

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



September 2016

No. 347

EDITORIAL

Le Chéile comes out 10 times a year. The excluded months are July and August. We are back with this September edition after the traditional two month summer break. For the record, this is our 25th edition since going on the internet in February 2014; as a community magazine we go back to January 1974. You may get us for free on the web at www.clanecommunity.ie, including any of the editions back to February 2014. A few hard copies are also available each month at Clane Public Library or you might like to down-load your own. It is encouraging to see the ever increasing number of times we are being accessed on the internet and also to receive comments from around the world.

The Tidy Towns season comes to an end at the end of August, with the competition results coming out in early September. As usual, we will publish them in the October edition. There has been much positive comment about progress being made on a variety of fronts. The flower tubs, baskets, window boxes, those on the John Sullivan Monument and the roundabouts, the maintenance of the greens, have all been prompting positive comment. Much credit is due to the Tuesday evening volunteers, to the diligence of the TUS Scheme participants and to our Sponsors. Something which has made a huge difference, and is very welcome, is the effort which residents and premises owners have put into painting and presenting their properties. Everything is sparkling and here is a definite feeling that progress has been made. Let's hope this assessment is correct.

With regard to Community Games: The results of the Clane/Rathcoffey Swimming competitions (Held at the K Leisure Pool) are available by looking up the March edition of Le Chéile. The results of the Field and Track competitions (held in Scoil Mhuire) are available in the June edition of Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

CALENDAR

Saturday 3rd September

Clane Musical & Dramatic Society hold a One Day Workshop in the Westgrove Hotel from 10am to 5pm. See p. 9.

Monday 5th September

Monthly meeting of Clane Community Council in the Evergreens' Room of the Abbey Community Centre at 8pm.

Saturday 10th September

Clane Tennis Club hold their Club Championship Finals, commencing 4pm. See p. 11.

Monday 12th September

Clane Athletic Club recommence training with a fresh round of 'Couch to 5km' for new and existing members. See p. 6.

Wednesday 14th September

Clane Tennis Club commences Junior Coaching. All welcome. Contact Coach Richie Mahony 086 6051005. See p. 11.

Wednesday 21st September

Clane Local History Group will present a talk on 1916 and the "Big House" by Ciaran Reilly in the GAA Centre at 8pm. See p. 4.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of material for the October issue of Le Chéile is

Monday 26th September

To 142 Loughbolland please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

The following are the achievements of our local contestants in the County Community Games which were held in Clongowes on 29th and 30th June. Congratulations to all. [We put them on the record at this stage as Le Chéile does not come out in July or August]

County Finals

Girls U8 60m

Fourth: Laura Keena

Girls U10 100m

Fourth: Aine McNally

Girls U14 100m

Gold: Sarah Miller

Silver: Rebecca Travers

Girls U14 Long Puck

Bronze: Laoise Gillman

Girls U16 100m

Bronze: Robyn Donovan

Boys U10 200m

Silver: Tami Eko Davis

Boys U12 Long Puck

Gold: Sean Tighe

Girls U10 Relay

Silver: (Eimear Behan, Áine McNally, Laura Edwards, Lisa Manning)

Girls U14 Relay

Gold: (Sarah Millea, Holly Tyrell, Amy O'Sullivan, Rebecca Travers, Aine Maguire)

Boys U14 Relay

Bronze: (Josh Deane, Fintan Hughes, Michael Behan, Adam Deevy)

National Finals

The National Finals in Swimming and in the Field and Track events were on separate weekends in August. Those representing the County from Clane & Rathcoffey gave it their best and got into a number of Semi-finals and Finals. Unfortunately, apart from Matthew Hussey Walshe's achievement of a Fourth Place medal in the U/14 Freestyle Swimming, there were no further medals brought home by C&R. It was however a great achievement to get to this level and it was much enjoyed by all.

PARKVIEW RESIDENTS

Judging is over again for another year. The wait is on for results of both Pride of place and Clane Tidy Towns competitions. The committee wish to thank all who helped to make the Estate look brilliant again. Lots of work on gardens and floral displays. The new bins at a cost of 1,100 are in constant use and very little litter is evident around the Estate. We sadly lost Our Neighbour Jim Halligan and Kieran Mallen who died in England. On the bright side we gained some Babies to our young folk. James Callen and partner. Lisa Callen and partner Cloie Ryan and partner. Deborah Hayes and partner, and by the time this goes to press Trevor Anderson and partner. Wishing them all the best for the future. Three new plaques have been ordered for our garden of remembrance and should be done in the next week or so. We hope to do a re vamp on the garden and add new soil before the winter comes in. Again thanks to everyone for their continued support. Job well done to our grass cutters Mick, Joey and Philip. Matt.

I.C.A.

Autumn has arrived once again, with new beginnings and challenges to be faced. Our guild took a break at the end of June and concluded activities with lovely Afternoon

Tea in the Osprey Hotel, Naas, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Some members travelled with Prosperous guild to Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday July 11th for a relaxing trip on Moon River and had a relaxing trip with friends and neighbours.

We are greatly saddened by the death in recent weeks of Julia Connolly. She will be greatly missed by all. Sincere condolences to her grieving family. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Best of luck to all students experiencing different challenges in future days and months. Guild monthly meetings resume on Thursday September 1st at the KARE Centre, Dublin Road.

Hon. Sec Eileen O'Brien, Asst. Sec. Yvonne Winters - 086-0308779. (p.r.o. M. O'Connor)

CLANE ST. PARICK'S DAY FESTIVAL, 2017

Plans are already underway for our 2017 St. Patrick's Day Festival in Clane.

Our Night at the Dogs was brilliant. Thanks to all the sponsors. Without you all, this event wasn't possible. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes and all who helped in any way in making this event a great community night out. All proceeds from this will go directly back into our Festival, 2017.

THEME for 2017:
"MY FAVOURITE BOOK"

Clane Christmas Cards are in the Printers and will be available to purchase very soon.

We are on the look out for our 2017 Grand Marshal.

We are always looking for new members to join our Committee. If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at: clanefestival@kildare.ie

Mary Dunne.

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group will present a talk on "1916 and the 'Big House' - a Kildare Perspective." by Ciaran Reilly in the Clane GAA Centre, Prosperous Road, Clane at 8pm on Wednesday 21st September 2016. Admission is free and all are welcome.

CLANE GOLF CLUB

Clane Golf Club

We have had a very busy program during the months of June, July & August.

18 Hole Club Matchplay Competition

finished in July:

Winner: Brian Conlan.
Runner-up: Jim Craughwell

Also included in July the 9 Hole Club Matchplay:

Winner: Dermot Maguire
Runner-up: Jim Mahony

The main competitions during the summer months are as follows:

4/5 June- Summer Medal- Strokes:

First : Lar Blanchfield 63
Second: James Coonan 64
Gross: Robbie Reilly 69

18/19 June- Brian Conville Shield- V Par:

First : Lorcan Wyer 7 up
Second: Maurice Byrne 5 up
Gross: Robbie Reilly 73

16/17 July – Tony Carew Shield- Stable-

ford:

First : Pat McDonnell 43 points
 Second : Maurice Byrne 41 points
 Third & Gross: Niall Bryan 73

23/24 July- Captain's (Mr. Michael Connolly) Prize:

First : Paul Connolly 129
 Second : Michael Kelleher 132
 Third : Pa Connolly 133

Gross : Niall Bryan
 148

Past Captain's: Tommy Carew
 133

Class 1 First : John McAndrew
 134

Second: Michael O'Toole
 136

Class 2 First : Noel Cruise
 135

Second: Maurice Byrne
 136

Class 3 First : Kevin Doyle
 136

Second: Tim Moran
 142

Best 18 : Diarmuid F. Coonan
 66

Best 9: Robbie Reilly
 305

Best Junior: Daniel Reilly
 137

6/7 August- Autumn Medal- Strokes:

First : Aidan Donovan 61
 Second: Brian Conlan 63

14/21 August- President's (Mr. Diar-**muid F.Coonan) Prize (Strokes):**

First: Michael Kelleher 130
 Second: Stephen Duffy 132 (last
 18)
 Third : John McAndrew 132
 Gross : Niall Bryan 151
 Past Presidents': Tommy Carew 134

Class 1

First : Brian Conlan 133
 Second: Pat McDonnell 134

Class 2

First : Noel Cruise 133
 Second : Paul Morrissey 135

Class 3**14/21 August- President's (Mr. Diar-****muid F.Coonan) Prize (Strokes):**

First: Michael Kelleher 130
 Second: Stephen Duffy 132 (last
 18)
 Third : John McAndrew 132
 Gross : Niall Bryan 151
 Past Presidents': Tommy Carew 134

Class 1

First : Brian Conlan 133
 Second: Pat McDonnell 134

Class 2

First : Noel Cruise 133
 Second : Paul Morrissey 135

Class 3

First : John Slevin 133
 Second: James Brady 134

Best 18 : Sean Byrne 66
 Best Junior: Sam Reilly 144

Forthcoming events:

Sunday 23rd September - 18 Hole,
Home Outing.

Weekend 1st/2nd October- Commence-
ment of Turkey Competitions,

Saturday 15th October - Outing to
Naas G.C.

Eamonn Howlin, Club Secretary.

21st August 2016.

CLANE ATHLETIC CLUB

Clane Athletic club 'Fit4Life' Adult running club will be starting back training again this Autumn 2016 with a fresh round of 'Couch to 5km' for new members and to welcome back our existing members on the week commencing 12th September.

All details on times, running group categories and contact numbers be found on our Facebook page :

www.facebook.com/Clane AC Fit4Life Adult Running Club or look out for our information posters situated around the town.

Caroline

[087 760 0068](tel:0877600068)

MARIA DUNN AND THE O'NEILLS OF CLANE

The following article was published in Le Chéile in February 1977 following an interview with the late Maria Dunn. Maria was a daughter of James O'Neill, who came from Bodens-town and who built up a business interest in Clane comprising a pub, a grocery, a drapery, a butchers and the post office.

In addition he acquired over a hundred acres of farm land in and around the vil-
lage.

It is appropriate that we publish this article again. Sadly, the O'Neills of Clane have now all passed on. Maria was followed by her son George, who died prematurely of a heart condition while out exercising his horse. George's sister Maria died at her Madrid convent in the last two months. Both had been great friends of the community in Clane. George used to lend us a little tractor with which we mowed the green spaces around the village. His sister Maria donated it to the community when George died. Recently, as a result of research carried out by James Durney, Historian in Residence with Kildare County Library, it has been established that of three residents of the Parish of Kill who were killed in the Battle of the Somme one was Denis O'Neill of Ladyhill, Bodenstown. We will return to this after the 1977 article.

“Mrs. Maria Dunn, or Ria as she is known to her friends, has a rare store of local knowledge and impressions of life in old Clane, particularly the business sphere and the life of the village. Her father, James O'Neill, was an enterprising and successful merchant and built up a small business empire locally. He was born in 1848 during the famine and died in 1931, aged 83 years. The latter half of the last century was an active and interesting period and Ria is richly imbued with its traditions. It is indeed

a pity that she doesn't get out and about nowadays but she likes to chat with visitors whom she receives with gracious hospitality. In talking to her one soon realizes how different it all was. There is sadly not a family left in the village now from those times, apart from the O'Neills or Dunns themselves.

James O'Neill was from a background of strong farmers and came from Bodenstown. A branch of the family still lives there on the family farm and are the owners of the golf course. In his school days James O'Neill rode his own donkey to the Boys' School in Clane. At twelve he went to Mullingar to become apprenticed for a business career. When he returned he went to work for Mrs. Fitzpatrick and afterwards bought out the business himself. This was then a general store cum public house and drapery. [Presently the A.I.B./Paddy Power premises]. He also bought out Miss Corbally's, [At the top of the Street where the Ballinagappa and Killocock Roads merge], and thus gained the Post Office. In addition he bought Cribbins', later to become Larkin's butcher shop, a trade which he also practiced there in those days. He was interested in McKitrick's where Manzor's is now, but did not succeed here. There is an old saying that a yard of counter is worth a farm of land; James was averse to neither. In all he ac-

quired over a hundred acres in and around the town.

He married Catherine Duggan of Edenderry, who also came from a large farm. Catherine died in the 1950s, aged 95. They had 12 children: Joe (who died at 18), Alfonsus, Kathleen, Anne, John, Resie, Ernie (a retired vet. in Dundalk) and Joe (who lives in Lucan). Three others died in childhood. Ria, Ernie and Joe are still living.

Most of the shopping in those days was done on Saturdays. The family requirements for the week were loaded into the ass and cart. There was no packaging; everything came loose, with bacon by the side and flour, pollard and Indian meal by the bag. James, an affable man of stocky build with drooping mustaches and a hard hat, supplied everything for the house, farm and garden. He kept three shop boys, ran the post, supplied fresh meat and slaked the local thirst. On Fridays Susie Doyle, like Molly Malone, brought fish from Naas, and her cry of "herrings alive with their eyes open" could be heard from the Liffey bridge.

James ran an orderly house and never opened on a Sunday. At 10.00 p.m. each night he called time and, curious as it must seem in our eyes, every last man stood up, lifted his hat and departed

with a "Goodnight Sir."

Year in and year out, the work went on, with the first man in at 7.00 a.m. and the Post going out even on Christmas Day. What was it like to be a child growing up in a business house? Ria was taught by Sisters Berchmans, Brigid, Anthony and Bernard. The nuns were addressed as "Miss". A Professor Whitehead from Clongowes called to give private music lessons. He cycled out from the hotel in Sallins. [The Canal Hotel, which became the site of a meat factory in the 50s, is now cut off from the road by a long high wall extending from the Canal to a tall red brick boarded-up house] Music ran in her mother's family and indeed comes down to the present generation. They were avid readers and the house is filled with their books. Sometimes the young Ria would sneak out the back way to buy sweets from Lizzie Whelan, whose shop was where Collins' now stands. [Now the Chipper] Afterwards she went as a boarder to Sion Hill. In those days young ladies didn't go out to work and so, when her education was complete, she returned to help at home. She made 40 lbs. of butter a week and cooked for the family, with kitchen help. When the Parish ran concerts in Slevins' Mill, [On the far side of the Liffey Bridge on the right] she was called upon to play the piano.

James was a great enthusiast for horses, of which he kept thirty in Cribbins' yard. [The yard where Larkins' house and a hairdresser's is now located] On one occasion he won both the Galway Hurdle and Plate. The jockey was Paddy Slator on Reviewer". Hunting was his particular pastime and he often recounted how he rode alongside the Empress of Austria when she rode through the grounds of Maynooth College. The ladies were very active in charitable matters, particularly with the outbreak of the 'Black Flu'; at the height of the plague people would not enter the houses of the dead and dying. Ria's mother cooked meals for the sick along with Mrs. Sweetman, Mrs. Colgan and Mrs. Dunne of Ballinagappa.

Ria married Billy Dunn, a Dubliner and an accountant with Craigies. They came to live in Clane in 1950 when Mr. Dunn retired. Billy was a great enthusiast for the fishing line and shotgun all his life, and is affectionately remembered by many. They had two children, George, who needs no introduction and Mary, a Loreto Sister whose convent is in Madrid."

A tombstone in the old graveyard at Mainham has the following inscription, making reference to Denis O'Neill who is buried at Ypres:

Pray for the souls of
Joseph O'Neill

Ladyhill Bodenstown

Died 17th June 1915

His wife Jane

Died 10th December 1930

Their sons

Henry Joseph

Died 31st December 1881

Denis killed in Ypres 16th July 1916

Patrick died 10th June 1918

Henry died 22nd August 1922

My Lord my God

The present occupant of the home place at Ladyhill, Bodenstown, is Rita Mather, nee O'Neill. This holding of 155 acres was acquired by her grandfather, Joseph, in 1888 from Rev. William Sherlock (appointed Vicar of Clane in 1888). The family's land holding in Bodenstown would have been part of the Sherlockstown estate. It was passed on by Joseph to his son, also Joseph (Rita's father). Joseph was a brother of our James and Denis who was killed one hundred years ago in W.W.I. James and Denis were uncles of Rita.

WELCOME BACK TO CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC



SOCIETY

This has been a very busy summer for the Society. Sincere thanks are due to all who supported both our Carpool Karaoke and two one act comedies, both of which were held in The Westgrove Hotel. Our Summer Camp for 8 to 12 year olds was another success and it was wonderful to see the talent on stage on the final day.

OPEN NIGHT – 31ST AUGUST

Please come along to the Abbey on Wednesday 31st August at 8.00pm to hear news of the Society's plans for the coming year, including our one day workshop, pantomime (Snow White & The Seven Dwarves) our Christmas Market and our 2017 musical – Carousel. New members are always welcome.

ONE DAY WORKSHOP

The Westgrove is once again the venue this year – the workshop is confirmed for Saturday 3rd September from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm. There is one change to our line up of tutors this year. Arthur McGauran is replaced by award winning author and actor Robert Massey, who has previously directed The Playboy of The Western World for us. Michael Fay, MD and Grainne Jones (Choreographer) and Fran Styles (Hair & Make up) return as tutors again this year. Please email clanemusicalsocietyt@gmail.com to book a place – the fee for the day is

€30.

All queries should be addressed to Sarah McGauran at clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com

IMAGINE THAT!

Following a talk by James Durney on Kildare Men at the Battle of the Somme on Monday 22nd August, Dan O'Leary went to talk to Rita Mather, a nearby resident, about a Bodenstown man, Denis O'Neill who was killed on 16th July 1916. The talk was given in the Parish Hall in Kill. Bodenstown had been in Kill Parish in those days. Rita confirmed that Denis O'Neill was an uncle of hers, as also was James O'Neill, who early in the last century owned more than half the businesses in Clane. See article pages 6 - 8. In the course of their conversation Rita Mather (nee O'Neill) made a puzzling reference to her father having served Mass in the chapel at Sherlockstown House. Dan did some further research and came up with the following in relation to the Poor Clare Sisters on a website belonging to the Parish of Drumshanbo in Co. Leitrim. The following is a short quote:-

“- - - in 1860 they (the Poor Clare Sisters) moved to Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny. A new boarding school had just been

built and Fr. Anderson, a chaplain at UCD, granted them the use of it until they could find a permanent house. They stayed there for 12 months, and were preparing to move in August 1862, when Hugh Cullen offered them the use of a ruinous mansion in Sherlockstown, Sal-lins, Co. Kildare. Fr. Anderson raised funds for the cost of the necessary repairs.

Fr. Anderson stayed on with them as their chaplain. While they were at Sherlockstown, two grand-nieces of Henry Grattan visited the community. They were anxious to join the convent, even though it was against their mother's wishes. While all this was going on, Archbishop Cullen and Fr. Anderson and the sisters were doing their best to find a site for a convent in Ireland. In 1863 Fr. Anderson had found a site of five acres in Drumshanbo on the estate of Hugh O'Beirne of Jamestown House.”

The invitation of the Poor Clare Sisters to the use of Sherlockstown House in 1862 speaks well of inter-church relations in these parts. Furthermore it is only one example out of many. In 1821 the official Rectory was transferred to Abbeylands House where it remained until the new Church of St. Michael and All Angels was transferred to Millicent in 1884. On moving to Abbeylands House the Very Rev. Dean Digby donated his house to the Very Rev. Malachy McMahan, P.P. This fine two storey house later became known as the Cu-

rates House. The long field which extended from it back to the Corner House Pub became known as the Nuns' Field when it was likewise given by the Rector to the Presentation Sisters upon their arrival in 1839. What generosity!

CLANE TENNIS CLUB – founded 1973

The last 3 months of summer have been full of activity in Clane Tennis Club with Dublin Summer Leagues, Business House Tournament and Summer Camps and we are now looking forward to our Club Championships which commenced on Aug 24th. and finals take place next Sat. 10th. Sept. comm. 4p.m.

All welcome to come along and see top class tennis.

The Annual Business House Doubles Tournaments was once again a very successful event with 22 teams of four participating representing

Local shops, businesses, pubs, restaurants from Clane, Naas, Rathangan, Killock, Straffan and Celbridge and many thanks to our main Sponsors Joe Mallon Motors and Condron's Supervalu.

Summer Camps were held in August which catered for two sections 6- 9 yrs. and 10 to 18 yrs. and included coaching, competitive

Tennis and of course plenty of good fun.

Junior coaching commences Wed. Sept 14th, and all welcome.

Contact our Coach Ritchie Mahony 086

6051005.

Clane Tennis Club is used by students from 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 Hewlett 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.

Tickets are available from all members for our Annual Raffle with 1st Prize €1,000 -€5 each or 3 for €10. Draw takes place in Clubhouse on Sat. 10th. Sept.

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.

Half Year Special Membership is now available to end March 2017 and application forms in clubhouse with special Family rates. Call any Tuesday evening from 7.30p.m. Family offers, easy payments confidentially arranged. We welcome all new members, both young and not so young to come along and see our

facilities. Coaching available. Further details on facebook.

Clane Youth Club – 50 years ago.

It was summer 1966 – 50 years ago, Bryan Sammon, Paddy Behan, Joe Duffy, Seamus Mahony, Pat Harty and Liam Burke came up with the idea of forming Clane Youth Club so we approached the GAA who were the owners of the Old Hall, and we asked them permission to hold a “Hop” every Tuesday 9- 12 to raise funds and after a lengthy meeting they decided to give us the go ahead and charged us £10 per night.

Adm. was 2/6 (half a crown) so we had to have at least 80 turning up to pay the rent. We advertised with posters in all shops and posted invitations to everyone we knew and to our surprise we had over 150 teenagers from all over North Kildare attending. Clane Youth Club was formed and we continued holding the Hops every Tuesday for the next 2- 3 years with the sound of The Rolling Stones, Beatles, Beach Boys, Hollies and of course the Showbands, Royal, Dixies, Miami etc.

We then went from name of Hop to Disco and hired John Dee Disco.

Ladies on one side waiting to be asked to dance and they had the privilege of one Ladies choice and then if one was lucky it was to the

Mineral bar at end of hall with orange and straw.

Many the marriage was made during those days.

We held debates, drama, tours to Tramore, Salthill etc. In 1967, from the profits, we organised the first Old Folks Party

in the hall with over 50 sitting down to a meal and hired Mrs. Crosbie caterers from Straffan. Clongoweswood College ran the S.R.P.A. (Special Relief for Poor and Aged) and during their holidays the club took it over, visiting 8- 10 houses in the Clane/Prosperous area spending £10 each week on groceries, briquettes etc. which we purchased from Blakes Shop (Londis). The GAA moved to their new premises and the Table tennis and Youth club amalgamated to take over the Old Hall forming

St. Brigid’s Club which continued up to mid 70’s. Great memories.

"Clane- The Village We Knew"- by Bryan Sammon, Paddy Behan and Liam Burke. The book was launched 10 years ago in Sept. 2006, with over 700 attending launch in Westgrove Hotel and sold over 2,500 copies with profits going to MS.