

# *Le Chêile*

*Community Magazine*



*February 2020*

*No. 382*

## EDITORIAL

February 1st marks the beginning of Spring in the Celtic calendar. Internationally it begins in March. St. Brigid's Day replaced the pagan feast of 'Imbolc', which celebrated the new lambs, 'bolg' being the belly in Gaelic and with it went the indications of pregnancy and fertility. With Spring came the primrose and a host of new life. The word 'Spring' we are told is of Indo-European origin -the language which preceded all the languages of Europe and Asia. It is said to come from 'Spreng', meaning rapid movement, as in the Irish 'spreag se amach' ('he jumped out'). It also applies to a brisk flow of water from the ground and in a general way to the beginning of things. Surprisingly it is said that the use of the word to designate the season did not commence until 16th century, replacing the previous term 'Lent'. The etymological meaning of Lent is 'long days'. I hope that gets you up and running and ready for the challenges ahead.

With the arrival of February a sneaking optimism creeps into our everyday lives, with the lengthening of the days, the nest-building activity of the crows, etc. It is time to stir ourselves and take a positive view of the on-coming year. Hopefully it will be a successful one for all of us, both individually and in our community undertakings. The Community Council, as usual had it's A.G.M. on the last Monday of January and a renewed and enthusiastic committee is gearing up to face the challenges of the year ahead (it' 47th), the challenges of Community Games, improvements to the Abbey, Heritage, etc.

The Musical & Dramatic Society is busy getting ready for its next production "The Sound of Music" (31st March-4th

April) The St. Patrick's Day Committee are targeting the 17th March. The G.A.A. Has had it's 136th A.G.M. and is still serving the community.

## I.C.A.

Our guild returned to base on Thursday 18th January and outlined some activities for the coming months, firstly reflecting on the conclusion of 2019. On Sunday December 8th, we were delighted to welcome more than one hundred and thirty senior citizens to the annual Christmas Party at the local G.A.A. club. The guests were indeed young at heart and danced and sang while enjoying the rousing music provided by Richie Hayden, ignoring the howling wind and rain outside. We very much appreciate having this comfortable venue each year and wish to thank our local G.A.A. Club.

It would not be possible to thank each individual, but we must commend the five young men -5th year students from Scoil Mhuire- who worked so hard and were cheerful, courteous and considerate. Thanks to all who supported the Annual Draw, held on Thursday December 5th. The five lucky winners were: Maura McCormack, Sean Deane, Brigid Donohue, Tommy Cribbin and Nellie Dillon.

### **EDITOR'S DEADLINE**

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

**Monday 18th February**

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)

Wishing everyone health and happiness in 2020

**(P.R.O. M. O'Connor)**

## **THE EVERGREENS**

Our new-born year is opened and getting focused -so are we! In the stillness that follows the hive of activity and rushing at the end of 2019 we can now peacefully prepare ourselves for 2020. We will, I'm sure, have many opportunities to do our utmost and make the most of life and that God is there for us and our actions and good deeds will be pleasing in His sight. The month of February is now upon us; which means the start of Spring, leaving behind the dark, dank and dreary days of Winter when now life and nature can emerge once more to gladden our hearts.

The holy season of Lent commences this year on February 25th -we remember repentance, renewal and reflection. February is indeed an important month with many feast days, the first being St. Brigid, the second Candlemas Day. One of the most popular days is the 11th, which is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, healing Day of the sick. Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette many times entrusting her with amazing messages -she was to be our Bd. Lady's ambassador to call the world to prayer, penance, pilgrimages and conversion -a wonderful saint indeed to intercede for our problems.

We Evergreens are back since 14th January after our Winter break feeling somewhat refreshed and relaxed. We

are very much looking forward to all our activities, outings, card-playing, art work, etc.

Good luck to the inimitable Mary Dunne and her hard-working St. Patrick's Day team for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. A lot of work goes into this every year for the Day of Days. There's some entertainments of all kinds for young and old alike. There's no one left out; its really a great event, so let's have a good day for all.

We Evergreens are constantly having new members, which is great and we welcome more. Slán ar feadh tamall agus go neirí an tá libh go léir.

**Maureen Spain (PRO)**

## **CLANE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL 2020**

Theme: OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE

Grand Marshal for 2020 is local man Liam Burke who has done so much for Clane over the years. Please join us in wishing Liam best wishes and congratulating him on his role at Clane Festival this year.

Have you seen our Book? A DECADE OF MEMORIES? You can pick up a copy from Bob and Kates Gift Shop in Clane for only 5 euro. This book covers lots of memories over the past decade of our Parade in Clane. Great souvenir to have!!!

Plans are well underway for this year's Festival with something for every age group.

We are always looking for stewards and volunteers to help out with the Parade. Please contact 086 0619086 if you can give us a few hours on 17th March.

Entry Forms for participating in the Parade are now available to download from our website. Get your Entry Form in as soon as possible to ensure your place in the Parade.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Clane Christmas Cards in 2019.

Our Church-gate collection will this year take place on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd February. Please support if you can.

For the 2nd year running, we will be awarding someone or some group with our Special Recognition Award. Do you know anyone who deserves this special Award?

Let us know if you wish to nominate someone for this.

More information to follow.

Mary Dunne,  
Chairperson,  
Clane Festival

## **CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Kim Mullahy and Eoghan Corry on "The History of Polo in Co. Kildare" on 5th February in Clane GAA Club, Prosperous Road, at 8pm.

This is a very exciting and unusual talk which is open to the public and admission is free.

**CLANE GOLF CLUB-  
February 2020:**

## **News: Incoming Committee and Officers for 2020:**

- President : Jim Craughwell.
- Captain : James Malone
- Vice- Captain : Daire O'Broin
- Ex-Officio : Maurice Byrne
- Secretary : Eamonn Howlin
- Treasurer : Fintan Connolly
- H/Cap Secretary: Seamus Carew
- Committee: Sean Byrne, William Lacey, Sean Lavin, Felix McKenna, John McAndrew, Thomas O'Rourke & Padraic Rooney.

**Captain's (Mr. James Malone) Drive-in**  
**will take place on Sunday 23rd February, after Mass at Clongowes Church for deceased members of Clane Golf Club at 8.00 a.m.**

**RATHCOFFEY**

**FUN RUN**

**8th Feb. 2020**

**10 km & 7.5 km**

**Enter on line at**

**WWW.POPUPRACES.IE**

**With Rathcoffey G.F.C.**

## **Competition Results: Christmas competition (30th December to 5th January):**

### **□ Two best 9-hole competitions:**

First: Tommy O'Rourke (29) 47 points  
Second: Tom Bryan (23) 43 points  
Third: Eamonn Howlin (15) 41 points

### **□ W/E 10/01/2020 Spring League**

First: Tommy O'Rourke (29) 28 points  
Second: Padraic Rooney (14) 22 points  
Third: Tom Bryan (23) 21 points

### **□ W/E 17/01/2020 Spring League**

First: Sean Byrne (17) 23 points  
Second: Padraic Rooney (11) 22 points

## **CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



### ***Chairman's Report for 2019***

*46th AGM of Clane Community Council - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020*

## **Membership -**

**We are now open for new members for 2020 at a first- year subscription of €360 for full membership. Juvenile Membership (9-16 years) €80, Junior Membership (16 years+, in full time education €105).**

**Please contact Eamonn Howlin at 087- 1215 396 if interested in joining. - We hope that everyone had a peaceful and happy Christmas and we wish you all a very healthy & happy New Year!**

**Eamonn Howlin, P.R.O.**

There has been much work done and many achievements this year, as we have heard in the Secretary's Report. It is always important to highlight the breath of community activity in Clane, both within and beyond the Community Council. It is noteworthy that our own work every year starts and ends with celebrations that focus on the heart of our town: one of our first tasks every year is to plan our participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade which takes over our main street while we always end the year celebrating the lighting up of the whole village centre for the celebration of Christmas.

In between those events we are active all around the town, most visibly with the work of the Tidy Towns and the fun of the Community Games. We have heard details in the Secretary's Report of the substantial work of our other sub-committees. However, there is always plenty going on behind the scenes as well. Much work takes place to ensure our financial well-being – as set out in our Treasurer's Report – and also in maintaining and protecting our key asset, the Abbey. The work that we planned to do on preparing proposals to get grant funding to allow upgrade, repairs and preservation of the building is well advanced but has not been finalised. While we identified this work as a priority for the Council in the

last couple of years we need to focus on getting it complete in the coming year.

The Executive carried out a lot of work on planning submissions, a somewhat time-consuming task involving analysing planning applications, comparing the proposals to the provisions of the Clane Local Area Plan, and drafting appropriate comments for consideration by the planning authorities, either Kildare County Council or An Bord Pleanála as the case may be.

**This is an important part of our work and one that took up an unusually large proportion of our time in the past year.** The Community Council has always monitored planning applications for Clane, and made submissions on behalf of the community if required but we have had more to do in the last twelve months. In the past year there were a number of planning applications that we felt were at variance with the *Clane Local Area Plan*, the document which is intended to set out the parameters of development within our community over a six-year period from 2017 to 2023. We have always supported the local area plans and we made several contributions to the drafting of the existing Plan. We regard it as the outcome of a careful process of coherent, professional planning and public consultation which was carried out in order to ensure the sustainable development of Clane.

As we became aware of a planning application which we felt went against the letter and spirit of the Local Area Plan we had no option but to make submissions, arguing that whether in terms of scale, density, height or location that several applications were inappropriate and would, if successful, cause precisely the type of damage to community wellbeing that the limits and restrictions in the Local Area Plan were intended to prevent.

We have enjoyed mixed results with our submissions but we made these applications in the best interests of the community as we see them. This of course is in no way to be seen

as us trying to block development; it is simply that we support sustainable and measured development in Clane.

Our primary role is simply to ensure that as our community develops and grows that we continue to enjoy the benefits of voluntary work and social cohesion. In that light I'd like to highlight the community benefits of the voluntary activity that is ongoing in Clane, both the work that we do and the work of other groups who have emerged in the past year.

Once again our entry in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade highlighted the importance of community work and the many different aspects of that work that we are involved in. We always embrace this opportunity to promote the work of our many sub-committees early in the year in the hopes of encouraging new volunteers. (Our work in the parade over the years is well highlighted in our contribution to the Parade Committee's recently published book celebrating the last ten years of the event.) **Clane Tidy Towns** was as active as ever and their efforts were rewarded with a Bronze Medal in last year's competition. There is nothing more obviously community-focused than this group who literally keep us neat and tidy throughout the year.

The **Clane and Rathcoffey Community Games** subcommittee continue the work that has been ongoing for many decades now, inspiring a new generation to engage in community events.

Following on from the Presidential election in 2018 we continued the **Poster-Free Zone** initiative for the local election campaign. This is a great example of the Community Council taking on board the views of the community on a matter of local concern and putting something in place to address the issue. Hopefully it will prove to be a successful and longstanding solution.

The important and always popular **Christmas Lights switch-on / Claonadh Award ceremony** is a great opportunity to highlight successful voluntary work. We use the opportunity to wrap up our work at the end of each year, with a celebration of the highly visible seasonal illumination of our community but also by taking the opportunity to recognise the often much less visible work of committed individual volunteers by presenting our annual Claonadh Award. It is fitting that we use one event to both promote the importance of large-scale community focussed work and to also acknowledge that it takes individual effort to build and maintain that community.

Turning to other groups which have been set up recently and whose work we have been asked to highlight I'll mention briefly the following:

**Clane & Rathcoffey Community Support Group**, who enabled the provision of a home and supports to a Syrian family who joined our community in the last few weeks. A lot of preparation and work went into this worthy initiative.

- **The Clane First Responders Group** which was set up in recent months to provide trained volunteers to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life threatening emergency in the vital period before the ambulance crew arrives. A very useful new group in the community I'm sure you will agree.

- **Clane Autism Friendly Town Initiative** – an idea very worthy of support and which was successful in getting Clane included on the list of towns setting out on the journey to becoming autism-friendly. The aim of the national campaign “*is to communicate the message that communities fully accessible for autistic people are stronger, more sustainable places to live*”. Anything that creates strong

and sustainable communities is of course something our Community Council will always endorse.

- **Clane Sustainable Energy Community** – an initiative to encourage “*working together to use cleaner greener energy in our communities*”. We heard a little about this group in 2019 and no doubt we will hear a lot more about this very important issue in the years ahead.

We would welcome opportunities to assist all of these new groups with their work if we can be of assistance.

To sum up, 2019 was another good year for Clane Community Council and the wider community. The Council remains in good shape and can look forward to more success in the future. We welcome new members joining us for the 2020-2021 term. This will be the Community Council's 47<sup>th</sup> year in existence and hopefully we can keep the same momentum going into the future.

Paul Carroll, *Chairperson*

*Clane Community Council, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2020.*

## CALANDAR

### Wednesday 5th February

Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Kim Mullahy and Eoghan Corry on "The History of Polo in Co. Kildare" on 5th February in Clane GAA Club, Prosperous Road, at 8pm. All are welcome and entry is free.

See p. 4

**Friday 7th February** Closing date for enrolment at Scoil Bhríde and also at Scoil Phádraig.

### Saturday

**8th February** Rathcoffey G.F.C. will stage a Fun Run of 10 km and 7.5 km on Saturday 8th Feb. Enter on line at [WWW.POPUPRACES.IE](http://WWW.POPUPRACES.IE)

See p. 4

### Monday 24th February

Monthly meeting of Clane Community Council in the Nexus Office, Clane Project Centre, Prosperous Road (beside Hughes' Pharmacy) at 8pm.

## ARCHIVES -THE BIG SNOW OF 1933. Published in Le Chéile in Jan. 89

The big fall of snow in Feb. 1933 must be regarded as one of the heaviest snowfalls of the 1900s in these parts. It began on a Thursday in late Feb., continuing through Thursday night and all day on Friday. It was small, fine, dry snow, driven by an east wind –it penetrated even through keyholes in the doors of houses facing east. Almost everything was brought to a standstill and roads were impassable. With an east wind behind it, a good deal of the snow blew off roads facing east while at the same time, it lay still on all other roads.

If my memory serves me right, the road from Clane to Dublin was passable so we

were not cut off entirely. On other roads, between the hedgerows, the snow lay to a depth of five or six feet. If the hedges were low the road disappeared from view completely in places. Some time later, a lone horseman was seen going through Clane towards Naas. It was Christy Maloney (R.I.P.) from Mainham, riding a farm horse from Clongowes Wood, to collect mail and whatever else for the College. Between hopping and trotting, stumbling and falling, he got there and back safely.

One evening a few boys gathered outside the Hall on the College Road for a meeting that did not take place. They decided to make a snowman. It stood about 12 feet in height and covered more than half the road at the base. Later, when men from Clongowes Wood came along clearing the road with shovels (there were no Bulldozers then) they decided to bypass the snowman by pairing a bit from the side of him. Eventually, with the days getting longer and brighter, there was no frost and most of the snow cleared away, except in places where it drifted and this could still be seen up to the month of May. There was a good deal of sheep and cattle lost, especially sheep. If they had not been got in before it started, they had no chance of survival, but in Clane and surrounding areas nobody was entirely cut off, and they lived to fight another day.

(Paddy McCormack, January 1989)