

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



March 2020

No. 383

CALENDAR

Tuesday 10th March Rathcoffey History Group Talk - "Farming in Clongowes in the early days" -by John O'Dea (Farm Manager) in Rathcoffey GAA on Tuesday 10 March @ 8 pm. Admission Free Hope you can come.

Wednesday 11th March

Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Henry Bauress entitled "The Daly Family of Galway and Jamaica and the Clane Connection" at 8pm in the GAA Club, Prosperous Road, Clane. Admission is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments available.

Thursday 12th March Parade Information Evening in Clane GAA 8pm

Friday 13th March

Annual Table Quiz in Manzors at 9pm. Table of 4 -€40. Prizes kindly sponsored by Kitty & Seamus Manzor.

Saturday 14th March Come along to Condron's Shopping Centre, Clane for great family Fun. Entertainment provided by **Definition Dance & The Ev'ry Voice Choir**. From 12pm to 3pm.

Sunday 15th March (1pm—4pm)

Keeping Clane Healthy Exhibition at the Westgrove Hotel. Kindly sponsored by the HSE and Healthy Ireland. Come along and see what Clane has to offer our young people. Entertainment on the day. Admission free. All welcome. Call 0860619086 for further information.

Sunday 15th March

Set Dancing Céili at Clane GAA from 7.30. Admission €10 with refreshments served. Celebrate the St. Patrick's Festival.

Monday 16th March Storytime with Niamh at Clane Library Time 10.30-11.30 Suitable for 3 to 6 year olds. Also at Clane Library **Rainbow Pot of Gold with**

Sheila Time 10.30 –11.30. Suitable for 5 to 8 years. Join Sheila for some fun and make your own rainbow pot of gold. Both events are free but there are limited spaces available. Call Jacqui on 045-892716 or email clanelib@kildarecoco.ie to book a space.

Tuesday 17th March

St. Patrick's Day Parade -3pm Entertainment after the Parade in Clane GAA and also in The Oak Bar in The Westgrove Hotel. Road closures on the day.

Wednesday 18th March Mindfulness/ Meditation for Adults in Westgrove Hotel at 8pm. Admission is free and all are welcome. Call or text 087 2466892 to confirm your attendance on the night.

Thursday 19th March

St. Patrick's Day Yoga Taster Class with Laura from Aruna Yoga 7.30-8.30 in the Westgrove Hotel. Admission is free and all are welcome. Text Laura Wynne 086 853 9848 to register your attendance.

Thursday 19th March

Music Bingo with Keith Shanley at 9.30pm in the Westgrove Hotel. Adm. Is free and all are welcome to this fun night.

Friday 20th March

Parade Awards Ceremony at 8pm in the Westgrove Hotel. Music by Keith Shanley. Entertainment and refreshments on the night. Adm. Is free and all welcome.

Monday 30th March

Monthly meeting of Clane Community Council in the

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 23rd March

To 142 Loughbollard please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: mcevoyclane@gmail.com

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

Nexus Office, Clane Project Centre,
Prosperous Road (beside Hughes' Pharmacy) at 8pm.

THE EVERGREENS

Well, Spring is in the air and with it the lengthening of the bright days and the beauty of nature is beginning to be experienced all around us. Gardens all about are starting to bloom beautifully - primroses and crocuses are appearing and peeping above ground and more especially the daffodils, which are truly always a reminder of Spring "tossing their heads in sprightly dance - those lovely golden daffodils"

First and foremost we Evergreens are delighted to offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Fr. Paul Dempsey, former curate of Clane and Rathcoffey, also Naas Sallins and Twomilehouse and the P.P. V.F. of Newbridge, on his recent appointment as Bishop of Achonry. He will be ordained Bishop on the 19th April at Ballaghaderreen Cathedral, Co. Roscomonn. This is a wonderful moment for Fr. Paul (the youngest Bishop in the country) and we all wish him every grace, blessing and happiness in the years to come. God bless him in his new Ministry, which I've no doubt will be very successful, he being always such a dedicated worker.

Yes, St. Patrick's Day is approaching and we are about to celebrate our National Feast Day. St. Patrick, the great missionary and apostle, in writing of his faith in Christ in the prayer we know as "ST. Patrick's Breastplate", says thus: "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me" demonstrated that prayer was central to his life and the gift of faith was his great legacy to us.

Good luck to Mary Dunne and her hard-working team for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Every year there's a wonderful Parade and entertainment for all kinds of young and old alike. There's ceol, caint, craic, comhrá, rinne and what have you -the theme this year is 'Our children our future', so do come along to this great event. This will be the 20th Parade in Clane -picture that! Lá specialta é ar fad gan amhras ar bith, so see you there. Guím beannachtaí agus aoibhneas na féile ar gach éinne. Hail glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our isle. Good luck also to our artistes supreme CMDS, who are rehearsing hard for their next musical, which we are all looking forward to. They really are gone from strength.

All activities are doing so well in our Club and we welcome all our new members and more to come. There are great outings going on and the card-playing, art-work, etc. are doing extremely well.

Slán agus beannacht is go neirí an tádh libh. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

Maureen Spain (PRO)

THE EV'RY VOICE CHOIR

The Ev'ry Voice Choir is a community choir which meets to sing and perform a variety of songs. Everyone is welcome to join irrespective of age, experience or ability. We meet every Tuesday night at 7.15pm in the KARE Centre on the Dublin Road (entrance to Clane Lawn Tennis

Club). Why not join us on any Tuesday night or alternatively you can contact Anne Lynn, phone 086 2555914@venture.ie

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group will present a talk by Henry Bauress entitled "The Daly Family of Galway and Jamaica and the Clane Connection", on Wednesday 11th March 2020, at 8pm in the GAA Club, Prosperous Road, Clane. Admission is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments available.

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 has been postponed until Sunday 8th March, after Mass at Clongowes Church for deceased members of Clane Golf Club at 8.00 a.m. originally scheduled for 23rd February, but had to be cancelled due to the golf course being unplayable. The positive news is that our new club house will be in operation for the rescheduled Drive-in.

Competition Results:

W/E 24/01/2020 Spring League First: Tommy O'Rourke (29) 28 points
Second: Padraic Rooney (14) 22 points
Third: Tom Bryan (23) 21 points

W/E 31/01/2020 Spring League First: Sean Byrne (17) 23 points
Second: Padraic Rooney (11) 22 points

W/E 07/02/2020 Spring League First: Michael Kelleher (20) 23 points (last 3)
Second: Martin Meaney (24) 23 points

W/E 14/02/2020 Spring League To be continued.

Forthcoming Events:

Captain's (Mr. James Malone) Drive-in after 8.00 a.m. Mass for Deceased Members Sunday 8th March 2020.

18 Hole Friday's starts on Friday 13th March.

18 Hole Spring Medal on W/E 28th March.

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.

FIELD FARE

[Taken from Le Chéile February 1989
with some adjustments and extensions]

I wonder how many children nowadays would know what "dark lukers" are? When the writer was in primary school, hunting in ponds and quarries for those fascinating creatures was seasonal around this time of the year. Like their cousins, the frogs, they hibernate in water. For those who don't know, a 'dark luker' (I never saw it spelt) is a creature not unlike a lizard, with which it is often confused. It is a muddy brown in colour and about three to four inches long. It has four legs and a long tail. Unlike the lizard it has no scales, but its body is covered rather by a moist soft skin.. The dark luker is an amphibian like the frog and the toad. It hibernates in water and in summer it moves out on dry land. It is difficult to see them in the murky dark water of a pond. They are frequently seen on the bogs, taking refuge in deep cracks. They are adept at matching their colour to their background, and in summer they assume various shades of yellow and have red and black spots.

Their name in Irish is 'earc luachra' or beast of the ashes. A German friend tells me that that in her country there is an important tradition of warning children not to lie down on the ground to take a rest as you may fall asleep with your mouth open and they may walk in and go down your throat with dire consequences.

I remember well catching four specimens of lukers in a pond which used be located where the Big Green in Loughbollard is now situated. This was many years before Loughbollard Estate was built and I was going to the Christian Brothers Secondary School in Naas at the time. I

had the creatures in a jam pot on the kitchen window above the sink. They used to stand up on their back legs and wave to and fro. My mother appears not to have liked the sight of them and so one day she threw them out on the far side of the yard. That night my father was sitting alone beside the fire reading the paper. All was quiet, when his attention was drawn to some sound or movement in the space under the kitchen door. In walked the four 'lukers' in a line having negotiated the yard and come under two doors. He stared at them in wonder as they steadily crossed the floor towards the fire. When the first one reached the ashes he went in without hesitation, followed in turn by each of the other three. They were never seen again. We were all equally amazed when we came home to hear the bizarre story recounted.

By one of these strange coincidences, of which life is full, about a week later, our Irish teacher was reading from a book called 'Ceacht as Leabhar na Cruinne' when he came to an expression "Faigheann na neaire luachra an tine" (the luckers seek the fire). His honest comment was that he could never understand what meant by this statement). I found myself in the most unusual position of being able to relate the story of a very unique and appropriate experience. Years later I read somewhere else that frogs and newts, being cold-blooded, only become properly active when they sit out in the sun to raise their body temperatures and that newts follow a heat gradient and are powerless to turn back in their passage from colder to warmer locations. This is so highly developed and sensitive a faculty that the warmth of the breath could well act as an adequate stimulus. To cap it all, a Kerry man, whose knowledge of Irish and folklore is second to none, has told me that in Kerry there is a tradition that if you hold the 'dark luker' by the tail and place him on your tongue you will have a cure for burns.

To tie everything up I refer to a story told to me by the late Pat Looram, who had a connection with a stud farm in Westmeath: A little girl from the owners' family used to drop into the forge, where the staff used to gather for an 11 o'clock tea break. The little girl took a hot poker from the fire and, holding it behind her back, she asked one of the men to hold out his hand for a slap. Not knowing what she had in mind, he did so and received a slap with the hot poker and a serious burn across the palm of his hand. One of his colleagues said he had the cure for burns and taking his hand he rubbed the burn with his tongue, adding that his tongue had been touched by a newt.

ROAR FOR RUAIRI

This is a special appeal on behalf of Rathcoffey GAA & Clane GAA clubs in Co Kildare for financial support for the McDonnell Family. Their son Ruairi has a terminal illness and the aim of this appeal is to raise funds to help the McDonnell family make the necessary renovations to their home and to help with the ongoing homecare costs for Ruairi. The McDonnell Family are from Clane. Ruairi is a wonderful, caring and fun 6 year old boy. His parents are Martin and Ruth McDonnell. Martin who is originally from Ballycastle, Co. Mayo is a valued member of Rathcoffey GAA and both he and Ruth have many friends and family living in the Rathcoffey/Clane area.

On the 31 st October 2019 Ruth & Martin received the devastating news that their beautiful son had been diagnosed with a very rare degenerative and life-limiting neurological condition. This very rare and fatal condition affects 1:20,000 people globally and the disease has been

rapid and relentless in its progress over the past 3-4 months. It has already robbed Ruairi of his sight, his ability to speak and much of his cognitive ability. Medical experts in Ireland and abroad have been consulted but sadly there is no medical treatment for this terrible disease. Unfortunately for Ruairi and the McDonnell family, this downward spiral will eventually lead to hearing loss, seizures and loss of muscle control over the next few years.

Prior to his diagnosis Ruairi had been attending school in Clane and was enjoying all the same activities like other boys his age. He loved GAA, especially hurling, riding his bike and playing with his two brothers and many friends. He also loved being outside in the garden, climbing trees and searching for creepy crawlies. Ruairi can no longer enjoy these activities in the same way he used to, however he remains a very loving and gentle child with a huge zest for life and sense of adventure. However, he now requires 24-hour personal care which is provided by his parents who at the same time are trying to maintain a normal happy home for Ruairi and his brothers. As the disease progresses Ruairi will require full time home nursing and the family home requires significant adaptations to meet his care needs. The care and supports provided by the state in this situation are extremely limited.

According to Ruth "Ruairi loved all his superheroes but his absolute favourite is The Hulk" and for this reason we are naming our fundraising appeal, "Roar for Ruairi". This appeal is to give financial assistance to Martin and Ruth with the ongoing home care costs for Ruairi now and into the future. We are greatly appreciative of all donations received.

Rathcoffey and Clane GAA have or-

ganised two major events to support Ruairi in his time of need:

□ On Saturday 4th April world famous violinist, Vladimir, presents “One Night in Vienna” in Rathcoffey GAA clubhouse. We very much appreciate Vladimir’s contribution to the appeal. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets cost €25 and are available to buy at Rathcoffey and Clane GAA Clubs or by phoning 087 6461362.

□ On the first weekend in June there will be an action packed “Roar for Ruairi Race Day” at the brand new “Summer in Town” festival at Punchestown Racecourse. This event promises to be a great day out. Tickets will cover; a 4 course meal, guest tipster, private betting facility, and music/entertainment to round off the day.

Further details about both events will be posted to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/roarforruairi/>

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

Clane & Rathcoffey Community Games Annual Swimming Competitions will take place at the K Leisure Pool (Carragh Rd. Naas) on Saturday 7th March at 5.30-6.30pm. Participants are asked to be at the pool at 5.15pm.

Notices to this effect have been to the five schools in our area. Entry forms will be available in the schools on Monday 2nd March and must be completed and returned by Wednesday 4th March. Late entries cannot be accepted. A sample form is on display also so that those intending to enter can make themselves aware of the list of events and the age groups which apply.

Entrants must be resident within the recognized area (see map). To be outside the red boundary line puts you into one or other of the adjoining areas. Further information may be obtained from Tony McEvoy (O45 868474) or Susan Galbraith (086-2369356).



CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clane Community Council held it’s 46th A.G.M. on Monday 20th January and the following officers were elected:

Executive

- Chairman: John Kennedy
- Vice-Chairman: John Power
- Secretary: Paul Carroll
- Asst. Secretary: John Daly
- Treasurer: Pádraig McEvoy
- Asst. Treasurer: Martine Grogan
- PRO: Tony McEvoy
- Asst PRO: Marion Doolan

In accordance with our tradition the members of the Sub-committees were appointed at our February meeting and the lists are correct as per February 2020

Finance

Pádraig McEvoy, Paul Carroll, Nick Fitzgerald, John Kennedy, Nellie Dillon-Forde, Anne Noonan, Martine Grogan

Tidy Towns

Tony McKenna, Tony McEvoy, Freda Fogarty, Tom McCreery, John Kennedy, Pádraig McEvoy, Maureen Beirne, Breda Gunning, Derek Gunning, Julie Manzor, Jeanette

Drumm, Finbarr D'Arcy, Paul Carroll, Mary Murtagh, Mary Morrin, Stephanie Alves

Community Games

Martina Healy, Anne Noonan, Tom McCreery, Nick Fitzgerald, Tony McEvoy, Bernie Foley, Edel Mason, Henry Lowry, Margaret McDonald, Susan Galbraith, Des Drumm

Abbey Community Centre

Nick Fitzgerald, Paul Carroll, John Power, Anne Noonan, Maurice Austin, Tony McEvoy, Pádraig McEvoy, Nellie Dillon-Forde, John Daly

Friary & Abbey Cemetery

John Briody, Des Drumm, John McDonagh, Tony McEvoy, Mark Moffat, Tom Cleary, Phil McCormack

Heritage

John Daly, Des Drumm, Pádraig McEvoy, John Kennedy, Robert Mahon, Tony McEvoy

Clane Watch

Pádraig McEvoy, Tony McEvoy, Dave McCann, John McDonagh, Nellie Dillon-Forde, Robert Mahon

Web

John Kennedy, John Daly, Pádraig McEvoy, John Power, Martine Grogan, Paul Carroll, Robert Mahon

grounds were in Catholic hands at one time.

It is oval in shape and the date on the base reads 1625. Fr. Kehoe had it erected outside the front door of the church in Clane, filled it with water and blessed it. It remained there until 1973/4, when due to some repairs to the yard with tarmacadam, it was moved over to the right on the Convent side, where it now stands. Fr. Kehoe came to Clane from Portarlinton in 1926 and died in 1948, R.I.P. He is buried in the Abbey

Paddy McCormack. (December 1989).

FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE

In an article published in the Leinster Leader on 25th November 1989 about Baptismal or Holy Water Fonts in Kildare, mention was made of one in Clane and it was said that little was known of its origin. I can tell you something about it.

I was with Rev. Fr. Kehoe, P.P. when he bought it at a public auction in Donadea Castle, sometime after the last of the Aylmer family died there around 1936/7. It stood in the grounds outside the main door of the Castle and was listed in the programme as a Bird Bath. Fr. Kehoe said it was originally a Holy Water font, that Donadea Castle and the