

Le Chêile

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



June 2021 No. 395

EDITORIAL

The Spring Clean-up each year is very well supported around Clane and in all the surrounding areas extending through Prosperous to Coil Dubh and beyond; to Bodinstown, Sallins and on to Naas; to Straffan and on to Celbridge; to Rathcoffey, to Betaghstown, to Kilmurry, to Donadea, Staplestown, Ballagh, etc. In Clane alone a skip is usually filled. This year it amounted to several times that. Over the course of a year the roadsides, including deep ditches fill up from dumping and items thrown from passing traffic. This year, despite the pandemic, the number of volunteers coming forward has been amazing and the amount of very positive comment on social media has been unbelievable. The volunteers have included men, women and children of all ages and their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

When planning no longer means planning

It takes a community to make a town, -a town that is worth living in. Does it comply with regional requirements? Does it comply with county requirements? Does it have the proper facilities which make life worth living for its residents? A purely commuter driven town without any population limits and without public transport provisions such as a railway will lead to traffic congestion, air pollution, road safety and myriads of other problems. Has it got the ongoing capacity to keep up the provision of locally available school places, leisure facilities, etc. etc.?

An Bórd Pleanála was originally established to deal with situations where the terms of proper planning were not receiving due recognition and were being pushed aside. It took over powers from government ministers which were being applied politically. Clane Community Council and concerned residents are now finding themselves in the situation where they have to seek a Judicial Review in the High Court of a situation where the County

Council and the community are deprived of any right to make their views heard on planning matters which adversely affect them. This situation has come about through the creation of the situation whereby developers can apply directly to ABP, which is given the power to overlook the views of Kildare County Council and the local community.

On page 4 you will see a special press release from the Community Council which outlines the situation which the residents of Clane find themselves in and the steps which must be taken to achieve a fair hearing of the matter. In a series of decisions on Strategic Housing Developments ("SHD"), An Bord Pleanála has granted 841 extra residential units on top of previous permissions and existing housing development ongoing since about 2016. In the first few weeks of the campaign to raise the potential legal costs of €40,000 the group have already raised over €22,000!

If you wanted a reason to keep up the enthusiasm for the effort one has only to consider that a successful review of the Clane Plan of 1996, led to its declaration as illegal and provided a precedent for a similar finding for the Kill Plan. Proper planning cannot be abandoned for Clane.

Web site: www.clanecommunity.ie

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of material for the **September** issue of *Le Chéile* is

Monday 22nd August

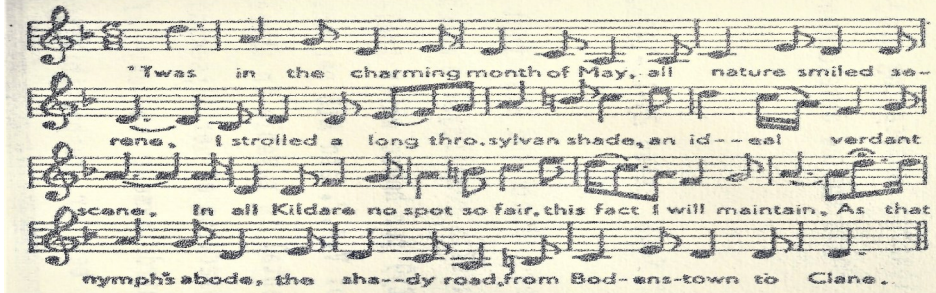
To 142 Loughbollard please.

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THE SHADY ROAD TO CLANE

By John Ennis



'Twas in the charming month of May,
All nature smiled serene. I strolled along thru
Sylvan shade, an ideal verdant scene.
In all Kildare no spot so fair, this fact I will
maintain, As that nymph's abode, the shady
from Bodentown to Clane.

The balmy air was redolent,
Of springtime's choicest flowers.
The primrose vied with buttercup, Adorn-
ing mossy bowers;
The hawthorn offered incense,
To the sweetly sung refrain,
Of the myriad feathered singers,
On the shady road to Clane.

The stately trees about me had
Put on their richest green,
Their teeming foliated cascades
Let the azure peep between;
Bright vistas of the Liffey
Flowing onward to the main, Illumed
the sombre beauty'
Of the shady road to Clane.

Enchanted by this lovely scene I slowly
strolled along,
Then from my deep abstraction
I was stirred by honeyed song;
'Twas the "Coulin" in sweet Gaelic,
And tradition's purest strain,
By a calin who approached me
On the shady road to Clane.

With charming native modesty,
She stopped in sweet surprise,

As crimson flush suffused her cheeks
She stood with downcast eyes

For sweeter face or purer grace
You'd search Kildare in vain.
And her beauty captivated me
On the shady road to Clane.

Enamoured I saluted her:
"Conas tá tú, a chlainn óig?"
(Her pouting lips were tempting me
To add a "Tabhair liom póg")
She sweetly said "Tá mé go maith
Agus conas tá tú féin?
I've lost my way, kind sir. Is this
The shady road to Clane?"

With gentle reassurance
I directed her along
And as she flitted onward
She resumed her honeyed song;
The blackbird ceased its piping
And the linnet its refrain
And the thrushes paused to listen
On the shady road to Clane.

I watched her lovely form until
She vanished from my view;
Dejected, I retraced my steps
Not knowing what to do.
For peace of mind and happiness
I never can regain
Till I find the maid that stole my heart
On the shady road to Clane.

Clane Commu

Nominations O

Nominate someone—your

Clane Community Council is t
Tidy Towns - Clane and Rathcoffey Comm
Clane Heritage-Friary and Abbey

Put a name forward: make

Nomination forms in the

Established 1973: H

Keep it there for

Community Council Open in October

self perhaps—for 2021/23

the umbrella organization for:

**Community Games-Abbey Community Centre-
Cemetery Committee-Clane Watch.**

Clane an even better place to live.

Post Office commencing October.

help to keep it Going Strong!

the 50 Year Celebration.

THE SHADY ROAD TO CLANE

The ballad was first published in the Newsletter in November 1976. The Newsletter was the original Clane community magazine, which commenced in January 1974. Eoghan Corry, a past pupil of Scoil Mhuire, came forward with the information that he found it in a Leinster Leader of 1905. The Leinster Leader was quoting the Gaelic American. The paper referred to the author as John Ennis, formerly of Clane. Frances Gill, formerly of Butterstream and a teacher in Rathcoffey, told us that John Ennis was a grand-uncle of Ned and Bill Ennis, formerly of Hogans Wood. The late Hermann Geissel in his book "The Shady Road to Clane" states that a local who could sing the ballad was never met but that Michael Kelleher reported that one old man in Limerick could sing it and likewise Joe Lyons knew an old man in Mayo who was familiar with it.

A Google search on:

John Ennis Uilleann - <https://livesofthepipers.com> comes up with the following information plus a photograph of Ennis:

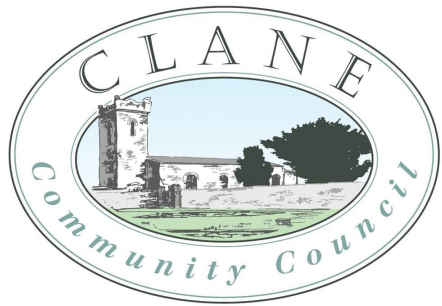
John Ennis was active in Chicago from the 1890s, and in New York City in the 1920s. He was a staunch Irish nationalist and strove to revive and sustain Irish or Gaelic culture. For most of his working life he was a Chicago policeman. Ennis was an amateur piper. He had a scholarly and literary bent and was a writer of poetry, and verse. He is credited with having written thirty four published tunes.

One source says that Ennis was born at Prosperous, County Kildare; a death certificate says born in Dublin. Ennis emigrated to the United States about 1865. He was in Chicago by 1867 Ennis married a Miss Lee, his first wife, in 1875; they had two children. His wife died in 1886.

By September 1930 he had returned to Chicago from New York. He was struck

and killed by a street car Sep. 13, 1930 at 65th and South Halsted streets, near his residence. Ennis was buried next to his second wife at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Chicago.

The mature beech trees on both sides of the Sallins road passing Blackhall Stud create a great impression on road users in all seasons. This is enhanced further by the beech hedging and the neat grass verges by the roadside. The hedge clipping and lawn maintenance as well as the litter control are a credit to the management and staff of the Stud and is highly appreciated locally. In recent years Clane Tidy Towns have extended the hedging from the Blackhall Junction back to the Liffey Bridge and it is now beginning to take off nicely.



Press Release—Sustainable Clane Judicial Review

Concerned residents and Clane Community Council are preparing an urgent legal challenge in the High Court to save Clane from what they believe to be massive over-development.

In a series of decisions on Strategic Housing Developments ("SHD"), An Bord Pleanála has granted 841 extra residential units on



top of previous permissions and existing housing development ongoing since about 2016. SHD planning decisions bypass the local planning authority and, in submissions direct to An Bord Pleanála, Kildare County Council and local councillors opposed the over-development of the town. With no planning appeals process available, the only option is to seek a judicial review.

These planning decisions place Clane on a trajectory for around a 50% population growth, some of which significantly exceeds the Clane Local Area Plan provisions. The updated County Development Plan only provides for 145 extra units in Clane from 2020 - 2023.

People in Clane and surrounding areas already experience shortages in school places, after-school activity waiting lists, limited capacity in public transport, chronic traffic congestion and general pres-

sure on other local services. Some comments by donors to the group's page on the iFundraise website reflect the public frustration with unsustainable rates of development and related strains.

The group seeks to raise €40,000 for legal costs. Already, over 230 households have donated over €22,000 in the first few weeks of the campaign.

Further information is available on https://www.ifundraise.ie/6288_sustainableclane.html

Le Chéile comes out 10 months of the year and takes a break in July and August. Our next issue will be in September.

CLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Established 1973

INVITATION TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR 2021-2023.

Nomination Papers will be available at Clane P.O. in Nov. Please nominate someone. How about yourself? It is important to keep up the voluntary community input of the past 48 yrs.

Some of our achievements:-

- Community Games commenced in 1974.
- Clane's first Public Library in 1974.
- Church ruin (roofless since 1883) acquired in 1974 & demolition of Tower averted.
- Piped TV first organized in 1975.
- Stream Park (Playground) purchased '75
- Abbey Community Centre built 1983-85.
- Le Chéile community magazine started in January 1974. Now on clanecommunity.ie
- Village Green walled & Triangle built '75.
- Tidy Towns commenced in 1975.
- Piped TV first organized in 1975



- Abbey Community Centre built 1983-85.
- The 2 year Funding Scheme was extended a further 2 years to build the Evergreen Centre, to stone wall the banks of the Stream and to pave and wall the Park.
- Purchase of old stables, which had been on the near side of the Stream, brought the total purchase price for the Stream Park to £10,000.
- In 1992 the old Sewage Plant at the Bridge was acquired. (It was blasted and cleared to create the Riverside Park & Walk in 1996.)

- In 1992 Clane Local Development was set up after a successful application for funds.
- The Green by the footpath up the B'nagappa Road was developed in the 90s removing old hedges and fallen walls.
- Extensive trees were planted in 80s/90s.
- In 1995 CCC, on subscribing £18,000, received £96,000 to develop footpaths and parking in the Main Street.
- In 1999 the Fr. John Sullivan Monument (designed by Anthony Linden) was built.
- In 2006 the Garden of Remembrance was developed in the Abbey Grounds.
- In 2013 the Abbey Tower was flood lit and a plaque was unveiled on the Green to mark the 40 Anniversary of CCC.
- In 2008 the Abbey Cemetery Committee erected signage to mark the Friary's 750 years. Other works include new gates, a canopy to protect the altar, repairs to bound walls & ruins conservation with barrier removal.
- Tidy Towns won Bronze Medals in '14/'15/'16/'17/'18 and '19.
- Heritage Signs were erected in 2015.
- In 2016 the old Fair Green outside the Abbey was restored.



- In '16/'17: works to stage & Abbey interior

In the past two years extensive works were carried out on extending the Christmas lights, improving the Village Green & Triangle. . .

KEEP THE GOOD WORK GOING!