Le Chéile

Community Magazine

March 2016 No. 343

EDITORIAL

The importance of community involvement and activity cannot be over emphasised. It was standard in ancient times. Tribal rule was replaced by centralized government in the form of monarchies and, in many cases, beginning with the French in the 18th Century, was replaced by democracy. Though it has many advantages, the problem with centralized government is that people at a local level tend to leave everything in the hands of the powers that be.

Canon Hayes founded Muintir na Tíre in 1937. It aims to enhance the capacities of people in communities to become involved in local social, economic, cultural and environmental development. It is an antidote to the detached impersonal approach to life which is experienced in large cities like New York.

Clane Community Council was set up 42 years ago in 1973. Following a local meeting which took place on 30th April, the Development Officer of M. na T. came to Clane on invitation and facilitated a public meeting which led to the setting up of C.C.C. Over the years a total of eight committees were set up in areas such as Tidy Towns, Community Games, Abbey Community Centre, Abbey Cemetery (Friary), Clane Watch, Heritage, Web and Finance.

We now find ourselves at the beginning of a new term, which will take us through 2016 and 2017, totalling 44 years in all. The nominated members were listed in the February issue of Le Chéile as well as the elected officers following the A.G.M. that month. The members of the various committees are listed in this issue. Thanks again to those who submitted nominations and to those who have responded in going forward. It must be emphasised that there are many members of the committees, who generously give of their time and skills, who are not actually "members" of the Community Council.

CALENDAR

Monday 7th March
Public Consultation on Clane Flood Risk Management options. Parish Centre, Main Street. 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm. See p. 11

Wednesday 16th March
Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Archaeologist Lorcan Harney on "The Archaeology of Clane", in the G.A.A. Club, Prosperous Road at 8pm. See p. 5

FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL CALENDAR SEE PAGES 5 & 6.

Monday 21st March
Monthly meeting of Clane Community Council in the Evergreens Room at the Abbey Community Centre at 8.00pm.

Wednesday 13th April
The North Kildare Branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association will present "ON FIGHTING FOR IRELAND", a Personal Reflection of the 1916 Easter Rising by Dr. Tom Clonan, in Clane Parish Centre in the Main Street at 8.00pm. See p. 4

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 21st March

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

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

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As is usual at our February meeting the membership of the various Sub-committees was up-dated.

Tidy Towns
Helen O'Flaherty, Freda Fogarty, Tom McCreery, Maeve Rock, Mary Morrin, John Kennedy, Pádraig McEvoy, Maureen Beirne, Breda Gunning, Derek Gunning, Julie Manzor, Jeanette Drumm, Finbarr D'Arcy, Paul Carroll, Mary Murtagh, Eamonn Lynch, Matt Hayes, Tony McEvoy,

Abbey Hall
Nick Fitzgerald, Paul Carroll, John Power, Anne Noonan, Maurice Austin, Tony McEvoy, Pádraig McEvoy, Nellie Dillon-Forde, John Daly.

Friary & Abbey Cemetery
John Briody, John McDonagh, Tony McEvoy, Mark Moffat, Tom Cleary, Phil McCormack, Des Drumm .

Finance
Paul Carroll, Nick Fitzgerald, John Kennedy, Nellie Dillon-Forde, Des Drumm, Anne Noonan, Martine Grogan.

Community Games
Martina Healy, Anne Noonan, Tom McCreery, Nick Fitzgerald, Tony McEvoy, Bernie Foley, Edel Mason, Henry Lowry, Margaret McDonald, Susan Galbraith. Peter Kirwan, Des Drumm, Niamh Fitzgerald.

Clane Watch
Pádraig McEvoy, Tony McEvoy, Dave McCann, John McDonagh, Peter Kirwan, Nellie Dillon-Forde, Tom Cleary, Robert Mahon.

Heritage
John Daly, Des Drumm, Pádraig McEvoy, Pat Given, John Kennedy, Tony McEvoy, Robert Mahon.

Web
John Kennedy, John Daly, Pádraig McEvoy, John Power, Martine Grogan, Paul Carroll.

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES SWIMMING RESULTS

Clane and Rathcoffey Community Games Swimming was conducted at Naas Pool on the Naas-Caragh Road on Saturday 27th February. The results were as follows:-

Girls

U 8 Freestyle	**U8 Backcrawl**
Saoirse Dagg	Saoirse Dagg
Isabelle Fitzpatrick	Isabelle Firzpatrick
Anna Grainger	

U10 Freestyle	**U10 Backcrawl**
Lucie Dempsey	Lucie Dempsey
Ella Hampson	Grace Gallagher
Karen Cole	Ella Hampson

U12 Freestyle	**U12 Backcrawl**
Meabh Maguire	Meabh Maguire
Erin Corrigan	Erin Corrigan
Daisy Connolly Carew	Daisy Connolly Carew

U12 Breaststroke	**U14 Freestyle**
Abbie Dowd	Niamh Henry
	Rachel Millea
	Áine Maguire

U14 Backcrawl	**U14 Breaststroke**
Áine Maguire	Niamh Henry
Sarah Millea	Rachel Millea
	Nadine Dowd

U 16 Freestyle **U16 Backcrawl**

Katie Walsh Hussey Róisín Maguire
Róisín Maguire Aislinn Corbett
Clodagh Nathan Evita Andreikeviciute

U 16 Breaststroke **U 16 Butterfly**
Clodagh Nathan Katie Walsh Hussey

U13 Relay panel **U 16 Relay panel**
1 Rachel Millea 1 Niamh Henry
2 Claire Lynch 2 Ailsinn Corbett
3 Aine Maguire 3 Katie Walsh Hussey
4 Sara Millea 4 RóisínMaguire

Boys
U8 Freestyle **U8 Backcrawl**
George McNamee Daniel Furs
Rory Maguire
Charlie O'Donovan

U10 Freestyle **U10 Backcrawl**
Harry Reid Diarmuid Finn
Mark Bryan Dodd Mark Bryan Dodd
Diarmuid Finn Harry Reid & Lochlann Behan

U12 Freestyle **U12 Backcrawl**
Shane Henry Donal Fitzpatrick
Donal Fitzpatrick Liam Dagg
Nathan Carr

U12 Breaststroke **U14 Freestyle**
Nathan Carr Matthew Walsh Hussey
Shane Henry
Adam Millea

U14 Butterfly
Matthew Walsh Hussey

Thank you:
Susan, Martina, Henry and Tony would like to thank Paul (starter) and Michelle McLoughlin, Bernie Foley and Karin O'Hara (judges) and Agnes Maguire (recorder), for all their help on the day. Thanks also to the staff and management of K Leisure Pool.

County Swimming Competitions 2-5pm
Athy Pool on Saturday 30th April -Girls on Sunday 1st May -Boys

Team events will commence shortly. Camogie (G), Hurling (B), Gaelic (B&G), Soccer (B) and Rugby (B). Table Quiz (B&G) will be in Sarsfields on April 8th at 8pm.

Cross Country will be on April 8th

Field and Track events: The Clane & Rathcoffey Community Games Committee has applied to the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Community School to hold the Field and Track Events on the grounds of the school on Monday evening 16th May at 6pm. Watch this Space.

CLANE TOASTMASTERS

Clane Toastmasters Club have made great progress to date and is going from strength to strength. The club has become fully chartered, which means a membership of 21 members. Of course, the club welcomes all guests at any of the meetings. The meetings are fun-filled with great opportunities to learn new skills and improve self confidence in public speaking and leadership, in a very supportive environment.

Why not attend a Clane Toastmasters Meeting and see what Toastmasters can offer you?

Meetings take place at 7.45pm in Clane GAA, on the first and third Wednesday of Each month (except July/August)

Guests are very welcome. For more information, contact Ray 087 9579941. Find us on Facebook and Meetup.

"ON FIGHTING FOR IRELAND"

A Personal Reflection of the 1916 Easter Rising by Dr. Tom Clonan.

On 13th April 8pm, Clane Parish Centre organized by the North Kildare Branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association.

To book a free place contact The John Sullivan Centre on 045 861346 or email Vicki.oconnell@iwa.ie

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Archaeologist Lorcan Harney on "The Archaeology of Clane", in the G.A.A. Club, Prosperous Road, Clane on Wednesday 16th March 2016, at 8pm. This will be a most interesting talk and will be an ideal opportunity for new and old residents of Clane to get new insights into the ancient and unique history of the Village. Admission is free and all are welcome.

CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL ESTABLISHED 2005

Fáilte, welcome to St. Patrick's Day Festival 2016. Theme: Health & Fitness
To celebrate, we have something for all ages

Friday, 11th March
Table Quiz 9pm **Manzor's The Village Inn** Table of 4: €40. Prizes sponsored by Seamus & Kitty Manzor.

Saturday, 12th March
Children's Treasure Hunt—Westgrove Leisure Club 12.30
Music by **LOOK SHARP**
The Parade Ring: 9pm TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Sunday 13th March
Health & Fitness Expo and Family Fun Day 11am - 5pm The O'Connell Suite, Westgrove Hotel. Guest Speakers on the day **Admission is free.** Children's Treasure Hunt 12.30pm at the Westgrove.

Monday 14th March
Parade Information Evening - Clane GAA 8pm. Refreshments served.

Tuesday 15th March
A Song For Clane: The Abbey, Clane 8pm **Mick Dunne** in concert with the **Newbridge Gospel Choir.** Tickets €10 available from Bob and Kate's Gift Shop, Main St., Clane

Thursday 17th March St. Patrick's Day
PARADE at 3pm with **Street Entertainment** from 2pm.
Hear the wonderful voice of **Catherine Coates** of international acclaim accompanied by traditional musician **Robbie Fallon** in the Oak Bar, The Westgrove Hotel - 4.30 until 6.30pm.

Special Irish Dishes served in the Oak Bar made from produce from local Co. Kildare Suppliers.

Friday 18th March
Awards Night - Westgrove Hotel at 7.30pm: All welcome. **Mick May** in the Oak Bar, Westgrove Hotel 10pm - 12.30am.

Remember that this is a COMMUNITY FESTIVAL. We celebrate this year with 'SONG FOR CLANE' composed for us by Mick Dunne.

THE EVERGREENS

Well we are all well and truly coming towards the end of Spring now. Whatever the weather, let's look forward now to a lovely Summer. Take a little time to look around now at the beauty of God's creation in our landscape. Note how the birds singing brings hope that the lengthening of the days lifts our spirits and Winter woes begin to recede and we give thanks to God. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy we can make Lent a time to welcome once more the mercy of God into our lives and we are willing to share this mercy with others.

On behalf of the Evergreens and myself we would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to all those boys and girls who were recipients of the St. John Paul Awards.

They are kind, caring and dedicated young people and are an absolute credit to their parents and the community. So we must all feel proud of them. Comhgáirdeacas arís, and each of them has completed a reflection on how their faith is reflected in this service. The names of these young devotees are thus: - Caroline Behan, Peter Doyle, Megan Farrell, Cíara Finn, Aoife Fitzgerald, Erica Grehan, Muireann Healy, Rachel Malone, Emily O'Brien and Paul O'Flaherty.

Our flipping pancake morning on Shrove Tuesday was once again the success it usually is. So thank you to all who helped out on this morning and to all who supported us; we appreciate it every year.

Good luck to CMDS with their rehearsals for the society's next musical "Kiss Me Kate". This is going to be the most wonderful show performed by multi-talented soloists and artistes combined with great music, hilarious script and dance routines. There will be more about this in next issue of Le Chéile. So do get your ticket in time and don't be left out.

Good luck once again to Mary Dunne and her team for the 12th St. Patrick's Day Festivities. It looks as if Clane will be very vibrant on this day. There's varied enjoyment for young and old alike. Gúim Beannachtaí agus aoibhneas na féile ar gach éinne. Le Féile Pádraig agus am Cásca comh maith Fé shéan is fé shonas dhibh go léir. On behalf of the Evergreens I wish you all a great day on St. Patrick's Day (see you at the Parade) and a safe, holy and happy Easter to you all. Beir bua agus beannacht.

Maureen Spain (PRO)

CLANE GOLF CLUB

Results- 9 Hole Spring League Competition

22nd-24th Jan -9-hole Spring League
1st James Malone (18) 22 pts
2nd Ger Nevin (11) 21 pts Last 6
3rd Diarmuid F. Coonan (15) 21 pts Last 3
329th-31st Jan –9-hole Spring League
1st Kevin Doyle (24) 23 pts
2nd Michael Cuddihy (12) 22 pts
3rd Eamonn Howlin (16) 21 pts
5th-7th Feb - 9-hole Spring League
1st Jim Mahony (22) 23 pts Last 6
2nd Joe Maher (19) 23 pts
3rd Michael Connolly (18) 22 pts
12th-14th Feb - 9-hole Spring League
1st Paul Morrissey (21) 23 pts Last 6
2nd Maurice Byrne (24) 23 pts
3rd John McAndrew (15) 22 pts
19th-21st Feb - 9-hole Spring League
1st Padraic Rooney (15) 23 pts Last 6
2nd Sean Byrne (18) 23 pts
3rd Daire O Broin (21) 22 pts Last6

Leading teams in Spring League

M Cuddihy 22 J Maher 21 T Bryan 17
39 41 42 [35] 43 165
S Carew 18 J Mahony 17 P Murray 18
40 37 42 39 [36] 158
S Byrne 23 D Mahony 21 J Brady
[32] 38 36 38 44 156
J McAndrew 16 B Campbell 20 J Slevin
13 37 37 37 42 [36] 153
E Howlin 19 T Murray 18 J Fleming 12
[35] 36 37 41 37 151

Forthcoming events:

Sunday 28th February- Mass for deceased members at 8.00 a.m. Clongowes Church.

Followed by 9 hole 3 ball shambles & prize presentation in The Village Inn at

11.30 a.m.

Weekending 4th March- 9 hole Match Play Qualifier.

Saturday 12th March – Away Outing to Royal Tara Golf Club, Bellinter, Co. Meath, Tee reserved 9.30 to 11.0 a.m. Time sheet on Notice Board.

Friday 18th March - The Friday 18 competition starts.

Weekending 19th March- 18 hole Match Play Qualifier.

Weekending 26th March – Easter Sunday, 18 Hole Stableford- 1916 Centenary Trophy.

New members are welcome. Please see website: www.clanegolfclub.ie

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society would like to thank everyone who attended our fund raising Table Quiz held in Manzor's Village Inn on Friday 12th February last. We had 14 tables and a very successful raffle. We are very grateful to Quizmaster Eric Nolan and his score keeper Orla Reidy, to Seamus Manzor for sponsoring first prize, those who donated raffle prizes and Fran Styles who put the very attractive Valentine's Day hamper together. There was a great buzz at the quiz, which mirrors the atmosphere at rehearsals for our upcoming musical (Kiss me, Kate). All parts have now been filled – we welcome Alan Maleady back on stage after several years' absence. With a front line of Edel Marron, Seamus Sullivan, Michelle Flannery, Ronan McCabe, and other principal roles being played by Peter Fay, Eric Nolan, Robert Gallagher, Elaine Moore O'Donohoe, Alan Maleady, Val Brennan and Aine Grace, the show is set to be a huge success. Anne Noonan (087 6897376) is already taking bookings for tickets, some four weeks before tickets go on sale!!! The show runs from Monday 11th April until Saturday 16th April and Anne confirms that nearly a third of Friday night tickets have already been booked.

If you wish to pre-book your tickets give Anne a call now.

Sadie O'Reilly
PRO - CMDS

CLANE G.A.A.

Clane GAA are hosting an Easter Camp this year for 1 week – full details will be distributed through the normal means and prices staying the same as last year. All coaches are Garda vetted and have the child protection and code of best practice courses completed.

Bingo takes place every Tuesday night @ 8:30pm in the club – great cash prizes on offer every week with the Jackpot now standing at 2,550. All are welcome each week.

Our lotto draws take place every Saturday night with tickets costing €2 or 3 tickets for €5. We are currently looking for new sellers and if you are interested in selling a few books, please contact Paddy Moore.

Membership is currently due – if you are not registered you will not be able to participate in training or matches. Fees are €140 family, €100 Adult player, €70 Juvenile.

Our clubhouse café is going from strength to strength with plenty of variation on the menu – it is child friendly zone with a kiddies area for them to play. Why not give it a go and you may be surprised with how good the coffee is.

All our teams are back training with the minor footballers winning their first game in the league beating Larries easily. They play Celbridge this Sunday away at 1pm. All the rest of the teams will commence their league and championship competitions in the next month.

Yours in sport

Dave Cahill

CLANE TENNIS CLUB – founded 1973

Clane Tennis Club is now taking new members for the coming year, Juniors and Seniors. Special Family rates available on request.

At present there are three teams competing in Dublin Winter Leagues with all three looking good to qualify from their sections.

Senior Social tennis is held every Tuesday evenings since the formation of the club which caters for all standards.

Junior coaching every Wed. Thurs and Sundays with our coach Ritchie Mahony under strict supervision.

Summer Camps for members are held in August which caters for two sections 6- 9yrs and 10 to 18yrs which include coaching, competitive Tennis and of course plenty of good fun, all leaders are Garda vetted.

Clane Tennis Club is used by students from both Scoil Mhuire and Heweston School, March to Oct and also by members of the nearby KARE Centre which has been very successful with the assistance of our coach Ritchie who is sponsored by his employer Hewlet Packard and we hope to see some members qualify to represent Ireland in the Special Olympics in Rio 2019.

The club have plans to improve their facilities over the next two years which include installing 2 mini courts, resurfacing three courts and extending clubhouse. We organise various funding throughout the year with Tournaments, Annual Draw, Bag Packing, Table Quiz etc. and of course the most recent Strictly Come Dancing. Many thanks to our main sponsors, Joe Mallon Motors, Condron's Supervalu and Manzors and to all who have supported us througout the years.

Clane is a very welcome place to live and we in Clane Tennis Club want to play our part and with assistance of two members of TUS we try to improve the area with hedge cutting, planting shrubs and keep our premises clean throughout the year and we plan, with assistance from Clane Tidy Towns and KARE to improve our entrance with erection of new wall and landscaping area.

Membership is now available to end of March 2017 and application forms are available in the clubhouse with special Family rates. Call any Tuesday evening from 7.30p.m. Juniors €40, Adults: €160 Pensioners €110 – easy payments confidentially arranged. Look us up on Facebook and Web for more info.

We welcome all new members, both young and not so young to come along and see our facilities and be assured of a welcome. Coaching available all year round. We hope to announce an Open Week for all soon.

I.C.A.

Before the year gets any older it is necessary to mention the conclusion of 2015 activities. It was a privilege to welcome more than one hundred happy, young-at-heart folk to the annual Christmas party on Sunday December 13th. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed the afternoon immensely and, for that, many people must be thanked -though belatedly: The local G.A.A. Club provided the comfortable venue and helpers to prepare same. Also, the yearly, loyal volunteers, who gladly give of their time, the courteous and kind students from Scoil Mhuire, who are a credit to their school and their families. The "Happy Day" couldn't happen without the generosity of all you good people, -once again– sincere thanks from all Guild members.

The annual Draw (funds towards the party) was held on December 10th -the winners were Yvonne Winters, Darragh O'Brien, Stephen Lohan, Ellie O'Brien and Mary Murphy. Thanks indeed to all who supported.

Now that we are into Spring 2016, we continue with our "Thursday gatherings" and everyone is occupied with something interesting and enjoyable. We had our Keep-fit exercises a few weeks ago -which was quite a help, following the Christmas Excesses! Sports star this month in Eileen O'Brien. We wish a speedy recovery to members who are unwell at the moment. To all -a glorious St. Patrick's Day and a rousing Happy Easter.

Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Yvonne Winters 086 0308779.
P.R.O. M. O'Connor.

THE ABBEY

Archdeacon Handy, who was an elected member of our first Community Council, informed the monthly meeting in March '74 that the Bell Tower had been condemned by the C. of I. architect and that it would have to be demolished if urgent works were not undertaken. He informed us that the Church Body favoured handing over the old ruins, which had been roofless since 1883, to the community for a very nominal fee, if these works could be organized, rather than accept an alternative offer to lower the tower to roof level and convert the building into stables.

The transfer was made in August '74. Scaffolding was erected and with assistance from the late John O'Connell, who supplied skilled tradesmen at cost, the work was completed on the tower within about a week. The works involved securing one or two door heads and some pointing. The roofing of the tower was left until the re-roofing of the overall building was undertaken a decade later. With the tower secured, the gate was securely locked to exclude intrusion of animals to the graveyard, which had already damaged and flattened the majority of its headstones. It was to remain like this for the next decade or so until an AnCo Scheme was established and the necessary finance secured, which was to enable us to reconstruct the old ruins as a Community Centre. A notice was placed in the national papers signifying the intention to remove the fallen headstones to the peripheral walls. There were no objections. The graveyard had been officially closed in 1915 when that on the Sallins Road was opened.

The Abbey Community Centre was officially opened on 31st March 1985. Its development involved the re-roofing of the ruins of the old Church of Saint Michael, which had been roofless for one hundred years following the move to the new Church of Saint Michael and All Angels at Millicent. The north wall required re-capping with steel reinforcement. The advice of a structural engineer was obtained on this and other aspects of the work. Hardwood windows were specially manufactured for the purpose.

When the church on the Green in Clane was built is not certain. A reference in the Royal Visitation Book describes the chancel as being in ruins in 1615. Petit's map of the Down Survey, conducted in the latter half of that century, seems to show two churches on the site: It has been suggested that the stone wall at he back of the Wogan tomb may be a surviving part of a church wall. Taylor's map of 1783 shows a thumb sketch of the church with a tall pointed spire surmounting the present square steeple.

In 1798 the church spire and part of the roof was damaged during gun fire between rebels, at the church, and the Militia, based in the Rectory (Abbeylands House),

The economy lands had to be mortgaged to raise funds for restoring it and for rebuilding the spire. The work on the spire seems to have been skimped, for as soon afterwards as 1826 the consent of the Bishop was obtained to have it taken down because of its unsafe condition and "the repeated expenses incurred by it".

The annals record that the Abbey of Clane was founded by St. Ailbe of Emly (in the modern county of Tipperary), in the Diocese of Ferns. Ailbe is said to have preached Christianity in Ireland, along with Declan of Ardmore and others, before the arrival of St. Patrick. He made St. Senchel its first abbot.

There are no physical remains of the early Christian Abbey in Clane, though there is a consensus that it was based at the site of the church on the Green. This belief is said to have been strongly held by the Church of Ireland congregation. That there should be no surviving physical remains of the Abbey is not surprising as it would have been one of the oldest in the country and it would have preceded the practice of building in stone. It is strongly suggested that the Abbey in Clane was established before the coming of St. Patrick in 432. This is furthermore one of the few sites which would have been absolutely above the flood level of the Liffey.

When Pope Cellistine sent Palladius to Ireland in 431 it is recorded in Rome that he sent him "as Bishop to the Irish believing in Christ". Conceivably the people of Clane were among these pre-Patrician Christians. It has been said that Cellistine's concern was more to prevent the spread of the Pelagian heresy to practicing Christians in Ireland than to Christianize them in the first place. The chronology of the early missionaries to Ireland is very confused and it is not helped by the fact that the first written native account was not produced until about 740 A.D. This was a compilation made by an unknown monk, believed to be working in Bangor, County Down.

So when was the Abbey in Clane founded? On the basis that the facts were first recorded in the Irish annals at least three hundred years after the event and this by Northern monks who were anxious, more than anything else, to establish the Primacy of Armagh on the primacy of St. Patrick it is particularly difficult to say when Clane Abbey was founded. Even in regard to St. Patrick there is much confusion. Thomas O'Rahilly, a scholar of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, writing in 1942, put forward the intriguing proposal, that there were two St. Patricks.* Palladius, he claimed with excellent authority from the manuscripts, was properly "Patricius Palladius". Briefly, he claimed that the Patrick who died in 461 was in fact Palladius who did not die in 432, as was claimed by the annalists over three hundred years later. A fact which always confused scholars was that "St. Patrick" was sometimes claimed to have died in 492. This date O'Rahilly accepts for the death of "Patricius Secondus", as a number of annalists have referred to him, or the St. Patrick of Armagh, author of the "Confession". In other words the St. Patrick we have come to know might well have been a composite of two men. This theory of the "two Patricks" also received the support of a Jesuit Professor in U.C.D.

The Northern monks, coming more than three hundred years after Pope Cellistine sent Patricius Palladius to Ireland in 431, were able to write him out of history. If Patrick gained Primacy for Armagh in this way "the Irish believing in Christ" were similarly air-brushed in order to eliminate all predecessors. From then on Ailbe's foundation of the Abbey in Clane is given a more politically acceptable date, that of "520".

* O'Rahilly first put forward the "Theory of the Two Patricks" in 1942 in a lecture which he delivered in Trinity College. O'Rahilly's lecture was afterwards published in book form, including the edition of 1981, which benefitted from the addition of numerous scholarly notes. It is still available for purchase on the Internet. The title is *"The Two Patricks", A Lecture on the History of Christianity in Fifth-Century Ireland by Thomas F. O'Rahilly.*

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ABBEY COMMUNITY CENTRE SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 1985

The official re-opening after 100 years of the old restored Church of Saint Michael, now the Abbey Community Centre, took place on the afternoon of Sunday 31st March 1985. Mr. Joe Bermingham, Minister of State at the Office of Public Works, was the principal speaker. The Minister paid special tribute to Fr. Thompson, S.J., Andy Fitzgerald (foreman) John Connolly, Clane Community Council and the Church of Ireland. He expressed disbelief at the quality and extent of the work, which includes the restoration of the old Church building, which had been roofless and in ruins for 100 years, the development of the derelict graveyard as a very pleasant and elevated park, commanding a fine view and the continuing development of the adjoining Day Centre. The work had in a sense commenced 11 years ago [1974] when the Community Council had undertaken the conservation of the Bell Tower, then in a threatened condition (with the help of John O'Connell). The premises came into the community in 1974 when it was passed on to us for a nominal sum by the Church of Ireland.Of course it cost £1300 to conserve and restore the tower.which had been condemned.

AnCo's involvement began in June 1983. Originally the project was scheduled to take two years, with a completion date of June 1985, but progress was good and it was completed two months ahead of schedule. But most heartening of all was the amount of employment that was generated by the project. (With the main Abbey project and the environmental schemes in the park and elsewhere in the Village, 54 youth were employed at one time in mid 1984). Two hundred and twenty trainees, 75% of them under 25 years of age, took part in the Abbey project and received valuable training in the process. That training extended over a very wide range of areas and incorporated construction skills such as bricklaying, plastering, plumbing and heating, carpentry and joinery, stonework and pointing, electrical work, scaffolding, site surveying, levelling and reading of drawings. Planning, scheduling, estimating and safety also featured as subjects. As with all AnCo courses, particular emphasis was placed on Job-seeking

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
Drop in, see maps, ask questions.

CLANE FLOOD RISK

Management Options

Monday 7th March

1.00 pm - 7 pm

Parish Centre, Main Street.

skills, career development and social skills. If you consider this list of skills, one thing is clear; many of them are transferable in that they can be adapted for use in a number of career areas. This is extremely important in these times of rapidly changing employment patterns. AnCo is training people not for one job but for "families of jobs". Eighty per cent of the young people involved in the Clane Abbey project have either gained full time employment or have gone on to further training or education programmes.

As a result of this project and the sterling work it entailed, the people of Clane now have a Community Centre to be proud of, with facilities for meetings, games and drama. But that is not all. I am very pleased to be able to announce that Phase II of the project has now been approved and work will commence very shortly. The second phase, which will provide many more young people with valuable training, will provide further development of Clane Abbey to provide Senior Citizens of the area with their own facility -the Evergreen Club.

The materials for this project were paid for by Clane Community Council and it was greatly helped by many of our local voluntary organizations. The Council thank them for this support. This building will be available to all who wish to use it for recreational purposes. The windows have been supplied by Michael Behan and his specialist team and they are designed in keeping with the highest degree of craftsmanship desirable. The floor is of maple.

Mr. Frank Donnelly, manager of the AnCo Training Centre at Ballyfermot expressed his organization's satisfaction with their involvement in the undertaking and complemented Peter Riordan, Ted Murray, Dan Doolan and Hart Dorsch for their technical assistance, the production of drawings, etc.

At the opening ceremony the foreman, Andy Fitzgerald and Joe Carroll the Anco Supervisor, each received a community award of cut glass. The hall was blessed by Canon Empey, Rector and Rev. R. Thompson, S.J. Speakers also included Very Rev. R. Kelly, P.P. and Fr. Hanley, S.J. Speakers were introduced by the Community Council Chairman, Phil McCormack.

Originally published in April 1985