

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



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CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Clane Community Council was founded in 1973 and will complete 24 terms, each of two years, or a total of 48 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 2023. 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? The following is a brief summary of the works undertaken by Clane Community Council since its formation.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE PAST 48 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 horse-box, with high weeds and grass growing up through it in the middle of the road where the triangle at the entrance to the Millicent Road is now located. 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 ap-

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

Monday 22nd March

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plied 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, costing £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 47 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.

3 Our Secretary Joe Lyons managed to per-

suade 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 Sul-

livan 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 popular 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 woodland 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 opposite Manzors') to the Village Green in 2000, the development of the Garden of Remembrance within the walls at the Abbey Community Centre, the Floodlighting of the Tower, Christmas lights in the Street and the Heritage Signage Project. Most recently the restoration of the Village Green, to the front of the

Abbey Community Centre. This had long been the site where three Fairs were held throughout the year –this and an area extending across the road to the pub on the far side, including what is now the Triangle.

Works undertaken by the Abbey Cemetery Committee include: Signage to commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the Franciscan Friary, New Gates to the Cemetery and Protective Screening for the Altar, -with much appreciated assistance from Joe Horan-. In 2014, under a grant from the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme, the Dept. of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Kildare County Council and the Abbey Graveyard Committee have contributed equally to works to stabilise the southern Friary wall, making it possible to remove the protective screening which had been there for so many years. We will continue to seek Leader Funding, when it again becomes available, to extend this effort to the entire structure.

Works undertaken in the recent two terms include further restoration of the Village Green, involving the removal of concreted areas and their replacement with grass, temporary works to the Evergreens roof, improvements to the stage and on-going input to the web site Clanecommunity.ie, where Le Chéile may also be accessed.

We would strongly encourage people to get involved in the Community Council and its sub-committees so as to give continuity into the future to undertakings such as those listed above. A successful community works together and provides for its many needs. Nominate someone come October. How about yourself?

WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY CLANE TIDY TOWNS ASSOCIATION AND FRIENDS IN THE GENERAL COMMUNITY ARE A CREDIT TO ALL.

In previous issues we have complemented those members of Clane Tidy Towns and the members of Clane Garda for the works which they have carried out on the grounds of the Station as well as around the Bus Stop and spaces interfacing with Centra and those in shared ownership with them. The impact has been very positive and encouraging.

It is very encouraging to see the works being done by so many volunteers across a wide spectrum of areas all across the community- - -areas such a Capdoo, Nancy's Lane, the Ballinagappa Road, Prosperous Road, Dublin Road, Banks of the Liffey, Loughanure, - - -.

It is to be hoped that these efforts will be respected and that people generally will make every effort to keep up the high standards which are being established throughout the area.

PLACE NAMES

"What's in a name?" The implication is "not very much". Our local place names belie the notion that place names can be uninteresting. Did you know, for example, that one of the longest place names in Ireland is Newtownmoneenluggagh, which lies to the north of Ballagh Cross. Moneenluggagh means "little bog of the hollow". It has one letter

more than Newtownmountkennedy. Compared to the longest name in Wales, neither of them would stand a chance. It is, of course, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, or The Church of Saint Mary in a hollow of white hazel near to a rapid whirlpool and to St. Tysilo's Church, near to a red cave.

It is of interest, though not unusual throughout the country, that most places have their names in Irish. Place names are apparently the last part of a language to disappear. However, there is a great danger that place names which are not marked on the map will be lost before the present generation has passed. Three examples that come to mind in the immediate vicinity of Clane are, the Locán, about three hundred yards up the Ballinagappa Road, Coiseanna Hill, the site of Clane Hall, and the hill known as the Crocán on Capdoo Commons. Some of our readers will remember a local dance band known as the 'Coiseanna Band' from the time when the order of the day was "old-time and Irish" These names were commonly used by the boys when the writer of this article was at school. A name which disappeared much earlier, but which is recorded on a late eighteenth century map at Carton, is **Moneen Bán**, the original name for the

Church Parks, now Central Park.

The following is a list of interesting place names and their possible meanings.

AGHAPAUDEEN (near Digby Bridge) Pau-deen's Field) .

BALLYNABOOLEY: Báile na Buaille townland of the milking quarters. The pasture district.

BALLYNAGAPPA: Báile na gCeapach - the townland of the tillage plots. The map of 1650 designates it 'Cappock'.

BETAGHSTOWN: Baile an Bhiatigh, the district of the alms house. Under the Brehon Laws alms houses were established at central locations where roads crossed. To each was attached a tillage and a pasture district, as that above, to supply it .

BOHERHOLE: Bothar Coll, the road of the hazel.

BORABRIDE: Bothar Brídhe - Brigid's Road. The old road before the John Sullivan Centre, alongside Otomy Way and the playing pitches, and which leads into Butterstream is said to have been the original road to Edenderry. Older residents refer to it as 'Nancy's Lane'.

BUTTERSTREAM: Bóthar an tSruithain, the road by the stream.

CAPDOO: Ceapach Dubh, the tillage area with the dark soil. Moory in places?

CAPPAGH: (The Tillage Land), the original name of Meadow Court;

CARRIGEEN: the little rock. Site of an ancient group of stones known as St. Brigid's Table, Chair and Thimble. A further flat stone was said to bear the imprints of her feet. These were known to older residents as the Carrigeens and were situated beside an old quarry along the disused road which led from the Moat Commons to the weir on the Liffey, presumably the site of the ancient ford. They were either buried or destroyed when Kildare County Council operated a public dump there in the 1970s!

CASTLESIZE: Casán na Soillse, the ford where the light is hung.

CLANE: Claon Áth. One suggested meaning is the 'slanted ford'. The weir, is in line with the disused road which led directly to it (map of 1837) and is at the same slant in relation to the direction of flow of the river. It may have been the site of the original ford. Another suggested origin for the word Claon is the Cruachán Claonta, a small sloping hill which was built into the Moat with the arrival of the Normans in the late 1200s. It is believed to be the burial place of Mesgegra, King of Leinster, who was killed here in single combat with the Ulster warrior, Conall Cearnach.

It is stated that the Leinster men traditionally mustered here before going into battle in the belief that in setting out

from here they could not be other than victorious! (Annals of Mac Firbhis).

CLONGOWES WOOD: Coill Cluana Gabhann, the wood of the smith's meadow.

CNOC COISEANAIGH: Hill beside the swamp. The lands between the Liffey and the Dublin Road used to go under water regularly when the Liffey would burst its banks, prior to the construction of the Poulaphuca Dam. This did not affect the College Road because of the presence of Coiseanna Hill. The Youth Hall, the Woods Centre, the Garda Station and other buildings which receive some lift by this hill remain securely above flood level.

CUIL NA MUCOS: The place of the rose hips. Used to be on the right after St. Brigid's Terrace.

DONADEA: Domhnach Dagh, the church of God or of Caoide, disciple of St. Patrick.

GOLLAMOCHY: Gabhal a'mhacha (?), the cattle field or milking place of the fork. The Ordinance Survey gives this name to the Liffey tributary from Kilmurray bog. Traditionally the name is applied to the river at one point only, near Clongowes' back entrance, where the map of 1837 shows a fork in the river and which can still be traced in the fields.

LOCÁN: Lochán, a roadside pond or turlough, which disappeared from the side of the Ballinagappa Road when the drainage became

altered with the laying down of the public sewer in the early 1960s.

LOUGHANURE: the lake of the yew.

LOUGHBOLLARD: Lough Bealach Árd, referring to the high path along the esker hill on the opposite side of the road.

MAINHAM has two possible origins: one is that it derives from the Irish word for a plain or open space; the other is that it might have derived its name from St. Maineamh Kilmainham who is said to have settled there in the 6th century.

RATHCOFFEY: Rath Cobhthaigh, the fortified dwelling place of the Coffeys.

RATHMORE: the large rath or fortified dwelling place.

TOBERNAMONA: The "marshy well" (east of Butterstream).