

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



April 2020

No. 384

EDITORIAL

Man is the only creature who despoils and pollutes his environment. The trees of the forest shed their leaves in Autumn, making their mineral content available to provide another year's growth. This is not pollution. Likewise for all the plants and animals of creation.

Man, all other creatures aside, is fully conscious and aware of what he is doing and he alone has free will in the matter. He is furthermore multi-talented and potentially creative. Yet it costs society millions annually to counteract littering and illegal dumping. The environmental and economic consequences, the adverse effects on tourism and the deterrent to in-coming industries and jobs are very serious matters.

Tidiness is recognized as a virtue. It is a desirable practice from which we all benefit, both the individual directly concerned and society as a whole. There are health implications as well: typhoid and cholera, for example, are diseases associated with polluted water and unhygienic environmental practices.

There are rural as well as urban consequences. Our country roads are more and more becoming the targets of dumping and litter dropped from the windows of passing cars. Those involved in the annual Spring clean will be aware that in the course of one year the frequency of coffee cartons, bottles and cans builds up to about one per yard along the average road.

We cannot take the selfish approach, guided only by what is handy and convenient to ourselves as individuals; we are members of a larger community and the actions of each individual affect us all. Everything we do must reflect this responsibility.

If it is shared by each and every individual it falls lightly on the shoulders of all. This message must go to every child and every generation.

April is (normally) Spring Clean Month. The Department of the Environment, through An Taisce and the County Councils make available free bags, gloves and equipment, as well as removal of the refuse collected, to local organizations which get involved. In this area the organizations with an established record are Tír na Móna and Clane Community Council (Tidy Towns Subcommittee).

As things stand, with the 'shut-down' in public gatherings and assemblies, it looks as though the National Spring Clean will be a non-runner (unless it is postponed to a later date when, hopefully, the corona virus might be under control).

CALENDAR

If the Spring Clean and all out-door and in-door gatherings and events are in shut-down or postponement (as referred to in the last paragraph above) then there is no **Calendar!**

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 20th April

To 142 Loughbollard please.

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E-mail: mcevoyclane@gmail.com

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

THE EVERGREENS

Spring Blessings! The long days and better weather are very welcome as we embrace the change of the seasons and the different pace of life that comes with it. What a worrying time it is at the moment with this desperate virus. We can only pray that everything will come normal again for us all. We have to do our best to adhere to all the regulations. However, despite these terrible times, Spring is a lovely season to experience the natural world around us, the signs of new life, everything in bloom, flowers and shrubs in our gardens, variegated trees and shrubs all help to give an uplift to our spirits -the colours and vibrancy reflect the season that's in it.

Things have been going so well with the Evergreens but now all is postponed until we reopen because of this virus. The Pancake morning on Shrove Tuesday was as usual a tremendous success. Thanks to everyone who supported this enjoyable flipping morning.

Sincere congratulations to all the boys and girls of Clane and Rathcoffey who are about to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. May the Holy Spirit help and inspire them throughout their lives. The best of luck to CMDS, who are about to stage the most wonderful of musicals "The Sound of Music" These artistes supreme had unfortunately to postpone this until a later date due of course to the virus epidemic. We can all look forward to this musical when it will be staged.

During this season of Lent we are about to face the most important feast of the Christian calendar as we recall the death of Christ and his rising to new life -yes its Easter. In order to prepare for this we are encouraged to enter this phase of Lent in a

spirit of thanksgiving and asking for the grace needed to live lives away from sin and close to Christ in every way.

On behalf of the Evergreens I wish everyone a safe, holy and happy Easter-time and may God keep us safe from this most desperate virus the world has ever known. Rath Dé oraibh go léir, beir bua agus beannacht.

Maureen Spain (PRO)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In this month's issue we find ourselves short on reports on account of the effect which the virus has had in shutting down activity in the community. We hope it will not continue for too many months and we will try to fill the gap with articles from the past. The following was published in Le Chéile in February 1980:

Clongowes Cemetry

Where in Clane would you find buried together a Frenchman and a Pole? The answer is 'At the cemetery in Clongowes.' The remains of the early Fathers at Clongowes were transferred from the graveyard in Mainham to the Jesuit plot in 1866 and are marked by a handsome Celtic cross at the head of the main path. They include Fr. Claudius Gautard S.J., a Frenchman and Fr. Caisimir Hlasko S.J., A Pole.

Fr. Gautard came to Ireland before the restoration of the Order. Between 1798 and 1800 he officiated as chaplain to the religious of George's Hill Convent in Dublin. He lived for some time at Clongowes Wood following its establishment in 1814 and died there on 25th October 1821.

Fr. Hlasko, born in Poland in 1782, was a professor of natural philosophy and dogmatic theology and reached Dublin in

1820. He taught in Clongowes, where he died on 27th January 1831, aged 49.

In the best cosmopolitan tradition of the Order, the national culture stood only to benefit by exposure to the best in Europe. What might seem more of a surprise in its own way, is that the parish of Clane was well represented in this cultural milieu, in that no less than two very eminent Jesuit Fathers in the Clongowes community of the time were members of local families, a fact which may go a long way towards explaining the Jesuits' choice of Clane for the establishment of their first college in Ireland. Fr. Charles Aylmer was born in Painstown on August 29th, 1786. He distinguished himself in many publications, and in 1814, assisted at the formal reestablishment of the Order by Pope Pius VII in Rome with four of his Irish brethren, including Fr. Peter Kenny S.J., the newly appointed Irish Sub-Provincial and recently appointed Vice-President of Maynooth, and established Clongowes Wood College. Fr. Aylmer was appointed Provincial in 1817 for five years, and died in Gardiner Street on 4th July 1849, aged 63 years.

Fr. Bartholomew Esmond S.J. was a son of a son of Colonel John Esmond, United Irishman, medical doctor at Clane and leader of the insurgents at Clane and Prosperous on the first night of hostilities, May 23rd, 1798. John Esmond was hanged at Sackville Bridge in Dublin (now O'Connell Bridge) on June 14th, 1798. Dr. Bartholomew Esmond S.J. was an eminent theologian and a confidant and adviser to J.K.L., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.



CMDS production of “Sound of Music “ on “*pause*”for the time being.

This is a time like no other we have experienced. The worldwide crisis of Covid-19 has swept in and completely changed the landscape for everyone, not least for anyone involved in events that were due to be held over the coming weeks, whether they were local or National.

The committee of Clane Musical and Dramatic Society made the difficult and very sad, but totally necessary decision to postpone the show until further notice.

Next Tuesday, 31st of March would have been our opening night and having been in rehearsal since early January, a lot of hard work and time had already been put into bringing this much loved show to the Abbey stage.

Despite the heartache, the amazing spirit that unites our society has come

to the fore and people know the show will go on. Like everyone, no one knows exactly when this will be but we will be back in rehearsals again with renewed vigour as soon as the authorities in question give us the go ahead.

In these challenging times we wish for all our members, their families and all the people who support our society throughout the year, good health and strength to get through the next few difficult weeks. But we will get through and we will be keeping you informed as to when “Sound of Music” will at last, get to be performed in Clane.

Until then, so long, farewell and stay safe !

Elaine Moore O’Donohoe,
Chairperson,
Clane Musical and Dramatic Society.

RESULTS FOR CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES 2020

Boys

U8 Freestyle

Felipe Kinane
David Byrne
Scott Johnston

U10 Freestyle

Leon Hurley
Jack Kenny

U10 Backcrawl

Leon Hurley
Liam O’Carroll

Conor Brennan Jack Kinsella

U12 Freestyle U12 Backcrawl

Jack Doran Finn McCormack
Larry Manning
Finn McCormack

U12 Breaststroke

Jack Doran
Rory Óg Maguire

U14 Freestyle U14 Backcrawl

Joseph Finn Joseph Finn
Fionn Behan Richard Grainger
Dylan McBride

U14 Breaststroke

Fionn Behan
James Maher
Dylan McBride

U13 Relay panel

Joseph Finn
Rory Óg Maguire
Jack Doran
Dylan McBride
Richard Grainger (sub)
James Maher (sub)

Girls

U8 Freestyle

Zara Lyons
Grace Powell
Méabh Cooney

U10 Freestyle

Madeline Martin
Sofia Kinane
Katie O’Rourke

U10 Backcrawl

Madeline Martin
Sofia Kinane
Caoilinn Blake

U12 Freestyle

Erin Fogarty
Georgia Morrin
Isabelle Fitzpatrick

U12 Backcrawl

Erin Fogarty
Cianna Kane
Anna Grainger

U12 Breaststroke

Georgia Morrin

Lia Hulin
Isabelle Fitzpatrick

U14 Freestyle

Lucy Martin
Hannah Walsh-Hussey
Ella Hampson

U14 Backcrawl

Tessa Dillon
Muirne Gainé

U14 Breaststroke

Lucy Martin
Hannah Walsh-Hussey
Ella Hampson

U13 Relay panel

Georgina Morrin
Cianna Kane
Tessa Dillon
Lia Hulin
Isabelle Fitzpatrick (sub)
Muirne Gainé (sub)

Thank you

Susan, Martina and Tony would like to thank Paul McLoughlin for his work as starter. Also the judges, and recorders as well as the Pool staff on the day.

CLANE G.A.A.

As part of the national Coronavirus COVID-19 response, the HSE have requested that Kildare GAA establish a database of all available volunteers who may be able to support HSE administered local facilities over the next number of weeks.

In particular, the following skills sets have been identified as part of contingency planning requirements: All Trades men or women (Electrician, Plumber, Carpentry etc), IT Specialists, Cleaners, Teachers, Special Needs Assistants, Chefs, Caterers, Drivers, Train the Trainers qualified personnel. In addition, retired Military / Gardai and others with a similar background in Crisis Management Operations are being requested for their background and skills in scheduling, mobilisation and coordination tasks that may arise. You can visit the Clane GAA website <http://www.clanegaa.ie/articles/35145> for further information.

You can complete the online form to volunteer at >>> http://bit.ly/kildaregaa_hse

Sincere thanks to those who have already volunteered! Kind regards,
James Henry
PRO CLG Clonadh.

THE PALE

The following article was first published in Le Chéile in March 1974 -46 years ago.

“This month we feature the ‘Rampart’ or Pale on the lands of Clongowes. It is difficult to imagine that in the fifteenth century this double ditch represented the western limit of the British Empire. It has also given rise to the English expression “beyond the Pale”. It was constructed by an Act of the Parliament of Drogheda in 1488 to enclose the English lands of Dublin and parts of Kildare and Meath. Its purpose was to keep out the wild Irish, in particular the O’Connors of Offaly, who made continuous raids on their cattle. In 1292, for example, they burnt the village of Mainham and put the inhabitants to the sword. It is described as extending “from Merrion inclusive, to the water of the Dodder, by the new ditch to Saggard, Rathcoole, Kilheel (Kilteel), Rathmore and Ballymore(Eustace). Thence to the County Kildare in Ballycutlan, Harristown and Naas and so thence to Clane, Kilboyne, Kilcock. From Kilcock it ran to Athboy and so ended at Dundalk.” According to Poyning’s Law (1494), it was to be a “double ditch of six feet high above ground at one side or part which meareth next to Irishmen. Every inhabitant, earth tiller and occupier, within the Pale was bound to assist in its construction and was to be remitted one year’s rent for his pains.” The chain of castles close to the line of the Rampart at Maynooth, Rathcoffey, Clongowes Wood, Blackhall, Naas, etc., stood like sentinels keeping watch against the Irish borders.

The word Pale means a fence and is still encountered in the term “paling post”. There are three surviving parts. The first part runs from Capdoo to Clongowes, the second from Clongowes farmyard to the road which leads to Rathcoffey School and the third about one mile north of Baltracey Cross on the way to Kilcock, where it is on the right hand side of the road and one or two fields in. A footpath runs along the top of the bank and makes an interesting walk.

A disappointing aspect to the Pale is the way the briars and other bushes have in recent decades closed off the path which runs along the top and which was designed to be accessible to pedestrians and on horseback. This path was fully accessible in the 1950s and was used by the locals and students for accessing Clongowes.

FR JOHN SULLIVAN, S.J.

The following article is taken from the March issue of *Le Chéile* 1997.

“The Mainham Cemetery Association, along with Clongowes Wood College, are erecting a monument to the memory of Fr. John Sullivan, S.J., whose cause for

beatification and canonization is being actively processed in Rome at this time.

Fr. John was born on 8th May 1861 in the family home at 41 Eccles Street in Dublin. His father, who was later to become Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Sir Edward Sullivan, was a Protestant and his mother a Catholic, and, as frequently occurred in those days, the boys were brought up in the religious tradition of the father and the girls in that of the mother. There were four boys and one girl in the family.

Fr. John was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, followed by Trinity College, Dublin and finally in London where he was called to the English Bar in 1888.

In 1896 he decided to become a Catholic and was received into the Church at Farm Street, the well known Jesuit house in London. He entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Tullabeg, Co Offaly in 1900 and studied further at Stoneyhurst in England and then at Milltown Park, Dublin, where he was ordained a priest in 1907.

After his ordination, he was appointed to the teaching staff at Clongowes Wood College. Apart from five years as Rector at Rathfarnham Castle, He spent the rest of his life at Clongowes. He died on 19th February 1933 and was buried in the College Cemetery.

As well as teaching, he celebrated Mass and heard confessions in the Public Church, commonly known as the People’s Chapel. His holiness became evident and eventually people were to come to him, not only from Kildare but from every county in Ireland to ask the help of his prayers. He constantly visited the poor, the distressed and the sick. He ran small accounts in local shops to provide the necessities such as tea, sugar and other groceries for the needy. He visited Homes and hospitals. He was a familiar sight on the roads around Clongowes and further afield, moving at a brisk walk, or cycling to visit someone who needed him. Many of the cures attributed to him are chronicled in his biography, written by Fr. Fergal McGrath, S.J. Fr. John’s crucifix, which belonged to his mother, is still widely used for the blessing of the sick. There is a constant demand for pieces of his clothing as relics.

In 1960, at the suggestion of the Postulator General of his cause in Rome, Fr. John’s remains were transferred from Clongowes to St. Francis Xavier’s Church, Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin. The ceremony of exhumation commenced at Clongowes on 27th September 1960. The remains rested in the People’s Chapel during the day and night of 28th September and all day long, people came from near and far to pay their respects. On 29th September the procession left for Dublin and all along the route, groups of people were waiting. The coffin with his remains is now in St. Francis Xavier’s Church and there is an unending stream of pilgrims who come to seek his help as they did in his lifetime.

The Mainham Committee feel that the Cemetery overlooking Clongowes is a suitable place to erect a memorial to commemorate Fr. John.

CLANE CHURCH of Saint Patrick & Saint Brigid

The following article was published in Le Chéile in January 1975.

The foundation stone for the church in Clane was laid in 1876. Times were very hard and there was great difficulty in raising the money necessary to complete the building. At one stage, when local funds were exhausted, an appeal had to be made to neighbouring parishes for financial assistance. The official opening and dedication did not take place until Sunday 24th August, 1884. At this stage £7,000 had been spent and £2,500 was outstanding.

The architect, Mr. W. Hague, had included specifications for a very tall and stately spire which was never actually built. It would have cost an extra £1,000. A number of key stones were left open in the corner to the right of the front door in case the building of the spire should be undertaken later. A pedestal intended for statue was left vacant above the main door.

The parish Priest at the time was the Rev. Patrick Turner, whose memorial stone may be read above the stairway leading to the choir Loft. Funds were not available to install the stained glass window above main altar and it remained boarded up for years. Fr. Turner sent the measurements to Paris to have the present window made and it was while he was on a high ladder taking the measurements that the poor man went suddenly blind and totally blind. He remained blind for the rest of his life but carried out his duties with the aid of a white cane and loved in particular to visit the schools.

The previous church was built in 1805 and extended from the street to the main door of the present church. This remained roofless until 1895 and access to the new church was through its ruins. The stones were likely used to build the right sacristy or "flower room" which incorporated the old date stone of 1805. May we never fail in our appreciation of the hard won achievements of the generations who have gone before us.

Comerford, author of "A History of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin" said of Clane Churches:

"The sites of three Mass-houses, all built since 1714 -two of which were thatched edifices- are all pointed out at Clane; one lately disused, bears the date 1805. A stately and beautiful Gothic Church, designed by Mr. W. Hague has been completed at a cost of some £7,000, through the zealous exertions of the present pastor, the Rev. Patrick Turner.