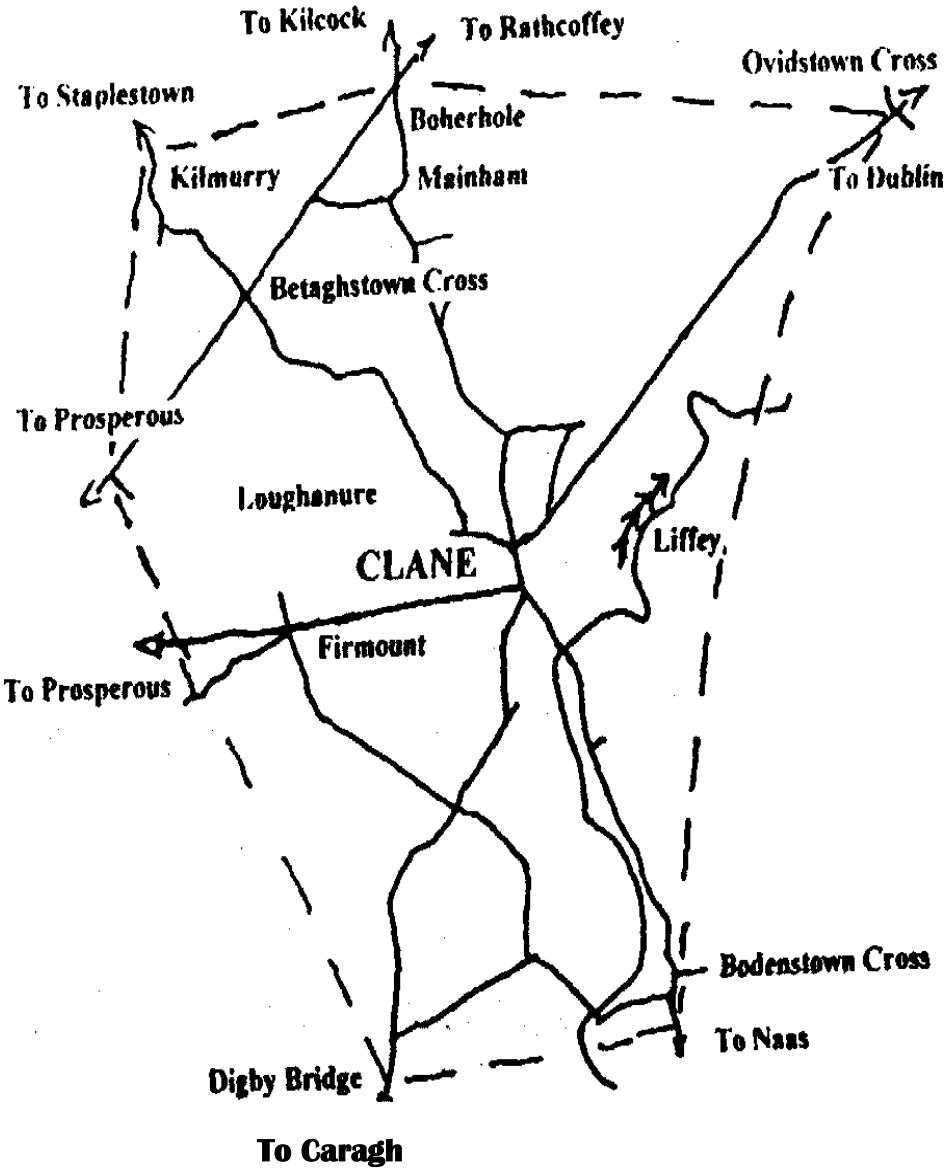
The leading team with 128 points is Seamus Carew, Anthony Dunne, Pat McNamee & Jim O'Donnell.

Forthcoming events:
The AGM will be held at The Village Inn on Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 8.00 p.m.
New members welcome- Please Contact: Eamonn Howlin, Hon. Secretary at eamonnhowlin07@eircom.net (mobile number 087-1215 396).

With almost one month As usual, September heralds the end to most of the 18 hole competitions. With only three competitions to go, the Golfer of the Year competition which is always keenly fought, has almost reached a climax with Lorcan Wyer (89 points) & John Carew (81 points) being the main contenders for this coveted title.

Eamonn Howlin
Hon. Secretary
Clane Golf Club

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA



Anyone 18 years or over who is resident in the above area is eligible to nominate or be Nominated to Clane Community Council. **This includes nominating oneself.** Nomination Papers will be available in Clane Post Office (by kind permission) from 7th Nov. to 7th Dec.. *Nominations close at 6pm on Monday 7th December. Nominated persons will be contacted to confirm their consent.*

CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Term 2015 - 2017

NOMINATION PAPER

I,_____,

the above named, wish to nominate:-

_____

name of person being nominated as a member of Clane Community Council (This can be one's self).

_____

Nominated person's address and telephone number.

_____

PERSONS NOMINATED SHOULD BE 18 YEARS OR OVER AND RESIDENT WITHIN THE AREA NDICATED ON THE MAP. COMPLETED NOMINATION PAPERS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE SPECIAL BOX FOR THE PURPOSE IN CLANE POST OFFICE. NOMINATED PERSONS WILL BE CONTACTED TO CONFIRM THEIR CONSENT.

CHILDLINE BREAKFAST

Clane's Annual Childline Breakfast will be taking place on the weekend of 6th - 9th November. All proceeds to Childline. Breakfast will be held in Enquiring Minds Childcare, Clane on Friday 6th November. Great raffle prizes!!

Calling all Fair City Super Fans!! Would you like a once in a lifetime chance for a walk on part in Ireland's favourite soap? Thanks to the wonderful team at RTE's Fair City we have two walk on appearances to offer to the highest bidder in aid of Childline. We are running a silent auction for this coveted item so if you are interested please email clanefestival@kildare.ie with your bid. The successful bidder will be notified on Wednesday 11th November. All proceeds go to Childline.

For enquiries about the Breakfast Morning, please call 086 0619086.
Mary Dunne

CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2016
Theme: Health And Fitness

Our 2016 Festival will run from 11th to 18th March with lots of events throughout the week. Preparations are now in full swing for our Festival.

If you have a comment to make and would like it published on our website, please email to clanefestival@kildare.ie

Clane Christmas Cards are in the local shops now. Cards are 1 euro each or a pack of 6 cards cost 3 euro. We have a great selection this year and we hope you will support us by buying some.

We will have an Expo in The Westgrove Hotel and Conference Centre, Clane on Sunday 13th March. If you are interested in exhibiting at this or if you have anything to offer, please email: clanefestival@kildare.ie.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the Committee and help organise the Festival events. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out in any way.

Mary Dunne,
Chairperson.

THE EVERGREENS

Well here we are with Winter upon us once more; but never mind, we must have patience: as Winter comes can Spring be far behind? We're now saying goodbye to the lovely season of mists and mellow fruitfulness with its rustic shades and hues – Autumn. All the leaves are down in colours of bright yellow, red and orange and we're all getting ready for Winter months. Still its exciting too as we prepare for Christmas.

November -month of the Holy Souls– reminds us to pray for our dead. Once again we commend them to God's loving care -may they all share Christ's victory over death and enjoy peace and joy in God's Kingdom where there is no more suffering and no more grief. We also remember all those forgotten lost souls who have died and have no one to pray for them. As we know of course that the Mass is the most powerful gift for the deceased. It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins.

Things are going very well in our Club and we would like to see more new faces join us, so do come along on Tuesdays at 2.30 and enjoy all we have to offer. We are enjoying very much our visit to Clongowes every Tuesday. We are treated so well for two hours with games, singsongs, question time, etc. and we are also treated to a lovely dinner and looked after very well.

Good luck and every good wish to CMDS, both with their first ever pantomime "Cinderella", planned for December, and the forthcoming musical "Kiss me Kate" in April next. So you can imagine how busy they are these talented artists, who give of their time to entertain us. They are brilliant. They are also hosting Santa and Children's Christmas Market in the Abbey on 29th November, so make a concerted effort to come to come to all three and have a great time of fun and laughter.

Slán tamall beag agus go neirí go geal libh.

Maureen Spain (PRO).

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

Would you like to improve your self-confidence in public speaking and leadership skills?

If the answer is **YES**- why not come along to a Clane Toastmasters Meeting? You will be guaranteed a very warm welcome. You will experience what happens at a Toastmasters Meeting and enjoy a wonderful entertaining evening.

Toastmasters Programme provides a supportive environment to improve and develop confidence in communication and learn leadership skills. Club meetings are workshops where members 'learn by doing'. Members are supported and empowered by fellow members. All achievements are recognised at every club meeting.

There are two parts to the meeting:

1.There are normally 3- 4 speeches. All speeches are evaluated individually which means the evaluator provides feedback, offers methods of improvement, builds and maintains self-esteem of the speaker.

There are other roles such as Timer, Grammarian, Word and Humourist. All members avail of the opportunity to undertake different roles at meetings. Consequently, these opportunities will enhance leadership skills.

2. The second half of the meeting consists of a Table Topics session whereby members and guests learn to practice the art of impromptu speaking on particular fun topics.

The meeting lasts two hours with a break for tea/coffee. Punctuality is vital. There are numerous fun-filled opportunities in Toastmasters. No matter how small or large your role may be, you are developing communication and leadership skills which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth. You can make a difference! Why not take that first step and come along to a Clane Toastmasters meeting?

Meetings take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm in Clane G.A.A Club. **For further details: Contact: Maureen *087 2258020*; Fran: *087 6785261.***

www.clanetoastmasters.com
Find us on Facebook and Meetup

CLANE TENNIS CLUB - Business House

We welcome back members of Clane KARE Centre and Clane Tennis Club will be the headquarters for coaching members from KARE Centres in Edenderry, Kildare, Newbridge , Naas and Clane.

Over 30 members have completed a seven week coaching programme under our Coach Ritchie Mahony and Mayor of Kildare presented medals and praised the great effort by the Tennis Club in providing the facilities. Unfortunately plans for further development of the club, which included erecting special Mini Courts for KARE and juniors are put on hold as we have not received funding from Sports Capital. Members which total over 250 are very disappointed especially as the club has put so much into the community, opening the facilities to the local Schools and KARE and Mayor Weld promised that he would put

pressure on Deputy Durken and Minister Ring to provide urgent funding for this project.

Four teams are participating in Dublin Leagues and two ladies and men's team have qualified for play offs to finals.

Parent's of juniors are meeting on regular basis planning coaching and leagues throughout the year and special thanks to Mary O'Donovan for organising.

Presidents - Peter Duffy Tournament was held last Fri and Winner was Stephen Sherry. Proceeds to Little Way Cancer Support

Half Year membership Special Offer now available to end March 2016 as follows: Adult €80, Secondary Students €30 and Primary Stude€20. Contact clubhouse any Tues. evening from 7.30p.m. or any club member.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 30th. Nov. at 8p.m. in clubhouse.

TIDY TOWNS AND PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

Clane Tidy Towns' achievements in the National Tidy Towns Competition were recognized at a meeting held by Kildare County Council in Maynooth University on the evening of October 28th. In brief, we advanced 4 points on last year and retained our Bronze Medal with €400. We now have 295 points. Clane are still leaders of Category E (5,001-10,000) in Kildare, ahead of Athy (277 points), Kilcock (258 points) and Kildare (also 258 points).

In recognition of Clane's achievement, we were awarded €1,000 by Kildare County Council. Congratulations to all who were involved in Clane Tidy Towns.

Parkview again came first in their category (50 houses) in Pride of Place while. Otomy came second in their category. Our heartiest congratulations to both estates which have been setting headlines and raising standards for all estates in Clane.

CALENDAR (Contd. from p. 2)

Wednesday 18th November
Clane Local History Group will present a talk entitled "Clane Main Street, Past and Present" by John Noonan in the GAA Centre, Prosperous Road, Clane at 8pm. See p. 8

Sunday 29th November
Clane Musical & Dramatic Society is once again hosting Santa & Children's Christmas Market in The Abbey on the 29th November - Anyone interested in hosting a stall (fee 50 euro) should email Catherine immediately at clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com
Tuesday 1st December
Clane Golf Club AGM in the Village Inn at 8pm. New members welcome.

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[1]. He was very happy with the good influence Fr. McMahon had had on the local people in so short a time. These he described as having been "rude, wild and intractable". After the Confirmation, howev-

er, 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 of 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 own 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. 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 the nineteen hundreds, 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 largely 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."

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, where Campbell Tyres is now located, but it stretched the full width, right out to the roadside. The other was that of Mrs. Walsh who had a pair of old two storey houses with an interconnected door, situated on the Naas Road, just around the corner, in front of where O'Shea's Country Market now stands. 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 marked their burial plots. 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. The tramps couldn't afford the £5 burial fee which would otherwise have been due.

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 rig&? It just goes to show, perhaps, that not all tramps were on the road.

Then there is the story of the stranger who came into a local pub one morning and got around to telling the few that were there how he had just 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 Grogan Solicitors, etc). Looking in the other direction he saw the opposite end walled off, as he thought, by a line-out of old houses (since demolished) across the Green, 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?' With that I think I will be off myself.

[1] Ribonism was an Irish Catholic sectarian secret society established at the beginning of the 19th century in opposition to the Orange Order. It was anti-landlord and its members roamed the fields at night maiming cattle by cutting a ligament. They got their name from the wearing of a green emblem.