

# **Le Chêile**

## **Community Magazine**



**September 2018**

**No. 367**

## EDITORIAL

Le Chéile is back after our two months Summer break. We are now into the last straight of our 45th year. It is encouraging to see improvements around the village. Examples are the decline in litter. The population has gone from 500 to over 8,000 in that time span and yet the average spread of litter has decreased! This is particularly noticeable along the footpath leading to the schools and this despite the huge increase in pupil numbers. The Main Street too is greatly improved.

Graffiti is a huge national problem and, apart from its repulsive effect on tourism and the loss of income that goes with it, there is the enormous expense and waste of scarce resources in cleaning up the environment. It is greatly to the credit of our young people that Clane now stands out as a place which can go through long periods with little or no sign of this rubbish.

It is very encouraging to see the amount of improvements being brought about on shop fronts and other premises along the Main Street and in the town generally. Credit has to be given to those who undertake improvement of their premises, be it through painting, removal of inappropriate signage, better finishes and improved design.

Regular clean-ups of litter, especially at closing time is appreciated.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday 2nd September

This year instead of an Autumn Fair Rathcoffey Church Fundraising Committee are having a 300 Club draw. The launch date for this draw is after Mass (10.30) Sun Sept 2nd in Rathcoffey Church.

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### Monday 10th September

Clane Musical and Dramatic Society invite the public to join them in The Abbey, on Monday 10th September at 8pm for an **Open Night** and to hear all about their upcoming events for 2018/2019.

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### Wednesday 12th September

Clane Local History Group present a talk by Jim Heffernan: "From Riches to Rags - The Life and Times of Horace de Vere Cole". In Clane GAA Club at 8pm. All are welcome and admission is free.

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### EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

**Monday 28th May**

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: [mcevoyclane@gmail.com](mailto:mcevoyclane@gmail.com)

Get Le Chéile on [www.clanecommunity.ie](http://www.clanecommunity.ie)

## CLANE GOLF CLUB NOTES

What weather & what a Summer! The golf course of Ireland never looked so well & Clongowes Golf Course is no exception. Since the June issue of Le Cheile, the main events from Clane Golf Club's calendar are as follows:

### **Vice Captain's (Mr. Maurice Byrne) Competition Results:**

Winner Tommy Carew (10) 44 pts

2nd Ger Nevin (10) 41 pts

Gross Niall Bryan (6) 72

Class 1 (-14) 1st Aidan Donovan (10) 40 pts

2nd Paul Connolly (10) 39 pts

Class 2 (15-19) 1st Dec Mahony (19) 39 pts Last 9

2nd Michael Connolly (15) 39 pts

Class 3 (20-) 1st Paddy Murray (25) 38 pts Last 9

2nd Brendan Bean (22) 38 pts Last 9

### **President's (Mr. Bernard Campbell) Competition Results:**

Winner Sam Reilly (13) 124

2nd Eamonn Howlin (15) 131

3rd John McAndrew (13) 134

Gross James Coonan (5) 145

Past Presidents Pa Connolly (17) 138 Last 18

Class 1 (-14) 1st Niall Collins (7) 138

2nd Seamus Carew (7) 139

Class 2 (15- 19) 1st Diarmuid F Coonan (14) 138 Last 18

2nd William Lacey (19) 138

Class 3 (20-) 1st Noel Cruise (21) 137

2nd Ted Murray (21) 138

Best 1st Day Daire O Broin (21) 62

## **Captain's (Mr. William Lacy) Competition Results:**

Winner Diarmuid F Coonan (15) 125

2nd John McAndrew (12) 132

3rd Noel Cruise (21) 134

Gross Robbie Reilly (5) 146

Past Captains Dermot Maguire (13) 136

Class 1 (-15.4) 1st Sean Brilly (14) 135

2nd Padraic Rooney (13) 136

Class 2 (15.5- 20.4) 1st Pa Connolly (17) 135

2nd Martin Meaney (20) 137

Class 3 (20.5-) 1st Paddy Murray (25) 137

2nd James Malone (21) 140

Best 1st Day Paul Connolly (10) 63

Best 2nd Day Tommy Carew (10) 67

### **Leaders in Golfer of the year competition with 9 competitions to go are:**

Seamus Carew 106 Total

Sam Reilly 86 Total

Diarmuid F Coonan 72 Total

Michael Cuddihy 67 Total

John Carew 63 Total

Padraic Rooney 61 Total

Fr. Mike Bracken Golf Classic: We are delighted to report that this, the last Golf Classic for Fr. Mike's African Mission was the most successful over the 25 years that Clane Golf Club has run this Golf Classic. Over €33,000 was raised & over 152 golfers participated. We are extremely grateful to all the golfers that supported it, the businesses that sponsored it & the Clane residents that supported it, not only this year but down through the years. Thank you so much.

Eamonn Howlin ,

Secretary, Clane G.C.

## **CLANE LOCAL HISTORY TALK**

Clane Local History's September Talk is by Jim Heffernan, group member, and is entitled "From Riches to Rags -The Life and Times of Horace de Vere Cole". Born into wealth and

Privilege he became famous early in the 20th century for perpetrating spectacular hoaxes. Ultimately his extravagant lifestyle led him to dying a forgotten and impoverished exile. The talk takes place in Clane

GAA Club at 8pm on Wednesday 12th September. All are welcome and admission is free.

## **RATHCOFFEY CHURCH FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

This year instead of an Autumn Fair Rathcoffey Church Fundraising Committee are having a 300 Club draw. The launch date for this draw is after Mass (10.30) Sun Sept 2nd in Rathcoffey Church. The draw will be held in Rathcoffey GAA on Saturday evening December 1st. Tickets are €50 and all monies go towards Church refurbishment. Tickets available from Clane Parish Office or call 086 8301885 / 086 6089911.

Aisling Behan.

## **CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY OPEN NIGHT**

Join us in The Abbey, on Monday 10th September 2018 at 8pm for our **Open Night** and hear all about our upcoming events for 2018/2019

**"Blood Brothers" The Play version** - in The Abbey on the 27th, 28th & 29th September at 8.00pm. This years Play is directed by Sadie O'Reilly. Tickets now on sale in Marron's Pharmacy and with Anne on 087 6897376 or on the door.

**Our 2018 Pantomime "Robin Hood and His Merry Men"** – Director Elaine Moore O'Donohoe and Choreographer Gráinne Jones

**Santa's visit to the Abbey.**

**Our 2019 musical "Funny Girl"** – Director Arthur McGauran, Musical Director Michael Fay and Choreographer Gráinne Jones. Plus lots more fun, singing, dancing and acting.

Old and new members welcome, we look forward to seeing you all there for what is going to be an very exciting year ahead for CMDS.

## **THE GIRLS' OLD SCHOOL CELEBRATES 200 YEARS.**

The Girls' Old School in the Main Street, which opened as a National School under the Presentation Sisters in 1839, had been built as an Orphanage School 21 years ear-



lier in 1818. It is now 200 years old. "Tógadh 1839" in this case does not mean "was built" but refers to the fact that it "was established" as a National School in 1839 with the arrival of the Presentation Sisters. It had been built by the Patrician Orphan Society in 1818. The Report of 1826 [following a national survey commenced in 1823] lists it [and its teacher] under:

### **"Clane Free School" (James Byrne)**

*"Opened 1818 and held throughout the year, Saturdays and Holydays excepted. Roman Catholic, appointed by the Patrician Society 1823. Thirty five years; teaches Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Surveying; educated at Carlow; taught the Lancastrian system [See below] at Clane. Income £30 per annum, paid by the Patrician Orphan Society and aided by subscription. School a good one room building with eight large windows and two fire places, interior on the plan of the Kildare Street School: built with lime and stone, slated;*

would cost at present about £400, 50 feet by 22; built by subscription from the members of the Patrician Society and about £130 from a charity play in the Theatre Royal, Dublin; the residue from charity sermons at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Clane. In connection with the Orphan Society founded about the year 1750 in Dublin some Roman Catholics subscribe the annual sum of six pence for protecting orphans and foundlings to the extent of the funds they might raise. The numbers, I am informed amount to 100, many of whom were from infancy nursed, clothed and educated until apprenticed. Not in connection with any religious order. Visited by the Parish Priest and Curate, occasionally by Patrick Beahan, merchant of the city of Dublin, President of the Patrician Orphan Society. Superintended by the Parish Priest and Curate and by the governors of the Patrician Orphan Society since its commencement at Clane. Average attendance: a. summer 1824: males 40, Roman Catholics 40, b. last winter 40, c. summer 1823 45. Eight in 20 read, 8 months to read. Books: History of Old and New Testament, Manning's Moral Entertainment, Murray's English Reader, General Catechism, Primers, Spelling Books, Gough's, Voster's, Jackson's Book Keeping, Hawney's Mensuration, with Spelling and Reading Tables."

The Kildare Street School was the model designed by the Kildare Place Society, a Protestant educational society, which pioneered National Education in Ireland. It was located at the back of the Shelbourne Hotel and was demolished around 1960.

*Their teacher training course was a six week course and the trained teacher was expected to teach 100 pupils, of all ages, in one large room, with the assistance of a monitor (a competent senior pupil aspiring to do the formal training course) There was seating*

*for 50 in one large room while 50 stood around by the wall. Those standing swapped places with the seated every hour.*

The above is a description of the Lancastrian system. It was named after Joseph Lancaster. The system was begun in Anglican missionary schools in Madras, India . It was brought to England in 1789 by Dr. Andrew Bell, an Anglican minister. Lancaster, a Quaker, learned the method from Bell and by 1805 was conducting his own school in London using this system, having one thousand students enrolled under his and the monitors' direction.

By 1809 twenty schools were opened under the system, educating nearly ten thousand students at a cost of four shillings each per year. In 1805 visitors from New York were struck by the method and the New York Free School Society was founded in that year. DeWitt Clinton, mayor of New York and founder of the New York Free School Society was a passionate advocate of the Lancastrian Method.

### **How the Presentation Sisters came to Clane.**

Around 1828 there was deep concern among at least two wealthy Catholic families of Clane for the wretched state of the poor in the village area. The Sweetman Family of Longtown and Miss Judith Browne formerly of Castlebrown Estate, were fully aware of this and they set about relieving this chronic situation. Mrs. Sweetman, herself, went out amongst the people, instructed, clothed, and employed the women in spinning for their livelihood. She was still helpless about the education of the poor children. Miss Browne wrote a letter to Dr. Kenny, S.J. (Provincial of the Jesuits) requesting him to assist them, with the Bishop's permission, to get a Religious Order to come to

Clane to instruct the poor female children.

Mr. Sweetman contributed £700 and Miss Browne £350 towards the building of a Convent on the grounds of the Patrician Orphan Society School House in the Main Street, which had been built in 1818 but was in rapid decline at this time. The building of the Convent started in 1836. The Sisters of Charity were first selected to start this foundation, but Mother Mary Aikenhead, after a few visits to Clane, declined and refused to send the Sisters here.

The Bishop, Dr. Nolan, died in 1837 and this suspended the foundation for longer. His successor, Dr. Francis Haly, was appointed in 1838, and immediately asked the Presentation Sisters, whose main work as laid out by their founder Nano Nagle was to instruct the poor, to come to Clane.

On 25th April 1839, (the Feast of St. Mark), the Presentation Convent was founded by Rev. Mother Teresa Brennan from Portlaoise. She brought two Sisters from Carlow, two from Portlaoise (Maryboro) and one from Drogheda. The Sisters were personally collected by coach from Portlaoise and brought to Clane by Mrs Sweetman and Miss Browne.

The School-House (Built by the Patrician Society in 1918) was in a most neglected state when we arrived here". (Annals Pres.) So the Sisters, with the aid of the Rector in Clongowes and the local curate, made a collection to get the School floored, ceiled, windows repaired, desks and other requisites supplied, and the School House was in order in a few weeks. This School House had been built in 1818 for £300, and was an exact copy of the

Kildare Place School (behind the Shelbourne Hotel) This in turn had been built as an exact copy of the School Street School (behind Guinness's). Both were demolished by 1960. For this reason the Girls Old School in Clane is a living link with an important episode in Irish Educational History.

The school went under the Department of Education in 1834/35. The Department paid two thirds of the £200 which the Patrician Society requested on their departure from Clane. The Sisters were appointed to the school, under the Department in May 1839. Mr. John Sweetman was one of the Trustees.

There were 185 girls on rolls, in one schoolroom measuring 50'x22'. Many novices offered themselves to join the Presentation Community in Clane and help the poor children, so that by 1850 eight postulants in all had joined the Order in Clane. The school was extended in 1906 when the "Infants' Room" was built at the Southern end.

A previous addition had been made at the rear in 1860, which connected the school and convent. The original large single room was divided by folding doors in 1929, and the front porch was added. Railings replaced a high wall in 1950 and the building was re-roofed. The previous ceiling was a fine example in stucco work built by a Jesuit Brother for the nuns on their arrival in 1839.

The convent itself is a double building with a "V" roof. This is reflected in the different versions of the Ordinance Survey maps, except the initial survey of 1837, where it is half the later width. Was this the residential part of the orphanage as

it might have preceded the convent?

The Convent Gate was designed by Mother Brigid about 1932, taking its design from the gates separating the Nuns' Choir at the right side of the Main Altar. The granite arch was built at the same time. These gates and arch have now been moved in to the point where they enclose the little back yard which gives access to the Old School from the rear. Mother Brigid died in 1969 aged 99.

The Sisters left Clane in 2003, 21 years after the new Primary Schools were opened in 1982 and 40 years after their establishment of the first Post Primary School in Clane in 1963 as a 'Secondary Top'. In its first year it had 7 pupils who stayed on after 6th Class. It became co-educational in 1967 and received full recognition as a Secondary School in 1968, the year the first batch of pupils did their Leaving, two receiving University Scholarships. In 1983 it moved as a Community School to new premises out the Prosperous Road. It now has a roll in excess of 1,000 day pupils. In addition it provides night classes and adult education for an even greater number, making it one of the largest providers in the country. The site for all 3 schools was acquired by Sr. Perpetua with the assistance of the late Peter McCreery.

The people of Clane scarcely realize what they owe to the Presentation Sisters. That is not to forget the Sweetman Family, Miss Judith Browne and, going back 200 years, the Patrician Orphan Society. Father Paul has undertaken to say a Mass in the old school in September to celebrate the event.

## CALENDAR

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### **Thurs. 27th—Sat. 29th September**

Clane Musical and Dramatic Society present "Blood Brothers" The Play version - in The Abbey on the 27th- 29th September at 8.00pm. This years Play is directed by Sadie O'Reilly. Tickets now on sale in Mar-ron's Pharmacy and with Anne on 087 6897376 or on the door.

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