

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



September 2019

No. 377

CALENDAR See p 8

CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Clane Community Council was founded in 1973 and will complete 23 terms, each of two years, or a total of 46 this December. The renewal process, which will take the Community Council forward for another two year term, commences in October and will take us up to 2021. Nomination Papers will be available in Clane Post Office, by kind permission.

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 Clane Community Council since its formation on page 3.

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

The field and track athletic competitions at County level were conducted on the sports grounds of Clongowes Wood College on the evenings of Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th June. The weather, like the setting, was magnificent. Clane and Rathcoffey did very well, winning a total of 26 medals: 4 Gold, 8 Silver and 15 Bronze.

The Gold Medal winners were:

Sean McGinn in the Boys U/12 600m.,

Oliver Reilly in the Boys U/14 800m.,

Hannah McBride in the Girls U/10 60m Hurdles., and **Sarah Millea** in the Girls U16 100m.

The Silver Medal winners were:

Reilly Doran in the Boys U/8 60m,

Ryan Mangan in the Boys U/10 200m

Enaho Alenka in the Boys U/14 100m

Emma Lynch in the Girls U/14 Long Puck

Aine Lenahan, Grace Heaney, Grace Garvey, Poppy Healey Hayden in the Girls U/10 Relay.

The Bronze Medals winners were:

Ciara Maycock in the Girls U/8 80m.

James Tuthill, Jack Fielding, Sean McGinn, Ciaran Dempsey, Rory Maguire in the Boys U/12 Relay.

Alex Heaney, Oliver Reilly, Enaho Alenka, Dylan Heffernan in the Boys U/14 Relay.

Hannah McBride, Sophie Heffernan, Ryan Mangan, Jack Kenny, Niall Scott in the U/10 Mixed Relay.

Congratulations to all winners and participants.

THE FOUR GOLD MEDAL WINNERS WENT ON TO REPRESENT US IN THE NATIONAL FINALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, WHERE A GREAT WEEK-END WAS ENJOYED BY ALL.

They were Sean McGinn, Oliver Reilly, Hannah McBride and Sarah Millea.

Sarah won a further medal -Bronze.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 23rd September

To 142 Loughbollard please.

E-mail: mcevoyclane@gmail.com

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

The Boys U/11 Hurling also participated in the National Final, where they won Silver. Congratulations to all.

WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE PAST 42 YEARS

It is difficult now to imagine the degree of dereliction which existed on most of the six approaches to the village in 1973. There was a broken down and abandoned horsebox in the middle of the road where the triangle at the entrance to the Millicent Road is now located, with high weeds and grass growing up through it. There were stables in the paved area on the near side of the Stream. It is now of course part of the Stream Park and is surrounded by a low stone wall. A heap of horse manure came out to the road's edge on the near side of the Millicent Road Bridge. The Village Green sloped out to the very edge of the road where the bus to Naas now stops. One of our earliest undertakings was to trim this area back to make room for the present footpath and to surround the Green with the present low stone wall at soil level. This work was undertaken in the spring of '75 with the help of Johnny Connolly, who supplied a tradesman at cost. With the guidance of the Area Engineer, we inserted 70 odd kerbs and developed the Triangle with the help of Mick Maloney. The central raised bed was done in more recent years by Matt Hayes and the Tidy Towns Committee. It was only with the advent of the traffic lights that the slip road was closed off.

Over the years the laying of kerbs and planting of lawns were undertaken in

similar abandoned areas on the Ballinagappa Road –past the front of the Health Centre and out the left hand side to where the roadside bank and hedge begins. Also on the right hand side of the College Road, in front of the bungalows, up the hill towards Byrne's garage. In the former case the grass was later overlaid by a footpath. In later years the lawned area extending out the Ballinagappa Road after the shops was likewise developed by the Community Council and involved the removal of stretches of old roadside hedge and a fallen stone wall. This was grant assisted by K.E.L.T.

Sixty tons of crushed stone were applied by way of emergency repairs to that section of the Capdoo Lane which is accessed off the College Road. This was followed up by an application to the Department of the Environment for a Rural Improvement Scheme. This was granted, enabling the lane to be tarred and taken in charge by the County Council.

Archdeacon Handy, who was an elected member of our first committee, informed us in March '74 that the Abbey 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, cost-

ing £1,300 in all. With this secured, the gate was securely locked to exclude intrusion of animals 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 wall. There were no objections. The graveyard had been officially closed in 1915 when that on the Sallins Road was opened to extend outside the ruins.

Repeated applications were made for Clane to be provided with its first Public Library but to no avail as no suitable premises was available. A premises was proposed on the College Road adjacent to the old Hall and was ready for the agreed date of April '74. It was September before the Library Service was ready to move in. The concessionary rent, to cover costs, was £7.50 per week. It was regarded as a great achievement locally. The library is still in Clane 45 years on, though in a different premises.

Progress was being made on many fronts: In combination with Rathcoffey we made our first entry into Community Games in July '74, winning 3 gold, 7 silver and 1 bronze in Kildare. We entered the Tidy Towns Competition in '75. A number of the worst derelict areas had been sorted at this stage. Tree planting was carried out at a number of locations in March. Numerous dumping sites were cleaned up along country roads and a number of litter bins made from inverted metal barrels were located around the village. There were community clean-ups on Tuesday evenings and at 7.30 on Sunday mornings for 10 weeks in a row. The latter were led by Pat Larkin and Joe Lyons. On

our first year we won Best New Entry in our population category of 501-1,500, coming 20th Nationally. We were awarded a Cert and a prize of £100. The village had grown a phenomenal 100% in just five years. In the autumn of '75 a survey was carried out to establish if there was interest in piped T.V. amongst the centrally located houses. 86% expressed an interest. We failed to gain the interest of any of the major providers. Our Secretary Joe Lyons managed to persuade the Dept. of Posts and Telegraphs to waive the requirement of our having to get a contractor to erect a temporary aerial and perform a signal test at a fee of £300. As a small community close to Dublin we were given a licence. Rafferty in Naas was then approached and offered a site for an aerial on Paddy Woods' ground beside the Hall. The system was set up to general satisfaction. It was sold on at least twice since but continues to the present day.

In Christmas week '75 Nancy's Lane was reopened, having been closed by dumping and totally overgrown for more than 20 years. The job cost £56 in lorry and machinery hire. The December Meeting approved the purchase of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre along the Stream at the Naas Road entrance to the village from the owner Jim Cash for £2,900. It had been proposed as a site for warehouses but our intervention secured it as a public park. In the Tidy Towns report for '76 we were complemented for our actions in acquiring the Stream Park -it is now of course the Children's Playground, We were congratulated also for the improved appearance of the Bell Tower. We were advanced to 9th place Nationally!

In February 1983 Le Chéile (commenced in January 1974) announced the approval of a 2 year AnCo. project to re-roof the old C. of I. ruins (roofless since 1883), on the site of the early Christian Abbey, as a Community Centre. Work commenced in June '83 and was completed and officially opened on 31st March 1985. Three phase electricity and new seating were to be installed over a decade later. The 2 year period of the AnCo scheme was extended to take on other projects, including the building of the Evergreen Centre, the walling of the Stream and the development of the low stone wall which surrounds that section of the Stream Park on the near side of the Stream and the building of the original Fr. John Sullivan Memorial Fountain on the corner opposite Manzors' Car Park. There had been a block of stables on the last part of the Park to be purchased, bringing the total cost to just under £10,000 for both.

In January 1992 the Clane Rural Development Action Team was set up by the Community Council and an application was made to the Department of Agriculture for a Technical Assistance Grant. We were awarded £10,000. A plan was drawn up with assistance from NUI Maynooth and it was approved in December 1993 for £150,000. It was conditioned that £50,000 of this would be given as an economic stimulus to the Allenwood area, where ESB power generation had shut down and peat produced in the area no longer had an outlet. We were called upon to assist in setting up a community group in the N.W.K. area, extending out to Edenderry and back to Johnstown, Kilcock, Clane and Robertstown.

Clane Local Development, a limited not-for-profit company was set up. Its first office was in the Old Convent School in The Main Street. It purchased a site in Clane Business Park and set up its offices there followed by Enterprise Units, with on-going fund raising through Mayor of Clane and other projects.

At the Community Council A.G.M. in January 1991 Noel Corrigan (Chairman '90/'91/'92) reported that £11,942 had

been made that year in the draw. In addition we had received an award of £1,000 sponsored by the Bank of Ireland and Farmers Journal and to top it all £5,000 in National Lottery funding. As a result our bank debt was reduced from £21,000 to £6,963. On other fronts we came 2nd in Ireland to Malahide in our Tidy Towns population category of 1,500 – 3,000 and 100 poplar trees had been planted inside the roadside wall of the Nuns' Field leading out the Prosperous Road opposite Liffey Lawns. This had been done to mark our twinning with Bremont in France.

At the A.G.M. in January 1996 it was reported that in 1995, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine an in-calf heifer at a cost of £150 was sponsored through Bothar for sending to Africa. The following year £1,500 was raised in a church gate collection for Bothar to send goats to Uganda.

The same year we received a grant of £5,000 from Clane Local Development Ltd. (C.L.D.) towards development of the Riverside Park, where we had already spent £6,000 in blasting and removing the mass concrete Sewage Plant. The area was cleared and planted with natural wood-land and is maturing nicely. It has subsequently been fitted out with signage highlighting the wildlife, plant and animal, which may be seen along the approximately one mile of riverside walk which it leads to.

Also in 1995 Clane Community Council applied for and received a Rural Improvement Scheme from the Dept. of the Environment for £96,000, of which £18,000 had to be committed to by ourselves, to develop footpaths and parking areas on the west side of the Main Street. The footpath on the opposite side had been provided just a few years previously. There had previously been no footpaths on either side of the Street!

In brief, other works undertaken included: the re-sighting of the Fr. John Sullivan memorial from the Centra frontage (corner

First: Felix McKenna (24) 47 pts.
Second: Tommy O'Rourke (30) 43pts.
Gross: James Coonan (6) 73 strokes

Other weekend competition results are as follows:

W/E 2nd June - Summer Medal, 18 hole strokes-

First : Tommy Carew (11) 64
Second: Joe Higgins (23) 65

W/E 9th June -18 hole Stableford

First : Ruaidhri Carew (22) 41 pts.
Second: Michael Cuddihy (13) 39 pts.

W/E 7th July- 18 hole V Par

First : John Carew (11) 10 up
Second: Aidan Donovan (11) 8 up.

W/E 3 rd August- Brian Conville Shield Stableford-

First : Sean Brilly (13) 45pts.
Second: Maurice Byrne (15) 42 pts.

W/E 10th August- 18 hole Stableford

First : James Malone (20) 50 pts.
Second : Lar Blanchfield (15) 39 pts.
(Last 9)

W/E 17 th August- 18 Hole Stableford

First : Pat McDonnell (13) 39 pts. (Last 6)
Second : Brendan Bean (24) 39 pts.

Golfer of the Year Competition:

The top three players as at 4 th August are as follows:

1. Sean Connolly 85
2. Michael Cuddihy 74
3. Sean Brilly 59

Golfer of the summer:

The top three as at 4th August are as follows:

1. Felix McKenna 58

2. Jim Craughwell 57
3. James Malone (Vice-captain) 40

Forthcoming events:

- W/E 7th September – Peter Connolly Memorial Cup, 18 hole Stableford.

- Sunday 15th September- Kilane Cup at Kilcock Golf Club.

- Sunday 29th September – Home Outing in aid of the Kildare Branch of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

- Turkey Competition starts on Friday 27th September

Eamonn Howlin, P.R.O.

CLANE BRANCH COMHALTAS

Traditional Music Classes

Learn to play the fiddle, the tin whistle, the flute, or the guitar. New classes added this year -banjo, button accordion and concertina ...
(Subject to numbers).

Beginners, improvers and advanced musicians all welcome. Classes are open to children and adults. €8 per lesson with reductions for families attending.

Registration Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 7pm. In Scoil Mhuire Secondary School, Clane and classes will start on 24th September 2019.

For enquiries please contact:
Catherine 087 2660509
Fionnuala 085 7792227
Marie 085 7104109

THE EVERGREENS Clane Senior Citizens

We are re-opening on Tue.3rd Sept. at 2.30pm. In the Abbey. Please come along -Past, Present and New members- and enjoy an afternoon of cards and art and a cup of tea.

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

**A terrifying evening of terrific theatre
awaits you**

Our wonderful cast of Dracula are working hard at the moment on what is sure to be an amazing and thrilling few nights of theatre. This show will be an Irish Première, and Dominic, our wonderful director, is going above and beyond to ensure each and every one of you has a great night. Dracula takes to the stage Thursday, 26th September to Saturday, 28th September. Tickets will be on-sale at the usual outlets - keep an eye out for more information. We want to wish all the cast the best for the run, and also welcome new members Seán, Steve, Jon and James who will be joining CMDS for this production.

CALENDAR

Monday 2nd September

Meeting of Clane Community Council in Clane Project Centre Nexus at 8pm.

Tuesday 3rd September

Evergreens resume after Summer recess: in the Abbey at 2.30pm.

Saturday 7th September

CMDS will hold adult auditions for the Christmas Panto in the Abbey from 3-6pm.

Children's auditions to be scheduled

Wednesday 11th September

Clane Local History Group present a talk by group member, Jim Heffernan, entitled, "The Theft of the "Irish Crown Jewels" - A Kildare Connection? In GAA Club at 8pm. All welcome. [See p 6](#)

Tuesday 17th September

Clane Branch Comhaltas take registration for Traditional Music Classes in Scoil Mhuire at 7pm. Classes commence 24th September.

[See p. 8](#)

Thursday 26th–Saturday 28th Sept.

Clane Music and Dramatic Society present Dracula in Clane Abbey [See p. 8](#)